

# DIPLOMATIC FOCUS

"Publishing from Pakistan, United Kingdom/EU & will be soon from UAE"



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A Largest, Widely Circulated Diplomatic Magazine

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Pakistan has historically pursued the policy of  
**Promoting Brotherhood**  
among member states of OIC

Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif PM of The Islamic Republic of Pakistan  
**visit to Iran & Saudi Arabia**



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Mian Fazal Elahi

## Editorial

This year, Adel al-Jubeir, the Saudi Foreign Minister, and Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the deputy crown prince and Defense Minister, traveled to Islamabad, within days of each other, meeting civilian leadership and along with military officials. COAS Gen Raheel Sharif re-asserted that any threat to Saudi Arabia's territorial integrity would evoke a strong response from Pakistan. Premier Muhammad Nawaz Sharif also paid a visit to Saudi Arabia along with COAS General Raheel Sharif. During the talks, both sides underscored the need for further strengthening of bilateral relations in all fields, including defence, security, economic and commercial cooperation. Pakistan deeply appreciates the Saudi Initiative and assured the Kingdom of its support. The Prime Minister reiterated that the people of Pakistan would always stand with the people of Saudi Arabia against any threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Kingdom. King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud acknowledged and appreciated the sincere sentiments of the people of Pakistan that they hold for their Saudi brethren and the Kingdom. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have always enjoyed strong bilateral relations; in fact Saudi Arabia was one of those first countries which recognized Pakistan after independence 1947. Whether it was wars of 1965, 1971 or sanctions after nuclear tests, Saudi Arabia came forward and helped Pakistan. The two countries share religious ties and are united by common motives to commemorate their religion and beliefs, the two nations are leading members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Saudi's have always considered Pakistan a second line of defence and were called up in times of difficulty. Saudi Arabia was one of the strongest supporters of Pakistan during Pakistan's wars with India, especially opposing the creation of Bangladesh from Pakistan's eastern wing in 1971. It also supports Pakistan's stance on the Kashmir conflict. Pakistan has maintained close military ties with Saudi Arabia, providing extensive training support for the Saudi military. During the 1990-1991 Persian Gulf War, Pakistan sent troops to protect Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia has provided extensive aid to Pakistan especially in earth quake and flood. Saudi Arabia is the largest source of petroleum supply for Pakistan. It also supplies extensive financial aid to Pakistan and remittance from Pakistani migrants to Saudi Arabia is a major source of sustaining Pakistan's foreign currency account at a viable level. During recent years, both countries have exchanged high-level delegations and developed plans to expand bilateral cooperation in trade, education, real estate, tourism, information technology, communications and agriculture.

## Important Announcement



Mian Assad Ullah

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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Ambassadors of Cuba and Iran to Pakistan presenting their credentials respectively to President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

# Credentials Presentation



Envoys designate of Cuba and Iran 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 Ambassadors and High Commissioner called on the President separately. 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 immense sacrifices in war 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 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.

Ambassadors who presented their credentials included Mr. Gabriel Tiel Capote, Ambassador of Cuba, and Mr. Mehdi Honordoust, Ambassador of Iran.



## Major Gen.(R) Jayanath Lokuketagodage,

Sri Lankan High Commissioner to Pakistan, presents credentials



**M**ajor Gen. (R) Jayanath Lokuketagodage, the new Sri Lankan High Commissioner to Pakistan, presented his credentials to President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

He is a versatile, committed, dedicated and an experienced senior retired Sri Lanka Army officer, served 35 years in the Sri Lankan army since 1980. In his professional career he was Commander of Security forces Headquarters, Brigade Commander, 553 Brigade, Centre Commandant, Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment and Commanding officer, United Nation Peace keeping in Haiti. He has been achieved several military awards including Rana Soora, Uththama Seva Padakkama, (High level Military achievements). He has gone through defence and strategic studies in several foreign countries. He held the post of Chairman Sri Lanka Wrestling Federation.





WORLD  
ECONOMIC  
FORUMAnnual Meeting 2016  
Davos-Klosters, 20-23 January

# Pakistan

is heading towards prosperous future: **PM Nawaz**

**My business-friendly government will extend all possible assistance to you in your business endeavors in Pakistan : PM Nawaz assures investors at World Economic Forum**

**P**rime Minister Nawaz Sharif says Pakistan today is fast heading towards a promising and prosperous future.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif invited Swiss and international investors to invest in Pakistan's energy, telecom, infrastructure, urban development, agro-industry and textiles sectors.

"I invite you to be our partners in realizing our vision of Pakistan. Our vision is of a Pakistan, which is business-friendly; a Pakistan where foreign investors feel safe and secure and a Pakistan which is modern, progressive and forward-looking," he told a group of investors at a breakfast meeting.

"I assure you that my business-friendly government will extend all possible assistance to you in your business endeavors in Pakistan," the prime minister said as he talked to the gathering about

**U.S. Vice President Joe Biden and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani condemned the Charsada terror attack and conveyed their sorrow and grief over the incident to the Prime Minister**

Pakistan's internal security situation and economic indicators. He was speaking at a breakfast meeting hosted by Ikram Sehgal, chairman of the Pathfinder Group on "Pakistan - A Land of Business Opportunities."

Nawaz Sharif said the country's GDP growth rate was 3 percent, now it was 4.2 percent and hopefully it would cross 5 percent rate.

The prime minister said investment incentives in Pakistan were diverse and business friendly. "Our primary objective is to create an environment conducive for investment inflows. We offer a liberal investment policy, which includes 100 percent equity ownership, full repatriation of capital, tax-breaks and customs duty



Prime Minister Muhammad Sharif addressing the participants of World Economic Forum Annual meeting 2016 on the topic "Pakistan-A land of Business Opportunities" at Breakfast meeting hosted by Mr. Ikram Sehgal, Chairman Pathfinder Group, at Davos, Switzerland .





Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Chairman World Economic Forum professor Klaus Schwab exchanging pleasantries prior to their meeting at Davos, Switzerland.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif shaking hands with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry prior to the meeting of the leaders of Pakistan, the United States and Afghanistan on the sidelines of Annual Meeting 2016 World Economic Forum (WEF) at Davos, Switzerland.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif shaking hands with U.S. Vice President Joe Biden prior to the meeting of leaders of Pakistan, the United States and Afghanistan on the sidelines of Annual Meeting 2016 World Economic Forum (WEF) at Davos, Switzerland.

concessions on import of machinery and raw materials,” Sharif told the investors. “We offer prospects of co-production, joint ventures with local partners and joint marketing arrangements. The taxation regime is one of the lowest in the region and its collection is undertaken through a dedicated Large Taxpayers Unit. A multiplicity of tax concessions is available along with provisions of tax exemptions to specific businesses,” he said. Sharif told the investors who gathered in the Swiss town for the 46th World Economic Forum that Pakistan’s economic upturn was now being acknowledged and appreciated worldwide. “Leading international publications, fund’s managers and rating agencies have made positive assessments of our economic turnaround,” he added.

“With a thriving democracy, sound economic policies, a youthful population, abundant natural resources and its strategic location, Pakistan is poised to emerge as an economic powerhouse in the region. We are promoting accountable, responsible and transparent governance, bolstered by a free media, independent judiciary and a vibrant civil society.” Sharif said his government was committed to effectively tackling the whole range of economic, security and energy related challenges confronting Pakistan today. He said that a comprehensive National Action Plan to combat terrorism was being implemented. He said the plan provided a multi-pronged strategy.

Sharif said that Pakistan wanted cordial relations with India in the interest of the people of the two countries and the region. “We believe that dialogue is the only way forward to resolve the outstanding issues between our two countries, which would pave the way for fully realizing the tremendous growth potential of South Asia.”

He said that Pakistan responded promptly and positively to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s brief visit on December 25.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Commerce Minister Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi and Board of



Prime Minister Muhammad Sharif in meeting with President of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev on the sidelines of World Economic Forum at Davos.



Prime Minister Muhammad Sharif in meeting with Chairman World Economic Forum Professor Klaus Schwab at Davos, Switzerland.



Prime Minister Muhammad Sharif in meeting with Mr. Bill Winters, Group Chief Executives Standard Chartered, at Davos, Switzerland.





**Prime Minister Muhammad Sharif, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani prior to their meeting on the sidelines of Annual Meeting 2016 World Economic Forum at Davos.**



**Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif speaking on "Perspective of Pakistan in the Regional Context" at a Panel Discussion on "Regions in Transformation-South Asia" during Annual Meeting 2016 World Economic Forum (WEF) at Davos, Switzerland.**



**Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif along with Director General CERN Ms. Higgs Hunter in a group photo with Pakistani scientists at CERN.**



**Federal Minister for Commerce, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan in a group photo with the Ministers of Trade, Participating countries at World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland.**

Investment Chairman Miftah Ismail attended the meeting along with 100 participants of the World Economic Forum. Giving a talk on "Regions in Transformation – South Asia" in Davos, he said government has successfully addressed the challenges of terrorism, energy shortages and economic revival.

He said Pakistan has paid heavy price in the fight against terrorism in term of loss of life and property. He said that due to successful Operation Zarb-e-Azb, the terrorists are now on the run and are striking soft targets.

Mentioning bilateral ties with Afghanistan, he said that Pakistan was committed to peace and stability across its western neighbour. "Pakistan is supporting various reconstruction and development projects in Afghanistan. We also wish the international community to remain engaged in supporting Afghanistan's reconstruction and economic development."

"We also remain committed to the full implementation of the Afghan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement. We are willing to expand its coverage to include other Central Asian States," he said.

Meeting took place among Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani at Davos. Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry were also present in the meeting. The meeting took place in a warm and cordial atmosphere.

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani condemned the Charsada terror attack and conveyed their sorrow and grief over the incident to the Prime Minister. Both the leaders appreciated the resolve of Pakistani nation in its war against terrorism and extremism.

The participants of the meeting reviewed the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan that is being pursued on the establishment of the quadrilateral mechanism that resulted from the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process. All the leaders expressed satisfaction at the two meetings of the Quadrilateral Consultative Groups held in Kabul and Islamabad. They agreed to keep focus on the goal of ensuring peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan which was both in the interest of Afghanistan and the region.

Prime Minister Nawaz also held bilateral talks with President of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev. This was the first interaction between the two leaders. Both leaders, keeping in view the cordial relations between the two countries, discussed a wide array of bilateral and international issues.

The Prime Minister underscored the need for enhancing bilateral trade, improving connectivity and strengthening defence ties with Azerbaijan. Pakistan and Azerbaijan already enjoy a robust





Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in meeting with Her Majesty Queen Maxima of the Netherlands on the sidelines of World Economic Forum Annual meeting 2016 at Davos, Switzerland.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani arriving for the meeting of leaders of Pakistan, the United States and Afghanistan on the sidelines of Annual Meeting 2016 World Economic Forum (WEF) at Davos, Switzerland.

partnership with strong cooperation in many areas. The two countries also support each other on Nagorno-Karabakh and Kashmir issues.

The meeting between the two countries helped reaffirm support for each other and bring forth opportunities for further strengthening this partnership. The Prime Minister extended an invitation to H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev and the First Lady to visit Pakistan at their convenience.

The prime minister also had a meeting with Queen Maxima of Netherlands at the World Economic Forum Congress Centre. Queen Maxima said she was looking forward to her visit to Pakistan. "I have heard that it is a wonderful country and I want to engage in Pakistan to the issues related to women."

Prime Minister Nawaz also held discussions with the Heads of many large scale trading companies. During these meetings, they expressed their willingness to bring in large scale investments to Pakistan within this year. Special attention were drawn to the investment opportunities in Pakistan during these discussions between the Prime Minister and Heads of global companies. The Prime Minister met internationally renowned bank Standard Charter's Group Chief Executive Mr. Bill Winters, Chairman of World Economic Forum, Mr. Klaus Schwab, and CERN Director General Ms. Higgs Hunter in the sidelines of World Economic Forum.

PM Nawaz also met Mr. Klaus Schwab, the Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum. Professor Schwab made the comments at the World Economic Forum (WEF) Congress Centre in his meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif that it was part of his job there to look at the world how it was doing. "I must say Mr. Prime Minister that your country is doing a wonderful job," said Professor Schwab. "There was no hope in 2013, but we now hear from the business community and the world that there is a lot of change in Pakistan," Professor Schwab added. The Prime Minister appreciated the

holding of the annual forum and the role it was playing in integrating the world. Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif gave an overview of the positive indicators of Pakistan's economy and how it was being perceived by top International Financial

I have heard that it is a wonderful country and I want to engage in Pakistan to the issues related to women : Queen Maxima

Institutions.

The World Economic Forum is the international organization for public-private cooperation. He founded the

the world, acting as a catalyst of numerous collaborations and international initiatives. Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif also visited the European Center for Nuclear Research (CERN), one of the foremost international centers of scientific research and met with Director General CERN, Ms. Higgs Hunter. During the visit, while addressing scientists, including Pakistani scientists and technicians the Prime Minister stated that Pakistan considered it a matter of immense pride to have become an Associate Member of CERN last year especially as it was the first non-European country to have achieved this milestone.

He paid a rich tribute to outstanding contribution of Pakistani scientists, "Our Associate Membership of CERN is a recognition of the achievements of our scientists, engineers and technicians". He underscored that Pakistan and CERN had been collaborating since 1994, and had carried out a number of successful projects involving sophisticated technologies and



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif inspecting the research facility at CERN.

Forum in 1971 and believes that the management of a modern enterprise must serve not only shareholders but all stakeholders to achieve long-term growth and prosperity. The Forum has been a driver for reconciliation efforts in different parts of

precision engineering. Pakistan was also involved in accelerator developments, making it an important partner for CERN. Prime Minister's visit to CERN is a demonstration of the Government's strong commitment to the promotion of science and technology in Pakistan.





Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud prior to their meeting at the Royal Palace in Riyadh

## Pakistan will stand with Saudi Arabia against any threat to the territorial integrity of Kingdom: PM Nawaz

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia along with COAS Gen. Raheel Sharif and Meet with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud

The Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif led a high level delegation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and called on the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud in Riyadh. PM Nawaz was received by governor of Riyadh Prince Faisal Bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz at Riyadh airport. People of Saudi Arabia and People of Pakistan are bonded through historical, cultural and Islamic ties of brotherhood. As it is well known, the people of Pakistan hold the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in high esteem and have deep respect for the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques. During the talks, both sides underscored the need for further strengthening of bilateral relations in all fields, including defence, security, economic and commercial cooperation. During the meeting, views were also exchanged on various facets of enduring cooperation with regard to the Saudi initiative of formation of the Coalition of Islamic countries against terrorism. Pakistan deeply appreciates the Saudi initiative and assured the Kingdom of its support. The Prime Minister reiterated that the people of Pakistan would always stand with the people of Saudi Arabia against any threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Kingdom. The Prime Minister expressed deep concern on the recent escalation of tensions between the Kingdom of Saudi



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif exchanging views with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud at the Royal Palace in Riyadh.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Governor of Riyadh Prince Faisal Bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz exchanging pleasantries at Riyadh.



We appreciate the sincere sentiments of the people of Pakistan that they hold for their Saudi brethren and the Kingdom :  
King Salman bin Abdulaziz

Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran. He also called for early resolution of differences through peaceful means, in the larger interest of Ummah, particularly during these challenging times. The Prime Minister recalled Pakistan's consistent policy of promoting brotherhood among member states of OIC. He said that Pakistan has always expressed its readiness to offer its good offices to brotherly Muslim countries, for resolution of their differences through dialogue and reconciliation.  
King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud

Pakistan has consistent policy of promoting brotherhood among member states of OIC:  
PM Nawaz



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif being received by the King of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud at the Royal Palace in Riyadh.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Governor of Riyadh Prince Faisal bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz arriving at the Royal Lounge at Riyadh Airport.

acknowledged and appreciated the sincere sentiments of the people of Pakistan that they hold for their Saudi brethren and the Kingdom. He also appreciated the initiative of the Pakistani leadership and observed that Saudi Arabia has always strived to promote brotherhood amongst Muslim countries.

The two delegations also discussed regional and global issues of common concerns. Views were exchanged on fighting terrorism and extremism. It was agreed that both countries would work together to defeat common enemy which are terrorism and extremism.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif being received by Governor of Riyadh Prince Faisal bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz at Riyadh Airport.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif was seen off by senior Saudi official at King Salman Airbase, Riyadh.





Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Iran Mr. Hassan Rouhani prior to their meeting at the Presidential Palace in Tehran.

## Pakistan always tries to remove tensions between Muslim countries: PM Nawaz

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif visited Tehran accompanied by the COAS General Raheel Sharif and SAPM Mr. Tariq Fatemi. PM Nawaz Sharif was received by Defence Minister Hossein Dehqan along with other high ranking officials at the airport.

During flight from Riyadh to Tehran, the Prime Minister held consultative meeting with COAS and other senior officials. Pakistan and Iran relations and the matters regarding meeting with Saudi leadership were discussed in detail. After the consultative meeting, the Prime Minister and COAS held one-on-one meeting on the flight. Regional situation in general and Iran-Saudia relations in particular were

discussed during the meeting.

The Prime Minister Nawaz had a meeting with the Iranian Defence Minister at the airport, which was also attended by COAS and SAPM Mr. Tariq Fatemi. The Iranian Defence Minister said to the Prime Minister, 'Your visit is happening at a crucial time. We hope your meeting with Iranian President will be fruitful'.

In this meeting Nawaz Sharif referred to friendly relations between both countries and said: "Development of ties with Iran has always been a big honour for Pakistan and we should try to expand these ties".

He also congratulated Iran's nuclear agreement and praised tactfulness and wisdom in management and guidance of



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif being received by the President of Iran Mr. Hassan Rouhani at the Presidential Palace in Tehran.

Pakistan always seek more unity, brotherhood, and friendship between Muslim brothers:  
PM Nawaz



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meeting with the President of Iran Mr. Hassan Rouhani at the Presidential Palace in Tehran.





**Prime Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meets Iranian Defence Minister Mr. Hossain Dehqan in Tehran**

the negotiations.

On the current conditions of Muslims and the regional issues, he said: "The Islamophobic wave that exists in the world is very worrying and terrorism and extremism in the region are using lack of unity between Muslim countries to their own benefit".

Pakistan wants that the prevailing tensions between Saudia and Iran will die down as Pakistan wants resolution of all issues through peaceful means. PM Nawaz said, "Pakistan has always sought more unity, brotherhood, and friendship between

increase of stability and security in Pakistan and added, "Historical relations of both countries shows that Iran and Pakistan have had fruitful attempts in establishing stability and security in the region".

On the scourge of terrorism in the region and the related concerns, President said that the government's policy is based on interaction with other countries, especially neighbors, giving positive response to the countries that are combating terrorism.

Dr. Rouhani also mentioned the discords between Muslims and called for increased

unity and integrity. He voiced Iran's readiness to help countries of the region fight terrorism and extremism.

Later, Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif also held a meeting with First Vice President of Iran Dr. Ishaq Jahangiri and discussed matters of mutual interests and regional situation. Members of the Iranian cabinet were also present in the meeting. Army Chief General Raheel Sharif, National Advisor on Security, Retired Lt General (r) Nasir Khan Janjua and Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi also attended the meeting.

**Iran is ready to help countries of the region fighting terrorism and extremism : President Dr. Rouhani**

Muslim brothers and has always tried to remove tensions and disputes".

President Dr. Rouhani stressed the need to use all capacities for development of Tehran-Islamabad relations. In this meeting, Dr. Rouhani referred to the existing close relations between the two states and nations and said: "Iran's nuclear agreement with 5+1 has led to favourable conditions for all countries of the region and we can make the best use of the capacities and each other's capacities to foster ties and mutual relations to the benefit of both nations".

Referring to nuclear negotiations as a model for solving complicated issues of the region, he expressed hope that economic ties between Iran and Pakistan expand, leading to solve issues of the region.

Dr. Rouhani also said that Iran welcomes



**Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meeting the First Vice President of Iran Dr. Ishaq Jahngiri in Tehran.**



**Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif chairs a consultative meeting EN route to Tehran from Riyadh.**



# Diplomatic Focus thru lens



Sheikh Falah Bin Jassim bin Jabor Al-Thani called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM House, Islamabad.



Ambassador of USA to Pakistan H.E. Mr. David Hale called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM House, Islamabad.



Ambassador of Saudi Arabia H.E. Mr. Abdullah Marzouk Al-Zahrani called on Deputy Speaker National Assembly Murtaza Javed Abbasi at Parliament House, Islamabad.



Ambassador of Saudi Arabia H.E. Mr. Abdullah Marzouk Al-Zahrani called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, Islamabad.



European Union Ambassador H.E. Mr. Jean-Francois Cautain called on Federal Minister for Finance Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Islamabad.



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the Ambassador of Afghanistan H.E. Janan Mosaxai in Islamabad.



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the Ambassador of Iran H.E. Mehdi Honardoost in Islamabad.



Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Mahtab Ahmed Khan taking to the British High Commissioner in Pakistan Mr. Philip Barton who called on him at Governor's House, Peshawar.



# Diplomatic Focus thru lens



**MS. Salma Zahid, PM Liberal Party in the Canadian House of Commons called on the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi in Islamabad.**



**Federal Minister for Commerce, Engr. Khuram Dastgir Khan in a meeting with the newly appointed Ambassador of Iran, H.E. Mr. Mehdi Honardest in Islamabad.**



**German Ambassador, H.E. Ms. Ina Lepei called on Federal Minister for overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Pir Sadrudin Rashid in Islamabad.**



**Deputy Chairman Senate, Moulana Abdul Ghafoor Haidri exchanging views with the delegation of Election Commission of Nepal led by Dr. Ayodhee Prasad Yadav at Parliament House, Islamabad.**



**Deputy Speaker National Assembly Murtaza Javed Abbasi with fellow speakers from (left to right) Malaysia, Sabah, Isle of Mann, Sewakh and Sri Lanka at the opening ceremony of the 23rd Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers (CSPOC) being held in the Malaysian city of Kota Kinabalu.**



**President Mamnoon Hussain in a group photo with foreign diplomats and members of Executive Committee of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the occasion of annual dinner of RCCI in Islamabad. Minister of State for Religious Affairs Pir Amin Ul Hasnat Shah and President RCCI are also present.**





The Deputy Crown Prince and Defence Minister of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Bin Salman Al Saud called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM House, Islamabad.

## KSA & Pakistan Relations

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan has historically pursued the policy of **promoting brotherhood** among member states of OIC: PM Nawaz

The people of Pakistan would always stand with the people of Saudi Arabia, against any threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Kingdom

**T**he Deputy Crown Prince and Defence Minister of KSA, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad bin Salman Al Saud called on the Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif welcomed the Deputy Crown Prince and stated that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Custodian of the Holy Mosques were held in high esteem by the people of Pakistan. The Prime Minister affirmed that the people of Pakistan are bonded with the people of KSA through historical, cultural and Islamic ties of brotherhood. He added that the people of Pakistan would always stand with the people of Saudi Arabia, against any threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Kingdom. The Prime Minister

welcomed the Saudi initiative to establish a coalition of likeminded Islamic countries to counter terrorism and militancy and informed the Deputy Crown Prince that Pakistan supports efforts to counter terrorism and extremism.

The two leaders agreed to further strengthen the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and deepen the cooperation in all fields, including defence security, fight against terrorism, trade and investment and manpower requirements of the Kingdom. The Deputy Crown Prince appreciated the valiant efforts waged by the security and law enforcement authorities to root out terrorism from Pakistan, particularly through the military campaign Zarb-e-Azb. He was briefed on the progress in implementing National Action

Plan to eliminate extremism and terrorism. It was agreed that the two countries would cooperate in developing an effective counter narrative to defeat the extremist mindset.

The visit provided a welcome opportunity to both sides to reaffirm their shared resolve to deepen bilateral cooperation and work together to address the challenge of terrorism



Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs receiving H.H. Prince Muhammad Bin Salaman Al Saud, Defence Minister of Saudi Arabia at Nur Khan Airbase, Islamabad.





**Gen. Raheel Sharif re-asserted that any threat to Saudi Arabia's territorial integrity would evoke a strong response from Pakistan**

which is common enemy for both.

The Prime Minister recalled that Pakistan has historically pursued the policy of promoting brotherhood among member states of OIC. Pakistan has also always expressed its readiness to offer its good offices to brotherly Muslim countries, for resolution of their differences through peaceful dialogue and reconciliation.

Prince Mohammad met the army chief and the prime minister during his seven-hour stay here. Defence Minister Khawaja Asif received him at the airport. Gen Sharif, according to ISPR, "re-asserted that any threat to Saudi Arabia's territorial integrity would evoke a strong response from Pakistan".

**The Deputy Crown Prince appreciated the valiant efforts waged by the security and law enforcement authorities to root out terrorism from Pakistan, particularly through the military campaign Zarb-e-Azb**







Foreign Minister of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia H.E. Adel Bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM House, Islamabad.

## KSA & Pakistan Relations

The people of Pakistan will always stand

**shoulder to shoulder**  
with the people of  
**Saudi Arabia**

against any threat to territorial integrity  
and sovereignty of Saudi Arabia:

*PM Nawaz*

**By Mian Fazal Elahi**

The Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Dr. Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir paid a working visit to Pakistan. During his visit, he called on the Prime Minister and held delegation level talks with the Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs. He also met the Chief of Army Staff at General Headquarters.

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, during Dr. Adel Al-Jubeir's call, stressed that the people of Pakistan held the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in high esteem and also had deep respect for the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques. The Prime Minister affirmed that the people of Pakistan will always stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Saudi Arabia against any threat to territorial integrity and sovereignty of Saudi Arabia.

The Foreign Minister briefed the Prime Minister on details of the Islamic coalition, announced by Saudi Arabia to fight terrorism. The Prime Minister stated that Pakistan welcomes Saudi Arabia's initiative and stressed that Pakistan supports all such regional and international efforts to counter terrorism and extremism.

The Prime Minister called for further strengthening and expanding bilateral relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, in all fields of cooperation, including defence, security, economic and commercial cooperation.

The Prime Minister urged intensified efforts to further boost bilateral trade. The Prime Minister also urged increased Saudi investment in





**Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz shaking hand with the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia H.E. Adel Bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir, Islamabad.**

Pakistan, especially in the energy sector where Pakistan offers attractive investment regime. The Saudi Foreign Minister briefed the Prime Minister on the ongoing programs to enhance Saudi investment in critical sectors of Pakistan's economy.

Foreign Minister Al-Jubeir briefed the Prime Minister on the recent situation in the Kingdom's relations with Iran. Pakistan expressed deep concern at the escalation of the situation and condemned the burning down of Saudi Embassy in Tehran. Pakistan believes in respect for international norms and adherence to principle of non-interference.

The Prime Minister called for resolution of differences through peaceful means in the larger interest of the Muslim unity in this challenging time.

The visiting Foreign Minister also held delegation level talks with Advisor to the Prime Minister Mr. Sartaj Aziz. In the talks, held under bilateral political consultation mechanism, the two sides discussed the ways and means to further expand areas of bilateral cooperation. The two sides also discussed ways to deepen bilateral cooperation in all fields. Both sides agreed to hold political consultations twice a year alternately in Islamabad and Riyadh.

Views were also exchanged on fighting terrorism and extremism. The Advisor briefed the Saudi Foreign Minister on the

**The Foreign Minister Dr. Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir briefed the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on details of the Islamic coalition, announced by Saudi Arabia to fight terrorism.**

successful campaign that Pakistan has waged against the twin menace of

terrorism and extremism. The two sides underscored the need to develop jointly a counter narrative against extremism and terrorism with the help of Ulemas.

The two delegations also discussed regional and global issues of common concern. It was agreed that both countries would make a concerted effort to promote multi-faceted cooperation and work together to defeat our common enemy – terrorism and extremism.

All the above meetings were held in an atmosphere of warmth, friendship and cordiality that characterizes the historic and fraternal relations between the two countries.





## Chinese President's Visit to Middle East

by Saba Sarfraz

# A New Chapter in China's Ties

## President Xi Jinping visited Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Iran

**P**resident Xi Jinping started his official visit of three countries from Saudi Arabia where he held talks in Riyadh with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia. The two heads of state spoke positively of the development of China-Saudi Arabia relations, exchanged in-depth views on bilateral relations and international and regional issues of common concern and reached broad consensus, and jointly announced the establishment of China-Saudi Arabia comprehensive strategic partnership with an aim to promote the in-depth development of bilateral relations and yield greater cooperation results.

President Xi pointed out that China and Saudi Arabia are major countries with profound historical and cultural accumulations and now bear the task of promoting economic development and improving people's livelihood. China will, together with Saudi Arabia, learn from each other and realize common development and prosperity. During his visit to Saudi Arabia in 2008, the two countries issued a joint statement on the establishment of strategic friendly relations, pushing bilateral relations to a new stage of fast development and yielding fruitful results in bilateral all-round practical cooperation.

Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud expressed that since the establishment of the diplomatic relations 26 years ago, the two countries have witnessed a stable development in their

friendly relations. With broad common interests, Saudi Arabia and China both devote to maintaining global peace and stability. The establishment of bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership will bring benefits to both peoples. Saudi Arabia supports China's "Belt and Road" initiative and will

are glad about the substantial progress of the negotiations and agreed to establish the China-GCC FTA at an early date.

The two heads of state together witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the

Cairo with President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi of Egypt. Speaking highly of the bilateral traditional friendship, President Xi stressed that Egypt is a major Arab, African and Islamic developing country. Since the establishment of China-Egypt diplomatic relations 60 years ago, the bilateral friendly relations have withstood the test of respective ups and downs and international vicissitudes with the two countries always supporting, respecting and trusting each other. We are willing to join hands with Egypt to make joint progress and continuously create new situation in bilateral friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation.

"During my visit this time, both sides will jointly issue the five-year outline on strengthening comprehensive strategic partnership and fully plan China-Egypt cooperation in various areas", President Xi Jinping stated. China is willing to participate in Egypt's major projects including the development of the Suez Canal Corridor and the construction of the new administrative capital.

Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi expressed that he is glad that President Xi Jinping is visiting Egypt on the occasion of celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of Egypt-China diplomatic relations, and the visit will significantly promote the development of Egypt-China comprehensive strategic partnership. Egypt is devoted to intensifying cooperation with China in various areas, and is willing to dovetail its



**President Xi Jinping Meeting with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia**

deepen cooperation with China in trade, investment, energy, education, science, technology, information security and other areas

Both sides also reached consensus on turning the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank into a financing platform of mutual benefits and win-win results to push regional connectivity. They spoke highly of and welcomed the resumption of FTA negotiations between China and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and

Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Jointly Promoting the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and Carrying out Production Capacity Cooperation as well as bilateral cooperation documents covering energy, communications, environment, culture, aerospace, science, technology and other areas.

After the completion of his successful visit, President Xi Jinping travelled to Egypt where he held talks at Quba Palace in





**President Xi Jinping Holding Talks with President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi of Egypt**

development plan with the "Belt and Road" initiative as well as promote cooperation in fields including infrastructure under the framework of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). Egypt welcomes Chinese enterprises to increase investment in the country. China is a traditional friendly partner of Arab and African countries. Egypt also stands ready to beef up coordination and cooperation with China within the framework of Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

After the talks, both heads of state witnessed the signing of the Five-Year Outline on Strengthening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Between the People's Republic of China and the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Momentum of Understanding on Jointly Promoting Construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and many other bilateral cooperation documents. They also jointly inaugurated the second-phase construction of the China-Egypt Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone.

Prior to the talks, Xi Jinping attended the grand welcome ceremony held by Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi at the square outside the Quba Palace. During his visit, he also met with Prime Minister Sherif Ismail of Egypt.

President Xi Jinping travelled to Iran after his visit of two muslim countries Saudi Arabia and Egypt. He met with Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in Tehran. He pointed out that

China-Iran friendship, originating not only from the time-honored friendly exchanges between the two nations, but also from their mutual support in hard times and practical cooperation featuring mutual benefit and win-win result, is very precious. At present, China-Iran relations encounter new opportunities. China will always be a "reliable cooperative partner" of Iran and stands ready to deepen bilateral cooperation on all fronts. China and Iran are "natural partners" in implementing the "Belt and Road" initiative. China will work with Iran to dock development strategies, boost cooperation in such areas as infrastructure, connectivity, production capacity and energy within the framework of the "Belt and Road" initiative for the benefit of the two peoples, so as to make the China-Iran friendship take deeper roots in people's heart.

Xi Jinping noted that at present, the international situation is undergoing profound and complex changes. After years of exploration and practice, peoples in China and Iran, both as developing nations, choose the development path suitable to their respective national conditions. China is willing to maintain mutual support with Iran in regional and global affairs, and jointly safeguard peace, stability and development in the region and around the world.

Ali Khamenei said that Iran speaks highly of the development achievement scored by China and is grateful to China for its long-term support. Iran is ready to work with China to earnestly



**President Xi Jinping meeting with Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in Tehran**

implement the Iran-China comprehensive strategic partnership to push bilateral practical cooperation to a new high. The "Belt and Road" initiative put forward by China comes at the right time. Iran is an important country along the "Belt and Road" and stands ready to play a greater role in jointly pursuing the initiative

with China. China is a very influential country in the world and Iran hopes to strengthen communication and coordination with China to jointly safeguard security, peace and stability in the region.

Mr. Wang Huning, Mr. Li Zhanshu, Mr. Yang Jiechi and others were accompanying the president in his visit.

### Highlights of President's Visit to Middle East

- President Xi Jinping and King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia Jointly Announced Establishment of China-Saudi Arabia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership
- President Xi Jinping Met With Secretary-General of Gulf Cooperation Council Abdul Latif Bin Rashid Al Zayani
- President Xi Jinping Met with Secretary-General Iyad Ameen Madani of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
- King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia and President Xi Jinping Together Attended the Launch Ceremony of the Yasref Oil Refinery
- President Xi Jinping and President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi of Egypt Together Attended the Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of China-Egypt Diplomatic Relations and the Opening Ceremony of the China-Egypt Cultural Year 2016
- President Xi Jinping Delivers Important Speech at Headquarters of the League of Arab States, Stressing to Jointly Create a Bright Future for Development of China-Arab Relations and Promote National Rejuvenation of China and Arab States to Form More Convergence
- President Xi Jinping Met with Parliament Speaker Ali Abdelaal of Egypt
- President Xi Jinping Met with Secretary-General Nabil El Araby of the League of Arab States





Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif chaired a high-level meeting to review the Regional situation, held at PM House, Islamabad.

# Pakistan

strongly condemn

# terrorism

in all its forms & manifestations

**Pakistan's counter-terrorism campaign had made significant gains and that Pakistan's entire leadership and institutions were working in complete harmony to counter terrorism and extremism**

No terrorist would be allowed to use Pakistan's soil for committing terrorism anywhere in the world

A high level meeting chaired by the Prime Minister was held to review the regional situation. The meeting was attended by Minister of Finance, Minister for Interior, Advisor to PM on Foreign Affairs, Chief of the Army Staff, Special Assistant to the PM on Foreign Affairs, National Security Advisor, DG ISI, Foreign Secretary and DG Military Operations.

The meeting affirmed Pakistan's strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It was noted with satisfaction that Pakistan's counter-terrorism campaign had made significant gains and that Pakistan's entire leadership and institutions were working in complete harmony to counter terrorism and extremism. The people of Pakistan have evolved a political consensus for action against all terrorists and terrorist organizations without any distinction, and have resolved that no terrorist would be allowed to use Pakistan's soil for committing terrorism anywhere in the world.

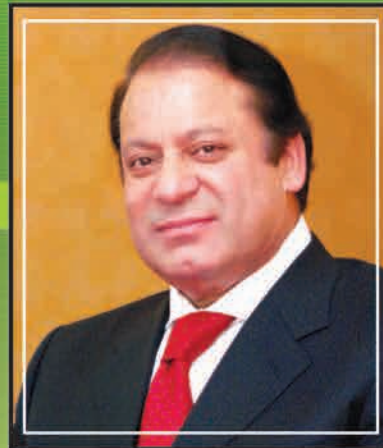
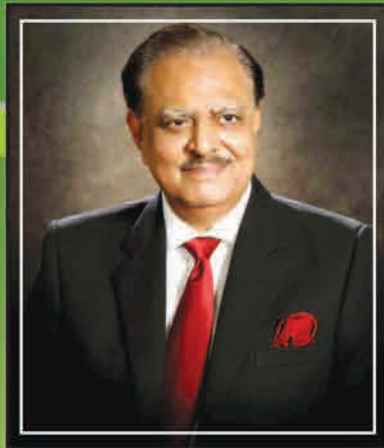
The meeting also discussed the Pathankot terrorist attack, and expressed Pakistan's condemnation of this incident, and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to cooperate with India to completely eradicate the menace of terrorism afflicting our region. In line with Pakistan's commitment to effectively counter and eradicate terrorism, the meeting reviewed the progress made on the information provided by the Government of India. It was decided to remain in touch with the Government of India in this regard. The meeting expressed the confidence that building on the goodwill generated by the recent high level contacts, the two countries would remain committed to a sustained, meaningful and comprehensive dialogue process.



Pakistan would continue supporting the right of self-determination of Kashmiris &

# We are against all kind of terrorism:

President Mamnoon Hussain



**P**resident Mamnoon Hussain has said that Pakistan condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations including the incident at Pathankot however Pakistan would continue to adhere to the principled stand of the right of self-determination of Kashmiri people which is the basis of its foreign policy.

The President said this while talking to a delegation of Kashmiri leaders which called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. On the occasion, Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Muhammad Barjees Tahir, President Azad Jammu & Kashmir Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan, Prime Minister Azad Jammu & Kashmir Chaudhry Abdul Majeed, leaders of political parties of Azad Kashmir and All Parties Hurriyat Conference were also present. The meeting was organized especially on the day of passing of United Nations resolution for the right of self-determination of Kashmir and as part of commemoration of Quaid-e-Azam's birth anniversary.

President Mamnoon Hussain said that Pakistan would continue supporting the right of self-determination of Kashmiris

PM Muhammad Nawaz Sharif telephoned his Indian counterpart Mr. Narindra Modi PM conveyed his heartfelt sadness and grief on the loss of lives in Pathankot's terror attack and appreciated the maturity shown by the Indian Government in its statements issued after the unfortunate incident took place. The Prime Minister also stated that the Pakistani government would investigate this matter.

because Pakistan considers Kashmir as an unfinished agenda of the partition of the subcontinent. The President stated that the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had said that the word 'K' in Pakistan denotes Kashmir and Pakistan is incomplete without Kashmir. He added that the view of Quaid-e-Azam that Kashmir is jugular vein of Pakistan is a guiding principle for every Pakistani.

The President stated that the support for the right of self-determination for Kashmiri people is the basic principle of Pakistan's foreign policy adding that Pakistan has raised the voice in support of Kashmiris on every political and diplomatic forum and it would continue playing this role in future as well. The President said that

Jammu and Kashmir is a Muslim majority area and the efforts underway for turning the majority into a minority their would never be successful.

President Mamnoon Hussain assured the Kashmiri leadership that there would be no change in the principled stand of Pakistan on Kashmir and it would continue to support the just aspirations of oppressed people of the occupied Kashmir. Condemning the attack on airbase in Pathankot, the President said that Pakistan is against all kind of terrorism.

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Muhammad Barjees Tahir, President Azad Jammu & Kashmir Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan, Prime Minister Azad Jammu & Kashmir

Chaudhry Abdul Majeed and other Kashmiri leaders also expressed their views on the occasion and highlighted the Kashmir issue.

on the other side, Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif telephoned his Indian counterpart Mr. Narindra Modi and conveyed his heartfelt sadness and grief on the loss of lives in Pathankot's terror attack. The Prime Minister appreciated the maturity shown by the Indian Government in its statements issued after the unfortunate incident took place. Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said that his government was working on the leads and information provided by the Indian government. The Prime Minister also stated that the Pakistani government would investigate this matter. Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif pointed out to the Indian Prime Minister that whenever a serious effort for bringing peace between the two countries was underway, terrorists try to derail the process. Both the Prime Ministers agreed that a cordial and cooperative relationship between the two countries would be the most appropriate response to the nefarious designs of the terrorists, says a press release.



## Interview

# Pakistan relations with the US are on a solid ground



## H.E. Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani

Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States of America

Interview by: *Mian Fazal Elahi*

**H**.E. Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani has been a dynamic and energetic diplomat. He has been appointed as Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United States of America on January 2, 2014. Prior to his appointment as Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, Ambassador Jilani served as Foreign Secretary of Pakistan from March 2012 to December 2013. He is a career diplomat and has also served as Ambassador of Pakistan to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union 2009-2012 and as Pakistan's High Commissioner to Canberra, Australia 2007-2009.

Diplomatic Focus has found an opportunity to talk His Excellency while learned about his early life, education, career, experiences and most importantly his role as an Ambassador in bringing Pakistan and US closer in terms of diplomatic ties.

**Q: Your Excellency! First of all, I am thankful to you for giving me time. After that, I would like to learn a bit about your early life, education, family, career and the landmarks you have achieved in your life.**

I received my early education from Multan,

received my bachelor degree from Government College Lahore, LLB from Punjab University, and MSc. in Defence & Strategic Studies from the NDU.

I joined the Foreign Service in 1979 and served in Islamabad and Missions abroad including Saudi Arabia, Yemen, UK, USA, India, Australia and Brussels. Before being posted as Ambassador of Pakistan to the

US, I served as Foreign Secretary.

Having served the country for almost 37 years, promotions of Pakistan's interests remained an article of faith for me in terms of concrete outcomes.

I take pride in the successful conclusion of GSP plus Concessions for Pakistan by the European Union during my tenure as



*Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to the United States of America Jalil Abbas Jilani, called on President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Saddar*





*Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani presents credentials to Barack Obama at White House*

Ambassador of Pakistan to Belgium and the EU. As Ambassador of Pakistan to the US, I can draw satisfaction from the fact that our relations with the US are on a solid track and gaining strength.

**Q: Pakistan and US have long cordial relations which have seen many ups and downs. How do you see the bilateral ties between the two countries over the years?**

I would like to characterize the Pakistan US relationship as mutually beneficial, dynamic and multi-dimensional. As you rightly pointed out, despite ups and downs, this relationship has maintained

resilience and relevance for both the countries. Since the last couple of years, bilateral ties have been on an upward trajectory with frequent high level engagements from both sides. Prime Minister's two visits to Washington in October 2013 & 2015 were particularly successful in putting this relationship on the right track.

Currently, we have very strong and active cooperation in economy, trade, energy, counter-terrorism, defence and non-proliferation issues.

**Q: Your Excellency! In recent visit of Pakistani PM Nawaz to US, it was said in joint statement that US will support Pakistan in Counter-terrorism and**

**Pakistan and the US  
are working together  
with Afghanistan to  
take the peace  
process forward  
which will contribute  
to regional security  
and stability**



*Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was received at John F. Kennedy International Airport by Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to the United States of America Jalil Abbas Jilani*





**Mr. Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland, US and Pakistan Ambassador to the US, Jallil Abbas Jilani**



**Ambassador Jilani's meets with US Senator Tim Kaine**

**regional security but now we are watching a strong reaction from US in terms of Aid. What measures Pakistani government is thinking to cater this situation?**

US assistance especially the critical defence and CT equipment such as the precision strike capability and other devices played a decisive role in rooting out the terrorists from FATA. Pakistan and the US are working together with Afghanistan to take the peace process forward which will contribute to regional security and stability.

In a system characterized by separation of powers, the US government works through different organs for approvals. There are some procedural hurdles which are being addressed through continued and regular engagement at the appropriate level. I am personally spending a lot of time in meeting various Congressmen and Senators to explain Pakistan's perspective on various issues. I can share with you that there is a lot of appreciation in the US of our efforts to eliminate terrorism from the region and including the role played by Pakistan for regional peace and stability.

**Q: Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States committed to pursuing the start of peace talks with Taliban in Heart of Asia Conference. What do you think after getting control of the Helmand province by Taliban, will the talk process with Taliban be pursued?**

We should keep in mind that the peace talks or the reconciliation process in Afghanistan has been a slow and complex process. This is evident from several attempts in the past. In my view, all sides

especially the Afghan government and the Taliban are expected to demonstrate patience and commitment to make this process result oriented. Individual instances of violence in parts of

Afghanistan could complicate matters in the short term but momentum sustained by reconciliation would yield positive results and peace dividend for all stakeholders. For the success of this process, the principle of shared responsibility must be adhered to by all sides.

**Q: Your Excellency! Muslim community but especially Pakistani community in US is facing fears of insecurity and discrimination after San Bernardino incident. What kind of steps Pakistani embassy is taking to enhance the mutual trust and respect between community**

## US appreciates Pakistan's National Action Plan



**Foreign Minister Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar along with outgoing Foreign Secretary Mr. Salman Bashir and incoming Foreign Secretary Mr. Jallil Abbas Jilani on the occasion of dinner hosted by her in their honor in Islamabad.**





**General and Mrs. Raheel Sharif with Ambassador and Mrs. Jalil Jilani and Army & Defense Attache, Brigadier and Mrs. Abdullah Dogar at the Embassy dinner**

#### and the government?

There was some sense of anxiety and insecurity in the Muslim community including the Pakistani Americans after this sad incident. To address this situation, the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington as well as our four Consulates in Los Angeles, Chicago, New York and Houston reached out to the Pakistani Americans through personal contacts, emails and social media. We assured them of our constant availability towards dealing with their concerns. We are also in regular contact with the US government to make sure that the law abiding and peace loving Pakistani American citizens do not face discrimination. We deeply appreciate President Obama's statement that "San

Bernardino incident should not be linked to any particular religion, community or the country".

**Q: Pakistan and the United States jointly organized U.S.-Pakistan Clean Energy Business Opportunities Conference this month which was led by Minister for Water and Power and Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources. What do you see the role of this conference in the critical energy situation of Pakistan?**

The U.S.-Pakistan Clean Energy Business Opportunities Conference highlighted opportunities for private investment in clean, renewable energy projects (hydro, solar, wind, natural gas, biomass/biogas, geothermal, etc) in Pakistan. The goal of



**Foreign Secretary's Mr. Aizaz Chaudhry meeting with U.S. Deputy NSA Ms. Avril Haines at the White House**



**Army Chief General Raheel Sharif at Pakistani embassy in U.S.**



this conference was to bring together high-level Government of Pakistan (GOP) energy sector officials with U.S., Pakistani, and international project development and financial organizations to discuss opportunities in solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, biomass, gas, energy efficiency, and hybrid energy projects in Pakistan. Pakistani delegation highlighted the importance of energy in the country's economic plans, Pakistan's investment framework, financial incentives for clean energy investment, policies, laws, and regulations at the federal and state levels, and sector expansion plans.

Private developers and financial institutions from the United States expressed their keen interest in the investment opportunities in the energy sector of Pakistan. I believe that the Conference was successful towards maintaining the momentum in attracting investments in our energy sector.

**Q: Your Excellency! Several lawmakers from Democratic and Republican committees accused Islamabad of "playing both sides" in recent debates. What do you think why the US is not getting satisfied with the National Action Plan (NAP) by Pakistan to deal with extremism and militancy?**

This issues needs to be seen in the broader perspective. First, let me say that the US appreciates Pakistan's National Action Plan (NAP) as an indigenously evolved plan to root out extremism and terrorism from the country. In fact they have noted the significant improvement in the security situation in the country following the operation Zarb-e-Azb and implementation of NAP. On the other hand, some US lawmakers have intermittently expressed concerns on the rising violence in Afghanistan and the slow progress on peace talks which, in their view, could have been avoided with Pakistan's cooperation.



**Foreign Secretary of India Mr. Ranjan Mathai and Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani, Pakistan Foreign Secretary signing MOU between ICCR and Pakistan National Council of Arts in Islamabad**

The grant of GSP Plus concessions of EU for Pakistan was a matter of great satisfaction for me

Unfortunately, there is a perception in certain quarters that Pakistan holds some magical wand to stabilize Afghanistan. In our interactions with the US officials and the Congress, we continue to highlight Pakistan's sincere commitment to the peace process in bringing all the parties to the negotiating table but also point out our limitations. Our message is getting

registered.

**Q: Chief of Army Staff, General Raheel Sharif visited the Washington DC in November and was warmly welcomed there but US lawmakers threaten to cut aid to Pakistan. While the army chief has moved decisively against the Pakistani Taliban, does the future aid have any connection to taking the steps against the Haqqani Network or Lashkar-e-Taiba?**

I would like to refute any such media reports. On the contrary this visit was very successful and the Chief of Army Staff was received very warmly and cordially by the senior US officials as well as the Congress. As I mentioned earlier, our narrative on all the issues being referred to by you is being better understood by the US Administration and the Congress.

**Q: Your Excellency! Indian lobbies are very active in the United States against Pakistan. Do you think that Pakistani**



**Group Photo of Pakistani journalists visiting the U.S. under ICFJ exchange program, with Ambassador Jalil Jilani**





*Embassy of Pakistan commemorated 50th Defence Day of Pakistan.*

**lobbies are strong enough to counter them?**

Lobbies have traditionally held a strong role in influencing the mind of the US Congress and the Indian lobby is amongst some of the most active groups. However, we at the Embassy of Pakistan are fully on guard to protect our national interests. In our efforts to counter any negative influence, we co opt the services of our Pakistani American friends who continue to serve as a critically important link between Pakistan and the US. Separately, I am personally very active in reaching out to all the policy makers and opinion makers in Washington by direct engagement, interviews and discussion forums to put forth Pakistan's perspective on all issues of mutual interest.

**Q: What would you say that after the San Bernardino attack and Paris attacks, the change in immigration policy of US will affect Pakistani citizens who will apply for visa?**

The immigration policies throughout the world are changing to be able to deal with the emerging threats including terrorism and radicalization. Currently, Pakistan is not directly affected.

**Q: Saudi Arabia named Pakistan as part of its newly formed 34-nation military alliance of Muslim countries meant to combat IS with US. What do you see the Pakistan's future in this alliance?**

Pakistan has welcomed the initiative taken by Saudi Arabia against extremism and terrorism. The Saudi foreign minister had recently visited Pakistan. We enjoy a multifaceted and multidimensional

relationship with our brotherly country of Saudi Arabia.

**Q: Your Excellency! You have been in the diplomatic field for quite a long time and certainly there would have been some memorable moments as well as some challenges. Would you please like to share some of them with us?**

As I mentioned earlier, the successful outcome of the initiative taken by me in my capacity as Ambassador of Pakistan to

**Lobbies have traditionally held a strong role in influencing the mind of the US Congress and the Indian lobby is amongst some of the most active groups.**

the EU for the grant of GSP Plus concessions for Pakistan was a matter of great satisfaction for me. As foreign secretary, it had been my constant endeavor to put across Pakistan's point of view at the international level and to build strong relationship with all important countries. I am happy to note that currently our relations with the US are on a solid ground. We have been able to forge

robust cooperation in multiple sectors.

**Q: Your Excellency! How do you see the role of 'Diplomatic Focus' in enhancing the bilateral ties of Pakistan with other countries of the world?**

The magazine Diplomatic Focus is playing an important role in projecting Pakistan's soft image and vibrant society to the diplomatic corps which helps in strengthening Pakistan's ties with other countries. Your initiative of exclusive interviews with select Envoys is particularly useful in focusing on the bilateral relationship with the respective country and should be maintained. I wish you all the success in your endeavors toward promoting Pakistan as a democratic, progressive and peaceful country that offers immense opportunities for investment, trade and multidimensional cooperation with other countries of the world.

**Q: Any message you want to give to the readers of 'Diplomatic Focus' and especially to the youth of Pakistan? And also you can share anything you think we have missed in the interview?**

My message to the readers is that all the citizens of Pakistan, especially the youth, are Pakistan's Ambassadors to the outside world. All of us have to project Pakistan's positive image in whatever role we are playing in the society. Message exclusively directed to the youth is that in line with the vision of the founding father, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, they should aim at high standards of honesty, professionalism, dedication and commitment in their work.





I see the future diplomatic ties between  
**Pakistan & Poland**  
**in bright colours**

**H.E. Mr. Piotr A. Opaliński**

Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan





**P**oland and Pakistan established diplomatic relations in 1962. H.E. Mr. Piotr A. Opaliński, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan has been a dynamic and energetic diplomat.

Mr. Opaliński went through each level of diplomatic service from expert to ambassador ad personam, working in the departments of Asia, Africa and the Middle

East at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was awarded the Golden Cross of Merit for his achievements in diplomatic service and contribution to the development of relations between Poland and countries in South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. He can speak English, Russian, Hindi, and Urdu.

**Diplomatic Focus** has found an opportunity to talk His Excellency while learned about his career, experiences and

most importantly his role as an Ambassador in bringing Pakistan and Poland closer in terms of diplomatic ties.

**Q: Your Excellency! First of all, I am thankful to you for giving me time. After that, I would like to learn a bit about your education and career.**

I was fascinated by the Orient, its culture and history from my childhood. After completing my M.A. in Oriental philology at Tashkent State University, I gained experience in diplomacy and public administration in Warsaw at the Polish Institute of Foreign Affairs and the National School of Public Administration, and in the Hague at the Clingendael Institute of International Relations.

I went through each level of diplomatic service from expert to ambassador ad personam, working in the departments of Asia, Africa and the Middle East at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I served as the chargé d' affaires in Bangladesh (1991-1997), in Angola and Tanzania (2007), as the consul and deputy head of mission in Pakistan and Afghanistan (1999-2005), and as the deputy head of mission in India (2008-2014). I presented the Letters of Credence to H.E. Mr. Mamnoon Hussain on 3rd November 2015.

**Q: Your Excellency! Pakistan was one of the first Muslim states to establish diplomatic relations with Poland. How would you estimate the future diplomatic ties between Pakistan and Poland?**







Historically, Poland has cultivated its relations with Muslim world since centuries. We celebrated the 600th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations with Turkey in 2014, we've also maintained the historic diplomatic relations with Iran although the permanent missions in both capitals functioned from 1920-ties and now in 2016 we also celebrate the 90th anniversary of the diplomatic relations with the Republic of Egypt.

In Pakistan, Poland opened its embassy first in Karachi in 1962, then moved it to Islamabad in 1965. The Pakistani Government opened its embassy in Warsaw in 1969. Presently, Poland also maintains an honorary Consulate in Karachi and soon is going to re-establish its honorary Consulate in Lahore. Both countries have a long and successful history of cooperation dating back to foundation years of Pakistan, when in 1948 Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan sanctioned a three-year agreement with exiled members and officers of the Polish Air Force to build the Pakistan Air Force.

In my opinion the relations between our countries are excellent, also thanks to the efforts taken by my predecessors, yet my main objective in here is to make them even better. Our mutual goal should be to further strengthen the political and economic cooperation. In political terms I would like to invigorate the dialogue on highest political levels with government and parliament of Pakistan. I see the future diplomatic ties between Pakistan and Poland in bright colours.

**Q: Your Excellency! Poland has a diversified and developed economy, do you suggest Pakistani investors to invest in Poland or is there any investment opportunity for Pakistanis?**

I do agree with what Minister of Commerce, Mr. Khurram Dastgir Khan had said recently – Poland is a market with

**Polish Special Economic Zones offer attractive tax exemptions, employment incentives and well-prepared investment lots for foreign investors**

huge potential, not yet explored enough by Pakistani business. Establishing a company on a Polish market means an easy access to the rest of European markets, as our country is a part of European Union and Schengen zone.

Many world class concerns often choose Poland as an investment destination in Europe. According to up-to-date rankings

Poland is the best CEE country for business. We can boast as being chosen one of the best quality location for manufacturing projects, also due to the stable macroeconomic situation of the Poland. As the strengths of Poland, other than a stable macroeconomic situation one need to mention the availability of well qualified and productive employees, business friendly climate and transparent tax and legal systems. The business climate in our country is improving. We enhance the ease of doing business through making it easier to register property, pay taxes, enforce contracts, and resolve insolvency.

The country offers a wide range of investment incentives. Investors are invited to locate their projects in 14 Special Economic Zones. Polish SEZs offer attractive tax exemptions, employment incentives and well-prepared investment lots. Some new investors have already benefited from the Programme for Supporting Investments of Major Importance to the Polish Economy for 2011-2020. Support is provided to entrepreneurs investing in different priority industries like automotive, electronics, aviation, biotechnology, modern services, R&D and food processing, and also to those planning significant investments in other industries. At the end of the day every Pakistani entrepreneur needs to decide for himself where to put his money, but I strongly believe that investing in Poland is worth considering.

**Q: Your Excellency! What would be the future of economic ties between our**



**countries? Do you see any improvement in export sector in recent years?**

The trade exchange is improving, in previous year being on a level of 397,5 million dollars. Still the import from Pakistan to Poland is significantly bigger than Polish export to Pakistan. We would like to make it more balance, by strengthening ties between Polish and Pakistani businesses. We are hoping for further development of the Polish companies working in energy sector in Pakistan. Keeping in mind the importance of improving this sector for the whole Pakistani economy I believe that it is of our great mutual interest. The latest signs show that we might be positive about the outcomes in this field.

On 17 November 2015 the biggest Polish company in Pakistan, PGNiG (Polish Oil and Gas Company), inaugurated the new Rehman Processing Facility located in Kirthar, where our company is operating since 2005 in cooperation with PPL. As a result of this new investment, 8 times increase in production from the Kirthar production unit is expected. Such success also prompted the PGNiG to expand its activity outside of Kirthar and search for other yielding areas in the Pakistan market.

**Q: Your Excellency! What possibilities do exists to further increase the defense cooperation between our countries?**

When it comes to defense cooperation, the greatest opportunity in my opinion is in the fostering the collaboration of defense production sector. Poland may offer to Pakistan the modern equipment which is of very good quality, and still at reasonable price.

**Q: Your Excellency! Does the Embassy is engaged with in any humanitarian assistance program in Pakistan?**

Embassy in cooperation with local Pakistani partners implemented two development projects in the field of health and education, which started in 2014 and is carried on now.

The first project has taken place in district Dir, KPK and is aimed at enhancing capacity of the local rehabilitation centre for handicapped children and violence hit women. The Embassy allocated funds that were used by ASRO (Armaghan Special Rehabilitation Organization) to buy physiotherapy equipment, sawing and knitting machines. The equipment helped violence hit women to learn useful skills and handicapped children to be rehabilitated to the level that allowed them to re-join normal schools. As the result of the project 40 children have been rehabilitated to the level that made it possible to attend normal schools so far. Centre run by ASRO in Dir is the only one of that kind in the whole Hazara Division.

Second project aimed at improving the quality education in religious schools in Pakistan (madrassahs) run by Maulana Tahir Ashrafi. The Embassy provided funds for printing a schoolbook which is being used in the education process in madrassahs.

**Q: Your Excellency! What strategy you are employing to safeguard the human rights in your country?**

Poland can be proud of the long historical tradition of religious and ethnic tolerance. As early as the 13th century, religious freedom was protected by Polish law, making it a haven for minorities being at that time prosecuted in Western Europe.

In 16th century the religious freedom of all residents of Poland had been confirmed, which was of great importance for the multi-ethnic Polish society of the time. Although I believe that most important part of safeguarding the human rights is the shift of mindsets of citizens achieved by the proper education; this is the role of public school and every single parent to teach basic respect for a human being, the adequate law and institutions are also necessary. Basic act of law which guarantees the human rights nowadays in Poland is the second chapter of the Polish Constitution. Moreover, Poland is a party to all important international agreements relevant to human rights, to name only the





Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Safeguarding human right is also a constant and never-ending process. I'm proud to say that according to the latest reports Poland is ranked among countries with the highest levels of human rights.

**Q: Your Excellency! What kind of role Pakistan and Poland can play together in order to counter terrorism?**

Poland in its recent history have been successfully fighting against totalitarian regimes and extremists ideologies in Europe. What we have learned from that lesson is that it is always a long process, which must involve not only the government but, more importantly, the involvement of citizens, the "common people". We must constantly promote, through public education, government institutions and civil society the respect for others and minorities. Project aimed at improving the quality of education in religious schools, which I mentioned before, may be an example of how we can

**The most important part of safeguarding the human rights is the shift of mindsets of citizens achieved by the proper education**

support this process in Pakistan.

Terrorism stems also from the economic hardships of the unrepresented groups of society. I hope that through closer economic cooperation between the countries we could also create some workplaces, for instance by welcoming more Polish investments to Pakistan.

In terms of more specific actions we should work together to fight the current biggest terrorist threat, which is Daesh. It is impossible to fight the terrorism and religious extremism globally without Pakistan and taming the spread of Daesh to this part of the world is of utmost importance.

**Q: Your Excellency! What educational opportunities Pakistani students do have in Poland for instance Scholarships, exchange programs etc?**

Poland plays an active part in the Bologna process, we already introduced three stage education model (Bachelors/Masters/Doctor) and the (ECTS) European Credit Transfer System. Due to this reform Polish students and foreigners studying in Poland may easily continue their education elsewhere in the European Union, within the Erasmus Programme now running for 25 years. During this period almost 30,000 foreign students have come to study in Poland.

A range of well-established universities offer bachelors and masters degrees as well as research/PhD taught in English covering almost all fields of interest.

To name only a few universities of Poland; Jagiellonian University, University of Warsaw, University of Silesia, University of Wrocław, Białystok University of Technology, AGH University of Science and Technology, University of Lublin, they are all good choice to make.

An average international student will need to pay 2,500 to 3,500 Euros per year as tuition fee for undergraduate or a postgraduate degree, depending on the course and the university. Living expenses range between 2,500 to 4,000 Euros depending on the type of chosen accommodation.

Poland offers very economical study packages that seems to be affordable for the Pakistanis. I encourage them to look at what Poland offer when making their plans to study abroad.

**Q: Your Excellency! On which issues during your services in Pakistan you would focus more in order to strengthen the bilateral ties between the two countries?**

As I already mentioned, fostering the institutional dialogue and enlarging the trade exchange should be most vital areas of our mutual cooperation leading to strengthening of the bilateral ties.

**Q: Your Excellency! How we can improve the diplomatic relations through cultural diplomacy?**

I believe that one of the pillars of good diplomatic relations is the genuine interest of common people to know and appreciate the different country with its different culture and our mission is to make it easier even without the expense of travelling to other continent. Cultural diplomacy is the great way of presenting the best of what both countries has to offer when it comes to art. Embassy had organized an event "Poland - Pakistan; Music Without Borders" which met a great interest in Islamabad, as well in Warsaw. Polish singer, songwriter and talented multi-instrumentalist, Karolina Cicha along with her band visited Pakistan to perform with Ustad Shafqat Ali Khan, one of the

renowned classical singer from Pakistan.

Joint concerts were held in Islamabad and an Audio CD was released in February 2015. Polish and Pakistani musicians, representing two different, but unique and reputable traditions performed together at Pakistan National Council for the Arts and Serena Hotel. They met a very warm welcome by the gathered audiences. These are the initiatives that create good climate for strengthening the diplomatic relations.

**Q: Your Excellency! What impression do you have of Pakistan as a state, its political system, culture, education and people?**

As you know, this is the second time I have the pleasure to serve as a diplomat in Pakistan. My first tenure, as deputy head of the mission lasted six years (from 1999 to 2005) and the overall impression and experience of Pakistan have been great from the start. Now I have an opportunity to compare what had changed. Political system and culture of Pakistan may in some aspects differ from the one we have in Poland, and it is very interesting to study

**Fostering the institutional dialogue and enlarging the trade exchange should be most vital areas of our mutual cooperation leading to strengthening of the bilateral ties**

and observe it from the professional point of view, but also on daily life basis. Even though I spent a fair share of my life working in Pakistan and learning about the region, there is always something that can surprise me, and I'm still enchanted by its abundant culture, especially diverse food, music and poetry.

**Q: Your Excellency! What message would you like to give to the youth of Pakistan?**

Pakistan is a country where half of the population are children and youth. This youth will basically shape the future of Pakistan and it is their effort and great responsibility to use the country abundant resources well. The role of the state is to provide the education, but youth shall also demand it, seek for it, and never stop learning. I'm sure, that youth itself is one of the Pakistan greatest resources.



# Diplomatic Focus thru lens



**Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq addressing the 11th General Assembly Session of the Parliamentary Union of Islamic countries in Baghdad.**



**Federal Minister for planning, Development & Refom, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal in a meeting with Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mrs. Jeannett Seppen in Islamabad.**



**British High Commissioner, H.E. Mr. Philip Barton called on Lt. Gen(RETD) Naseer Khan Janua, National Security Advisor in Islamabad.**



**MOS/ Chairman Board of Investment, Dr. Miftah Ismail in a meeting with Ambassador of France to Pakistan, H.E. Mrs. Martine Dorance, in Islamabad.**



**Minister of State for Capital Administrations & Development Division (CA & DD) Dr. Tariq Chaudhry in a meeting with Ambassador of Portugal in Pakistan H.E. Joao Paulo Sabido Costa in Islamabad.**



**H.E. Rodolfo Jose Martin Saravia, Ambassador of Argentina in Pakistan presenting a book Pakistan's Golden Thrones to Minister of State for Capital Administration & Development Division, Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhary in Islamabad.**



**Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, H.E. Jean-Francois Cautain on Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Federal Minister for IB&NH and Law Justice in Islamabad.**



# Ambassador of Argentine Hosted a Lunch

Dean of Diplomatic Corps & Ambassador of Argentina, H.E. Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin Saravia hosted a lunch in the honour of Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at his residence in Islamabad. Representatives from Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and members from diplomatic community attended the lunch reception.









## Mr. Kanwal Tariq Hosted a Welcome Party

A welcome party was hosted by Mr. Kanwal Tariq, Honorary counsel general of Paraguay in Pakistan, in the honor of new Ambassador of Cuba, Mr. Gabriel Tiel Capote at a Marriott hotel in Islamabad. A large number of prominent people from Islamabad and diplomats attended the event.









## A Farewell Dinner Reception by Ambassador of Argentine

Dean of Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Argentine, Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin Saravia hosted a farewell dinner in the honor of outgoing Ambassador of India Mr. Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, Ambassador of Cuba Mr. Jesús Zenén Buergo Concepción and Ambassador of Iran Mr. Ali Reza Haghighian. Members from diplomatic community, media persons and businessmen were also present at the event.









## Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) meeting



By M. Saeed Yousafzai

# Pre-conditions are not attached to the start of the negotiation process with Taliban: Pakistan

The first meeting of the Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) of Afghanistan, Pakistan, the United States and China on Afghan peace and reconciliation process was held in Islamabad. The delegations were led by Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai, Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, the US Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Ambassador Richard G. Olson and China's Special Envoy for Afghanistan

Ambassador Deng Xijun. The Group reiterated the commitment of their countries to the realization of objectives expressed in their statement from the quadrilateral meeting held on the sidelines of the Heart of Asia Conference in Islamabad on 9 December 2015. Building on the outcome of December 9 trilateral and quadrilateral meetings, they considered mutual efforts to facilitate an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process with a view to

achieving lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region. All four countries underscored the importance of bringing an end to the conflict in Afghanistan that continues to inflict senseless violence on the Afghan people and also breeds insecurity throughout the region. The participants emphasized the immediate need for direct talks between representatives of the Government of Afghanistan and representatives from Taliban groups in a





peace process that aims to preserve Afghanistan's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The discussions focused on undertaking a clear and realistic assessment of the opportunities for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan, anticipated obstacles and measures that would help create conducive environment for peace talks with the shared goal of reducing violence and establishing lasting peace in Afghanistan. The meeting adopted the terms for the work of the Quadrilateral Coordination Group and agreed to continue regular meetings to advance the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. After a week the group discussed the roadmap at its next meeting held in Kabul. The Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) of Afghanistan, Pakistan the United States and China called on all Taliban groups to enter into early talks with the Afghan government.

The group once again emphasised the need for an end to the senseless violence

against the Afghan people and agreed that all forms of terrorism presented a grave threat to the countries, the region and the world.

The delegations were led by Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai, Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, the US Ambassador to Afghanistan Michael McKinley and China's Special Envoy for Afghanistan Ambassador Deng Xijun.

The High Peace Council (HPC) called as "satisfactory" the outcome from the second quadrilateral meeting on the Afghan peace process in Kabul. Mohammad Ismael Qasimyar, the HPC's international affairs advisor, said looking at the determination and agreement of the four nations, one could say that they would reach a common agenda and roadmap for peace talks in the third quadrilateral meeting to be held in Islamabad.

He said: "These are very sensitive and important issues that should not be made public until the four-ways talks reach a constant position from where



future prospects could be drawn."

He said after the third meeting in Islamabad, the agenda of members, time and venue for the peace talks would also be announced.

He, however, said the Afghan government should imply effective diplomacy and ensure

that the national interest was kept supreme during the vital talks.

Khirullah Azad, deputy spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), said the second QCG meeting conferred on roadmap and ways at reviving the peace talks with the Taliban.

## Afghanistan invites Taliban to join peace process

"On behalf of the government and the people of Afghanistan, I am inviting the Taliban to join the peace process and let us solve all differences through negotiations," Afghan Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani said in 2nd QCG meeting

We took two key decisions on the way forward:

- (a) politically negotiated settlement was the most viable option for durable peace in Afghanistan; and
- (b) Towards that end, the quadrilateral group should closely coordinate the reconciliation process between Afghan government and Taliban groups.

Said By Mr. Sartaj Aziz

## Mr. Sartaj Aziz proposes Five points for reconciliation

1- The primary objective of the reconciliation process is to create conditions to bring the Taliban groups to the negotiation table and offer them incentives that can persuade them to move away from using violence as tool for pursuing political goals. It is, therefore, important that pre-conditions are not attached to the start of the negotiation process. This in our view will be counterproductive.

2- Proper sequencing of actions and measures in the process would be significant in paving the way for direct talks with Taliban groups. Threat of the use of military action against irreconcilables cannot precede the offer of talks to all the groups and their response to such offers. Distinction between reconcilable and irreconcilables and how to deal with the irreconcilables can follow once the avenues for bringing them to the talks have been exhausted.

3- Certain CBMs can play a key role in encouraging Taliban groups to join the negotiation process.

4- While the roadmap is important for charting the course of action, it has to be realistic and flexible. It should broadly define steps and phases, but avoid unrealistic targets and deadlines.

5- While positive public messaging is important, keeping in view the sensitive nature of Group's work, it should be our endeavor to keep the work of this group out of media glare, as much as possible.



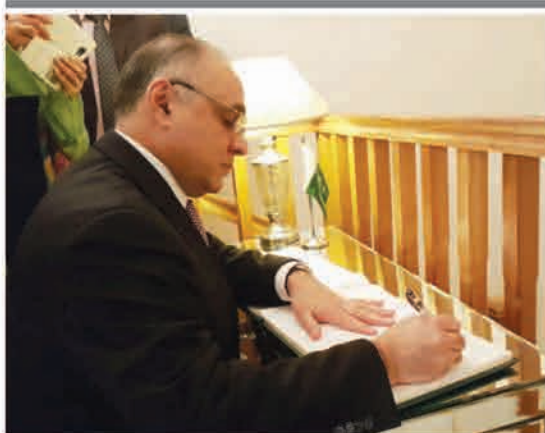


Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK inaugurating the Machine Readable Passport service at Pakistan Consulate Glasgow

High Commissioner inaugurates MRP service at Pakistan Consulate Glasgow

By Mian Assad Ullah

## Urges community to **invest** in Pakistan



Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK registering his remarks in the Visitors Book at Pakistan Consulate Glasgow

**H**.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK, formally inaugurated the Machine Readable Passport (MRP) service at the Consulate of Pakistan, Glasgow. This fulfills the long-standing demand of the community and is expected to benefit around 80,000 members of the Pakistani community residing in Scotland and Northern Ireland. This also brings the completion of the process of setting up MRP service at all the four Consulates of Pakistan, i.e. Birmingham, Manchester, Bradford, and Glasgow. During the last one year, concerted efforts were made in this regard which have now materialized.

The High Commissioner shared with the community that Pakistan economy was showing a sustained growth, and invited the overseas Pakistanis to invest in Pakistan and take advantage of the liberal investment policy of the country. Speaking about government's commitment to eliminate terrorism from the country, the High Commissioner gave an update on improved security situation in

**The success of the British and Scottish Pakistanis in various fields like politics, business and academia is a source of pride for all Pakistanis:**  
**H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas**



Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK addressing the Pakistani community at Pakistan Consulate Glasgow

Addressing members of the Scottish-Pakistani community at the ceremony held in this regard at the Consulate, the High Commissioner lauded the success of the British and Scottish Pakistanis in various fields like politics, business and academia and said it was a source of pride for all Pakistanis. The High Commissioner highlighted the important role played by the British and Scottish-Pakistani community in the development and progress of Pakistan and their positive contribution as a living bridge between Pakistan and Britain.

Pakistan as a result of Operation Zarb e Azb under National Action Plan (NAP). Later, during their interaction with the High Commissioner, representatives of the community appreciated Government of Pakistan and the High Commission for providing this essential service at the Pakistan Consulate in Glasgow.

The provision of MRP service is in continuation of the on-going efforts of the High Commission and its Consulates to facilitate the community through improved Consular Services.



President Xi Jinping pledges during opening ceremony for AIIB that

# China will devote itself to operation of new development bank



China's leaders pledged their full support for the newly launched Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and called on other international development lenders to help improve the region's infrastructure and create jobs.

President Xi Jinping said at the opening ceremony yesterday that China would also contribute US\$50 million to a fund planned by the bank to support infrastructure construction in under-developed countries.

He added that China was committed to devoting itself to the operation of the bank.

Premier Li Keqiang said in a later speech that the AIIB was a milestone in reforming global economic governance.

The bank was first proposed by Xi in October, 2013, when China's economy was still resilient and Beijing was seeking new ways to spend its growing foreign exchange reserves.

Much has changed since then. China's foreign exchange reserves are shrinking rapidly as investors turn bearish on prospects for the country's currency. Allegations that Beijing has mishandled its governance of stock markets amid falling share prices in the past months has also raised fresh concerns about its ability to manage its economy.

Li, however, used his speech to defend the country's economic record, saying that China's gross domestic product grew about 7 per cent last year. The unemployment ratio was lower than expected while job creation also beat expectations.

Services accounted for half of GDP and consumption contributed nearly 60 per cent of economic growth, he said.

Xi and Li said the AIIB would supplement existing multinational development agencies and called for cooperation to

increase financing for "high-quality and low-cost" infrastructure construction in Asia.

They also encouraged the AIIB and other lenders to get involved in the One Road, One Belt initiatives that aim to improve China's trade and infrastructure links to Asia and beyond.

The bank elected China's Finance Minister

**AIIB was a milestone in reforming global economic governance: Premier Li Keqiang**

Lou Jiwei chairman of the AIIB council Jin Liqun its first president. It is expected to launch its first loans by mid-2017.

Beijing indicated that it would not apply for loans from the bank initially as its neighbours had more urgent needs.

"The AIIB has already received a lot of

potential projects applying for funds, from South Asia to Central Asia," said Wang Wen, executive dean of the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University.

Joint funding of projects was likely to take place with the Asian Development Bank, the Manila-based institution's vice president Stephen Groff said.

Jin, the AIIB president, wrote in People's Daily earlier this month that the bank would invest in digital infrastructure and help developing member states improve internet networks and related infrastructure.

Many AIIB members were keen to develop better broadband, mobile networks and satellite coverage, Jin said.

He added that other projects the AIIB would finance included the transport sector, power grids, oil and gas pipelines, energy schemes including nuclear power, logistics, and water supply and drainage.

Xiong Aizong, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said "the first batch of projects will be key to the bank's onward operation so it must choose its targets very carefully".





NEW HONORARY CONSULATE GENERAL OF PAKISTAN OPENED IN BURSA

# Aimed at further boosting bilateral trade and commercial ties between Pakistan & Turkey

*"we are Two States, One Nation."* Ambassador Sohail Mahmood



Newly appointed Honorary Consul General Murat Tarman is a dynamic businessman who has well-established companies in textile, real estate, construction, and electronics. The Honorary Consulate General in Bursa under his leadership is expected to help further advance the process of deepening multidimensional cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey.

*By M.Saeed Yousafzai*

**A**imed at further boosting bilateral trade and commercial ties as well as collaboration in educational and

cultural fields between Pakistan and Turkey, an Honorary Consulate General of Pakistan was officially opened on 11

January at Bursa, the fourth-largest city of Turkey and former Ottoman capital. Bursa's Governor Münir Karaloğlu,







Ambassador of Pakistan Sohail Mahmood, Member Parliament Ms. Ceyda Bölünmez Çankırı, Osmangazi Municipality Mayor Mustafa Dürdar, Uludağ University Rector Prof. Dr. Yusuf Ulcay, the newly-appointed Honorary Consul General Murat Tarman and other guests jointly cut a ribbon to mark the formal opening of the Honorary Consulate, says a press release received here today from Ankara, Turkey.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood stated that the strong bonds of faith, culture, and shared history between Pakistan and Turkey were reinforced by unmatched mutual trust and a sense of common destiny, adding that "we are Two States, One Nation." Referring to the High Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC), co-chaired by the Prime Ministers of Pakistan and Turkey, Ambassador Sohail noted that it was providing strategic direction to bilateral cooperation in diverse fields. He added that the inter-face between the private sectors was constantly growing, along with the number and scope of Turkish companies' presence in Pakistan—as reflected in numerous projects in transportation, municipal services, and energy and infrastructure. He added that both countries were also continuing negotiations on a broad-based Free Trade Agreement (FTA) covering trade in goods, services and investments.

Ambassador of Pakistan said that through

increased travel, deeper academic linkages, and enhanced cultural exchanges, the multifaceted relationship was being enriched in multiple dimensions. He underlined that the role of Honorary Consulates was pivotal in all these efforts.

**The strong bonds of faith, culture, and shared history between Pakistan and Turkey were reinforced by unmatched mutual trust and a sense of common destiny: Ambassador Sohail Mahmood**

They were well-placed to help bring the two private sectors closer and increase awareness about the myriad trade, commercial and investment opportunities in each country. Ambassador Sohail expressed the confidence that Mr. Murat Tarman would make an invaluable contribution to the growth of Pakistan-

Turkey trade, economic and cultural ties and to the Bursa-Multan sister-city relationship.

Governor Bursa Münir Karaloğlu, in his address, stated that Pakistan-Turkey relations were rooted deep in history and both nations always stood by each other in good times and bad. He hoped that this fraternal relationship would grow further, with enhanced trade and mutual collaboration in various sectors including textiles, automotive industry, and food processing. The Governor affirmed his support for all endeavors aimed at fostering a stronger economic partnership.

Newly appointed Honorary Consul General Murat Tarman said he would make all possible efforts to further promote closer ties between Turkey and Pakistan, with a special emphasis on trade and economic relations. He thanked the two governments for the confidence reposed in him and expressed gratitude to Governor Karaloğlu for reaffirmation of support in the discharge of his mission.

Murat Tarman is a dynamic businessman who has well-established companies in textile, real estate, construction, and electronics. The Honorary Consulate General in Bursa under his leadership is expected to help further advance the process of deepening multidimensional cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey.



# Pak-Korea Friendship Society Hosted a Dinner

In the honor of Ambassador of Korea, H.E. Dr. Song Jong-hwan a dinner was hosted by Pak-Korea Friendship Society in a beautiful evening at Islamabad Club. Media representatives, diplomats and civil society attended the event.





## A Farewell Dinner Reception by Mr. Shakeel Ahmed

Mr. Shakeel Ahmed, Chairman of Shakeel Express hosted a farewell dinner in the honor of Dean of Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Argentine, Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin Saravia. A large number of members from diplomatic community and businessmen also attended the event.





## Hungarian Ambassador Hosted a Farewell Reception

H.E. Mr. Istvan Szabo, Ambassador of Hungary hosted a farewell reception in the honor of Dean of Diplomatic Corps & Ambassador of Argentina, H.E. Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin Saravia in Islamabad. A large number of eminent people from Islamabad and diplomatic community attended the event.









# National Day of Myanmar

On the occasion of the 68th anniversary of Independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the ambassador and Mrs Win Naing hosted a reception on evening at the Serena Hotel. The guest of honour was the gentleman politician, Ghulam Murtaza Jatio while the event was well attended with diplomats and Pakistani community.





## Mr. Shams Hosted a Farewell Dinner Reception

**A farewell dinner reception was hosted by Mr. Shams, CEO of United Bakery, in the honor of Dean of Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Argentine, Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin Saravia at a beautiful hotel in Islamabad. Enormous businessmen and diplomats attended the event.**





## Farewell Lunch Reception Arranged by Mr. Lugman Ali Afzal

Mr. Lugman Ali Afzal, owner of Monal Group arranged a farewell lunch reception for **Dean of Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Argentina**

H.E. Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin Saravia. Representatives from diplomatic community, business persons and civil society of Islamabad were also present at lunch reception.











MESSAGE BY

## DATUK SERI PANGLIMA MASIDI MANJUN

MINISTER OF TOURISM, CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT SABAH, MALAYSIA

**O**n behalf of the Sabah State Government, we wish to welcome People of Pakistan to our home State of Sabah, located on the island of Borneo, East of Malaysia. Sabah has a population that is heterogeneous and culturally diverse, with more than 30 different ethnic races and over 80 spoken dialects. All these ethnic groups live harmoniously while at the same time preserving their own culture, traditions, festivals and customs, making Sabah an exotic melting pot unlike any other that you might have experienced.

We are building a very special connection between Pakistan and Sabah. It is a new market for us to venture. Under my Ministry, the Sabah Tourism Board visited Pakistan in 2015 and covered three cities, Islamabad, Lahore and Rawalpindi. This year in the first

quarter, we will strengthen our relations with the help of Malindo Air that will create a direct connectivity between Lahore to Kuala Lumpur. It is only another 2 ½ hours flight to Kota Kinabalu, Sabah's capital. It is that easy to get to Sabah from Pakistan.

When in Sabah, I hope that you will take the time to enjoy and appreciate what our resort State is famous for. In Kota Kinabalu, islands are as close as your doorstep where white sandy beaches and clear waters are just about 15 to 20 minutes away. One can immediately experience activities such as snorkelling, diving, sea walking and other beach activities literally within the hour of landing.

Kota Kinabalu is an upcoming vibrant city that was publically voted as one of Asia Pacific's best resort destinations by a popular

publication. It has also been the destination of many royalties, celebrities and distinguished researches from all around the world. It would be our pleasure to show Pakistanis our brand of hospitality and attractions.

We look forward to welcoming You and family members to our shores. Sabah has much to offer in terms of business and leisure and a promise of a memorable experience.

See you in Sabah.





MESSAGE BY

## H.E. DATO' DR. HASRUL SANI MUJTABAR

HIGH COMMISSINER OF MALAYSIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

**M**alaysia is blessed with numerous tourist attractions from its rich multi-cultural heritage, beautiful sandy beaches and marine life, spectrum of cuisine, spectacular tropical eco-tourism, renowned destination for shopping, international sporting events and lately, health tourism.

Among the fast becoming popular destination for foreign tourists is the State of Sabah, located in the island of Borneo, East of Malaysia. In this regard, I am extremely happy to see that the State of Sabah is establishing a special friendship with Pakistan, starting with three cities, namely,

Islamabad, Lahore and Rawalpindi. This is a very significant step indeed. It signifies that Pakistan has been identified as an emerging market for Malaysia in the tourism sector and the potential is tremendous. It will definitely enhance the brotherly people to people contact, as well as, the overall bilateral relations between both countries. We have about 27 million foreign visitors visiting Malaysia in 2015. Out of this figure, about 80,000 Pakistanis visited Malaysia and the number continues to rise.

Sabah has a lot to offer to Pakistani tourists, and at times

different from West Malaysia. This is something not many Pakistanis have realized. With the inaugural flight of MALINDO Air directly from Kuala Lumpur to Lahore beginning in early March 2016, the people of Pakistan would have easier connectivity to Sabah and Malaysia.

I also wish like to express my deep appreciation to the Diplomatic Focus for taking this initiative to work closely with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment of Sabah, as well as, the Sabah Tourism Board, in promoting Sabah as a new and a vibrant tourist destination of Malaysia to the friendly people of Pakistan.





# MALAYSIA

## Country With Affluent Resources & Ample Opportunities To Prosper

By Shehzada Khuram

**T**hough my lust for travel has taken me to several developed and developing countries around the globe but the sweet and wonderful memories that I cherished from my recent visit to Malaysia, which I consummated on the invitation of SABAH Travel & Tourism Association's invitation, incites me to share the unrivaled beautiful experience with my beloved readers and nature lovers in Pakistan and around the globe.

Malaysia is a country in Southeastern Asia and is a federation which has 13 states. Kuala Lumpur is Federal capital of the country which is the sprawling capitalist home to colonial buildings, busy shopping districts such as Bukit Bintang and skyscrapers including the iconic, 451m-tall Petronas Twin Towers.

Malaysia, no doubt, is the land with

effluent natural resources, beautiful beaches, high mountains, lush green fields, running streams and blossoming flowers. In addition to the sky high buildings, marvelous roads, Malaysian government's business friendly policies, affable behavior and simplicity of the Malaysian people has attracted millions of people from around the globe to this land of wonders.

Malaysia is ranked 10th in the world and 2nd in Southeast Asia for tourist arrivals. In an effort to diversify the economy and make Malaysia's economy less dependent on exports, the government pushed to increase tourism in Malaysia. As a result, tourism has become Malaysia's third largest source of foreign exchange income and accounted for 7% of Malaysia's economy as of 2005.

The government agency in charge of promoting tourism in Malaysia is Tourism Malaysia or the Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board (MTPB). On 20 May 1987, the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism (MOCAT) was established and TDC moved to this new ministry. TDC existed from 1972 to 1992, when it became the Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board (MTPB), through the Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board Act, 1992.

In 1999, Malaysia launched a worldwide marketing campaign called "Malaysia, Truly Asia" which was largely successful and brought in over 7.4 million tourists. The extra revenue generated by tourism helped the country's economy during the economic crisis of 2008.

Medical tourism is popular in Malaysia, with the Malaysia Healthcare Travel





Council reporting an arrival of 641,000 foreign patients in 2011, 728,800 in 2012, 881,000 in 2013 and 882,000 in 2014.

Although, Malaysia is a middle-income country but it has transformed itself since the 1970s from a producer of raw materials into an emerging multi-sector economy. Under the leadership of current

Prime Minister NAJIB, Malaysia is attempting to achieve high-income status by 2020 and to move further up the value-added production chain by attracting investments in Islamic finance, high technology industries, biotechnology, and services. State's Economic Transformation Program (ETP) is a series of projects and policy measures envisioned to accelerate the country's economic growth. The incumbent government is sincerely continuing efforts to enhance domestic demand and lessen the economy's reliance on exports. However, exports - particularly of electronics, oil and gas, palm oil and rubber - remain a significant driver of the economy.

Malaysia is a relatively open state-oriented and newly industrialized market economy. The state plays a significant but declining role in guiding economic activity through macroeconomic plans. Malaysia has had one of the best economic records in Asia, with GDP growing an average 6.5 per cent annually from 1957 to 2005. Malaysia's economy in 2014-2015 was one of the most competitive in Asia, ranking 6th in Asia and 20th in the world, higher than

countries like Australia, France and South Korea. In 2014, Malaysia's economy grew 6%, the second highest growth in ASEAN behind Philippines' growth of 6.1%. The economy of Malaysia (GDP PPP) in 2014 was \$746.821 billion, the third largest in ASEAN behind more populous Indonesia and Thailand and the 28th largest in the world.

Pakistan and Malaysia are linked by Air Transport. Pakistan International Airlines operates many flights from Karachi, Lahore, and Peshawar to Kuala Lumpur. The President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan along with other high officials visited Malaysia many times and Malaysian officials also paid a good will visit to Pakistan. Malaysia and Pakistan signed a free trade agreement called the Malaysia-Pakistan Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (MPCEPA) in January 2008. This trade and cultural pact made possible the import and export of various goods on fairly large scale. The series of Malaysian government's foreign investment policies has shown noticeable inflow of the Pakistani investors into Malaysia.







# Sabah

## A Beautiful Island

### Sabah, Best of Borneo

Borneo is the third largest island in the world and is located at the centre of the Maritime Southeast Asia. This island is divided between Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei.

Nevertheless, for people outside of Indonesia, "Kalimantan" refers to the area which is occupied by Indonesia on the island of Borneo. Malaysia's region of Borneo is called East Malaysia or Malaysian Borneo. The independent nation of Brunei occupies the remainder of the island, being the wealthiest of the rest. At 76, 115 square kilometers large, Sabah is the

second biggest state in Malaysia after Sarawak.

Situated on the beautiful island of Borneo, Sabah is one of the thirteen states which Malaysia is made of. Sabah is the second largest state in Malaysia and shares the island of Borneo with Sarawak, Brunei, and Indonesian Kalimantan.

Sabah is richly blessed with nature diversity, unique cultures, fun adventure, beautiful beaches, and fantastic cuisines for the adventurous taste buds. We have it all, from the world's largest flower - the Rafflesia, one of the highest mountains in South East Asia - Mount Kinabalu, to one

of the world's top dive sites - Sipadan Island. Sabah is also known for her great natural treasures which include the world-renowned Danum Valley Conservation Area and Tabin which is Sabah's largest wildlife reserve.

### People and Culture

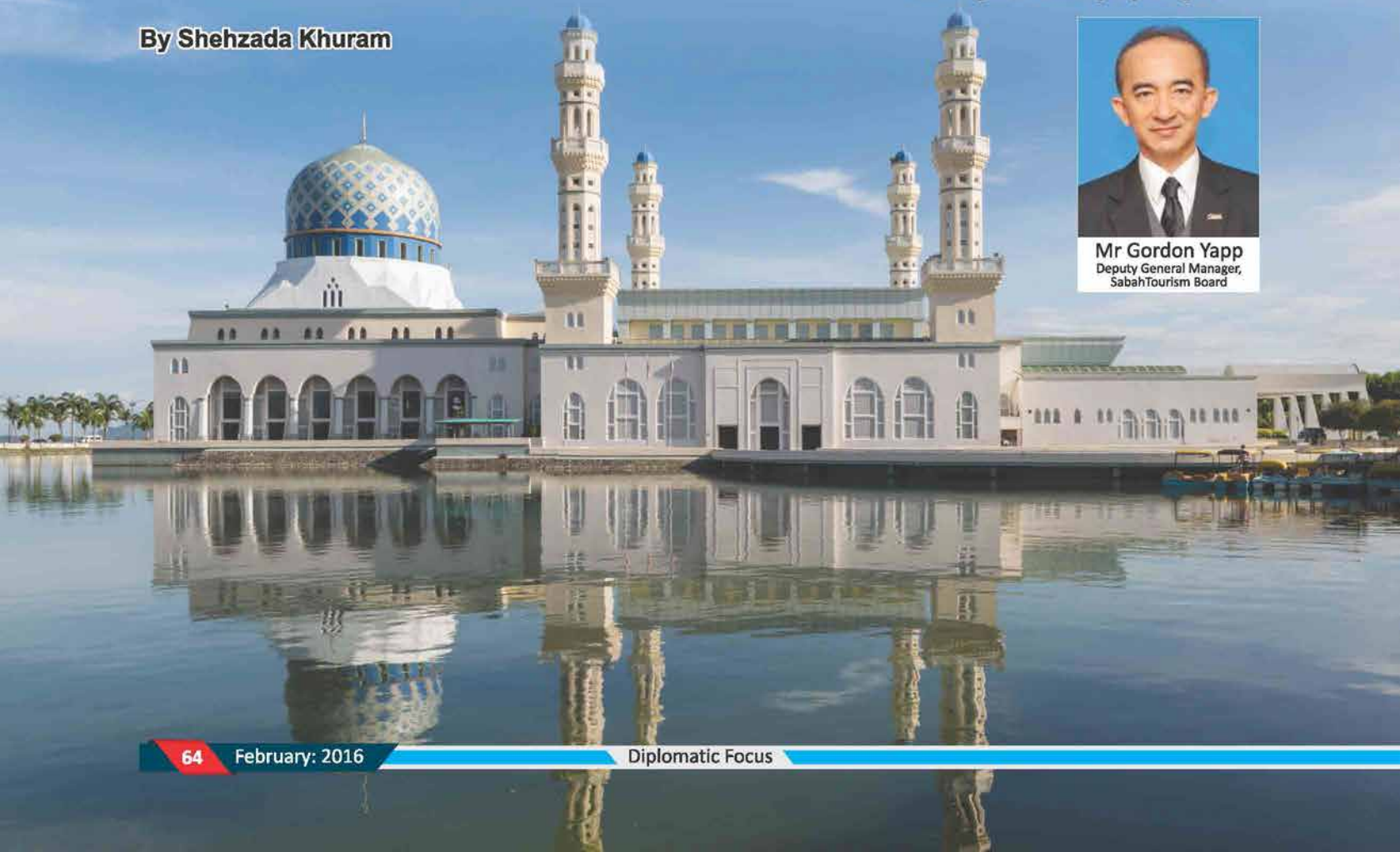
The people of Sabah are known as Sabahans. Sabah is the third most populous state in Malaysia after Selangor and Johor; it also has one of the highest population growth rates in the country.

There are currently 32 officially recognized ethnic groups in Sabah with the largest non-indigenous ethnic group being the

By Shehzada Khuram



**Mr Gordon Yapp**  
Deputy General Manager,  
Sabah Tourism Board







Chinese and the largest indigenous group being the Kadazan-Dusun people. Two other larger ethnic groups in Sabah are the Bajau and Murut, compared to other states in the country; Sabah has relatively very small population of Indians and South Asians.

Apart from the Sabahans' very own diverse mother tongues, Bahasa Malaysia (national language) and English is widely spoken; Mandarin and some Chinese dialects are also widely spoken.

In Sabah, we greet people by saying "selamat datang" (welcome) and/or "terima kasih" (thank you) with a smile. A handshake is generally acceptable as a way of introducing oneself.

It's customary to remove shoes before entering a mosque as well as homes. In places of worship, visitors are required to dress modestly. Nude sun bathing is not allowed and is very frowned upon. Avoid pointing your index finger at others, as this is considered rude in the local custom.

#### Sabah Region

Sabah is divided into divisions, a legacy of the British North Borneo days. The divisions are in turn divided into districts. The divisions are:

1. Kudat Division located in the north of Sabah with Kudat and

Kota Marudu as the main towns

2. West Coast Division along the west of Sabah where Kota Kinabalu is located
3. Interior Division located in the south-west of Sabah, with Keningau and Tenom being its largest towns
4. Sandakan Division in the east, with Sandakan town as its largest town
5. Tawau Division in the south-east of Sabah, with Tawau, Lahad Datu and Semporna as its largest towns.
6. Labuan is a group of offshore islands with federal territory status.

Malaysia has been a magnet for tourists for years and a wonderful holiday destination because of its mesmerized pristine beaches, stunning natural beauty, mountain ranges, ancient cities, preserved history and architectural heritage. Particularly, the SABAH province has been

on the bucket list of tourists and travellers for decades. Despite the global economic recession the Malaysia continued to flourish in terms of tourism and provided transient escape for relation to its visitors. Sabah is also famous for its beaches, rainforest, coral reefs and abundant endemic wildlife, much of it within parks and reserves. Offshore, the Sipadan and Mabul islands are noted diving destinations

Though there are countless places to visit in Malaysia but one must visit the following locations while visiting the SABAH province.

#### Mountain Kinabalu & Kinabalu National Park

Gunung Kinabalu, as it is known in Malay, is more than the highest thing on the world's third largest island. Mt Kinabalu is pervasive in Sabah to the point of being complicated. It graces the state's flag and is a constant presence at the edge of eyes, catching the clouds and shading the valleys. It is only when you give the mountain your full attention that you







realise how special this peak, the region's biggest tourist attraction, truly is.

Amazingly, the mountain is still growing: researchers have found it increases in height by about 5mm a year. On a clear day you can see the Philippines from the summit; usually, though, the mountain is thoroughly wreathed in fog by mid-morning.

#### **Sutra harbour**

Nestled between the shores of the South China Sea, fronting the tropical islands and the majestic Mount Kinabalu, is the grand expanse of Sutra Harbour Resort. The 384-acre resort provides a spectacular array of activities from its luxurious five-star hotels, championship golf course, marina and recreational facilities. The elegant business setting of The Pacific Sutra Hotel is complemented by the resort ambience of The Magellan Sutra Resort, offering a total of 956 guest rooms and suites of luxurious.

#### **Hyatt regency**

Hyatt Regency Kinabalu is luxury hotel in Kota Kinabalu offering a central location in the heart of the city close to tourist attractions and stunning views of the famed sunsets in Kota Kinabalu. Unwind in one of our 288 spacious Kota

Kinabalu hotel rooms and suites all exquisitely designed with sophisticated comfort in mind plus some of the best views in Kota Kinabalu including those of the sparkling South China Sea or the Kinabalu city surroundings.

#### **Le Meridian**

Explore unique experiences in Sabah's Rainforest City and see the destination through new perspectives. Kota Kinabalu city, gateway to Malaysia's Borneo, unveils renewed spaces at the 306-room Le Méridien Kota Kinabalu. The hotel's newly transformed lobby unlocks a refreshed arrival and welcome experience that is enhanced by the opening of three innovative dining and entertainment venues.

#### **Crocker Range Park**

The Crocker Range is the backbone of southwestern Sabah. It covers the north-south Crocker-Range of 1200-1800 meter mountains in Sabah on the island of Borneo, which separate the western coastal plain with the rest of the state. The park consists of both hill and Montane forest, with many species of flora and fauna endemic Borneo. Maintenance of this forest cover is essential to ensuring a pure water supply for many of the towns

and communities in Sabah.

#### **Kelambu Beach**

It is located in Kudat division. Though less known, Kelambu Beach is indeed one of the best beaches in Sabah with its clear aquamarine sea and beautiful white sand engulfed by astounding verdant islands. The inviting clear waters offer a variety of activities such as speed boating, water skiing, swimming, and snorkelling. The wonderful beach, on the other hand; is a perfect spot for family picnics, seashells collecting or simply to enjoy a gorgeous sunset.

#### **Kapalai island**

A 45-minute trip from Semporna by speedboat, Kapalai island is one of the many beautiful diving havens in this part of the world. However, Kapalai is truly unique because it is not quite an 'island'.

The 40 chalets are built on high wooden stilts in the middle of the ocean. The Dive Centre provides diving, snorkeling and kayaking gear for rent. The centre offers a variety of PADI courses, including Open Water and Introduction to Night Diving.

#### **Aquarium & Marine Museum**

The state-of-the-art marine museum is yet another addition to the Universiti Malaysia Sabah campus in West Coast Division of







Kota Kinabalu.

Established in 1995, the Borneo Marine Research Institute (BMRI) is aimed to promote education, research and training in conservation and sustainable development of marine resources, and a rational deployment of biotechnology.

'agop' in the Orang Sungai language means cave. There are three main caves, agop suriba (lower) on the forest floor, lintaga (middle) and sawat (upper) between 12-15m high.

Inside the middle and upper caves are more than a hundred carved wooden

fruits. This is also where all whitewater rafters doing the Padas River will have to come to start their train ride to Panggi station where the rafting begins.

#### **Borneo Golf and Country Club**

Along the Beaufort Highway at Bongawan you will find The Pride of Borneo, an 18-hole, par 5 golf course, sitting on the edge of the South China Sea.

Clubhouse facilities include a golfer's lounge, golf shop, locker rooms, driving range, practice area, resident pro and putting green, karaoke and billiards. There are also facilities for swimming, racquet games and fishing. The Borneo Golf & Country Club (BGCC) is further complemented by the Prescott Resort Hotel situated just besides the clubhouse.

#### **Borneo Art Gallery**

Art lovers will take delight in the new Borneo Art Gallery which is catered to meet the fine tastes of painting enthusiasts. Situated on the 2nd floor of Asia City Complex, this art gallery mainly showcases the artworks of talented local artists as well as several of those by artists from the Philippines and Indonesia. All the paintings exhibited in the art gallery are for



Among its facilities are the free standing exhibition tanks, live open water reef exhibition centre, live shallow reef exhibition centre, mangrove walk, contemporary Marine and Maritime Museum, Multimedia Interactive Information Kiosk, and Sipadan deep dive diorama.

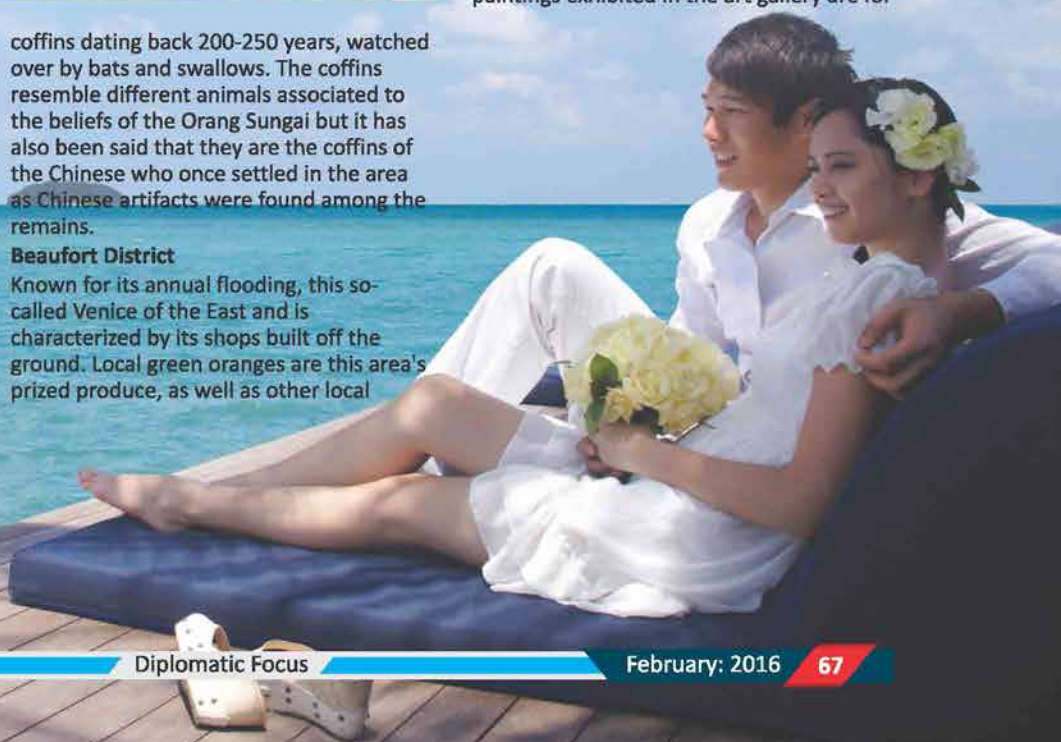
#### **Batu Tulug**

It is located at Sandakan Division of Kinabatangan. Agop Batu Tulug is a steep limestone cliff that stands 39 meters high and is part of the 20-25 million- year old Labang limestone formation. The word

coffins dating back 200-250 years, watched over by bats and swallows. The coffins resemble different animals associated to the beliefs of the Orang Sungai but it has also been said that they are the coffins of the Chinese who once settled in the area as Chinese artifacts were found among the remains.

#### **Beaufort District**

Known for its annual flooding, this so-called Venice of the East and is characterized by its shops built off the ground. Local green oranges are this area's prized produce, as well as other local







sale. Whether you are a devoted art collector or simply someone who appreciates paintings, this gallery is definitely worth visiting.

#### **Borneo Kelly bays**

Nestled in Kampung Laya Laya in Tuaran, Borneo Kelly bays is an ideal destination for family getaways and MICE group trips. It offers adventurous activities such as camping, volleyball, challenging games, water sport (paddle boat, kayak, banana boat and body boat), fishing, blow pipe, and crab catching.

After a full day of thrilling adventures, for a change of pace, chill out while learning the art of batik painting or see some cooking demonstration. At night, enjoy a campfire party or simply relish a quiet night amidst a mangrove forest. An amazing place to drink in the great outdoors!

#### **Borneo Reef World**

Borneo Reef World, a unique Reef Activities Entertainment Centre with multiple activities suitable for the whole family. There are only 9 pontoons in the world and the Reef Activity Pontoon is the 2nd largest pontoon in the world and the largest in South East Asia. It is located in between Sapi and Gaya Islands within the area of Tunku Abdul Rahman Park, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

There are various activities to enjoy such as, marvel at the beautiful corals from above the Glass Bottom Boats or perhaps try out the Sea-Walker also known as sea walking activity where no swimming skills are required and relish the underwater world. There is also the Underwater Observatory Aquarium which is the only aquarium that sits in Tunku Abdul Rahman Park and it is the only one in Sabah.

#### **Bunga Raya Island Resort & Spa**

Bask in some sun-fun on the beach and have a warm dip in the sparkling azure water. The excellent water visibility also makes it perfect for snorkeling. Those seeking for more challenging adventures will have a swell time kayaking, scuba diving and jet skiing.

For some TLC and personal pampering, hike up to Solace Spa and enjoy some serious decompression. If you think a massage on a tropical beach is passé, get novelty-stoked by having your treatment at this jungle-themed spa—the first of its

kind in Sabah.

#### **Bukit Gemok**

Explore the untouched forest of Tawau's Bukit Gemok, along the way there is so much to marvel at, such as the giant trees that seem to stretch endlessly to the sky and the elusive creatures that scurry about. There are seven huts along the way for walkers to rest and relax. After hiking for about an hour, you will arrive at the Titian Selara canopy walkway.

At 231 metres long, it is deemed one of



the longest canopy walkways in Sabah. The stunning scenery spans the town centre, the picturesque coastline and its surrounding areas. The trek down Bukit Gemok should take a shorter time.

#### **City Mosque**



Built on a 2.47 acres site at the Likas bay, the Kota Kinabalu City Mosque is exemplary of the Islamic contemporary architecture. Situated near the sea, this majestic white mosque boasts similar features to the Nabawi Mosque in Medina. This floating mosque has a prayer hall which houses three madrasahs and accommodates from 9,000 to 12,000 people at a time.

By far the largest mosque in Kota Kinabalu,

the Kota Kinabalu City Mosque is even possibly the most beautiful one in Malaysia – the man-made lagoon which surrounds it gives a serenely gorgeous and dramatic look to the mosque on a full moon night.

#### **CHI, The Spa at Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort & Spa**

For the modern professional men, CHI, The Spa also offers men's skincare treatments in the form of CHI Vitality Facial and the Executive Facial. A day spent at CHI, The Spa will definitely get you craving for more.

Inspired by the Bobohizans (Borneo Island's native healers), the Borneo Therapy starts with a foot bath ritual using seven herbs such as nutmeg, red ginger, and betel leaf. The ritual is believed to have the power to remove negative energy. This relaxing therapy is followed by a special body massage which incorporates firm palm and thumb pressure.

#### **Chanteek Borneo Gallery**

Chanteek Borneo Gallery, Tuaran- Sabah's first miniature gallery is an interesting way to experience Sabah's rich culture heritage. It is a private-owned gallery that features a collection of mini-costumes, replicating the actual costumes of the people of Sabah. With a collection of more than 40 ethnic groups, this would be a great and unique way to see the beautiful and colorful costumes of the past and present of Sabah. There are about 200 miniature dolls donning these beautiful mini costumes that are all hand-sewn by the locals.

#### **Coral Flyer**

Coral Flyer is a Flying Fox ride across the beautiful Tunku Abdul Rahman Park, Kota Kinabalu. It is the world's longest island-to-island zipline at 250 meters long from Gaya Island to Sapi Island. Managed by Ropeskills Rigging with a fifteen-year history of building Ziplines in Asia, people can enjoy this experience knowing it has top safety standards.

#### **Dalit Bay Golf and Country Club**

Another haunt for golf enthusiasts is the Dalit Bay Golf and Country Club, Tuaran. This golf course is located 35 kilometers from Kota Kinabalu. This 18-hole, par-72 golf course occupies a 6369 meter stretch of land.

This prestigious golf club includes clubhouse facilities such as a restaurant, a





driving range, putting green, chipping and bunker practice area, changing rooms and a pro shop.

#### **Danum Valley Conservation Area**

Being remote from human habitation and almost alien to modern civilization makes the Danum Valley Conservation Area a naturalists' paradise. Recognized as one of the world's most complex ecosystem, this forest serves as a natural home for endangered wildlife species such as banteng, Asian elephant, clouded leopard, orang utan, proboscis monkey, as well as a vast range of Sabah's lowland fauna.

Here, visitors also get the chance to visit an ancient Kadazandusun burial site, complete with belian coffins and ceramic spirit jars. Three burial sites have been discovered in Danum Valley—two near the field centre and one below the cliff, overlooking Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

#### **Grand Illusions**

Expect the unexpected and have an out of the world experience here in Grand Illusions. There are 12 different kind of Illusions zones for you to discover at Grand Illusions, explore each one of them and have a mystifying experience!

With a tag line 'A fun House for everyone', the double-storey house is indeed a baffling yet exciting experience, perfect for the whole family. Upon entering the house, you will go through a maze of mind boggling illusions such as Shrinking Room, watch out for the shadow snatcher at the Shadow Wall - all this and more, definitely gives you a hair-raising experience!

#### **J Borneo Native Village**

It is located just adjacent to Lok Kawi Wildlife Park. Surrounded by back-to-nature facilities, this is a perfect place to be if you would like to experience a one of a kind cultural journey.

One of the highlights of J Borneo would be the one and only musical theatre performed in Kadazan language. Titled 'Sininggazanak' this is a true story of a significant Kadazan ethnic's spiritual practice by erecting wooden monuments (Sininggazanak) to commemorate childless person back in the middle of the twentieth century. A must-watch show, the actors will captivate you in the story.

#### **Handicraft Market**

Located along Jalan Tun Fuad Stephens, the Handicraft Market is a favoured shopping haunt for locals and tourists alike. Souvenirs galore await you and rest assured there is something for everyone.

You will be spoilt for choice with gorgeous pearl jewellery and handicrafts while you are there. The best thing about the Handicraft Market is that you never know what piece of treasure you might unravel during your visit. Some have returned home with an authentic sompoton (a traditional wind instrument), a Murut headhunter's blowpipe, a coconut-shaped handbag and a wooden-frog that 'sings' when you stroke its back with a wooden stick.

## **Upcoming Premier Events in Sabah- Malaysia**

### **Regatta Lepa: 22 - 24 Apr 2016**

Semporna

A colourful festival that pays homage to the lepa, a traditional single-mast sailing boat of the Bajaus of Semporna. Witness the Lepa Beauty Pageant, cultural performances, fireworks display and much more.

### **Sabah Fest – A Cultural**

West Coast Division | Kota Kinabalu

This prelude to the statewide Harvest Festival celebration is a superbly entertaining cultural extravaganza that incorporates dance, music, fashion, folklore, food and more.

### **Borneo International Marathon (BIM)**

29 Apr - 1 May 2016

West Coast Division | Kota Kinabalu

The Borneo International Marathon is held along the scenic coastal roads of Kota Kinabalu with three distances – 10km, 21km (half marathon) and 42km (full marathon).

### **Sabah FCAS International Dragon Boat Race: 21 - 22 May 2016**

West Coast Division | Kota Kinabalu

One of the main sporting events in Sabah where local and international teams beat their drums and synchronize their paddling, while racing for the finish line.

### **Tadau Ka'amatan Celebrations – Grand Finale: 30 - 31 May 2016**

West Coast Division | Penampang

This month-long Harvest Festival celebration will culminate at

Hongkod Koisaan, the Kadazandusun Cultural Association (KDCA) Hall in Penampang. This is also the main stage for the highly-anticipated final round of the Unduk Ngadau (Harvest Beauty Queen) pageant.

### **Sunset Music Fest: 3 - 4 Jun 2016**

Kudat Division | Kudat

Embark on a musical journey at Tanjung Simpang Mengayau (Tip Of Borneo), Kudat. Be serenaded with classical favourites and contemporary tunes as the sunsets in the horizon.

### **Kota Kinabalu Jazz Festival: 22 - 23 Jul 2016**

West Coast Division | Kota Kinabalu

A much anticipate jazz musical extravaganza that features a line-up of International and Local artists performing together on the same stage.

### **29th Mt. Kinabalu International Climathon-Adventure: 15 - 16 Oct 2016**

West Coast Division | Kundasang

Set on Malaysia's highest mountain, the Climathon takes runners to the summit of Mt. Kinabalu within hours where the average time climbing the mountain takes 2 days.

### **2nd Kiulu Adventure Challenge: 4 December 2016**

West Coast Division | Kiulu

This challenge will let adventure enthusiast the experience of running, mountain biking, rafting and other outdoor activities all in one, set in the beautiful district of Kiulu known for its white water rafting.



# Kashmir Day

## February 05



**K**ashmir Day or Kashmir Solidarity Day is a public holiday in Pakistan on February 5 each year. It focuses on showing Pakistan's support and unity with the people of Indian-occupied Kashmir, their ongoing freedom struggle, and to pay homage to Kashmiri martyrs who lost their lives fighting for Kashmir's freedom.

Kashmir Day is observed by people throughout Pakistan and Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK). It is an internationally recognized day observed by people, predominantly Kashmiris, worldwide. The day is marked by public processions, special prayers in mosques for the liberation of Kashmir and protests that are carried out against the Indian oppression of Kashmir.

Kashmir Day is also of particular political importance to major political and religious parties in both Pakistan and AJK. Processions, rallies, conferences and seminars are organized by many political and religious parties where politicians, heads of religious organizations, opinion leaders, and influential public figures address the masses and speak to support the Kashmiri freedom movement. These leaders and spokespeople also advocate a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue. Long marches, and rallies sponsored by political organizations, religious parties and

other organizations are held, in which people chant slogans to support the Kashmiri freedom struggle and to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people.

Another common spectacle is the formation of a human chain on all major routes leading to AJK from Pakistan. People stand in rows with their hands clasped forming a human chain on all major crossings into AJK from Pakistan. This symbolizes unity and solidarity to reassure Kashmiris that they are not alone in their struggle for freedom.

Special cultural programs and festivals are also held to promote Kashmiri culture and tradition. News and entertainment channels air special programs, talk shows, dramas and Kashmiri songs about the oppression and brutalities suffered by Kashmiris over the years. Educational institutions organize debate competitions and dialogue forums where students express their views and ideas for resolving Kashmiri-related issues.

Permanent regional peace cannot be established without resolving issues of Siachen, Sir Creek, Wullar Barrage, water and especially main dispute of Kashmir. Pakistani masses are standing shoulder to shoulder with their Kashmiri brothers for the liberation of Kashmir.





*Kashmir valley is known as heaven on earth because of its scenic beauty, Chinar, Deodar and Alpine trees, grassy slopes full of flowers, fresh water lakes, waterfalls, crystal blue sky and snow covered high peaks and brave inhabitants of the valley.*

## Article 370

This article of the Indian Constitution is a 'temporary provision' which grants special autonomous status to Jammu & Kashmir. Under Part XXI of the Constitution of India, which deals with "Temporary, Transitional and Special provisions", the state of Jammu & Kashmir has been accorded special status under Article 370.





Pakistani masses are determined to display unity and solidarity with Kashmiris and condemn Indian violation of Human rights in Kashmir too. It is evident that since 1989 to 15 October 2012, total killing of innocent individuals were 93,801, custodial killings in various camps and jails were 6,996. Overall 1, 20,392 individuals have been arrested, structural damaged have been done to the property was 1, 05,955. Moreover 22,764 women have been injured and suffered with severe injuries, 10,042 women have been gang raped or molested and over 1, 07,441 kids have become orphaned. Notably, hundreds of serving Indian soldiers including senior officers are involved in widespread human rights abuses in Indian Held Kashmir, as reported by Daily Guardian reports. The article published in the United Kingdom's leading daily gives reference to report by a team of veteran legal activists in the Himalayan state that names 500 alleged perpetrators ranging from low-ranking policemen to Indian army generals. The writer Jason Burke based in Delhi says the charges relate to incidents occurring throughout more than 20 years of violence pitting armed religious and freedom fighters groups against New Delhi's rule in Held Kashmir and include shootings, abductions, torture and rapes.



Kashmir Day was first proposed by the Jamaat-e-Islami party in Pakistan in 1990 and then it was first observed in 1990 on call of Nawaz Sharif, who was the opposition leader and chief minister of Punjab at the time. Sharif appealed for a nationwide strike to protest against the Indian occupation of Kashmir and called for people to pray for the Kashmiri freedom movement's success. The Pakistan People's Party then declared February 5 as a public holiday and Kashmir Day has since been observed every year.

the issue of Jammu and Kashmir is the oldest unresolved issue on the agenda of the UNO. From January 1948 to May 1971, the organization has passed twenty seven resolutions and carried out many debates/discussions concerning Jammu and Kashmir. In this connection UN Security Council Resolutions number 91, 96 of 1951 and Resolution Number 98 of 1952 have very clearly stated plebiscite. In all of its resolutions, including resolutions of United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP), UN asked India for a fair and impartial plebiscite to decide the future status of Jammu and Kashmir as per the wishes of the its subjects.



## Ambassador of Nepal threw a Farewell Party

Ambassador of Nepal, H.E. Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal arranged a farewell party for Dean of Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Argentina H.E. Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin Saravia at his residence. Representatives from diplomatic community and media persons attended the dinner reception.





## A Farewell Dinner Reception in the Honor of Ambassadors of Afghanistan & Bangladesh

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Argentina, H.E. Mr. Rodolfo Martin J. Saravia hosted a farewell reception to say goodbye to two ambassadors; H.E. Mr. Janan Mosazai Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan & H.E. Mr. Suhrab Hossain, High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. He also welcomed new Ambassador of Cuba H.E. Mr. Gabriel Tiel Capote, Ambassador of Iran H.E. Mr. Mehdi Honardoost & UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Neil Buhne. Others members from diplomatic community and media persons were also present at this occasion.





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