# HBL 영 

## Mera bhi tou hai.

Today we crossed another milestone in our family history, another coming of age. But this was the nearest and dearest one yet - my son. We spent the day together in my office and it was a trip down memory lane.

He explored my desktop, changed the photographs around, swiveled my chair, listened in on my calls and even ordered coffee! I bounced business ideas off him and took pride in the beginnings of his acumen. Out of
sheer habit, I asked him to call 'my bank'. He turned to look at me quizzically, one eyebrow raised in genetic replication and said, 'But Abba, mera bhi tou hai.'

You see, that sense of belonging pervades the fabric of our family. And generation after generation we proudly lay claim to the Bank that is ours.

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# DIPLOMATIC F <br> "Publishing from Pakistan, United Kingdom \& will be soon from UAE \& Schengen States" 



## Editorial

 n a recent report, one of the most credible economic monitoring organization Bloomberg has lauded the Nawaz Sharif government for successfully turning the economy of Pakistan around. Report said that the civilian government faced challenges on the political and security front yet was able to improve income and decrease the budget deficit.According to the report, the Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) government took charge of the country in highly unfavorable situation as energy, balance of payments and economic crises were faced by the country yet it has been able to put the country on the path of economic progress. Report says that reduction in the oil prices, increase in foreign remittances and expansion in consumer spending led to the economic turnaround.
Corporate income has increase while stock exchange has also touched new heights, according to the report. However, the report suggests strong tax reforms for sustainable growth in future.

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H.E. Hasmah Abas Acting Ambassador of Brunel Darussalam hosted a reception to mark 31st National Day of Brunel Darussalam in Islamabad.
H.E. Mr. Rodolfo L. Martin Saravia, Dean of Diplomatic Corps host Bid Farewell to
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# Pakistan Day23 ${ }^{\text {M M March, }} 2015$ 

# Message from <br> Mr. Mamnoon Hussain 

President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan


The 23 rd of March marks the momentous occasion when Muslims of India resolved to struggle for an independent state based on principles of equality and justice. It was on this day, 75 years ago, that great thinkers and political leaders came together to embark upon the journey for independence, Quaid-e-Azam realized that it was the right of every Muslim of South Asia to enjoy freedom, equality and social Justice. Millions of people sacrificed their lives to realize the dream of Pakistan.

To mark this historic occasion, I would like to urge all citizens of Pakistan to renew their resolve to bring their country to the forefront of the comity of nations. We are confronted with formidable threats and chailenges. Women and children, civilians and soldiers alike, have been targeted by terrorists and extremists. Our schools and our placed of worship have been attacked. This day brings us together to remind us of the great struggle and commitment that accomplished the state of Pakistan. Today Pakistan needs the same efforts and commitment from its citizens to unite against evil forces. We must forget our differences and reclaim our country. A country where there is harmony and tolerance, education and prosperity, and people can live in peace and continue to strive towards success.

May All Almighty bless us in our efforts to preserve and protect our citizens and our homeland.

## PAKSITAN ZINDABAD

Message from
Mr. Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif
Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan


Three quarters of a century have elapsed since the Muslims of subcontinent irreversibly resolved to seek their own Independent Muslim state. Their revered Quaid declared that Muslims of South Asia were an independent nation by any definition. He led them to wage a struggle for a state based on principles of social justice, selfdetermination and equality. The independence struggle witnessed countless vicissitudes but the Quaid never flinched from his avowed objective. The firm commitment of the Quaid wholeheartedly backed by the Muslim nation ultimately succeeded in carving out an independent homeland. The Quaid bequeathed to his people the Promised Land with the exhortation to preserve and protect it for future generations. Three quarters of a century later Quaid's Pakistan is groping to overcome unprecedented threats and challenges. The peace loving people ofPakistan are unwittingly exposed to threats posed by extremism and terrorism. Pakistan has been subjected to an existential threat that it has no option but to confront. The antistate elements threatening Pakistan are out to threaten not only the lives but also the very fabric of Pakistani nation. But the Pakistanis have irrevocably stood up to the challenge and have resolved never to give in. Pakistan is resolved to redeem its pledge given to its founding fathers that
it will protect the homeland. We are also committed to preserve and ensure freedom, equality and social justice as core values of our polity as desired by our enlightened forbears. I am a steadfast believer in permanence of morality based representative plurality envisaged by the Quaid. I greatly value the equality principle and consider it vital for national preservation. I am a formidable opponent of anachronistic notions of obscurantism and consider it harmful to our national existence. I am confident that with the valued assistance of our valiant armed forces, unconditionally supported by the entire array of political opinion, we will surely overpower threatening forces. I am confident that Pakistan has turned a new leaf in its existence and will soon be able to overcome all odds. My government has embarked upon a vast portfolio of institutional and development ventures that will bear fruit in near future. I wish to reiterate my resolve to the nation that under my watch no effort will be spared to bring tolerance and harmony in Pakistan. I am committed to ensure that Pakistanis are provided with every opportunity to live freely, seek education, gain employment and practice their faith without hindrance, fear and favour.
PAKSITAN PAINABAD


President Mamnoon Hussain exchanging views with President Ilham Heydar Aliyev at Zagulba Palace Baku.
By Mian Fazal Elahi

## President calls for expanding cooperation hetween Pakistan, Azerhaijan



President Mamnoon Hussoln being received by First Deputy Prime Minkster of Azerballan Mr. Yagoob Eyyubov on hls arrival at Hydar Alifyev internalional Alrport, Baku.

> Pakistan, Azerbaijan agree to promote cooperation in economy, energy

President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mamnoon Hussain has called for expanding cooperation between Pakistan, Azerbaijan particularly in trade, investment and energy sectors.
In a joint declaration, President Mamnoon Hussain's visit to Azerbaijan was declared a historic occasion.
Pakistan and Azerbaijan have reaffirmed their commitment to promote bilateral friendship and cooperation in diverse field including energy and tourism.

This was stated by President Mamnoon Hussain and his Azeri counterpart llham Heydar Aliyev after holding one on one meeting followed by delegation level talks.

The main focus of the meeting was to review bilateral relations, including economic, trade and commerce, education, defence, science and technology, culture and exchange of views on regional and international issues of mutual concern.

The two sides also signed various agreements. The declaration said the visit would provide impetus to bilateral cooperation and called for turning the relationship into a strategic partnership.
The declaration also called for early resolution of Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh issues, which would ensure regional peace and stability.

It was also agreed to expand cooperation on curbing terrorism, extremism, separatism, organized crimes, smuggling of drugs and arms and human trafficking.

Presdient Mamnoon Hussain was on a three-day offical visit to Azerbaijan from March 11to 13 on the invitation of

President of Azerbaljan Ilham Aliyev.

Pakistan and Azerbaijan also agreed to promote bilateral friendship and to take steps to promote cooperation in the areas of economy, energy, security, trade, tourism, transport, science \& technology, environment, sports, culture and education.

President Mamnoon Hussain also conferred Hilal- --Pakistan Award on First Lady of Azerbaijan, Mrs Mehriban Aliyev, at Zalgulba Palace.
The President was accompanied by the First Lady, Cabinet members and senior government officials. A delegation of businessmen representing leading companies of Pakistan in the

> In a joint declaration, President Mamnoon Hussain's visit to Azerbaijan was declared a historic occasion.
field of energy, textile, pharmaceutical, sports, infrastructure, construction
material, surgical instruments, food products and leather goods also accompanied the


President on his visit.
About four MoUs and agreements were also signed during the visit.
On the sidelines of the visit, a Trade and Investment Seminar was also held.

According to the analyusts, the visit of president will provide an opportunity for further strengthening of bilateral cooperation between the two countries.


President Mamnoon Hussain inspecting Guard of Honour upon his arrival at Zagulba Palace, Baku.


Presldent Mamnoon Hussaln and Presldent Ihham Heydar Allyev folntly chairing delegation level talk ot Baiku, Axerbaljan.


Ambassodor of Pokistan to Azerbaijan and Ambassodor of Azerbajian to Pokiston signing an Agreement on Transfer of Convicts between Pallstan and Arerbalfon at Baku. President Mamnoon Hussoln and President liham Heydar Allyev are also present


Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif talking to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz at the King's palace in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

# Pakistan, Saudi Arahia (4) 

## By Mian Fazal Elahi

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif reached the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on a three-day official visit during the first week of March.

He visited the Saudi Kingdom on the invitation of Saudi King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

A high-level delegation including Finance Minister, Ishaq Dar, Chief Minister of Punjab, Shahbaz Sharif and Special Assistant Syed Tariq Fatemi accompanied the prime minister.

During the visit, the prime minister held talks with the Saudi King, performed Umrah and visited Madina to offer prayers at the Masjid-e-Nabvi (Peace Be Upon Him).

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, during their meeting, emphasized importance of Pakistan-Saudi relations and


Prime MInister Muhammad Nawaz Sharlf being recelved by Saudl King Salman bin Abdul Azlz AlSaud at KIng Khalld Alrport Rlyadh


Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Saudi King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud receiving guard of honour in Riyadh
era of Pak-Saudi relations.
Talking to a group of local media-persons in Madina Munawwra, he said the visit has further strengthened the existing historic, friendly and brotherly ties between the two countries.

Irfan Siddiqui said, during the meeting with King Salman, the Prime Minister told the Saudl leader that Pakistan's resources
and capabilities were the common asset of two countries.

Pak-Saudi ties, said the Prime Minister's visit would not only

> Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are tied in close fraternal bonds of shared faith and values.

Iffan Siddiqui said King Salman, while referring to the historic
strengthen the bilateral ties, but also play a vital role for
peace and stability of the region.

The visit of the Prime Minister will provide an opportunity to the leadership of the two countries to discuss issues of mutual interests and concern in the global and regional context and further strengthen the close bilateral relations.

Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif while talking to journalist

at the Allama Iqbal International Airport after he returned to Lahore from Saudi Arabia said that there were strong historical, cultural and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabla and the ties between the two countries would further strengthen due to the visit of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Shahbaz Shairf also said that the historic welcome extended to Pakistani delegation by Khadim-eHaramain Sharifain Shah Salman bin Abdulaziz would always be remembered. He said that people of Pakistan and Saudi Arabla were bound together in strong ties of love and brotherhood.
The chief minister further said that the rousing welcome given to the Pakistani prime minister

## Pak-Saudi relations will further strengthen with the visit of PM Nawaz: Shahbaz

by Shah Salman bin Abdulaziz at the airport fully reflects the warm relations between the two countries.
He said that Saudi Arabia has extended invaluable cooperation for the progress and development of Pakistan and helped it in every hour of need.
He said that Saudi Arabia was a true friend of Pakistan and supported it in every crisis. He said that the people of the two countries were also closely affiliated with each other.
He said that the hearts of the people of the both countries beat together. He said that the leadership and people of Pakistan highly appreciated the cooperation of the Saudi king and people which is an asset for Pakistan.


Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif talking to Abdul Aziz ibn Abdullah Al Sheikh, Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia, at Masjid e Nabwi in Madina Munawwarah.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharlf addressing a delegation of Pakistani community In Madina Munawwarah


## Diplomatic Focus thrul lens



Envoys deslgnate of Tunlsla, Qatar, Canada, Kenya and Nicaragua presenting their credentlals respectively to President Mamnoon Hussaln at Alwan-eSadr, Islamabad.


Prime Minlster Muhammad Nawar Sharif in a meeting with US Commerce Secretary, Ms Penny Pritzler at PM Office, Islamabod.


Ambassador of Argentina Rodolfo L. Martin Saravia called on Secretary Economic Affairs Division, Saleem Sethi in Islomabad.


Courtesy coll on Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar by Dr-Cyrill Numn Ambassador of Germany In Islamabad.


Prlme Minlster Muhammad Nowax Sharlf meeting with chlef Financial Offlcer, Mr. Un Xioodan, China Gexhouba Group Investment Holding Company at the MP House, Islamabad.


Canadian Senator Salma Ataulich Jan called on Federal Minister for Finance, Senator, Mohammod isheq Dor in Islamabad.


Minister of Stote/Chairperson BISP, MAA Marvi Memon talking to Mts. Pauline Hayes Western Asla Regional Director DFID and Mr. Richard Montgomery Country Head DFID at BISP Secretarlat.
 the Chiefs of Staff of Pakistan Army, Navy and Air Force. Guard of Honour was presented

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif with Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hammad Al-Thani, receiving guard of honor at Noor Khan Air Base, Rawalpindi.

to H.H. the Emir of the State of Qatar at the airport.

His Excellency President Mamnoon Hussain had a meeting with H.H. the Emir of the State of Qatar after his arrival in Islamabad. During the meeting, both the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen relations between the two brotherly countries and deepen existing cooperation in all fields of
mutual interest. They also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern. H.H. the Emir of the State of Qatar extended invitation to the President to visit Qatar.

Delegation-level talks were held at the Prime Minister's House. The Prime Minister of Pakistan and H.H. the Emir of the State of Qatar led their respective sides. The talks were preceded


Prime Mintster Muhammod Nawaz Sharlf shaking hands with Emir of Qatar, Shellh Tomim Bin Hamod AI-Thanl, ot PM House, Islamabod.


Prime Mintster Muhammad Nowaz Sharif Seeing off Emir of Qatar H.H. Shelkh Tamim bin Hammad A-Thani at Noor Khan Airbase, Rawalpinal.


by a One-on-One meeting between the Prime Minister and H.H. the Emir of the State of Qatar. Both sides identified energy, trade and economic cooperation, investment, manpower and defence as priority areas for further enhancing bilateral relations and strengthening their existing mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields.

The Prime Minister expressed deep appreciation for the progress made by the State of Qatar under the sagacious leadership of H.H. the Emir. On behalf of the people and the Government of Pakistan, the Prime Minister also extended heartiest felicitations to the people and the leadership of the State of Qatar for hosting FIFA 2022 World Cup, one of the most prestigious sports events in the World.

## Pakistan and the State of Qatar

 share similar views on a number of regional and international issues and enjoy close cooperation in multilateral forumsH.H. the Emir of the State of Qatar appreciated the measures taken by the Government of Pakistan over the last two years to achieve economic stability, provide conducive environment for investment, improve infrastructure and address energy situation. He also expressed profound appreciation for the contribution made by Pakistani expatriate community to the socio-economic development of the State Qatar. The Prime Minister thanked H.H. the Emir of the State of Qatar for hosting a large number of Pakistanis. Both the leaders agreed that development projects Qatar was planning to undertake to host FIFA 2022 World Cup would provide opportunities for further employment of Pakistani manpower in the State of Qatar.
The following instruments were signed


NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sodiq called on Emir of Qatar Shellhh Tamim bln Hamad Al-Thanl In Islamabod.

after the conclusion of delegation-level talks, in the presence of H.H. the Emir of the State of Qatar and the Prime Minster of Pakistan:
a. Agreement of Cooperation in the field of Culture between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Government of the State of Qatar;
b. Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Youth and Sports between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Government of the State of Qatar; and
c. First Executive Programme for Cooperation in the Fields of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research for the Cultural, Scientific, Technical, Educational and Media Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Government of the State of Qatar for the Academic Years (2015/2016-2016/20172017/2018)

The Prime Minister hosted a banquet in the honour of H.H. the Emir of the State of Qatar and members of his entourage. H.H. the Emir planted a sapling at Shakarparian.

During the visit, H.H. the Emir of the State of Qatar received the Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, and Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Rashad Mahmood.
The meetings of H.H. the Emir of the State of Qatar with the President and the Prime Minister and calls on H. H. the Emir by Pakistani dignitaries were held in a very cordial atmosphere. Both sides, underlining the fraternal ties that exist between the two countries, stressed the need for nourishing the brotherly bonds through economic linkages and enhancing people-to people contacts.
Pakistan and the State of Qatar share similar views on a number of regional and international issues and enjoy close cooperation in multilateral forums. During the talks, both sides discussed the challenges posed to the regional stability, reiterated their condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reaffirmed their desire to strengthen cooperation on this issue. The Qatari side acknowledged tremendous sacrifices made by Pakistan while combating terrorism and appreciated Pakistan's contribution in making the world a safer and a better place.
H.H. the Emir of the State of Qatar reiterated Qatar's support for early finalization of Pakistan-GCC Free Trade Agreement, in order to further improve economic and trade ties.
His Highness the Emir of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad AI-Thani, thanked the people and the Government of Pakistan for the warm reception and generous hospitality accorded to him and his accompanying delegation. His Highness renewed invitation to the Prime Minister of Pakistan to visit State of Qatar, which was gladly accepted.


Prime Minister Muhammad Nowaz and Emir of Qator Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad AL-Thanl witnessing slgning of an agreement on cultural cooperatlon between Paklstan and Qatar at the PM House, Isiamabod


Emir of Qutar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad A-Thani whille planting a tree ot Shakarpurian in Istamabad.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meeting Foreign Secretary of India Mr. Subramanyam Jaishankar at PM House, Islamabad.

# Pakistan, India need to start new chapter in their relationship: PM 

## Jaishankar said Pakistan and India had agreed to work together, find common ground and narrow differences

## By Sajid Takar

After seven months of tension between India and Pakistan, their foreign secretaries met in the first week of March for talks in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad. Both the foreign secretaries have termed and described the talks as productive.

Indian Foreign Secretary Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, after the meeting, told media that he and Pakistan's Foreign Secretary, Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry had agreed to work together to find common ground and narrow their differences.

Aizaz Chaudhry, in a press briefing, described "a cordial and constructive atmosphere" at their meeting at the foreign ministry.
Aizaz said that both sides recognized that the two countries needed to work together to address mutual concerns and make efforts to promote peace and development.
Jaishankar officially was traveling to discuss issues related to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, on a tour taking him to the capitals of other member nations, including Bhutan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

His trip to Pakistan's capital raised hopes that
the two neighboring countries would be able to pick up threads of a frayed dialogue.

During the meeting, Indian Foreign Affairs Secretary Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Pakistani Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry discussed contentious issues including Jammu and Kashmir, Siachen, Sir Creek and other bilateral issues. The matter of restoration of peace dialogues between the two countries was also discussed during the meeting. They discussed ways to resume the dialogue process between the two countries to move forward for resolution of outstanding issues. Indian Foreign Secretary Subramanium Jaishankar also said that Pakistan and India have agreed to work together, find common ground and narrow differences. Meanwhile Pakistani Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry has said that the tension at line of control and working boundary is lasting negative impacts on the relations of two counties, adding that there is need to move forward while decreasing this tension.
The level talks were held at Pakistani Foreign Office where Aizaz Chaudhry headed the Pakistani delegation in dialogues while Subrahmanyam Jaishankar headed Indian delegation.
Talking to newsmen after talks with Pakistan Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary, Jaishankar said that they discussed the ideas and initiatives to take SAARC forward. He said Pakistan would be the next SAARC chair, adding that India would like to work with Pakistan to help SAARC achieve its potentia.
Jaishankar further said that naturally his visit provided an opportunity to discuss their bilateral relations. He said that they engaged in each others concerns and interest in an open manner. Jaishankar also said that they had agreed that ensuring peace and tranquility on the border was vital. He said his country wanted to forge


Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry shaking hand with the IndIan Foreign Secretary S. Jalshankar at Foreign Office, Islamabad.

PM Nawaz has called for resolving all outstanding issues with India through meaningful dialogue.
cooperative relations with all the neighboring countries.

Indian Foreign Secretary also said that talks were held in very constructive and positive atmosphere and added that Pakistan and India had agreed to work together, find common ground and narrow differences.
Meanwhile talking to the media after Pakistan-India Foreign Secretary level talks, Foreign Office Spokesperson Tasnim Aslam said the two sides discussed all the issues and ice has melted between the two countries. She said Pakistani side also expressed concerns over the tension on the border.
The visit of Indian Foreign Affairs Secretary is part of his trip to SAARC member


Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry in a delegation level meeting with the Indian Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar at Foreign Office, Islamabad.
countries but all issues between the two countries would be discussed.

Pakistan expects that all matters would be on table for discussion. These include Kashmir, Siachin and water issues.
Confidence building measures, people to people contacts and trade matters will also figure during talks between the two sides.
Indian Foreign Secretary Subrahmanyam Jaishankar also called on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad. PM Nawaz, during the meeting, called for resolving all outstanding issues with India through meaningful dialogue. He also stressed for establishment of friendly neighboring ties between Pakistan and Indian for the sake of development and betterment of people of the two countries.

The prime minister also expressed the confidence that talks between the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries would result in charting the way forward in our bilateral relations.

PM Nawaz said both the countries need to start a new chapter in their relationship by working towards resolving their all outstanding issues through dialogue.

Nawaz Sharif said it is imperative that the leadership of the two countries rises up to the expectations of the two peoples. He said we must think together, act together and move forward with the spirit of bringing the two nations closer to each other. He said the two countries should lend a hand of cooperation to each other to improve the standard of living of 1.5 billion people.

The Prime Minister said South Asian region has suffered enormously due to tensions and unresolved disputes, despite being blessed with enormous resources. He said our people deserve to live in peace and reap the benefits of economic development.
Nawaz said Pakistan will be hosting the next SAARC Summit in 2016 and he look forward to welcoming all SAARC leaders. He said SAARC forum offers an important avenue to all countries of the region to develop the potential of regional cooperation by working together.
The PM said it would be important that the bilateral discussions, whenever held, would seek to address each other's concerns in areas where the two countries differ, and work together in areas where both the countries agree.

He stressed that we must have peace and tranquility on the Line of Control. He said he was deeply disturbed at the recent incidents of firing on the Working Boundary. The existing military-to-military mechanisms must be used optimally to


Special Assistant to the PM Syed Taria Fataml in a meeting with the Indlan foreign Secretary S. Jalshankar at Forelgn Office, Islamabod.


Advisor to the PM on Natlonal Security and Forelgn Affolis, Sartal Arlz In a meeting with the Indian Foreign Secretory S. Jaishankar ot Foreign Office, Islamabad.
check ceasefire violations, he said.
The Prime Minister said both the countries

## Tension at LoC and

 Working Boundary (WB) is lasting negative impacts on the relations of two counties: Aizaz Chaudhrycan address their outstanding issues by approaching each other with sincerity and as good neighbors.

He said terrorism has afflicted the entire region and Pakistan is waging a valiant struggle against all terrorists by dismantling their hideouts and network.

The Prime Minister recalled his meeting with Indian Prime Minister Modi in New Delhi on May 27, last year and said it was our shared desire to improve our bilateral relations.

Indian Foreign Secretary Jaishankar on this occasion conveyed the best regards of Prime Minister Modi to Pakistani Prime Minister. He also handed over a letter of best wishes from the Indian Prime Minister to him. The Prime Minister asked him to convey his best wishes to the Prime Minister and President of India.
The Indian Foreign Secretary said that Prime Minister Modi was appreciative of the policies of PML-N government and believed that they will bring a positive change in Pakistan.

The Indian external affairs secretary also held meetings with Advisor on Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz and Special Assistant to Prime Minister, Tariq Fatemi.


## PM Nawaz, Afghan envoy discuss Transit Trade, CASA project

By M. Saeed Yousafzai

Afghan Ambassador Janan Mosazai called on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad.

They discussed matters relating to Afghan Transit Trade and CASA 1000 power transmission project.

Talking to Afghan envoy, the prime minister said relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have been undergoing qualitative transformation since the new government took over last year.

He expressed satisfaction over the increased security cooperation between the two countries and said the visits of Army Chief have proved quite helpful in streamlining important matters.
The prime minister approved appointment of a focal person for following up implementation on the decisions taken during inter-ministerial meeting between the two countries, on a dally basis. A similar focal person would be appointed from the Afghan side as well.

He was pleased to note that first meeting of the Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Business Council would be taking place in the next few weeks to attract international investors to both the countries.

The prime minister said Pakistan hopes the process of peace talks within Afghanistan would speed up and reach a successful conclusion soon.

The ambassador thanked the government of Pakistan for providing generous support to Afghanistan in the form of rellef supplies in the wake of the destruction caused by recent avalanches.
The Ambassador said Afghanistan was highly appreciative of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's vision of peaceful coexistence with all neighboring countries.

He also thanked the Prime Minister for sending a message of solidarity to the President of Afghanistan on this hour of grief.

The Ambassador also conveyed best regards of the President of Afghanistan to the Prime Minister.


Mr. Sun Weidong, Ambassador of China called on Speaker NA Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, Islamabad.

## NA Speaker calls for cementing Pakistan-China ties

## The Chinese Ambassador said his country wants to further deepen friendship with Pakistan

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq says Pakistan-China friendship has contributed a lof for peace, stability and development in the region


0peaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has urged the need of enhanced people-to-people and parliamentary contacts between Pakistan and China to strengthen their existing relations.

He was talking to Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weldong in Islamabad.

He said that time-tested and all-weather friendship between the two countries is exemplary for the world.

The Speaker sald Pak-China friendship has contributed a lot for peace, stability and development in the region and beyond.
The Chinese Ambassador said his country wants to further deepen friendship with Pakistan.
Monitoring Desk


British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Philip Barton called on Federal Minister for Interior \& Narcotics Control, Chaudhry Nisar All Khan at Punjab House, Islamabad.

# Nisar, Barton discuss bilateral ties, regional situation 

# Dr. Maleeha Lodhi presented her credentials to the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki Moon 

## UN Secretary General lauds Pakistan's efforts in countering militancy and its contributions to UN Peacekeeping Missions



Pakistan's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to United Nations, Dr. Maleeha Lodhi presenting credentials to Secretary General UN, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon at UN Headquarters, New York.

Pakistan's new Ambassador to the United Nations Dr. Maleeha Lodhi has urged UN Secretary-General
Ban Ki-Moon to play his role in promoting peace and stability in South Asia. She called on the UN secretary general at the office of the United Nations.
She presented her credentlals to the secretary-general.
Dr Maleeha Lodhl underscored the need for the role and mandate of the United Nations Millitary Observer Group in India and Pakistan to be strengthened and expanded.

The Secretary-General appreciated Pakistan's law enforcement efforts aimed at countering militancy and said that the UN valued Pakistan's contribution to UN peacekeeping operations.

The ambassador apprised the SecretaryGeneral about Pakistan's national priorities, which were to establish Internal stability by defeating terrorism, normalize relations with india on the basis of equality as well as resolution of outstanding disputes, including Kashmir.

## Pakistan Donates Relief Assistance For The People Affected By Avalanches In Afghanistan



## By M. Saced Yousafzal

Asa token gesture of solidarity with the people of Arghanistan, on the instructions of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, two plane-loads of emergency relief goods have been sent for those affected by avalanches in Afghanistan. The relief assistance consisting of essential food items, tents, blankets, and medicines were received at Kabul Airport by Head of Shura-e-Panjsher,

General Din Muhammad Jurat, and Director General of Afghan Disaster Management Authority, Dr. Muhammad Daim Kakar, along with senior Government officials. Pakistan's Ambassador to Afghanistan was also present. Speaking at the occasion, General Jurat and Dr. Kakar expressed profound gratitude on behalf of the Government and the people of Afghanistan for Pakistan's generous and
timely support. Earlier in his message of sympathy and condolences, the Prime Minister said that people of Pakistan stand shoulder to shoulder with their Afghan brethren as they brave this tragic natural disaster. He also offered all possible relief assistance to Afghanistan to help mitigate the suffering of victims of the natural calamity.

PM'S MESSAGE TO AFGHAN PRESIDENT ASHRAF GHANI

/ I was deeply troubled upon learning of the devastating avalanches in Afghanistan that have taken hundreds of our Afghan brother and sisters from us. I join you in praying for them and their families.
I have instructed Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority to provide whatever support it can and we have already deployed multiple convoys to airlift support to Afghanistan. I am
confident that your leadership at this time is of even more importance than during ordinary times. The Pakistani people and our resources stand available to you as always. I also want to assure you that my staff is keeping me apprised of the situation on an hourly basis. InshaAllah we will not sleep peacefully until we know that this crisis has passed."



Representatives of Canada Pakistan Business Council visited Sialkot Chamber of Commerce \& Industry to discuss the potential of b-lateral trade and unexploited opportunities available in the Canadian market for Pakistan business community in order to boost up business ties between the two countries.
Mr. Fazal Jilani, President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry welcomed Mr. Samir Dossal, President Canada Pakistan Business Council and his team on their visit to this Chamber.

Mr. Jilani extended his gratitude and expressed that SCCI has always welcomed initiatives for extending healthy and favorable business links with Canada and looks forward to gain positive outcomes from this meeting.

Mr. Samir Dossal, President Canada Pakistan Business Council, thanked Mr. Fazal Jilani, President SCCI for his gratitude and hospitality. He said that the goal of Canada Pakistan Business Council is to take trade between Pakistan and Canada to next level.
Addressing his concerns, he added that bilateral trade currently sits at just \$650 million dollars, which is far below the potential. He ensured that, the Ontario government has recognized the vacuum and has responded favorably to expand
commercial links with Pakistan, this visit is scheduled in this regard. He said that their simple mandate is to promote business

relations between the two countries and for achieving our objectives; an MOU draft has been finalized with PBIT to explore
what we can facilitate for nurturing trade relations in larger extent. Mr. Fazal Jilani added that they have extended invitation to CM Punjab to attend CPBC 32nd Annual Gala and that they also look forward to have significant representation from Sialkot industry.

He further added that SCCI is already planning a trade delegation to Canada that would cover the sectors of Sorts good, Surgical, Leather and Textile, a new platform for facilitating connections with buyers would be highly appreciated.


# Strong Women, Strong World: Improving Economic Opportunities for All The Canadian theme for this year's International Women's Day 2015 

Throughout the month of March, events are held to recognize women's achievements and their extraordinary potential.
The Canadian theme for this year's International Women's Day 2015 is: Strong Wornen, Strong World: Improving Economic Opportunities for All. Canadians believe that every woman must have the opportunity to help create prosperity, through her own unique talents and abilities - whether as an employee, a professional, a business leader or an entrepreneur.

The Canadian High Commissioner hosted an exhibition of images of women across Pakistan at her Official Residence. The pictures are depictions of ordinary and
extraordinary women, showing strong women who are working to generate economic and social benefits for themselves and their famillies. In the exhibition, High Commissioner Cruden remarked:
"Many women are able to succeed despite the odds, but we must also recognize the great obstacles that women face in their homes, in their workplaces and in their communities. More must be done to achieve gender equality at all levels. Together, we must do more to ensure that every girl and young woman completes their education so they may go on to participate fully in social and economic life.
"We must support girls by encouraging them, by being role models, by ensuring

By Muqarab Hussain / Raheel Iqbal
that they are equipped with the knowledge and power to make healthy decisions. They should have education and awareness, access to health and nutrition services and their right to choose when, or if, they marry must be ensured.
"We can further improve gender equality through the expansion of educational and skills training opportunities, access to paid work, changes to local laws, and overcoming gender stereotypes."
Last year, Canada made a renewed commitment of $\$ 3.5$ billion in support of international efforts to end the preventable deaths of mothers, newborns and children younger than age five.




## Turkmenistan's policy of Permanent Neutrality <br> By M. Saeed Yousajzal

Advisor to Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz inaugurated international conference on
"Turkmenistan's policy of Permanent Neutrality",
Sartaj Aziz said that connectivity of Central Asia with South Asia through rail and road would be game changer for the improvement of development in the region.

He said Turkmenistan, having vast range of natural resources especially gas and electricity and while adopting its policy of "permanent neutrality", could play a key role in development of the region.
Sartaj Aziz emphasized the need to explore new avenues for promoting people-topeople contacts between Pakistan and Turkmenistan especially with introduction

of liberal visa regime, creating more opportunities for promoting trade and economic activities.

He said promoting trade and economic activities would play an important role in strengthening people-to-people contact and enhancing peace, development and prosperity in the region.
Appreciating the adoption of 'Permanent Neutrality' by Turkmenistan some 20 years ago, Sartaj Aziz said it had played an important role in enhancing and promoting the peaceful image of Turkmenistan in region and global level.
He said Pakistan and Turkmenistan had close relations and it was among the first countries which opened Turkmenistan consulate to establish diplomatic ties. He also appreciated the efforts of Turkmenistan for initiating much important energy project and expressed the hoped that the issue of energy shortage in the region would be resolved after its implementation.

Ambassador at Large of Turkmenistan Sapar Berdiniyazov in his key note address on this occasion said it was March 15, 1995, when the former president of Turkmenistan announced the policy of "Permanent Neutrality" while addressing a special function here in Islamabad which had been strictly observed and adopted by all the successive governments of Turkmenistan.

He said Turkmenistan had proved with its actions and participation in the affairs of the international community that its policy

of "Permanent Neutrality" was to ensure peace, progress and prosperity in the region and in the world.
Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan Atadjan Movlamov speaking on the occasion said Pakistan and Turkmenistan were linked in very close and strong bonds of brotherhood which was being strengthened day by day.

He said efforts were being made to

niversary of Turkmenistan's Sta

promote people-to-people contacts besides improving trade and economic ties between the two countries. A large number of people from different walks of life, especially diplomats, attended the function which was organised jointly by Embassy of Turkmenistan, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies and Society of Civilization Pakistan to celebrate 20th anniversary of Turkmenistan's status of Permanent Neutrality.


Diplomatic Focus thru lens


Mr. Cyrillidean Nunn, German Ambassador to Pakistan, called on Federal Minister for Planning, Development \& Reform Prof. Ahsan Iqbal in islamabad.


Special Assistant to the MP, Syed Tariq Fateml In a meeting with the Japanese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Karuyuki Nakane in Islamabad.


Ex-Chairman Senate, Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari exchanging views with Mr: Jesus Zenen Buergo Concepclon, Ambassador of the Repubilc of Cuba at Parliament House, Islamahad.


Ambassador of indonesia callied on Federal Minister for Commerce at Islomabad.


Advisor to the Prime Minister on Natlonal Securlity and Forelgn Affolis, Sartaj Axiz in a meeting with the Chinese Ambassador H.E. Sun Weidong in Islamabad.


Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security \& Foreign Affolirs, Sartaj Azlz In a meeting with the Minister for Refugees and Repotriation of Ayghanistan H.E. Syed HussaIn Alemi Balkhl In Islamabad.


Special Assistant toe the Prime Minister on Notional Affoirs, Iffon Siddiqui in a meeting with Brttlsh High Commisslonec, Mr. Patrick Moody in Islamabod.
 heading in right direction: Russian envoy

Russian Ambassador Alexey Yurivich Dedov has said that Pak-Russian relations are heading in right direction on diplomatic front, however, direct links between the business community of the two countries is required to enhance bilateral trade.

## Addressing the Faisalabad

 Chamber of Commerce and Industry ( FCCI ), the Russian Ambassador mentioned recent developments on political, parliamentary and diplomatic fronts and said that negotiation was under way on various issues. He said that Pakistan was facing energy crisis and immediate steps were required to overcome it. He welcomed proposals of the FCCl to enhance bilateral trade and assured that Russia would give a serious consideration to the valuable and practicable suggestions.The Ambassador said Pakistan Steel Mills and Guddu Power project are examples of cooperation and close linkages
between both countries.
Russian Federation Honorary Consul Habib Ahmad said that trans-national projects such as CASA-1000 and TAPI gas pipeline were mega projects and Russia was willing to provide technical and financial support in addition to help Pakistan in oil and gas exploration. He said that the law and order situation in Russia had now improved satisfactorily and added that there were no mafias then. He proposed a Pak-Russian Trade Centre to further strengthen economic relations on long term basis.

Engineer Rizwan Ashraf, President FCCI, said that huge reserves of iron ores had been discovered near Chiniot. He said that Russia had expertise in exploration and construction of steel mills and hoped that it would also help Pakistan in setting up new steel mills by using iron ore. MNA Rana Afzal, on the occasion, stressed the need for taking steps to further enhancing bilateral trade.

H.E. Mr. Alexey Yuri Dedov says businessmen of both countries should come forward to expand bilateral trade

# Rilssia, China support Pakistan's permanent membership status at SCO 



The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is an important regional organisation, and Pakistan can play a more active and constructive role as a full member to achieve goals like fighting extremism and terrorism.

This was stated by Envoys from the SCO member states while addressing the launching Ceremony of Pakistan Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Friendship Forum - an initiative of Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies. While speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary to the President of Pakistan Ahmad Farooq said, "It is the need of the hour that we should work to enhance partnerships while respecting and endorsing diversity."

He said that as this is going to be an Asian Century, the regional and world powers couldn't ignore Pakistan in any kind of framework that places a focus on peace and development within the geographical arena of SCO.
Ambassador of Tajikistan Sherali Jononov said that members of the SCO were cooperating with each other to fight extremism and terrorism in the region to ensure stability and security where Pakistan's role is significant. Pakistan has been playing a very important role in the SCO he observed, and expressed hope that as full member of the SCO Pakistan would be able to play a proactive role in the organisation.

Russian Federation Envoy to Pakistan H.E Alexey Dedov said Russia always supported Pakistan for permanent membership status at the SCO so that it could play a more active role in this organisation. He said that Russia, as president of the SCO for the current year, had prepared a comprehensive agenda that included enhancing connectivity to fighting terrorism and extremism through further cooperation to ensure security. He expressed the hope that Pakistan would get full membership of the SCO in its next meeting for the head of states,
which is being held in Russia in July this year.

Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong in his remarks was of the view that China has always supported Pakistan for full membership to SCO and is working on to develop a Pakistan-China Economic Corridor -a mega project that would not only support Pakistan but also strengthen regional connectivity. China and Pakistan are working together for the prosperity and development of the region. Pakistan and China enjoy deep-rooted linkages and relationship based on mutual trust and congeniality, which will increase manifold in the near future.
While highlighting aims and objectives of the Forum, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies President Farhat Asif said that the forum is focused on six E's i.e. Education, Energy, Economy, Empowerment, Entrepreneurship and Environment to explore the possibilities of developing deep rooted linkages within the SCO member countries and benefiting Pakistan and its citizens through "Connecting People and Providing Opportunities." She added that the forum is meant to develop people-to-people capabilities and organisational partnerships, explore and mobilise resources and provide opportunities to enhance multilateral level cooperation hence engaging youth, women, civil society and business groups from Pakistan with all the member countries of SCO. Hence, further the objective of peace, prosperity, development and cooperation within the region in order to fight against three evils "Terrorism, Extremism and Separatism" together. The aim also is to raise awareness about the potential of SCO within Pakistan and jointly address the issues of the societies, covered by the SCO member states, through improved public engagement and diplomacy.

Courtesy Paklstan today

# Dialogue key to rebuilding peace in communities: Danish Ambassador 

## By M. Saeed Yousafzal

Danish Ambassador to Islamabad H.E. Mr. Jesper Moller Sorenson has said that dialogue is vital for promoting peace as it narrows differences.
Speaking at National Peace Summit he said that they must learn to speak each other. He said that dialogue was the key to building and promoting peace and added that they must learn to speak to each other. Most importantly, we must learn to listen and respect differences of opinion, he said. The ambassador also said that whatever we disagree on; let us at least agree that we don't use violence, but that we deal with differences through dialogue and understanding.
The National Peace Summit, which was organized by Search for Common Ground (SFCG) Pakistan with support from Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) brought diverse groups and communities together from across all provinces. The aim was to find a collective vision of peace with a particular focus on enabling provinces and their communities to engage constructively around conflict issues in the post-18th Amendment Framework. Speaking as the Chief Guest, Ambassador Jesper Moller Sorensen acknowledged the important work done by peace builders, who work their way through the most difficult levels within their community by adopting an open, interactive and solution-oriented approach for dialogue. "By seeing and teaching the common ground between one's own group and another group of people, we
can build empathy and tolerance. This is the kind of thinking that leads towards depolarizing, building bridges and eventually peace," said Ambassador Sorensen.
"Pakistan has become a polarised society where tolerance and respect for diversity is much needed," she said.


Vice President PPP and Former Pakistan Ambassador to USA Sherry Rehman participated as the guest of honor. She highlighted that the main building block of peace is the provision and sustenance of security. She encouraged creating and promoting public conversation as inclusive citizenship was at heart of a democratic society. She appreciated the Pakistan Peace Initiative as it represented a democratic model in which public engagement has developed solutions for peace, which includes all provincial perspectives. She encouraged the public to petition their government and parliamentarians, as the public voice was the cornerstone of any democratic society

Around 150 participants representing diverse groups such as media, youth, minorities, women, religious leaders, politicians, traders, civil society and government officials sat together and discussed topics related to peace, conflict and public governance in view of the 18th amendment. Participants spoke openly on issues such as devolution of power, social justice, local and provincial level conflicts and how peace can be maintained viewing Pakistan's constitution as a tool for conflict transformation while engaging communities for grassroots action for peace building.
Addressing the audience, Executive Director SFCG Pakistan Khurram Masood said
that the SFCG believes that at the macro level demand for public dialogue can be generated leading to increased constructive voices of citizens including youth, women and media in particular. He said that SFCG hopes that generation of platforms and healthy dialogue will enable Pakistani population to take an active part in motivating the masses for causing shifts in perspectives and approaches for collaborative actions. "SFCG places a premium on Pakistan's growing youth bulge, women leaders, dynamic media and private sector entrepreneurs to become the change agents that Pakistan needs," said Mr. Masood.
During the Summit, recommendations of the provincial perspectives of peace were presented in light of 18th constitutional amendment retrieved from a series of provincial level consultative dialogues held in Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta and Karachi between May 2014 and February 2015. The final outcome and recommendations of all provincial dialogues and the National Summit will be disseminated and shared with Government of Pakistan compiled into a policy paper "Pakistan Vision of Peace". At the end of the Summit, awards were given to two inspiring youth peace activists for their efforts to promote peace in their communities. The awards were given to Nooroz Ghani from Liyari and Farooq Afridi from Khyber Agency, FATA.
 <br> \section*{Kyrgyz <br> \section*{Kyrgyz Foreign Minister visit to
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0n the invitation of Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs, the Foreign Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Erlan Abdyldaev visited Islamabad. He was accompanied by senior officials of the Kyrgyz Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Foreign Minister Abdyldaev paid a courtesy call on the President of Pakistan, Mr. Mamnoon Hussain, and held delegation-level talks with the Adviser.
During courtesy call, the Foreign Minister conveyed the greetings and good wishes of the President of Kyrgyz Republic. The President also conveyed his message of good wishes to the President and the people of the Kyrgyz republic. The President underscored the importance of improving of bilateral relations particularly in all areas and countering the scourge of terrorism and extremism that will be in the interest of both the countries and the region.
In the delegation-level talks between the Foreign Minister and the Adviser, the two side exchanged views on further strengthening of bilateral relations in all areas of cooperation. They attach particular importance to promoting economic relations, energy cooperation, political-level contacts, cooperation between parliaments of the two countries, regional connectivity through infrastructure development and regional arrangements and air connectivity for the promotion of people-topeople contacts, economic relations and tourism.
The regional and international issues, cooperation at international forum as well as measures for countering terrorism, extremism and menace of narcotic drugs also came under discussion during the visit.


Minister of state for IT, MS. Anusha Rahman In a meeting with H.E. Marcel De Vink, Ambassador of Netherlands Discussing billateral ICT motters at Isiamabod.

Dr. Cyrlil Nunn, Ambassodor of Germany callied on NA Speoker Sardar Ayax Sadliq In Parllament House, Islamabad.


Ambassador of the Republle of South Korea, Dr. Song Jong-hwan, colled on Federal Minister for Climate Change, Mushahid Ulilah Khan In islamabad.


Federal Minister for Commerce, Engr: Khurram Dastglr Khan is meetling with Mr. Jallil Abbas Jillani, Ambassodor of Pakistan to US in Islamabod.


Mr. Nguyen Xuan Luu, Ambassador of Vietnam called on Depuly Speaker NA Murtar Mr. Nquyen Xuan Luw, Ambossodor of Vietnam
Javed Abbas/ at Porllament House, slamabad.


Advisor to the PM on Nationai Security \& Foreign Affolirs, Sartaj Azlis in a meeting with Special envoy of the government of Indonesla Ambassador, Abdurrahman Mohammod Fochic, Vice Minlster of Foreign Affoirs in Islomabad.


Minister of state/ Chairperson BISP, MNA Morvl Memon tolldng to German, Ambassador for Pokiston Dr. Cyrill Nunn and Mrs. Almut Knop, Development Ambassador for Pokiston Dr.
Counselor at BISP Secreturiot.


Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Defence Production presenting a shield to
 Rowalpindl.

## Welcome to Mariott Hotel Kerachi

Mr. Jan Verduyn General Manager Karachi Marriott Hotel, warmly welcomed the distinguished guests.

H.E. Jong Hwan Song, Ambassador, Republic of Korea, In the Islomic Republic of Pakdstan was warmly greeted by the General Manoger Karachi Marriott Hotel,Mr. Jan Verduyn


General Manoger Karachl Marriott Hotel, Mr. Jan Verduyn warmly welcomed Admiral Zaknullah, Chlef of Paklstan Novy who was here


Mr. Jon Verduyn, General Manager Karachi/Marriott Hotel warmly greets Mr. Pervalz Mushorof

H.E,Mr. Janan Masazai, Afyhan ambassador to Pakistan, visited Karachi Marriott Hotel along with the family. Mr. Jon Verduyn welcomed


Mr. Jan Verduyn Genral Manger Karachl Marriott Hotel Is seelng with the lady assoclates at the Junch organized at the Women 's Day
H.E. Mr. Rodolfo Martin J.Saravia, Dean of Diplomatic Corps \& Ambassador of Argentina Hosted a Reception To Welcome Their Excellencies New Ambassadors of Canada, Tunisia, Oman and to Bid Farewell to H.E. the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka and Madam at his residence in Islamabad
 nation witnesses Pakistan Day parade


By Bilal Zafar

Pakistan held its first Pakistan Day parade in seven years, a display of pageantry aimed at showing the country has the upper hand in the fight against the terrorists.
The annual Pakistan Day parade was last held in 2008 but after that it was abandoned due to security issues.
The event, presided over by President Mamnoon Hussain, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and army chief General Raheel Sharif, was held on a parade ground in leafy Islamabad.

President Mamnoon Hussain inspects a guard of honour alongside long-range ballistic missiles the Shaheen II during the Pakistan Day military parade.
President Hussain paid tribute to soldiers fighting militants in the restive northwest, calling them his sons and pledging to go to the front line to hug them.
"I also salute the innocent martyrs of the Army Public School Peshawar, who by sacrificing their lives made it clear to the enemy that this nation cannot be defeated," the president said.

Speaking about Pakistan-India relations, Hussain says the country wants to maintain friendly relations with its neighbor and resolve Kashmir issue
through dialogue. He also says Pakistan wants to build cordial ties with Afghanistan and maintain peace internationally.



With regards to Pakistan's sea growing by $50,000 \mathrm{sq} \mathrm{kms}$ recently, the president says that it is for the first time that the continental shelf limits of a country have been extended. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted that he had written to his counterpart Sharif to congratulate him.
President Mamnoon Hussain rides a horse-drawn carriage escorted by presidential guards as he arrives at the venue for the Pakistan Day military parade in Islamabad.
Both modern and more
traditional elements of Pakistan's military arsenal were on display, from nuclearcapable missiles and the new home-made armed Burraq drone to a camel-mounted musical band.
There were fly-pasts by the air force, including some dizzying aerobatic displays by JF-17 Thunder fighters, which are locally produced in cooperation with close ally China.

## Nuclear-capable Nasr and

 Shaheen missiles, which have a range of up to 1,500 kilometres ( 900 miles), and Babur cruise

missiles were also paraded.
Students from various schools, waving Pakistan flags, walk around the parade ground.
Dressed in traditional outfits, the children perform national songs specially written for this occasion. As the parade nears its end, troops fold the Pakistan flag and present it to President Mamnoon. The president meets commanders who led various contingents during the parade.

Members of all armed forces - army, air force and navy -dive from above in a free fall jump.

The jumpers make a smooth landing after flying fearlessly in a display of professional perfection. PAF's F-16 made an appearance, with its deafening thunder resonating in the parade ground. Ring Commander Usman


3. Narendra Modi (e)narendramodi Mar 23

It is my firm conviction that all outstanding issues can be resolved through bilateral dialogue in an atmosphere free from terror \& violence

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병
Narendra Modi gnarendramodi Mar 23
I have written to Pakistan PM Mr. Nawaz Sharif, conveying my greetings on the National Day of Pakistan.

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\text { of } 27.1 .3 \mathrm{~K} \text { to } 1.8 \mathrm{~K}
$$

Khalil flies the aircraft above the venue, putting up a magnificent display. Sher Dil squad put up a colourful show of aerial formations, leaved parade participants in awe.
Floats represented Pakistan's cultural diversity - with replicas of landmarks from Karachi to Khyber - take part in the Pakistan Day parade. Cohorts displayed strategic weapons, including land-to-land, cruise and nuclear warhead-capable missiles, marched past the parade ground.

Nuclear-capable Nasr and Shaheen missiles, which have a range of up to 1,500 kilometres, and Babur cruise missiles paraded. The contingents also displayed Unmanned Aerial Vehicle which are playing a crucial role in intelligence gathering during recent times. Cohorts of armed forces march past as PM Nawaz, President Mamnoon and Army chief witness the parade. The contingents include members of Army, Navy and Air Force personnel as well as Pakistan Police and Pakistan Rangers.




# President confers military \& civilian awards 

President Mamnoon Hussain has conferred 60 Military and 52 Civil Awards upon various personalities from different walks of life for their meritorious services in different fields on the occasion of Pakistan Day in a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The awards in military categories included

Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military) HI (M) (38), and Sitara-i-Basalat (Military) SBt (22).
The Awards in Civil categories included Hilal-i-Shujaat (1), Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Civil) (6), Sitara-i-Shujaat (3), Sitara-i-Imtiaz (12), President's Award of Pride of Performance (6), Sitara-i-Quaid-i-Azam (2), Tamgha-iShujaat (13) and Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (9). The

By Monitoring Desk
recipients of National Awards (Civil) also included 09 foreign nationals and Pakistanis living abroad.

The investiture ceremony was attended by Ministers, parliamentarians, diplomats, high civil and military officials, and people belonging to different walks of life.


President Mamnoon Hussain conferring Military Awards upon officers/personnels of the Armed Forces during Investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Pakistan Day


President Mamnoon Hussain conferring Civil Awards during Investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad


Ambassador of Pakistan to Iran, Noor Muhammad Jadmani hoisting the National Flag on the occasion of Pakistan National Day at Embassy of Pakistan in Tehran.

Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani, hoisting flag at the Chancery on the occasion of National Day of Pakistan at Washington DC



> The National Day of Pakistan is celebrated every year on the 23rd March to commemorate the most outstanding achievement of the Muslims of South Asia who passed the historic "Pakistan Resolution" on this day at Lahore in 1940 which culminated in creation of Pakistan after 7 years on August 14, 1947.

## Pakistan National Day celebrated in Dubai

Pakistan National Day was celebrated at the Consulate General of Pakistan, Dubai with national zeal and fervor. A large number of UAE based Pakistanis from all walks of life attended the ceremony. The ceremony began with recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an.
Consul General of Pakistan Javed Jalil Khattak hoisted the National Flag at the Consulate premises while the National Anthem was played. He read the messages of President of Pakistan and Prime Minister of Pakistan to the audience. In his address, Consul General recalled the great sacrifices rendered by our forefathers for
a separate homeland. Quaid-eAzam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the Founding Father of the Nation envisioned a country where Muslims could lead their lives according to their own values and traditions, while the non-Muslims would also be free to practice their own religion, he said.
Consul General stressed upon forging unity among the rank and file of the Pakistani community. He mentioned that the Pakistani nation had witnessed many challenges and measured up to each one with resilience and resolve. He extended his warmest felicitations to the Pakistani community residing in the


Emirates. He urged the Pakistani community to work tirelessly for the progress and development of UAE and Pakistan continue to abide by local norms under all circumstances.

Cake-cutting ceremony was held to commemorate the 75th National Day. The ceremony concluded with the resolve to make Pakistan a progressive, prosperous and peaceful country.

## National Day celebrated in the Embassy of Pakistan, Paris

Pakistan is the home of the most resilient people across the globe. They have proved time and again that they can not be deterred under any circumstances. Despite being in the grip of all kinds of terrorism, natural calamities from time to time and a huge load of internal and external refugees, its economy is growing, as indicated by international economic monitors. This was stated by the ambassador of Pakistan to France, Mr. Ghalib Iqbal while speaking at flag hoisting ceremony at the embassy of

Pakistan here, at 75th National Day.

The ambassador said that the people of Pakistan have given immense sacrifices for their peace and prosperity which has been continuously threatened by the enemies of Pakistan. He further said that the success of on-going operations against terrorism is vital for the development of the Nation. He emphasized that unity is the key to success against the forces of chaos. Addressing the members of community, he said that being ambassador of Pakistan
abroad, every Pakistani living in France has to present a real and positive picture of the country and its people. He asked them to display exemplary discipline and character, while in a foreign country.
The ceremony was attended by the members of Pakistani community and staff and officers of the embassy and their families. Children waving Pakistani flags in their hands, raising slogans of Pakistan Zindabad attended the ceremony in large numbers.


## Pakistan Day was ohserved in Tokyo

Pakistan Day was observed with usual enthuslasm and fervor at Embassy of Pakistan in Tokyo. Flag hoisting ceremony was performed by Ambassador Farukh Amil in the presence of Community members. Pakistan National anthem was played that was sung by the community altogether.

The Ambassador read out the messages of the President and the Prime Minister. Speaking on the occasion, he emphasized the need to transform the words into actions to achieve the highest goal of peace, tranquility, tolerance and development in Pakistan.

Later in the evening a reception was held at a local hotel. A large number of Japanese belonging to all walks of life including businessmen, diplomats, and educationists and leading members of Japanese civil society attended the reception. The Ambassador welcoming the guests said that
every 23rd March Pakistan Day is celebrated to commemorate the Lahore Resolution which is considered a major milestone in the vision and journey for Muslims to achieve an independent State. Seventy five years ago the democratic struggle for Pakistan started under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. With democracy firmly in the minds of our Founding Fathers, it is again at centre stage, he added.

He highlighted the PakistanJapan relations in their politico historical, socio-cultural and economic perspective. He said for decades Japanese businessmen have remained engaged in major productive businesses in Pakistan. The dominating presence of the Japanese automobile sector is perhaps the most visible but many others are involved in energy and construction. JICA continues to play a valuable

role in building critical infrastructure and JETRO is another key partner in its consistent efforts to promote trade and investment, he added. He also highlighted Pakistan's positive contributions to world peace through UNPKO and other international forums.

Seishiro Eto, President of Japan Pakistan Parliamentarian Friendship League, Member of the House of Representatives speaking on the occasion said Japan and Pakistan have enjoyed cordial relations. He reiterated that he would continue to make efforts to
further strengthen the bilateral relation and extend assistance to the people and government of Pakistan. He also acknowledged Pakistan's contribution to peace keeping operations.

Antonio Inoki, Member of the House of Councillors and good will Ambassador of Pakistan for sports extended his sincere felicitations to the people and government of Pakistan and said he would continue to make efforts to further deepen friendship between the two countries through sports diplomacy.

# Pakistan Embassy celebrated Pakistan Day in New Delhi 

To celebrate the Pakistan Day, an impressive flag hoisting ceremony was held in the Pakistan High Commission this morning.
Speaking on the occasion, High Commissioner Abdul Basit congratulated all Pakistan nationals in India on this auspicious occasion. He stated that the creation of Pakistan within seven years of the passage of the 1940 Lahore Resolution reflected the wisdom and tenacity of our founding fathers. Under the impeccable and sagacious leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the Muslims of the sub-continent realized their dream. It was now incumbent upon us to make Pakistan a truly welfare
state as envisioned by the Quaid-e-Azam.
Referring to Pakistan-India relations, the High Commissioner underlined the importance of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's vision of "Peace for development and development for peace." He said Pakistan was keen to settle all the issues with India, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, through dialogue. He added that peace was in the mutual interest of Pakistan and India and that it was now high time to normalize relations and usher in a new era of peace and stability, enabling the two countries to address the challenges facing our region and exploiting myriad of opportunities unleashed by

globalization.
Earlier, Deputy High
Commissioner Mansoor Ahmed Khan read out messages from the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan.
Students of the Pakistan High Commission School sang

Pakistan national songs and presented a tableau highlighting the struggle for the creation of Pakistan.
At the end of the ceremony,
Mrs. Summiya Basit, wife of the High Commissioner, distributed gifts among the students

# Pakistan Day celebrated in Hong Kong 

The Pakistan Day was celebrated with national fervor and enthusiasm here at the premises of the Pakistan Association of Hong Kong, in a simple but impressive ceremony attended by a large number of members of Pakistani community.
The function commenced with hoisting of the National Flag by the Consul General of Pakistan in Hong Kong, Ghufran Memon to the accompaniment of national anthem.
Maulana Fazl ur Rahman, Chairman Special Committee of the National Assembly on Kashmir Affairs and Senator Talha Mehmood, Chairman Senate's Committee on Interior and Narcotics Control attended the ceremony on a special invitation.

The messages of President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out by him on this auspicious occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Consul General highlighted the significance of Pakistan Day and said that like every year, today we pledge to put our hearts and souls together to make Pakistan a stronger and more stable nation on the pattern of a resolve made by our forefathers on this Day at Manto Park Lahore in 1940.
Mr. Memon said that there was a need to work harder and make collective efforts to transform Pakistan into a modern, progressive and tolerant society as envisaged by father of the nation Quaid e Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and his colleagues. He said that

role of Pakistani Diaspora abroad is very vital in this regard.
Maulana Fazl-ur-Rahman while addressing the community assured that their aspirations to make Pakistan a developed and democratic country would be respected and efforts would be made to turn challenges into
opportunities. He also prayed for the well being of the Pakistanis in Hong Kong.
The Consul General also congratulated the Pakistani community on Pakistan day. Special prayers were offered for the prosperity and well being of the homeland

## Pakistan Day celebrated at Pakistan Embassy in Kahul

Pakistan Day was celebrated in the Embassy of Pakistan, Kabul, with greater enthuslasm and national fervor to commemorate the passage of historical Lahore Resolution on 23rd March 1940 which played a vital role in determining the destination of the Muslims of SubContinent. The Pakistan Day ceremony started with national anthem and hoisting of Pakistan flag by Ambassador, Syed Abrar Hussain. The ceremony was attended by sizeable members of Pakistani community including educationists, engineers, doctors, senior executives and businessmen.
While addressing the participants of the ceremony, The Ambassador highlighted the historical significance of the Day and paid tributes to the founding fathers who had rendered immense sacrifices for achieving a separate homeland. He said that the Pakistan's Resolution of 23rd March 1940 laid the foundation stone of an independent country. The Ambassador also paid homage, in his address, to the Father of Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, whose relentless
struggle led to the creation of Pakistan on 14th August, 1947.
The Ambassador also spoke on Pak-Afghan ties and underscored the need for intensifying bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the areas of trade, economy, culture and defence. He said that Pakistan attached utmost significance to its ties with the brotherly country and would like to see a strong, stable, peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan. Talking of efforts to enhance trade with Afghanistan, the Ambassador said that Pakistan had removed several trade impediments so as to facilitate and encourage bilateral trade. He stated that Pakistan had executed various projects in health, education and infrastructure sectors in Afghanistan which would tremendously benefit the Afghan people. Syed Abrar Hussain said that Pakistan had planned to construct a motorway from Peshawar to Kabul and a feasibility study about the project would soon be commissioned. The motorway project will not only improve connectivity

between the two neighbours and Central Asian States but would also bring economic prosperity to Afghanistan.

## National Day of Pakistan celebrated in Turkey

Pakistan Embassy in Ankara commemorated "Pakistan National Day" at a ceremony here today. The Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey, Mr. Sohali Mahmood, unfurled the flag of Pakistan on the tune of National Anthem in presence of the Pakistani community, Pakistani students studying in Turkish Universities and Embassy officials. The messages of the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out on the occasion.

The President of Pakistan, Mr. Mamnoon Hussain, in his message stated that 23 rd of March marks the momentous occasion, when 75 years ago, great Muslim thinkers and political leaders of the Sub Continent came together to embark upon the journey for independence. As a result of great struggle led by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the state of Pakistan was created. He said Pakistan needs the same efforts and commitment from its citizens to unite and make Pakistan a much stronger country.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr.


Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, in his message said that Pakistan was created as a result of the firm commitment of the Quaid and wholehearted support of the Muslims of Sub Continent. The Prime Minister affirmed the resolve that Pakistanis will succeed in resolving the challenges faced today. He said we are committed to preserve and ensure freedom, equality and social justice as core values of our polity as desired by our enlightened forebears. He reiterated the commitment to ensure that Pakistanis are provided with every opportunity to live freely, seek education, gain employment and practice their faith without hindrance, fear and favour.
Ambassador Sohail Mahmood in his speech recalled the valiant struggle for Pakistan under the inspiring leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and said that 23 rd March was the day to reaffirm our determination to build Pakistan in accordance with the Quaid's vision. He said as a new Ambassador, his priority will be to make efforts in giving
strategic direction to our excellent relations with Turkey. Referring to the recent visit of the Turkish Prime Minister to Pakistan, It was reiterated to solidify trade and commercial ties between the two countries. He urged the members of Pakistani community and students to continue playing their active role in bringing Turkey and Pakistan further closer.

Students of Pakistan Embassy School (PEISG) in Ankara performed and sung national anthem and national songs.
Ambassador Sohail Mahmood will host Pakistan Day reception today evening where the Turkish leadership, parliamentarians, civil society, media and members of Pakistan community are invited to participate. Pakistan Food Festival shall also commence simultaneously at the venue of the national day reception. Two executive chefs invited specially from Pakistan's leading hotel chain will prepare food for guests. Pakistan Food Festival shall continue for one week.

## Flag-hoisting Ceremony held in Singapore

75th National Day of Pakistan was celebrated with due exuberance, national spirit and fervor at Embassy Residence here on Monday, 23rd March 2015.

A simple but impressive flag-hoisting ceremony was held at the Embassy Residence in the morning of 23rd March 2015. Members of Pakistani community and families of High Commission's staff attended the ceremony. National Day messages of the President and the Prime Minister were read out. Addressing the gathering, Tanveer Akhtar Khaskhell,

High Commissioner of Pakistan to Singapore, highlighted current business environment in the country and investment opportunities in Pakistan. The High Commissioner also expressed condolence on behalf of the government of Pakistan on the sad demise of the First Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew.
The High Commissioner announced postponement of Pakistan National Day reception due to national mourning in Singapore.


# Pakistan High Commission London celebrates Pakistan Day 

To celebrate the 75th National Day of Pakistan, a flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Pakistan High Commission London today. H.E. Syed lbne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK, hoisted the national flag and the National Anthem was played. The messages of the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan were also read out.

President Mamnoon Hussain and Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in their messages urged all citizens of Pakistan including overseas Pakistanis to renew their resolve to bring the country to the forefront of the comity of nations. They said that Pakistanis have irrevocably stood up to the challenge of terrorism and extremism and have resolved never to give in. Both the leaders paid fulsome tribute to the heroic struggle of the Muslims of the Sub-continent for achieving an independent homeland under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The President and the Prime Minister expressed their resolve to preserve the hard earned freedom at any cost. In this context, they expressed confidence that our valiant armed forces, supported by the
entire array of political opinion would surely eliminate the forces of darkness.

In his address, the High Commissioner said that Pakistan came into existence as a result of formidable struggle of the Muslims of the sub-continent under the epoch making leadership of Quaid-l-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He emphasized upon adhering to the principles of the Quaid-i-Azam: Unity, Faith and Discipline, to take Pakistan forward on the path of progress and prosperity.
The High Commissioner paid rich tribute to the sacrifices made by the people and the armed forces of Pakistan in fight against terrorism. He said that it was a matter of great satisfaction that the entire nation firmly stood together to fight the menace of terrorism and extremism. The High Commissioner hoped that the people of Pakistan would soon witness peace and prosperity returning to the country. He also commended the role of the diaspora in progress and development of Pakistan.
The High Commissioner, his spouse and other ladies cut the cake to celebrate the National Day. Ustad Roshan Hasan Khan presented popular national songs on this occasion. A large number of people


Syed Hine Abbax, Aukbtan Moh Commhaslaner to the LIX halting poldstom! floy to commenmonate Polditon Doy of Paderstas Hiph
representing the cross section of Pakistani community and media representatives attended the ceremony. Similar events were held at other four Consulates of Pakistan in Birmingham, Bradford, Manchester and Glasgow.

## Pakistan National Day celebrated in China

Pakistan Day was celebrated with traditional zeal and fervor here at the Embassy today, in an impressive ceremony commemorating the historic event in which a resolution was passed 75 years ago on 23 rd March 1940 at Lahore by the Muslim League that lead ultimately to the creation of Pakistan.

The Pakistan Day ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran followed by the national anthem. Ambassador Masood Khalid hoisted the national flag and read out messages of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan. Students from the Pakistan Embassy College in Beijing presented national songs on the occasion.
While addressing the participants, Ambassador Masood Khalid recounted the long and arduous struggle for Pakistan, and how the 23 rd March resolution became a milestone in that struggle. He recalled the efforts and sacrifices for Pakistan of the great leader and founding father of the Muslims of the sub-continent Quaid-e-

Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He said Quaid-e-Azam by dint of hard work and untiring efforts changed the course of history. He also spoke about how PakistanChina friendship gained strength over the years soon after independence and became a multi-dimensional, time-tested all-weather partnership. He told the participants that both countries were working hand in hand to pursue the common goals of economic development, well being of their people, and ensuring peace and security in the region. He urged the Pakistani community to make efforts to realize the dreams and scale the heights the founding fathers of the country had envisioned.

The ceremony was attended by participants from different walks of life including the Pakistani community, officials of the Embassy, their families and other distinguished guests. Similar flaghoisting ceremonies were also held at Pakistan's Consulates in Shanghai, Chengdu, Guangzhou and Hong Kong.


## Pakistan - Sri Lanka Friendship Firmly Standing on Pillars of Mutual Trust Respect: HE Sipra

The Acting High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Sri Lanka, Dr. Sarfraz Ahmed Khan Sipra said that the brotherly and time tested relationship between Pakistan and Sri Lanka are firmly standing on the pillars of mutual trust, respect and desire to promote friendship.

The Acting High Commissioner said this while delivering his message on the occasion of the National Day of Pakistan today. The day was marked by celebrations organized by the High Commission of Pakistan.
Dr. Sipra said that the Government of Pakistan is actively engaged with all neighboring countries in an effort to create a peaceful neighborhood and at the same time intensifying economic engagement with all friendly countries.

On Pakistan-Sri Lanka relations, he explained that both sides have intensified political engagement and undertaken substantive measures to further deepen and broaden the economic relationship including refining the Free Trade Agreement, expanding the portfolio of tradeable items and encouraging bilateral investment. This relationship is independent of any compulsions. High level visits, exchanges and multiple institutionalized mechanisms continuously provide renewed vigor to propel and expand the relationship to newer heights, he added.
He highlighted that the Government of Pakistan is engaged in Sri Lanka's social sector development. Some of the projects being sponsored include construction of schools, clean drinking water supply

projects, livelihood generation, setting up computer training centers, upgrading hospitals in rural areas and providing scholarships to needy children.
The High Commissioner also conveyed warm regards and best wishes from the government and people of Pakistan to the government and people of Sri Lanka.

The Acting High Commissioner also hoisted the national flag of

Pakistan during the ceremony attended by a large number of participants from various walks of life including members of the Sri Lanka Pakistan Friendship Association, Pakistan Sri Lanka Business Council, prominent Sri Lankan personalities and the Pakistani community based in Sri Lanka. Later, the messages of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out to the participants.

## Pakistan Day celebrated in Berlin

A flag hoisting ceremony to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the historic Pakistan Resolution was held at Pakistan Embassy here this morning. Ambassador Syed Hasan Javed hoisted the national flag with national anthem playing in the background in an impressive ceremony. It was attended by a large number of Pakistani community residing in Berlin and its surrounding cities, officials of the Embassy and their family members.

Ambassador, while congratulating the Pakistani community, urged them to be united and strive for earning a good name for their country. He said
that March 23 was not only a day of celebration but also an opportunity to reiterate our pledge to keep working hard for the attainment of the objectives contained in the Pakistan Resolution. He said that Pakistanis living in Germany should strengthen and harmonize their relations with the German people as it would further strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries. Earlier the Head of Chancery, Mr. Sajjad Haider Khan read out the messages from the President and the Prime Minister on this auspicious occasion.



## Interview with

# H.E. Mr. Muhammad Masud Khan, Honorary council General of Lithonia in Pakistan 

## By Mian Fazal Elahi

Mr. Masud Khan is an experienced diplomat and has been serving in the field for quite long time. The Diplomatic Focus finds the opportunity to bring about his life, education, work experience, his views and achievements got in the field.

Excellency, first of all I would like to say thanks for giving us time out of your very busy schedule.
Q. Your Excellencyl When were you appointed as honorary council general to Lithonia?

A: Thank you so much for coming and talking to us and talking to me as council general and talking about Lithonia. I was appointed in 1996. Six year after independence. So I am with them almost 19 years. I was appointed as honorary council and in 2003 was promoted to

general council. Since then I am running the responsibility in Pakistan.
Q. What was the background behind that? Are you doing the business with that country or just they selected you as a businessman in Pakistan or as politiclan, a social person or a clvil society person?
A: The background of my appointment is that I was living in Scandinavia and I was in aviation business and after their independence I was one of first person probably the Pakistani early in 1990s. in the world of development of their airlines as a their advisor to government of Lithonia for couple of years and one day foreign minister offer me to become their honorary council for Denmark and I sald No, if I have to become an Honorary council then I like to go back home to be honorary council in Pakistan. And this is how this whole process developed and then I moved to Pakistan from Denmark.
Q. Which year was that when you were working with Scandinavian?
Answer: It was early 1990s. From 1992 to 1996.
Q. After the separation from Soviet Union, Uithonia become a member of European Unlon and Schangan states. 1 need to know in very short period they get a lot of success.

A: I hope and I wish that you should visit Lithonia one day in near future. Lithonia is the first country to announce the Independence and it was actually when you came two days back. It was exactly on 11th March, 1990. And this small parliament of 130 people decided that we will go back to our independent Nation as were 1945. They stood in front or Soviet Union tanks and then President of Soviet Union at that time realized that we should have to accept their impendence. So as a matter of fact fourteen countries got independence after Lithonia. They followed Lithonia. All the central Asian got


> Lithonia's export is more than 50 billion dollars and their population is only 3 million people
independence after Lithonia. Lithonia was the first nation to announce the
independence in 1990 and it was very poor country. The average wage of their workers was $30 \$$ a month. Today the average is 2000 Euro. So you see how they have done this journey from 1992 to 2015.
Q. Give me a short brief on their economy and trade?
A: Actually you know I told some journalist and they were surprised that Lithonia's export is more than 50 billion dollars and their population is only 3 million people. This is double than what Pakistan is exporting. The reason for that is they are highly educated in Europe and they have highest number of scientist in the Europe. Lithonia's per capita has the highest number of graduates. They were brain of Soviet that is why they don't want to be lead by Soviet Union. Lithonia is very advance country in bio technology, laser technology and pharmaceutical. Apart from that they have also agro and forestry, life stalk, meet processing and milk

production.
We are member of NATO, European Union, and non-permanent member of Security Council. Now we are most educated nation of the Europe. I am telling you the facts of European Union economic forum.

## Q. What kind trade their government has with Pakistan?

A: While with Pakistan, we do not have really very big trade. But it is started now we have supplied IPP Meters to Pakistani different solar energy companies. We have thirty to forty pilots of PIA under training at Lithonia. We have about sixty to seventy students studying in Lithonia in medicine and other engineering faculties, but we have some trade in textile. Our trade is very small about 50 million $\$$ between the two countries. The reason is Logistics for time being is too far. But what I am trying to do is that we should try to get know of Lithonia. You have Higher Education Commission for exchange program of PHD and other education level. People are going for Marine Engineering because here in Pakistan you do not have such good Marine Engineering. Neighbor countries have developed almost forty Institutes with the help of Lithonia on Biotechnology. I believe that to export little cotton and textile and that is not important for a country like Lithonia. We should buy Knowledge. We should go for cooperation in scientific knowledge.
Q. What is opportunity for Pakistani businessmen? Which kind of business and trade they can establish in Lithonia and can export over there?

A: I think when you talk of export to Lithonia; you should forget about that they are only 3 million people. Whenever I went to businessmen, chambers and in federation, I said try to go and see what you jointly can do for Europe. You can establish Industry and joint venture with Europe and take the market of Europe not only Lithonia. This is what other Asian countries are doing now. Pakistan is very good at textile. I think the joint venture will be name of the game, their knowledge, and our knowledge couple together and take the market of whole Europe.
Q. what about the Education? Pakistan has a large number of students studying abroad. How many Pakistani students are studying at Uthonla and Ltthonla Government has any MOUs signed with Pakistani Government for exchange of students?

A: This is very good question. I think Lithonia is best place where students get maximum knowledge. When I went to Lithonia first time I was shocked that Lithuanians University was the oldest university of Europe 474 years old and they have all faculties. We went to cannas another street my wife was accompanying

me. She being a Dr. we counter a medical institute. Many students are studying at


Lithonia. Most of these students are from Gulf Countries, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, most of them were female. The Lithonia has very high standard of education. Now Lithonia is gradually growing on textile and its GDP is increasing day by day. The other European countries production rate is very low that is why people are moving towards other European country. A lot of countries have converted their medium of teaching in English. Pakistan is one of those countries; Pakistani parents are best parents in the world, who use to send their children abroad for education. Pakistani parents spend 4 billion dollars a year. Pakistani students are more concerned about education and they are going everywhere for study. This is really admirable that Pakistani parents are ready to sacrifice for the education for their kids. We are working with Higher Education Commission. We are talking to science Foundation, biotechnology foundation for signing MOUs on these sides. I like
students to go abroad for study for post graduate and PHD level. You will be amazed when you see that every 3rd employ of the Foreign Office of Lithonia is PHD.
Q. Does Pakistan and Lithonia have any MOUs regarding Tourlsm?
Answer: Lithonia is very attractive country for tourism. I can give you a lot of books to see. Lithonia is very far from Pakistan and we do not have any direct route to Lithonia and there is an advisory in European Countries that not to travel to Pakistan. There are a lot of reasons. But we are working on that. Both countries are interested to link with each other. Lithonia is very beautiful country. Pakistan is also very natural and beautiful country.
Q. I need to know in future, you have any plan to arrange any high level visit to Lithonia?

Answer: you are very bright and intelligent journalist. I tell you that it is consideration on two levels, one on high level and another on ministerial level and I myself is trying for business and journalist level. I hope in next six months we will have any visit.
Q. Are there any MOUs under Pipe line between the two countries?

Answer: we have three MOUs with government of Punjab Pakistan, already which is based on life stalk, forestry and meet processing.
Q. I need to know about the system of government in Llthonla.

Answer: It is a parliamentary system. The parliament called Siemen. There are 130 members in the house. There is only one house. The house elects the Prime Minister. President is directly elected by people and day to day administration is done by cabinet and ministers. But the overall power is with president because president is directly elected by public. There is a full democratic system in the country.
Q. Give me a short brief about your personal life.

Answer: I am basically engineer by profession. I worked for Pakistan Railway before left the country in 1970s. I lived many years in Scandinavia and I worked there as engineer and then started my own business in aviation. I had offices in Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway. Allhamdolillah with Allah's blessing I had the leading business at that time in aviation site at Lithonia. I helped Baltic countries in developing their airlines. One day foreign minister offered me to become their honorary council for Denmark and I said No, if I have to become an Honorary council then I like to go back home to be honorary council in Pakistan. I

also served as advisor to tourism ministry. I'm also vice chairman of Overseas Pakistanis Foundation. I also served as chairman of Pacific Asian Travel Association (PATA). I kept my link with

Lithonia is very advance country in bio technology, laser technology and pharmaceutical. Apart from that they have also agro and forestry, life stalk, meet processing and milk production

Pakistan very strongly when I was abroad and I was a regular visitor to Pakistan all that time.

## Q. When you get married?

Answer: We get married in 1979. And journey of life since 1979 is very happy. We have two very beautiful boys and two girls who are married now. We had very good time and we have very good understanding with each other.
Q. Is there any fighting between you and your husband? (Question to his wife)
A. No, no he is wonderful husband. I think I have never dreamed about. I have no complaint with him since our marriage. I bother to go abroad before marriage but after marriage like to abroad with my husband and after one year of our marriage we went abroad.

Thanks a lot both of you for giving me time and for such nice interview.

## Thanks

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Masud M. Mhan The Honorary Consul General of Republic of Lithuania hosted a reception To celehrate 25th Anniversary of Restoration of Lithuania's Independence at his residence in Islamahad. The reception was wellattended by a large number diplomats and Palistani community.



# Senate Election: Rabbani's unopposed election as Chairman Senate; great sign of political wisdom of PM Nawaz 

## By Sajid Takar

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader and senior parliamentarian Main Raza Rabbani has been elected as Chairman Senate unopposed which most of the analysts consider as a very good omen for the future of politics in Pakistan.

Although, the senate election were held in a very good atmosphere and the process completed in a smooth manner however, the story in the Khyber Pukhtunkhwa was different where not only unpleasant incidents took place where the parties in the provincial assembly and those in opposition leveled allegations against each other for rigging and some other mismanagement but also the process took more five hours than the usual to complete. And almost all the parties accepted the results despite of the rumors of horse trading in the election.

One thing which was also harshly criticized by every party in the opposition was the delay of the election on seats from FATA as result of the presidential order just on the night of the election.
However, the good things, after the election, started happening when Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, showing a great political vision, not only supported Raza Rabbani, the candidate for the seat of senate chairman, but also announced that his party will not put his candidate for the seat. And thus consensus candidate Mian Raza Rabbani has been elected unopposed as the Chairman of Senate. No other candidate filed nomination papers for the slot.
Mian Raza Rabbani who belongs to Pakistan People's Party was nominated unanimously by the government and the opposition for the office.

Mian Raza Rabbani has been in active politics since long and has served as the leader of the House in the Senate during PPP tenure. He also served as Federal Minister for Law. He was also chairman of the committee which drafted the 18th and 19th amendment in the constitution.

While Abdul Ghafur Haideri from Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazl) JUI-F elected as Deputy Chairman Senate. Four candidates i.e. Abdul Ghafoor Haideri of JUI-F, Shibli Faraz of PTI,

Jahanzeb Jamaldini of BNP (Mengal) and Nighat Mirza of Muttahida Qaumi Movement had filed their nomination papers for the election of Deputy Chairman Senate.
However, the three candidates except Shibli Faraz, the son of renowned poet Ahmed Faraz, withdrawn their nomination papers. Despite the continuous contacts and efforts of the Jamat-e-Islami Amir Sirajul Haq, Shibli did not withdraw his papers. The efforts, to elect Abdul Ghafur Haideri were aimed so that the election process should be completed in a more unanimous was as on the slot for the chairman. However, it was the constitutional right of the PTI to bring on their candidate. About ninety six senators voted out of which Shibli got only 16 votes while Haideri got 74 and thus elected as Deputy Chairman Senate.
Abdul Ghafur Haideri belongs to Baluchistan and a scholar and seasoned politicians.
After completion of the process, Senator Ishaq Dar, who was nominated by the President as presiding officer, administered the oath.

After taking the oath the newly elected members signed the Roll of Members.


Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri Deputy Chairman Senate


Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif receiving Mr. Raza Rabbani at a lunch hosted by him ot the PM House, IsIomabad.


Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif addressing leaders of political parties at the PM House, Islamabad.

Ishaq Dar congratulated the newly elected members and expressed the hope that they will play their due role during their tenure as Senators.

The newly elected Senators, while talking to media, vowed to work together for strengthening parliamentary and democratic norms in the country.

They said Pakistan is faced with multiple challenges and government and the opposition will have to work with cohesion to steer the country out of all challenges.

They said being Senators they will try to bring legislation for welfare of the people.

The PPP senators appreciated Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for endorsing their candidate, Mian Raza Rabbani for the slot of Chairman Senate. They said this gesture has raised the stature of the prime minister.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Nawaz Shairf felicitated Rabbani on unopposed election as Chairman Senate.

In his message, he said the PML ( N ) believed in the politics of dialogue and reconciliation. He expressed the confidence that the unopposed election of the chairman Senate will further strengthen democracy.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also approved the name of Raja Zafarul Haq for the leader of House in the Senate.

Zafar lqbal Jhagra has been appointed as Parliamentary Leader of PML ( N ) in the Upper House.
Speaking in the House after his election, Rabbani said he would perform the duties as chairman to the best of his abilities.

He pledged to maintain impartiality and come up to the expectations of Senators

The Senate Chairman also vowed to strengthen democracy, guard the sovereignty of Parliament and ensure supremacy of the Constitution.

Rabbani also thanked Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and PPP CoChairperson Asif Ali Zardari for reposing
confidence in him.
He pledged to maintain impartiality as Senate Chairman and try to come up to the expectations of Senators. All members would be given equal time irrespective of party affiliations.
Newly elected Senate Chairman also hoped that the new members would play their role in enhancing the prestige of Senate.

It is to mention here that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited Asif Ali Zardari at his residence in Islamabad before the senate election, taking him into confidence over Pakistan Muslim League- Nawaz's (PML-N) decision to support Raza Rabbani as a consensus candidate for the Senate chairman position.
Senior politicians from both sides attended the meeting. Former president Asif All Zardari thanked Prime Minister Nawaz


Prime Minister Muhammad Nowaz Sharif being greeted by former Presldent Mr. Astf All Zardarl upon arrival at the latter's resldence in Islamabod.

Sharif for supporting PPP's nominee for Senate Chairman.

Both the sides also came up with a formula to decide a consensus candidate for Senate's deputy chairman post. Talking to media personnel after the meeting, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senior leader, Rehman Malik said it was decided that the deputy chairman nominee will be chosen by the leadership in Balochistan.
The prime minister said that the ruling PML-N initiated the process of holding consultations with all political leaders to come to a consensus on national issues, which yielded positive results.

He mentioned that PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari held a meeting inn this regard for all parties to come to a consensus on a candidate for Senate chairmanship and said that his party too endorses Raza Rabbani, in order to further promote the culture of mutual consensus between political parties.

Nawaz Shairf also added that the government along with other parties made serious efforts to put an end to horse trading in the politics.

Meanwhile, leaders from across the country have hailed Prime Minister's decision to endorse Rabbani as Senate Chairman.

Leaders of public opinion say the entire nation has appreciated the wise move to endorse Raza Rabbani as Senate Chairman. Most of the politicians and analysts are of the view that the step of the prime minister to endorse Rabbani as Chairman Senate is a sagacious one.
Many are of the view that this consensus will strengthen the democracy in the country. Some of the analysts say that the historical decision of the Prime Minister Shows that our democracy has now became mature.

No doubt Raza Rabbani is a man of honor and great political history. He enjoys great honor even among his political rivals. And so the nation hopes that he will lead the house with full wisdom.


Senator Mian Raza Rabbani is a Pakistani nationalist-left-wing politician and a constitutional lawyer who has been elected as the Chairman of Senate of Pakistan. He is the second in the line of succession to the President of Pakistan.

He served as the chairman of the Senate standing committee on National Security and Constitutional reforms, between 2008 till 2013 and was responsible for the drafting of Amendment XVIII which turned Pakistan from a semipresidential to a parliamentary republic. He has been elected a senator for six times since 1993 from the Sindh Province. He was a close aide to Benazir Bhutto who had appointed him the party's deputy secretary general in 1997 and leader of the opposition in the Senate in 2005.

Prior to his work in constitutional politics, he is also a leading nationalist-left-wing figure and has extensively written on topics in socialism and left-wing ideas. His credential led to his nomination to the presidency by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP).

Raza Rabbani was born in Sargodha, Punjab Province of Pakistan on 23 July 1953. He is from a well known Arain Mian Family of Faisalabad. His family moved to Karachi where Rabbani attended the Habib Public School in Karachi, Sindh Province of Pakistan. After graduating from Habib Public School, Rabbani admitted at the Karachi University to study law and liberal arts in 1976. During his collegiate years, Rabbani was politically active, first playing pioneering role in establishing the National Organization of the Progressive


Students and later held the chairmanship of Peoples Students Federation (PSF). The PSF is a student union body directly linking to Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) founded in the 1970s to promote student politics in the country.
In 1988, Rabbani earned BA (Hons) in Economics and a LLB degree in civil law from the Karachi University.
His father, Group Captain (Rtd) Ata Rabbani served as the first ADC (aide de camp) to Pakistan's founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Rabbani was expelled from the Karachi University by the behest of military government of President General Zia-ul-Haq in 1981. He was imprisoned by the military government for raising the voice for the human rights and for his avid democratic activism. In 1988, he started his career as a law professional along with sustaining his political activism from the platform of Pakistan Peoples' Party.
Through the PSF activism, Rabbani became a member of the PPP in 1988 and elected on a PPP platform after contesting in general elections in 1988. Ultimately, he served as adviser on cooperative society affairs to Chief Minister of Sindh until 1990.

After earning degree in Law from the Karachi University, he started his political activism through the PPP platform in 1988; he rose to become a high-ranking member of the central committee of the PPP. After successfully contesting in

> Father's Name: Late Mian Ata Rabbani Date of Birth:
> 23rd July, 1953.
> Educational Qualifications:
> a) B.A.
> b) LLB. (Bachelor of Law). Profession:
> Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan. Political Affiliation: Pakistan People's Party (1968 till date)
> Current positions:
> a) Chairman Senate

general elections in 2008, he has also served as the chairman of the parliamentary committee on national security and constitutional reforms; his major constitutional contributions includes his work on the 18th amendment, of which he strongly lobbied for the amendment to be part of the constitution, and later helped reformed and reevaluate the foreign-domestic policies of the government.


In 1993, he again contested for the general elections held in 1993, and later proceeded his career in the Senate. He served as the chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Sports and Culture until 1994 when he was appointed Minister of Law and Justice by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. As Law minister, he played a crucial role in drafting the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution, which was aimed to reserved seats for women in the National and the provincial assemblies. Due to political pressure exerted by the conservative circles, the bill was withdrawn from the parliament. His tenure was abruptly ended when PPP's own elected President Farooq Leghari dismissed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in 1996 and called for new elections in 1997.

After the general elections in 1997, Rabbani joined the parliamentary opposition session led by Benazir Bhutto; ultimately becoming the deputy leader of the opposition. From 1996-99, he served as an important member of Senate Committee on Information and Mass-media Broadcasting and the Senate Committee on Foreign and Geostrategic Affairs. During this time, he campaigned and lobbied against the passing of the fourteenth and fifteenth amendment to the Constitution; eventually writing to President Rafiq Tarar to vetoed the bill.

In 2005-08, he led the opposition session as the leader of opposition in the Senate, and was earned public notice for his fierce opposition against President Pervez Musharraf. Often speaking at the country's news channels, Rabbani harshly
criticised the LFO, 2002, noting that "Musharraf's insistence that the LFO is a part of the Constitution was unconstitutional in itself. From 2008 until 2009, he led the PPP session as the leader of house in the Senate. For a shortly brief time in 2010, he has also served as Advisor to the Prime Minister on Inter-Provincial Coordination until resigning in 2011.

Despite his disagreements with PPP's leadership, Senator


Rabbani was named by the President to be the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on National Security and the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Reform in 2008.

His services and credentials led to his simultaneous appointment to the chairmanship of the Beginning of the Rights of Balochistan where he worked on presenting a package to redress the problems of the Balochistan Province to the joint sessions of the Parliament. Despite his recommendations, none of the provisions in the packages would be carried out by Prime

Musharraf. While calling for moral responsibility of nuclear weapons and security, he reportedly marked his words over this issue as the "propaganda against Pakistan" in the Western Media about terrorism and nuclear weapons, raises legitimate apprehensions in the minds of Pakistanis."

During the heights of the United States-Pakistan border confrontations, Rabbani declared to the media about the shift-changing policy of Pakistan as United States' ally and quoted: "We need to prioritize our own nationalsecurity interests. As far as the U.S. is concerned, the message
that has gone with this resolution will definitely ring alarm bells, vis-dे-vis their policy of bulldozing Pakistan."

In April 2011, Rabbani also heavily criticised US over their drone operation in NorthWestern Pakistan in the Parliament, commenting that United States is following a major violations of international law and human rights.

Rabbani extensively writes in support of socialism, communism, constitutional justice, and left-wing ideas. In 2003, he authored a book, "LFO: A Fraud on the Constitution", in a direct opposition to President Pervez Musharraf and a scheme of legitimising his rule.

In response to insurgency situation in the country, Rabbani reputedly declared that "Politico-religious parties and right-wing political groups are conniving with the establishment to damage and weaken left-wing parties." His statement came during the 2013 general elections, in which, left-wing parties were under immense pressure from the right-wing insurgent groups to limit their political campaigns. Rabbani later accused the international community for supporting the conservative parties in an opposition against the leftist parties. While accusing former president Prevez Musharraf for supporting the ultraconservative alliance to curbed the left-wing parties, Rabbani, with another Marxist Taj Haider, accused the West and the United States of supporting the right wing parties for their bid in the elections.

He is also the author of some remarkable books.


Man of impeccable reputation, incredible principles \& seasoned Pakistani Politician

## Positions Held:

a) Additional Secretary General, Pakistan People's Party.
b) Parliamentary Leader in the Senate of Pakistan - Pakistan Peoples Party.

## Decoration:

a) Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Highest Civil Award of Pakistan) awarded for Parliamentary services).

## Awards:

a) Bacha Khan Award for the Defence of Provincial Rights. (14-12-2011)
b) Human Rights Society of Pakistan, award for rendering valuable services for Human Rights for the year 2006.

## Parliamentary Services:

i) Senate Terms :
(i) 2012 to 2018;
(ii) 2006 to 2012;
(iii) 2003 to 2006;
(iv) 1997 to 1999;
(v) 1994 to 1997 and
(vi) 1993 to 1994.

## ii) Legislative drafting:

I. Chairman Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Reforms;
(a) Co-authored and piloted Bill of Eighteenth Constitutional Amendment.
(b) Co-authored and piloted Bill of the Nineteenth Constitutional Amendment.
(C) Co-authored and piloted Bill of the 20th Constitutional Amendment.
II. Drafted the Bill or Amendments to the following Bills in the Senate of Pakistan:
(a) Service Tribunals (Amendment)
(b) Bill, 2004. (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

## Proflie of Mr. Mian Raza Rathani Chairman Senate,

(n) Co-author of the Industrial Relations Bill, 2012.
(o) Move Bill for the repeal of the National Security Council Act 2001.
(p) Private member resolution passed by the Senate against General Musharaff.

## iii) Parliamentary Offices:

a) Elected Chairman Parliamentary Committee on National Security.
I) Co authored 63 recommendations to the Resolution passed on 22 nd October-2008 in a Joint Sitting of the Parliament.
ii) Co authored various other recommendations on National Security.
iii) Co authored new Terms of Engagements with the United States and NATO.
b) As Chairman Implementation Commission completed the process of devolution under the 18th Constitutional Amendment within the period of one year as provided in the Constitution.
c) Drafted Aghaze Haqooq-eBalochistan (a development, administrative, political and financial package for Balochistan) and laid it before the Joint Sitting of Parliament.
d) Co authored two Resolutions on National Security passed by the Joint Sittings of Parliament on 8th October, 2008 and 14th May, 2011.

## Cabinet Positions:

a) Federal Minister for InterProvincial Coordination and Human Rights (12th February, 2011 to 11th May, 2011 resigned from the Cabinet).
b) Advisor to the Prime Minister from 19-03-2010 to 11-02-2011.
(I) Resigned as Advisor on 11th February, 2011.
c) Federal Minister for InterProvincial Coordination, (3rd November 2008 to 13th March, 2009 - resigned from the Cabinet).
d) Federal Minister of State for Law and Justice (1994-96).
e) Advisor, Chief Minister of Sindh, for Co-operative (1988-90).

Parliamentary Committee(s):
a) Member, Senate Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.
b) Member, Senate Functional Committee on Human Rights.
c) Member, Senate Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges. Member, Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production. Member, Senate Standing Committee on Planning and Development.

## Offices Held:

Chairman, Parliamentary Committee on National Security.
b) Chairman, Implementation Commission on 18th Constitutional Amendment, (4th May, 2010 to 30th June, 2011).
Chairman, Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Reforms (29th June, 2009 to 31st March, 2010).
d) Chairman, PPP Parliamentary Committee on Balochistan (resigned from the Chair). Leader of the House, Senate of Pakistan, (30th March, 2008 to 13th March, 2009).
f) Leader of the Parliamentary Party PPP-Senate, (March, 2006 to 13th March, 2009).
Leader of the Opposition,
Senate of Pakistan (10th Jan.
2005 to 12th Mar. 2006 and 12th June 2006 to 23 rd March 2008)
Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Senate of Pakistan (1996-99)
Chairman, Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting (1996-99)
Member Senate Standing
Committee on Rules of Procedure \& Privileges (199699).

Member Senate Standing
Committee on Cabinet and
Establishment (1996-99).
Member Senate Standing
Committee on Law, Justice and
Parliamentary Affairs (1996-99).
Chairman, Senate Standing
Committee on Sports and
Culture (1993-94).
Member, Senate Standing Committee on Law \& Justice (1993-94).
Member. Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs (1993-94).
Acting Secretary General, Pakistan Peoples Party (20012003).

Chairman Cabinet Committee on Re-instatement of Sacked Employees.

## of Pakistan:

Joint candidate of the Pakistan Peoples Party, Awami National Party and Balochistan National Party for the office of President of Pakistan (30th July, 2013) The Alliance boycotted the elections.

## Positions in National / International Organizations:

a) Vice Chairman, Board of Governors, National Institute of Public Policy, Lahore (29-11-08 -3-11-09).
b) Member, Board of Directors, Forum of Federations, Toronto, Canada.
Member, Ethics Committee, Socialist International, London. Member, Executive Committee, Intra Parliamentary Union, Geneva.

## Publications:

a) Authored a book, "A Biography of Pakistani Federalism".
b) Authored a book, "LFO a fraud on the Constitution".
c) Contributor in the book, "Blind Justice".
d) Articles for various newspapers and periodicals.

## Guest Speaker:

a) National Defence College/University.
b) Pakistan Air Force War College.
c) Civil Services Academy, Lahore.
d) NIPA, Lahore \& Karachi.
e) National Management College.
f) Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.
g) Bar Associations.
h) International and national seminars.
I) Represented Pakistan as a delegate / speaker at the UN General Assembly, Inter Parliamentary Union and Common Wealth Parliamentary Union.
j) Attended workshops at Wilton Park, UK.

## Jail Terms and Police Brutality:

a) Jailed for over two and a half year in the struggle for the rule of law, restoration of democracy and Human Rights (1977-2001). Victim of violent police brutality in front of Parliament House (1998).

HI.E. Mre Bocloffo Martin d. Saravia, The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps \& Ambassador of Argentina hosted a bid farewell reception to H.E. the Ambassador of EU, Mr. Lars-Gunnar Wigemark and H.E. the Ambassador of DPR Korea, Mr. Ro Kyong Chol at his residence in Islamabad

Photo by Ramzan Mughal




Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif delivering a Speech at KSE Top 25 Companies Awards Ceremony in Karachi.


Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said that ongoing operation in Karachi was aimed at elimination of militias engaged in criminal activities.
"The ongoing operation against armed militias including criminals in Karachi is consequent to a consensus among all political parties equally committed to national interest," said the prime minister
while addressing the Karachi Stock Exchange's Top Companies Awards distribution ceremony.

Nawaz, reiterating that all political parties were on-board to flush out terrorists as well as criminal elements within the country, said the operation in Karachi was focused on restoring law and order situation."It does not hold any communal
or lingual connotation but is to get rid of criminals engaged in target killings, extortion, abduction for ransom and other heinous crimes," he said.

Prime Minister said the day was not very far when the criminals would be weeded out for good and sense of security would be restored among the masses and the writ of law would be re-established on

sound grounds.
He said peace was pre-requisite for development and investment adding that inability to ensure these in Karachi, the commercial hub of the country, would have a negative impact on all other parts of the country. "Hence we will continue with our efforts till criminal tendencies come to their logical end and the people feel secure," said the prime minister, mentioning that Sindh government was with the federal government in achieving this objective.
"We are working together and all concerned parties who have their stakes are also on board," stressed the PM.
He said PML-N government would achieve the goals set under its election manifesto was fully focused on regaining financial and economic stability for the country.
Nawaz said his government in its initial period attempted to address terrorism through dialogue and finally launched "Zarb- e-Azb".


> Operation will be taken to its logical end. Day is not very far when law and order will be restored and writ of law reestablished in Karachi: PM Nawaz Sharif
"We through war on terror have managed to achieve significant success in elimination of terrorism at the cost of precious lives as well as that of material loss worth millions of dollars," he said. This, he added had its impact on national as well as international level helping the country to regain its lost reputation.
He said PML(N) government was also committed to develop strong relations with its neighbouring countries including India. He said it was heartening that relations with Afghanistan have improved markedly.


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Prime Minbter Muhammod Nowar Shorif ghing an Award to Galth Pharaon ot KCSE Top 25 Companles Awords Ceremony In Karach!


## FPCCI Chairman urges govt to reduce duty to tackle smuggling issue

## By Bilal Zafar

Chairman FPCCI standing committee on anti-smuggling Nasir Hameed has said that the government must give relief to the small traders by reducing customs duty and tax rate in order to cultivate habit of paying tax among the traders.

He urged the government to reduce customs duty by 5 percent on the goods which were being smuggled in the local market to tackle the menace of smuggling.

H added that reduction in tax and duties will motivate the traders to pay their taxes and duties.
While suggesting fix tax scheme he asked the government to bring the traders into tax net and the traders should be allowed to pay a fix amount of tax so the FBR officials could be satisfied in this regard.

## Bureaucratic hurdles hehind decline in exports: FPCCI

Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) expressed concern over continuous declining trend in exports of the country particularly of textile products. President FPCCI Muhammad Adrees indicated it was not the failure of business but it was the failure
of administrative measures and bureaucratic hurdles in smooth functioning of economy. Textile sector of country is confronting with longstanding issue for last few years, which resulted in less exports of the textile sector despite Pakistan received Generalised System of Preferences plus status from European Union. He said
business community was endeavour to enhance country's exports by $\$ 1$ billion annually but various issues such as stuck up refunds, power and gas shortages faced by exported-oriented industries, including textiles, if not resolved would not increase exports. Exporting sector in general and textile sector in particular are badly facing

hardship because of their mounting refunds in Federal Board of Revenue. Those refunds have created severe liquidity problems and consequently they are forced to arrange working capital through expensive sources, which ultimately hurt competitiveness in international market and ability to export at right time.

## Punjab industrial expo in April

The Punjab Industrial Estates Development and Management Company (PIEDMC) is organizing 'Punjab Industrial Expo 2015' from April 3-5 at the Expo Centre, a press release said.

PIEDMC Chairman S M Tanveer said that following huge success of 2014 show, about 160 leading industries would be participating in this year's exhibition. Tanveer said the platform would exhibit the ability of Punjab's industrial system, and form a critical part of the provincial government's initiatives to grow the provincial industrial economy. Over 100,000 visitors including foreign delegates are expected to visit the expo per day.Staff Reporter

## FPCCI signs two MoUs

The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry ( FPCCI ) on Monday signed two memoranda of understanding (MoUs) for economic cooperation with Iraqi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Basra Chamber of Industry.

FPCCI Acting President Abdul Rahim Janoo signed the MoUs for promotion of bilateral trade and frequent exchange of trade delegation between the countries, during a visit of a 20 -member Iraqi business delegation.
The leader of the delegation Dr Abdul Hadi Al-Hatam said that exchange of information and business interaction could help enhance bilateral trade.
Iraqi Federation of Chamber of Commerce President Riaz Al-Gizri that his country was now diversifying its economy and the government has adopted a strategy of public-private partnership in every field.

## Britain sells another 1pc of Lloyds bank

LONDON: Britain has sold another 1.0 per cent in state-rescued Lloyds Banking Group for 500 million pounds ( $\$ 754 \mathrm{~m}$, 694 m euros), matching last month's sale, the government said Monday.
The Treasury announced in a statement that the sale has trimmed its stake from 24 pc to just under $\mathbf{2 3 p c}$, under plans to return LBG to private hands.-AFP
Sony sacks 1,000 employees in


## Sweden

STOCKHOLM: Japanese electronics giant Sony said Monday it would shed 1,000 jobs at its Swedish mobile unit as the division moves to drop over a quarter of its workforce.
The company, known for its Playstations and Xperia smartphones, will cut its total workforce in the southern town of Lund from 2,200 to 1,200 employees. Sony's mobile division plans to shed by March 2016 a total of 2,100 jobs - about 30 per cent of its workforce - to drag its results out of the red.

## Expo Pakistan to increase hilateral trade, eco activities

Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) described 9th Expo Pakistan 2015 very successful and predicted significant positive impact on bilateral trade and other economic activities. President FPCCI Muhammad Adrees and its members said Expo was
well managed at every level and congratulated Chief Executive Officer Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) S M Muneer for holding successful exhibition. They said 9th Expo Pakistan was best Expo of all trade events organised so far and it was the first time this Expo attracted 70 countries and more than 1,000 foreign delegates/buyers. They held a number of business-to-business meetings and sessions with the trade bodies including FPCCI. FPCCI has already declared this year as 'Year of Economic Revival of Pakistan' and 9th Expo Pakistan is initial step towards the economic revival of our country. This event will contribute in eliminating the negative perception of Pakistan being projected by foreign media. FPCCI leaders said entire business community was of the view the present government was sincerely making efforts for provision of a level-playing field for enhancement of trade and economic activities. It has taken the business community on board for economic revival of Pakistan.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Is inaugurating 9th Expo Paklstan-2015 by cutting a rlbbon at Expo Centre In Karachi

## Pakistan is an emering economic power: <br> By Mian Fazal Elahi <br> PM Nawaz

P
rime Minister Nawaz Sharif inaugurated the four-day 9th Expo Pakistan exhibition in Karachi.

PM Nawaz while addressing the delegates at the Expo, said that Pakistan is an emerging economic power and the Expo is a representation of the country's industrial tradition.

The PM said the fact that the Expo is being held in Karachi made it evident that the city holds great importance in the world of business. He went on to say that the Expo has successfully attracted the attention of several foreign investors and economic growth is the top priority of Pakistan. He added that foreign countries and international companies will be provided
facilitation for investments in the country. He also said that the Expo provides an excellent opportunity to showcase Pakistani products to the world.
The PM further said that Pakistani Basmati rice is known worldwide for its unique quality.

Regarding the textile industry, the PM said

"Expo Pakistan is the biggest trade fair in Pakistan, showcasing the largest collection of Pakistan's export merchandise and services.

Foreign exhibitors, from neighboring countries, also use this platform to launch their products. Annually, the four day Expo Pakistan has become the primary sourcing point for a large number of businesses worldwide, giving them a head start on the buying and ordering for coming seasons."
that Pakistan will boost exports to $\$ 26$ billion by 2019.
He added that the grant of Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) Plus status to Pakistan by the European Union (EU) was a huge achievement. PM Nawaz went on to say that a contract is in place for trade with South Africa.
He also said that preferential trade agreements with Iran and Indonesia have been finallsed.

Regarding the energy crisis in the country, the PM said that the government is making the utmost efforts to resolve the issues. He added that the problem of electricity would hopefully be solved within the next three years. He further said that speedy efforts were being made for the running of LNG and coal based power plants. The Expo 2015 has over 1000 delegates attending from 75 countries.
The four day mega event is showcasing the largest collection of export merchandise and services including textile, leather, agro food, readymade garments, jewellery, engineering, handicrafts, chemicals, surgical, sports goods, and pharmaceuticals.
The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) expects to get export orders of over $\$ 1$ billion from the Expo. Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif also attended.
PM Nawaz reached Karachi today on a one-day visit to review the implementation of decisions by the Apex Committee and to inaugurate the Expo.
According to sources, he is also likely to meet the family of late Justice Rana Bhagwandas to express his condolence.
The PM is expected to chair a high level meeting at Governor House with provincial ministers.


Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharlf, is dellvering a speech at Inauguration ceremony of 9th Expo Pakistan-2015 at Expo Centre In KarachI.


Prime Minister Muhammad Nawoz Sharif, is defivering a speech ot Inauguration ceremony of 9th Expo Pakiston-2015 at Expo Centre in Karachi


Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharlf, Is dellvering a speech at Inauguration ceremony of 9th Expo Paklstan-2015 at Expo Centre in Karachi


Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, is visiting stalls of 9th Expo Pakistan-2015 at Expo Centre In Karachl.


Chinese Ambassador Mr. Sun Weidong called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM House, Islamabad

# Chinese compäny to invest $\$ 10$ billion in Pak energy sector 



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in a meeting with a delegation of China Three Gorges Company led by Mr. Lu Chun at PM House, islamabad.

Pakistan and China have signed two memorandums of understanding for promotion of cooperation in water and power sector.

The documents were signed by Chairman of WAPDA Zafar Mehmoud and Chairman of Chinese Three Gorges Corporation Chun Lu in Islamabad.

According to the reports, Chinese company will invest $\$ 10$ billion in Pak energy sector.

Pakistan, China also inked two MoUs for cooperation in water, power sectors.

Both the countries will also enhance cooperation in education and training
fields.
Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and federal ministers were also present on the

occasion.
The first MOU relates to cooperation in construction of water reservoirs and hydel generation. Both the countries will also enhance cooperation in education and training in the respective field under the second MoU.

Chairman China Three Gorges Corporation along with a delegation called on Finance Minister Ishaq Dar in Islamabad.

The Chairman said that his Corporation wants to invest ten billion dollars in Pakistan, which will take up the investment to 100 billion dollars in the long run with focus on energy sector.
He said they have already undertaken investment in projects which would generate 3000 MW electricity and have plans for further such ventures in collaboration with the Pakistani side.

Meanwhile, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong called on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad and discussed bilateral relations and cooperation in diverse sectors.
By Monitoring Desk


Federal Minlster for Finance, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar addressing the Inaugural session of 3rd Pak-US Business Opportunitles Conference In Islamabad.


Pakistan will welcome US investment in Pakistan: Dar

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has said that economy of the country has been put back on the right track due to the far-reaching structural reforms, stabilization measures and initiatives of the past 21 months.
He was delivering key-note address at the Third Pakistan-US Business Opportunities Conference in Islamabad. It was attended, among others, by US Commerce Secretary Ms Penny Pritzker and businessmen from both countries to explore mutually beneficial economic opportunities for trade and investment.

Ishaq Dar said Pakistan has by now successfully completed six reviews under the 6.64 billion dollar Extended Fund Facility of IMF enabling it to access international capital markets as well as funding from multilateral donors.
The country has successfully reentered international capital markets after a gap of seven years by issuing Euro Bonds worth 2 billion dollars.

Pakistan after nine years issued Islamic paper, Sukuk, for one billion dollar.

The Finance Minister said Pakistan will welcome US investors and is prepared to facilitate their investments in the country.

The US Commerce Secretary said the friendship between Pakistan and the United States is strong. She said American businesses have a critical role to play as the US Administration seeks to deepen economic partnerships around the world and with Pakistan.
Pak-US Working Group also discussed ways to expand bilateral trade.

Pakistan side provided list of members for the proposed Joint Business Council.
A joint session of the Working Group of Pakistan-United States Trade and Investment Framework was held in Islamabad on Thursday.

Matters pertaining to the proposed Pak-US Joint Business Council were discussed in the session.

The participants reviewed exchange of trade delegations, easy market access and ways of increasing bilateral trade.

## By Commerce Desk



Federal Minister for Water and Power, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on call with Mr. Kazuyuki, NAKANE, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan today at Islamabad.

# Pakistan values relations with Japan: Khawaja Asif 

## Cooperation between the two countries particularly in the areas of energy, education, trade, investment, security and capacity building should be further increased: Khawaja Asif



Federal Minister for Water and Power, Khawaja Muhammad Aslf presenting Shleld to Mr. Kazuyuld NAKANE, Japanese Parllamentary Vice-Minlster for Foreign Affairs at Islamabad.

Federal Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said Pakistan values its bilateral relations with Japan and regards it as an important friend and development partner.

He was talking to a Japanese delegation headed by Kazuyuki NAKANE, Japanese Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs in Islamabad.

He said cooperation between the two countries particularly in the areas of energy, education, trade, investment, security and capacity building should be further increased.

During the meeting, the Japanese Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs acknowledged Pakistan's historic role in the world efforts to eliminate terrorism.

Difence Minister and Japanese Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs also discussed bilateral cooperation during the meeting. By Monitoring Desk

# Pakistan, Australia to cement economic cooperation 

Pakistan and Australia have agreed to have comprehensive economic engagement to further deepen relationship between the two countries.
The fifth round of Annual Bilateral Political Consultations was held in Australian Capital, Canberra.

The understanding came during 5th rouna of Annual Bilateral Political Consultations in Canberra. Both the countries vowed to further cement the economic cooperation.
Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry led Pakistan's side in talks while Australian

sıae was iea dy nis counterpart reter Varghese.
It was agreed in the meeting that through political engagement and exchange of high-level delegations relationship will further be strengthen between the two countries. By Monitoring Desk

## Uganda wants to enhance trade relations with Pakistan



Pakistan and Uganda enjoyed historic political relations, which should be transformed into growing trade and economic relations as bilateral trade between the two countries was far less than the available potential, observed Dr Asuman Kiyingi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and In-charge of Regional Cooperation of the Republic of Uganda while addressing business community at ICCI. The Minister was
accompanied by Dr Mohammad Ahmed Kissule, Ambassador of Uganda accredited to Pakistan, Dennis Tumukunde Personal Assistant to the Minister, Mawanika Brian Phenox Second Secretary Embassy of Uganda in Iran and K.K. Ahsan Wagan Director (Africa), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan.
He said Uganda was an agricultural country with 90 percent arable land and both countries could share experiences \&
expertise in irrigation, mechanized farming and value addition of agro products to achieve mutually beneficial results. He said Uganda offered best investment opportunities with easy access to big market of $\mathbf{2 0 0}$ million people of East African community and Pakistani investors should explore Uganda for investment and joint ventures in areas including energy, food processing,

enjoy excellent ties: Asif Durrani

The envoy said in defence we have exemplary relations with our contribution in building the UAE Armed Forces.

Durrani praised the UAE for its assistance and financial support
whenever there was a natural disaster in Pakistan.

He said under its UAE-Pakistan Assistance Program, the UAE contributed about 300 million dollars after the 2005 earthquake for building houses, hospitals and other infrastructures in the affected areas.
He said during 2010 and 2011 floods, the UAE assisted Pakistan through this aid program in housing, health and education sectors.

Similarly, the UAE initiated the polio vaccination program in Pakistan with a 100 million dollars aid.
By Monitoring Desk

Pakistan's Ambassador says UAE contributed about \$300 million after 2005 earthquake for building houses, hospitals.

# Lessons from Korea <br> H.E. Dr. Song Jong-hwan, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea 

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

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

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

Yeong-hoon, translator of the Korean Government's loan delegation to West Germany, on 10th April 2013, about how President Park got a $\$ 30$ million commercial loan in 1961 from West Germany. This loan was required very urgently for implementing the first Economic Development 5 Year Plan (196266).

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

President Park visited West Germany in December 1964. During his stay in West Germany, he visited the Ruhr mines along with Karl Heinrich Lübke, the president of Germany, and addressed the Korean miners and nurses. During his speech to these hard working Koreans, President



Park cried while he promised, "We must not pass this poverty to the next generation". This is a really good lesson for Pakistan too, If it wants to learn Korea's Economic Development.
President Park learnt many lessons during his visit to West Germany in 1964 which would change the history of Korea. Particularly, he understood that he should not rely only on foreign aid for the progress of his country. Secondly, he learnt how to make an economic development order for the economic stability in a country. His economic development order started with the construction of highways, followed by the making of automobiles, steel mills and oil refineries.
Today, thanks to the visionary leadership of President Park and the national unity, determination, dedication and sacrifices of the Korean people, the Republic of Korea has witnessed the miracle of the Han River. Since 2012, Korea's trade volume with the world has been more than $\$ 1.1$ trillion, and it is the 7th largest merchandise exporter and 9th largest merchandise importer in the world. Korea's GDP is over $\$ 1.3$ trillion, which is the 14th largest GDP in the world. Korean companies like Samsung, LG, Hyundai, Lotte and Daewoo are household names all over the world and Korea is a global power in industries like shipbuilding, semi-conductors, LCDs, communication technology, power generation, electronics and nuclear technology.
I wish to see the Miracie of the Indus River here in Pakistan as I witnessed and experienced the Miracles of the Rhine River in Germany and the Han River in Korea. And with that desire and hope, I have always made efforts to strengthen the relations between our two countries as an Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Pakistan.


## One of the higgest cultural events in the country

By Muqarab Hussain
> he National Horse and Cattle Show (NHCS) marks the start of spring season, which is a sign of happiness and prosperity for farmers, industrialists and general public, said President
> MamnoonHussain at the inauguration of the festivalwhich is being held after the pause of 11 years. The ceremony started with recitation of the Holy Quran and national anthem at Fortress Stadium, Lahore.
> Therevival of NHCS is a sign of development, which ultimately helps in curbing the menace of terrorism and extremism, adding that the Operation Zarb-e-Azb is going on successfully and would continue till elimination of the last terrorist.


The show started on 5th March and remained for its four days long festivities. The show featured at Tent-pegging, equestrian jumping, polo, dog races, tattoo show, an exhibition of industrial and agricultural products, special parade of Army band and Rangers, free parachute fall of SSG Commandos, swings, horse dancing, and a competition of milk-producing cattle will also be held". Several departments and organizations have been invited to field floats showcasing their expertise, skills, culture and various activities. An official involved in the preparations said that the show was an eloquent expression of Pakistan's heritage and provides an account of its rich agricultural tradition.
The country's biggest cultural event which was discontinued
popular events featuring the best breeds in the country and encouraging farmers to compete with each other and win prizes for the best animals. The first National Horse and Cattle Show was held in 1964 at the Fortress Stadium Lahore. The Show has since been held in 1979, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1993, 1994 and 1995.

THE Punjab government has released Rs420m for Horse \& Cattle Show being started in the provincial metropolis.
The main events of the show held at Fortress Stadium, while exhibition of various industries held at Jillani Park. The sports programs are organized at National Hockey Stadium and cultural programs at Al-Hamra Cultural Complex.Six committees have been constituted for the



since 2004 owing to security concerns is now organized with the association of Sports Board Punjab and feature many cultural and sports events. Over the last 40 years, the show had become one of the most

arrangements of the show.
The government has ordered the security agencies to ensure foolproof arrangements in order to hold the festival under peaceful and secure atmosphere.The Punjab
government had allocated R.S 50 million for the security of the Show.Lahore police have formulated a comprehensive security plan in coordination with Pakistan Army and Punjab Rangers for the National Horse and Cattle Show. Above 10,000 cops of Lahore Police, Special Branch, Counter Terrorism Department, Traffic Police, Pak Army and Garrison Security Force (GSF) have been deployed at three places (Fortress Stadium, Mlani Park and Qadhafi Stadium) of the Show for providing foolproof security cover to visitors. The security of Fortress Stadium has been divided into four zones red, yellow, blue and green.

Punjab Acting Governor Rana Muhammad Iqbal, Punjab Chief Minister's Adviser on Health Khawaja Salman Rafique, Punjab Rangers Director General Major General Khan Tahir Javed Khan, officials, students and a large number of people from different walks of life, attended the inaugural ceremony of the show.
H.E. Mr. Nedim Makarevic Ambassador Of Bosnia \& Herzeyovina hosted a reception to mark 23rd Independence day of his country in Islamabad. Federal Minister For Defence Production Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain, was the Chief Guest. The reception was well-attended hy a large number diplomats and Pakistani community.

H.E. Mr. Roumen Pirontchev, Amhassador of Repulblic of Bulgaria, hosted a grand reception Enclave to mark the national day of Bulgaria, at his embassy in Islamahad.
Federal Minister for Provincial Coordination Syed Riaz Hussin Pirrada was the chief guest. The reception was well-attended hy a large number diplomats and Pakistani community.

Photo by Ramzan Mughal

H.E. Hasmah Abas Acting Ambassador Brunei Darussalam hosted a reception to mark 31st National Day of Brunei Darussalam in Islamabad. Mr. Abdul Qadir Baloch, minister for states and frontier regions, was the chief guest. The reception was well-attended by a large number diplomats and Pakistani community.

Serena Hotels

H.E. Mr. Rodolfo J. Martin Saravia Dean of Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Argentina host Bid Farewell to H.E. Ambassador of Holy See Apostolic Nunciature, Archbishop Edgar Peña Parra at his residence in Islamabad

H.E. Mr. Adel Elarbi, Tunisian Ambassador to Pakistan hosted a reception to mark the 59th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Tunisia. Minister of InterProvincial Coordination Mr. Riaz Hussion Pirzada was the Chief Guest. The reception was largely attended by diplomats, senior officials and representatives of political parties.

Photo by Ramzan Mughal



## Nepalese Classical Band SUKARMA Performance

 With the collahoration of Nepal Emhassy \& Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA)H.E. Mr. Bharat Raj Paudel Nepalese ambassator to Pakistan, provited a hrief introduction ahout Nepal's cultural as well as aesthetic heritages. Large number of participants from Pakistani Civil Society, government officials as well as diplomats from other countries enjoyed the eve.

Photo by Ramzan Mughal



# Sonya Battla Launches 

## "MANORA"

in Islamahad

## The events organized by the volunteer committee of the SOS Village collahoration with the Serena Hotel in Islamahad



## K e <br> . he <br> A beautiful valley of Pakistan



The Kalasha Valleys are valleys in Chitral District in northern Pakistan. They are inhabited by the Kalash people, who have customs and language which are quite different from their neighbours, and historically have had a different religion. There are three main
valleys. The largest and most populous valley is Mumuret (Bumburet), reached by a road from Ayun in the Kunar Valley. Rumbur and Acholgah are side valleys north of Bumburet. The third valley, Biriu (Birir), is $s$ side valley of the Kunar Valley south of Bumburet.

## The climate

The temperature of Kalash is very pleasant in summer month but in winter the climate is harsh because the temperature come down from $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to negative. The maximum temperature of Kalash valley is between

$23^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $27^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and the mean minimum temperature is between $2^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $1^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. In winter the valleys are in grip of cold northerly wind and hazard. The extreme minimum temperature recorded in the valleys have been $-4.8^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $-15^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for the
month of January and February. These valleys get rainfall between 700 mm to 800 mm . From December to march occasionally even later, snowfall is quite frequent Kalash valley is $30 \%$ forest.

## Facts and Myths

About a century ago, the kafir kalasha, as they were known in what is present day Nuristan, Afghanistan, were forcibly converted to Islam from where some migrated to present Chitral, Pakistan to preserve their of life.

Population: some estimates put the population between 3500-4000 i.e. people who still identify themselves as Kalasha. Language: Kalasha: it has been an oral language and cited by UNESCO as endangered but its alphabet is being developed to preserve it.

Kupas: the colorful and elaborate headdress made of cowries shells and beads, worn by Kalasha women on special occasions.
Festivals: Joshi - celebrated in May to welcome spring and fairies
UCHAO (also spelt Utjao) celebration of harvest in autumn

Haumus- This is the most important festival which is celebrated to mark the winter solstice. It is during this period that male spirit Balumain passes through the valleys to take the prayers of the people with him.
Religious Shrine:
Justak-hans:
The Kalasha world is dived into two : Onjesta (pure Holy) and Pragata (Impure).

- $\quad$ The elders of Kalasha serve a communal library, history, myths and traditions are passed down from them through oration.
- Gods, fairies and demons have a great impact on their lives and are ever-present.
- Kalasha take great care of their resources, illegal logging is a big concern for them.
- Their diet is made up largely of Wheat, beans, vegetables, goats, cheese, walnuts , apricots, apples, mulberry and grapes from which they also make their wine. Meat is mostly at feast and after sacrifices.
- Purification rites are very importa in the kalasha culture. There are initiation rites for bouys.
- Dehar, or prayer reciter or shaman is the link between the people and the spirits.
- According to some kalasha they are originally from a place called Tusiam.
- The Kalasha were self-sufficient but with the introduction of some money-based economy things are changed.
- Women who are mensurating or giving birth are moved to a special house called the Bashaleni.
- Birth and death are both celebrated in the kalasha culture.


## Serena Polo Cup 2015

Serena Polo Cup 2015 organized by Serena Hotels in collaboration with Sports Diplomacy Initiative at the Islamabad Club Polo Ground. Dean of Diplomatic Corps H.E. Mr. Rodolfo Martin Saravia, CEO Serena Hotel Aziz Boolani and Ambassador of Cuba H.E. Mr. Zenen Burego along with other diplomatic missions witnessed the event.



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