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Happy 90th birthday**



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27 **UK lauded Pakistan's role in seeking peace and stability in Afghanistan**

Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs held meetings with Sir Mark Lyall-Grant, British National Security Adviser (NSA) and Sir Ciaran Devane, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), British Council as part of the review of Enhanced Strategic Dialogue (ESD), between Pakistan and the UK.

36 **Pakistan today a confident nation with meaningful growth and development: Syed Ibne Abbas**

Pakistan High Commission London organized a reception at Marriott hotel in London, on 23 March 2016, to celebrate 76th Pakistan Day. Mr. Tobias Ellwood Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), was the Chief Guest at the ceremony.

44 **UK, US and EU sign landmark deal to turn nuclear material into cancer-fighting treatment**

Britain is set to agree a landmark deal with the United States and European Union on a multilateral swap of nuclear material that could ensure a continued supply into the UK of rare materials to diagnose and treat cancer.



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Mian Fazal Elahi

There has never been, and there may never be again, a British monarch quite like Queen Elizabeth II, who celebrates her 90th birthday. She owes most of her uniqueness to a single cause: her longevity on the throne. This queen has now ruled for longer than any of her predecessors. The queen is now older than any previous monarch and has been married longer. What is more, as she reaches her tenth decade, the queen also looks good for several more milestones yet. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is the only monarch most of us have ever known. From late 1936, when King George VI ascended to the Throne, Elizabeth's life changed utterly and became a preparation for an adulthood spent in the service of the nation. By dint of Her Majesty's great age she is the only head of state most of her subjects will have known. Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, who is five years older, have been married for 68 years. In 2012 Her Majesty the Queen paid tribute to her husband during her Diamond Jubilee celebrations calling him her "constant strength and guide". Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II is titled the Defender of the Faith in the UK and is committed to her religion. She has written a foreword to the book "The Servant Queen and the King She Serves" which has been published to celebrate her 90th birthday. She wrote: "I have been and remain very grateful to you for your prayers and to God for his steadfast love. I have indeed seen his faithfulness." The Queen is patron of more than 600 charities and organizations, including Great Ormond Street Hospital, Cancer Research UK and the RSPCA. Research from the Charities Aid Foundation in 2012 found that she had helped them raise £1.4bn.

Happy 90th Birthday to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and best wishes for her good health.

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Important Announcement



It has been announced for the general information that Mr. Mian Assadullah has been appointed as Editor in Chief of the Monthly "Diplomatic Focus" for the UK/EU Edition. He is entitled to participate official /non-officials diplomatic engagements, events, national days, social evenings/gatherings, press conferences/interviews and can be contacted for all kinds of stuff including articles, supplements and advertisements etc). It is requested to all Diplomatic missions and government high officials of UK, please contact with Mr. Mian Assad Ullah on His mailing address, Justin Plaza 3, 341 London Road, Mitcham, Surrey-CR4 4BE Phone : +44-7961005954, +442087698839, Fax: +442087698839, Email: uk.diplomaticfocus@gmail.com, assadmian1@gmail.com

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Queen Elizabeth-II
Happy 90th birthday



By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Web Desk

Elizabeth II (Elizabeth Alexandra Mary; born 21 April 1926) is, and has been since her accession in 1952, Queen of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, and Head of the Commonwealth. She is also Queen of 12 countries that have become independent since her accession: Jamaica, Barbados, the Bahamas, Grenada, Papua New Guinea, Islands, Tuvalu, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Belize, Antigua and Barbuda, and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Elizabeth was born in London to the Duke and Duchess of York, later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, and was the elder of their two daughters. She was educated privately at home. Her father acceded to the throne on the abdication of his brother Edward VIII in 1936, from which time she was the heir presumptive. She began to undertake public duties during World War II, serving in the Auxiliary Territorial Service. In 1947,

she married Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, with whom she has four children: Charles, Anne, Andrew, and Edward.

Elizabeth's many historic visits and meetings include a state visit to the Republic of Ireland and reciprocal visits to and from the Pope. She has seen major constitutional changes, such as devolution in the United Kingdom, Canadian partition, and the decolonization of Africa. She has also reigned through various wars and conflicts involving many of her realms. She is the world's oldest reigning monarch as well as Britain's longest-lived. In 2015, she surpassed the reign of her great-great-grandmother, Queen Victoria, to become the longest-reigning British monarch and the longest-reigning queen regnant in world history.

Times of personal significance have included the births and marriages of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, her coronation in 1953, and the celebration of milestones such as her Silver, Golden and Diamond Jubilees in 1977, 2002, and 2012, respectively. Moments of sadness for her include the death of her father, aged 56; the assassination of Prince Philip's uncle, Lord Mountbatten; the breakdown of her children's marriages in 1992; the death in 1997 of her son's former wife, Diana, Princess of Wales; and the deaths of her mother and sister in 2002.





“It is a job for life,” Elizabeth-II

Elizabeth-II to become Britain’s longest-reigning monarch in 2016

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Mian Assadullah

Queen Elizabeth, who rallied support for the monarchy despite presiding over what was once known as the world’s most famous dysfunctional family, became Britain’s longest-reigning monarch.

“It is a job for life,” the 90-year-old Elizabeth once said, and unlike some European monarchs recently, and even a pope, she is not expected to abdicate.

While the world and British society have changed dramatically during her reign, the queen has always appeared dependable and reassuring. Despite traumas in the 1990s, such as the death of Princess Diana that seemed to



threaten the monarchy's very existence, the queen has been able to lead the thousand-year-old institution into a new era of popularity.

"The key to the change has been anticipating what's coming next," Simon Lewis, her former communications secretary, said. "The lesson of these last 20, 30 years has been for the institution always to be slightly ahead perhaps of where the British people are."

Britain itself has become a more egalitarian society as old class divides were broken down and deference based on background ebbed away, something reflected in the monarchy itself.

"It's become much less elitist," said royal biographer Robert Lacey. "The monarchy has continued the process of disassociating itself from the social pyramid headed by an aristocracy and attempting to make itself classless."

At the start of her reign she was a glamorous figure who seemed to typify Britain's post-war resurgence, but by the 40th anniversary of her accession the royal family appeared to have become little more than celebrity fodder for the tabloids.

While her marriage to Philip, a Greek prince, has stayed solid, she described 1992 as an "annus horribilis" when three of her four children's relationships broke up, with scandalous details exhaustively reported in the papers.

Diana's death in a Paris car crash in 1997 was undoubtedly the darkest moment of her long reign, with the queen forced to return from Scotland to address the nation amid a general outpouring of grief and dismay.

"For about a week it seemed as though the institution had been rocked to its foundation," said Lewis. With a more professional and sophisticated media operation, the royal



family's reputation has been restored from the dark days of the 1990s and even taken to new heights. "The fortunes of the monarchy have gone through peaks and troughs; she hasn't really changed but the public reaction to her



has," said Professor Philip Murphy, a historian and author of "Monarchy and the End of Empire".

Elizabeth only became queen due to a quirk of history after her uncle Edward VIII abdicated because of his love for American divorcee Wallis Simpson and the crown passed to her father George VI when she was 10 years old.

She was just 25 when she became Queen Elizabeth II on Feb 6, 1952 on the death of her father. "In a way I didn't have an apprenticeship. My father died much too young and so it was all a very sudden kind of taking on and making the best job you can," she said 40 years later.

She was crowned queen of Britain and other realms, including Australia and Canada, on June 2, 1953, in a televised ceremony in Westminster Abbey. She became the 40th monarch in a royal line that goes back to William the Conqueror, who took the throne in 1066 after winning the Battle of Hastings.

As monarch, she has seen 12 prime ministers, beginning with Winston Churchill, and bade farewell to the British Empire amassed by her forebears from Kenya to Hong Kong. Although she is the world's oldest living monarch, Elizabeth is only the second-longest currently reigning, behind Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who is almost six years ahead of her.





By Raheel Iqbal

One Queen, 2 Birthdays...

The queen celebrates two birthdays each year: her actual birthday on April 21 and her official birthday on a Saturday in June, according to Buckingham Palace.

The Queen usually spends her actual birthday in private, but the occasion is marked publicly by gun salutes in central London at midday.

The queen's actual birthday is on April 21 -- when the British monarch this year turned 90. But in line with tradition, her birthday is also celebrated on a summer when the weather is likely to be better for the parade, known as Trooping the Colour.

The queen joined by her husband, Prince Philip, and other members of the royal family for the ceremony in central London, led this year by the Welsh Guards.

After the parade, the queen joined other members of the royal family on the balcony of Buckingham Palace for a fly past by the Royal Air Force.

The queen's first Trooping the Colour was in 1953, shortly after her coronation.

The queen also makes use of her official birthday to award honors to members of the public for their service to the nation.





Barack Obama arrives in Windsor for a private lunch with The Queen & Prince Philip



By Monitoring Desk

The US President and wife Michelle are dining at Windsor Castle on the day after the monarch celebrated her 90th birthday.

Mr. Obama touched down in the grounds of the monarch's Berkshire home in the Marine

One presidential helicopter, landing on the golf course.

The pair, who have a warm relationship with the Queen, are joining the sovereign and the Duke of Edinburgh for lunch in the castle's private dining room.

They were greeted by the monarch, who was dressed in a headscarf, and Philip, before

shaking hands with the royal couple.

The 94-year-old Duke took on the responsibility of driving the Obamas the short distance to the castle himself.

He got behind the wheel of the Queen's Range Rover while Mr. Obama took his place in the passenger seat.

Mrs. Obama joined the Queen in the back seats.

As they set off they were followed by the president's 11 car motorcade for the brief journey.

This evening, the Obamas are due to have dinner at Kensington Palace with Prince Harry and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

The US leader and his wife have developed a close bond with the Queen and her family, with the First Lady and the monarch striking up a firm friendship during the president's 2011 state visit to the UK.



Obama urges UK to stay in EU



By: M.Saeed Yousafzai, Mian Asadullah

President Obama bluntly urged Britain to vote to remain inside the European Union in a referendum scheduled for June 23, and warned that a Britain outside the bloc could not count on maintaining its current economic relationship with the United States. Taking an unusually direct position on another country's internal politics, Mr. Obama asserted that Britain's membership in the bloc did not limit British influence but "magnifies it."

Speaking alongside Prime Minister David Cameron at a news conference, he also directly addressed the potential consequences of a vote by Britain to leave. The president said that to do so would send Britain to the "back of the queue" for a trade deal with the United States, challenging those who have argued that Britain could quickly replicate the same favorable terms it enjoys as a European Union member.

Mr. Cameron is leading the campaign to remain part of Europe, but the issue has deeply divided his Conservative Party and polls suggest that the outcome could be close, making the forcefulness of Mr. Obama's statements especially striking.

The prime minister praised Mr. Obama for his friendship and "sage advice," and said that Britain was made stronger through its continued membership in the European Union and that "the stronger we are, the stronger that special relationship" with the United States will be. Mr. Cameron noted that "it was hard to find any country that wishes Britain well that wants us to leave the E.U.," and that Britons should listen to their friends and then vote as they choose.

Strong historical, emotional, cultural and

security ties with Britain would continue no matter the vote, Mr. Obama said. But the United States, he said, was convinced that Britain made a shaky Europe stronger and more stable by its membership and that the bloc "enhances" Britain's "influence and power and economy."

He argued that the United States accepted



constraints on its sovereignty, too, in multilateral institutions like NATO, the United Nations Security Council, the Group of 7 and

Group of 20, and did so for the common good, which also was in America's interests.

Mr. Cameron clearly favored a strong message from the American president, whose position is shared by the leaders of Britain's main European allies, France and Germany.

Britain and France are the two strongest military powers in Europe, and Britain is the second-largest economy in the European Union and fifth largest in the world.

The economic risks of Britain's exit from the union are important to British voters, but so are immigration and the inability of Britain to limit the number of European Union citizens who want to live and work here. While studies show that the immigrants contribute considerably more to the British budget in taxes than they receive in benefits, there are worries that the immigrants are taking jobs away from Britons.

These arguments are likely to be more important than those about Britain's standing in the world or the country's relationship with the United States.





British Secretary of State for Defense Michael Fallon met the Crown prince to enhance bilateral ties

By Raheel Iqbal

Ways and means of combating terror and extremism were discussed between senior Saudi and British officials in Riyadh during the brief visit of British Secretary of State for Defense Michael Fallon.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Naif held talks with the visiting British aide and the members of his delegation on a wide range of subjects to improve bilateral relations and security in the region.

During the meeting, the crown prince and Fallon discussed ways in which Saudi Arabia and Britain could enhance ties between the two countries, including the fight against terrorism both in word and deed. The meeting also dealt with a number of developments witnessed by the region.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister of Interior Abdul Rahman bin Ali Al-Ribai, Director General of General Investigations Gen. Abdul Aziz bin Mohammed Al-Huwaireeni and Chief of General Intelligence Khaled bin Ali Al-Humaidan. Fallon also met Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at Al-Yamamah Palace here on Monday for detailed talks on defense matters.

During the meeting, they discussed areas of cooperation between the two countries,

especially in the field of defense, in addition to reviewing the latest developments of regional and international situations and efforts exerted toward them, including the fight against terrorism and extremism.

During his one-day visit to Riyadh, the British official found time to tour the ancient capital of Dirriyah which is a town located on the northwest outskirts of the Saudi capital.

There are currently three men in Saudi Arabia who have been sentenced to death for crimes they are alleged to have committed before they became adults. They are Dawoud al Marhoon, Ali al Nimr and Abdullah al Zaher – all of them were found guilty of alleged crimes relating to protests calling for reform in Saudi.

Following a report in the Independent about these three cases, the MOD put out a statement saying they have the “expectation” that the three men won’t be executed.

The Defence Secretary visited Saudi Arabia to discuss a range of regional issues. The UK is opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances and we make our views well known to Saudi Arabia. We have raised these particular cases at the highest levels and will continue to do so. Our expectation remains that the three individuals will not be executed.



Duke & Duchess of Cambridge visits Himalayan countries of India & Bhutan

From meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in capital city New Delhi and attending a reception with Indian film actors in Mumbai, to a forest safari in Assam, 10,000ft mountain hike to visit Bhutan monastery the couple had a packed schedule for the seven-day trip.

By Saba Sarfraz

Prince William and Kate, the duke and duchess of Cambridge, are on their first official trip to South Asian Himalayan countries, Bhutan and India.

On the first day of their trip, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge held an informal lunch meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi's Hyderabad House, a former royal residence of Maharajas. They discussed the British steel crisis during meeting with the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his officials and business and cultural leaders in Delhi.

Royal Couple discussed British steel crisis with PM Narendra Modi.



It comes after Indian firm Tata's decision to pull out of Britain and left the industry on the brink of collapse with the loss of 40,000 jobs. The pressure facing by steel manufacturers in the UK and India was discussed in details.

After that, the duke and duchess visited a slum in Mumbai and played a game of football with the children there. Later at Mumbai's Oval Maidan, the Royal Couple met with the underprivileged kids, budding cricketers and spent some time playing the unofficial national sport of the country. Catherine Duchess of Cambridge, a high-school hockey player in her time, showed off her batting skills to Master Blaster Sachin Tendulkar, and Indian cricket veteran Dilip Vengsarkar.

One of the most talked-about events during the trip of Prince William and his wife the Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton was a Bollywood stars studded gala dinner in Mumbai, which raised funds for children's charities in India. All eyes were on the royal couple as they walked the red carpet at the Taj Palace Hotel, where they were staying.

The royals had a chance to mix with some well-known names from Bollywood including actresses Aishwarya Rai and Parineeti Chopra, actors Shah Rukh Khan and Rishi Kapoor, as well as figures from Mumbai's thriving business world.

Kate and William, who have never visited India before, looked particularly charmed by Shah Rukh Khan, who is hailed as the 'King of Bollywood' or 'King Khan' among his fans. The trio was pictured chatting and sharing a few jokes before they sat down for a thali-style supper. During the evening William and Kate were treated to some very colourful dance and musical performances.

The event celebrated Mumbai's film and creative industries and was hosted by The British High Commission in partnership with The British Asian Trust, of which Prince Charles is founder and President.

After a night of traditional music and dance, The Duke and the Duchess of Cambridge, headed out in a jeep morning into the wilds of remote northeast India for a wildlife safari to see rhinos, elephants and more.

Prince William and his wife spent several hours at the Kaziranga National Park in hopes of drawing attention to the plight of endangered animals, including the park's 2,200 population of a rare, one-horned rhinos.

The royal couple was joined by a park official acting as a guide on a tour across dirt tracks, tall grasslands and thick evergreen forest. William and Kate had arrived evening at the 12-cottage jungle resort where they stayed, and were entertained by a presentation of traditional Bihu dance.

While visiting India, The Queen's 90th birthday was celebrated by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge at the British High Commissioner's



residence in Delhi. The Duke paid a personal tribute to his grandmother in a speech. The reception saw over 1,500 guests from Delhi's business, political and diplomatic sectors gather to toast The Queen as she celebrates this important landmark birthday.

During their visit, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge also launched Start-Up Awards in Mumbai. The awards aim to identify and support some of India's best and brightest start-ups.

Their Royal Highnesses (TRH) the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge launched the Tech Rocketship Awards 2016-17 for Collaboration event for young entrepreneurs.

Now in its third year, the Tech Rocketship Awards, an initiative by UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) in India provides top Indian start-ups with expert business advice and support from leading professional services companies in the UK.

Kate and William also visited Salaam Baalak Trust. The Trust has a focus on mental health and supports the individual needs of street children. The Duke and Duchess first visited the Trust's Contact Centre near New Delhi Railway Station, where they heard that up to 1200-1500 children arrive into the capital on trains each year and often travelling alone, to escape a range of personal circumstances. As

a frontline partner of Childline, Their Royal Highnesses (TRH) were briefed by the Trust's outreach workers on how they respond to calls for urgent care, and try to identify vulnerable young children as soon as they arrive in the city, to encourage them to get support as early as possible. Young people's mental health is also a major focus of TRH charitable work.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge met with a group of Indian women's rights advocates to hear about a range of issues affecting women and girls in the country. The meeting was convened at the personal request of The Duke who wanted an opportunity to hear directly from women working to support other women and girls. Their Royal Highnesses met acid attack survivor Laxmi Agarwal and heard about her inspirational campaign 'Stop Acid Attacks'.

The Duke and Duchess also met with Sunita Jaiswal, a survivor of domestic abuse, who told The Duke and Duchess that the confidence she gained through training of the Azad Foundation allowed her remaining fear 'to flow out of her' and she now faces the future with optimism. She and The Duchess discussed the importance of mothers helping their daughters to develop strategies to become independent women.

The royal couple went to Agra for visiting the Taj Mahal, a tomb built by Mughal king Shah Jehan for his beautiful wife Mumtaz begum



and included in World Heritage Site. This is the moment Kate Middleton and Prince William followed in the footsteps of Princess Diana in posing for photos outside the Taj Mahal. Diana made the same journey herself 24 years ago.

Diana, the Duke's mother, was famously pictured sitting alone in front of the monument

In the second leg of their visit, young British Royal Couple, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge received by Their Majesties the King and the queen Gyaltsuen on their first visit to Bhutan. They were received at Paro airport by Her Royal Highness Princess Chimi Yangzom Wangchuck.

Their Royal Highnesses were welcomed to Tashichhodzong with a traditional Chipdrel ceremonial procession where a large number of people were also present with His Majesty the King. Their Royal Highnesses then visited Changlimithang where they were met by HRH Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck.

Their Royal Highnesses even took part in a game of archery using traditional bows and a game of khuru. In Khuru, players throw large darts at a target about 10 meters away. Neither managed to score a hit, but they made light of their poor aim in blustery weather that at times ruffled Kate's outfit.

Their Royal Highnesses also talked with students of the Draktsho Vocational Training Centre for Special Children and Youth, and Ability Bhutan Society members who were at Changlimithang. Despite a drizzle, the Royal Couple mingled



The Queen's 90th birthday was celebrated by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge at the British High Commissioner's residence in Delhi.

to love in February 1992, prompting rumors about the state of her marriage to the Prince of Wales which proved true later. William and Kate sat together at the same seat and posed happily for photographs.

The couple has already visited Mumbai and New Delhi on a weeklong tour of India. After that they were set to make a one-day trip to neighboring country Bhutan.





British and Bhutanese Royal couples have much in common. Both were married in 2011, and both Kate and Jetsun Pema did not come from royal families. The Bhutanese queen's father is a pilot, though her mother has royal lineage.

and interacted with the crowd. Their Royal Highnesses spent some time talking to the children with disabilities, who had gathered to see them at Changlimithang. The Duchess and Her Majesty Queen Gyaltsuen, who is

the patron of Ability Bhutan Society, share concerns on the welfare of children with both mental and physical disabilities. The Duchess is the patron of a charity in Great Britain called Place2Be, which provides counselling services to young people with problems.

His Majesty the King and the Queen Gyaltsuen visited HRH the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall three years ago and took tea with them in Clarence House. His Majesty the King then invited Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge to visit Bhutan.

The royal pairs posed for photos in front of a statue of the laughing Buddha before going inside. In the evening, Will and Kate met the Bhutanese royal couple's baby, born in February, and had a private dinner with the king and queen. British and Bhutanese Royal couples have much in common. Both were married in 2011, and both Kate and Jetsun Pema did not come from royal families. The Bhutanese queen's father is a pilot, though her mother has royal lineage. In the evening, the



Royal Couple also met the senior members of the Bhutan United Kingdom Alumni Association who have studied in United Kingdom since the early 1960s, which today have more than 250 members.

Their Royal Highnesses also hiked up to Taktshang, a Buddhist monastery called Tiger's Nest, perched at an altitude of 10,000 feet with three hour long expedition, though there were ponies on standby to help carry them when they tired on the trek. The visit "is a symbol of the centuries-old relationship between Bhutan and the UK," said Michael Rutland, who has lived in Bhutan since the 1970s and serves as honorary UK consul in the country.

The British royals were on a weeklong tour of India and Bhutan. They have already visited Mumbai, New Delhi and the wildlife reserve of Kaziranga National Park in the northeast Indian state of Assam, where they hoped to raise awareness of the plight of endangered rhinos and other animals threatened by poaching and habitat loss.





Italy will support Pakistan in fighting against intolerance: Italian Foreign Minister Gentiloni

By Saba Sarfraz

Italian Foreign Minister Mr. Gentiloni said that Pakistan has paid an "intolerable" price to terror, in the Easter massacre in Lahore, which cost the lives of dozens of people, and underscored that "extremism can be defeated by investing in education and in human capital". He said this in his speech while addressing the National University of Sciences and Technology in Islamabad. He added that "Pakistan is fighting a battle in favour of social and religious tolerance and Italy will support it in this struggle." He went on to say that the two Countries play "the same bridging role between Europe and Africa and, in Central Asia, between Iran, China and Russia, promoting dialogue while respecting diversity".

The President Mamnoon Hussain met with Mr. Paolo Gentiloni, Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr and said the Government is committed to further expanding and deepening mutually beneficial relationship between Pakistan and Italy especially in the economic and commercial spheres adding that Pakistan has recently announced a new automobile policy to diversify its automobile industry in which Italian car maker Fiat and motorcycle maker Piaggio may consider venturing into Pakistan's lucrative market.

The President Mamnoon noted that Italy is Pakistan's third largest trading partner in Europe and among the top ten globally and urged for encouraging Italian entrepreneurs to

do business with Pakistan. President Mamnoon emphasized that there is immense potential for expanding bilateral trade and appreciated the support and cooperation extended by Italian side in organizing "Pakistan Trade and

Investment Forum" in April 2016. President Mamnoon said that the large number of Pakistanis living in Italy is serving as a bridge in furtherance of friendly relations between Italy and Pakistan.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif shakes hand with Mr. Paolo Gentiloni, Foreign Minister of Italy who called on the Prime Minister at PM House, Islamabad.



The President highlighted that Pakistan and Italy have commonality of views on number of regional and global issues, particularly on the issues of terrorism and UN Security Council Reform process adding that Pakistan will continue to work closely with Italy on all issues of mutual interest.

The President lauded the role of Italy in the EU on grant of greater market access to Pakistan noting that Pakistan is positive that Italy will continue to support it in the on-going GSP Plus review process in the EU. President Mamnoon Hussain noted that being the members of the Uniting for Consensus (UfC) Group, Italy and Pakistan work closely on the issue of Security Council reform.

Speaking on the occasion, the Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni said that his country accords high importance to its relations with Pakistan and agreed upon the need to increase the volume of bilateral trade between the two countries to fully realise the existing potential in the energy, agriculture, food processing and automotive sectors. The Italian Foreign Minister appreciated Pakistan's efforts in fight against terrorism and urged upon the need to jointly combat this common challenge. Paolo

Gentiloni also appreciated the positive role and contribution of the Pakistani community living in Italy.

After meeting with President of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Paolo Gentiloni, Foreign Minister of Italy called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM House. PM Nawaz said that we are pursuing a robust national policy to overcome the energy issues confronting our people and the country, which has already yielded very positive results. The positive economic indicators reflect our efforts for revival of our economy.

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif commented that our government adopted a zero-tolerance strategy against terrorism and the ongoing operation Zar-i-Azb has successfully dismantled the terrorists' networks and their safe havens. The operation against criminals and extortionists in Karachi has resulted in the return of peace in the city. The improved law and order situation and the business-friendly environment have restored the confidence of investors; encouraging them to invest in Pakistan.

Offering all possible support, Mr. Paolo



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz shaking hand with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Paolo Gentiloni in Islamabad.

Gentiloni appreciated the Prime Minister for leading a war against the extremist ideology in Pakistan. Pakistani government's reach out to neighbors and making efforts for restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan are highly appreciable. Considering the huge potential, the present volume of bilateral trade between Italy and Pakistan of \$ 1 billion needs to be significantly enhanced, said the Foreign Minister.

The two countries' bilateral relations and relaunching their economic and commercial cooperation was the centre of the mission's agenda, which also includes the participation of a large delegation of Italian businesses in meetings with the Pakistani ministers in charge of economic and industrial policies.

Minister Gentiloni's visit to Pakistan, which follows his two-day visit to Afghanistan, confirms the great attention that Italy focuses on this region. Mr. Gentiloni had also meetings with National Security and Foreign Adviser to the Prime Minister Sartaj Aziz, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and with the Chief of Defence Staff, Raheel Sharif other than the President of the Republic, Mamnoon Hussain and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.



UK response to Argentina's intention to extend its continental shelf



By Web Desk

The Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced a planned expansion of its maritime territory in the South Atlantic Ocean by 660,000 square miles. This follows Argentina's submission to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) in April 2009 to extend the outer limit of its continental shelf. The CLCS has now concluded its study, although its recommendations are not yet public. The Rules of Procedure of

the CLCS establish that it cannot consider areas where there are overlapping claims as to the continental shelf, or other disputes as to the delimitation of boundaries. A Foreign Office spokesperson said, "The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) has no jurisdiction over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. The UN itself has acknowledged that the CLCS could not and did not consider claims relating to the Falkland Islands within the Argentine submission. The UK Government remains in no doubt over the

sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, nor of the right of the islanders to determine their own future". The CLCS (Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf) is an advisory body established under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea that makes recommendations on the extent of coastal States' extended continental shelf, i.e. beyond 200 nautical miles. For the same reasons, CLCS also could not and did not consider Antarctica and the South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands as part of the Argentine submission.



World Nuclear Security Summit

Pakistan seeks acceptance as a responsible nuclear state

By M. Saeed Yousafzai /Web Desk

At the global Nuclear Security Summit held, Pakistan sought greater acceptance as a responsible nuclear state.

"We believe that since Pakistan has strong credentials on nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation, it qualifies for full integration in the multilateral export control regimes," a statement presented at the summit said.

Pakistan assured the international community that it was strongly committed to the objective and had been proactively engaged with efforts to promote nuclear safety and security.

"Pakistan has ensured that nuclear and radioactive materials and all related facilities are secured in all places," said the 'national statement' read at the summit.

Special Assistant on Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi, who represented the country at the summit after the prime minister, opted out because of internal pressures, also read another

"We believe that since Pakistan has strong credentials on nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation, it qualifies for full integration in the multilateral export control regimes,"
Tariq Fatemi



Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Syed Tariq Fatemi with President Barack Obama at the White House, prior to Nuclear Security Summit Heads of Delegation working dinner in Washington, D.C.

“Pakistan follows the principle of multi-layered defence to prevent and effectively respond to the entire spectrum of threats and has established a specially trained, highly skilled and well-equipped force that is designed for nuclear security.”

Tariq Fatemi

statement, called ‘intervention’, spelling out Pakistan’s positions on the issues raised during the conference. Both statements assured world leaders that Pakistan was a responsible nuclear power and was party to several international instruments relevant to nuclear safety and security. “Within the framework of these instruments and the IAEA activities and programmes, Pakistan is committed to international cooperation consistent with our national priorities,” one of the statements said.

Pakistan informed the participants that it took the responsibilities related to nuclear safety and security very seriously and its nuclear security regime was effective, dynamic and responsive to the entire range of threats.

The elements of nuclear security in Pakistan include a robust command and control system under the National Command Authority, a rigorous regulatory regime, comprehensive export controls and cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and other countries. The country reiterated that its export controls were consistent with those being implemented by the Nuclear Suppliers Group, Missile Technology Control Regime and the Australia Group. Pakistan’s Centre of Excellence on Nuclear Security continues to grow into a regional and international hub.

It explained how it had been running a safe, secure and safeguarded civil nuclear programme for more than 40 years.

The official statement noted that even the summit recognised nuclear security as a national responsibility and as a responsible nuclear state; Pakistan accorded the highest priority to the security of its facilities.

“Pakistan’s nuclear security paradigm, evolved over the years, is effective and responsive to the entire range of possible threats. Nuclear security regime in Pakistan is dynamic and regularly reviewed and updated.” Pakistan explained that the regime was based on



Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Syed Tariq Fatemi met with the British Prime Minister, DAVID, Cameron on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) in Washington, D.C.

the national legislative, regulatory and administrative framework.

“Pakistan follows the principle of multi-layered defence to prevent and effectively respond

to the entire spectrum of threats and has established a specially trained, highly skilled and well-equipped force that is designed for nuclear security.”

The statement explained that Pakistan’s regulatory regime encompassed all matters related to nuclear safety and security, including physical protection of materials and facilities, material control and accounting, transport security, prevention of illicit trafficking and border controls.

It includes plans to deal with possible radiological emergencies through an elaborate Nuclear Emergency Management System.

“As a country with advanced nuclear fuel cycle capability, Pakistan is in a position to provide nuclear fuel cycle services under IAEA safeguards, and to participate in any non-discriminatory nuclear fuel cycle assurance mechanisms,” Fatemi said.

“As a country with advanced nuclear fuel cycle capability, Pakistan is in a position to provide nuclear fuel cycle services under IAEA safeguards, and to participate in any non-discriminatory nuclear fuel cycle assurance mechanisms,” Tariq Fatemi



Heads of delegation for 2016 Nuclear Security Summit gather for family photo in Washington, D.C.

CPEC is vital for the progress of Pakistan: Sartaj Aziz

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Monitoring Desk

Mr Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs visited the Pakistan High Commission London. H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High



Commissioner to the UK welcomed the Adviser and introduced him with the officers.

The Adviser had an interaction with the officers of the High Commission and gave them an overview of the foreign policy of Pakistan. He outlined the priorities of Pakistan foreign policy that included our own security, non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, economic revival and sustainable development, peaceful neighbourhood and turning Pakistan's geo-strategic location into an asset.

Adviser Aziz stated that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was vital for the progress of Pakistan and the government was focused on its implementation. He also emphasized on the need to step up efforts to improve the image of Pakistan in wake of improved security situation and steady growth in economy.

The High Commissioner updated the Adviser on the working and initiatives of the High Commission, including improvement in Consular Services and community outreach.



UK & Pakistan reaffirmed the commitment to a strong partnership to increase Prosperity, Development & Security

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Mian Asadullah

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz and British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond hold third Ministerial Review of Pak-UK Enhanced Strategic Dialogue

Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs and Rt Hon Philip Hammond, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), met on 20 April 2016 to hold the third annual Ministerial Review of the Pak-UK Enhanced Strategic Dialogue (ESD). The dialogue underpins the enduring partnership between the two countries. They reviewed the progress on bilateral commitments in the areas of trade, development, culture and security. The two sides also discussed future cooperation to develop a deeper and stronger relationship, and promoting mutual interests. They agreed on new roadmaps for trade and investment, culture and education, and security cooperation. It was further agreed that the progress under the roadmaps would be reviewed annually by the Ministers, with the next review scheduled in 2017.

Both sides also discussed priority areas of the bilateral relationship including; meeting and exceeding the bilateral trade target of

£3 billion; establishment of joint Pakistan-UK Business Council; expansion of development cooperation in health and education; facilitation of visas from Pakistani businessmen and students; enhanced cultural cooperation by establishing a new UK-Pakistan cultural forum; and continued security cooperation to tackle the common threat of terrorism. A joint statement was also issued by the two

sides at the end of the review, reaffirming the commitment to a strong partnership to increase prosperity, development and security in both countries.

The Enhanced Strategic Dialogue was signed in 2011, and sets out the UK and Pakistan's strategic partnership in the areas of trade and investment, development, culture and education, and security.





UK lauded Pakistan's role in seeking peace and stability in Afghanistan

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Adviser Sartaj Aziz discusses bilateral cooperation under Pakistan-UK Enhanced Strategic Dialogue (ESD) in London.

Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs held meetings with Sir Mark Lyall-Grant, British National Security Adviser (NSA) and Sir Ciaran Devane, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), British Council as part of the review of Enhanced Strategic Dialogue (ESD), between Pakistan and the UK.

In meeting with NSA, both sides agreed to continue their cooperation in the areas of counter-terrorism, organized crime and illegal migration. The Adviser appreciated the UK's support and assistance in countering the extremist threat. He briefed the NSA on the initiatives taken by Pakistan to improve the security situation including the ongoing

military offensive 'Zarb-e-Azb' and the National Action Plan (NAP). The Adviser also highlighted Pakistan's policy of "peaceful neighbourhood" and briefed his interlocutor on the steps taken by Pakistan to improve relations with its neighbours including India and Afghanistan.

The NSA commended Pakistan's efforts to curb extremism and offered UK's continued support in timely and effective implementation of the National Action Plan. He also assured of UK's support in capacity building of the security and law enforcement agencies including NACTA. The NSA lauded Pakistan's role in seeking peace and stability in Afghanistan. On India, he added that UK was ready for its meaningful role in strengthening regional security and cooperation.

During the meeting with CEO of British Council, the two sides discussed and reviewed the whole spectrum of activities under the existing education and cultural roadmap signed in

2014, with particular focus on British Council's work in Pakistan. The Adviser emphasized on the need for reinvigorating the cultural and educational connections between the two countries. Both sides decided to expand British Council's activities in Pakistan with opening libraries and cultural centres in Karachi and Lahore along with a digital library available to millions of Pakistanis.

To enhance cultural engagement, it was also agreed that a new Cultural Roadmap would be signed between Pakistan and the UK. The new Roadmap would focus on collaboration in arts, archaeology, and research & develop partnerships to support heritage, museums and the creative industries.

In addition to the above meetings, the Adviser also attended a lunch with the British Pakistani Parliamentarians hosted by Syed Ibne Abbas, High Commissioner for Pakistan at the British Parliament.



Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs in a group photo with British Pakistani Parliamentarians at the House of Commons. (From left to right) Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK, Naz Shah MP, Rehman Chishti MP, Adviser Sartaj Aziz, Yasmin Qureshi MP, and Lord Qurban Hussain



Mr Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs shaking hand with Lord Mark Price, Minister of State for Trade and Investment in London

Medal of Honor: France honours eleven British D-day veterans

By Mian Mubeen Akhtar, Saba Sarfraz

Eleven British World War II veterans were presented with the Légion d'honneur, France's highest distinction, during a ceremony at the French Ambassador's Residence in Kensington, London. The medals were presented by Ambassador of France to United Kingdom H.E. Sylvie Bermann.

The Ambassador said: "Today it is my great privilege to award these medals on behalf of the French people: France owes its freedom to your courageous actions on D-Day and in the months that followed, and these medals are



- Donald Wallace, Able Seaman in the Royal Navy, from Watford, Hertfordshire
- Edward Needham, Able Seaman in the Royal Navy, from Swanley, Kent
- Harry Alfred Card, Able Seaman in the Royal Navy, from Orpington, Kent
- Frank Luff, Visual Signaller in the Royal Navy, from Stevenage, Hertfordshire

These medals are the tokens of our gratitude to your courageous actions on D-day: H.E. Sylvie Bermann

The ceremony was the latest in a number of medal ceremonies that have taken place around the UK since the 70th anniversary of D-Day in June 2014, when President François Hollande pledged to honour all those British veterans who had served in France during the war.

Members of the British Household Cavalry Regiment were also in attendance, posing for photographs with Ambassador Bermann and the recipients of the Légion d'honneur.





Ambassador of Pakistan to Italy inaugurates Pakistan Pavilion at the Lineapelle Trade Exhibition

By Mian Mubeen Akhtar

A strong delegation of 24 Pakistani companies participated in the Lineapelle Trade Exhibition at Rho Fair, Milan. This exhibition is regarded as the most important International exhibition in the leather sector in Europe.

The Ambassador of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Nadeem Riyaz inaugurated the Pakistan pavilion. He was accompanied by Mr. Nadeem Khan, Counsel General, Milan, and Mr. Farid Ahmad Tarar, Commercial Counselor.



The Ambassador and officials of the Mission visited all stands at the Pakistan pavilion and freely interacted with the participants. The Ambassador assured the exhibitors of his full support and that of the mission for the projection of Pakistan and the promotion of trade in Italy.

The Ambassador also co-chaired a meeting of Pakistan Footwear Manufacturers Association (PFMA) & Pakistan Tanners Association (PTA) with their respective Presidents Mr. Wasim Zakaria & Mr. Gulzar Feroz with Senior Executives of the Italian Association of Leather Machineries and Technologies, (ASSOMAC).

Pakistan's delegation at the fair was assisted by the Commercial Section of the Embassy in Rome throughout their three day stay.

Pakistan's participation was greatly appreciated and the stands in the Pakistan pavilion drew a large numbers of buyers who displayed great interest in the quality and diversity of Pakistan's leather industry.





UAE-UK Taskforce holds its 15th meeting in London

UAE-UK Taskforce discusses key political & security challenges

By Mian Asadullah, Bilal Zafar

The fifteenth meeting of the UAE-UK Taskforce was hosted in London by Mr. Tobias Ellwood MP, UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Minister for the Middle East and North Africa. The UAE was represented by Dr. Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

The two Ministers agreed the importance of continued collaboration on the key political and security challenges facing the world today, and highlighted that a stable and prosperous Middle East was in all our interests.

Ministers praised the strong cooperation





between their two countries, and re-affirmed the need to: pursue a political solution in Yemen and address the humanitarian situation there; encourage all parties to support the political process in Syria, especially in light of atrocities committed there; and collaborate ever more closely and effectively in the fight against Daesh, in particular by countering the group's propaganda in the online space.

The Ministers commended the work of the Sawab Center and the Coalition's Communications Cell, and welcomed the recent launch of the Coalition's Website.

The Ministers also commended the work of Hedayah, discussed the UAE and UK's ongoing commitment to the Centre and agreed to explore the potential to build on the progress that has been made.

The Taskforce reviewed cooperation between the UK and the UAE on humanitarian issues. Mr. Ellwood welcomed the UAE's humanitarian assistance to Yemen and Syria and the collaboration and dialogue that were taking place between DFID and the UAE.

The Ministers welcomed UAE-UK cooperation on law enforcement and efforts to deepen it further, especially on: recovering proceeds of crime, terrorist financing, money laundering and extradition. They looked forward to the forthcoming Anti-Corruption Summit to be held in London on 12 May and the Proceeds of

Crime Conference to be held in Abu Dhabi on 21/22 September.

The Ministers commended the February signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the UAE and UK Space Agencies

The Taskforce reviewed cooperation between the UK and the UAE on humanitarian issues. Mr. Ellwood welcomed the UAE's humanitarian assistance to Yemen and Syria and the collaboration and dialogue that were taking place between DFID and the UAE.

and looked forward to signing a UK-UAE Double Taxation Agreement to assist bilateral trade and investment. Speaking after the Taskforce, Dr. Gargash said, "Today we had constructive discussions that will enable us

to continue making progress on a range of important bilateral topics of interest between our countries. I am also pleased with the depth of our conversations on issues related to peace and security in the Middle East, and the strong emphasis our countries place on the importance of reaching political solutions to the crises facing the region."

Mr. Ellwood said, "This meeting of the UK/UAE Taskforce was very productive".

Ministers also expressed support for fair and open competition in the aviation industry and emphasised that open skies policies have created enormous benefits to travelers and communities in Europe, the Middle East and beyond.

Consular and visa matters issues were discussed, and the Ministers welcomed and encouraged the work of the UAE-UK Consular Committee which met in London. The Ministers reviewed the existing electronic visa waiver system for Emirati citizens and looked forward to the launch of a more streamlined, user-friendly visa waiver system in 2016.

Educational and cultural cooperation also featured on the agenda. The Ministers discussed the prospects for a UK-UAE Season of cultural exchanges between the two countries to take place in 2017. They also agreed the need to continue improving the process for the mutual recognition of qualifications between the UAE and the UK.



Pakistani Embassy ready to facilitate business developments between the Netherlands & Pakistan

Ned-Pak Business Facilitation Forum convenes at Pakistan House



By Mian Asadullah

After the launch of the Ned-Pak Business Facilitation Forum in December 2015, the Forum convened for its first official meeting on the lawns of the recently renovated (subsidiary) Pakistan House.

As an introduction, H.E. Ambassador Moazzam Ahmad Khan interestingly recounted the history of the mansion at 3, Plein 1813, which since the early 1950's has always been the official residence of Pakistani Ambassadors to the Netherlands. However the previous owners of this incredible mansion included the Chinese government and the Dutch Royal family.

Guests were cordially welcomed by the Commercial Counselor to the Pakistani Embassy in The Hague, Mr. Zahid Ali Abbasi. However it was H.E. Mr. Moazzam Ahmad Khan, the Pakistani Ambassador in the Hague, who began the first official Ned-Pak meeting. Ambassador Moazzam Ahmad Khan briefed the



participants about government's various initiatives to attract foreign investment. In his address he discussed topics including, how might one perceive Pakistan as a destination for investment. Khan drew attention to the country's easily accessible geographical location, highlighting how Pakistan is the gateway to central Asia and the Middle East. He also mentioned the huge economic powers neighboring Pakistan such as, China, Iran, India and others. Pakistan's growth is also a key to note, as it has the sixth largest population in the world, with 200 million people and a middle class estimated to stand at around the 70 million mark. Tremendous success has been achieved in the quest of trying to control the security situation in Pakistan, with full credit going to their current government who has put many measures in place in order to ensure their safety. He said that with Friesland Campina's decision to enter Pakistan's market, business relations between the two countries have further strengthened.

The Ambassador reiterated that the Pakistani Embassy in the Hague stands ready to pursue the role in facilitating business developments between the Netherlands and Pakistan. The meeting featured a series of presentations and testimonials; the first was delivered by Mr. Zahid Ali Abbasi, who was followed by Habibsons Bank representative Ms. Tabinda Kazni, where she spoke of the long legacy and history of the Pakistani business sector. Mr. Sibbe Krol of IDH went on to indicate the need to create more sustainable trade.

Ms. Negar Esmailzadeh of Nutricia-Danone in the Netherlands thanked the Embassy of Pakistan for their cooperation. She highlighted the role played by Mr. Abbasi and Kevin Eric, both who form a crucial part of the Pakistani Embassy in the Netherlands. Furthermore, Esmilzadeh's presentation was built around the theme 'Improving lives through nutrition', where she noted the positive affects the Ned-Pak Business forum has had on Nutricia-



Danone, including the heightening of the relationship between the two entities.

Mr. Johan van Dorst of Fokker (a Dutch aircraft manufacturer) one of the most senior investors in Pakistan, applauded the excellent economic climate in Pakistan along with its fantastic hospitality. Fokker's activities in Pakistan are of a commercial and military nature.

Mr. Adil T.Mohammed, who works for Shell spoke of the introduction of the easily transportable liquid natural gas into Pakistan. He also touched on the topic of gas, noting the impact of low oil prices and then went on to discuss renewable, such as D-light affordable global solar energy.

A board of representatives from the different companies also gave their testimony.

Smit Lamnalco's Jord Veldman discussed the positive developments for his customised services and operations company in Pakistan's Damen shipyards, while Oran Bekbulat called for the simplification of certain rules and regulations

Peter van Ouwerkerk, highlighted how food safety is an issue, help from the Embassy and

Habibsons Bank is required in order to meet the current food safety requirements. An example of that needs to be considered is the effect that Himalayan salt has on the cultivation of potatoes (French fries).

Jan Linker, noted the current success of the economic climate in Pakistan. His company exports directly from Pakistan to Korea, Bijenkorf, Leenbakker. In his testimony he proposed the introduction of a 3 year visa in order to continue the efficiency of doing business with Pakistan.

Ben Klaassen from Reel Jeans, imports raw materials from Turkey, emphasising the importance of good quality denim in order to continue with their high quality low price strategy. However the shortage of yarn is a point of concern.

The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs offered useful information and encouraged the exportation by small- to medium sized business (SME) Specific focus was drawn to the various subsidies available to SME's.

The evening concluded in a traditional Pakistani style with a dinner offered by Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Moazzam Ahmad Khan.





Pakistan today a confident nation with meaningful growth and development: Syed Ibne Abbas

By Mian Asadullah

Pakistan High Commission London organized a reception at Marriott hotel in London, on 23 March 2016, to celebrate 76th Pakistan Day. Mr. Tobias Ellwood Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), was the Chief Guest at the ceremony. Members of the Parliament, MEPs, Diplomatic Corps, Senior Civil and Military Representatives and members of the British society, including Mayors, Councilors, a cross section of British Pakistanis and representatives of media were among the guests.

In his welcome address, H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK stated that Pakistan has come a long way since its creation, after overcoming daunting challenges, by virtue of the exemplary strength, resilience and efforts of our people. The High Commissioner said:



"Pakistan today, as a confident nation, under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, is undergoing a Silent Revolution with meaningful economic growth and development. There are enhanced investments in the fields of education, health and social justice. Pakistan, today, is a vibrant society with a free media, dynamic civil society and robust democratic structures.

"With strong resolve of the Government, determination of our people and unwavering courage of our valiant security forces, we have succeeded in defeating the forces of darkness, which wanted to push us backward."

The High Commissioner termed China Pakistan Economic Corridor to be at the heart of the Silent Revolution and invited the Pakistani diaspora and international investors to take advantage of the profitable investment opportunities in Pakistan.

The High Commissioner expressed satisfaction over strong bilateral relations and excellent understanding between leaderships of Pakistan and the UK. He also commended the role of Pakistani diaspora in the UK in further strengthening the existing ties between the two countries.

Mr. Tobias Ellwood, in his address as the Chief Guest, underlined the importance of bilateral relation as reflected in the frequent high level bilateral visits. He said he is delighted to report that recently British Foreign Secretary Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP was in Pakistan and he himself was in Pakistan a few months ago. These visits are not just for trade or tourism but for much more to strengthen the bilateral relation, added Mr. Ellwood.

Mr. Owen Jenkins, Prime Minister's Special Representative on Afghanistan and Pakistan and FCO Director spoke about the shared history and links that bind Pakistan and the UK together. He commended Pakistani diaspora's impressive role in all walks of UK's national life. Pakistani diaspora is the very bedrock of Pakistan, UK relationship, added Mr Jenkins. He also spoke about the breadth of bilateral relations which comprise cooperation in health, education, trade, culture and security. Over 700 guests were in attendance at the Reception.



Pakistani High Commissioner London H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas organized a reception to celebrate 76th Pakistan Day at Marriott hotel in London on 23 March 2016. Mr. Tobias Ellwood Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) was the Chief Guest at the ceremony. Members of the Parliament, Diplomatic Corps, Senior Civil and Military Representatives and a cross section of British Pakistanis and representatives of media were among the guests.





'Creative France' Campaign launched in India



The Creative France campaign has been launched in India on the occasion of the State visit of French President Francois Hollande in the country as the Chief Guest for India's 67th Republic Day.

This ambitious global campaign shows what makes France, the world's sixth largest economy by GDP, a unique destination for FDI. Indeed, in the India-France joint statement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and President Francois Hollande "equally highlighted the attractiveness of France for Indian investors, especially in terms of leveraging French technological expertise and competencies."

Prime Minister Modi underscored, "France's greatest strength is innovation." Initiated by the French government and executed by Business France, the agency for international development of the French economy, the Creative France campaign has selected 10 priority countries, including India, based on their potential for trade and investment.

India and France share a mutual fascination for culture, fashion and art and in the past several decades this relationship has deepened and broadened across a range of industrial fields ranging from aerospace and robotics to high-tech materials. France is the 3rd largest foreign

investor in India, with an estimated investment stock of around \$20bn, which has contributed to creating around 3 lakhs skilled jobs in the country.

Muriel Penicaud, the French Ambassador for International Investment and Managing Director of Business France, remarked on the occasion, "There is an exceptional momentum between France and India. We urge French companies established in India to join the Creative France movement to promote French innovation as well as to contribute to the success of Make in India."

Poland celebrates 1050th anniversary of baptism



The joint session of both chambers of the Polish Parliament, the 460-seat Lower House and the 100-seat Senate, was the central event of the celebrations marking the 1,050th anniversary of the acceptance by the Polish ruler Mieszko I of the western form of Christianity. The watershed event is regarded as marking the origins of the Polish state. Scheduled to take place in Poznań, western Poland, the cradle of Polish statehood, the session was the first meeting of the National Assembly ever held outside Warsaw. The President Andrzej Duda gave a special address to the nation. Invited guests include members

of the diplomatic corps and foreign politicians.

Kuchciński said that the commemoration of the Baptism of Poland in 966 is "an eloquent symbol of the scope of transformations in Poland's social life", adding that "the Polish nation needs the rebuilding of a sense of political community, whose cornerstone is joint memory. Its fullest manifestation is in historical events. The Baptism of Poland in 966 and the Millennium celebrations in 1966 were milestones in the nation's history." Senate Speaker Stanisław Karczewski told newsmen that President Duda focus in his address on a sense of community among Poles, in which the

Church and the nation's history are the binding factors.

On the eve of the National Assembly session, the president attended a thanksgiving service at the cathedral in Gniezno, with Polish Roman Catholic bishops and a papal envoy. In a message for the anniversary, Polish bishops wrote that Christianity enabled Poland to join the "world of Latin culture" and the "community of Christian peoples". They stress the fact that the anniversary coincides with the Holy Year of Mercy and the World Youth Days with Pope Francis in Kraków in July.

Self-driving cars on roads of Amsterdam

The idea of self-driving cars might sound futuristic to some, but European transport ministers put their faith in this technology and take a ride through the streets of Amsterdam. By signing the Amsterdam Declaration, a new technology agreement, Dutch transport Minister Melanie Schultz underscore the importance of effective cooperation between government and industry.

Amsterdam Declaration

The Amsterdam Declaration was signed by the transport ministers of all 28 EU member states during the informal meeting of the Transport Council. It lays down agreements on the steps necessary for the development of self-driving technology in the EU. In this document the Netherlands, the European Commission, EU member states and the transport industry pledge to draw up rules and regulations that will allow autonomous vehicles to be used on the roads.

European cooperation

A lack of good cooperation between EU member states could give rise to a jumble of different rules, thereby preventing the large-



scale availability of this new technology. Agreements also need to be made on issues like liability, privacy, data security and the effects of self-driving vehicles on traffic and the road network. 'Ongoing cooperation between governments and industry is key. It would be impractical to have to change the settings on your car every time you cross a border,' Ms. Schultz said.

Ministers discover vehicles with self-driving features

While in Amsterdam, the European transport ministers allowed themselves to be transported in a partly self-driving car from the National Maritime Museum to the EYE Film Museum. This demonstration emphasizes the Netherlands' position as a proving ground for self-driving vehicles. The car manufacturers involved are Volvo, Daimler, BMW, Renault, PSA, JLR, Vedecom, TNO/Davi, Tesla and Audi. Other partners are TomTom, the city of Amsterdam, de Dutch Road Transport Agency, Rijkswaterstaat and the Ministry of

Infrastructure and the Environment. This event allows the various parties involved to showcase the technological possibilities, paving the way for the further development of self-driving technology.

The benefits of self-driving vehicles

Vehicle technology is developing fast. Cars and trucks are equipped with an increasing number of automatic features, including automatic parking, brake assist and traffic jam assist. In future generations of smart mobility the vehicle will take over more and more of the driver's tasks. Vehicles will also increasingly be connected with each other and the infrastructure through the exchange of data. Automatic features and connectivity offer many advantages including; greater safety, reduced CO2 emissions, improved flow of traffic, a more comfortable and relaxing form of travel, more efficient use of infrastructure and fewer traffic jams and more transport options for less mobile groups, like inhabitants of rural areas, the elderly or people with a handicap.

Qatar Premier meets UK Secretary of State for Defense



H.E. the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al-Thani met with the UK Secretary of State for Defense Michael Fallon, who was on visit of Qatar to participate in the 5th Doha International Maritime Defense Exhibition and Conference (DIMDEX 2016). The meetings dealt with Qatar relations with UK to means to develop these relations.



UK projects changing young people's lives

A selection of Queen's Young Leader's Grantees met Alesha Dixon at Buckingham Palace. As part of The Queen's Young Leaders Grants Week we are highlighting projects across the Commonwealth that has received a grant from the Programme to support their work with young people.

On the final day we are featuring the eight projects across the UK which were selected to receive a grant. Each of the projects is using the skills and talents of young people to try to solve the problem of unemployment. Often they use young people as mentors to support their peers to gain new skills and to help them to find work.

In England Media Trust's Transforming Hidden Talent programme will support young people in London, Birmingham and Manchester to develop and sustain meaningful careers. At UpRising its A Helping Hand into Employment project will combine its employment programme with a peer-led mentoring approach, to strengthen job opportunities for young people.

"The grant will enable us to significantly expand our employability services and to help many more young people than we ever could before," Lydia Bolwell from UpRising, said. "We very much look forward to seeing the influence and impact that it has on the young people we

work with across the UK."

In Scotland, Who Cares? Scotland will run a training and employability programme, specifically designed around the needs of young people with experience of care. It aims for 80% of those entering its programme to eventually move on from care and sustain positive employment. The Scottish National Council of YMCAs' Youth Mentoring programme will work in eight locations across the country, supporting young people to develop some of the skills required to move into long term employment.

"We are excited at the prospect of supporting young people across Scotland through our mentoring programme as they seek to gain and sustain meaningful employment," Kerry Reilly, Chief Executive at YMCA Scotland, said.

At the Cwmbran Centre for Young People in Wales, staff will use The Progression Project to support the most marginalised and disadvantaged young people to progress into education, training, volunteering and employment. NYAS, also in Wales, will use its Peering Ahead programme to deliver peer-led mentoring and support to young people and care leavers to help them to enter and retain employment.

"NYAS will be able to work together to help vulnerable young people in care and on the fringes of care to access accredited training

along with a wrap-around flexible package of support," Bob Towers, Trusts and Corporate Partnerships Fundraiser at NYAS, explained.

Over in Northern Ireland, two projects also received grants: Include Youth Northern Ireland and Northern Ireland Youth Forum (NIYF). Include Youth Northern Ireland's Meant to Work programme will train young people to become mentors, to provide employment advice and support for young people who are in, or leaving, care to find the right jobs. NIYF will run a yearly intensive programme for young people that will help them get back to work.



The first electric-propulsion aircraft of France with E-Fan



Creative France is a story, but it's also about cutting edge companies who carry France's banner in key fields like aeronautics. Companies that make bold choices and dare to try new things like Airbus and its new E-Fan. It's the story of E-Fan, Airbus's first electric propulsion aircraft, designed for pilot

training. This technological gem is one of the aeronautics field's crowning accomplishments to date. It is particularly aerodynamic: it weighs 600 kilograms and is 6.7 meters long, with a wingspan of 9.5 meters. It runs on two battery-powered motors.

The motors, which are located in the plane's wings, deliver total power of 60 kW—enough for the aircraft to fly at a cruising speed of 160 kph, with shorter bursts of up to 220kph.

Airbus led French aviation into a new era when the E-Fan, designed by Didier Esteyne, made its first flight across the English Channel in just 37 minutes. This accomplishment is proving that an entirely electric future is possible for aeronautics.

It's the story of a French company that knows how to keep stride with today's world. French companies are already working to protect our environment by protecting our air.

The Commonwealth Short Story Prize 2016

In its fifth year, the prize is for the best piece of unpublished short fiction in English. The shortlist covers a wide range of subject matter, from rivalry between chefs, a community of puppeteers in Delhi, society and class in Jamaica, genocide and revenge, to an advertising campaign for chewing gum in India and the heartbreak of Alzheimers.

Chairman of the judges, South African novelist and playwright Gillian Slovo, said of this year's shortlist: "As a novelist accustomed to the luxury of the long form it has been a treat to discover writers who manage to crystallise such different experiences into so few words. The stories we have chosen for the shortlist are in turn comic, touching, poetic, mysterious but always fresh and unexpected." The prize is judged by an international panel of writers, representing each of the five regions of the Commonwealth. The 2016 judges are Helon Habila (Africa), Firdous Azim (Asia), Pierre J. Mejlak (Canada and Europe), Olive Senior (Caribbean) and Patrick Holland (Pacific). The regional winners will be announced soon and

the winning stories will be published on Granta online. Commonwealth Writers is also working with the literary agents Aitken Alexander

Twenty-six "fresh and unexpected" stories make up the shortlist for this year's Commonwealth Short Story Prize.

Associates Ltd to identify writers through this year's prize, which is part funded by the Sigrid Rausing Trust.

Picture Caption: Chairman of the judges, Ms. Gillian Slovo



UK, US and EU sign landmark deal to turn nuclear material into cancer-fighting treatment

By Raheel Iqbal

Britain is set to agree a landmark deal with the United States and European Union on a multilateral swap of nuclear material that could ensure a continued supply into the UK of rare materials to diagnose and treat cancer.

Under the agreement, which will be announced by the Prime Minister at the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington later today, the UK will transfer around 700 kilograms of excess Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) from the Dounreay nuclear site on the north coast of Scotland to the US.

As the largest ever single move of HEU, the transfer will reduce Britain's overall stockpile of nuclear material.

In exchange, the US will send a different type of HEU to the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) in France, where it will be converted into medical isotopes. These can be used in radiotherapy to diagnose and treat conditions such as thyroid cancer by weakening or destroying the cancerous cells.

The isotopes could then be exported to the UK and other European countries to help fight the disease.

Speaking ahead of the Nuclear Security Summit, the Prime Minister said:

This is a landmark deal to turn nuclear material we no longer need into a cancer-fighting treatment that could potentially save

many lives. It's a win-win, innovative solution that shows what working together with our international partners can achieve. The Prime Minister is also set to announce a joint UK-US exercise next year to test the security of civil nuclear infrastructure in the face of a major cyber-attack.

Building on last year's Operation Resilient Shield which explored our responses to potential cyber-attacks on the countries' biggest banks, this exercise will test the response of the UK and US governments and nuclear industries to a cyber-assault on the civil nuclear sector. The exercise will simulate a cyber-attack on

nuclear power supplies to see how Britain and America can work together in the event of such a security threat.

Britain, a world leader in civil nuclear security, will also use the summit to launch a scheme that will strengthen other countries' abilities to withstand cyber-attacks at nuclear sites and power plants.

Countries including Japan, Argentina, the Republic of Korea and Turkey have signed up to a series of workshops hosted by the UK this year to examine the threats facing the sector and the best way to protect it.





#PrayForLahore

Candlelight Vigil for Lahore terrorist attack victims

By Mian Asadullah

To honour the memory of Lahore terrorist attack victims, and to express solidarity with their families, the Pakistan High Commission London organised a Candlelight Vigil. In his remarks on the occasion, H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK condemned the heinous act of terrorism and termed it an attack on humanity. He said the forces of darkness want to take Pakistan backward but the resolve of the Pakistani nation is far stronger than the evil designs of the terrorists. The High Commissioner expressed solidarity with the families of the victims and reiterated government's resolve to completely eliminate terrorism and extremism from the soil of Pakistan.

Staff of the High Commission together with a

large number of friends of Pakistan gathered at the Vigil to condemn this heinous act of terrorism and to express the resolve to defeat the nefarious designs of terrorists and extremists. In a horrific terrorist attack at the

Gulshan-e-Iqbal Park in Lahore on 27 March 2016, scores of precious lives were lost and hundreds were injured. Similar Vigils were held at Pakistan's Consulates in Birmingham, Bradford, Manchester and Glasgow.



“The funny side of life with Gogi”

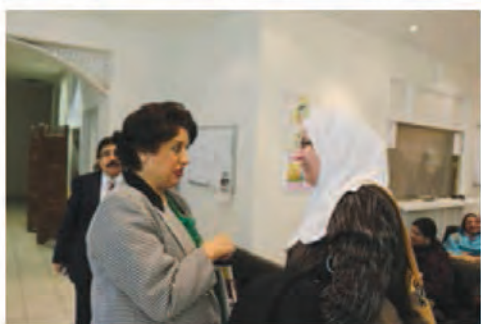


By Mian Mubeen Akhtar

The Pakistan Embassy in Berlin organized a Cartoon Exhibition by a renowned Pakistani Cartoonist; Ms. Nigar Nazar titled “the funny side of life with Gogi” at the Embassy. Ms. Nigar Nazar has the honour of being the first ever female cartoonist in Pakistan and the muslim world. The interactive session was attended by a number of guests both from Germany and expatriate community.



Cartoon Exhibition by Nigar Nazar “Gogi” at Berlin



RUNWAY:

Paris

Fashion Week

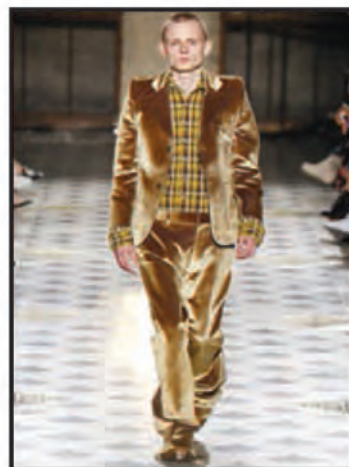
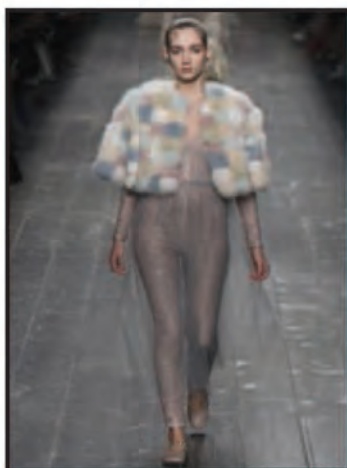
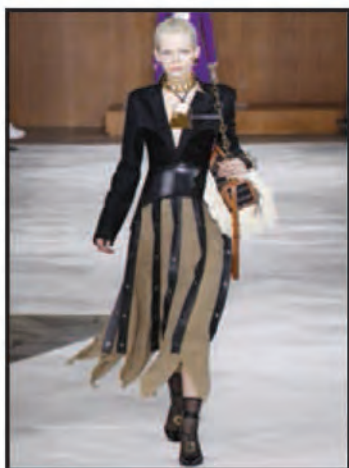
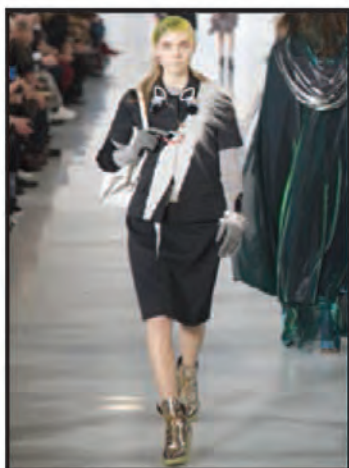
By Saba Sarfraz/monitoring desk

One week in Paris is a roller coaster of anticipation, debate, speculation, and the debut of Demna Gvasalia at Balenciaga. What will we take from this season of fashion in a time of unprecedented disruption? That despite everything, this industry is an ever-broadening church that applauds its strong voices, creativity, and the emotional thrill of welcoming the new. The measure of that? How quickly the hullabaloo over see-now-buy-now fashion and the absence of creative directors at Dior and Lanvin abated in the face of so many more interesting things to talk about. The week began with a surge of excitement led by young Paris-based designers not witnessed for so many years that you'd almost have to go back to the early days of Jean Paul Gaultier to think of a parallel. Only now, there are more than in the '80s: Koché, Jacquemus, Anthony Vaccarello, Julien Dossena at Paco Rabanne, and Sébastien

Meyer and Arnaud Vaillant at Courrèges are all now must-sees, with the collective that is Vetements leading the movement of outsiders to the center of attention. As Gvasalia brought his vision to Balenciaga with an accomplishment that startled and thrilled, it felt like confirmation: Something new is afoot in Paris, and it's good.

And it turned out to be far from just a matter of the very new designers. It was good for the very young. A panoply of viewpoints for differing tastes and ages came from Dries Van Noten, Riccardo Tisci at Givenchy, Jonathan Anderson at Loewe, Maria Grazia Chiuri and Pierpaolo Piccioli at Valentino, John Galliano at Maison Margiela. And Nicolas Ghesquière finished off the season in dazzlingly multifaceted form at Louis Vuitton, the fashion crowd boarded planes and trains knowing that, despite the trauma this city has suffered, and whatever questions remain unanswered, Paris remains as strong a magnet as ever.







Tomb Shah Bukhari



Shrine Khawaja Awais



Tomb Bibi Pak Damna

The City of Saints Multan

By Saba Sarfraz

Multan is one of the oldest cities in South Asia. It has seen a lot of warfare because of its location on a major invasion route between South Asia and Central Asia. It has always celebrated great importance in history. Somehow its people had attracted the Sufi saints so much that it became the abode of Sufism in South East Asia.

Multan has a history which goes back to the Bronze Age. Rich in archaeology and the history, the city has a lot to offer for those in search of culture. But, more than anything, the monuments of Multan give the region a glory of its own.

Shah Rukan-e-Alam Tomb

The Mausoleum of Rukn-i-Alam is the glory of Multan. When the city is approached from any side the most prominent thing which can be seen from miles all around is a huge dome. This dome is the Shrine of Sheikh Rukn-ud-Din Abul Fath commonly known by the title Rukn-i-Alam (pillar of the world). The tomb is located

on the south-West side of the Fort premises. In beauty and grandeur no other dome perhaps equals it. This elegant building is an octagon, 51 feet 9 inches in diameter internally, with walls 41 feet 4 inches high and 13 feet 3 inches thick, supported at the angles by sloping towers. Over this is a smaller octagon 25 feet 8 inches, on the exterior side, and 26 feet 10 inches high, leaving a narrow passage all round the top of the lower storey for the Moazzan, or public caller to prayers.

The whole is mounted by hemispherical dome of 58 feet external diameter. The total height of the building, including a plinth of 3 feet, is 100 feet. As it stands on the high ground, the total height above the road level is 150 feet. This contributes materially to the majestic and colossal appearance of the tomb, making it the most prominent object of view to the visitors. Besides its religious importance, the mausoleum is also of considerable archaeological value as its dome is reputed to be the second largest in the world after 'Gol Gumbad' of Bijapur (India), which is the largest.

The mausoleum is built entirely of red brick,

bounded with beams of Shisham wood, which have now turned black after so many centuries. The whole of the exterior is elaborately ornamented with glazed tile panels, string courses and battlements. Colours used are dark blue, azure, and white, but these are contrasted with the deep red of the finely polished bricks, while the result is both effective and pleasing. These mosaics are not like those of later day's plane surfaces, but the patterns are raised from half an inch to two inches above the background. This mode of construction must have been very difficult but its increased effect is undeniable, as it unites all the beauty and variety of colours with the light and shade of a raised pattern.

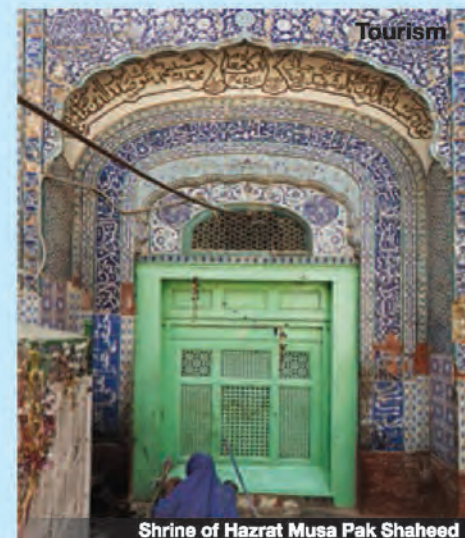
The grave of Rukn-i-Alam is of plain brick work covered with plaster. The tomb was said to have been built by Ghias-ud-Din Tughlak for himself, but was given up by his son Muhammad Tughlak in favour of Rukn-i-Alam, when he passed away from this world during 1330 AD at the age of 88. He taught his disciples a modified form of metempsychosis, and discoursed with the people on metaphysical subjects.

Tomb of Saint Bahauddin Zakarya

Standing at the northeastern side of the old fort which is situated on the high mound, is the tomb of Shikh-al-Kabir, Bahauddin Abu Mohammed Zakariya Al-Qurashi. The tomb occupies the centre of a vast oblong open area measuring 260 feet N.S by 203 feet E.W and is enclosed by a perimeter brick wall. It has two main gates one on the east and the other on



Multan Eidgah



Shrine of Hazrat Musa Pak Shaheed



Shrine Inayat Wilayat



Hazrat Muhammad Shah Yusaf Gardezi Shrine



Allah Dad Gurmani Chowk Shaheed Shrine

the West Side. There is a row of fourteen “Hujras” on the north for the “Zaireen”.

The tomb was almost completely ruined during the siege of Multan in 1848 AD by the British army but was repaired immediately by Makhdum Shah Mahmud. There is no original inscription on the body of the tomb to show the date of its construction and the subsequent repairs. However, from the fact that here lies the great Shaikh Bahaiddin Zakariya who had erected it himself during his prime time, it can be said that it belongs to the early decades of the 13th century. The Shaikh died on the 7th of Safar (661/21 December 1262).

Tomb of Shah Shamas Sabzwari

The tomb of Shah Shamas Sabzwari is situated near the Aam Khas Bagh, about a quarter of a mile on the east of the ancient port on the high bank of the old bed of the Ravi which is now filled with a multitude of modern buildings. Shah Shamas Sabzwari was a celebrated “Ismaili Dai”. Very little is known about Shams Sabzwari’s life. According to a popular legend, he arrived in Multan at the time of Shaikh Baha-al-Din Zakariya. He breathed his last at the age of 111 years in 675/1276 and was buried in Multan.

The main features of the tomb are similar to those of the city’s other major tombs. It has a square hall in an Octagon shape topped by a high dome. There is a verandah all-round the grave-chamber, with fine arches in every side and a single entrance to the hall. In the courtyard, which is at a lower level than that of the verandah, there is a small mosque. Like other decorated tombs of Multan, this tomb is also ornamented with Kaashi tile work and Naqashi work.

Multan Eidgah

Historic Eidgah in Multan is a part of beautification of the ancient city of saints and revival of its archaic originality. The 268-year old Eidgah, spread over five acres near the LMQ Road, was built in 1735 when Nawab Abdus Samad Khan was the governor of Multan. The architectural specialty of the building is that it is the only edifice having a bulbous dome in southern part of Punjab.

Architects marvel at the skill of the artisans who were able to construct a complex structure like bulbous dome at that time. Red stone of Jaipur (India) and red bricks of different sizes were used in its construction and flooring.



Shah Rukn-e-Alam tomb



Tomb Shah Shams Sabzwari



Tomb of hazrat bahaudin zakariya

H.E. Ambassador Liu Xiaoming attends 2016 Chinese New Year reception of the Standard Chartered

President Xi Jinping's "super state visit" to the UK heralded a "Golden Era" of a lasting, open and win-win China-UK relationship: Ambassador Liu Xiaoming

By Mian Asadullah

Standard Chartered PLC held a Chinese New Year reception at the Leaden hall Building, London. Chinese Ambassador to the UK H.E. Liu Xiaoming, Chairman of Standard Chartered Peace, Group Chief Executive Winters and nearly 200 Chinese and British entrepreneurs attended the reception.

Ambassador Liu reviewing the development of China's economy and China-UK relations in 2015, said that the past year was remarkable and successful. Despite moderate slow-down, the quality and structure of China's economy was much improved. "China remained one of the fastest growing among major economies and contributed significantly to global growth," said the Ambassador. The year of 2015 marks a milestone in China-UK relations. President Xi Jinping's "super state visit" to the UK heralded a "Golden Era" of a lasting, open and win-win China-UK relationship.

Looking into 2016, Ambassador Liu highlighted "confidence" and "promising prospects" for the New Year. He pointed out that 2016 would be the opening year of China's "13th Five-Year Plan". The coming five years will be a critical period for China's economic restructuring and upgrading, and "the last yet toughest mile leading to the goal of building a moderately

prosperous society in all aspects". China has confidence in making steady progress and achieving higher-quality and sustainable development. The year 2016 is also the beginning year of the "Golden Era" of China-UK relations. Both countries will strengthen overall cooperation in political, economic & trade and cultural fields. Financial cooperation will continue to be the focus and highlight in China-UK relations.

Ambassador Liu congratulated Standard Chartered on its impressive achievements in 2015. Standard Chartered became one of the first foreign banks to join the RMB cross-border settlement scheme and one of the first to sell domestic fund products in China through RMB special accounts. Besides, Standard Chartered also achieved a breakthrough in the consignment sales of Panda bonds and asset-backed securities. Ambassador Liu hoped that in this new year, Standard Chartered could achieve greater progress base on its accomplishments, and make greater contribution to the sound development of China-UK relations and the ever-deepening cooperation in economic and trade fields!

Group Chief Executive Winters said that Standard Chartered has confidence in the long-term prospects of the Chinese economy. China is now seeking to achieve better growth



through deepening reforms. In the past two years, mutual investment between China and the UK as well as between China and Europe has been increasing. In particular, China's investment into the UK and Europe increased by leaps and bounds, with economic and trade cooperation full of vitality. Standard Chartered would like to play a positive role in promoting China-UK relations, especially in facilitating business, trade and financial cooperation between the two countries.



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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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Profile

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We ensure a professional, safe and punctual chauffeur car with a guarantee that your journey is comfortable, effortless and relaxing and we constantly strive to exceed expectations.

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At Comfort Chauffeurs, we offer a wide range of services from a simple airport transfers, to an all day passenger directed outing, carried out professionally to ensure your comfort and peace of mind.

We are ever mindful of the importance of our clients' image - our immaculately presented staff and vehicles reflect our commitment to the high standards our customers expect. Our carefully selected fleet of cars ensures we can provide a first class service for any occasion.

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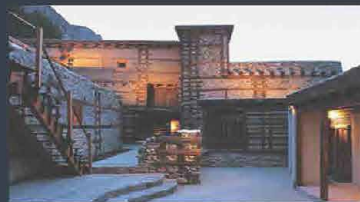
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