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PM Muhammad Nawaz Sharif & H.E. Mr. Alexander Lukashenko, President of Belarus shake hands



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PM Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Azerbaijan H.E. Ilham Aliyev during a meeting



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- 28 **Qatar's former Emir laid to rest, Nation, mourners offer condolences, pay tribute**

Thousands of Qataris and foreigners have paid tribute to Shaikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, the first Emir of independent Qatar, who passed away aged 84. The emir ruled Qatar for 23 years, from 1972 until 1995.

- 30 **The development and achievements of Azerbaijan is a pride of all Muslim countries: PM Nawaz**

Upon arrival at Baku international airport, PM Nawaz was accorded a warm welcome by Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister Ali Akhmedov and other top government functionaries. Two children attired in the national dress presented bouquets to Prime Minister Sharif and Begum Kulsoom Nawaz.

- 52 **King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the Great of Thailand**

Born in the United States in 1927, while his parents were on a sort of world tour, King Bhumibol succeeded his elder brother as monarch in 1946.

- 60 **Chinese Embassy denied that Western route doesn't exist in CPEC**

It is reported on newspaper recently that the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan informed Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and KP government that western route doesn't exist in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This is untrue and misreporting.



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Patron in Chief:	Mr. Zia-un-Rahman Zabeeh
Editor/Publisher:	Mian Fazal Elahi
Editor in Chief:	Mian Asadullah
UK/EU Edition:	Justin Plaza 3, 341 London Road, Mitham, Surrey CR4 4BE
Chairman Advisory Board:	Mr. Kanwar Muhammad Tariq
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Printer

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

Publisher

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Price

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

Published from Islamabad

Our previous Issues

October 2016



September 2016



August 2016



July 2016



Mian Fazal Elahi



As things were being pushed to the extreme due to non-compromising attitude of the PTI and the government, the Supreme Court came to the rescue of the system by declaring its intention to form a Commission and directing the parties concerned to submit in writing their Terms of Reference (ToRs). Above all, the court asserted that in case there was no agreement among the parties then it would frame its own ToRs.

It is commendable that the court decision and directions have been welcomed and accepted by the government and PTI. As a result the overall political tension that had reached boiling point has cooled down to a great extent. Otherwise, the PTI was bent upon implementing its 'lockdown Islamabad' plan and the government was determined to foil PTI's attempt, and there were chances of a violent clash. What the Supreme Court has done is a clear message that our institutions are capable of addressing any complex situation provided they are not ridiculed and instead trusted upon. It is also a message that all stakeholders should concentrate on institution-building, and if they carry out their functions and responsibilities as per the legal and constitutional scheme of things, the country cannot be harmed by internal or external elements and factors. As for the Panama Papers issue, both sides should now assist the proposed Commission to arrive at a definite conclusion. The issue of ToRs had become a bone of contention as the opposition wanted the government to accept its ToRs without changing even comma or full stop while the government claimed theirs the most comprehensive. We would urge that there should be no more politics over the issue when it is being addressed by the right forum.

[Signature]

Important Announcement



Mian Assad Ullah

It has been announced for the general information that Mr. Mian Assad Ullah has been appointed as Editor In Chief of the Monthly "Diplomatic Focus" for the UK/EU Edition. He is entitled to participate official /non-officials diplomatic engagements, events, national days, social evenings/gatherings, press conferences/interviews and can be contacted for all kinds of stuff including articles, supplements and advertisements etc). It is requested to all Diplomatic missions and government high officials of UK, please contact with Mr. Mian Assad Ullah on His mailing address, 4 Ipswich Road, SW17 9RH, London. Cell number: +44-796 1005954/ 2087694850, Email: uk.diplomaticfocus@gmail.com, assadmian1@gmail.com

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Dr. Shahid Mamood is a graduate from the University of Texas, at San Antonio, USA with specialization in Endodontics and Implantology. He has twenty years of experience to his credit. He has also had the privilege of setting up the Department of Dentistry at Shifa International Hospital and remained the head of the department for six years.

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Belarus and Pakistan want to promote cooperation in nuclear energy for peaceful means: President of Belarus

President of Belarus concludes a productive visit to Pakistan, 14 Agreements in diverse areas signed

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Monitoring Desk

The President of the Republic of Belarus, H.E. Mr. Alexander Lukashenko, visited Pakistan from 4-6 October, 2016, at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. President Lukashenko was accompanied by the Deputy Prime Minister, five Ministers, other high level officials and a 23-men business delegation.

Apart from delegation level talks between President of Belarus and the Prime Minister, President Lukashenko also met the President of Pakistan, who hosted a banquet in honour of the visiting dignitary. The Speaker of National Assembly also called on President Lukashenko.

The Prime Minister and Belarusian President signed a Joint Statement; issued a commemorative postage stamp and jointly inaugurated the fourth Pakistan-Belarus Business and Investment Forum.

Both sides signed 14 Agreements and MoUs in the areas of finance, trade, aviation, science & technology, vocational training and education. They also exchanged notes on three instruments of ratification enabling their entry into force i.e. Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation, Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters and the Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Customs Matters.

The Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus, who



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif receiving the president of Belarus H.E. Alexander Lokashinkov at Nur Khan airport Islamabad.



had arrived prior to the Presidential visit along with a high level delegation, inaugurated the Pakistan-Belarus Centre on Science and Technological Cooperation in Islamabad. The two countries are also establishing Urdu and Belarusian language chairs in respective capitals.

The Prime Minister and President Lukashenko,

14 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) were signed between the two sides during bilateral talks, related to the expansion of areas of cooperation in the field of agriculture, industrial cooperation, crime counteraction, education, postal, customs and banking collaboration.

while reviewing the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, underlined the importance of further deepening of political, trade and economic ties, inter-parliamentary linkages and enhancing cultural and educational relations. Both sides reaffirmed their resolve to achieve the target of \$ one billion trade volume between the two countries in 2020. The Sides positively assess the activities of the Joint Belarusian and Pakistani Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation as the coordinating body in

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and H.E. Mr. Alexander Lukashenko, President of Belarus standing in respect of National Anthems of both the countries in a ceremony held at PM House, Islamabad.



H.E. Mr. Alexander Lukashenko, President of Belarus inspecting the Guard of Honour at PM House, Islamabad.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and H.E. Mr. Alexander Lukashenko, President of Belarus lead their respective sides in the delegation level talks held at PM House, Islamabad.

developing bilateral trade and economic relations and support the activities of the Belarusian and Pakistani Trade Committee.

The two countries also signed a comprehensive "Joint Statement" reiterating their determination to further consolidate bilateral ties in all fields. The "Joint Statement" reflects commonality of views on important regional and international issues; it inter alia underlines the importance of resolving all outstanding issues between Pakistan-India relations including the Jammu and Kashmir issue through peaceful means and in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions and emphasizes the importance of a non-discriminatory approach to the issue of non-NPT states membership in the NSG based on consensus. The Statement also acknowledges the important role of Pakistan in the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. .

The Sides reaffirmed their support for an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. Belarus underscored the important role of Pakistan including through the Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) to promote peace and development in Afghanistan as well as in the wider region.

This was the fourth leadership visit between two countries and a second visit by the Belarusian President to Pakistan in a span of sixteen months. President Lukashenko invited the Prime Minister to pay his second visit to Belarus. The invitation was accepted. The frequency of high level visits and interaction are reflective of the growing relations between Pakistan and Belarus.



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq called on President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko in Islamabad.



Delegation from Belarus led by H.E. Mr. Vladimir Semashko, Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus called on Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Ghulam Murtaza Khan Jatoi in Islamabad

It is my wish to strengthen further bilateral and trade relations with the Republic of Pakistan: Deputy PM Belarus

Belarus has great potential in various sectors of trade from which Pakistani businessmen can benefit said by H.H Mr. Vladimir Semashko, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus on occasion of welcome dinner hosted by Ch. Shahzad Akhtar at Serena hotel Islamabad. H.H said that Belarus has great potential in various sectors of trade from which Pakistani businessmen can benefit. He said that it is my wish to strengthen further bilateral and trade relations with the Republic of Pakistan.

While addressing on the occasion Farah Azeem Shah of From "Global Affairs" congratulated the Deputy Prime Minister and his team on taking this initiative on strengthening the economic ties between both countries. She was of the view that this initiative will not only bring prosperity and improve quality of life of both nations but opens many other doors of corporation and work together to bring lasting peace in the world.

She further said that Belarus and Pakistan are the lands of beauty with lots of opportunities in different fields. Pakistan was one of the first countries to accept Belarus after the fall of Soviet Union in 1991. Pakistan and Belarus hold historic relations since then. Under the great leadership of Belarusian President, Belarus enjoys political stability, developing economy and improving living condition. Pakistan and Belarus had initiated joint venture in many business activities and we had signed a number of agreements and MoUs to strengthen our business relations in the fields of trade, commerce, education and culture.

Mr. Abdul Rauf Alam – President of the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry also spoke at the occasion. He threw light on the importance of Pakistan in the region and feasibilities of business in Pakistan. Pakistani business community always given importance to Belarus and we enjoy cordial relations with the Republic of Belarus. He said that the current volume of exports between Pakistan and Belarus is \$60 million.

Mr. Khalid Sherdil – Secretary Punjab Industries shared his vision and strong will for the promotion of business and trade. He announced that CM Punjab Mian Shahbaz Sharif's upcoming visit in a month time will bring positive change in business ties with the Republic of Belarus. He offered Belarusian businessmen onetime exemption in tax in case of a setup of a company in Pakistan.

Syed Raza Ali Gilani – member Provincial Assembly of Punjab thanked the Belarusian delegation for their hospitality that Syed Raza



Ali Gilani got in his recent visit to Belarus. He said the government is working round the clock under the leadership of PM Nawaz Sharif and CM Shahbaz Sharif to extend trade about \$ 1 billion. But it is not trade alone. We are also expecting foreign direct investment between the two countries. Mr. Viladimir Vulakovich – Chairman Chamber of Commerce Belarus has thanked hosts and Punjab Industries for arranging such a thought provoking reception. He admired the hospitality of Pakistani people. He said "let's be proactive to help each other and let's be proactive to enhance business relations with Pakistan."

A pompous informative presentation in the form of documentaries regarding Belarusian tractors, dumpers and trucks was played which amused the audiences.

45 members official delegation of Belarusian ministers, industrialists and pre-eminent businessmen, led by Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus H.H Mr. Vladimir Semashko visit to Pakistan. There were also B2B meetings between businessmen and industrialist from Pakistan and Belarus.



The Belarusian delegation was comprises on Mr. Mihail Zhuravkov - Minister of Education, Mr. Sergei Nalivaiko - Minister of Taxation and Revenue, Mr. Vitaly Vovk - Minister of Industry, Mr. Alexander Shumilin - Chairman, State Committee of Science and Technology, Mr. Igor Brylo-Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food, and many other prominent personalities from Banking, industry, communication, auto mobiles, tractor industry, Chamber of Commerce and media.

Other paramount industrialists and businessmen from Pakistan were also attended the reception. Representatives from Ministry of Industries Punjab along with Khalid Sherdil – Secretary Industries, SMEs, Chambers of Commerce and Industry from Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Karachi and Faisalabad were also attended the reception. A large number of business community from pre-eminent industrialists, businessmen and trade bodies representatives from all across the Pakistan were also graced the event with their participation.



Belarus & Pakistan

stressed that the Kashmir issue should be resolved

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring Desk

President Mamnoon Hussain and President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko have stressed that the Kashmir issue should be resolved through peaceful dialogue between Pakistan and India for peace and prosperity in the region. President Mamnoon Hussain has called upon the international community particularly the friendly countries to urge India to stop atrocities in Occupied Kashmir and give the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations and the commitment of the founding leaders of India.

The President said this while in a meeting with President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

The two Presidents had one to one meeting which was followed by delegation level meeting.

President Mamnoon Hussain said that India is trying to escalate tension at the Line of Control to divert the world community's attention from its ongoing atrocities and oppression in Occupied Kashmir adding that in the last few months 110 people have lost their lives and more than 12,000 have been injured as a result of oppression by Indian forces in the held Kashmir. The President stated that Kashmiris are fighting for their right to self-determination adding that the use of lethal force against innocent Kashmiris is violation of international laws and urged the international community to take notice of it. The President said that Pakistan is desirous of having friendly relations with its neighbours particularly with India and

wants to resolve all issues through dialogue including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

President Mamnoon Hussain and President Alexander Lukashenko have agreed to further promote bilateral relations in the fields of trade, economy, education, defence and culture. This understanding was reached between the two countries during a meeting at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President Mamnoon Hussain said that bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and Belarus is below potential and emphasized the need to further increase it. He stated that Belarusian investors have an excellent opportunity to benefit from Pakistan's liberal investment policy and its big market. He added that Belarusian investors can take advantage from facilities being offered in special economic zones. The



President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko being presented with bouquets children clad in traditional dress upon his arrival at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

President hoped that Pakistan-Belarus Joint Economic Commission would be beneficial in increasing bilateral trade and stressed on establishing close contacts between the chambers of commerce of two countries.

The President said that many possibilities of cooperation between Pakistan and Belarus exist in areas of textile, agricultural implements, heavy machinery, pharmaceuticals, transport and dairy products. The President expressed optimism that MOUs signed between the two countries in different fields will prove to be a solid foundation for bilateral relations between Pakistan and Belarus. The President underscored the need for promoting cooperation at parliamentary level between the two countries.

President Mamnoon Hussain noted with satisfaction that arrangements were underway to establish Belarus Chair (Belarusian) in National University of Modern Languages (NUML) in Islamabad and Pakistan Chair (Urdu) in Minsk State Linguistic University. The President welcomed the establishment of a Belarus Cultural Centre in the National Library of Pakistan and hoped that a similar centre will be established in Minsk.

The visiting dignitary thanked President Mamnoon Hussain for according warm welcome to him and to his delegation and said that his country is keen to benefit from

Kashmiris are fighting for their right to self-determination adding that the use of lethal force against innocent Kashmiris is violation of international laws and urged the international community to take notice of it: President Mamnoon

Pakistan's expertise in different sectors. On the occasion, President Alexander Lukashenko extended an invitation to President Mamnoon

Hussain to visit Belarus.

Earlier, upon arrival, President Alexander Lukashenko was warmly received by President Mamnoon Hussain at the main entrance of the Aiwan-e-Sadr. On the occasion, children clad in traditional dress presented bouquets to the visiting dignitary. President Mamnoon Hussain also hosted a banquet in the honour of President Alexander Lukashenko.

During the delegation level meeting, the Pakistani side included, among others, Ghulam Murtaza Khan Jatoti, Minister of Industries & Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister of Science & Technology/Defence Production, Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman, Minister of State for Federal Education & Professional Training, Miftah Ismail, Minister of State / Chairman, Board of Investment and Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs. The Belarusian side included Vladimir Semashko, Deputy Prime Minister, Makei Vladimir, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vitaly Vovk, Minister of Industry, Mikhail Zhuravkov, Minister of Education and Sergei Nalivaiko, Minister of Taxation and Revenue.



Khalid Iqbal Malik, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry is presenting shield to Vladimir Ulakhovich, Chairman, Belarus Chamber of Commerce and Industry during visit to ICCI

Belarusian delegation visits ICCI to enhance business cooperation

A delegation of Belarusian big companies led by Mr. Vladimir Ulakhovich, Chairman, Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry to further strengthen business and economic cooperation with Pakistan. The delegation represented various sectors including energy, textiles, automobile, logistics, agriculture & industrial machinery, chemical and petrochemicals industry, oil & gas and clothing & footwear industry.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Vladimir Ulakhovich, Chairman, Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that Belarus was technologically advanced country and Pakistan could reap many benefits for its economy by improving economic relations with it. He said both countries enjoyed very good relations at political level and President of Belarus is coming to Pakistan to further improve bilateral relations. He said Belarusian businessmen wanted to transform these good political relations into growing trade and economic relations with Pakistan.

In his welcome address, Khalid Iqbal Malik, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that Pakistan and Belarus had started cooperation in 1960s for the import and assembly of Belarusian tractors in Pakistan. However, bilateral trade was still far below the actual potential and both countries

should give enhanced role to private sectors for improving two-way trade. He said Pakistan was an agricultural country and there was great scope for Belarusian agriculture machinery in Pakistan. He said both countries have good potential to promote cooperation in many areas including energy, automobile, industrial machinery, pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, technology transfer, investment, forestry, steel, furniture, health and education sectors. He stressed that Pakistan and Belarus should become strategic partners in production of value-added exported-oriented products to achieve beneficial results for their economies.

He said removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers was essential for trade facilitation. He emphasized that both countries should establish direct banking links to facilitate trade as absence of banking channels was a major trade barrier. He said regular exchange of trade delegations was the best means to identify new areas of mutual cooperation.

He said Pakistan was the second largest market of South Asia and invited Belarusian investors to set up industrial plants in Pakistan to produce all kinds of heavy vehicles, buses, dumper trucks, cranes, agricultural machinery and other high technology solutions. He said Belarus was quite strong in fertilizers and chemicals fields and it should share its technology and expertise with Pakistan to improve productivity of these sectors.



FPCI holds interactive session with Diplomats on Vision 2025 in the context of CPEC

The FPCI Standing Committee on Diplomatic Affairs organized an interactive session with the Diplomats of various countries under the Chairmanship of Mirza Ishtiaq Baig at Federation House, Karachi. The aim of the session was to discuss the Vision 2025 in the context of CPEC project of Pakistan. The meeting was attended by the Consul Generals and Trade Representatives of Switzerland, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, Tajikistan, Russian Federation, Afghanistan, Iran, Japan, France and various other countries.

While welcoming the foreign diplomats, Shaikh Khalid Tawab, Sr. Vice President FPCI briefly enlightened the role and activities of FPCI in the national economy and International FORAS like ECO-CCI, SAARC-CCI, CACCI, Islamic Chamber, D-8 Chamber, GSP Desk, CSR and Business Council etc. He emphasized on the expansion of bilateral trade with the other countries and indicated that trade is an engine of economic growth and without trade, economic connectivity and regional integration is not possible. He also suggested regular holding of events like exhibition, trade fairs and formulation of delegations for exploring the bilateral relation. While explaining the India Pakistan relations, he stated that Pakistan is a peaceful country having no intention of aggression with any country. However, recently the war like situation has been unnecessarily developed by India on Pak-India border and gave threat to Pakistan for breaking Indus water treaty. He added that war is not the solution of any problem and the issues and

disputes should be resolved amicably through negotiations. Regarding CPEC he stated that this corridor is a mega project that will connect the Kashgar with Gwadar and will benefit the whole region in term of bringing prosperity and development.

Mr. S. M. Muneer, Chief Executive Trade Development of Pakistan briefly explained about the trade and investment opportunities of Pakistan. He highlighted the role and activities of TDAP in the development of economic relations between countries. He said that the law and order situation has improved in the wake of Zarb-e-Azab and Karachi operation.

In his speech, the Chairman of FPCI Standing Committee on Diplomatic Affairs Mirza Ishtiaq Baig stated about the economic, social, security and governance challenges faced by Pakistan. While quoting the statistics, he indicated that during the last many years, Pakistan's GDP income has grown at less than 3 to 4% per year, while other countries, e.g., Bangladesh, China, India, South Korea and Sri Lanka, are growing at rates between 6 & 9 % per year. He also explained about the Vision 2025 given by the current government for restoring the tradition of perspective planning in Pakistan. He further informed about the aims, objective and goals of this vision and recommended the increase in GDP growth from current level to nine percent, exports from US \$ 25 billion to US\$ 150 billion, FDI from US\$ 600 million to over US\$ 15 billion and tax to GDP ratio from 9.8% to 18%. He

further suggested improving in ranking of ease of doing business, reduction in poverty and improving the health and education facilities in Pakistan.

During the meeting, Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig Member FPCI Committee on CPEC explained the importance of CPEC for the revival and growth of economy. He stated that this project will revive the historical trade route (silk route) and provide transit to the landlocked Central Asian countries from Pakistan in term of shortest route and low cost of trade. He further explained about the components of CPEC like infrastructural project, energy sector projects, industrial projects, telecommunication projects etc. He indicated that the successful implementation of these projects will be a game-changer for the people of Pakistan in terms of new economic opportunities leading to higher incomes and significant improvements in the living standards. He further added that the investment on the corridor will transform Pakistan into a regional economic hub and will attract investment not only from China but other parts of the world as well.

All the Consul Generals and Trade Representatives expressed their full confidence on the potential of Pakistan and agreed that implementation of CPEC projects of energy, infrastructure, Gwadar port will be truly instrumental in the economic development of Pakistan in time to come. They said our Government and Federation put more efforts to change the perception of Pakistan abroad. They suggested FPCI to hold regular meetings on such vital economic issues. Ms. Fozia Tariq, SVP of the committee extended vote of thanks prominent those attended. Mr. Zubair Tufail, Hanif Gohar, Arshad Farooq, Senator Haseeb, Sami Khan, Gulzar Firoz, Malik Khuda Buksh, Mehtab Chawla, Shakil Dhingra and a large number of business leaders and women entrepreneurs.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Sir Mark Syall Grant, National Security Adviser (United Kingdom) called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM House.



H.E. Mr. Ali Fikrat Oglu Albaidi, Ambassador of Azerbaijan called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM House, Islamabad.



General Peter Ravel, Chairman Military Committee Nato called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM House, Islamabad.



Ambassador of Norway, Mr. Tore Nedrobo called on Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Islamabad.



Call on Finance Minister Ishaq Dar by MD INF Ms. Christine Lagarde in Islamabad.



UK High Commissioner, Mr. Thomas Drew called on interior Minister Ch. Nisar Ali Khan at Punjab House, Islamabad.



Ambassador of Czech Republic Mr. Jan Furey called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.



National Security Adviser, Lt Gen (RET D) Nasser Khan Janjua meeting with Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Furkat Sfikov in Islamabad.



US Ambassador to Pakistan, David Hale called on special Assistant to the PM on Human Rights, Barrister Zafar Ullah Khan in Islamabad.



National Security Adviser, Lt Gen (RET D) Nasser Khan Janjua in a meeting with Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Abdullah Marozzoq Al-Zahrani in Islamabad.



H.E. Mr. Tarik Anwar, High Commissioner of People's Republic of Bangladesh called on Pir Syed Saddaruddin Shah Rehidi, Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development in Islamabad.



National Security Adviser, Lt Gen (RET D) Nasser Khan Janjua in a meeting with British National Security Adviser, Sir Mark Lyall Grant in Islamabad.



National Security Adviser, Lt Gen (RET D) Nasser Khan Janjua in a meeting with US Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. David Hale in Islamabad.



Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Syed Tariq Fatemi in a meeting with the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Uganda, H.E. Okello Henry Oryem in Islamabad.

President Mamnoon lauds defence ties with Qatar



President Mamnoon Hussain being greeted by H.E. Jassim Saif Ahmed Al-Sulaiti, Minister of Transport and Communication upon his arrival at Hammad International Airport Doha, Qatar.



A Child presenting bouquet to President Mamnoon Hussain upon his arrival at Hammad International Airport, Doha, Qatar.

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Agencies

President Mamnoon Hussain discussed the prospects of defence cooperation between Pakistan and Qatar with the country's Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohammad al Attiyah.

The minister of state expressed his country's keenness to purchase defence equipment and hardware from Pakistan and lauded the services of Pakistani defence personnel in the Qatari armed forces.

He said Pakistan was very close to his heart and Doha desired to enhance relations with

President Mamnoon Hussain expressed satisfaction over the level of defence cooperation between the two countries and desired to further enhance mutual cooperation to take the relationship to new heights

strategic depth.

"Qatar is keen to have joint ventures with Pakistan in the area of defence production," the minister added.

Echoing similar sentiments, the president said that Pakistan too attached great importance to its close and cordial relations with Qatar. He also added that relations between the two were based on mutual respect and shared values. He expressed satisfaction over the level of defence cooperation between the two countries and desired to further enhance mutual cooperation to take the relationship to new heights. Mamnoon said the exchange

of defence delegations and interaction strengthened the bonds of friendship between the two brotherly countries and Pakistan looked forward to having positive outcomes from the Qatari minister's visit to Pakistan scheduled from October 27-28. He informed Dr Khalid bin Mohammad that Pakistan had developed state of the art defence production facilities and could cater to Qatar's growing

“Qatar is keen to have joint ventures with Pakistan in the area of defence production,” Dr Khalid bin Mohammad al Attiyah

need in military equipment and hardware. President Mamnoon noted with appreciation the recent deal between the two countries on the sale of Super Mushshak aircraft by Pakistan to Qatar. Separately, the president met Pakistani youth and urged them to equip themselves with the latest knowledge and fast evolving technologies like computers, internet, smart phones, etc.

“The invention of the internet has changed this world and when you will take the rein of affairs, it would have changed completely, confining into a small device (cell phone) which all of us are carrying in our hands today,” he told students at the Pakistan Education Centre (PEC), a school run by the Pakistan Embassy in Qatar.



President Mamnoon Hussain in a meeting with H.E. Dr. Eissa Bin Saad Al-Gafali al-Nuimi Minister for Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs in Doha, Qatar.



President Mamnoon Hussain in a meeting with H.E. Dr. Khalid-Bin-Mohamed Al-Attiya Minister of State for Defence in Doha, Qatar.



President Mamnoon Hussain in a meeting with Qatari delegation of businessmen which was headed by Sheikh Faisal bin Qasim Al-thani, Chairman Qatar business Association in Doha, Qatar.



President Mamnoon Hussain addressing the students of Pakistan Education Center in Doha, Qatar.



President Mamnoon Hussain addressing the Pakistani Community in Doha, Qatar.



President Mamnoon Hussain in a group photo with Qatari delegation of businessmen which was headed by Sheikh Faisal bin Qasim Al-Thani, Chairman Qatar Businessmen Association in Doha, Qatar.



President Mamnoon Hussain hand with H.E. Sheikh Faisal bin Qasim Al-thani, Chairman Qatar Businessmen Association Doha, Qatar.



President Mamnoon Hussain seen off by H.E. Jassim Ahmed Al-Sulaiti, Minister of Transport and Communication at Hamad International Airport, Doha, Qatar.



President Mamnoon Hussain signing the visitor's book at Pakistan Education Center in Doha, Qatar.



President Mamnoon Hussain being presented a memento during his visit to Pakistan Education Center in Doha, Qatar by Principal Nargis Raza Otho and Pakistan's Ambassador Shahzad Ahmed.



President Mamnoon Hussain in a group photo with position holders of Pakistan Education Center in Doha, Qatar.

Pakistan and Qatar enjoying strong brotherly relations: *PM Nawaz Sharif*

By Agencies, Monitoring Desk

P rime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan and Qatar were enjoying strong brotherly relations which would be further strengthened into sustained economic cooperation for the benefits of both the countries.

The Prime Minister was talking to Dr. Khalid bin Mohammad Al Attiyah, Minister of Defence Affairs Qatar, who called on him here at the PM House.

He further said that Pakistan, Qatar and Turkey can set up joint ventures for undertaking defence related manufacturing of military equipments.



Minister of State for Defence Affairs Qatar H.E. Dr. Khalid bin Mohammad Al-Attiyah called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM House Islamabad

“We are desirous of buying Super Mushshak and JF-17 Thunder aircraft from Pakistan and also want to set up military cooperation and production of equipments in Qatar with the assistance of Pakistan and Turkey”: Dr Khalid bin Mohammad Al Attiyah

“Our relationship with Qatar means a lot to us and you can count on Pakistan as your closest ally and brotherly state”, the Prime Minister said.

Dr Khalid bin Mohammad Al Attiyah said that Qatar sees Pakistan as a strategic partner and every effort would be made to make this relationship second to none.

He further stated that after concluding the LNG project during the PM’s last visit to Qatar, the relationship between the two brotherly states has grown into a much stronger economic cooperation.

“With the assistance and cooperation of Pakistan, we want to improve our military

hardware to be prepared for the uncertain threat of terrorism, prevailing in the region”, the Defence Minister added.

He further said that Qatar would be establishing training academy for countering the unconventional enemy of terrorism and would be seeking the services and expertise of the Pakistani instructors to impart training courses there.

The Defence Minister said that the mutual

cooperation between Qatar and Pakistan, led by Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, would see new heights in the times to come.

“We are desirous of buying Super Mushshak and JF-17 Thunder aircraft from Pakistan and also want to set up military cooperation and production of equipments in Qatar with the assistance of Pakistan and Turkey”, the Defence Minister said.

The Defence Minister also extended



Minister of State for Defence Affairs of Qatar, Dr. Khalid bin Mohammed Al-Attiyah, Presenting a gift to Federal Minister for Defence Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain in Ministry of Defence Production, Rawalpindi.

condolences to the Prime Minister, on his behalf and on behalf of Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani the Emir of the State of Qatar, on the loss of precious human lives in the terrorist attack on Police Training Centre Quetta.

He said that the terrorist attack was most condemnable and the government and people of Qatar stand by their Pakistani brethren in this hour of grief and sorrow.

Thanking Dr Khalid bin Mohammad Al Attiyah for the condolences, the Prime Minister said that the attack was most condemnable which resulted into the loss of innocent lives.

The Prime Minister termed the present visit of the Qatari Defence Minister as highly productive as Pakistan is ready to support Qatar in all fields.

Regarding the trilateral cooperation among Pakistan, Qatar and Turkey, the Prime Minister highlighted that Pakistan and Turkey have ever increasing relationship since Pakistan came into being.

"The trade volume between Qatar and Pakistan will multiply, especially after the import of LNG from Qatar", he added.

The Prime Minister also extended his heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al- Thani, the grandfather of Emir of Qatar.



Minister of State of Defence Affairs of Qatar, Dr. Khalid Mohammed Al-Attiyah called on Federal for Defence Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain in Ministry of Defence Production Rawalpindi



Minister of State of Defence Affairs of Qatar, Dr. Khalid bin Mohammed Al-Attiyah called on Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif in Ministry of Defence Rawalpindi.



Federal Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif in a group photo with Minister of State of Defence Affairs of Qatar Dr. Khalid bin Mohammed Al-Attiyah & his delegation members, in Ministry of Defence, Rawalpindi.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the Secretary General of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy Ambassador Elisabetta in Islamabad.



Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with Baroness Sayeeda Hussain Warsi in Islamabad.



Ambassador of Spain, H.E. Mr. Carlos Morales called on the Federal Minister for Water and Power, Khawaja Muhammad Asif in Islamabad.



A delegation of Turkish Prominent Business Association (MUSIAD) comprising of Mr. Omur Yildiz, Deputy Chairman and Mr. Kakan Kurt, Member called on Raza Tarsuer Hussain Federal Minister for Defence Production in Islamabad.



Dr. Miftah Ismail, MOS/ Chairman, Board of Investment in a meeting with H.E. Mr. Mehdi Honardoost, Ambassador, Islamic Republic of Iran in Islamabad.



H.E. Ambassador of Uzbekistan Furqat A. Siddikov called on the Federal Ombudsman, Mr. Muhammad Salman Faruqi at the Ombudsman Secretariat, Islamabad.

President Mamnoon Hussain

conveyed his condolences on the death of Shaikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani



By Agencies

Pakistan's President Mamnoon Hussain, who was in Doha on an official visit, conveyed his condolences on the death of HH the Grandfather Emir Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani to HH the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and HH the Father Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

Calling off all his engagements for the last day of his two-day visit, President Hussain joined HH the Emir and HH the Father Emir to offer funeral prayers of HH the Grandfather Emir at Imam Mohammed bin Abdulwahab Mosque.

In his condolence message, President Hussain said he was deeply saddened to learn about the demise of HH Sheikh Khalifa.

"His demise is indeed heartbreaking but we have to submit to the will of Allah Almighty. On behalf of the government, the people of Pakistan and on my personal behalf I extend my heartfelt condolences to HH the Emir, members of the royal family and to the brotherly people of Qatar," President Hussain said in his message.

President Hussain said Pakistan will always remember HH Sheikh Khalifa with gratitude for laying the foundation of Pakistan-Qatar relations and then strengthening them.

"Sheikh Khalifa was a visionary leader who served the people of Qatar with great sincerity. His contribution to the welfare and development of people of Qatar will always be remembered," recalled President Hussain.

He added that his loss is equally felt by the Islamic world due to HH Sheikh Khalifa's commitment to Islamic causes and the unity of Ummah.



Qatar's former Emir laid to rest

Nation, mourners offer condolences, pay tribute

By Monitoring Desk

Thousands of Qataris and foreigners have paid tribute to Shaikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, the first Emir of independent Qatar, who passed away aged 84.

The emir ruled Qatar for 23 years, from 1972 until 1995.



Sheikh Khalifa was born in Rayyan in 1932. He was the son of Hamad bin Abdullah Al Thani and grandson of Abdullah bin Jassim Al Thani. In 1957, Khalifa was appointed as Minister of Education. Then he was appointed as Deputy Emir. He was named as the heir apparent on 24 October 1960. In the 1960s he also served as Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

On 22 February 1972, Sheikh Khalifa became the Emir of Qatar. His initial activity was the process of the reorganization of the government. He also limited the financial privileges of members of the ruling family. Next, he appointed a foreign minister and an adviser to himself regarding the day-to-day affairs. On 19 April 1972, he amended the Constitution and expanded the Cabinet by appointing more ministers. Diplomatic relations were also established with a number of foreign countries at the ambassadorial level.

The state revenue from the oil sector had increased as the result of the rising of a number of production sharing agreements with foreign oil companies. While the search for finding more oil deposits in Qatar continued, Qatar built an industrial base in order to reduce dependence on the oil sector. He died on 23 October 2016, a week after entering the hospital.



The development and achievements of Azerbaijan is a pride of all Muslim countries: PM Nawaz

By Mian Fazal Elahi, M.Saeed Yousafzai

P rime Minister Nawaz Sharif paid a three-day official visit of Azerbaijan.

The PM is paying his first visit to Azerbaijan on the invitation of President Ilham Aliyev. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif together with Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev addressing a joint press conference in Baku said plans have been discussed for joint military training between armed forces of both countries.

"We have agreed to work in several fields including defence, energy, agriculture and economy," the premier said adding that the joint meeting reflected the common goal of prosperity and development.

Further, PM Nawaz said that Pakistan's aspirations for peace should not be taken as a sign of weakness and that all regional issues pertaining to Kashmir need to be resolved at the earliest. "Pakistan has been an advocate of peace despite naked aggression from certain

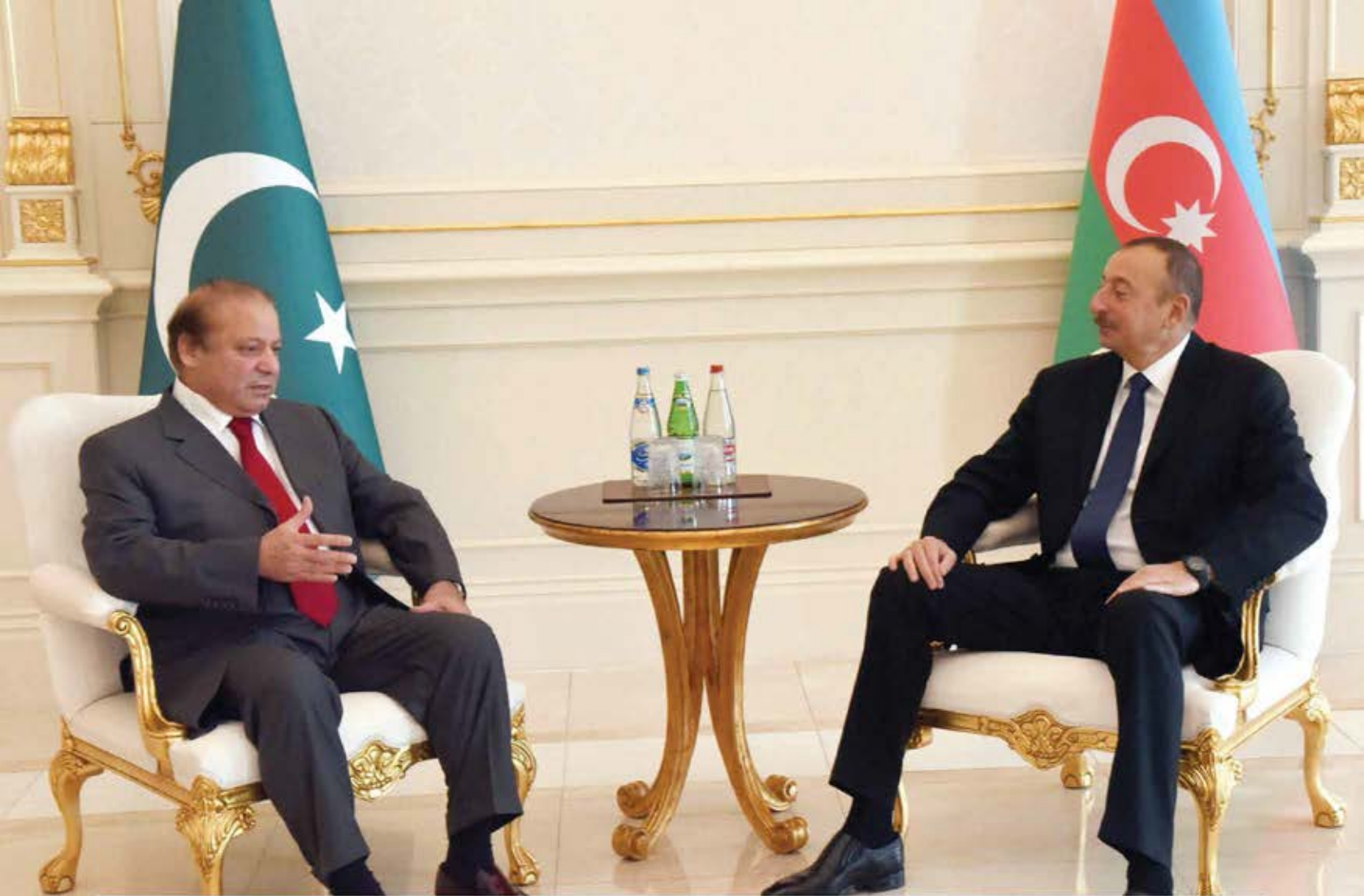


Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan receives Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on arrival at Zagulba Presidential Palace Baku Azerbaijan.

Upon arrival at Baku international airport, PM Nawaz was accorded a warm welcome by Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister Ali Akhmedov and other top government functionaries. Two children attired in the national dress presented bouquets to Prime Minister Sharif and Begum Kulsoom Nawaz.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev inspecting the Guard of Honour during a warm welcome ceremony at Zagulba Presidential Palace, Baku.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meeting with President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev at Zagulba Presidential Palace, Baku.

quarters," he said.

Pakistan and India have been involved in a tense verbal and diplomatic spat since July 8 owing to state violence in held Kashmir and subsequent deaths of more than 100 protesters in the valley.

The premier facilitated Azerbaijan's stance on Kashmir and stressed that the issue needs to

I am impressed by remarkable political stability, social cohesion and impressive economic progress of Azerbaijan: PM Nawaz

be resolved in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations. "Our regions have remained hostile to these [security] situations," Nawaz remarked.

Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has said he is "impressed by remarkable political stability, social cohesion and impressive economic progress of Azerbaijan". "The laudable social



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif visits the Alley of Martyrs at Shahidlar Khiyabani at Baku to pay homage to the martyrs of Azerbaijan's freedom movement.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif visits the Alley of Martyrs at Shahidlar Khiyabani at Baku to pay homage to the martyrs of Azerbaijan's freedom movement.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif being received by Mr. Ali Ahmedov, Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan on arrival at Hayder Aliyev International Airport Baku, Azerbaijan.



Mr. Artur Rasi-zadeh, Prime Minister of Azerbaijan welcomes Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on arrival at the Prime Minister Office at Baku, Azerbaijan.

“Pakistan was one of the first countries to recognize independence of Azerbaijan.

The country has demonstrated solidarity with Azerbaijan on the international arena since then. It also resolutely supports Azerbaijan’s fair position on the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.”

and economic development and progress that Azerbaijan has achieved under President Ilham Aliyev’s dynamic leadership is viewed with deep admiration in Pakistan,” Mr Nawaz Sharif told a joint press conference following



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Mr. Artur Rasi-Zadeh lead their respective sides in a meeting held at the Prime Minister Office at Baku Azerbaijan.

his meeting with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev on the second day of his official visit to Baku. The development and achievements of Azerbaijan is a pride of all Muslim countries and an example of governance for a number of developing countries, said Pakistan’s Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. “Pakistan and Azerbaijan have always shared similar

perceptions. After my meeting with President Aliyev I was pleased to know that the two of us also share concrete ideals,” the Pakistani Prime Minister added.

Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has also visited the Parliament of Azerbaijan to meet

We have agreed to work in several fields including defence, energy, agriculture and economy and the joint meeting reflected the common goal of prosperity and development: PM Nawaz



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in a meeting with Speaker of Milli Mejlis H.E. Ogtay Asadov at the Azeri Parliament.

with its speaker Ogtay Asadov.

Asadov emphasized the importance of the Pakistani PM's official visit to Azerbaijan. He said the visit will give an impetus to the development of cooperation between the two countries and open a new page in Azerbaijani-Pakistani relations.

The Parliament Speaker said Azerbaijan and Pakistan have friendly and brotherly ties. He remembered that during the visit of the Pakistani President to Azerbaijan last year the two countries signed a joint declaration on strategic partnership. He said the declaration elevated the bilateral relations to a new level.

Asadov said Azerbaijan and Pakistan have signed 32 documents so far, with another 13 documents still pending. He also hailed inter-parliamentary cooperation.

Asadov commended political ties between Azerbaijan and Pakistan, and also noted the significance of developing economic relations. "The people of Pakistan and Azerbaijan share the same religious and cultural roots."

"Pakistan was one of the first countries to recognize independence of Azerbaijan. The country has demonstrated solidarity with Azerbaijan on the international arena since then. It also resolutely supports Azerbaijan's fair position on the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict."

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif emphasized "friendly and brotherly" relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan. He said the main goal of his visit is to contribute to further development of relations. Nawaz Sharif congratulated Azerbaijanis on the forthcoming Independence Day. He also hailed inter-parliamentary ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

Pakistani PM noted that his country will further support Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. He underlined that the Foreign Relations Committee of the Pakistani Senate recognized the massacre of Azerbaijani civilians by Armenian military units in Khojaly as an act



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev speaking at joint press stakeout at Zagulba Presidential Palace, Baku Azerbaijan.

of genocide in 1992.

Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has visited the Alley of Honors to lay a wreath at the tomb of national leader, founder and architect of

modern Azerbaijani state Heydar Aliyev.

He also put flowers at the graves of prominent ophthalmologist, academician Zarifa Aliyeva, outstanding statesman Aziz Aliyev and acclaimed doctor and scientist Tamerlan Aliyev.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Being Received by Prime Minister of Qatar H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasir Bin Khalifa Al-Thani at Hamad International Airport, Doha.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev lead their respective sides in the delegation level talks held at Zagulba Presidential Palace, Baku Azerbaijan.



PM Nawaz receives honorary doctorate from Baku State University



Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has received honorary doctorate from Baku State University.

Rector Abel Maharramov presented doctorate to the Pakistani Premier in a ceremony that was attended by the university's students, teaching staff and professors.

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif viewed the Heydar Aliyev Museum and met with students.

The rector spoke of the high level strategic



alliance between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. He said Pakistan is the first country to recognize the Khojaly Genocide. He said official Islamabad did not recognize Armenia as an independent state because of the country's policy of aggression against Azerbaijan.

The rector then handed a certificate and cloak of honorary doctor to the Pakistani Premier.

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif addressed the event. He expressed his gratitude for honorary doctorate.

He praised Azerbaijan-Pakistan relations.





Indian war mongering will endanger not just the South Asian region but also the world at large: Speaker NA Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

By Monitoring Desk, Agencies

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that Indian war mongering will endanger not just the South Asian region but also the world at large. He urged that Pakistan has shown restraint up till now but any aggression from India will meet with full force. Pakistani nation is ready to protect Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity at all costs. According to the message received from Turkey, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said this while addressing the 36th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Union of Islamic Countries (PUIC). Speakers, Chairpersons, Presidents of

the Parliaments and representative bodies of 57 Islamic Countries were also present on the occasion.

He said that world history bears testimony that peace has never prevailed without addressing the root causes of public discord. He warned that regional peace and inclusive development,

not only for the sub-continent but for the entire region will remain a mere dream, if the international community keeps side stepping the Kashmir issue.

He further said that India should stop from heightening tension in the greater interest of peace and stability. "The entire responsibility

"The entire responsibility would be on India for any eventualities. International Community should focus on Indian belligerence and not Pakistan"



Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq presenting a copy of resolution of Pakistan Parliament to Speaker Ismail Kahraman in Ankara.

would be on India for any eventualities. International Community should focus on Indian belligerence and not Pakistan" the Speaker added.

While addressing, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq demanded that the Secretary General PUIC should hold an independent probe into the recent genocide in Indian held Kashmir, led by Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission or jointly with UNHRC Geneva.

The Speaker lamented that India has employed brutal practices in the occupied valley including unprovoked firing with shotgun pellets, attacking ambulances, hospitals and funerals, clamping curfews, blacking out media, detaining Hurriyat leadership, closing down offices of Amnesty International and other International Human Rights Organizations and refusing to allow UNHCRs' fact finding mission in Indian Occupied Kashmir to gag the Kashmiri freedom movement.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also briefed the participants regarding the brutality of the Indian army and how the children of the Indian held Kashmir have been butchered and blinded by the use of pellet guns through slide show, video clips & Statistics of deaths, eye-injured and other injuries. He added that heart wrenching accounts of the plight of innocent Kashmiri women and children in the face of vicious brutality inflicted on them by Indian security forces has left us speechless. He said that such barbaric acts perpetrated on innocent Kashmiris by Indian armed forces surmount to breach of all local and international human rights doctrines.



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq shaking hand with Turkish Prime Minister Mr. Binali Yildirim in Ankara.

He thrashed India's lame claims of being democratic and secular and stated that it didn't even allow the people in Kashmir to offer Eid prayers last month. He hit out at India's jingoism aimed at Kashmir freedom movement and called it a pretense to repress the freedom movement which has gained fresh momentum after the Shahadat of Burhan Wani. He said that Indian efforts to bury the indigenous Kashmiri movement under the façade of terrorism are a malicious attempt to silence the voice of thousands of suppressed Kashmiris. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq reiterated that Pakistan never has

and never will back away from supporting peaceful resolution of Kashmir issue under the auspices of the UN Charter. While concluding, he urged the international community to take notice of the deteriorating situation in Indian Occupied Kashmir and seek condemnation of the Indian brutalities at the highest level. The Speaker called on India to end the inhumane repression as early as possible and resolve the issue in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions, which allow Kashmiris to exercise their right of self-determination under a UN supervised plebiscite.



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq addressing the 36th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Union Organization of Islamic Conference (PUIC) in Ankara.



No Caption...

And again a deadly attack in Baluchistan... Another page written in history of terrorism!!!

THE death toll is shocking as is the seeming ease with which militants were able to attack a police training academy outside Quetta city; our thoughts must turn to the injured and the families of those who died. The first line of defence for much of Pakistan are this country's police forces — often targeted, unduly vulnerable and unconscionably under-resourced across most of the country.

By Monitoring Desk, News Agencies

Heavily-armed militants wearing suicide vests stormed a police academy in Quetta, killing at least 61 people and wounding at least 117, Balochistan Home Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti said, in the deadliest attack on a security installation in the country's history.

Three gunmen burst into the sprawling academy, targeting sleeping quarters home to some 700 recruits, and sent terrified young men aged between 15 and 25 fleeing.

Communication intercepts showed the attack was carried out by Al-Alimi faction of the Lashkar-i-Jhangvi (LJ) militant group, IG Frontier Corps (FC) Major General Sher Afgan said.

Separately, the militant Islamic State group

claimed responsibility for the attack, according to the group's Amaq news agency.

Most of the deaths were caused when two of the attackers blew themselves up. The third was shot dead by Frontier Corps (FC) troops. At least 117 people were injured.

"I saw three men carrying Kalashnikovs... they were in camouflage and their faces were hidden," one cadet told reporters. "They started firing and entered the dormitory but I managed to escape by climbing over a wall."

Bugti confirmed to reporters that there had been three attackers.

"They first targeted the watch tower sentry, and after exchanging fire, killed him and were able to enter the academy grounds," he said.

"We have taken one of the suicide bombers' bodies into custody," said Bugti DAWN

newspaper reported.

The Balochistan Police Training College is around 20 kilometres east of Quetta. Major General Sher Afgan, chief of the paramilitary FC in Balochistan, which led the counter-operation, said "the attack was over in around three hours after we arrived".

"The operation needed to be conducted with precision therefore it took us four hours to clear the area completely."

"There were three terrorists and all of them were wearing suicide vests," he said. "Two suicide attackers blew themselves up, which resulted in casualties, while the third one was shot dead by our troops."

He added that the militants had been communicating with their handlers in Afghanistan.

Afgan said communication intercepts showed the attackers belonged to LJ's Al-Alimi faction, which is affiliated with the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

The cadets were rescued from the college following an operation carried out by Special Services Group (SSG) commandos.

The training college is situated on Sariab Road, which is considered to be one of the most sensitive areas of Quetta. Militants have been



targeting security forces in the area for almost a decade.

The training college has come under attack in the past in 2008 and 2006, with attackers firing rockets into the college playground. It covers about an acre of land located about 13 kilometres outside the main city of Quetta.

An eyewitness speaking to reporters after making a narrow escape said he saw three

The militants had been communicating with their handlers in Afghanistan: Major General Sher Afgan

terrorists directly enter the barracks. "They started firing. We saw them and started screaming. We ran upstairs towards an exit."

He described the terrorists being covered in shawls.

The barracks and hostel blocks are situated

deep inside the compound, making it hard to hear any sounds of gunshots from the building.

In August, a suicide bombing at a Quetta hospital claimed by the militant Islamic State group and the Jamaatul Ahrar killed 73 people, including many of the city's lawyer community who had gone there to mourn the fatal shooting of a colleague.

Balochistan is a key region for China's ambitious \$46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) infrastructure project linking its western province of Xinjiang to the Arabian Sea via Pakistan.

Security problems have mired CPEC in the past with numerous attacks, but China has said it is confident the Pakistani military is in control.

Enemy is trying miserably to destabilize Pakistan to divert attention from the domestic problems they face in their own backyard. We need to chop a finger off the hidden hand behind these terrorists. Terrorists are on verge of destruction. No one allow them any more to kill innocents. Armed forces will protect every inch of motherland.



Condemnation and condolences poured in from the international community

The United States, Russia, and China were among the countries which condemned the attack.

Addressing a press briefing in Washington, spokesperson for the US State Department John Kirby expressed sympathy for the cadets who were martyred in the attack as well as those who had been injured.

"In this difficult hour, we are with the people and government of Pakistan," said Kirby.

The Press and Information Office of the Russian president issued a message of condolence from Vladimir Putin addressed to the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan over the terrorist attack.

The Russian president confirmed Russia's readiness to further expand counter-terrorism cooperation with Pakistan.

In a statement from Beijing, a spokesperson for China's Foreign Office said it strongly condemns violent acts of terrorism.

In the statement, Beijing said it would continue its support to Pakistan for its efforts for stability and its endeavors to protect its citizens.

United Nations in Pakistan strongly condemns the attack on Police Academy, Quetta. In statement said that The United Nations family in Pakistan strongly condemns the attack on the Police Training Academy, targeting recruits and security personnel in Quetta. We express our deepest condolences and sympathy to the families of all those who lost their lives or were injured in the brutal terror attack. Our thoughts today are with the Pakistani security forces, the victims and their families, as well as the Pakistani people.

Saudi Arabia condemns the cowardly terror attack in Quetta. Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Abdullah M. Al-Zahrani strongly condemns the cowardly terror attack on the police training centre in Quetta, prays to Allah Almighty to rest the martyred cadets in eternal peace, grant those injured early recovery and bless Pakistan and its people with enduring stability and safety said in press release by the embassy of Saudi Arabia in Islamabad.

Role of UN for Peace in South Asia

On October 13, 2016, incoming UN chief Mr Antonio Guterres pledged to make pursuit of peace 'a priority' in the conflict-torn world. Such strong commitment to the world peace aspires to more effective synergies in the humanitarian crisis. International community, also, has been actively reacting to the humanitarian crisis in different parts of the world. It has been vociferously and repeatedly stated that UN has moral obligation and universal right to ensure the peace.

However, in case of peace in South Asia, UN humanitarian policies for dealing with challenges in this region are debatable.

South Asia region is comprised of Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The region continues to be one of the most volatile regions of the world. Downbeat effects of the ongoing inter-state and intra-state conflicts are visible today more than ever before especially in the context of the recent happening in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK). Recent cycle of Indian brutalities and unprecedented use of force against innocent Kashmiris have magnified the urgency to resolve the Kashmir dispute.

The General Assembly is the United Nation's (UN) primary representative body that gathers 193 members on one platform to deliberate on all pressing issues, including those that could lead to war if left unattended. And Kashmir is top on



By Tooba Khurshid

the list of such issues, along with Palestine, but has remained unresolved since 1948, when the world body pledged to resolve it.

UN has been the most active in the Kashmir dispute and determined many years ago through resolutions that the people of IOK have the right to self-determination. UN began to formally address the Kashmir dispute in 1948 and formed the UN Commission on

India and Pakistan (UNCIP) which adopted numerous resolutions on Kashmir declaring that final disposition of the Kashmir dispute was to be through impartial plebiscite under UN auspices.

India initially backed the resolutions passed over Jammu and Kashmir. However by 1950, India changed its position and refused to accept any arbitration on Jammu and Kashmir, claiming the IOK as part of the Indian Union. However, the UN has repeatedly rejected any such disposition and discarded the elections in IOK unilaterally arranged by India. Later on, unfortunately, international affairs overtook and limited the UN actions vis-a-vis Kashmir dispute. Since then, the UN has not done much for the resolution of Kashmir dispute other than urging India and Pakistan to negotiate.

Given the volatility of this region, where the two states have fought two full-fledged wars, UN has not been engaged actively over the past years and prioritize other international issues. Pakistan has long sought UN intervention and always supported its mediation on Kashmir. Pakistan has always urged the international community, especially the UN, to actively engage with India to resolve the Kashmir dispute peacefully. India, however is a different story. India has always opposed any kind of UN mediation over Kashmir and views the Kashmir dispute as 'settled' one.

The recent increased unrest across the Line of Control (LoC) over the past few years jolted the UN attention towards the Kashmir dispute. Pakistan, through several complaints against the Indian brutalities in IOK, registered the Kashmir dispute as the top priority issue in UN. Pakistan continues to pushing forward for UN pledges on Kashmir.

This raises the question that what role the incoming UN Chief can play for peace in IOK and What to hope from Mr Antonio Guterres?

Mr Antonio Guterres pledged to be a 'Honest Broker' and 'Bridge-Builder' on global issues. He feels that it is high time to fight for peace. And, for the peace in South Asia, it is essential not to lose sight of the fact that only resolution of Kashmir dispute can bring peace in this region. Peace in South Asia now needs its start-ups, discourses, inventions at a time when war enforces a predictable greyness of thought. An India where democracy develops without an idea of peace is an amputation of mind this region can no longer afford.

Mr Antonio Guterres is an able socialist politician who is expected to play a more prominent role in than departing Chief Ban Ki Moon. He is described as the 'best possible captain during this stormy period' of global crisis and a 'humanist with a genuine moral compass'.

In this context, Kashmir, a striking challenge, awaits the new Secretary General.

The writer is Research Fellow (Kashmir, Peace and Conflict) Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI)





Bilawal in tears after visiting injured cadets in Quetta

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring Desk

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was in tears as he visited victims of the Quetta police academy attack at Civil Hospital.

Over 60 people were killed last week when three heavily-armed militants wearing suicide vests stormed a police academy in Quetta.

The PPP chairman recounted how "BB came here to Balochistan despite being warned about security risks." "My family and the people of Balochistan share the same pain," he said. "I am no ordinary politician. I am the son

of BB. I am a victim of this terrorism."

"I met people inside. Ten are injured and recovering. They said their treatment is underway. But that they can get better treatment in Karachi... In my personal capacity I will see that they get help from the Sindh government."

Speaking about the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) chief, Bhutto said, "Imran Khan's problem and habit is... he is a puppet and the strings are in someone else's hands." "Unfortunately, he is not the professional and legend that he used to be. Without support, without the umpire's signal, he cannot start a movement."

Courtesy to DAWN



BilawalBhuttoZardari @BBhuttoZardari · Oct 31

To those who don't appreciate my tears; I pray u never have to experience the pain I've experienced, I pray u never have to shed such tears.



2.3K



5.8K



Nusrat Bhutto

Mather-e-Jamhoriyat



By Bashir Riaz

The writer is former press secretary of Benazir Bhutto

deserve respect and recognition.

Tomorrow will mark the 5th death anniversary of the Mather-e-Jamhoriyat, Begum Nusrat Bhutto. No doubt, she was awarded the greatest award of the nation, Nishan-e-Pakistan, in recognition of her services for the cause of democracy. But the action of today's PPP leader is conspicuous of his motives to bury the name of Begum Bhutto in the annals of history and it is his endeavour not to remember her any more. But he and others who share this view must not forget that she has mixed her sweat and blood to pave the way for democracy in this country; her contributions cannot be forgotten even if a few people wish so. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto shaheed wrote to Mir Murtaza Bhutto from his death cell, "In this crisis, and it has been the worst seen by u, your mother and sister have been shining pillars of strength. It would have been very difficult, I would say it would have

Begum Nusrat Bhutto is the legacy of the past, today belongs to us". These were the unfortunate remarks of one of the party leaders that he expressed on the occasion of Begum Nusrat Bhutto's first death anniversary, and in fact he was against holding such a commemorating event. This shows his depth of mind and caliber and thinking. In fact, this remark is the negation of Begum Bhutto's great

sacrifices, sufferings, and struggles against the tyrannical and dictatorial rule of General Zia. In today's time, some of the leaders are so absorbed in their so-called fame that they are willing to conveniently ignore the contributions of Begum Bhutto towards democracy and her fight against the martial law. In their ignorance they hold such views about the great brave lady, whose remarkable leadership qualities



been impossible, to be without their splendid and heroic contribution". Indeed, Begum Bhutto has rendered invaluable services for the restoration of democracy.

It is a fact, that it was Nusrat Bhutto who stood all alone against Zia's tyrannical rule and fought bravely. She faced cruelties, prisons, and tortures including baton charge in Gaddafi Stadium Lahore due to which she had to be admitted in UCH, Lahore. Her strength inspired the workers who also displayed exemplary courage and faced all sorts of cruelties including torture, prison, lashes, and hangings. This is how history was written and made.

The sacrifices made by the party workers are due to the leadership of Nusrat Bhutto. She developed strong relationship with party workers and highlighted the atrocities of the martial law regime in Pakistan and made the whole world aware of the draconian cruelties faced by the people of Pakistan who were struggling for the rule of law and democracy in the country. She also brought to limelight the injustices, barbaric laws and unconstitutional acts of General Zia and started the struggle throughout the country and abroad. Most of the workers went to prisons, some were hanged and many received lashes. The slogan of jiyaye Bhutto was the order of the day. But the love of their leader could not be taken from their hearts and mind. These workers upheld the banner of democracy, freedom, and human rights.

The greatest achievement of Begum Nusrat Bhutto was that she guided Benazir Bhutto in such a way that she became a brave daughter and was not scared of persecution by the dictator that included prison and house-arrests. She could not be defeated by all such difficulties and ultimately she became the great leader of PPP. By following in the foot-steps of her father she wrote the chapters of the history of Pakistan in blood. She faced prison sentences along with her mother and became the voice of her father against the false murder case and the whole world denounced General Zia and his regime. The voice that Mather-e-Jamhoriyat had raised for the sake of economic prosperity and democracy was further strengthened by Benazir Bhutto and is the fruit of that struggle in which PPP was successful. The moment when Benazir Bhutto sworn in as the Prime Minister of Pakistan also witnessed the tears in the eyes of Begum Sahiba, reflecting her true thoughts; finally, the people of Pakistan had settled the score of the "judicial murder" and injustices done to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Despite lacking political support from important stalwarts of PPP, she had great confidence in the people of Pakistan and in the party workers and through these means she helped to strengthen the party. She gave a new life and blood to the PPP, which was the inheritance of ZAB Shaheed, in the most difficult times. Had she not come out in the field, General Zia would have been successful in liquidating the party altogether. It was Begum Bhutto's efforts that prevented Zia's dream from becoming a nightmare for Pakistan.



Begum Nusrat Bhutto shared the grief of the poor masses. She was a source of enthusiasm and great comfort for them. She was a kind hearted soul who became the voice of the poor people of Pakistan at a time when their voices were being strangled. She not only faced the pain of losing her husband but she also suffered immensely from witnessing the loss of her two sons and eventually, her daughter. Yet, her courage did not waver. No doubt, some new leaders are not aware of the struggles and services of Begum Nusrat Bhutto and are now considering that she is the legend of the past. Such people themselves are opportunists and time servers who will be left behind in the past. Those sincere to the PPP are aware of the sacrifices and contributions of Mather-e-Jamhoriyat and will remember her as a brave leader of the PPP.

Today, the leadership of PPP is headed by Bilawal Bhutto, the Chairman of PPP and it is expected that he will uphold the flag of democracy while remembering the services and sacrifices of Mather-e-Jamhoriyat. Bilawal Bhutto not only has the capability but is also the fortunate one to have the training of a mother like Benazir Bhutto. His recent political rally in Karachi has demonstrated his potential. I believe that if young Bhutto takes careful steps to reorganise the party, the future of PPP is still bright.

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Mr. Nicolas Frangos

President Hospitality Division Hashoo Hotels

Interview by Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan is a great place; it has phenomenal potential, great hospitable people, great talent, great resources, great rivers, high mountains, sunshine, four seasons, great agricultural land, great wealth of natural resources, and great strategic location.

Mr. Nicolas Frangos is a multi-skilled hospitality professional, with distinctive knowledge of Asset management and operational excellence developing international hospitality groups, delivering significant results within the leisure and hospitality industry in city, resort and urban markets.

Mr. Nicolas Frangos is currently the President of Hashoo Hotels. It's an honor for "Diplomatic Focus" that the versatile personality is here with us.

Mr. Nicolas Frangos! First of all thanks for your time from your busy schedule for our readers.

Q. Mr. Nicolas Frangos! Welcome to Pakistan, it will be worth for our readers to know about your education and professional life, experience and achievements.

Education has always been and remains a valuable key in my reckoning as it invariably helps one in accomplishing future goals. One can conjure up a fantastic future as long as he/she does well in education. I did my Masters in Business Administration from the Edinburgh Napier University, Business School - Hospitality and Tourism. In addition to this degree, I have obtained French Language & Civilization Diploma from Ecole Internationale de Langue et de Civilisation Francaises (Paris), Diploma in Sales & Marketing from Ecole Supérieure de Tourisme (EST) Paris, and Diploma in Hotel Management from European Hotel and Tourism College. I have done some certification courses as well from prestigious institutions.

As a hotelier, I have a wide range of experience with different international hotel chains across Europe, the US and the Middle East. Although I am being blessed with numerous achievements in my practical life, a genuine vein of philanthropy has always existed in me, especially towards Children, Civil Rights and Social Action, Education, Environment, Human Rights, Disaster and Humanitarian Relief, and Poverty Alleviation. I intend to contribute more and more towards these areas, so my goals in life are wide-ranging, which include the aspirations and needs of others too. Therefore, my greatest achievement is still yet to come

Q. You are in hotel industry for the last two decades. How are you seeing the development in hotel industry on world level and especially in Pakistan?

The hotel industry of a country flourishes when the macro environment is ideal, factors such as political, economic, social, technological, environmental and legal are key to success for every business which includes hospitality as well. Countries where these factors are perfect, continue to experience significant growth, development and brand expansion, and becomes instrumental in contributing significantly towards the gross domestic product (GDP). As far as Pakistan is concerned, the current situation is not all that perfect, but I am sure it is temporary. Once the country is out of this critical phase, it has a really bright future. As far as we are concerned, Hashoo

Hotels will continue to build, not only physical assets but at the same time intangible assets, giving immediate impact and benefit to people, the environment and our market share.

Q. Mr. Nicolas Frangos! You have writing pieces on hospitality and luxury. In one of your article, you raised a question "Are you an effective leader, how would you describe your leadership style?" would you like to describe it in brief for our readers?

I have always believed in going the extra mile uplifting my associates' vision, spirit and performance to the highest possible levels, rather beyond their normal limitations. It is about keeping your team focused on goals and motivate them to achieve them. My associates are my resources, I listen to them, encourage them, and provide inspiration to them. As they say, if you inspire them to reach for the stars, they just might bring you back the moon.

Q. As in intro, I describe that you are a multi-skilled hospitality professional, which things motivated you to join this profession?

I think I am a born hotelier, as I like building relationships, meaningful opportunities, opening doors, connecting with others and putting smiles on people's faces. Service to others and dealing with the public allowed me to accomplish all this, where else can you meet a wide variety of people and help them, make the impossible happen and develop long lasting relationships. The daily changes in this industry offer challenges to overcome and a chance to build experience at a level unlike any other profession.

Q. Mr. Nicolas Frangos! There are a number of divisions in hotel industry and are putting their contribution. Being hospitality professional, how a hospitality division serves in the development of hotel assets and its services?

I will have to abbreviate my answer as the answer to this question requires many pages. In brief, every individual, division and department has significant roles to play to contribute towards the effective functioning of a hotel. Hospitality division serves in the development of hotel assets and its services by focusing on to maximize four key areas - guest satisfaction, associate satisfaction, revenue and profit. Their approach has to be consistent and measured, and should follow common procedures, processes, methods, and goals to run and grow their business. One needs to be dedicated to consistently delivering increased revenue, profit margins, and market share. Unique combination of both strategic and tactical expertise assists hotels in maximizing the properties to full potential. Then we need to maintain the reliability and integrity of financial reporting. We constantly operate under the Company's core values of People, Relationship and Opportunities. Similarly the Rooms Division, Maintenance Department, and the Food & Beverages Division too have their responsibilities.

Q. Mr. Nicolas Frangos! This is your first assignment in Pakistan, how you find this

country, people and specially Pakistanis are famous for their hospitality?

I said on many occasions that seeing is believing. Pakistan is a great place; it has phenomenal potential, great hospitable people, great talent, great resources, great rivers, high mountains, sunshine, four seasons, great agricultural land, great wealth of natural resources, and great strategic location. I am very impressed and wish people from other countries should come and see for themselves as how genial the people are of Pakistan

Q. For a person to become a skilled hospitality professional, what you suggest?

There are certain prerequisites for every job. For hospitality professional one has to be patient, attentive, should have clear communication and acting skills, knowledge of the product and service, ability to use positive language, staying cool under pressure, ability to handle surprises, commitment, enthusiasm leadership qualities, organized, team person, thorough etc

Q. Mr. Nicolas Frangos! What is the scope for a skilled hospitality professional in Pakistani hotel industry? How he/she can choose a right place?

Currently the scope for hospitality professionals in Pakistan is limited, however, once the situation improves, there will be a greater potential for economic activities and tourism in the country. This will give rise to more hotels and also attract more skilled professionals. I remain optimistic that the business activities will soon regain momentum.

Every individual needs to identify his/her own strengths and talents and foster them, they will ultimately be the keys to one's success. For that matter, you need to see your reflection through the eyes of those who know you well, you can begin to identify your most unique talents. Accordingly, put your strengths into action and go for the job that you will enjoy and your employer will benefit.

Q. What makes a hotel memorable and unforgettable?

People are naturally attracted to beautiful things that is why warm hospitality, beautiful ambiance, tranquility, privacy, clean rooms, modern business center, wide range of delicious food, spa and attentive staff are but mandatory. In addition to this, novelty offerings also create a one-of-a-kind experience for guests. We are in the business of creating great experiences and building unforgettable memories for them. We think out of the box and thinking of unique ways on how our hotels can play a bigger role in giving travelers a trip that is pleasurable, memorable and unforgettable.

Q. How we can describe "Nicolas Frangos" in one liner?

Nicolas is communicative, optimistic, loyal, adaptable, and sympathetic, friendly, rationale, adventurous, nature-made, open, and simple.

Thanks Mr. Nicolas Frangos...

Pakistan is a peace loving country and desires peace in the region: Raza Rabbani

By Monitoring Desk, Agencies

Chairman Senate, Mian Raza Rabbani said that Pakistan is a peace loving country and desires peace in the region for stability, wellbeing and alleviation of poverty of our peoples but he regretted that India continues to sponsor state terrorism in Pakistan.

In a message received from Male, Maldives, Mian Raza Rabbani, Chairman Senate of Pakistan called on Mr. Abdullah Yameen Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of Maldives at the Presidential palace in Male. The Chairman Senate was accompanied by Senator Sirdar Zulfiqar Khan Khosa, Senator Najm-ul-Hassan and Pakistan Ambassador in Maldives.

He informed the President that recently a serving Indian Navel Commander, Kulbhushan Yadav was arrested in Pakistan who was involved with his network in fostering unrest in Pakistan. This along with other steps being taken by India clearly shows its expansion designs in the region. He further said that Pakistan despite these provocative actions looks for a lasting peace in the region for which the Kashmir dispute needs to be resolved in line with the UN resolutions.

The Chairman Senate highlighted the Gross violation of human rights and international law by India in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He further brought to the notice of the President the use of pellet bullets and the loss of eyesight of innocent children. He further stated that over 90 days have passed and the valley continued to be under curfew, innocent men,



Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Mian Raza Rabbani exchange views with President of the Republic of Maldives Mr. Abdullah Yameen Abdul Gayoom at Presidential Palace in Male, Maldives.

women and children have lost their life. When all they are demanding is the implementation of the UN resolutions granting them the right of self determination.

The Chairman Senate said that Pakistan noted Maldives decision of leaving Commonwealth and respected it as it was a sovereign country's decision. He said that commonwealth was an important organization and said that constructive engagements should continue.

The Chairman Senate stressed upon improving bilateral relations between Pakistan and the Maldives and called for a reassessment of the role of SAARC in particular keeping in view India's attitude.

Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani informed the Mr. Abdullah Yameen Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of Maldives that recently a serving Indian Navel Commander, Kulbhushan Yadav was arrested in Pakistan who was involved with his network in fostering unrest in Pakistan. This along with other steps being taken by India clearly shows its expansion designs in the region.





Sartaj Aziz reiterated Pakistan's earnest desire for lasting peace in Afghanistan

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz meets Afghan President on the sidelines of Brussels Conference

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz called on the Afghan President Muhammad Ashraf Ghani on the sidelines of the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan.

While discussing efforts for long term peace and stability in Afghanistan, the Adviser reiterated Pakistan's earnest desire for lasting peace in Afghanistan which was important for stability and progress in Pakistan.

The Adviser emphasised the need for continued engagement and support of international community for sustainable economic development and growth in Afghanistan.

The Afghan President thanked Pakistan's pledge of further \$500 million economic assistance to Afghanistan at the Brussels Conference, which demonstrated Pakistan's solidarity and support for the Government and people

of Afghanistan. He suggested that the two governments should work together to identify the projects in consultation with Afghan Government according to its development priorities. President Ghani also appreciated

Afghan President thanked Pakistan's pledge of further \$500 million economic assistance to Afghanistan at the Brussels Conference

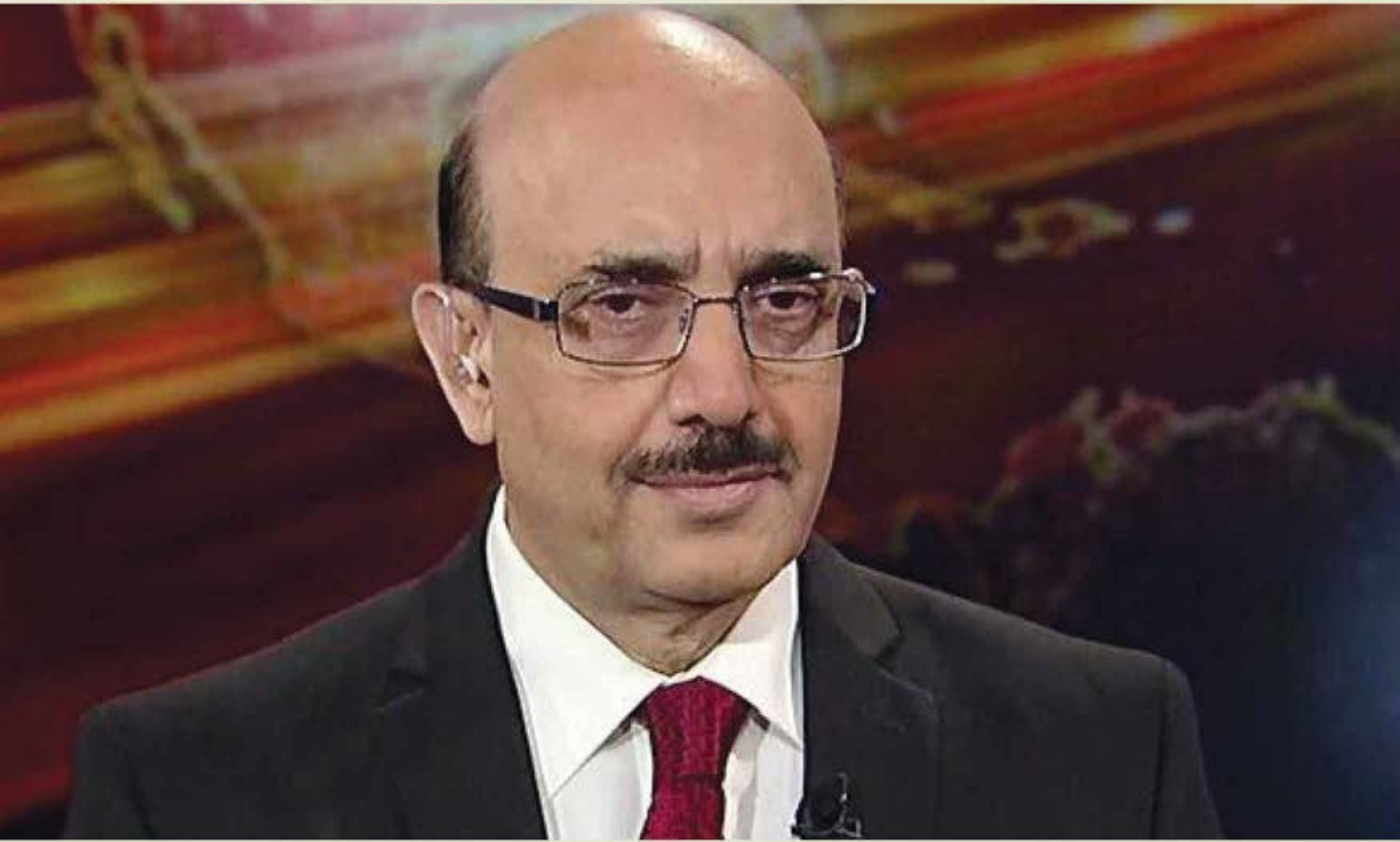
the announcement of a second tranche of 3,000 scholarships for Afghan students in Pakistani universities, which would greatly help

institution building in Afghanistan.

The Afghan President and Adviser also discussed efforts for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. Emphasising that lasting peace and stability could be achieved through a politically negotiated settlement, Adviser Sartaj Aziz commended Afghan Government and people for concluding a peace deal with Hizb-i-Islami. He expressed hope and optimism that this development could lead to opportunities for similar peace arrangements with other insurgents.

Recalling Pakistan's serious efforts for facilitating peace talks between Afghan Government and Taliban, Sartaj Aziz conveyed that Pakistan will continue to make these efforts through the framework of the QCG.

President Ashraf Ghani expressed concern that Taliban's continued refusal to join the peace process was causing perpetuation of violence, killings and suffering in Afghanistan.



Masood Khan urges int'l community not to confuse struggle of Kashmiris with terrorism

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Masood Khan, visited Norway on 24-26 October to participate in a Seminar titled "Peace and Human Rights" organized by Foundation Dialogue for Peace in the Norwegian Parliament. Hindu spiritual leader, Sri Ravi Shankar, founder of the "Art of Living" also attended. The Seminar was moderated by Norwegian MP Sylvia Garham, Member of the Standing Committee on Foreign and Defence Affairs of the Parliament. It was a well-attended event and people from a wide cross section of Norwegian society including Parliamentarians, Human rights activists, journalists as well as diplomats from various countries attended.

In his key note address, President Masood Khan briefed the audience on the genesis of the ongoing struggle of the Kashmiri people for their right to self-determination and focused on the atrocities and gross human rights violations being committed by Indian security forces. He

highlighted the use of pellet guns by the Indian occupying forces on children, as a result of which more than 100 had lost their eyesight. People were not only losing their eyesight but also their lives. He urged the international

Masood Khan emphasized on the urgent need for a sustained and structured dialogue to resolve the issue of Kashmir which has all the potential to escalate

community not to confuse the heroic struggle of the Kashmiris with terrorism.

He also emphasized on the urgent need

for a sustained and structured dialogue to resolve the issue of Kashmir which has all the potential to escalate. President Khan lamented the apathy and expediency with which the international community approaches the dispute. He also reminded the participants that the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution were being violated with impunity by the Indian forces in the region. In the end, he called upon the international community to take sides when it comes to Human Rights violations of innocent unarmed people, remove the thick wall of Realpolitik and understand that Kashmir issue was unique and not comparable to other such disputes around the world.

Earlier in the day President Masood Khan had a detailed meeting with the President and Vice President (Speaker and Deputy Speaker) of the Norwegian Parliament. He also met with the Director of the Norwegian Nobel Peace Centre and with officials of Oslo city government including its Mayor.



King Mohammed VI of Morocco visit to Rwanda, Tanzania, Ethiopia First tour of the Moroccan monarch to East Africa

By Agencies

The tour comes within the strategy designed by King Mohammed VI in recent years, which aims to diversify its partnerships, strengthen its ties with the most important players on the African continent.

The visit comes three months after Morocco announced its intention to return to the African Union.

"Our friends have long been asking us to return among them so that Morocco may take its natural place within its institutional family. That time has now come," the King said in a letter to the 27th summit of the African Union held in Kigali, Rwanda, in July.

The Moroccan monarch's visit to Rwanda comes four months after the visit that Rwanda's President, Paul Kagame, paid to Morocco on June 20-22. Following this visit..

An important delegation including high officials in both Morocco's State and business community

The tour will encompass Rwanda, Tanzania and Ethiopia.

The corporate elites that are traveling with the monarch are set to propose strengthening ties with the growing and modernizing Moroccan economy, in hopes to consolidate bilateral political relations.

The official visit of King Mohammed VI to Rwanda marks the prelude to a new era in the friendly relations between Rabat and Kigali: Rwandan Foreign minister Louise Mushikiwabo

Moroccan businesses have yet to penetrate Rwandan markets, even though the sub-Saharan country has seen an average economic growth rate of eight percent over the past 15 years.

A closed meeting held between Rwandan President Paul Kagame and several members of Morocco's private sector paved the way for the improvement of economic cooperation between the two countries.

The official visit of King Mohammed VI to Rwanda marks the prelude to a new era in the friendly relations between Rabat and Kigali, Rwandan Foreign minister Louise Mushikiwabo said Wednesday.

Rwanda and Morocco have decided to implement their friendship and cooperation through a series of activities, she said, citing the signing Wednesday in Kigali of twenty agreements and cooperation conventions covering several fields with high added value.

Morocco and Rwanda had decided to give new impetus to their cooperation during the visit of President Kagame to Morocco in June, and "the current Royal visit represents a leap forward",

Mushikiwabo also emphasized the role and the place of Morocco in the African continent, noting that the Kingdom and Rwanda are set to strengthen unity within Africa to enable it accelerates its progress towards greater economic and social development.

Message of Condolence



H.E. Mamnoon Hussain

President of The Islamic Republic of Pakistan

on the sad demise of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej

I am deeply shocked and grieved to learn of the sad demise of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej after a prolonged illness.

His Majesty was revered by the people of Thailand for his kindness, compassion and devotion to his subjects. He steered Thailand through difficult times, and oversaw its rise as a strong and vibrant economy. We in Pakistan still cherish the fond memories of His Majesty King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit's visit to Pakistan in 1962. His prompt and spontaneous offer of support in the aftermath of the tragic earthquake of 2005 shall never be forgotten by the people of Pakistan. Our hearts are with the people of Thailand in their hour of grief.

Please accept Excellency on behalf of the people and Government of Pakistan, our heartfelt condolence and sympathies.



H.E. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif

Prime Minister of Pakistan

on the sad demise of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej

We are deeply grieved by the sad news of passing away of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. On behalf of the people of Pakistan, my Government and on my own behalf, I offer our most profound condolences to Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, and all members of the Royal Family on the national loss of the most revered Leader. The state visit of His Majesty King Bhumibol and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit to Pakistan in 1962 is still cherished as most important milestone in Pakistan – Thailand relations. The people and the Government of Pakistan remain indebted to His Majesty's generous support to the affected people of 2005 devastating earthquake in Azad Jammu & Kashmir. The relief goods were personally brought to Pakistan, as a very special gesture, by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn.

As Patron of all Religions in Thailand, His Majesty King Bhumibol, was a symbol of unity and religious harmony. His departure to a life of eternity and peace has deprived the world of a reformist and father of a great Thai nation.

We pray for the departed soul of His Majesty King Bhumibol that it rests in eternal peace."





Condolence Book placed at the Embassy of Thailand in Islamabad “King of Thailand Bhumibol Adulyadej”





King Bhumibol Adulyadej

the Great of Thailand

It has just been announced that His Majesty, Bhumibol Adulyadej the Great, Lord of Life, King of Thailand, has passed away on 13 October 2016. Such news has been long expected but is no less tragic, nor is the impact mitigated by that fact. Few monarchs in the world today have been so loved, so respected and so revered by their subjects as the late King of Thailand. For the Thais, he has been a rock of stability, a beacon of hope, a helping hand, a kind father and a wise leader throughout his amazing 70 year reign. Beyond the borders of Thailand, he has also been a powerful presence in Southeast Asia, a firm and reliable figure throughout many years, even decades of troubled times. He was, in every way, providentially the right monarch in the right place at the right time. As Thais everywhere mourn the passing of this great and beloved sovereign, it may be helpful for

those unfamiliar with Thailand to take a look at some of the specific reasons why Rama IX is so popular, so revered and why he is referred to as “the Great”.

Born in the United States in 1927, while his parents were on a sort of world tour, King Bhumibol succeeded his elder brother as monarch in 1946.

Thailand experienced what could be called a sort of compassionate counter-revolution during this period. The monarchy was back in public life as it had not been for many years, traditions were restored that had long been dormant and the King obviously had a great deal of influence. King Bhumibol was meeting regularly with ordinary people, he was acting outside the government, in person and through his own private agencies, to help people who needed it and improving the countryside in

areas from infrastructure to agriculture. To the very end of His Majesty the King, he was concerned with the good of the nation, the welfare of the people and preventing them from coming to any harm.

This is why people in Thailand revered their king so sincerely. It was not just the new roads and bridges he had built, making their lives easier. It was not just his emphasis on education and national history in particular, it was not just his sending of his own medical team to treat poor people in the countryside or that he allowed many more poor Thais in the countryside to own their own farms with his land programs. It was the fact that, on numerous occasions throughout his reign, the King saved Thailand from chaos, disorder and civil war. After World War II, Burma, Vietnam, Laos and (for a time) Cambodia all got rid of their kings and people



could see the result. Thailand, alone among them, always stood firm, thanks to the popularity of King Bhumibol, and easily became the most free and prosperous country of all her neighbors to the east and west. The King earned the love and respect of his people and he was able to use that love and respect for their benefit by stepping in to stop government dysfunction from damaging the whole country. He used his moral authority wisely and sparingly but always to the benefit of his people. He was a living example of what even a constitutional monarch can do if their people are fervently loyal and fervently support them.

King Bhumibol Adulyadej the Great will always be remembered as one of the most significant and successful and beloved monarchs that Thailand has ever had in her ancient history. He has deserved all of the accolades he has received, will always be missed and will always be remembered. For the time being at least, while people come to grips with his loss, the "Land of Smiles" has become a 'land of tears'...



The philosophy of Sufficiency Economy



Sufficiency economy can be applied to all levels, branches and sectors of the economy. It is not necessarily limited to the agricultural or rural sectors. Even the financial, the real estate, and the international trade and investment sectors can apply by using similar principles of emphasizing moderation in performance, reasonableness, and creating immunity for oneself and society.

For individuals, sufficiency economy can be applied as a guideline for daily conduct because it is a philosophy which promotes the principle of moderation or the Middle Path. The guidance for leading one's life is, for example, cutting down expenses in all aspects and avoiding luxuriant spending, pursuing one's occupation with proper behaviours and honesty, attempting to gain the knowledge in order to escape hardship and achieve sufficiency, and following the good path, avoiding the bad and adhering to religious principles. An individual should not be uselessly extravagant and should not be materialistic. One should lead a life depending on one's own resources or status and should not be exposed to any risks e.g. incurring debts in hope of becoming rich in a short term or investing in a gambling-like activities which

can result in a bankrupt. Instead, one should value the principle of "knowing, cherishing and uniting" and use intelligence to protect oneself from extremely indulging in the globalization trends. One should be capable of distinguishing good deeds from bad deeds, sharing love and generosity among one another as well as assisting one another and uniting in an attempt to turn conflicts into compromise and with a view to promote the mutual benefits. Sufficiency economy does not mean that one has to be overly stingy. A person can lead a luxurious life once in a while, provided that it is within his capacity to do so or within the limit of the existing income or resources first.

For farmers, a well-known and practical example of the application of the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy is "integrated farming practice according to the New Theory" which promotes step-by-step development, starting from building a good basis for the people at the family level to enable them to become self-reliant to a certain extent without taking advantages of others. Then, the people can join hands in various activities in the form of group, community or even community enterprise. The aim is to enhance creative force among themselves which in turn helps strengthen the

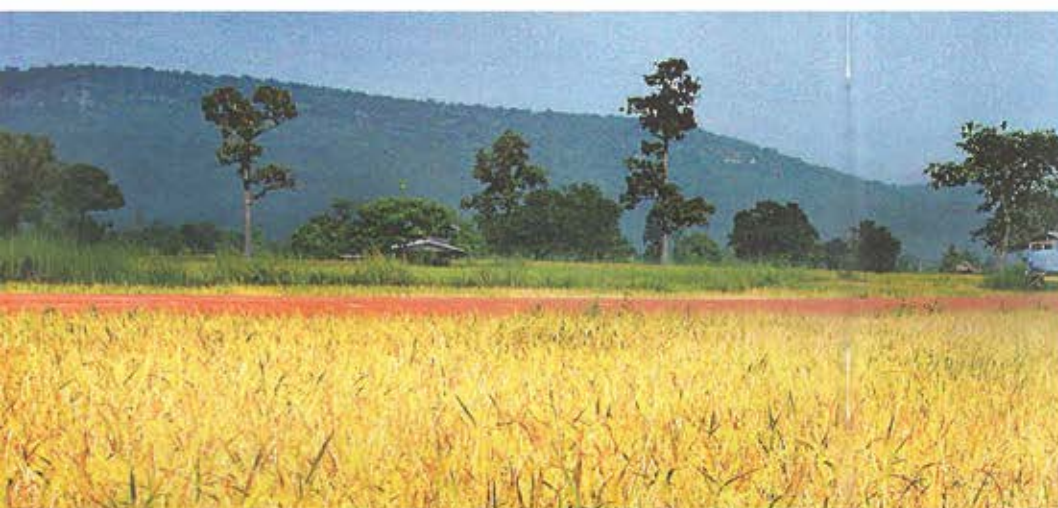
community, reduce the risks of impact from external factors and build connections with large-scale businesses, government agencies as well as organizations. The end result will then be the expansion of various forms of the cooperation scope at the national level.

For businessmen, sufficiency economy emphasizes that the producers try to produce within the limit of existing income or resources first. This is the principle of decreasing the dependence and increasing the ability to control the production themselves, thus decreasing the risk from not being able to efficiently control the market system. The practice for businesses include the use of appropriate technology that is inexpensive but suitable for production, distributing risks by producing a variety of products, low risk management particularly by not over-borrowing, not emphasizing short-term profit. Importantly, the businesses should adhere to the moral values such as not being overly greedy, not taking advantage of consumers and suppliers, and having corporate social responsibility.

"...Any venture one must consider the size that is suitable to the characteristics or the environment of the venture. Any venture must be done with circumspection and one must not be too over-enthusiastic... If we carry out an adequate project of a moderate size, it would perhaps not be so showy, but it would not fail, or even if it fails, the loss will not be so great...."

The Tool to Achieve Sufficiency Economy for Farmers

From his frequent visits to the people in the rural areas throughout the country, His Majesty found that the majority of his subjects who are engaged in agriculture and produce foods to feed the people all over the country and the world are still in poverty. It is owing to the problem regarding their occupations as a result of unproductiveness of their lands or water shortage. His Majesty then granted a royal initiative concerning the "New Theory" on 4



December 1994. The New Theory is a set of systematic guidelines for proper management of land and water resources which ensures sufficiency economy for the farmers in order to enable them to become self-reliant, to have security in their occupations and to strengthen their families and communities.

The complete New Theory agriculture had three stages:

First stage: Sufficiency at the household level or the state of self-reliance

In order for the farmers and their families, each of whom holds an average of 1.6 – 2.4 hectares

(10 – 15 rai) of land for making a living, to become self-reliant, the land should be divided into 4 parts:

Part 1: 30% is designated for pond which is used to store excessive rain water. The water will be used to supplement rainwater during the unusual drought periods and to grow dry season cash crops if the stored water is sufficient. The size of the pond which includes width, length and depth, could be adjusted. In the relative high precipitation zones and the areas where the irrigation water can be filled, the pond size might be less than 30%. Furthermore, the pond can also be used for raising fish.

Part 2: 30% is set aside for rice cultivation in the rainy season which will provide sufficient yield for daily consumption of the whole family all year round. The production surplus can be sold. The family will then be self-reliant and have food security.

Part 3: 30% will be used to grow multiple cropping for general purposes i.e. food, daily income, medicinal plants and fuel. The kinds and patterns of cropping will be varied from place to place, season to season, according to different environments and factors. The pioneer crops should be banana and followed by fruit trees or other trees. While the trees are small, the annual crops such as pepper and eggplant would be suggested as intercrops.

Part 4: The remaining 10% will be allocated to residential area, home garden, raising animals and other farm buildings.

The first stage of the New Theory enables the farmers to live happily with moderation, reasonableness and self-immunity or risk management.

- Moderation is achieved because the size of the farm is not too small or too large for management thus bringing about the balance between one's capitals and debts if deemed necessary.
- In terms of reasonableness, the farm management meets the farmers' needs

and is suitable with the local farm ecology. Moreover, the resource land allocation is in balance with water. Basic needs e.g. rice, fish, vegetables are produced on site. Decision made is based mainly on the farmers' skills and knowledge, not on commercial promotion or market trends.

- As for self-immunity, the farmers can achieve self-sufficiency in terms of food and live a healthy life through using less chemical products but relying more on bio-diversity in production. Security from water scarcity problems is created on the farm. The diverse cropping systems help to reduce risks and enable the farmers to generate proportionate income from selling extra crops and products beyond necessary consumption of the household. Explicitly, it offers a solution for both poverty reduction and creation of a healthy community.

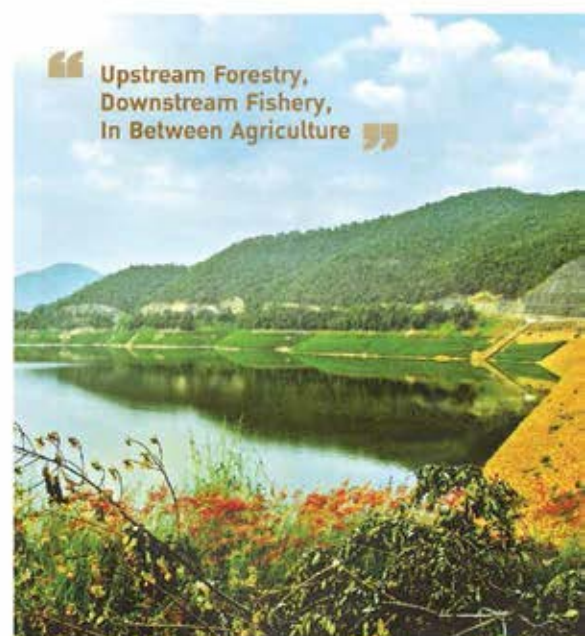
Through this stage, the farmers are equipped with the knowledge on the management of the resources available in life.

Second Stage: Sufficiency at the community level or group forming

The next step, the second stage of the New Theory, aims to create sufficiency at the community or the organization level. The cooperative activities with members within community are based on a concept of sharing excess resources of each household and assisting one another, using the local wisdom or locally available materials and building networks. The activities can be different for each community depending on their conditions.

Generally, the activities usually start from community enterprises or co-op based production; for example, rice bank, cow/buffalo bank, bio-fertilizer production group; to marketing which is to make the necessary preparations to optimize selling of their produce such as provision of a central rice-drying area, a silo for gathering rice yields, a rice mill as well as grouping to enhance their bargaining power which could ensure that their produce could be sold at a reasonable price; and well-being and welfare which is to equip the farmers with the basic needs of life such as food, clothing, education and public health services; for example, the establishment of public health stations, community learning centre, saving groups or funds to provide loans to carry out the community's activities or funds to support the education for youth.

The second stage of the New Theory addresses the importance of relationship between families and the community. Through this step, the farmers make a firm and step-by-step expansion from production level to the farmers'



groups and cooperatives which offer crop and price insurance. They learn to live together binding with unified and cooperative spirits, which helps strengthen the community, while enhancing the capacity of community members in reducing costs of living, increasing income, or creating community social safety net. Likewise, the stage promotes understanding, generosity or sharing, cooperation and unity among the members. People learn to share and learn from each other the knowledge and experiences for their mutual benefits which will remain in the long run.

Third Stage: Sufficiency at the national level or opening to the outside world

In the third and most advanced stage, the community is encouraged to expand their activities through reaching out to other communities in order to share knowledge and experiences and expand the networks, as well as to co-operative firms, banks, and other outside sources. The expansion across different levels of organizations or activities can be compared to developing a value-chain in production. The expanded activities include; for example, fund raising, creating direct sales channel, seeking fund for establishing a community rice mill or cooperative store.

At this stage, various institutions join hands in a collaborative way to create sufficiency at the provincial or national level. Private firms can initiate corporate social responsibility to reach out to communities. While the public sector is to promote different types of associations, non-governmental organizations can collaborate in various activities they are keen in to strengthen sufficiency at all levels. The stage promotes mobilization of both social and economic capitals for further success of one's as well as the community's activities.

In summary, all the stages of the New Theory encourage the farmers to treasure ownership, participation and consensus while having a vision. The foremost outcome will not be limited to only the unity within the community and the people's well-being but also life security, the conservation of the natural resources and environment, the learning process of the community based on the local wisdom as well as the preservation of valuable traditions and customs.

The benefits of sufficiency economy is restoring the local economy starting from restoring the importance of integrated farming and establishing the network. This means developing the capability of production and consumption at a self-sufficient level and stepping up to the level of processing agricultural produce and engaging cottage industry which in turn helps create jobs and enhance diverse technical skills. The idea is to build up stability based on capitals, markets, resource base and country complemented with selection of the knowledge arising from contacts with the outside world. In the process, individual potentials of the people will be exposed and utilized to help strengthen the family and then the community.

Sufficiency economy makes the people attach more to the spiritual value than to the physical value of all things. This way, the people will be able to subdue their unlimited needs, be satisfied with the resources they have and stick to self-dependence. The result is they can reduce the household expenses and never think of damaging the natural resources and the environment to reap the benefit or even taking advantage of others. Sufficiency economy teaches the people to be "Smart consumers", the value which can prevent shortage although it does not make one become rich at a rapid pace.

At present, thousands of the "New Theory" farming system have been demonstrated and practiced nationwide. Ten thousands of successful farmers have been reported at the present time.

It can be concluded that the main purpose of the New theory is to make farmers more self-reliant in a sustainable fashion through an integrated management of their land, while



living harmoniously with nature and within society.

Three Levels of sufficiency Economy

There are two levels in the implementation of sufficiency economy: basic and progressive implementation.

Sufficiency at the individual and family level. This is the basic implementation that will enable farmers to have enough rice and other crops for household consumption. Rice that they do not need for their own use can be sold to generate income to pay for what they cannot produce. This system creates

immunity for families. However, farmers may still need appropriate assistance at times from communities, the government, foundations, and the private sector.

Sufficiency at the community level. This is the progressive implementation that covers the second stage in the application of the New Theory of agriculture. It encourages farmers to form their own organizations or cooperatives. When members of families or organizations enjoy individual sufficiency, they should group for mutual benefits and assistance.

Sufficiency at the national level. This is the second part or the progressive implementation, covering the third stage. It encourages communities to join forces with other organizations in the nation. The cooperation will increase the transfer and exchange of wisdom, knowledge, and technology and trigger collective development in line with the principle of sufficiency economy. Doing so will turn the nation's communities, organizations, and enterprises into a network of sufficiency-based communities that refrain from offending one another but interact with, help, and coexist with one another happily and permanently.

Five Aspects of sufficiency Economy

All in all. It can be concluded that to achieve sufficiency economy, the community must be self-supporting in the following five aspects.

- 1) Self-supporting in terms of technology: having material technology such as tools and machinery as well as social technology such as project management and planning in terms of both quantity and quality, including efficient utilization and suitable application of the local wisdom.
- 2) Self-supporting in terms of economy: making a living in a secure, moderate or balanced manner.
- 3) Self-supporting in terms of natural resources: optimizing the use of natural resources available and preserving them while preventing them from depleting or losing the balance.
- 4) Self-supporting in terms of mentality: possessing the strong mind to be ready for fighting against obstacles in life, it also means being able to make a living, to uplift the living standard, and to take the middle path in daily conduct according to the Buddhist precepts.
- 5) Self-supporting in terms of social matters: strongly uniting and helping each other in the social activities to reach the state of self-reliance.



WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS



Serena Hotel gets recognition in 2 categories



SERENA HOTELS

The World Travel Awards, WTA brand is recognised globally as the ultimate hallmark of quality in travel and hospitality, with winners setting the benchmark to which all others aspire. Serena Hotels in the South and Central Asian region also made their mark at the awards ceremony held in Danang, Vietnam, where Islamabad Serena Hotel won in two categories, Pakistan's Leading Hotel and Pakistan's Leading Hotel Suite for the year, while Kabul Serena Hotel was awarded Afghanistan's Leading Hotel and Dushanbe Serena Hotel was awarded Tajikistan's Leading Hotel for 2016, says a press release.

The World Travel Awards are voted for by travel and tourism professionals worldwide, and the awards recognise industry leaders in tourism and

hospitality. Serena Hotels across the world, work under the umbrella of the Aga Khan Foundation for Economic Development. They are a hospitality brand of international repute, owned and operated by Tourism Promotion Services (TPS), that has within its portfolio numerous luxury hotels, resorts, safari lodges, resorts and heritage properties across Asia and Africa.

CEO of Serena Hotels, Aziz Boolani, attended the awards ceremony and said, "Serena Hotels have always aspired to provide guests with a holistic experience of the best that cultures and communities offer. Each Hotel is both luxurious with all modern amenities and true to the traditions of hospitality that are certainly a hallmark of Asia."

PAKISTAN, PORTUGAL SHOULD JOIN HANDS FOR RAPID DEVELOPMENT



Pakistan to welcome Iran, Saudi Arabia on joining CPEC: Ahsan Iqbal



Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal said on Friday that Iran and Saudi Arabia's desire to join China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework was a good step and Pakistan would welcome their involvement.

"We will welcome both the brotherly Islamic countries if they want to be part of CPEC," he told APP here.

Pakistan, he said, would also welcome and appreciate any friendly country which desired to participate in the multi-billion gigantic flagship project of "One Road One Belt" initiative launched by Chinese President, Xi Jining.

He said, CPEC, a trans-regional project, would benefit three billion people of the region through enhanced regional connectivity with Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces of the country to play instrumental role integrating the whole region.

It is a 15-year long project to be completed in 2030 by focussing on infrastructure development, Gwadar Sea Port, Energy and Industrial Cooperation, he added.

Terming CPEC as one the best and transparent projects where no transaction is directly made to government, he said that US\$ 35 billion were to be utilized by the energy sector in the form of private sector investment while rest of the US\$ 11 billion investment had to be made by the Chinese companies in the infrastructure sector under concessional financing mode.

About Western route of the CPEC, he said, work on Western Corridor was progressing in full swing and reaffirmed that the route would be completed by 2018.

He informed that 650 kilometers long Gwadar-Quetta section of the Western Route would be completed by December 2016.

Furthermore, he added that making this route operational Gwadar would get connected with not only to Quetta but also to Afghanistan.

With the completion of Western route, people living in the underdeveloped areas would witness new era of development and prosperity.

The Minister reinforced commitment of the government that the road projects on western passage were being given top priority.

The Government was funding the road projects on western route through Federal Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), Chinese financing and also through Asian Development Bank (ADB), he added.

He said that construction work on D.I.Khan – Hakla 285 Km Motorway fully funded through PSDP had already commenced by completing all the requirements including feasibility, design, land acquisition and approval in the shortest possible time.

He said that the connectivity of Gwadar to the national highway network will be established with completion of N-85 and M-8 highway projects by December, 2016 which also forms part of the western corridor alignment. The M-8 section Gwadar – Turbat -Hoshab (193 Km) has already been completed. M-8 project was approved in March, 1999 and N-85 in 2007 but these road projects remained un-completed till the pace of work on these projects was fast tracked by the present Government from 2013 onwards.

With the completion of these projects, Gwadar Port will be connected to the national highway network.

Ahsan Iqbal said that reconstruction of 110 km long Khuzdar – Basima road project was approved by the ECNEC on 26-05-2011, however, no physical work was initiated on the project.

The Khuzdar-Basima road project has been included as a short term project in CPEC Transport Plan by the present Government and construction work will commence soon by NHA.

Japanese corporations should join CPEC's transport infrastructure, power generation projects: Ahsan Iqbal

"CPEC is not a bilateral project but it is an inclusive project where major economies from European Union, Middle East, America and Asia are also showing their interest to join in."

He said after holding meetings with Secretary General of Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Dr.Kanoktanaporn, Governor of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Akira Kondoh, Chairman, Japan Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship League (JPPFL), Sheishiro ETO, with Japanese Business Corporations of global reach in Japan on the margins of World Marketing Summit in Tokyo.



Chinese Embassy Spokesperson's Remarks on CPEC

Chinese Embassy denied that Western route doesn't exist in CPEC

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

It is reported on an Urdu newspaper recently that the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan informed Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and KP government that western route doesn't exist in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This is untrue and misreporting.

The CPEC is an important consensus reached by the Chinese and Pakistani governments and of great significance in enhancing bilateral connectivity, improving people's livelihood and fostering pragmatic economic and trade cooperation.

China and Pakistan have put in place a sound mechanism of communication and coordination on the development of CPEC.

On November 12th, 2015, the 5th meeting of Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of CPEC approved the principle of "one corridor with multiple passages", aiming at directly benefiting the socio-economic development of Pakistan, especially the western and north-western regions and providing effective connectivity to Gwadar Port.

The Monographic Study of Transport Plan, approved in 5th JCC, clearly mentions that Burhan-D.I.Khan-Quetta-Sorab section will provide much needed connectivity between major connection points of CPEC and will connect the western areas of Pakistan.

CPEC is for Pakistan as a whole and will bring benefits to all Pakistani people including the people from the western parts.

With the joint efforts of both sides, CPEC projects are running well throughout Pakistan, and the CPEC is being comprehensively implemented.

CPEC projects in the western parts of Pakistan are making progress. A number of livelihood projects have also been implemented.

We are committed to join hands with Pakistan to make continuous headway on the CPEC and deliver benefits to the people at an early date.

Details of province-wise share under CPEC project:

Giving the break-up of CPEC project, Zhao wrote that the number of projects included: Balochistan 16, KPK 8, Sindh 13 and Punjab 12.

Zhao said at least 16 projects under CPEC are related to Balochistan. These include: Khuzdar-Basima Highway (N-30), D.I.Khan-Quetta Highway (N-50), Hubco Coal Power Plant, Gwadar Power Plant, Gwadar-Nawabshah LNG Terminal and Pipeline, Gwadar Eastbay Expressway, Gwadar New International Airport, Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan, Expansion of Multi-purpose Terminal including Breakwater & Dredging Wastewater Treatment Plants for Gwadar City, Gwadar Primary School, Gwadar Hospital Upgradation, Gwadar Technical & Vocational College, Gwadar Eastbay Expressway II, Fresh Water Supply and Gwadar Free Zone.

About Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said at least eight projects under CPEC relate to KPK: Joint Feasibility Study for Upgradation of ML1, Establishment of Havelian Dry Port, KKH II (Havelian-Thakot) Upgradation of ML-1, KKH III (Raikot-Thakot), D.I.Khan-Quetta Highway (N-50), Suki Kinari Hydropower Project and Optical Fiber Cable from Rawalpindi to Khunjab.

He said that 13 CPEC projects relate to Sindh: Matiari- Lahore Transmission Line, Matiari-Faisalabad Transmission Line, Port Qasim

Power Plant Engro Thar Power Plant & Surface Mine in Block II of Thar Coal Field Dawood



Wind Farm, Jhimpir Wind Farm, Sachal Wind Farm, China-Sunec Wind Farm, Upgradation of ML-1, Thar Coal Block I & Mine Mouth Power

Plant, Gwadar-Nawabshah LNG Terminal & Pipeline, Karachi-Lahore Motorway (Sukkur-Multan), Joint Feasibility Study for Upgradation of ML1.

He said only 12 projects under CPEC relate to Punjab and these are: Optical Fiber Cable from Rawalpindi to Khunjab, Haier &

Ruba Economic Zone II, Karachi-Lahore Motorway (Sukkur-Multan), Joint Feasibility Study for Upgradation of ML1, Upgradation of ML-1, Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant, Rahimyar Khan Coal Power Plant, Karot Hydro-Power Plant, Lahore Orange Line Metro Train, Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line, Matiari-Faisalabad Transmission Line Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park in Bahawalpur.

China has already invested \$14 billion in 30 early-harvest projects to be completed under CPEC, a flagship project of the One Belt One Road initiative launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Out of the 30 projects, 16 were under construction, a statement quoted Chinese Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Zhao Lijian.

Highways Network of CPEC



National Foundation Day and the Armed Forces Day of the Republic of Korea celebrated in Islamabad

The South Korea ambassador H.E. Suh Dong-gu hosted a reception to commemorate National Foundation Day and Armed Forces Day of his country at his residence in Islamabad. Federal Minister for Industries, Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi, Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, Minister of State for Education, Muhammad Baligh-ur Rehman, Secretary of BOI Azher Chaudry, Mayor of Islamabad, Sheikh Ansar Aziz, Additional Secretary of Foreign Affairs Zulfiqar Gardezi and CMO of UNMOGIP General Per Lodin along with other high level dignitaries attended the reception.

Korean Ambassador Mr and Mrs Suh Dong Gu welcomed the guests. In the reception, guests were served with some samplers of Korean food and drinks like Kimchi, Bulgogi, Soju and Makgully. A famous Korean music group was invited from Korea which played Korean traditional instruments.





UN appointed

Mr. Antonio Guterres as new secretary-general

The UN General Assembly formally appointed Antonio Guterres as the new secretary-general of the United Nations, replacing Ban Ki-moon.

The 193 member states adopted by acclamation a resolution appointing the former prime minister of Portugal for a five-year term beginning January 1.

Guterres won unanimous support from the UN Security Council during a vote last week that capped the most transparent campaign ever held at the United Nations for the top post.

The 67-year-old polyglot campaigned on a pledge to promote human rights and enact reforms within the UN system, seen as clunky and too slow to respond to unfolding disasters.

The socialist politician, who also served as UN refugee chief for a decade, is expected to play a more prominent role as the world's diplomat-in-chief than Ban, the South Korean former foreign minister who will step down after two five-year terms.

Guterres repeatedly warned that millions of refugees fleeing conflict in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere would turn to Europe if nations such as Turkey and Jordan did not receive more help to cope with their refugee populations.

"When people say they cannot receive Syrian refugees because they are Muslims, those that say it are supporting terrorist organisations and allowing them to be much more effective in recruiting people," he said in December just before he stepped down as UN refugee chief.

Born in Lisbon on April 30, 1949, Guterres joined Portugal's Socialist Party following the country's 1974 "Carnation Revolution" which put an end to nearly five decades of dictatorship.

His appointment as secretary-general comes at a time of global anxiety over the ongoing war in Syria, the refugee crisis and raging conflicts in South Sudan and Yemen.

The Security Council is deadlocked over Syria after two draft resolutions were defeated in separate votes over the weekend, one of which was vetoed by Damascus ally Russia.

Courtesy to DAWN





Greetings from Oman Air Islamabad!!!

Oman Air has been awarded the Signum Virtutis, the seal of excellence

Oman Air has been awarded the Signum Virtutis, the seal of excellence, from the Seven Stars Luxury Hospitality and Lifestyle Awards 2016. The airline was voted winner for the best airline in the Middle East, Africa and Europe. The competitors included leading international airlines from around the world.

Turkey marked 93rd National Day

Turkish Ambassador in Islamabad H.E. Babur Girgin hosted a glittering reception here to mark the 93rd anniversary of the Republic Day of Turkey. Minister for Defense Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Prime Minister's National Security Adviser Lt Gen (Retd) Nasser Khan Janjua were the prominent guests of the ceremony.

Event was attended by a huge number of members from Turkish community in Pakistan, who's who of the diplomatic corps and notables from across the federal capital.





25th October 1944-2016

Romanian Armed Force Day Celebrated in Islamabad

A large number of guests graced the reception. They were diplomats, former diplomats of Pakistan and senior government functionaries as well as prominent people from various segments of the society.



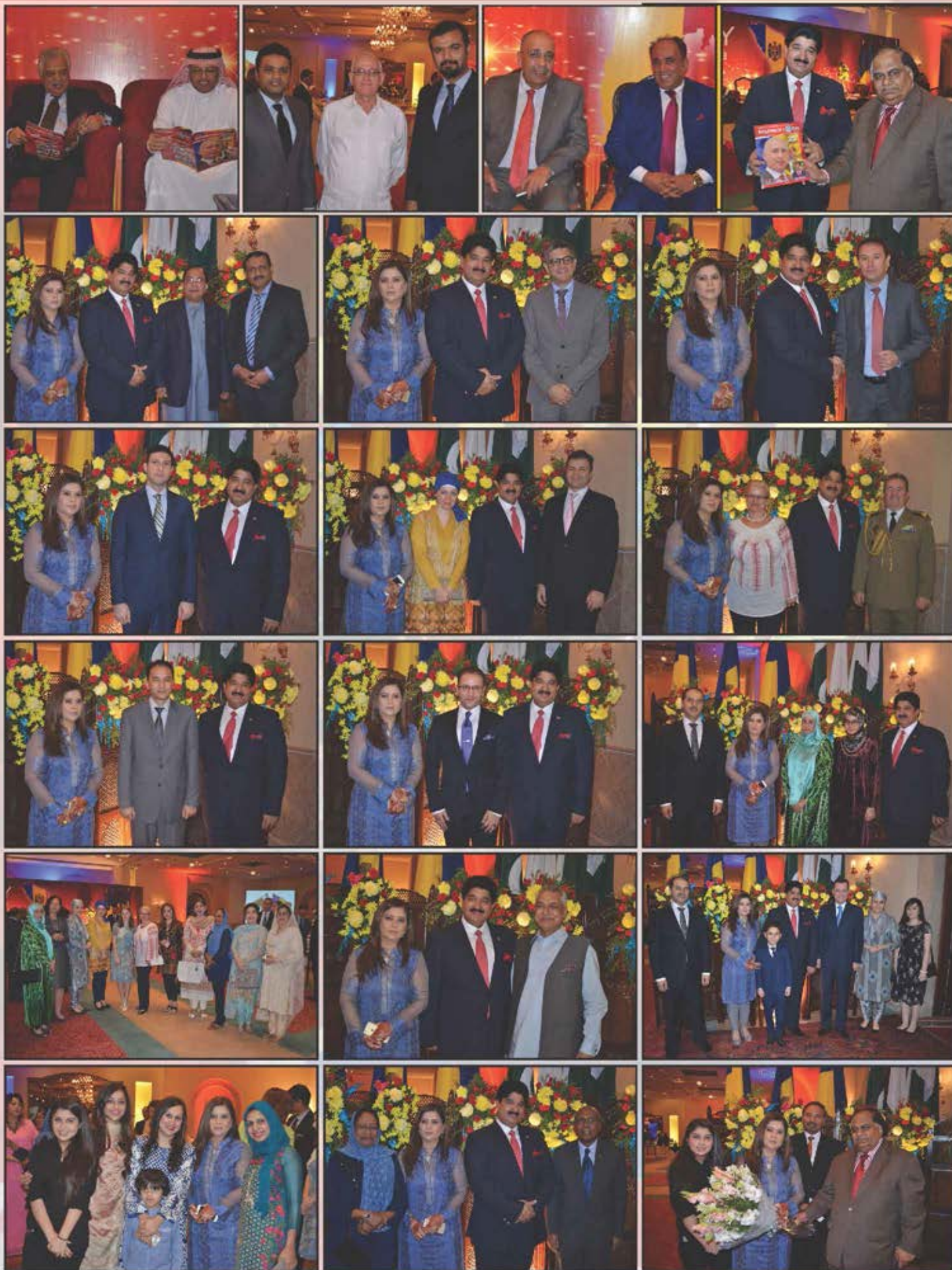


Moldova's National Day celebrated

Mr. Mian Mehmood the honorary consul general of Moldova and his better half hosted a reception to celebrate The National Day of Republic of Moldova at Serena Hotel Islamabad. The governors of Punjab and KP - Malik Mohammad Rafique Rajwana and Iqbal Zafar Jhagra - were the chief guests on the occasion. A large number of guests graced the reception. They were diplomats, former diplomats of Pakistan and senior government functionaries as well as prominent people from various segments of the society.







CPEC can benefit the whole economy of Pakistan



By Muhammad Adrees

Writer is the Chairman & CEO Sitara Chemical Industries Faisalabad, Former President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and Chairman Aziz Fatima Medical & Dental College Faisalabad

Sino – Pak relations are transforming into an innovative chapter of economic development. China is a growing trading and industrial power and Pakistan could easily benefit from China's US\$ 11 trillion economy and admired progress. The two countries enjoy warm relations in all sectors since 1950s. A great opportunity for Pakistan is to become a Suez Canal for China-Pakistan trade in the Middle East, giving the substitute access to China as a friendly state to make its future exposure in the South China Sea that will introduce a new height in China's global trade.

This game-changer project (CPEC) will help Pakistan to be loaded with industrial parks and processing units. The far away and remote areas of Baluchistan, Sind and KP will get a great portion of development from this Project. Pakistan will see a boost in exports with easy access to world markets.

The (CPEC) is a 3,218-Km set-up of roads,

railways and dry ports from Gwadar Port to Kashgar and will enhance the lives of about 3 billion people of this region. It will help China through Pakistan to do trade with the half of the world countries, and this will make strong Chinese economy and ultimately have constructive out put on Pakistan's economic growth.

This mega project (CPEC) falls into two parts: transportation and energy. An energy master plan of power generation projects to overcome the energy crises would also greatly benefit the Pakistan. It is needed to develop and implement a reform roadmap to make it possible without any interruption and hurdles. If everything is fine and goes well, CPEC will supply up to 6,400 MW of energy in total by 2020.

With the CPEC, there is hope that this project will open new business outlets for businessmen from China, Pakistan and Iran. It will also provide a platform of cooperation in huge agricultural sector which would help to transmit of energy related to agrochemical, pesticides, seeds, and fertilizers. Furthermore, the CPEC will boost the tourism industry of Pakistan.

To achieve maximum economic, industrial and infrastructural benefits through CPEC, more consensus in planning, research, coordination, security and consultation is needed. There is extensive acknowledgement of (CPEC) is a historic opportunity for Pakistan,

to place the country on a high growth economy, create jobs, improve & construct critical infrastructure and augment access to energy. The only thing is required determination to develop right applications and structures; as (CPEC) has the potential to be one of the biggest economic assets of the future.

Game-changer project (CPEC) will help Pakistan to be loaded with industrial parks and processing units. The far away and remote areas of Baluchistan, Sind and KP will get a great portion of development from this Project. Pakistan will see a boost in exports with easy access to world markets.



Austria celebrated National Day

Ambassador H.E. Brigitta Baha hosted a reception at her residence to celebrate the National day of Austria in Islamabad. Minister for Defence Production, Raja Tanvir Hussain was the guest of honour. Event was very well attended by members of the diplomatic community and Pakistanis from different walks of life.





65 years of Argentina-Pakistan friendship celebrated

To commemorate the 65th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Argentina and Pakistan, ambassador of the Argentine Republic H.E. Ivan Ivanissevich and Mrs Ivan Ivanissevich hosted a concert at the Marriott Hotel. The event featured Pakistani artistes and was held in collaboration with Mausikaar, the trust for preservation of the traditional music of Pakistan and welfare of artistes. The event was attended by diplomats and Pakistani guests, while Adviser to the PM on Foreign Affairs, Tariq Fatemi, and Mayor of Islamabad Sheikh Anser Aziz were special guests.





H.E. Martine Dorance, Ambassador of France to Pakistan

hosted a reception to mark the handover of the French Presidency of COP21 to the Moroccan Presidency of COP22, from the Paris Climate Change Conference to the upcoming Marrakesh one which will take place from 7 to 18 November. The reception was attended by the Chief Guest, federal Minister for Climate Change, Mr. Zahid Hamid, the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Moroccan Embassy and many diplomats, government officials, members of Parliament and representatives from the civil society.







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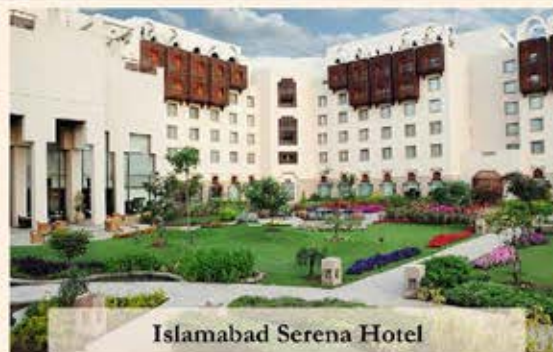


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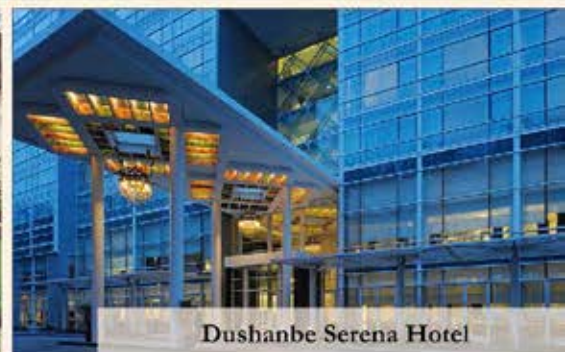
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