



**H.E. Joao Paulo Sabido Costa**  
Emabssy of Portugal





# Message

On June, 10th, Portugal celebrates its National day, commemorating the Death of the poet Luís de Camões. Having lived in the XVIth century, Luis de Camões is one of the main authors of Portuguese Language literature. Having a classical academic formation, namely in which concerns Latin and Greek, he wrote mostly in Portuguese. At the same time, he received a very important impression from the cultures and languages he was exposed to, during its protracted stay in Northern Africa, first, and then in India and China, where he spent many years. His most important poem is the «Lusíadas» («The Portuguese»), where he narrates the maritime voyage of Vasco da Gama to India, around Africa and the Cape of Good Hope and, availing himself of that opportunity, describes the History of Portugal between the XIIth and the XVIth.

It is an opportunity to show to Pakistani society and Authorities our friendship towards Pakistan and how much Portugal appreciates this country.

Therefore, Portugal has a long relation with Asia, inclusive with the Subcontinent. With Pakistan and the region where it lies, our ties have been always very good. Pakistan is a beautiful land with a very hospitable and friendly people. The relations between ourselves should, therefore, be reinforced and deepened. In a time where countries' and people' relations become each time more globalized, we should use all means to get to know better each other and find ways to come closer together with a view to smoothing our contacts and life together.

Besides political and official contacts that are extremely important, we should work in expanding people' to people's relations, as well as the cooperation in the framework of culture, academic exchanges, trade, economy, youth, sport, media, etc.

Also as a Member of the European Union, Portugal is ready to cooperate with Pakistan in many areas, including the consolidation of Rule of Law, juridical and judiciary training and doctrine, women empowerment, rights of the child, labor legislation etc.. Also the attribution of Pakistan of the Generalized System of Preferences Plus (GSP+), besides the trade opportunities it creates, offers an incentive for both countries to collaborate more narrowly, allowing us to learn with each other and to strengthen each time more our traditional friendship. Pakistan deserves to be better known abroad and that will help developing its trade and relations.





## National day of Portugal celebrated

To celebrate the Portuguese National Day, the Charge d' Affaires of Portugal, H.E. Joao Paulo Sabido Costa and Mrs. Maria Gloria Sabido Costa hosted a reception at the Serena Hotel. The event was held at the Shishmahal Hall and attended by a large number of guests including

diplomats. The guest of honour was Minister for Human Rights, Kamran Michael and the cake cutting ceremony took place after the national anthem of both countries had been played against a backdrop showcasing a historic building in the Portuguese capital, Lisbon.

Speech of

### H.E. Joao Paulo Sabido Costa

Honorable Excellency, the Federal Minister for Human Rights, Senator Kamran Michael, Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you very much for attending the Portuguese National Day that we celebrate again in Islamabad this year.

This is not only a Portuguese celebration, but an event we celebrate together with Pakistan. Portugal is thankful to Pakistan for its friendship that unites us for so long. Our relations have always been good and the Portuguese are proud of it.

There is a large scope for us to cooperate in so many areas and the perspectives are very good. There are important events planned between our two countries in the mutual benefit of our peoples, and many more that we can still discuss for the future.

I would like to thank Serena Hotel for the wonderful cooperation, the staff of the Embassy for their work and all those who, with their support, helped bringing this event together. Thank you very much.

I also thank HE the Minister of Human Rights, Senator Kamran Michael, for gracing the occasion with his presence, namely after a tiring trip from Portugal to where you have been invited to an important event. Thank you for accepting to participate in it and I hope you bring good impressions from your visit.

I wish an excellent evening to all.











# Exhibition of the Portuguese tiles (the art of Azulejo in Portugal) at Serena Hotel, Islamabad

Speech of

## H.E. Joao Paulo Sabido Costa

In first place I would like to thank the Serena Hotel and Satrang Gallery for organizing this event.

I thank Ms. Asma Rasheed Khan and her staff for all the cooperation provided.

Mainly I would like to greet Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO of Serena Hotels for gracing this event as a Chief Guest- It is an occasion to thank Mr. Aziz Boolani, on behalf of the Portuguese Embassy, for all the friendship and indefatigable collaboration showed to us and to Portugal. Mr. Boolani is an outstanding personality of the Pakistani society and, for all the reasons, we are honoured to have him as a Friend.

In the same context, I would like to recall and underline the excellent relation existing between the Aga Khan Foundation and Portugal that it is, as well, a great honour for my country. Today's exhibition has to do with Art of Azulejo in Portugal or, to be more precise, with Art of the glazed tiles developed throughout the centuries by Portugal together with many other regions of the world with whom Portugal contacted. One of these cases is Brazil, which Embassy graciously added some posters to the exhibition, turning it richer.

With an Arabic origin, the word Azulejo defines an art developed in Portugal. In fact, from all the European countries, Portugal is the one where the glazed tile, or Azulejo, showed the greatest development as well as the most original and functional utilization. For in no other country as in Portugal did the tiles play such a complex part in transforming the closed character of the architectonic space.

Further, as I said, besides being present in the Portuguese mainland, the Portuguese Azulejo and its use spread throughout the Oceans and Continents where they are today depicted and can be admired. At the same time, this form of Art received influences from many other arts, cultures and Civilizations that defined its character and uniqueness. It is a remarkable characteristic of the Azulejo to absorb the most different elements without ever losing its own identity or personality.

That could be also a definition of the Portuguese Culture and its tradition: openness and uniqueness. Therefore, it is this aspect of Portugal that I would invite you to appreciate in today's exhibition











## H.E. Joao Paulo Sabido Costa visit to Karachi thru lens







## German Embassy exhibited young photographers' and graphic

German Ambassador H.E. Ina Lepel exhibited young photographers' and graphic designers' Art work at PNCA, Islamabad.

In February this year, the Annemarie-Schimmel-Haus (German Cultural Centre Lahore) invited the world-renowned, award-winning National Geographic photographer Matthieu Paley and his wife, the graphic and communications designer Mareile Paley to hold two parallel workshops at the Annemarie-Schimmel-Haus for young photographers and graphic designers from all the major art universities in Lahore and presented the results of workshops in the Alhamra Arts Council Gallery in February. The German Embassy opened this exhibition at the National Art Gallery, PNCA, Islamabad.



## Good By H.E. Ina Lepel

German Ambassador

H.E. Ina Lepel completed her diplomatic assignment according to Embassy's message that She was a great Ambassador who always cared for the interests of the Embassy's staff. Therefore, we will miss her a lot and we wish her all the best for the future! Ms. Lepel will devote herself to new challenges in our headquarters.







## EU CELEBRATED EUROPE DAY BY ORGANIZING EUROVILLAGE

The European Union and EU member states in Pakistan celebrated Europe Day in a unique manner by setting up a 'Eurovillage' in Islamabad at Lok Virsa.

It was aimed at increasing awareness of Europe and of European culture and values. The general public was provided with a memorable experience of Europe as an interesting, culturally rich and friendly place. The EU's as well as the Member States' stands showcased their countries' culture and traditions, language, their relationship with Pakistan and general information about their country. The premises of Lok Virsa were transformed into a veritable carnival with food stalls and information and activity booths for adults and children including quizzes, selfie walls and giant cut outs of famous landmarks of Europe.

The evening ended with live performances of the two European bands "Live Strings" and "Wild ManGoes" and the Pakistani artist Qurat-ul-Ain Balouch.

Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Jean-François Cautain pointed that the year of the 60th Anniversary of the EU Treaty of Rome was also the first year that the EU was organising a Eurovillage with participation from the Member States to remind everyone of the EU's cultural richness while also underlining our unity.



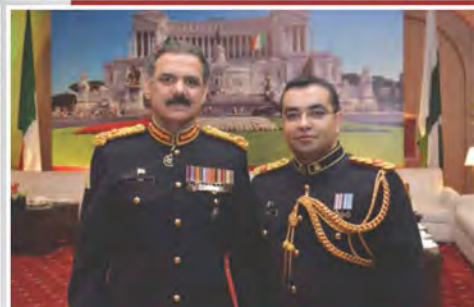






# National day of Italy celebrated

Ambassador of Italy H.E. Stefano Pontecorvo and his better half hosted a reception on the occasion of national day of Italy at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Federal Minister for Industries Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi was the chief guest. Lt Gen. Saleem Bajwa also attended the reception. Besides, a dress show was also arranged on the sidelines of the event. Dresses prepared by Italian designer were put on display. The audience took keen interest in the dresses and appreciated work of the designer. A large number of guests attended the Italian national day reception.





# President Mamnoon Hussain emphasized that Africa has a special place in Pakistan's foreign policy

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Agencies

President Mamnoon Hussain has said that Pakistan has achieved significant successes in war against terrorism and African countries can benefit from Pakistan's experiences in addressing the menace of terrorism.

President Mamnoon Hussain said this during a luncheon in honor of Ambassadors/ High Commissioners of African countries at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. Ambassadors/ High Commissioners of South Africa, Tunis, Kenya, Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, Morocco, Nigeria, Mauritius and Libya were present on the occasion. The President congratulated Ambassadors/ High Commissioners on the 54th anniversary of formation of the African Union (AU). On the occasion, Adviser to PM on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz, Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua and other senior officials were also present.

The President stated that Pakistan has rendered immense sacrifices in fight against terrorism and now by the Grace of Allah Almighty Pakistan has overcome this menace to a great extent. He further said that African countries can benefit from Pakistan's experiences in this regard. He also offered training for African officers in different fields including defense and foreign affairs.

The President emphasized that Africa has a special place in Pakistan's foreign policy adding that Pakistan has adopted 'Look Africa Policy' to further strengthen relations with African countries. The basic objective of this policy is to further expand cooperation in political, educational, cultural and economic fields so that the trade volume between Pakistan and African countries can be further increased. African countries must prepare themselves to benefit from CPEC.



Mr. Mpendulo Jele, High Commissioner of South Africa (Dean for Africa) presenting a Shield to President Mamnoon Hussain after a meeting with Ambassador/ High Commissioners of African Countries at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

On the occasion, Mr. Mpendulo Jele, High Commissioner of South Africa (Dean for Africa) said that Pakistan has successfully faced the scourge of terrorism which is commendable. The Ambassador of Nigeria expressed gratitude for Pakistan's cooperation in addressing the menace of terrorism in Nigeria.



President Mamnoon Hussain in a meeting with Ambassadors/High Commissioners of African Countries at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



The British High Commissioner, Mr Thomas Drew CMG, inaugurated a photography exhibition at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) in Islamabad to mark 70 years of Pakistan and United Kingdom's friendship with theme "Shared History".







## 60th Anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Malaysia, Pakistan celebrated



High Commissioner of Malaysia, H.E. Dr. Hasrul Sani Bin Muhtabar, hosted a ceremony on occasion of 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Malaysia and Pakistan. Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources was the chief guest of the eve.



Malaysian High Commissioner and his wife welcomed the guests. On the occasion, the Malaysian cultural dance mesmerized the audience. The gathering applauded the special dance groups and the ministry of culture and tourism of Malaysia for their outstanding performance.







# 4th Serena Hotels Polo Cup 2017



SERENA HOTELS



The President Body Guard Kalabagh -4 polo team won the 4th Serena Hotels Polo Cup 2017 beat defending champion ASEAN RED team in the final and lifts the polo trophy.

The event was sponsored by Serena Hotels under the Sports Diplomacy Initiative which seeks to encourage sports as a healthy activity in Pakistan and aims to form a platform for the local community, corporate and development sectors, government officials and diplomats to share their love for sports. The grand finale of the Serena Hotels Polo Cup 2017 drew an audience of more than 500 guests. Members of the diplomatic corps, government officials, heads of corporations and dignitaries, were delighted to attend the annual Polo Cup for the fourth consecutive year.







## 41<sup>st</sup> Armed Forces Unification Day of UAE observed

The Ambassador of United Arab Emirates H.E. Essa Abdullah Al Basha Al Noaimi hosted a reception to mark 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Armed Forces Day. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) General Zubair Mahmood Hayat was chief guest of the eve.

The reception was also attended by Prime Minister's National Security Advisor (NSA) General (R) Nasser Khan Janjua, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman, Secretary Defence Lieutenant General (Retired) Zamir ul Hasan, former Corps Commander and Senator General (Retired) Salahuddin Tirmzi, Saudi Defence Attaché Admiral Nawaf Al-Maliki, ambassadors/high commissioners and defence attaches of several countries.





# 25th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkmenistan and Islamic Republic of Pakistan celebrated



On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkmenistan and Islamic Republic of Pakistan the Embassy of Turkmenistan to Pakistan in collaboration with Diplomatic Focus hosted the reception at Serena Hotel.

Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs was the chief guest. A large number of diplomats, Government officials, Journalists and leader of civil society Pakistan's Ambassador designate to the Netherlands attended the reception.

Sartaj Aziz, advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan said that during last 25 years both the countries signed many inter-governmental agreements to enhance cooperation in the fields of trade, energy, agriculture & livestock, science & technology, education, health, sports and tourism, which will not only further cement Pak-Turkmen relations but will also boost the economy of both the countries. However, economy is not the only aspect of Pak-Turkmen relations. Simultaneously the establishment of political, parliamentary, social and cultural links has been taking place.

In welcome speech, Ambassador Atadjan Movlamov said that Turkmenistan and Pakistan are two brotherly Muslim countries with unique commonalities of historical and political nature





and this year both countries are celebrating the 25th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations.

Turkmenistan since the independence in 1991 has enjoyed the dynamically developed bilateral relations with Pakistan, which have been successfully developing with enormous speed since then. Presently, Turkmen-Pak relations are characterized by mutual willingness to enhance advantageous partnership.

Mian Fazal Ellahi said that the Diplomatic relations between the two countries were registered in 1992. Pakistan was among the first few countries, which promptly recognized Turkmenistan as an independent and sovereign state.

This year Turkmenistan and Pakistan celebrate 25th Anniversary of Establishment of diplomatic relations. Turkmenistan and Pakistan enjoy cordial relations, which are characterized by bonds of historical, cultural and religious affinity and mutual respect. These are rooted deep in the hearts of the people of both the countries. Both sides attach great importance to the friendship between their people and the need to further strengthen their cooperation in diverse fields.

Ashgabat and Islamabad agree to enhance cooperation on international and regional issues of common interest, and continue coordination within international and regional mechanisms such as the UN, NAM, G-77, ECO and OIC. Now Ashgabat and Islamabad express their resolve to work together for regional peace, development and prosperity.

Strong political will of both the countries will foster the bilateral relations in terms of greater socio-economic interaction/connectivity, business-to-business coordination, exploration of potential opportunities for joint ventures and foreign direct investments (FDIs) through rigorous commercial diplomacy. Moreover, establishing air, road and rail links on a priority basis will be a value-addition.

Turkmenistan and Pakistan are two brotherly countries with unique commonalities of historical and political nature. Turkmenistan and Pakistan have been enjoying excellent economic, social, cultural and political relations since 1992. Turkmenistan is endowed with huge hydrocarbon resources, which can provide energy to Pakistan to meet its needs. Pakistan also supports Turkmenistan's initiative to establish trans-regional energy corridors.





# 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Turkmenistan

September 17-27, 2017, Ashgabat

In December, 2010 in the capital of Kuwait, Al Kuwait, headquarters of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) between the OCA, the National Olympic Committee of Turkmenistan and city administration of Ashgabat signed the agreement, about carrying out in September, 2017 in the capital of Turkmenistan of the V Asian indoor and martial arts games that evoked a wide response in the world, and became a milestone event in country life.

The decision of the Olympic Council of Asia was a bright result of the large-scale activity which is carried out under the leadership of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, aimed at the broad development of sport and physical culture, increase in the authority of the country in the field of sport.

On November 5, 2010 in Ashgabat, construction of the largest multipurpose sports complex, the Olympic town - the arena of holding the V Asian indoor and martial arts games in 2017 began.

In January, 2013 the resolution of the President of Turkmenistan created the Organizing committee of the V Asian indoor and martial arts games, and in December - Executive committee on preparation and holding these games.

On November 28, 2014 in capital hotel "Oguzkent" was held the ceremony of signing of the Memorandum of participation of the countries of Oceania in the V Asian indoor and martial arts games. According to this document, besides 45 National Olympic Committees of Asia, also 17 National Olympic Committees of the countries of Oceania for the first time will participate in the Asian games held in 2017 in Ashgabat.

In addition, according to the proposal of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly



Berdimuhamedov, the program V of Asian games included equestrian sport (show jumping) and the Turkmen national fight "goresh". On May 5, 2016 in the National historical and cultural park of Nis, at walls of ancient fortress in the western suburb of Ashgabat, during five hundred days will be horse run across Turkmenistan, which symbolizes time countdown - 500 days prior to the start of V Asian indoor and martial arts games. Along with it, time countdown timer prior to the games was started.

The horse group of 17 riders on horses of ahalteke breed within 500 days will pass on all five velayats (areas) of the country, being for 100 days in each of them. At the final stage of a horse run, on the gas field "Galkynysh", largest in the country, at Mary region, the ceremony of ignition of a torch of the V Asian games will

be held, and then the horse group will deliver a torch to Ashgabat where fire of the Olympic Games will be lit.

Within preparation of the V Asian games in 2016, on the basis of the Olympic town 6 international tournaments and the championships of Asia as test actions are held, and in April, 2017 similar competitions still in three sports will be organized. For service of participants and guests of the V Asian games, according to the special program about 10 thousand volunteers are prepared.

For increase in efficiency of activities of media, for covering of events of the Asian Games-2017 in worldwide network, the Website of the V Asian games is open, are carried out and media forums with participation of specialists of foreign mass media will be still organized.



**The Embassy of Turkmenistan in collaboration with Mr. Yaqoob Tabani, honorary consul of Turkmenistan in Karachi organized the Presentation on 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, Ashgabat, 2017**



## The Embassy of Turkmenistan in collaboration with Mr. Yaqoob Tabani, honorary consul of Turkmenistan in Karachi hosted a reception to mark 25 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkmenistan-Pakistan in Karachi.

Turkmenistan relations in recent years have reached a “qualitatively new level, successfully developing in political, economic, and humanitarian spheres”, said the Turkmenistan ambassador Atadjan Movlamov during a speech, which marked the 25th anniversary celebrations for the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. He took pride in acknowledging that Pakistan was among the first countries to develop the idea of neutrality of Turkmenistan at the UN on December 12, 1995. This idea was first voiced at the Islamabad meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organisation in 1995, and current year on February 7, in the UN General Assembly, Pakistan co-sponsored the resolution to declare December 12 as International Neutrality Day. The government, and people of Turkmenistan will remember it with gratitude. Mr. Yaqoob Tabani in his speech urged the Pakistani businessmen to visit Turkmenistan for there existed tremendous potential for cooperation in the field of energy, and transportation. He said Turkmenistan had made great strides for development in recent years. Similar sentiments were expressed by S M Muneer, chairman of TDAP in his speech.

Prominent guests among the others were consuls general of Russian Federation Oleg Avedeev, Bangla Desh Noor-e- Helal Saifur Rehman, Indonesia, Turkey Mustafa Onart, Chairman of the Trade Development Authority S M Muneer, vice chairman of FPCCI Khalid Taawab, Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, and number two of Oman consulate, etc.



## Governor Sindh Mr. Mohammad Zubair talking with ambassador of Turkmenistan Atajan Movlamov at Governor House Karachi





# Happy Wedding

Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi, Editor, CEO, Publisher  
"Diplomatic Focus" hosted Waleema Reception  
on the occasion wedding of Commander (R)  
Muhammad Hussain Shahbaz with  
Sabeela Naseer  
at Serena Hotel, Islamabad.



"Like a candle in the  
dark,  
May both of you find  
light with each other.  
Never give up and work  
things out with a heart  
filled with love and  
understanding.  
Congratulations for both  
of you



Photo by Ramzan Mughal



## Spanish band 'La Bejazz' gives spellbinding performance in Capital

The Embassy of Spain and Serena Hotels collaborated to host a fundraising gala dinner featuring a performance by renowned Spanish band La Bejazz at Serena hotel, Islamabad.

The proceeds from the evening, amounting Rs5 million, were donated to the Aga Khan University Hospital to finance treatment of children who require heart surgery. La Bejazz is a group of musicians from the south of Spain, who perform an extraordinary fusion of two distinct musical styles, Jazz and Flamenco. Under its cultural diplomacy banner, Serena has promoted arts and intercultural activities to inspire ethos of peace and hope, engaging with foreign missions able to raise funds to support worthy causes.





## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between Kazakhstan and Pakistan Celebrated at Serena Hotel Islamabad



The Ambassador of Kazakhstan H.E. Bakhitbek Shabarbayev, underlined underline that Pakistan was main political and economic partners in South Asia; therefore relations between Pakistan and Kazakhstan had great potential for development. Senator Talha Mehmood was the chief guest of the event.





# Sweden Day celebrated

H.E. Ms. Ingrid Johansson, Ambassador of Sweden hosted a Sweden Day Reception at her residence in Islamabad. Chief Guest of the eve was Mr. Ghulam Murtaza Khan Jatoi Federal minister of Industries and Production. Large number of diplomats and other prominent persons from twin cities attend the event.





# Norwegian Constitution Day celebrated

Ambassador of Norway Tore Nedrebo hosted a reception at his residence to celebrate the Constitution Day of Norway. Pakistani band played folk tunes as well, which added color to the event. Large number of diplomats graced the event.







## Nepal Embassy organize 'Peace Walk'

"Peace Walk 2017" on the occasion of the 2561 Birth Anniversary of Shakyamuni Gautam Buddha organized by Embassy of Nepal in collaboration with Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad. The embassy of Nepal has organized the peace walk with an aim to underline the significance of peace. Deputy Mayer of Islamabad Mr. Syed Zeshan Shah Naqvi, Ambassador of NEpal h.e. Sawa Lamsal and others diplomats graced the event.





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## Congratulations on National day of Portugal

H.E. Joao Paula Sabido Costa

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif shaking hand  
with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Leaders Round  
Table Conference in the Belt and Road Forum at Beijing.



President Xi termed  
Pak China relations as

**"Iron Brothers"**

PM Nawaz deeply appreciated  
President Xi's vision of

**"One Belt One Road"**

**Congratulation  
Republic Day of  
Azerbaijan &  
25th anniversary  
of Azerbaijan-  
Pakistan  
diplomatic  
relations**



**H. E. Ali Alizada**  
Ambassador of Azerbaijan