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Be it the
government,
bureaucracy,
opposition or the army

We are in the same
boat, a hole in this boat
will sink everyone

Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Newly Elected PM of Pakistan



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Group Chairman/CEO:	Mian Fazal Elahi
Chief Editor:	Mian Akhtar Hussain
Patron in Chief:	Mr. Zia-ur-Rahman Zabeeh
Editor/Publisher:	Mian Fazal Elahi
Managing Director:	Shahzada Khurram
Executive Editor:	Muhammad Bilal Zafar
Editor in Chief UK/EU Edition:	Mian Assadullah
	Justin Plaza 3, 3411 London Road, Mitcham, Surrey-CR4 4BE
Editor Germany, EU Edition:	Mian Mubeen Akhtar
Chairman Advisory Board:	Mr. Kanwar Muhammad Tariq
Deputy Editor:	Muhammad Saeed Yousafzai
Sub Editor:	Abdul Basit
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Art Director:	Sharyar Fazil
Graphic Designer:	Jamil Ahmed
Web Developer:	Liaqat Ali
Chief Photographer:	Sheikh Muhammad Arif
	Ramzan Mughal

Country Director	Fazal Hussain 004540521485
Copenhagen Denmark	Email: fazal1955@hotmail.com
Javed Iqbal Butt	Bureau Chief Australia, New Zealand

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Resident Editors	
Eng. Moshin Ali	1st Floor Office No 50 Gulf Plaza Madina Street P.O B ox 65454 Jeddah 21556 Cell: +966-506389895

Bureau Office

Qaisar Masood	Muhammad Athar
Northern Virginia	Georgia
Israr Masood	M. Jamil Rathore
Sydney Australia	Bureau Chief Jeddah KSA
Shahid Akbar Toor	Cell: +966-502583608
Vehari	

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

Publisher

Mian Fazal Elahi, House No 263-C, Street 87, Sector E-11/2 Islamabad.
Tel: +92-51-2163092, 2163070, News Room: +92-51-2163029
Mobile: +92-345-5565552, +92-322-5565552
Email: mianfazalelahi@gmail.com, diplomaticfocus.isb.pk@gmail.com
www.diplomaticfocus.org
Karachi Office: Mobile: +92-321-5558221

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Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan Muslim League (N), after a political setback by the judicial verdict in Panama Papers case, has somewhat regained the lost ground after smooth election of Leader of the House and oath-taking of a decent personality Shahid Khaqan Abbasi as the next Prime Minister of the country, which augurs well for Party's image and the process of democracy.

Verdict of the top court of the country on Panama Papers' case jolted the entire foundations of democratic system and it will take some time for it to come back on track but one thing is quite clear that all political players demonstrated maturity.

PML (N) is a big party and existence of different points of view and lobbies is not unusual for such parties but Nawaz Sharif made the choice and the entire party endorsed it without any ifs and buts. PML (N) is facing difficult times and there were fears that once the Supreme Court pronounced judgement and Mian Nawaz Sharif is out, then process of wear and tear might begin but Abbasi's nomination prevented the crisis. In his maiden address after his victory in elections as Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi spelled out what his priorities would be irrespective of time-constraints. He expressed his resolve to strengthen economy of the country as per vision of his leader Mian Nawaz Sharif, attract investment, develop agriculture sector on modern lines, eliminate the menace of load-shedding after November this year and promote tax culture.

Every word of his speech conveyed a vivid impression that he was speaking from the core of his heart and is determined to make a difference.

And that is what the country needs and PML-N ought to do to remain relevant and effective in the face of grave challenges and impending electoral battle, which would decide its own fate and that of the nation. Economy and development have been the hallmark of Nawaz Sharif government and it is quite understandable that his choice of successor would pursue this agenda with the same zeal.

[Signature]

Important Announcement

It has been announced for the general information that Mr. Mian Assad Ullah has been appointed as Editor In Chief of the Monthly "Diplomatic Focus" for the UK/EU Edition. He is entitled to participate official /non-officials diplomatic engagements, events, national days, social evenings/gatherings, press conferences/interviews and can be contacted for all kinds of stuff including articles, supplements and advertisements etc). It is requested to all Diplomatic missions and government high officials of UK, please contact with Mr. Mian Assad Ullah on His mailing address, 4 Ipswich Road, SW17 9RH, London. Cell number: +44-7961005954/ 2087694850, Email: uk.diplomaticfocus@gmail.com, assadmian1@gmail.com



Mian Assad Ullah

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Diplomatic Focus Headquarters is declared as DC Mission Islamabad



By M. Saeed Yousafzai

The Diplomatic Focus Magazine and the Diplomatic Council have entered into a strategic cooperation for Pakistan. "Diplomatic Focus" has been signed MoU with The Diplomatic Council (DC). According to MoU, "Diplomatic Focus" Headquarters in Islamabad is declared as DC Mission Islamabad. With the signing of MoU, Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi, CEO and Publisher "Diplomatic Focus" is named Head of DC Mission Islamabad.

According to Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi, The Diplomatic Council was established as a Global Think Tank with the objective to serve as a bridge between diplomacy, economy and society. Diplomatic Council members share the idea that economic diplomacy provides a solid foundation for international understanding and a more peaceful interaction amongst nations.

A thriving economy bringing prosperity to mankind is one of the best guarantors of peace. Based on this perception, the Diplomatic

Council has translated its goal of promoting international understanding into an economic mandate. The global DC business network is linked to the diplomatic corps of the different nations. The experts and leaders engaged in the Diplomatic Council play a key role in consulting the ambassadors on how essential economic principles can be applied to global diplomatic dealings.

In this context, the Diplomatic Council welcomes personalities from diplomacy, economy and society who are highly estimated in their respective fields, exhibiting high levels of expertise and who pursue common visions and values.

The Diplomatic Council has been granted by the United Nations the highest status that can be achieved for a non-governmental organization: the special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. This status entitles the Diplomatic Council to attend UN sessions and make written and oral statements at international UN conferences and events. The Diplomatic Council has the opportunity to globally support the interest of economic

diplomacy, express its views and influence the work of the Economic and Social Council: a flourishing economy that brings prosperity to mankind is one of the best peace guarantors worldwide.

DC members can apply to become DC UN delegates and attend UN sessions in New York, Geneva and Vienna and many other places. DC provide expert analysis on issues from members experience, serve as an early warning agent, help monitor and implement international agreements, help raise public awareness of relevant issues, play a major role in advancing UN goals and objectives and contribute with essential information at organized events. By offering this unique opportunity, the Diplomatic Council grants its members access to one of the most exclusive, global contact networks with regard to economic and social issues. It is a great achievement for Pakistan to have DC Mission here, stated Mian Fazal Elahi. He termed it a historical MoU.



Shahid Khaqan Abbasi sworn in as Prime Minister of Pakistan

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring Desk

PML-N's Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi was sworn in as prime minister of Pakistan in an oath-taking ceremony held at President House. President Mamnoon Hussain administered the oath to H.E. Abbasi. The National Assembly speaker, governors of four provinces and Gilgit Baltistan (G-B), president

and prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, chief ministers of Balochistan and G-B, services chiefs, parliamentarians, senior politicians, diplomats and high level civil officials attended the ceremony. The president, later, hosted a reception in honour of the newly elected prime minister.

Abbasi was elected prime minister by lawmakers in the National Assembly, bagging

221 votes to become the successor to ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

PPP's Syed Naveed Qamar secured 47 votes, Awami Muslim League chief Sheikh Rashid received 33 votes, and four MNAs voted for Jamaat-i-Islami's Sahibzada Tariqullah during the ballot.

Following the announcement of Abbasi's



“Be it the government, bureaucracy, opposition or the army — we are in the same boat, and a hole in this boat will sink everyone,” PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi

victory by NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, the PML-N benches in the Lower House had erupted with loud sloganeering in favour of Nawaz Sharif.

Addressing the lower house soon after his victory was announced, Prime Minister-elect Abbasi said: “I am grateful to you all, for following the democratic process — whether you voted for or against me.”

“I am grateful to the people of Pakistan, and I am grateful to the ‘people’s prime minister’, Nawaz Sharif,” he continued.

“I am also grateful to the opposition and Imran Khan for remembering us in their daily slandering,” he jibed.

Moving on, Abbasi termed the Supreme Court’s verdict on the Panamagate case “unprecedented”, saying that although the party was blind-sided by the judgement, “we accepted it as it was”.

“We did not challenge the courts, there was no division in our ranks. The party stands as it was. No one wanted to joust for power — whoever



Prime Minister-elect of Pakistan Shahid Khaqan Abbasi called on President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Prime Minister-elect Shahid Khaqan Abbasi shaking hand with Opposition Leader Syed Khursheed Shah at the National Assembly.



**“If I am here for 45 days, I will try to complete the amount of the work that requires 45 months,”
PM Shahid Khaqan
Abbasi**

the Prime Minister [Nawaz Sharif] named was supported unanimously,” he said, rebuffing rumours of cracks in the party’s ranks following the verdict.

“Everybody wants the [prime minister’s] chair. Tell me, who in this house doesn’t? It is to the PML-N’s credit that all party members rallied unanimously behind whoever was nominated by our leader.

“Within four days, the democratic process is back on track. There were no defections. There was no dissension in our ranks.

“Justice mandates that though a 1,000 guilty people may go free, not even one innocent person should be wrongfully convicted. I will not go into details of Friday’s decision — I only want to say that there will soon be another court — one held by the people. There will be no JIT there,” he said, referring to the upcoming general elections in 2018.

“I am sure that the real prime minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif, will return to this seat.”

However, he said that, “I am the country’s prime minister — bet it for 45 days or 45 hours

— and am not here just to keep the seat warm.”

“If I am here for 45 days, I will try to complete the amount of the work that requires 45 months,” he vowed.

Continuing, the prime minister-elect urged that the Constitution be respected. “Politics, which has come to be seen as a disreputable profession, will be made respectable again.”

“Be it the government, bureaucracy, opposition or the army — we are in the same boat, and a hole in this boat will sink everyone,” he cautioned.

“We will continue taking difficult decisions,” Abbasi said as he promised to take action against “private militias” providing security to citizens.

“There is not a single country in the world which allows the licencing of automatic rifles for citizens. If you go outside parliament right now, you will see a private militia,” Abbasi remarked. “Action will be taken against them if my cabinet allows for it. The federal government will seize all automatic weapons, compensating people in return,” he promised.

The premier, carrying forward Nawaz Sharif and the PML-N’s promises, vowed to eliminate loadshedding by November this year as he highlighted various infrastructure and development projects initiated by his party’s government as examples of its commitment to the country’s growth.

“In Pakistan’s history, power projects with the capacity to generate 17,000 mega watts were set up before our government. We have added 10,000MW,” he said.

“Pervez Musharraf may have ruled the country



Prime Minister-elect Shahid Khaqan Abbasi shaking hand with Maulan Fazal-ur-Rehman at the National Assembly.

for eight years, but show me just one major development project from that era,” he said.

“One thing that is very close to my heart is [the collection of] taxes,” Abbasi continued.

“The perception here is that paying taxes is optional [...] if my cabinet approves, I will set my sights on non-taxpayers,” he promised.

Abbasi also briefly mentioned a focus on agriculture, education and health services.

“Agriculture is the backbone of the country,” Abbasi said. “Although I am not an agriculturalist, I feel their pain,” he said.

Speaking about the state of education, the premier called for improvements in higher education and the need for a national testing mechanism.

Abbasi also touched upon the PM’s Health Card scheme introduced by Nawaz Sharif - “the largest system in South Asia”.

Courtesy to DAW



Prim Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has a 29-year experience of mainstream politics and is a foreign-qualified Electrical Engineer. He holds Master's degree from George Washington University, USA and a bachelor degree in the same discipline from University of California, Los Angeles besides his early education in Karachi and Murree.

The 58-year-old he was nominated by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz as its candidate for the slot of Prime Minister after the Supreme Court disqualified Nawaz Sharif on July 28, 2017. He was the Petroleum Minister in his cabinet. He entered politics in 1988 after the death of his father, Khaqan Abbasi, an air commodore of Pakistan Air Force and a Minister in the cabinet of General Zia ul Haq. He has been elected six times as Member of National Assembly from Rawalpindi District, from 1988 till 2013.

Earlier he held position as Parliamentary Secretary for Defence in 1990, Chairman of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Defence in 1993, Chairman of Pakistan International Airlines from 1997 to 1999 besides briefly holding positions of Commerce Minister and Defence Production Minister in Yousuf Raza Gilani's Government in 2008.

H.E. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi

Prime minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan



Winter or spring?



By Ashraf Jehangir Qazi

Critics of the Supreme Court verdict disqualifying the former prime minister for life from parliament and from party office tend to focus on its apparently narrow and technical reasoning. They contend that a failure to disclose “receivables” that were never received can hardly confirm a lack of honesty and reliability. They also note that other far more serious violations alleged by the petitioners and included in the JIT report were not even mentioned in the verdict as reasons for disqualification. This has raised many questions, both legal and political.

Among them is why wasn’t the full investigative process completed before rendering first a split verdict and now a final unanimous verdict? This is said to be unprecedented and to impact negatively on the fairness of the verdict. If the accountability court after investigating and examining the references decides not to prosecute the prime minister, will he remain



disqualified for life on the basis of a ‘technical’ violation? Was a life ban even consistent with existing law? If not, can a full bench review of the Supreme Court reverse the verdict of the five-member bench? What would be the political and law and order implications of such a development, especially in an election year? Would the Supreme Court have covered itself in glory or embarrassment? Defenders of the Supreme Court verdict argue that the prime

minister’s admission that he failed to disclose ‘receivables’ from Capital FZE was not a ‘minor technicality’. It was a clear violation of the Representative of People Act (ROPA) of 1976 and as such it also attracted constitutional Articles 62 and 63. However politically controversial these constitutional articles may be, members of parliament have been unseated by the ECP because of their violation.

Moreover, the Supreme Court rejected the respondents’ contention that the JIT had overstepped its authority and accordingly its report should not be considered. The court, however, decided that “a prima facie triable case” had been made out against the respondents, including the prime minister, with regard to 16 listed assets. The JIT report will, accordingly, have to be taken into consideration by NAB in preparing and filing its references to the accountability court within six weeks. NAB will be supervised and monitored in



this process by the court because of the compromised credibility of the institution and its chairman who, according to one of the justices, was “indifferent” and “unwilling to perform his part”. This dereliction of duty by NAB necessitated the establishment of the JIT. The accountability court will decide upon the references (including the contents of the JIT report) within six months. In the light of its decision it may recommend regular trial proceedings against some or all of the respondents.

The mere fact that the court unanimously decided the prime minister was neither honest nor reliable mandated his immediate disqualification. Also, he could not stay on as prime minister in view of the risk of his subverting the implementation of the verdict.

There were initial differences among the justices on disqualifying the prime minister without further investigation and collection of evidence. But with the JIT’s uncovering of the prime minister’s association with Capital FZE and his admission regarding receivables, and given that violations of ROPA 1976 and Article 62 and 63 are not ‘minor technicalities’, the differences with regard to the immediate disqualification of the prime minister were bridged. When Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was hanged on April 4, 1979, a judicial travesty of justice was perpetrated. The former US attorney general, Ramsay Clark, described the execution of ZAB as “judicial murder”. However, many of ZAB’s enemies appallingly concluded that even if legal justice was denied him, at least poetic justice was meted out because he got what he deserved!

There are no parallels between the judicial disqualification of Nawaz Sharif and the judicial assassination of ZAB. He was physically eliminated by a weak, complicit and divided Supreme Court at the behest of fearful military usurpers. Nawaz Sharif has been politically eliminated by an independent and transparent judicial process and a verdict with which one might differ, but cannot responsibly condemn

as vindictive or a travesty. One critic of the verdict alleges the Supreme Court opted for the view of Shakespeare’s Bassanio to “do a little wrong” in order to “do a great right.” Actually, the supreme judiciary has done a great right without doing any wrong, even if it has narrowed the judicial basis of its verdict to ensure unanimity. But the narrow basis for the disqualification of the prime minister does not call its legitimacy into question. The basis may have been narrow but it was legally sufficient.

Moreover, through references of more serious charges to accountability and trial courts the legal basis for disqualification, and possibly worse, is likely to broaden significantly. The state of governance in the country was not made a basis for the verdict. Nor was it ignored. In fact, the Supreme Court has acted with great caution, deliberation, foresight and wisdom. Nevertheless, we have now entered a period of great political uncertainty.

The ousted prime minister has chosen his even more controversial brother as his successor, and his brother has nominated his son, Hamza, as his successor! Pliant, complicit and corrupt

parliaments are expected to rubber stamp these dynastic decisions. The Punjab chief minister and his son are involved in some of the 16 references that the Supreme Court has directed the NAB to refer to accountability courts for possible trials. There will be other investigations also in which licence for political interference and manipulation will not exist. Accordingly, there is a real possibility that Shahbaz Sharif and his son will also be disqualified from party and public office.

What would this entail for the PML-N? What would be the impact on the politics of Pakistan? Can the PTI take advantage of this golden opportunity to win the elections without selling its soul? Can it shake Punjab out of its low-level expectations trap?

Winter may continue for a while. But spring need not be far behind.

The writer is a former ambassador to the US, India and China and head of UN missions in Iraq and Sudan.

Originally Published in Dawn





Pakistan attaches importance to its relations with Maldives: PM Nawaz

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif held delegation level meeting with President of Maldives Abdullah Yameen Abdul Gayoom at President's Office in Male today. The Prime Minister was assisted by Advisor to PM on Foreign Affairs Mr. Sartaj

PM Nawaz emphasized the importance of economic cooperation and especially the need to enhance bilateral trade, between the two countries which is currently below its true potential.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif shaking hands with President of Maldives H.E. Abdullah Yameen Abdul Gayoom at President's Office in Male, Maldives.

Aziz, Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Managing Director Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation, President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries and other senior officials. During the meeting, the Prime Minister stated that Pakistan attaches

importance to its relations with the Maldives which is characterized by cordiality, mutual respect and commonality of interests.

The Prime Minister indicated that signing a number of MOUs on Tourism, Trade Promotion, higher education and human resource capacity

building would help in further consolidating bilateral relations.

The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of economic cooperation and especially the need to enhance bilateral trade, between the two countries which is currently below its



true potential. The establishment of Pakistan-Maldives Joint Business Council will not only promote trade but also investment in different sectors. The Prime Minister also highlighted possibilities of cooperation in other sectors including defense, health, education, sports, fisheries, tourism and culture.

The two leaders agreed that SAARC can provide a conducive and congenial atmosphere to build economic synergies and transform the quality of life of the peoples of South Asia. Pakistan, added the Prime Minister was committed to the SAARC Charter and wishes to see SAARC as a vibrant regional organization.

The Prime Minister stated that Pakistan is deeply concerned over the global environmental issues and in particular, the threat that global warming poses to the island nations such as the Maldives. Pakistan is ready to cooperate with the Maldives in the field of climate change.

The Prime Minister also held one-on-one meeting with the President of Maldives wherein the Prime Minister thanked the President for the warm welcome and the invitation to attend the 52nd Independence Day of Maldives.

Earlier, upon arrival at Male the Prime Minister was warmly received by the President of Maldives with Guard of Honour and Gun salute.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif recording his remarks in the Visitors' Book at President Office in Male, Maldiv. President of Maldives H.E. Abdullah Yameen Abdul Gayoom is also seen.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Maldives H.E. Abdullah Yameen Abdul Gayoom witnessing Signing of MoUs at President's Office in Male, Maldives.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Maldives H.E. Abdullah Yameen Abdul Gayoom witnessing signing of MoUs at President's Office in Male, Maldives.

Islamabad in tie-up with Kabul, Dushanbe

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring Desk, Agency

Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan are set to establish a Joint Commission on Trilateral Cooperation to develop and implement a mutual strategy on political, economic, trade, transport and communication, industrial, agricultural, cultural, educational, environmental and people-to-people cooperation between the three countries.

The commission will work under the ministers of foreign affairs or ministers and heads of other relevant authorities of these countries.

This came during a tripartite meeting among the Heads of State /Government of Pakistan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan held in Dushanbe, at the invitation of Tajik President Emomali Rahmon. During the tripartite discussions, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Tajik President Emomali Rahmon discussed economic and security challenges being faced by the region due to poor



Joint declaration:

The leaders, stated that ensuring peace, stability and security in countries is the key factor to promote and maintain constructive process of sustainable development at the regional and global level;

1. Emphasised the importance of respecting and following the norms of international law and principles of the UN Charter;
2. Reiterated that stability and security in their countries and the region is directly linked with and depends on the situation in Afghanistan and expressed their commitment to support the international community's efforts in reviving peace and stability, political, economic and social development of Afghanistan. The parties once again emphasised the importance of the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace negotiations and national reconciliation process in Afghanistan.
3. Stated their full support of the "Kabul Process", which strengthens other initiatives on Afghanistan based on regional peace, security and integration, and call on all armed groups to cease fire and start the process of peace negotiations with the

government of Afghanistan at the earliest possible.

4. Support their countries efforts in counteraction to international terrorism and extremism and recognise the importance of strengthening trilateral and multilateral cooperation on fight against the extremism, terrorism, illicit drugs trafficking and other transnational organised crimes.
5. Would implement effective and concerted initiatives in liquidating the sources of military and financial support of terrorism and extremism by taking into account the central and coordinating role of the United Nations, including the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its other relevant papers.
6. Instructed the relevant authorities of the three countries to establish a Joint Working Group on Security at the earliest possible and undertake necessary and coordinated efforts to exchange in urgent information, ensure reliable border cooperation, design joint operations on liquidation of terrorists and all sources of their financing and also prevent promotion of extremist and radicalisation ideas through cyberspace.

7. Acknowledge that sustainable Afghanistan is the factor for further integration of the region's countries and emphasise the importance of constructive cooperation between the three countries for the regional sustainable development.

8. Instruct to establish "Joint Commission on Trilateral Cooperation between Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan" under the leadership of the ministers of foreign affairs or the ministers and heads of other relevant authority of the three countries and develop and implement strategy of trilateral political, economic, trade, transport and communication, industrial, agricultural, cultural, educational, environmental and people-to-people cooperation through this platform.
9. With a view to boosting trade and economic cooperation between the three countries, they instructed the chambers of commerce and industry to consider the issue of arrangement of regular joint exhibitions of industrial, agricultural and handicraft goods, joint economic, trade and investment fora and other publicity events and undertake necessary activities.

connectivity and infrastructure. Addressing the meeting, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif appreciated the initiative of President Emomali Rahmon as an opportunity to collectively reflect on the common challenges such as under development, poor connectivity and infrastructure and extremism and terrorism. The Prime Minister emphasised Pakistan's commitment to modernise facilities for speedy transit of goods to and from Afghanistan and Tajikistan through Pakistani sea ports.

In order to streamline regional transit traffic, he emphasised early finalisation of Trilateral Transit Trade Agreement.

The leaders of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan also agreed to take measures for early implementation of the CASA-1000 project which was a harbinger for power transmission

from Central Asia to South Asia and promoting sustainable economic and social development in the region.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif thanked President Rahmon for holding a quadrilateral meeting, among, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and other international partners in the project. He welcomed President Emomali Rahmon's proposal for establishment of a Tripartite Ministerial Commission to strengthen trilateral cooperation in political, economic and social spheres. While highlighting Pakistan's sacrifices and successes in countering terrorism, the Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's firm resolve to eliminate the scourge of terrorism.

He also reiterated Pakistan's desire for lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan which was a prerequisite for regional security and

prosperity. He said that Pakistan will continue to support all efforts to ensure durable peace in Afghanistan through political dialogue under Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process.

Describing terrorism as a serious threat to peace and stability, the Prime Minister emphasised that effective border management was vital to combat the menace of terrorism by preventing cross-border movement of terrorists.

In this regard, Nawaz stressed on the need to strengthen the quadrilateral mechanism formed by Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and China in August 2016 for combating terrorism. A joint declaration was also issued at the end of the meeting.

Pakistan's newly appointed Ambassador presents credentials to the President of Afghanistan

Pakistan's newly appointed Ambassador to Afghanistan, H.E. Zahid Nasrullah Khan, presented his credentials to President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani at a ceremony in Kabul.

The ceremony was followed by a courtesy call of the Ambassador on the President. The Ambassador conveyed a message of goodwill on behalf of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan. The Ambassador iterated that Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif shared President Ghan's vision of regional connectivity that was essential for the prosperity of the region. Ambassador expressed his determination to work for the promotion of bilateral relations in all fields.



Such artistes connect not only countries but also peoples through their talent like Zarsanga: Ambassador Zakhilwal

By M. Saeed Yousafzai

Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal has denounced violence against legendary Pashto folk singer Zarsanga and her family. Currently admitted to a city hospital, the recipient of the Presidential Award. In addition to a large number of fans, ex-president Hamid Karzai and Ambassador Zakhilwal also expressed their concerns over the attack on the singer and inquired after her health.

The ambassador tweeted he had sent his deputy to the Lady Reading Hospital to extend her financial support. "Violence against Zarsanga has hurt many of her admirers in Afghanistan ...

"Such artistes connect not only countries but also peoples through their talent. Zarsanga is one such artiste who has done great service to the Pakhtun people and culture," said Zakhilwal.

Mr. Zardasht Shams, deputy head of Afghan mission, met the folk singer and wished her swift recovery. He extended financial support to the elderly singer, with injuries to her face and hands.





PM Nawaz & Tajik President Emomali Rahmon one-on-one meeting: President Emomali Rahmon stressed close collaboration between the two countries

Pakistan gave utmost importance to CASA-1000 electricity project: Premier Nawaz

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring Desk, Agency

President Emomali Rahmon held one-on-one meeting and stressed close collaboration between the two countries in trade, energy and defence sectors.

In a meeting held here at the Palace of Nation, the two leaders emphasized on tapping the opportunity to translate their close political ties into strategic cooperation.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and President Emomali expressed satisfaction that Pakistan and Tajikistan were celebrating 25 years of their friendship.

The Prime Minister expressed gratitude to Tajik President for the support to Pakistan in getting membership of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

He said Pakistan viewed with admiration the laudable socio-economic development and progress achieved under President Rahmon's leadership.

He said there existed huge potential of cooperation between Pakistan and Tajikistan in diverse fields and stressed increase of bilateral trade volume upto Rs 500 million.

He mentioned that Pakistan held three trade exhibitions in Dushanbe in 2015 besides a

Business Forum in 2017. Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan gave utmost importance to CASA-1000 electricity project which would increase regional cooperation. He said the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would boost regional connectivity and highlighted that the Traffic Transit agreement of Tajikistan with Pakistan,

**Pakistan's coastal city
Gwadar could provide
a good trade route for
Tajikistan: Premier Nawaz**

Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan would be beneficial in this regard. He mentioned that Pakistan's coastal city Gwadar could provide a good trade route for Tajikistan. Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan gave immense sacrifices in fight against terrorism and extremism and mentioned that Raddul Fasaad and Zarb-e-Azb were launched as counter-terror operations.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan wanted to resolve the issue of Kashmir with India through peaceful means. He called upon international community to reject Indian policies on Kashmir.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif received by President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon upon arrival at the Palace of Nation in Dushanbe.

He said peace and stability in Afghanistan was in the interest of Pakistan. The two sides also identified the need for increased cooperation in agriculture, industry, education and culture. Later the two leaders were joined by their aides for a delegation-level meeting at the presidential

**Pakistan wanted to
resolve the issue of
Kashmir with India
through peaceful means:
Premier Nawaz**



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif along with President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon reviewing the Guard of Honor upon arrival at the Palace of Nation in Dushanbe.

palace. The talks were followed by the signing ceremony where the two leaders signed a Joint Declaration entitled “Road towards strategic partnership for regional solidarity” reaffirming the existing strong bilateral relations, need for further enhancement of the bilateral trade and economic relations and importance of peaceful and a well-connected region. Agreements for enhancing trade and education ties, were also signed.

During the delegation level talks both leaders agreed that Pakistan and Tajikistan enjoy close and cooperative relations, which are underpinned by commonalities of history, culture and faith. They affirmed the necessity to engage further for enhancing relations in trade,

defence, investment, education and health sectors. The Tajik Prime Minister called on the Prime Minister and both leaders discussed bilateral relations and the need to explore avenues to enhance the bilateral political relations and other areas of mutual interest.

**Peace and stability in
Afghanistan was in the
interest of Pakistan:
Premier Nawaz**

A meeting of Joint Business Council (JBC) was also held on the sidelines of the visit. It

was attended by the Ministers for trade and commerce of the two countries.

Pakistan and Tajikistan enjoy close and cooperative relations, which are underpinned by commonalities of history, culture and faith. These ties are characterized by mutual respect, shared perceptions and common desire to promote peace, stability and development in the region. The two countries also share common views on major regional and international issues and cooperate closely in the regional and multilateral forums.

Pakistan was among the first few countries that recognized the independence of Tajikistan, established diplomatic relations and opened a resident mission in Dushanbe.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon in a delegation level meeting at the Palace of Nation in Dushanbe.



Quadrilateral meeting of CASA-1000 in Tajikistan

CASA-1000 a flagship project To connect the two regions

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Quadrilateral meeting of CASA-1000 held in Tajikistan. The meeting, attended by Tajik President Emomali Rehmon, Pakistan Premier Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Kyrgyzstan Prime Minister Sooronbay Jeenbekov at Pugus Varzob Valley. Speaking on the occasion, PM Nawaz Sharif said that the power project will connect Central Asia to South Asia by bringing

prosperity in the region. Under the CASA project, environment-friendly electricity will be produced, he highlighted.

The prime minister said that the economy of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan will also grow with completion of the power project, which will also help to create job opportunities in the countries. After the completion of the project, Pakistan will get 1,000 MW and Afghanistan 300 MW electricity in summer time, he said.

Earlier, Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon hosted a dinner in honour of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and members of his entourage in Dushanbe.

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif was arrived in Dushanbe on a two day official visit of Tajikistan. Prime minister of Tajikistan Qohir Rasulzada along with the cabinet ministers of Tajikistan received Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at Dushanbe international airport.

CASA-1000

The CASA-1000, is a \$1.16 billion project currently under construction that will allow for the export of surplus hydroelectricity from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Groundbreaking for the project took place on May 12, 2016 in Tajikistan in a ceremony attended by the Kyrgyz, Tajik, and Pakistani Prime Ministers, and is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

Advisor to the prime minister on foreign affairs Sartaj Aziz, federal ministers Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Khurram Dastagir accompanied the prime minister.

The prime minister visited Tajikistan on the invitation of President of Tajikistan H.E. Mr. Imam Ali Rehman.

The visit to Tajikistan is reflective of the prime minister's vision to strengthen Pakistan's relations with neighboring and regional countries and further increasing regional connectivity.



Tajik President Emomali Rahmon explaining about various agricultural products to Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Kyrgyz Premier Sooronbay Jeenbekov during agricultural exhibition in Dushanbe.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif paying respects at the Monument of Ismoil Somoni in Dushanbe.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon visiting various parts of the Government Residence "Pugus" in Dushanbe.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in discussion with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani during visit to agricultural exhibition in Dushanbe.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif delivering remarks at the CASA-1000 project meeting in Dushanbe. President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani and Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Sooronbay Jeenbekov are also present.

Speech by H.E. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Briefing Session on CASA-1000 Power Project

H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan,

H.E. President Ashraf Ghani,

H.E. Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan

I thank President Rahmon for his invitation to visit Tajikistan and for arranging this essential briefing session on CASA-1000 Power Project. We are grateful for the generous hospitality extended to me and my delegation and for making excellent arrangements for this very important occasion.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, Excellencies, CASA-1000 is a flagship project in our region, connecting Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia to Afghanistan and Pakistan in South Asia through an electricity grid.

On its completion, Pakistan and Afghanistan will be able to obtain 1,000 MW and 300 MW, respectively, of electricity in summer time, from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan our two brotherly countries that have abundant water resources enabling them to produce inexpensive and clean hydroelectricity.

This project will help bring a number of economic, social and environmental benefits to member countries and reduce the energy deficit, create jobs, improve trade and reduce carbon dioxide emissions thanks to the supply of clean energy. It will also contribute to

regional integration. We must make efforts to ensure that the project is completed well in time.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, This project is an important step toward realization of the planned Central Asia South Asia Regional Electricity Market (CASAREM). It will be a good

I wish to reiterate our commitment to the early implementation of the project. We need energy for socio-economic development in Pakistan and to run our industrial sector to its full potential: PM Nawaz

example of promoting cooperation between energy-deficient South Asia and energy-rich Central Asia.

CASA-1000 Power Project will not only bring revenues to Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan but will also mitigate electricity shortages in Pakistan and Afghanistan and increase the prospects for

growth. It will also be a source of revenue for Afghanistan opening up greater business and investment opportunities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to note that the second meeting of Pak-Tajik JWG on Energy and Infrastructure and Technical Committee was held in Dushanbe on 16 March 2017. It is heartening to know that on 11 May, 2017 five companies have submitted bids for convertor stations including all leading manufacturers like ABB, Seimens, Alstonetc, etc. I have been informed that tenders have been floated for transmission lines from Kyrgyzstan to Tajikistan and from Tajikistan to Afghanistan. These tenders are being evaluated. I hope that work on these transmission lines would begin very soon.

Excellencies, On behalf of the Government of Pakistan, I wish to reiterate our commitment to the early implementation of the project. We need energy for socio-economic development in Pakistan and to run our industrial sector to its full potential. This will help in generating employment and uplift standard of living of the people of Pakistan. Once again, I thank my Brother Emomali Rahmon and his dedicated team for making excellent arrangements for this briefing session and work accomplished since launching of CASA-1000 Power Project last year.

Pakistan supports Kuwait's mediation efforts



efforts in finding a solution to the current crises in the Gulf region.

The Prime Minister noted the brotherly relations between Pakistan and the State of Qatar. The Prime Minister stressed that Pakistan maintains close, friendly and cooperative relations with all GCC countries and is concerned at the recent crisis in Middle East. The people and government of Pakistan wish to see a diplomatic solution of the problem between brotherly Islamic countries.

The Foreign Minister of Qatar expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister for the warm reception and reiterated Qatar's desire to further enhance bilateral relations between the two countries.

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Agency

Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani during his brief visit to Pakistan,

Pakistan maintains close, friendly and cooperative relations with all GCC countries and is concerned at the recent crisis in Middle East: PM Nawaz

called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad.

During the meeting Sheikh Mohammed briefed the Prime Minister on Qatar's response to the demands of Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and Egypt and on the current status of the mediation efforts of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of Kuwait.

The Prime Minister appreciated the sagacity and wisdom of His Highness, the Emir of Kuwait and said that Pakistan supports his sincere

The people and government of Pakistan wish to see a diplomatic solution of the problem between brotherly Islamic countries: PM Nawaz



Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM House, Islamabad.

Strong Pakistan-US partnership essential to deal with challenges: PM Nawaz

COAS reiterated that Pakistan has done its best despite constraints and shall continue its efforts for peace and stability

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Agency

United States Senator John McCain, Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman, leading a delegation including Senator Lindsey Graham, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Senator Elizabeth Warren and Senator David Perdue, concluded his visit to Pakistan.

“Pakistan firmly believes in the legitimacy of the Kashmir cause and the peaceful struggle of the Kashmiri people to claim the right to self-determination promised to them by the international community through the UN Security Council resolutions,”
Sartaj Aziz

During a meeting, Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said as longstanding partners and strategic allies, a sustained and strong Pakistan-US partnership was essential to deal with the various challenges confronting the region and beyond.

The Prime Minister apprised the delegation about his Government's efforts over the last four years to combat terrorism and that its success could be measured by the markedly improved security situation in Pakistan.

He also highlighted the economic turnaround that manifested in enhanced investor interest and confidence in Pakistan.

Prime Minister underscored his government's commitment to good neighborly relations and highlighted various initiatives to improve



relations with Afghanistan and India. On Afghanistan, Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to support all efforts aimed at lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan.

He said that concerted efforts were needed for a politically negotiated settlement under an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned peace process.

Prime Minister called a strong partnership between the US, Afghanistan and Pakistan as a prerequisite for achieving sustainable peace in Afghanistan.

In this regard, he also stressed the importance of the Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) mechanism to facilitate Afghan reconciliation.

With reference to Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the Prime Minister expressed serious concern over the gross human rights violations and brutal repression of unarmed Kashmiris.

He underscored the legitimacy of the Kashmir

cause and urged the world community, especially the United States to play its role in ending the sufferings of the people of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Senator McCain agreed that continued close cooperation between the US and Pakistan was essential for securing peace and stability in the region.

He said the United States of America attached importance to its relations with Pakistan, which remained a close friend and ally.

The Senators appreciated the contributions and sacrifices made by Pakistan and the successes achieved in the fight against terrorism.

The Senators also praised the economic turnaround in Pakistan and stressed the importance of intensifying mutually beneficial trade and investment cooperation. According to foreign office announcement, the senators thanked their Pakistani hosts for their hospitality. During their visit to Pakistan the





Senate delegation took an aerial tour of areas of the Federally Administered Tribal Area and were able to see some of the infrastructure projects built with American assistance.

In December 2016, the Embassy signed an agreement to provide over 8.5 billion rupees for the Kurram Tangi dam project in North Waziristan. Through the USAID grant more than 16,000 acres of farmland will be irrigated, enough to benefit 100,000 people, and when the overall project is complete the dam will produce 18.4 megawatts of electricity. Also with United States government assistance, last year the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa completed the 7.5 billion rupees Gomal Zam irrigation project, which will generate 17.4 megawatts of electricity, irrigate 191,000 acres in Tank and Dera Ismail Khan Districts, while increasing business, trade, and jobs for 30,000 households. To date, the American government has also provided 9.9 billion rupees in supporting law enforcement personnel in FATA, across a wide range of projects, including the 1.4 billion rupee Takhta Baig – Mattani road completed in August 2016 and construction of more than 100 border outposts and defensive structures to support the Government of Pakistan in their counter-terrorism activities.

Delegation of US senate called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS). The delegation was briefed about regional security situation including Afghanistan. The delegation was briefed how Pakistan has positively contributed towards peace and stability in the region. COAS thanked the Senators for the visit and efforts for forging mutual understanding of the Geo-Pol / security situation and challenges ahead. COAS reiterated that Pakistan has done its best despite constraints and shall continue its efforts for peace and stability. In this regard enduring Pak-US security cooperation is a key factor. Senator McCain appreciated and acknowledged Pak Army's contributions and sacrifices in War on terror. The senator also agreed on importance of Pak-Afg security cooperation and coordination.

During meeting with Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz The visiting US Congressional delegation urged both India and Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir issue through dialogue and asserted that peace in Afghanistan could not be possible without Pakistan's help.



After the meeting, Mr McCain said that Pakistan had a significant role for establishment of peace and stability in Afghanistan. "Peace and stability in Afghanistan is not possible without Pakistan's help."

He said: "Kashmir problem should be resolved in a peaceful way through negotiations."

He said the US wanted an end to violence in India-held Kashmir, adding that the US would continue its policy on the Kashmir issue because no change had been made in this regard.

According to the Foreign Office, Senator McCain appreciated the contributions and

"Peace and stability in Afghanistan is not possible without Pakistan's help." McCain

sacrifices made by Pakistan in the fight against terrorism. He said that continued engagement with Pakistan, a close friend and ally of the US, was important.

The US senators also praised the economic turnaround, as manifested by investors' interest and confidence in Pakistan.

They agreed with the need for the US and Pakistan to forge closer cooperation in confronting the peace and security challenges in the region and beyond. Mr Aziz raised concern over the gross human rights violations

Senator McCain appreciated and acknowledged Pak Army's contributions and sacrifices in War on terror

by Indian security forces in held Kashmir and international community's silence over the reign of terror unleashed by India on innocent and unarmed Kashmiris. "Pakistan firmly believes in the legitimacy of the Kashmir cause and the peaceful struggle of the Kashmiri people to

claim the right to self-determination promised to them by the international community through the UN Security Council resolutions," he added.

The adviser reiterated the importance of regular high-level contacts and particularly appreciated Senators McCain, Graham and Whitehouse for their continued engagement and regular visits to Pakistan to promote understanding and cooperation between the two countries.

He underscored the significance of the longstanding cooperation between the two countries and the need to make this partnership diverse and multidimensional. "Pakistan-US strategic partnership is critical to achieve peace and stability in the region and beyond," he asserted

Mr Aziz apprised the US delegation comprising prominent senators from both Democratic and Republican parties about Pakistan's success in combating terrorism through Operations Zarb-i-Azb and Raddul Fasaad and informed them that the terrorist networks had been dismantled, their sanctuaries eliminated under the overarching National Action Plan. "The dividend of these policies is empirically verifiable," he added.

The adviser said that Pakistan remained committed to supporting efforts for lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan and noted that Quadrilateral Coordination Group process remained a credible and effective vehicle to facilitate reconciliation and restore peace, stability and economic prosperity in Afghanistan.

"Pakistan look forward to constructive engagement with the United States on all efforts and initiatives that would lead to a stable and prosperous Afghanistan," he said.

He said Pakistan was also ready to strengthen and deepen its partnership with the US to counter the new and emerging terrorism threats, including the expanding footprint of the militant Islamic State group in the region.



PM NAWAZ HOLDS RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF VICTORIOUS NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM

Don't beg any team for a visit if they are not willing to come: PM Nawaz

By Sports Desk

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday welcomed the Pakistan cricket team to the Prime Minister House for winning the Champions Trophy after defeating arch rivals India last month.

The premier hosted a ceremony in the honour of the team that was broadcast live. It was attended by cabinet members, officials of the Pakistan Cricket Board and former cricketers.

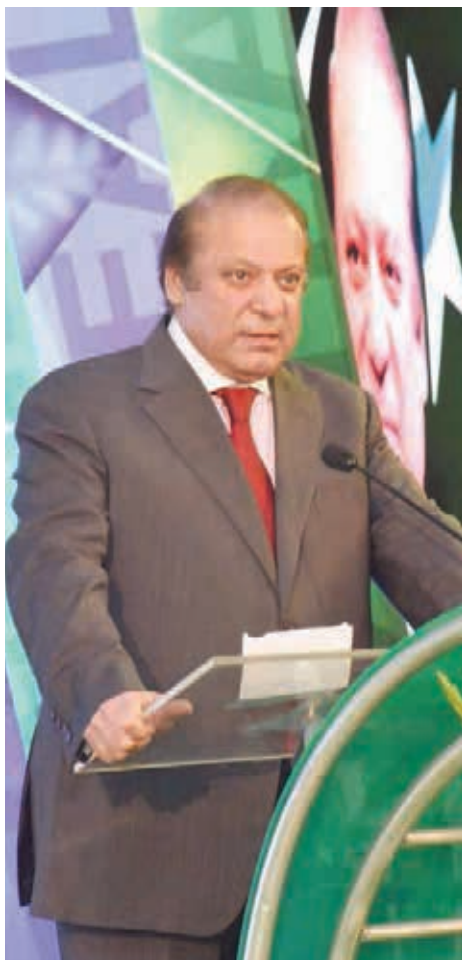
Addressing the participants, the Prime Minister recounted how he used to play cricket in his younger days. The prime minister said he couldn't recall how many sixes he had hit

in the past, but he was sure he struck more boundaries. He said he always disliked the bouncers.

"We are conquerors of every ground. Don't beg any team for a visit if they are not willing to come," he said. Speaking at the ceremony, PCB chairman Shahryar Khan announced that Sarfraz Ahmed is being appointed as the captain of the Test squad too.

At the end of the event, the Prime Minister presented souvenirs to the players and officials of the PCB.

Pakistan crushed defending champions India by 180 runs at The Oval to win the Champions Trophy for the first time on June 18.





COAS hailed outstanding performance of Pakistan Cricket team

General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) held reception for Pakistan cricket team and the management. Speaking at the occasion, COAS hailed their outstanding performance which brought much awaited jubilation for the entire nation. He asked them to stay humble, continue working hard and be upright as they are the ambassadors of Pakistan. Speaking at the



occasion, Chairman PCB Mr Shahryar Khan thanked COAS for his support for bringing back the game of cricket back to Pakistan. Mr Najam

Sethi, Chairman Executive Committee PCB, thanked COAS for all out support for holding PSL final at Lahore.

Naval Chief appreciated team for bringing laurels for Pakistan



In a bid to acknowledge and pay homage to Pakistan Cricket Team on the historic win of ICC Champions Trophy 2017, Pakistan Navy hosted a reception dinner. Mr Riaz Pirzada Minister for Inter-Provisional Coordination, Mr Ahsan Iqbal Minister for Planning, Development & Reforms, Mr Shahryar Mohammad Khan Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board, PCB officials, team management and civil dignities were also present. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Zakaullah was the host of the ceremony.

During the informal address, the Naval Chief highly appreciated the display of the team work and esprit de corps by the players during the tournament, especially in the final match for bringing laurels for Pakistan. He further added that Pakistan Navy like entire nation is proud of entire

Pakistan cricket team. The Naval Chief said Pakistan Navy is especially proud of ex PN serviceman Fakhar Zaman, who remained part of Pakistan Navy cricket team for seven years and has become symbol of Pakistan as well as of Pakistan Navy, for his impressive performance throughout the tournament. The Naval Chief also applauded Captain of the team Sarfaraz Ahmed who played an instrumental role by uniting as well as leading entire team and playing as one unit thereby achieving this glorious feat.

The Naval Chief remarked that winning the ICC Champions Trophy is a matter of great pride for all of us in Pakistan Navy and that it is a great pleasure to celebrate the success with our cricket team heroes. The Naval Chief also praised PCB Officials/ management, Selection Committee, PSL management and entire team for their untiring contributions towards winning this Champions Trophy for the first time by defeating arch-rivals in the final. The Naval Chief who himself is a recipient of President Pride of Performance for outstanding performance in Yachting and twice Gold medalist in Asian Sailing Championship besides representing Pakistan in Olympics Yachting regattas acknowledged that Pakistan has tremendous talent and Pakistani sportsmen are well capable to win championships in other sports disciplines as well.

Pakistan Navy has always been at the forefront in promotion and organizing sports in Pakistan and remained a major contributor and producer of National and International level players in sports like CISM, Golf, Hockey, Shooting, Swimming, Squash and Kabaddi.

Chief of the Naval Staff also awarded medals among the winning heroes and champions.



Trump & Modi exchange hugs, herald stronger US-India ties

Trump declared he was “true friend” of India

By Monitoring Desk

Hugging outside the White House, President Donald Trump and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi heralded an increasingly close strategic partnership as the U.S. branded a top militant from neighboring Pakistan as a “global terrorist.”

Trump declared he was “true friend” of India and said relations between the two largest democracies have never been better. But there were some tensions in the inaugural meeting between the two populist leaders. On trade, Trump demanded fewer barriers for American companies exporting to India.

Speaking in the Rose Garden after their talks, Trump said: “Both our nations have been struck by the evils of terrorism, and we are both determined to destroy terrorist organizations and the radical ideology that drives them. We will destroy radical Islamic terrorism.”

Modi, a Hindu nationalist...He stressed the importance of “doing away” with terrorist sanctuaries and safe havens, apparently reflecting Indian concerns about militants

based in Pakistan, India's historical archrival. He said the U.S. and India will enhance intelligence-sharing. Hours before Modi's arrival, the State Department imposed sanctions on Syed Salahuddin, the leader of Hizbul Mujahideen, the main group that fights against Indian control in the divided Himalayan region of Kashmir to free Jammu and Kashmir from Indian occupation and brutality. India's

Trump and Modi share a populist streak and a knack for social media, but their economic nationalist agendas could clash.

foreign ministry hailed the move. Trump has so far focused on outreach to China, India's other strategic rival, as he looks to Beijing to rein in nuclear-armed North Korea. But Washington and New Delhi share concerns about China's rise as a military power that have underpinned increasingly close relations in the past decade.

The Trump administration says it wants to provide India with improved defense technology. The State Department approved the \$365 million sale of a C-17 military transport aircraft to India. The administration is also set to offer a \$2 billion sale of U.S.-made unarmed drones to help in surveillance of the Indian Ocean.

Trump and Modi share a populist streak and a knack for social media, but their economic nationalist agendas could clash. While Trump champions the idea of “America First” and wants to stop the migration of jobs overseas, Modi has his own drive to boost manufacturing at home, dubbed “Make in India.”

Although Modi's two-day Washington visit, is lower-key than his previous three trips to the U.S. since he took office in 2014, it has included plenty of face-time with Trump. Modi later joined the president and first lady for dinner — the first dinner Trump has hosted for a foreign dignitary at the White House, although he has hosted the leaders of Japan and China at his resort in Florida.

Courtesy to Washington Post



Pakistan termed Trump-Modi meeting **A missed opportunity**

to induce India to alter its policies inimical to peace in the region

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

The Joint Statement is singularly unhelpful in achieving the objective of strategic stability and durable peace in the South Asian region, stated in a statement by MOFA. The statement further added that, by failing to address key sources of tension and instability in the region, the statement aggravates an already tense situation.

The meeting in Washington D.C. between President Trump and Prime Minister Modi was a missed opportunity to induce India to alter its policies inimical to peace in the region. India's persistent gross human rights violations in Kashmir and state backed persecution of religious minorities in India need to be replaced by respect for basic human dignity, protection of life, property and freedom of speech. Democratic stewardship, as claimed in the statement, demands that as a minimum.

Pakistan firmly believes in the legitimacy of the Kashmir cause and supports the peaceful struggle of the Kashmiri people for their right to self-determination- a right promised to them by the international community through repeated UN Security Council resolutions. Any attempt to equate the peaceful indigenous Kashmiri struggle with terrorism, and to designate individuals supporting the right to self-determination as terrorists is unacceptable. Equally unacceptable is the willful disregard of the atrocities being committed by Indian security forces against innocent Kashmiri civilians. This undermines the ideals and principles of the UN Charter. It endangers peace and security in the region.

Pakistan stands ready and committed to resolve all outstanding disputes, especially Jammu & Kashmir, with India through peaceful means

and in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions that underscore the importance of addressing the aspirations of the people of Kashmir. This is a commitment that India also needs to make publicly. Pakistan has been the primary victim of terrorism in the region. Pakistan's contributions and sacrifices in fighting terrorism are un-matched. No country has sacrificed as much as Pakistan, not only in material resources but in lives. Through relentless security operations, we have achieved significant success in eliminating terrorists and their networks from our soil without discrimination. We are committed to bring the fight against terrorism to its logical conclusion by eliminating this scourge from our soil. Pakistan expects the international community to unequivocally stand with it in this fight against terrorism. Regrettably, those who seek to appropriate a leadership role in the

fight against terror are themselves responsible for much of the terror unleashed in recent years in Pakistan. India has supported the Tehrek-Taleban as a proxy against Pakistan from across the border. India's culpability in creating this further source of regional insecurity cannot be ignored.

Pakistan is also deeply concerned on the sale of advanced military technologies to India. Such sales accentuate military imbalances in the region and undermine strategic stability in South Asia. This further emboldens India to adopt aggressive military doctrines and even contemplate military adventurism. Transfers of modern military hardware and technologies as well as repeated exceptions made for India have dis-incentivized India to engage in efforts to establish a strategic restraint regime and a durable security architecture in the region.

PM Nawaz condemns US-India 'silence' on held Kashmir violence

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif expressed his disappointment over what he termed Washington's "silence" despite human right violations in Indian Occupied Kashmir, where scores of youths have been killed or wounded in months-long violent clashes with the Indian forces.

Sharif expressed his disappointment over "the complete silence in the US-India joint statement on the atrocities being committed by the Indian forces against Kashmiris," the statement said. It said Sharif asked the foreign ministry to highlight the Indian human rights violations in Kashmir.



Official Logo of 70 years of Independence celebrations launched

The Official Logo of the 70 years of independence celebrations was launched at a ceremony held at Pakistan National Council of the Arts.

The ceremony was attended by Minister for Railways Saad Rafique, Minister of State for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage, Marriyum Aurangzeb and Prime Minister's Adviser on National History and Literary Division Irfan Siddiqui.

In her speech Minister of State for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage Marriyum Aurangzeb said that the Prime Minister had constituted a Cabinet Committee comprising Ahsan Iqbal, Khawaja Saad Rafique and herself, which would also include representatives from all the provinces, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan. The committee will oversee the preparations for the celebration of 70th Independence Day of Pakistan in a befitting manner, which would span over four months from August to December.

Marriyum said that celebrations with the theme "Mein Hoon Pakistan" would focus on national history, culture and languages of different regions of the country.

Revealing details about the selection of the logo, she informed the audience that 200 artists had submitted 400 entries of logo designs and the competition was won by third year student of National University and Science and Technology Saba Zaman, who will be awarded Rs 500,000 by the government of Pakistan. She said that the objectives of the independence celebrations included creation of awareness among the new generation about the sacrifices given by our forefathers for achieving independence, revival of the original narrative of Pakistan and ensuring connectivity of the younger generation with the culture and heritage of the country, in conformity with the vision of the Prime Minister.

Marriyum said that on the directive of the Prime Minister all the province had been given equal funds for the celebrations. She said that the Ministry of IB&NH and its attached departments including Pakistan Television

Corporation, Radio Pakistan, Associated Press of Pakistan, National Council of Arts, Lok Virsa and Press Information Department (PID) have prepared special programmes with timelines.

She said that Pakistan had been facing the scourge of terrorism for the past three decades which promoted a culture of intolerance in the society adding that under the leadership of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif it had been checked in its tracks.

She said that during the past four years, record number of development projects were launched in the country. Marriyum observed that the people of Pakistan including civil society, intelligentsia, and politicians had given great sacrifices for democracy. She said that the

Prime Minister had also invited private sector to join these celebrations as all have contributed in the progress of the country.

She said that for the first time publications were being prepared on diplomatic relations, parliamentary history and role of the parliament in regards to human rights for which Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq had made major contribution.



Syed Salahuddin being designated a terrorist by the US was An attempt by the American administration to appease India: Sartaj Aziz

Isolated India reaching out to US to pressurise China: Sartaj Aziz

By Monitoring Desk

India offering its services to the US to pressurise China is evidence of its isolation in the region, Prime Minister's Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz said.

Talking to a delegation from the Kashmir Journalists Forum, he said Syed Salahuddin being designated a terrorist by the US was an attempt by the American administration to appease India.

He added that Pakistan was not bound to follow the decision as it was not a United Nations (UN) declaration. Aziz said that India has been

Pakistan was willing for a dialogue on all issues with neighbouring countries as a part of its vision for a peaceful neighbourhood, but a dialogue with India without Kashmir on the agenda was out of the question: Sartaj Aziz

trying to downplay the Kashmir issue for a very long time, but continuing agitation at the local level had completely changed the Indian narrative. "Kashmiris are increasingly finding support from the international community, which has brought the freedom movement to an important juncture," Aziz noted.

Aziz reiterated that the struggle was being led by Kashmiris and Pakistan was only providing political, diplomatic and moral support to them.

He also said that history shows that it is impossible to prevent people from achieving their aims when they decide to rise.

"Multiple surveys have shown that a vast majority of people from India-held Kashmir do not want to stay with India," Aziz said. "On the contrary, 99 per cent of people in Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) want to stay with Pakistan."

The adviser said the federal government was making an effort to put effective governments in power in AJK and GB. Suggestions in this regard are being compiled and will soon be finalised, he said. Aziz also highlighted ceasefire violations by India, claiming that India had violated the ceasefire more than 400 times in the past years, which was a violation of a 2003 agreement between the two nations.

He added that Pakistan was willing for a dialogue on all issues with neighbouring countries as a part of its vision for a peaceful neighbourhood, but a dialogue with India without Kashmir on the agenda was out of the question.

He also said that Pakistan supported the right of self-determination for Kashmiris so they could decide upon their future themselves.

"Pakistan will raise the issue of the deaths and disabilities resulting from the use of pellet guns on the international stage," Aziz vowed.

Courtesy to DAWN

since 8 July 2016, which alone should be an eye-opener for the International Community: Over 150 martyred, mostly youth, including many in extra-judicial killings and fake encounters; around 8,000 are affected by pellet guns that has blinded more than 250 youth either fully or partially with another 930 at the verge of losing their eye-sight; 697 women reported molestation by Indian forces, around 18,000 injured and over 17,000 arrested arbitrarily with their fate and welfare unknown. Stated by Sartaj Aziz

Indian attempt to equate Commander Jhadav's case with civilian prisoners and fishermen is a travesty of logic: MOFA

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Pakistan remains committed to the implementation of the 2008 Agreement on Consular access between India and Pakistan, which stipulates the exchange of comprehensive lists of nationals of each country in the other country's jails twice a year stated in a press release by Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan.

According to MOFA, These lists were exchanged on July 1. On Jhadav case MOFA said that "As for the Indian attempt to equate Commander Jhadav's case with civilian prisoners and fishermen is a travesty of logic. Commander Jhadav is a serving Indian Naval officer and sent to Pakistan by its intelligence agency RAW for espionage, terrorism and subversive activities which resulted in loss of many innocent lives and damage to property.



Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



President Mamnoon Hussain in a group photo with Ambassadors during a dinner hosted by Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Islamabad.



Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, H.E. Jean Francois Cautain called on Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Ministry of Finance, Islamabad.



Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan, H.E. Ole Thonke called on Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz in Islamabad.



Finance Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in a meeting with Canadian High Commissioner Perry Calderwood in Islamabad.



Finance Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in a meeting with Acting US Ambassador Jonathan Pratt in Islamabad.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Canadian High Commissioner, Perry Calderwood called on Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Engr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman in Islamabad.



Minister of Industry of Belarus, Mr. Vitaly Vovk called on Federal Minister for Industries and Production Ghulam Murtaza Khan Jatoi in Islamabad.



British High Commissioner, Mr. Thomas Drew and Deputy British High Commissioner in India Mr. Alex called on National Security Adviser Lt. General (Retd) Naseer Khan Janjua in his office, Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Commerce Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan was called on by Denmark's outgoing Ambassador H.E. Thonk in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Climate Change, Zahid Hamid discussing snow leopard conservation efforts in Pakistan with H.E. Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Erik Beishembiev in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Commerce Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan was called on by Pakistan Ambassador-designate to Denmark Syed Zulfiqar Gardezi in Islamabad.



The battle for world leadership

As the 20 leading economies meet in Hamburg, a truly multipolar world is finally emerging.

Starting with the United States of America. The US is the world's leading economy and its greatest military power, with a "soft power" dominating the globe.

But the US share of the global economy fell from half to less than fifth since the end of World War II. And US influence has declined sharply since the end of the Cold War, notably since its reckless 2003 invasion of Iraq and the 2008 financial crisis.

Despite its lethal military power, Washington has failed to win a single major war since World War II.

It lost the Vietnam War, failed miserably in the Second Gulf War (after succeeding in liberating Kuwait in the first Gulf War), and for all practical purposes, this week's news from the Koreas is a reminder why the 1950s Korean War remains unfinished. North Korea's success in testing an intercontinental ballistic missile is seen as a

slap in the face of the US and its menacing president on Independence Day.

The emergence of new regional and global powers has been particularly challenging to US power, as the likes of China, the EU, India and resurgent Russia limit its capacity to guide the global agendas.

President Barack Obama understood this new international reality and tried to steer Washington into a more realistic, humble and cooperative role on the global stage.

US power might not have been sufficient to dictate economic and strategic policies to other powers, but for long, it was the go-to guarantor of Western-led international order. Today, all that is in doubt and perhaps is going in reverse.

Donald Trump's amateurish and reckless presidency



By Marwan Bishara

is undermining US leadership. Not so much because of his protectionism as his banal populist nationalism. His rejection of the Paris Treaty on Climate Change and his embrace of Saudi Arabia are only two examples.

If popularity is anything to go by, Trump is trailing far behind other unlikely world leaders such as Angela Merkel.

The rise of China

On the opposite spectrum, China has emerged as a formidable economic and military competitor to the US on the world stage.

Within three decades, China became the world's "leading factory", enjoying unprecedented trade surpluses and double-digit growth and creating massive wealth, all the while investing heavily in a military and especially naval power to reckon with.

Of course, size matters, and China has been cruising steadily like an aircraft carrier. But it's also been too aggressive in throwing its weight around to attract or perhaps intimidate smaller neighbours.

Attempts by the Obama administration to contain China through an "Asia Pivot" have failed miserably. And today, the Chinese are exploiting Trump's shortsighted approach to Asia in order to further expand their influence on the continent. (Reportedly, China was happy to see Trump elected as it expected him to screw up big time).

By contrast, the strong and stable Presidency of Xi Jinping has further enhanced China's global role. Earlier this year, he gave a speech at the Davos Economic Forum of the world political and economic leaders, the first of its kind for Chinese leaders, in order to underline Beijing's interest in global leadership as America turns inwards. Xi even defended free trade from "blind" nationalism in an indirect jab at Trump's "America first" policies.

China may continue to lag behind when it comes to soft power and innovation, and human rights, but its capacity for engineering and exporting new models of development have been attracting other countries - large and small - to follow suit.

As the G20 economies convene for their 9th annual meeting, there is little doubt about the enhanced role of China alongside the US, or the so-called G2 in influencing the group's decisions, big and small. But the two aren't alone in vying for a place on top.

The EU, the world's leading union

Speculations about the future of the European Union have been quite negative since the 2008 international financial crisis disproportionately affected some of Europe's weaker economies. And pessimism spread after the UK voted to leave the EU last year amid increasing pressures from emboldened Putin's Russia to the East and from skeptical Trump's America to the West. But the world's largest economic union has rebounded, at least psychologically, over the past several months as elections, notably in France, gave it a

The 20 largest economies in the world formed an international forum in 1999 to discuss policy matters and financial stability. Since the 2008 economic downturn the forum has met twice a year, and also hosts meetings with finance ministers and central bank directors.

The G20 is made up of 19 member states and the European Union.



new momentum and vigor.

The same German-French partnerships that allowed the EU to become the largest economic market and union it is today promises to grow stronger under the duo of Merkel-Macron.

The more seasoned and more experienced Chancellor Merkel has emerged as the de facto leader of the union on economic, and also on strategic, environmental and humanitarian issues.

As she hosts the G20 summit, the German Chancellor is more popular in her country and around the world than the US president. It's indeed paradoxical that the two great powers defeated in World War II, Germany and Japan, have emerged in the Trump era as the two most steady voices of the liberal world order.

Although she is seen as a voice of reason on new global challenges from environment to refugees, Merkel has also proven to be a calculating and, some would even say, "Merkevilian" politician able to successfully manoeuvre her way around the traps and pitfalls of European and world politics.

In that way, Merkel's power and influence is both enhanced and amplified by and through the EU, and is emerging as an attractive third choice, nicely positioned in the middle between Trump's America and Xi's China.

However, to its disadvantage, the administratively complicated and slow-functioning EU tends to take a back seat to American and Chinese leadership which enjoy greater capacity to deliberate and respond.

Multipolar world?

The three leading powers, US, China and the EU, along with their respective leaders, present distinct and contrasted models, visions and governing styles in what increasingly looks like a post-American world.

The multipolar world that French President Jacques Chirac preached around the 2003 Gulf crisis when France and Germany opposed the 2003 invasion of Iraq is finally upon us.

Moving forward, no one power will be able to lead the complicated and challenging international system that has emerged from the crises of the post-Cold war era.

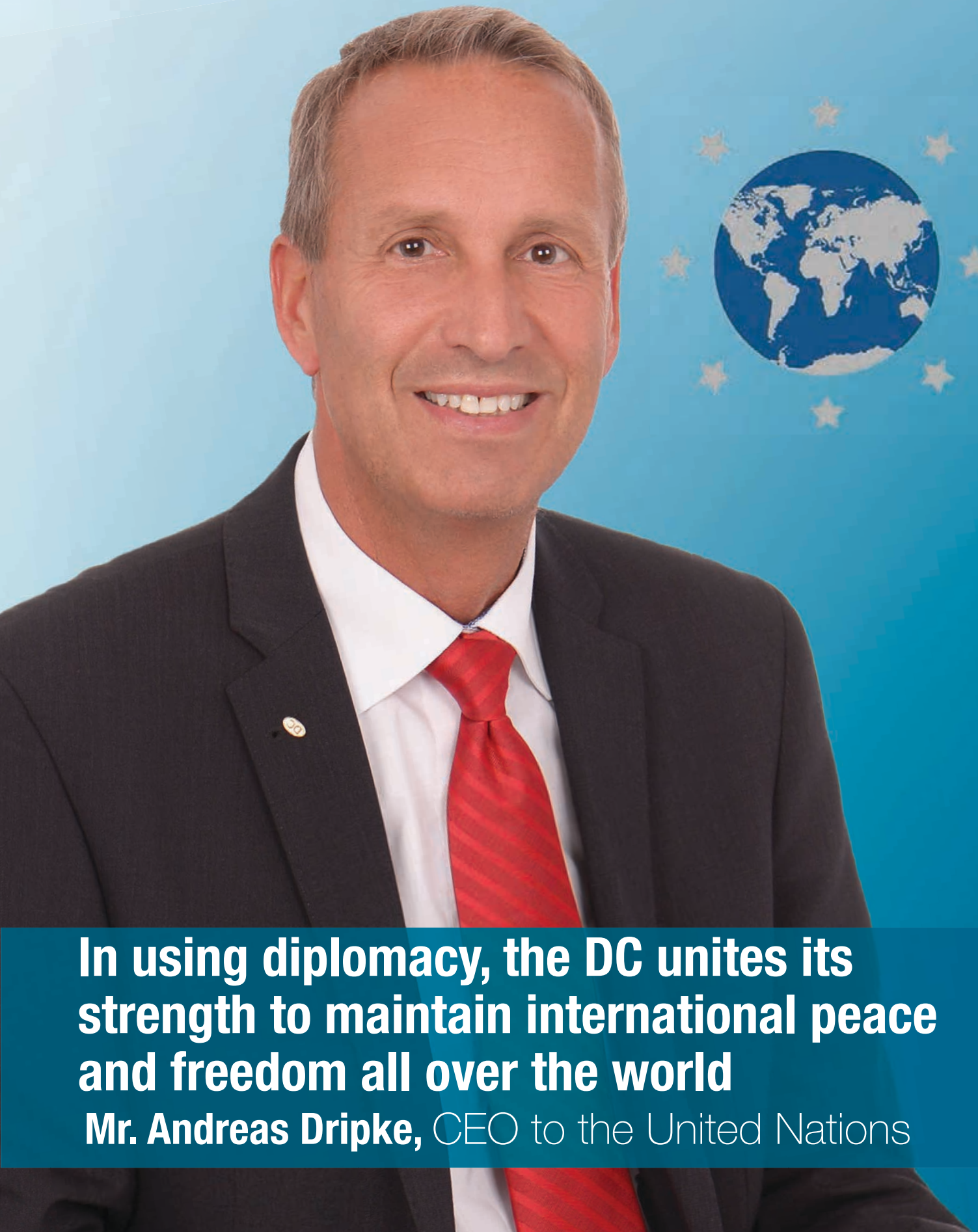
The dollar, the Pentagon, Hollywood and Harvard might be leading for now, but as US hegemony wanes, so will a lot of what it represents to the world. Or, in tune with the times of globalisation, these and other American brands will probably become more global and less American with time.

This is a far from democratic world, but we are slowly and surely moving away from the bipolarity of the Cold War and unipolarity of its immediate aftermath.

One could only wish that world powers show the ever more needed responsibility, maturity and capacity to meet the challenges of the 21st century with less conflict and more cooperation. Wishful thinking?

Marwan Bishara is the senior political analyst at Al Jazeera.

Courtesy to Aljazeera



In using diplomacy, the DC unites its strength to maintain international peace and freedom all over the world

Mr. Andreas Dripke, CEO to the United Nations

M r. Andreas Dripke is the CEO of the Diplomatic Council to the United Nations and also co-founder of the organization. The Diplomatic Council is a worldwide independent think tank with official advisory status at the United Nations. Its members and experts are from all walks of life and propose solutions in order to rise to the major challenges of our time. The 17 sustainability targets ("Sustainability goals") of the United Nations constitute the joint platform.

Mr. Andreas Dripke is an energetic, dedicated person who forms part of a comprehensive worldwide network, and who possesses the competence of analyzing the realities of the global market and of developing a vision for a better world.

Excellency! First of all thank you very much for granting us your precious time for this interview with Monthly "Diplomatic

The Diplomatic Council is a Global Think Tank with the objective to serve as a bridge between diplomacy, economy and society.

Focus". Our journal has been serving the diplomatic community in Pakistan through its publications by covering the events of national and international interest. The main purpose of this interview is to know more about the Diplomatic Council.

Q: Excellency, would you please share some information with us about your early life, education and your career?

Of course, let me give you a short overview over my background. I studied economics and computer science at the Technical University Darmstadt (Germany) before writing several books about how the emerging information technology influences mankind forming a new information society. Later I worked as an Analyst and Editor-in-Chief at a global research company called International Data Corporation. At that time as a journalist I had meetings with hundreds of CEOs of major companies and organizations from all over the world where I learnt and reported about their visions and missions. This gave me a deep insight into the reasoning of managers at international CEO level. Later I became the CEO of European Marketing Communications, which is said to be the leading European owner-led marketing and public relations agency network. During these



times I met so many ambassadors including His Excellency Ambassador Buddhi Athauda. We felt the need to establish an organization bringing the CEOs and the ambassadors together and so we founded – together with Ms Thi Thai Hang Nguyen – the Diplomatic Council.

Q: Excellency! The Diplomatic Council is a worldwide independent think tank with official advisory status at the United Nations. It will be worth to throw some light on the role of the Diplomatic Council.

The Diplomatic Council was established as a

Global Think Tank with the objective to serve as a bridge between diplomacy, economy and society. Diplomatic Council members share the idea that economic diplomacy provides a solid foundation for international understanding and a more peaceful interaction amongst nations.

A thriving economy bringing prosperity to mankind is one of the best guarantors of peace. Based on this perception, the Diplomatic Council has translated its goal of promoting international understanding into an economic mandate. The global DC business



network is linked to the diplomatic corps of the different nations.

The experts and leaders engaged in the Diplomatic Council play a key role in consulting the ambassadors on how essential economic

understanding amongst nations and safeguard peace. In this context, the Diplomatic Council welcomes personalities from diplomacy, economy and society who are highly estimated in their respective fields, exhibiting high levels of expertise and who pursue common visions and values.

Q: How do you work with magazines like the Diplomatic Focus?

We only work with high-quality diplomatic magazines following the fundamentals of quality journalism. This means independence, integrity, social concern and of course good writing and editing. We prefer magazines who present a strong opinion and emphasize analysis, displaying global consciousness and non-sensationalism in their articles and format, as well as focusing on international relations including economic diplomacy, social welfare, cultural endeavors and education. We select partners who are concerned about hiring, educating and keeping on board an intelligent, well-educated, articulate, and technically proficient staff and who have the determination to serve and help to attract a well-educated, intellectual readership. We only work with

magazines which have the desire to appeal to and influence opinion leaders everywhere based on the values of the Charter of the United Nations. In order to reach the highest quality of journalism in diplomacy we think it is

The experts and leaders engaged in the Diplomatic Council play a key role in consulting the ambassadors on how essential economic principles can be applied to global diplomatic dealings.

The formation of public opinion lends ethical legitimacy to a society insofar as it is based on sustainability, trust and transparency, shared by many people.

principles can be applied to global diplomatic dealings. Vice versa the ambassadors use their diplomatic competency to ensure that the economic activities ultimately promote

mandatory that magazines pursuing journalistic activities such as interviews, information research by telephone, attendance of events that are to be covered by news stories and documented by pictures, should organize staff meetings in order to engage in discussions, follow training, read to obtain background material and knowledge, collect information





and materials, organize and reflect on it and travel to and from locations where information is gathered.

Q: The Diplomatic Council (DC) has now published a “DC Code of Public Communication”. What is the purpose of this code? Who is the target audience this code is aimed at?

The Diplomatic Council’s Code of Trusted Public Communication comprises the most significant principles for trust-building communication and information in the public sphere. The principles propose an ethical framework for the formation of public opinion, which is considered exemplary for the post-industrial and technologically advanced society. We have to be aware of the fact that the trust people used to place in public institutions and organisations, enterprises, elites and parties has severely collapsed. Those concerned have lost their ability to shape public opinion. Current observations suggest that regulatory structures and core values are increasingly absent from communication in the public sphere. If the same importance is attributed without any distinction to assumptions, views, false assertions and conspiracy theories just as it is to facts and comprehensive correlations, then the lack of standards and correctives is obvious. This so-called “post-factual” world leads to high polarisation and disparity in our society.

Q: Excellency! Do you require journalistic standards for social networks?

Increasingly, public opinion is no longer shaped only by media, parties or organisations but also by social media channels, private persons or informal groups. However, these groups should be subject to the same standards with respect to responsibility, truth, the right balance, and should respect a sense of proportion as expected of official organs. Each individual

person expressing his or her view in the public sphere bears a social responsibility for the impact of all information and views which he or she disseminates, shares or supports in any form.



To make it very clear: The formation of public opinion lends ethical legitimacy to a society insofar as it is based on sustainability, trust and transparency, shared by many people and meets the above-mentioned standards. It becomes the Fifth Estate and is worth protecting except for statements that are criminally relevant because they are defamatory, violence-glorifying and racist. Of course, the formation of public opinion is never free of conflicts because it allows a plurality of views ranging from subjective interpretations to individual conclusions, from interest-driven assertions to ideological assumptions. Nevertheless, the objective of public debates must at all times remain a constructive consensus for which every single person is responsible. This includes especially the social networks.

Responsible communication presupposes the ability to differentiate between facts, unproven assertions, theories, conclusions and opinions. It also requires the capability of evaluating facts rationally and in accordance with the commonly accepted standard of knowledge. As a result, competency is a prerequisite for responsible and sustainable communication.

Q: As a founding member of Diplomatic Council, Excellency! How did you come up with the idea of establishing the Diplomatic Council and what is its mandate?

An ambassador or consul general is assigned to a country for a period of approximately three to four years. Valuable relations established during this period usually will be lost after the diplomat is sent to his next destination. In order to prevent this, the Diplomatic Council was founded with the purpose to maintain and expand this unique contact network even after the diplomat has moved to another country. Our diplomats always bring together their best contacts. Hence, a worldwide contact network was created which expands with every move of

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organization**

an ambassador or a consul general.

It all started with a group of three persons: Amb. Buddhi Athauda, at that time Sri Lanka’s Ambassador to the Netherlands, Thi Thai Hang Nguyen, a Vietnamese refugee driven by the vision to better the world, and me



from the business side. While Amb. Athaudas was establishing the Diplomatic Council in the ambassador's community, I took care of the business community in order to form the diplomacy meets business concept our organization is based on. Hang from the very beginning became our inspiration and also our voice and face, as she is the perfect role model embodying the story of how a refugee from a war can come into such a powerful position as the Secretary General of our organization and can make a difference to better the world. So we founded the Diplomatic Council in the Peace Palace in The Hague to spread our vision

The Diplomatic Council has the opportunity to globally support the interest of economic diplomacy, express its views and influence the work of the Economic and Social Council

and mission globally.

In using diplomacy, the Diplomatic Council unites its strength to maintain international peace and freedom all over the world. To accomplish this mission, we strive for worldwide collaboration to resolve international problems of economic, social, cultural and humanitarian character and to further promote and foster respect for human rights and the fundamental freedom for all human beings regardless of their ethnic heritage, their gender, their language

or their religion.

The Diplomatic Council is solely based on the trusteeship of our members. It is driven by active members who are honoured and committed to help encouraging intercultural relations, enhancing international understanding and promoting more peaceful relations amongst nations. In a world that demands a smooth interplay of economic competency and diplomatic skills, a think tank uniting diplomacy and business is crucial.

Q: Excellency! You have been Chairman of Business Relations of the Diplomatic Council since August 2010 and became CEO to the United Nations in 2015. How do you see the relationship between business activities and social impact in the context of the current international economy and business, and furthermore, what are the steps that you suggest third world or underdeveloped countries should take in order to meet today's world market?

We believe in social entrepreneurship as a cornerstone of economic growth especially in third world and underdeveloped countries. Social entrepreneurship can be described as the development of solutions to societal challenges in an entrepreneurial manner. The primary purpose is a positive social or ecological impact as well as economic sustainability. We think social entrepreneurship can play an important role in order to develop a sustainable market economy and guarantee equitable distribution of wealth.

While different definitions for social entrepreneurship exist, they all share the idea of achieving a social or ecological impact for the sake of the common good. This includes three types of entrepreneurs. Those where the social impact is targeted through operational activity, often in the form of a high level of

social innovation. Those where profits are mainly reinvested with a view to achieving its social impact. Those where the method of organization or the ownership system reflects the mission of the enterprise, using democratic or participatory principles or focusing on social justice.

For the Diplomatic Council, the conception of social entrepreneurship represents a unique approach in tackling economic and social problems, applying practical, innovative, and sustainable solutions to benefit society in general, whether the organizations are non-profit or for-profit entities.

In this context, we think it is important to promote social entrepreneurship more than ever. While technological innovations are widely promoted, social innovations are still largely overlooked. The societal development cannot always keep up with the rapid technological advancement and

This is important to be a truly global think tank and business network covering all 193 UN countries. So we get applications regularly from all around the world.

challenges of a modern dynamic environment. Therefore we have developed guidelines for international good impact, efficiency analyses, publications, and work toward networking with stakeholders on a global scale to support social enterprises to become even more successful. We support entrepreneurs, the civil society and philanthropic organizations alike with the help of efficiency analyses and guidelines for good impact in accordance with the objectives of the United Nations.

The effective, smart and target-oriented use of resources is essential for solving the societal challenges of today's world. The advantages of social entrepreneurship shall contribute to a sustainable economic development and fair distribution of wealth for all people all over the world, especially in the emerging economies.

Don't misunderstand me: We think that technology can make a major contribution to better the world. Take today's mobile phones as a good example. The first future vision of "pocket telephones" that allow everyone to connect with everyone regardless of his current location was published in 1910 in the anthology "The world in 100 years". Today around 7 billion mobile connections are in use worldwide. This means that nearly all of the population is connected to the information society. This



makes it easier for them to become well-informed citizens and to participate in the world economy. The vision of a global information society a few of us had decades ago has become true by now. We can predict future trends like the Internet of Things that will again change our world dramatically. But we always have to make sure that the less privileged people and the emerging countries benefit from these developments. Take 3D printing as an example of how technology has the potential to bring manufacturing capabilities to countries and regions you would have never thought of being capable of setting up a production plant. Like mobile phones changed the communication and information society, 3D printing can bring a shift to the global manufacturing and supply chain in the long run. "Production everywhere" might even become more life-changing for billions of people than information everywhere.

Q: Diplomatic Council is accredited by the United Nations and it is a global think tank as well as a high level business network, so Excellency! My question is how does this think tank contribute to the UN?

The Diplomatic Council has been granted by the United Nations the highest status that can be achieved for a non-governmental organization: the special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. This status entitles the Diplomatic Council to attend UN sessions and make written and oral statements at international UN conferences and events. The Diplomatic Council has the opportunity to globally support the interest of economic diplomacy, express its views and influence the work of the Economic and Social Council: a flourishing economy that brings prosperity to mankind is one of the best peace guarantors worldwide.

Our members can apply to become DC UN delegates and attend UN sessions in New York, Geneva and Vienna and many other places. We provide expert analysis on issues from our members experience, serve as an early warning agent, help monitor and implement international agreements, help raise public awareness of relevant issues, play a major role in advancing UN goals and objectives and contribute with essential information

at organized events. By offering this unique opportunity, the Diplomatic Council grants its members access to one of the most exclusive, global contact networks with regard to economic and social issues.

Q: Excellency! In today's world, young people around the world are encouraged to volunteer, and Diplomatic Council is also offering such opportunities. It will be worth for our readers if you throw some light on this issue.

As a young person, there are two ways to join the Diplomatic Council, as a volunteer or even as a student member. Let me explain both approaches. The Diplomatic Council is inspired by the idea that volunteerism is a powerful means of engaging people to tackle development problems worldwide. Everyone can contribute in terms of their time, skills and knowledge through volunteer activities, and their combined efforts can be a significant force to achieving peace and development. Though



volunteering, the young people can make important economic and social contributions, and create a more cohesive society by building trust and reciprocity among citizens. It can be both challenging and rewarding and requires to use skills in a new context.

The most brilliant and inspired students quite often do not just want to become a volunteer,

The Diplomatic Council is solely based on the trusteeship of our members. It is driven by active members who are honoured and committed to help encouraging intercultural relations, enhancing international understanding and promoting more peaceful relations amongst nations.

but like to become a member of our think tank. For those students we have created the Diplomatic Council Students Program in cooperation with the Diplomatic Academy of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel to fulfil the need of bringing educated and vibrant students together and representing a new generation of critical thinkers. The DC Students Program is a network of students all around the world who share principles and motivations. Its members are very motivated students from all disciplines who are committed, interested in international affairs and passionate about bettering this world. It is a part of the Diplomatic Council and therefore follows our values and agenda. The aim of this program is to connect students worldwide who wish to assume ethical responsibility within their societies. Furthermore, to mould them into future leaders with support of the Diplomatic Council members who are influential and highly recognized people from politics, economy, society, culture and sports.

Q: We are seeing that the Diplomatic Council is expanding worldwide and sharing its expertise. Can you share about your ongoing projects and especially future assignments?

When we started the Diplomatic Council it was a membership network by invitation only. But getting consultative status with the United Nations we had to change that approach to make sure that each and every brilliant person and every organization being committed to corporate social responsibility has a chance to apply for membership. This is important to be a truly global think tank and business network covering all 193 UN countries. So we get applications regularly from all around the world. Of course we have a very well-defined selection process to ensure highest quality in our membership. Today we are strongly represented in Europe as well as South and Southeast Asia and have footprints in Africa and in the Americas. We are open for talented personalities who wish to contribute to our further development in their regions or countries to spread our vision and mission.

Q: Any message you want to transmit to the readers of 'Diplomatic Focus'? And also can you share anything you think we have missed in the interview?

Always be aware that the only way to have friends you can trust is to be a trusted friend for them. Everybody needs a network of trustees, starting with family and friends in your city or region, and in today's global world even including friends all around the world. This is what the Diplomatic Council is about – a global network of friends.

Thanks a lot Your Excellency! For kindly granting us your precious time as to your busy schedule and of course for your nice talk. *Thanks*



Western leaders have A choice: Stand with the terrorists or stand with the Turkish people

By Recep Tayyip Erdoğan President of Turkey

Today marks the first anniversary of the 15 July coup attempt in Turkey. Exactly one year ago, millions of Turkish citizens set aside their political, cultural and ethnic differences to form a united front against the plotters who tried to suspend our country's constitution, shot at innocent civilians and bombed the parliament. Together, the people of Turkey refused to allow an armed group to rob them of democracy, liberty and their way of life.

In thwarting this assault, 250 people lost their lives and another 2,193 were injured. My government's continuing efforts to bring to justice Fethullah Gülen and his followers

– who, evidence suggests, were behind the failed coup – isn't just important for Turkey but for democracy everywhere. Between 1960 and 1997, at least four elected governments

Instead of expressing solidarity with my countrymen, a number of western governments and institutions opted to wait and see how the crisis would play out:
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

were forcibly removed from office by the military. For decades elected officials could not liberate themselves. Nor could the nation fully recover from the ill-treatment of its elected representatives in the past. Worse, military coups severely weakened the Turkish population's confidence in government institutions.

Since its rise to power in 2002, the Justice and Development party (AKP), which I lead, has implemented reforms to empower elected officials at the expense of certain groups within the military. In doing so we have been able to restore the Turkish people's confidence in public institutions. Those who turned their weapons against innocent civilians on 15 July hit a brick wall made of a decade of progress in

politics, economics, healthcare, justice, foreign policy and fundamental rights. This connection between the people and their government is the ultimate measure of our democracy's resilience, and the strongest guarantee of its survival.

The thwarting of the coup marked a turning point in the history of democracy; it will be a source of hope and inspiration for all peoples who live under dictators. Unfortunately Turkey's allies, particularly our friends in the west, have been unable to fully appreciate the significance of what happened. Instead of expressing solidarity with my countrymen, a number of western governments and institutions opted to wait and see how the crisis would play out. Their hypocrisy and double standards deeply disturbed the Turkish people, who risked everything to defend freedom.

The fact that efforts by Turkey to identify and dismiss public officials loyal to Gülen – a US-based Turkish national – came under fire from the same groups raised questions regarding the west's commitment to my country's democracy and security. To add insult to injury, dozens of senior leaders of FETÖ, the organisation led by Gülen, have been granted asylum by our country's self-proclaimed friends and allies. There is no way to sugar-coat this betrayal of Turkey's friendship – which is incompatible with bilateral relations and fundamental values alike. Today, western leaders have a choice between standing in solidarity with terrorists or regaining the favour of the Turkish people.

Nor is it possible to justify the criticism directed at Turkey for declaring a state of emergency at a time when several countries that face relatively minor national security threats have opted to do the same. Over the years, the Kurdistan Workers' party (PKK) has claimed almost



50,000 lives. It is not easy to combat a highly secretive organisation such as FETÖ, whose members systematically infiltrated Turkey's public institutions for decades and rose through

the ranks. They now attempt to slow down judicial proceedings – even though there is concrete evidence, including video footage, implicating them.

Turkey, a year after
the attempted coup, is
defending democratic
values:
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

We remain committed to justice. Turkey has set up independent commissions to review the cases of former public officials challenging their dismissals. Our goal is to prosecute criminals to the full extent of the law while building our country's resilience to future attacks.

Originally published in The Guardian





China

Cultural Heritage Week 2017 in Islamabad

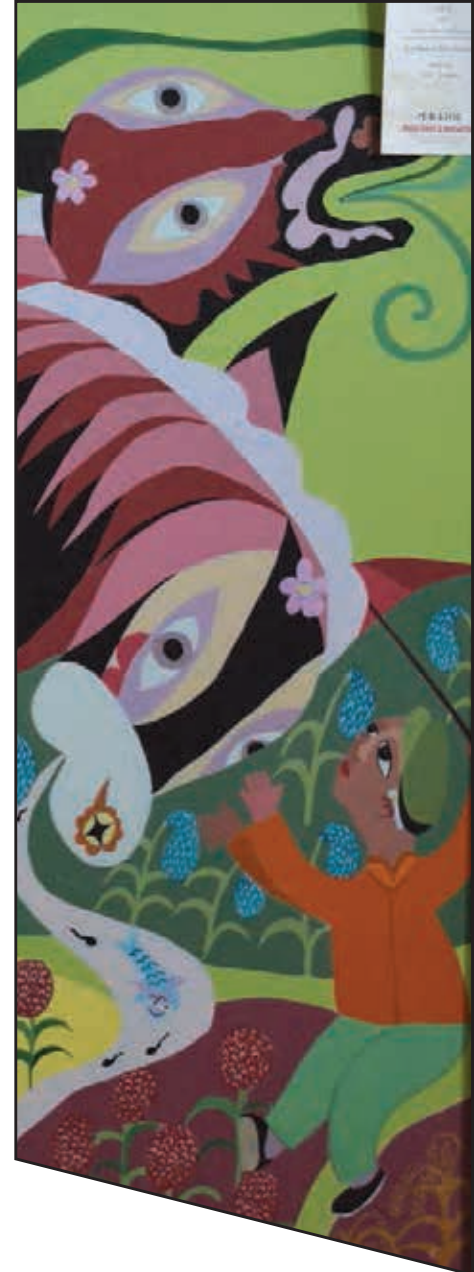


By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Photos: Ramzan Mughal



Ambassador of China to Pakistan Sun Weidong inaugurated the "China Cultural Heritage Week". Some of the eminent guests included Deputy Secretary National History and Literary Heritage Division Nazir Ahmed, Chairman Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) Prof. Dr. Muhammad Qasim Bughio, Director General Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) Syed Jamal Shah, Executive Director Lok Virsa Dr. Fouzia Saeed, Cultural Counsellor of Embassy of China You Yi. A large number of people from different walks of life attended the inauguration ceremony.

The festivity was divided into two parts exhibition of Dalian Jinpu New Area Intangible Cultural Heritage and exhibition of the China Paper Cutting Art. The event offered a platform for visitors and students to interact and source directly with the exhibitors, showcasing their modern folk paintings, Chinese Paper-Cutting, Jinzhou Bird-Worm Seal Script, Jinzhou Ceramic Handicrafts, Liaonon Dough Modeling etc.



Condolence Reference for Amjad Hussain Syed father of Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed Held



President Mamnoon Hussain telephoned Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed and extended heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of his father Col. (retd) Amjad Hussain Syed.

Senior politicians, serving and retired bureaucrats, diplomats and other notable personalities from various fields of life have gathered at the residence of Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed and offered their condolences on the death of his father Amjad Hussain Sayed, a retired colonel of the Pakistan Army. Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz, former prime minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Gohar Ayub, Senator Abdul Qayyum, Ghulam Mustafa Malik, Shamsul Qayyum, Syed Ali Nawaz Gillani, Iranian Ambassador Mehdi Honardoost and other members of diplomatic core offered their condolence to Mushahid Hussain, Mujahid Hussain Sayed, Mowahid Hussain Sayed and Tahseen Sayed.



Ambassador of France, conferred the prestigious French award to the Minister of State, Marvi Memon



By M. Saeed Yousafzai

Benazir Income Support Programme Chairperson Marvi Memon on Friday received the “French National Order of Merit” award conferred upon her by France.

Martine Dorance, ambassador of France to Pakistan, conferred the prestigious French award of the National Order of Merit (Ordre national du Mérite), with rank of officer (Officier) on the Minister of State, Marvi Memon, - at a reception at the envoy's residence. The reception was attended by federal ministers, the president and the prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, members of parliament, members of the diplomatic community and family members of Marvi Memon.

The National Order of Merit is an order of the state awarded by the president of the French Republic, which was founded in 1963 by President Charles de Gaulle to reward French and foreign nationals for distinguished achievements, said a French embassy statement. Having spent part of her childhood in France where she received her secondary schooling, Marvi Memon is fluent in French.

Earlier in March, 2017, Ms. Marvi Memon was conferred the Speaker's Democracy Award by Speaker of the House Of Commons of UK John Bercow. The Speaker's Democracy Award is an internationally focused award which aims to celebrate individuals who through their leadership and personal courage have made an outstanding contribution to development of democratic societies.

K-POP World Festival held at NUML



K-Pop World Festival 2017 was organised by Korean Language Department of National University of Modern Languages (NUML) and Islamabad King Sejong Institute.

Around 20 selected candidates participated in the singing and dancing events from all over the country. The event was held in Pakistan for the second time and it aimed to give a chance to K-Pop fans of Pakistan to show their skills and love for Korean wave commonly known as 'Hallyu' that has swept around the world.

In the dance category, the group named 'Sun Shine Girls' (Komal, Mahnoor & Hadiqa) won the 1st prize on the world famous girl group SNSD (Girls Generation) song 'Catch me if u can' while Sophia Mujahid and Sameed Hassan won the 2nd and 3rd prize respectively.

In the singing competition Abdul Ghaffar Minhas won the 1st prize on the song 'Nea Bakcha' while Arirrang Family and Amber Malik won the 2nd and 3rd prize respectively. The winner may have a chance to participate in a fully funded main round of K-Pop festival in Korea. The audience was thrilled by the impressive performances.

Chief Guest of the eve was Kim Jinwook, Charge De Affairs Korean Embassy. DG NUML, Brigadier Riaz Ahmed Gondal congratulated on the success of K-Pop festival and winners of the event.



Photos by Sheikh Arif

Eid Millan Party Hosted by Mr. Habib Ahmed Honorary Consul of Russian Federation at Serena Hotels, Islamabad. Reception was attended by diplomats from various countries, politicians and members of the community.



Kazakhstan celebrates 25th anniversary of its Diplomatic Services

The Ambassador of Kazakhstan H.E. Bakhitbek Shabarbayev hosted a reception to celebrate 25th anniversary of the Diplomatic Service of the Republic of Kazakhstan at Marriott Hotel Islamabad. Lt General (Retd) Abdul Qadir Baloch, Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) was Chief Guest. The event was attended by representatives of state bodies and non-governmental organisations, politicians, senior journalists and diplomatic corps and community.







Opening of the Alija Izetbegovic School Center in Pakistan

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Monitoring Desk

In front of numerous guests from the political and public life and the diplomatic corps, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was officially opened training center named after the first Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Alija Izetbegovic.

The honor to cut the ribbon was given to the representative of the host country, the Deputy Minister of Education, Dr IR Pakistan. Malik Bakshi, then Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in Pakistan Sadiku Baburu Girgin and BiH ambassador to Pakistan, or the creator and executor of the project, Nedim Makarević.

Dr. Baksh in his address to me the people and Government of Pakistan thanked BiH for such a project and emphasized the good inter-state relations in this way further nurture.

BiH is a country for example because it is a country that emerged from a difficult war, and after just over 20 years it is close to becoming a candidate for the EU. In BiH, almost no illiterate, and the number of tourists in recent years is approaching the number of million - underlined





the Minister. In his short speech, Ambassador Makarević emphasized the need of BiH to present to Pakistan something of lasting value.

“Of course, this is just a small sign of attention for everything Pakistan and the people of Pakistan have done for BiH,” said Ambassador Makarević.

Ambassador of Turkey Sadik Babur Girgin pointed to the importance of the character and work of Alija Izetbegovic in his address, and quoted his work “Islam between the East and the West”. The Ambassador mentioned the inexhaustible historical and cultural links of Turkey with BiH, as well as the very friendly relations between the Republic of Turkey and the IR of Pakistan.

The Ambassador of Austria Brigitte Blah, addressed the attendees, who expressed great satisfaction with the construction of the school center. The ambassador also pointed to the historical links of Austria and Bosnia and emphasized the need for the situation in the education sector, especially in rural parts of Pakistan, to be corrected.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of the Embassies of Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, Qatar, Lebanon, China, Japan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Tunisia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Hungary, Portugal, South Korea and Kenya.

The school center full name “Pak-Bosnia International School - Alija Izetbegović” is located in the rural area of Punjab (Punjab) not far from the border with India. It is a primary school that can accommodate 300 students. The school center consists of three buildings. In the first, there are 12 classrooms, the second is the administration, while in the last, third, there are laboratories for informatics, biology and physics. Also, the rooms are equipped with smart boards and are thus equipped for distance learning (e-Learning). Thus, students will have the opportunity to communicate with teachers in Karachi in real time. The second module is intended for distance training, envisaged for the elderly who will follow the English language classes and other useful

courses according to the evening school system, The school “Alija Izetbegović” will also contain a medical segment based on the principle of “telemedicine”. The principle of work is to

The construction of the Center began in January 2016 and was completed in July 2017.

explain the patient’s problem to a person who has undergone training in a healthcare module. The data is stored in the system, after which the

system provides a diagnosis of the disease as well as prescriptions for possible medications. The buildings of the Center named after the first Chairman of the BiH Presidency are bound to the corridors, and the open sports field is located behind the facility with classrooms. The construction of the Center began in January 2016 and was completed in July 2017. No funds were financed from the budget of BiH for the construction of this center, but were fully secured by the private channels of Ambassador Makarevic. The project was also assisted by the Talim Foundation (Taleem) and the Turkish Development Agency (TIKA), whose Vice President Bulet Chetin specifically came from Ankara to Pakistan to attend this festive event.

Pakistan Elected as Independent Chairperson of FAO Council



By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Agency

Pakistan’s candidate was elected as Independent Chairperson of the Council of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for the term 2017-19 in an election held in Rome. Mr. Khalid Mehboob, nominated by Pakistan, was one of the six candidates along with Albania, Bosnia, Cyprus, Slovakia, and Indonesia. Mr. Khalid Mehboob won the election by an impressive margin by securing 64



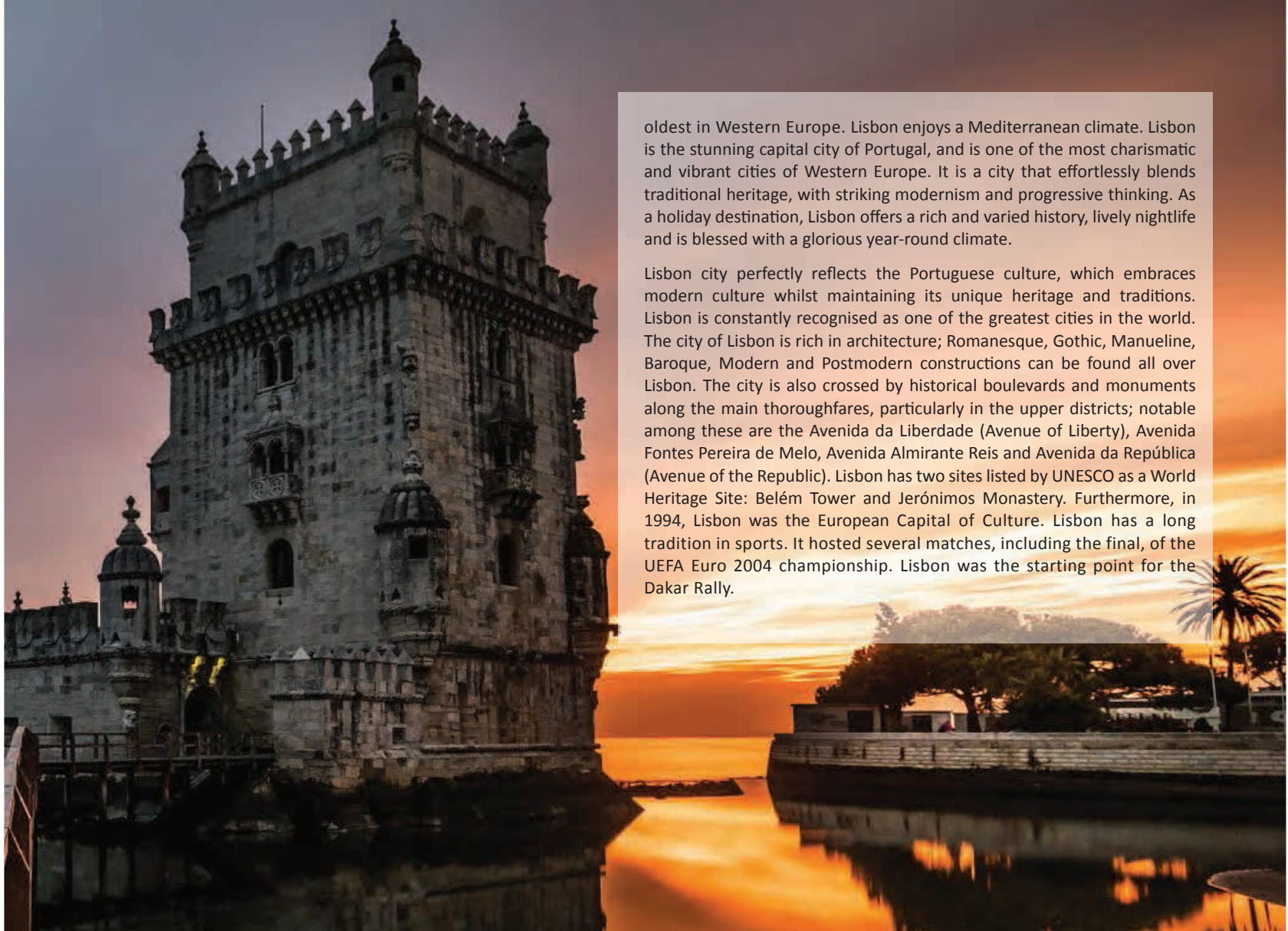
votes. The closest runner up received 32 votes. Mr. Mehboob brings a vast experience of over 54 years encompassing both private sector and FAO. He has been serving as Advisor/Alternate Permanent Representative of Pakistan to FAO, WFP and IFAD from 2010 to date. At Present Mr. Mehboob is Chairman of the FAO Finance Committee (2015-17).

This successful election is an acknowledgment of Pakistan’s role and contribution to the FAO.

Lisbon

True reflection of Portugal





oldest in Western Europe. Lisbon enjoys a Mediterranean climate. Lisbon is the stunning capital city of Portugal, and is one of the most charismatic and vibrant cities of Western Europe. It is a city that effortlessly blends traditional heritage, with striking modernism and progressive thinking. As a holiday destination, Lisbon offers a rich and varied history, lively nightlife and is blessed with a glorious year-round climate.

Lisbon city perfectly reflects the Portuguese culture, which embraces modern culture whilst maintaining its unique heritage and traditions. Lisbon is constantly recognised as one of the greatest cities in the world. The city of Lisbon is rich in architecture; Romanesque, Gothic, Manueline, Baroque, Modern and Postmodern constructions can be found all over Lisbon. The city is also crossed by historical boulevards and monuments along the main thoroughfares, particularly in the upper districts; notable among these are the Avenida da Liberdade (Avenue of Liberty), Avenida Fontes Pereira de Melo, Avenida Almirante Reis and Avenida da República (Avenue of the Republic). Lisbon has two sites listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site: Belém Tower and Jerónimos Monastery. Furthermore, in 1994, Lisbon was the European Capital of Culture. Lisbon has a long tradition in sports. It hosted several matches, including the final, of the UEFA Euro 2004 championship. Lisbon was the starting point for the Dakar Rally.

By Shahzada Khuram

Lisbon is the capital and the largest city of Portugal, with a population of 552,700. Lisbon is recognised as an alpha- level global city by the Globalization and World Cities (GaWC) Study Group because of its importance in finance, commerce, media, entertainment, arts, international trade, education and tourism. It is one of the major economic centres

on the continent, with a growing financial sector and one of the largest container ports on Europe's Atlantic coast. The Lisbon region contributes with a higher GDP PPP per capita than any other region in Portugal. The city occupies 32nd place of highest gross earnings in the world. It is also the political centre of the country, as its seat of Government and residence of the Head of State. Lisbon is one of the oldest cities in the world, and the



Pakistan's blue gem

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Jamil Ahmad

Neelum is one of the most beautiful valleys of Azaad Kashmir, and it hosts several brooks, freshwater streams, forests, lush green mountains, and a river. Here, you see cataracts falling down the mountains; their milky-white waters flowing over the roads and splashing against the rocks, before commingling with the muddy waters of River Neelum.

Athmuqam is the capital city of Neelum Valley. It has been administratively divided into two sub-districts: Athmuqam and Sharda. From Muzaffarabad, a tarred road comfortably leads you to Sharda, whence you need to travel on a rocky and curvy jeep track, which can take you to the farthest town of the region, Tau Butt.

Before Partition, this region was known as Drawah. The Azaad Kashmir government, in 1956, the ninth year of its rule, held a cabinet meeting to rechristen the River Kishanganga as the River Neelum, and the Drawah region as Neelum Valley.

The new names were proposed to the cabinet by war hero, Syed Mohammad Amin. The cabinet approved them, and thus, Drawah of the yore is now Neelum Valley of Azaad Kashmir.

Sharda is one of the two sub-division of the Neelum Valley. In ancient times, it was a seat of knowledge and wisdom. If you cross over the river bridge, you would arrive at the ruins of a site that looks like a fort but which in fact used to be an academy. It falls somewhere between a city and a village, as the basic necessities of life are available in abundance at the local stores. But after leaving Sharda, it is just villages. The road turns rough, too. River Neelum fattens up here.

Some historians believe that Sharda was the name of a Hindu temple. Research is wanting on whether Sharda was a temple or an academy. Findings by one of the Azaad Kashmir's renowned researchers Dr Ahmed Deen Sabir suggest that Sharda and Saraswati are two wives to Brahma, the Hindu god of creation (in Hindu mythology, they are the goddesses of knowledge and wisdom). In the ancient age, temples would serve not only as places of worship and meditation but also as centres of education.

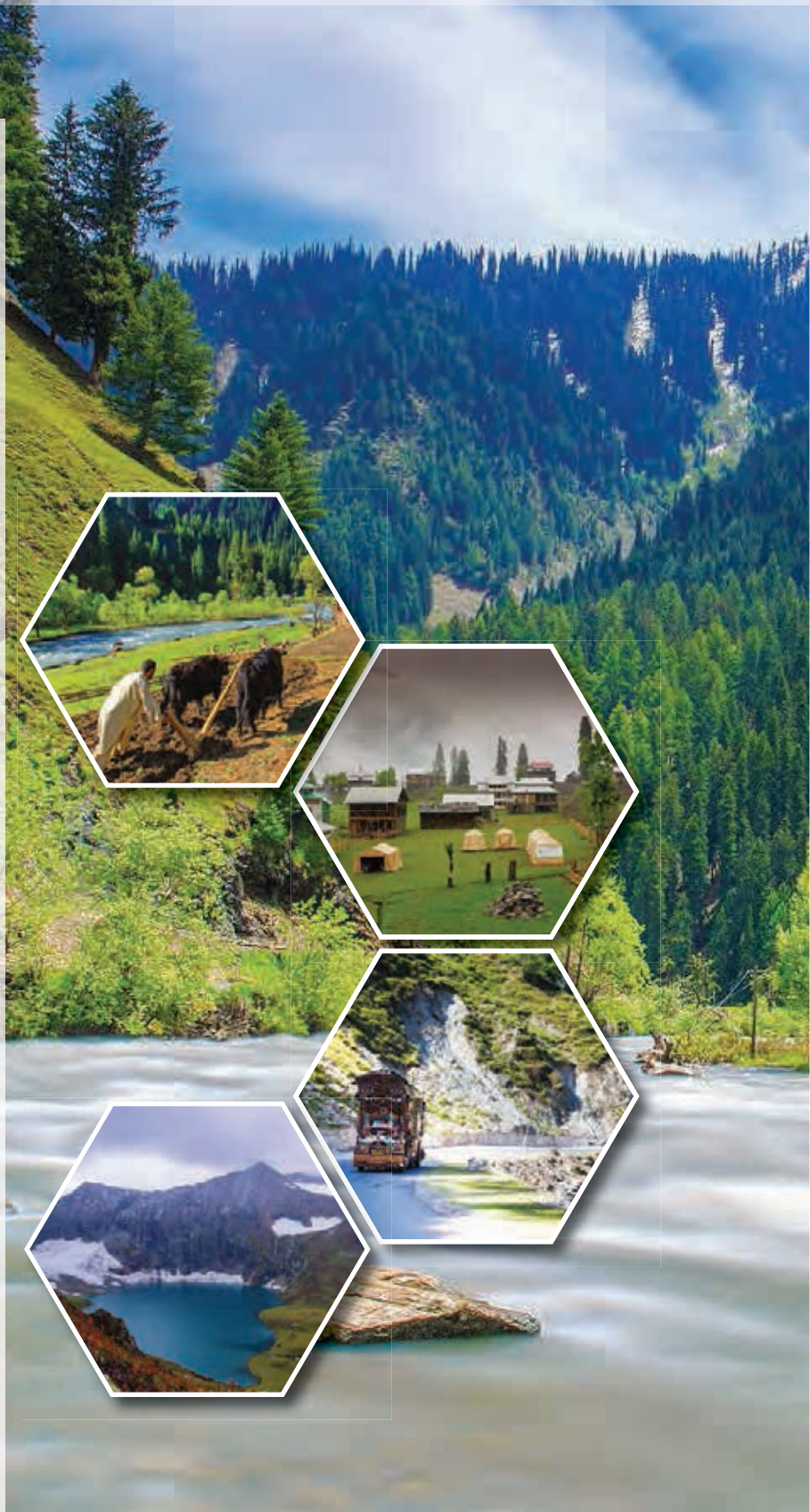
In the 21st century, the town of Sharda, overlooking the River Neelum, is known only as a tourist attraction. The River Neelum flows downhill, quietly touching its feet.

Weather of Neelum Valley is very pleasant in summers and freezy in winters. Every years thousands of tourist rush to explore Neelum Valley.

Some of Major Attractions for Tourists to Visit:

1. Dhani Noseri Waterfall

Dhani Waterfall is about 30 Kilometers from Muzaffarabad,



Neelum Valley

beautiful waterfall with 15 meters fall. From month of March to June in every season water flow remains good but in July to onwards water level remains low.

2. Kutton Jagran Valley

Kutton Jagran Valley is pearl valley with Kutton waterfall, Jagran stream, HEB resorts. Kutton is the first place where tourists plan to stay at.

3. Keran Neelum Valley

Keran is located 93 kilometers away from Muzaffarabad and well known because of Neelum River flowing peacefully. A tourist Motel by AJK Tourism is constructed to facilitate tourists.

4. Upper Neelum

Upper Neelum is 2 Kilometers away from Keran, it's a most scenic place of Neelum Valley which shows the panoramic view of Valley. AJK TOURISM constructed small two bedrooms huts to facilitate tourists.

5. Ratti Gali Lake

Ratti Gali Lake is 18 kilometers from Doharian, lake is alpine glaciers lake, red flowers and green fields all around. 15 kilometers jeep track constructed by PWD Neelum to facilitate tourist. Camping facility is also available at Ratti Gali Resort.

6. Sharda Neelum Valley

Sharda is tehsil headquarter of Neelum District and about 43 kilometers from Keran Neelum Valley.

7. Kel/ Arrang kel

Kel is about 23 kilometers from Sharda, it's a jeep track and one of the best locations. Not enough facilities are available in Kel. Arrang Kel the Gold Village of Neelum Valley, if you are on visit to Neelum valley then must visit Arrang Kel. 30 minutes walking trek from Kel.

8. Chitta Khatta Lake

White waters lake is difficult hiking trek but worth seeing place, not recommended for families but well it's the best place to visit.

9. Toabutt

About 200 Kilometers from Muzaffarabad, the last destination of Neelum Valley Toabutt. Guraz Valley covers (Helmet, Sardari, Phulawai, Janawai).





Serena Hotels under its sports diplomacy initiative hosted a successful event for Pakistan Cricket Team and PCB Management in honor of winning the ICC Champions Trophy 2017 at Islamabad Serena Hotel.





Serena Hotel Welcome to International Football players

Yet again a proud moment for Serena Hotels where we witnessed the International Football players arrive in Islamabad Serena Hotel said in a press release by hotel management.

Brazilian football celebrity Ronaldinho is accompanied by Brazil's 2002 World Cup winning teammate, Roberto Carlos, former French midfielder Robert Pires, France's Nicolas Anelka, Portugal's Luis Boa Morte, Holland's George Boateng, England's David James and former Manchester United player Ryan Giggs.



Serena Hotels sponsor International Squash Series 2017 in collaboration with Pakistan Air Force and Pakistan Squash Federation.





French 70th National Day celebrated

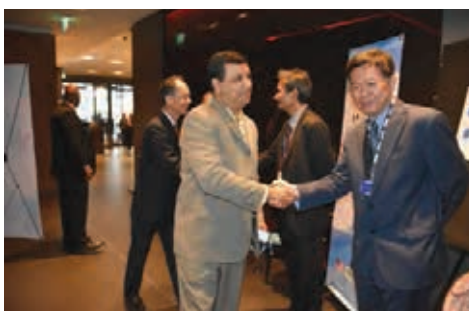
The Bastille Day on 14th of July is the French symbol of end of monarchy and beginning of the French revolution. French Ambassador Martine Dorance hosted a reception at local hotel to celebrate the French National Day at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Chief Guest of the eve was Mr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, Federal Minister for Commerce. A large number of ambassadors and other diplomats as well as prominent Pakistanis attended the reception.







Presentation of Handing over the life boat and its installation to Vanuatu and Financial Contribution to World Maritime University and International Maritime Law Institute along with lunch reception on the occasion Malaysian Candidature as the IMO Council under Category “C” for the term 2018-19 held in London







Moroccan National Day celebrated

To celebrate 18th anniversary of the enthronement of the Majesty King Mohammed VI, Ambassador of Morocco, H.E. Mohammed Karmoune hosted a reception at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Secretary for Foreign Affairs Ms. Tehmina Janjua on behalf of the government representative grace the occasion and felicitated the Moroccan Ambassador. The event was attended by representatives of state bodies and non-governmental organizations, politicians, Business community and diplomatic corps.





Combating human trafficking, migrants' smuggling remains of magnificent importance, says speakers at UNODC's GLO-ACT Launch

UN's Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched a four years Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (GLO-ACT 2015-2019). "Public Awareness Campaign against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants" was also launched on the occasion. Talking on the occasion Cesar Guedes, UNODC's Pakistan head highlighted continued efforts done in Pakistan against human trafficking as migrants' smuggling issue. He apprised the audience on collaborated and coordinated projects with stakeholders in Pakistan for prevention of the trafficking. He further stressed the need for more work to be done in this regard saying "yet a lot remains to be done. Traffickers continue to benefit from weaknesses in our collective criminal justice response."

Cesar said that GLO-ACT specifically aims at strengthening the criminal justice response to trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. On launch Public Awareness Campaign, he noted that raising awareness about trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants with the general public was of magnificent importance. The launching ceremony was also attended and addressed by Jean-François Cautain, Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, David Hale, US Ambassador, Ms. Nicole Guihot, Acting Deputy High Commissioner, Australian High Commission as well as senior government representatives from provincial line departments, provincial police, academia, media and civil society.





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Former Head of Dentistry,
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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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