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16-е заседание Совета глав правительств государств-членов
Шанхайской организации сотрудничества

РОССИЯ СОИП 2017
2017. 12. 2017

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2017. 12. 2017



PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi reiterated

Pakistan's commitment to support

SCO

in its fight against the
three evils of Terrorism,
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"Pakistan has a vibrant democracy and the state institutions are on the same page and working for the betterment of Pakistan and its people."

**56 I reiterate Romania's support to further developing the relations between EU and Pakistan
H.E. Nicolae Goia,
Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan**

We want to facilitate the entrance to the European Market of our Pakistani partners through commodities, investments and other ways of cooperation

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To mark the 46th National Day of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a reception was hosted by UAE Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Alzaabi at the Serena Hotel, Islamabad.



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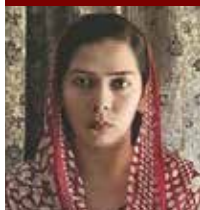
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Important Announcement



SAIMA SARFRAZ

It has been announced for the general information that **Ms. SAIMA SARFRAZ** has been appointed as Bureau Chief of the Monthly "Diplomatic Focus" Islamabad for the Multan region. She 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 Multan region. please contact with Saima Sarfraz on her mailing address

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Mian Fazal Elahi

Our previous Issues

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The 7th meeting of Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) sets the stage for the Phase-II of this multibillion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. A road map is being outlined by JCC for industrial and economic collaboration involving special economic zones along the CPEC stretches in Pakistan and adopts a Long Term Plan (LTP) 2030. The LTP was much awaited to be unveiled in Pakistan. The LTP is going to prioritize the SEZs in Pakistan during Phase-II of the CPEC.

It is worth mentioning that during the last meeting of JCC (6th round), held in Beijing in July this year, Pakistan identified its likely areas for setting the Special (SEZs). However, Pakistan was not able to formalize its group of experts which was pointed out by Chinese side. During that JCC meeting, Chinese side informed Pakistan that China had already built its four special economic zones followed by developing 14 coastal cities, and subsequently, 14 industrial zones were developed. The 7th JCC was primarily meant to focus on the finalization of SEZs and industrial zones.

Despite uncalled for propaganda the JCC meeting also included all the Chief Ministers and Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, giving a clear message that entire nation was on board as far as planning and execution of the projects under CPEC are concerned.

It is satisfying that progress has also been made on inclusion of new projects and for establishment of much-talked-about industrial zones. While Karachi Circular Railway project has been approved, Chinese would, understandably, be carrying out feasibility studies of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs), proposed by the provinces. We hope that necessary formalities in this regard would be completed at the earliest and practical work would begin for creation of these zones as these are crucial for expediting the pace of development in the country. As necessary infrastructure is already being created or improved and there are bright prospects that the country will have adequate electricity and gas to take care of growing industrial demand, setting up of SEZs would go a long way in resolving economic and financial woes of the country by way of increasing production for local consumption, exports and creating job opportunities. For the first time, representatives of the private sector were also included in the JCC meeting, which would help remove their misgivings about SEZs and instead encourage them to brace for joint investment opportunities. Pakistan is predominantly an agriculture country but unfortunately we have not made satisfactory progress towards modernization of the sector and as a result our production is almost static. In fact, Chinese are willing to diversify cooperation under the umbrella of CPEC but we have been slow in identifying projects and completing their feasibility. This was also evident from 7th JCC meeting that approved all the projects for which feasibility reports were presented. Therefore, Federal and provincial governments should work enthusiastically for inclusion of more projects under CPEC by completing necessary formalities at fast pace.

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



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Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi calls on King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud at Riyadh.

PM Abbasi, King Salman discuss 'entire spectrum' of bilateral ties

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud in Riyadh reviewed the 'entire spectrum' of their bilateral relations in addition to regional and international issues.

The prime minister, who paid a day-long visit to Saudi Arabia, was accompanied by Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa and Director General of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Lt-Gen Naveed Mukhtar, a statement from the PM Office said.

During the visit, the Prime Minister held meetings with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and the Crown Prince His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Bin Salman Al Saud. His Majesty King Salman Bin Abdulaziz also hosted a luncheon in honour of the visiting Prime Minister and his delegation.

During his meeting with the King, the two



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi received by Prince Faisal Bin Bandar Al Saud Governor Riyadh upon his arrival at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi calls on Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman at Riyadh.

PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi appreciated the efforts and dedication of the Crown Prince in launching a unified platform of Muslim countries, in form of Islamic Military Alliance to Combat Terrorism (IMCTC)

dignitaries reviewed the entire spectrum of their bilateral relations in addition to regional and international issues. They also discussed ways and means to further enhance their bilateral relations in diverse fields. The Prime Minister lauded the efforts of the Saudi leadership in bringing peace and stability

in the region and assured the Saudi King of Pakistan's full support in this regard. The Saudi King praised the excellent relations that exist between the two sides and efforts of Pakistan in routing the menace of terrorism and extremism from its soil.

During his meeting with the Crown Prince, the Prime Minister praised his vision for launching the national economic transformation plan 'Vision 2030' and offered Pakistan's technical and human resource assistance in achieving it. He also appreciated the efforts and dedication of the Crown Prince in launching a unified platform of Muslim countries, in form of Islamic Military Alliance to Combat Terrorism (IMCTC), for countering the menaces of extremism and terrorism that were distorting the real essence of Islam. The Crown Prince, while appreciating the efforts of Pakistan in fighting terrorism and its active participation in IMCTC, said that Saudi Arabia and other countries of the Coalition looked forward to learn from Pakistan's experience in this field. He underscored the fact that there was a great potential for further strengthening of our bilateral relations, especially in the fields of economy, trade, investment and defence.

This was the second visit of the Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi to Saudi Arabia; earlier

Prime Minister praised his [Crown Prince] vision for launching the national economic transformation plan 'Vision 2030' and offered Pakistan's technical and human resource assistance in achieving it.

the Prime Minister visited Saudi Arabia soon after assuming office. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoy close and fraternal relations. The traditionally warm bilateral relations are based on mutual trust and common aspirations of the people of the two countries. The two countries signed a 'Treaty of Friendship' in 1951 which lays the foundation of our bilateral relations.

The Saudi king hosted a luncheon in honour of the visiting prime minister and his delegation

Earlier, the prime minister was received on King Salman Airbase by the Governor of Riyadh province, His Excellence Prince Faisal bin Bandar Al Saud.

Saudi Arabia's crown prince vows new Islamic alliance 'will wipe terrorists from the earth'



By Monitoring Desk

Saudi Arabia's crown prince vowed to "pursue terrorists until they are wiped from the face of the earth" as officials from 40 Muslim countries gathered Sunday in the first meeting of an Islamic counter-terrorism alliance.

"In past years, terrorism has been functioning in all of our countries... with no coordination" among national authorities, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is also Saudi defence minister, said in his keynote address to the gathering in Riyadh. "This ends today, with this alliance."

The summit is the first meeting of defence ministers and other senior officials from the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition, which officially counts 41 countries and identifies as a "pan-Islamic unified front" against violent extremism.

The alliance was announced in 2015

under the auspices of Prince Mohammed, whose rapid ascent since his appointment as heir to the throne in June has shaken the political scene across the region.

Sunday's meeting comes as several military coalitions, including key Saudi ally the United States, battle to push the Daesh from its last remaining bastions in Iraq and Syria. "The pillar of this coalition is inclusion," said Saudi General Abdulrahman al-Saleh, the alliance's acting secretary general, playing down the exclusion of the three countries.

"Our common enemy is terrorism, not any religion, sect or race."

The alliance meeting in Riyadh brings together Muslim or Muslim-majority nations including Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Afghanistan, Uganda, Somalia, Mauritania, Lebanon, Libya, Yemen and Turkey.

Saudi coalition ToRs allow Pakistan to decide its role

Defence ministers of the countries that are part of the Saudi-led Islamic military alliance have finally unveiled the coalition's broader mandate that envisages joint military operations against terrorism while suggesting a raft of other steps to deal with the menace.

The alliance's terms of reference (TORs) were finalised at a meeting of defence ministers of the member countries forming the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC). Riyadh suggested that it would be up to the member states to decide the extent of their participation in the coalition, something that would provide enough room to Pakistan to maintain a delicate balance in its ties — both with Saudi Arabia and Iran. Within the framework of the IMCTC, participation of the coalition states will be defined in accordance with each country's capabilities and resources, as well as in accordance with each country's desire to participate in a given military operation. The Saudi-alliance is headed by former Army chief Gen (retd) Raheel Sharif.

The coalition was not against any religion or state

General (R) Raheel Sharif, who has been appointed commander-in-chief, also insisted that the coalition was not against any religion or state.

The alliance aims to "mobilise and coordinate the use of resources, facilitate the exchange of information and help member countries build their own counter-terrorism capacity," Sharif said.



Iran, Turkey sign deal with Qatar to ease Gulf blockade



Iran and Turkey signed a deal Sunday with Qatar aimed at boosting commercial ties with the Gulf state which is under blockade by its Arab neighbours, Iranian state television said. The broadcaster's website said the agreement provides for the creation of a "joint working group to facilitate the transit of goods between the three countries". It also said the three nations aimed to tackle "obstacles to sending goods from Iran and Turkey to Qatar".

Pak Ambassador to KSA presents his credentials to King Salman

Ambassador of Pakistan to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Khan Hasham bin Saddique presented his credentials to the Custodian of two holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdul Aziz in Riyadh.

On this occasion, the ambassador credentials acceptance reception was held at Al Yamamah Palace Riyadh.

King Salman welcomed him on assuming his charge in the Kingdom and wished him success in his endeavours of strengthening bilateral ties with Saudi Arabia, said a statement issued here.

The ambassador expressed his well wishes to the King and assured to work to further strengthen bilateral ties with Saudi Arabia.

During the ceremony ambassadors of other countries also presented their credentials to the King.



Ambassador of Pakistan reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast support to Saudi Arabia

Ambassador of Pakistan calls on chief of staff of royal Saudi armed forces

Ambassador of Pakistan to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Excellency Khan Hasham bin Saddique called on Chief of General Staff of Royal Saudi Armed Forces, General Abdul Rahman bin Saleh Al-Bunyan in his office, says a press release received from Saudi Arabia.

In the meeting, the Ambassador of Pakistan reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast support to Saudi Arabia in defence of its territorial integrity and security of the Two Holy Mosques. The Ambassador recalled the long historic ties between the two brotherly countries and vowed to cooperate with Saudi Arabia in its development, in particular the realization of Vision 2030 as expounded by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad bin Salman.

General Abdul Rahman bin Saleh Al-Bunyan, welcoming Pakistan's expression of support, acknowledged the depth of current ties between the two sides and hoped that both countries would continue to work for further strengthening the bilateral ties and enhancement of cooperation in all fields.



President Mamnoon Hussain visiting the exhibition during the 5th International Conference on Aerospace Science & Engineering at the Institute of Space Technology, Islamabad.

Govt to continue to patronise study of science & technology: President

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Agency

President Mamnoon Hussain said the Government accorded high priority to the study of science and technology and despite limited resources; it would continue to patronize this vital area for a brighter future of the country.

Addressing at 5th International Conference on Aerospace Science & Engineering here at Institute of Space Technology, the President said scientists had taken mankind into space from the ages of stone and bronze and owing to hard work of such talented people, mankind today had stepped into the virtual life through cyber technology.

The President said the list of human conquests was getting lengthier with the unfolding of mysteries of this universe. He mentioned the philosophy of Poet of the East, Allama Iqbal which pointed out that the journey of completion of this unfinished universe was still long and researchers and scientists had much yet to understand its secrets and mysteries.

The President said research was not only an educational field but a way of life and urged the sincere and determined scientists of the country to take up the challenges of the new

industrial era. He expressed satisfaction that Institute of Space Technology (IST) and other national institutions of space research were working on these grounds. He mentioned that launch of the country's first satellite 'Badr-1' for space exploration in 1990 to 'CubeSat' in 2013 were part of the same process. The President said the country's educational and research institutions had demonstrated remarkable performance in these matters. He said fourth position of IST in the ranking of national universities, establishment of various Centres of Excellence in different fields of space research and their excellent performance, were testament to this fact.

President Mamnoon expressed the confidence that the projects, being initiated with the cooperation of other countries and institutions would also be successful and the country's hardworking and intelligent scientists would succeed in these ventures. President Mamnoon said over the last two decades, the field of space research had witnessed unprecedented development and not only few particular developed countries of the world but also some of Pakistan's neighbours had also made great strides in this area. He said with the beginning of the age of cyber technology, rapid progress was also occurring not only in routine

life but also in business practices and modes of communication.

He emphasized that institutions including IST and SUPARCO should broaden the scope of their research projects and endeavours to find answers to new questions arising in different sectors. The President said he was aware of the achievements of the last generation of Pakistani scientists as well as of the eminent researchers of this era and believed that with the blessings of Allah Almighty and by dint of their hard work, they could achieve great accomplishments in these matters. He said the country's limited resources had always factored in our educational and research activities but it was also a fact that despite lack of resources, successive governments had always generously patronized this field.

The President said it was heartening that IST and other educational institutions enjoyed active and healthy liaison with the world's leading space exploration institutions. He said the success of this international conference and educational activities on space research were evident of the fact that Pakistan's position was going to become prominent on the educational map of the world. He said when a nation's scientists and researchers



President Mamnoon Hussain in a group photo with the participants of 5th International Conference on Aerospace Science & Engineering at the Institute of Space Technology, Islamabad.

reach this stage of excellence on the basis of their devotion and hard work, then shortage of resources never become an impediment in their path. He hoped that the conference would provide opportunities to learn from each other's knowledge and experiences and would also succeed in opening up new avenues of knowledge through serious deliberations and educational debate.

Lieutenant Gen Sarfraz Sattar, Director General, Strategic Plans Division, Maj. Gen. Qaiser Anis Khurram, Chairman SUPARCO and Eng. Imran

Rahman, Vice Chancellor, Institute of Space Technology were present.

Vice Chancellor Engineer Imran Rehman said development in science and technology and a nation's progress were closely linked, adding Pakistani scientists were working hard to meet the challenges, particularly in the area of space technology. He mentioned the successful launch of a satellite by the students of the Institute of Space Technology and said work was underway on several new project's. He said one of the projects deals with monitoring of the

air quality, and low cost weather stations.

The Technical Chair and Dean of the IST Dr Iqbal Masood said scientists, academicians and researchers from 16 countries were attending the conference that would discuss ten sub-themes in 65 different events over next three days. The President later visited an exhibition of indigenously produced equipment and parts used in various space research and development projects and appreciated the quality.

French Embassy To Continue Cooperation With HEC: Ambassador



Dr Marc Barety, the newly appointed Ambassador of France to Pakistan said that the French Embassy will continue cooperating with HEC in improving bilateral academic bonds. He stated this during a called on meeting with Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman Higher Education Commission(HEC) Dr Arshad Ali, Executive Director HEC was also present on the occasion.

Felicitating the Ambassador on his appointment in Pakistan, Dr Mukhtar Ahmed welcomed him to HEC and shared with him the strong and active collaboration between

HEC and the French Embassy. He hoped that the bilateral collaborative efforts will be further strengthened in the days to come. The Chairman shed light on a few project jointly run by HEC and French partners including PERIDOT, a Franco-Pakistani Hubert Curien Partnership providing opportunities to Pakistani and French researchers to interact for joint research activities.

He informed the Ambassador that Pakistan Day was celebrated in Campus France, while French Day was organised in Pakistan which shows the commitment to strong relations on both sides.

The Chairman said that, since its inception in 2002, HEC aims to develop higher education by ensuring equitable access, relevant research activities and quality of education. Pakistan has a population of 100 million youth and it is a gold mine which needs to be tapped, he stressed.

He revealed that HEC is committed to providing maximum opportunities to youth in view of its mission to harbinger a knowledge-based economy. Referring to various academic activities carried out by HEC, Dr Mukhtar Ahmed said HEC recently held a festival on archaeology entitled Heritage Now in Lahore. He maintained that over 20,000 people including foreign researchers and French academics attended the event. He emphasised that the academia needs to promote constructive science for a prosperous future of the whole world.

We are blessed to have this opportunity and are duty-bound to contemplate how to address the miseries of mankind, the Chairman stated. The Ambassador showed optimism that Pakistan and France will see improved collaboration. He appreciated the efforts of HEC for strengthening academic relations between Pakistan and France. On the occasion, Dr Arshad Ali underlined the HEC's endeavors for a holistic development of higher education sector in Pakistan. He said the pace of development of higher education sector was enhanced after the foundation of HEC, adding that HEC is determined to promote research culture in the country and has introduced new technologies with the help of friends like France.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Commodore Nawaf Saeed Ahmad Almalki called on President Mamnoon Hussain at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Newly appointed Ambassador of UAE to Pakistan, H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi calls on Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at PM Office Islamabad.



Ambassador of Chile to Pakistan Mr. Jean Paul Tarud calls on Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at PM Office in Islamabad.



Ambassador of Sudan, Tageldin Elhadi Eltahir called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, Islamabad.



Ambassador of France, Marc Barety called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, Islamabad.



Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific of the United Kingdom Mr. Mark Field, Mp, called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.



Ambassador of UAE, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, Islamabad.



High Commissioner of Canada Mr. Perry John Calderwood called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, Islamabad.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



High Commissioner of Australia Ms. Margaret Adamson called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, Islamabad.



Minister of State for Power, Ch. Abid Sher Ali meeting with H.E. Sher Ali Jononov, Ambassador of Tajikistan in Islamabad.



Ms. Lynne Brown South African Minister for Public Enterprises called on Rana Tanveer Hussain Federal Minister for Defence Production at Rawalpindi.



National Security Adviser LT. General (RETD) Nasser Khan Janjua meeting with British High Commissioner Mr. Thomas Drew in his Office, Islamabad.



Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, H.E. Ms. Margaret Adamson called on Federal Minister for Commerce and Textile, Mohammad Pervaiz Malik in Islamabad.



Ambassador of Afghanistan to Pakistan, H.E. Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal called on the Federal Minister for Commerce and Textile, Mohammad Pervaiz Malik in Islamabad.



H.E. Mehdi Honardoost, Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan called on Federal Minister for Commerce and Textile, Mohammad Pervaiz Malik in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Engr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman giving shawl to Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Mehdi Honardoost in Islamabad.



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi participates in the meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of SCO Member States in extended format at Sochi, Russia.

16TH MEETING OF THE SCO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi reiterated Pakistan's commitment to support SCO in its fight against the three evils of Terrorism, Separatism & Extremism

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

The 16th Meeting of the Heads of Government Council of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (hereinafter referred to as "SCO" or "Organisation") took place in Sochi. It was attended by Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Bakytzhan Sagintayev, Prime Minister of China Li Keqiang, Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Sapar Isakov, Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Prime Minister of Russia Dmitry Medvedev, Prime Minister of Tajikistan Kokhir Rasulzoda, Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Abdulla Aripov Foreign Minister of India Sushma Swaraj,

The Meeting was chaired by Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev.

The Meeting was attended by SCO Secretary-General Rashid Alimov; Yevgeny Sysoev, Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS); Raimbek Batalov, Chairman of the Board of the SCO Business Council, and Bolat Zhamishev, Chairman of the Council of the SCO Interbank Consortium in 2016-2017 and Board Chairman of the Development Bank of Kazakhstan.

Among the attendees were representatives of the SCO observer states, including, Chief Executive of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Abdullah Abdullah; Prime Minister of Belarus Andrei Kobyakov; First Vice President of Iran Eshaq Jahangiri; Deputy Prime Minister of

Mongolia Enkhtuvshin Ulziisaikhan, as well as UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Shamsad Akhtar; Chairman of the Executive Committee and Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States Sergei Lebedev; Executive Director of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia Gong Jianwei, and Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission Tigran Sarkisyan.

In the spirit of friendship and cooperation, the heads of delegations exchanged views on the current economic situation in the region and the world, and also discussed a wide range of economic and humanitarian cooperation issues within the SCO. Subsequently, they agreed on specific measures to enhance the efficiency of cooperation in these areas.

The heads of delegations affirmed their common interest in effectuating the outcome of the Meeting of the SCO Heads of Government Council on June 9 in Astana, and expressed their support for China's SCO presidency in



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi participates in the meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of SCO Member States in restricted format at Sochi, Russian.



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in a Group Photo with Heads of Delegation of SCO Members States at the meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of SCO in Sochi, Russia.

Speaking at the both the restricted and extended meeting of the Heads of Government meeting, Prime Minister Abbasi thanked all member states for supporting Pakistan's membership of SCO. The Prime Minister added that Pakistan will work with SCO countries to foster a favorable environment for economic, trade, investment and technological cooperation. He also expressed interest in promoting cooperation in the field of energy. Prime Minister Abbasi advocated development of mutually beneficial, transparent and inclusive multilateral trading system under the ambit of SCO. He underscored that China Pakistan Economic Corridor complemented SCO's agenda of regional economic integration and connectivity. Highlighting the importance of economic cooperation and regional connectivity the Prime Minister offered to connect CPEC to the 6 main trade corridors of SCO which, he said, will fulfill the long cherished aspiration of regional land and marine connectivity between Eurasia, Central Asia, China and South Asia.

Prime Minister also underscored the importance of strengthening future SCO cooperation in the field of multilateral trading system, trade facilitation and removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers. Appreciating the efforts of SCO Business Council and Interbank Association, he called for early establishment of SCO Development Bank and Development Fund. The Prime Minister urged further investment in the fields of health, tourism, education, sports culture and people to people contacts.

The Prime Minister added that Pakistan intends to play an active role in the peace, stability and development of the region.

In the context of SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) the Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's commitment to support SCO in its fight against the three evils of Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism.

The Prime Minister appreciated revival of SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group to support Afghanistan's efforts for peaceful political settlement and combating security and terrorism threats.

2017-2018. They emphasised their willingness to employ the additional potential brought by India's and Pakistan's full membership in the SCO.

The heads of delegations welcomed the successful outcome of the presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan on 15 October 2017.

The heads of delegations noted profound transformation that continues in global politics and economy. In these circumstances, it is particularly important to build a multipolar and fair world order that would respond to the needs of each and every state, and develop a new type of international relations that will be based on international law, mutual respect and consideration for each other's interests, mutually beneficial cooperation, refraining from confrontation and conflict, equal and undivided security, and the relations that will contribute to the creation of a community who all share the same destiny.

The heads of delegations agreed that the world economy shows signs of recovery while its development is becoming increasingly diverse although still unstable. The risks associated with international terrorism, escalation of conflicts in a number of regions, as well as natural disasters have an additional negative impact on the global economic prospects.

The heads of delegations noted the importance of extensive equitable international cooperation in order to boost the world economy's recovery, ensure economic and financial stability, and support sustainable, dynamic, balanced and inclusive growth. They expressed a common understanding of the fact that all participants of international economic relations must have equal opportunities and participate in global trade and economic activities on a fair basis. Moreover, they noted the negative effect of



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi shaking hand with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at Sochi, Russia.



Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev receives Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi upon arrival at the meeting of the council of Heads of government of SCO in Sochi, Russia.

unilateral restrictive measures that contradict international law and distort the competitive environment.

The heads of delegations emphasised the importance of further concerted action in addressing emerging global economic issues that significantly affect the development of all member states. They believe that fragile stability of financial and commodity markets, the volatility of the exchange rates, the growing protectionist trends in international trade, make it become more urgent to further develop the international monetary and finance system. The participants expressed support for G20's efforts regarding quota agreements and the International Monetary Fund management reform, as well as creating more favourable conditions for completing the 15th General Quota Review in time for the 2019 Spring Meeting and not later than the 2019 Annual Meeting.

The heads of delegations proceed from the premise that the World Trade Organisation is the key forum for discussing the international trade agenda and adopting the multilateral trade system regulation. To support the authority and efficiency of the WTO regulation, the delegation heads advocate for consistent strengthening of an open, inclusive, transparent, non-discriminating and rule-based multilateral trade system, as well as preventing breaking up of international trade relations and fighting protectionism in trade of any kind.

The heads of delegations emphasised that one of the SCO's priorities is to improve people's wellbeing and living standards. In this context, they spoke out for consistent implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals by strengthening cooperation in trade, production, energy, transport (including railway), investment, finances, agriculture, customs, telecommunications and other sectors of mutual interest. They supported the promotion of innovative technology, sharing experience in the development and implementation of national development strategies and programmes, economic growth stimulation, as well as the creation of a favourable investment and business climate.

Acknowledging the importance of innovation and digital economy as a key factor in medium- and long-term economic growth and global sustainable development, the heads of delegations intend to promote cooperation in science, technology and innovation, joint scientific research, exchange of experience between scientists, competitions within the SCO aimed at finding new sources for economic growth.

The heads of delegations believe that progress in the services and service trade industries is very important for the economic growth



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi meets with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at Sochi, Russia.

and transformation. They noted the need to promote cooperation among the SCO member states in service trade and electronic commerce based on mutual benefit. The participants pointed out that it is necessary to analyse prospects and possible formats of enhancing cooperation in the said areas. In particular, it will be necessary to review the framework agreement on cooperation in services trade drafted by China, as well as the development of a cooperation mechanism in electronic commerce.

The heads of delegations support creating favourable conditions for trade and investment with a purpose of gradual transition to free movement of goods, capital, services and technology as stipulated by the SCO Charter. They spoke in favour of further enhancing trade facilitation and instructed the Special Working Group on Trade Facilitation to review China's draft trade facilitation agreement.

The heads of delegations welcomed China's intention to hold the China International Import and Export in November 2018 in Shanghai.

The heads of delegations stressed the importance of focusing efforts on practical implementation of specific joint projects, in accordance with the Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation Programme. Consistent implementation of the 2016-2020 Action Plan that is part of the the SCO Development Strategy Towards 2025, as well as the List of Measures to Promote Project Activities within the SCO in 2017-2021.

The heads of delegations spoke out for continuing joint work on implementation of the Council of Heads of Government's statement on regional economic cooperation (Zhengzhou, 15 December 2015). They confirmed their willingness to bring implement the SCO member states' multilateral initiatives that promote



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi meetw with Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Mr. Dmitry Medvedev in Sochi, Russia.

mutually beneficial regional partnerships, accelerate economic growth, expand transport links, increase investment, implement innovations and secure employment.

The heads of delegations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan confirmed their support of China's One Belt and One Road Initiative. Welcoming the outcome of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation on 14-15 May 2017 in Beijing, they backed the implementation of the outcome, including through coordination of international, regional and national projects aimed at cooperation for sustainable development based on the principles of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit.

The heads of delegations welcomed Tajikistan's initiative to host an international conference towards implementation of the International Decade of Action "Water for sustainable development, 2018-2028", in 2018 under the auspices of the United Nations.

The heads of delegations believe it is necessary to enhance the work of sectoral meetings and working groups within the SCO, as well as other SCO cooperation institutions.

They approved the outcome of the 16th Meeting of SCO Member States' Ministers for Foreign Trade and Economy that took place on 15 November 2017 in Moscow.

The heads of delegations approved the initiative to hold the SCO industrial and trade forum in China in 2018.

The heads of delegations believe that it is important to strengthen cooperation in professional training and to consider a possibility of establishing a cooperation framework between SCO member states' research and analytical centers on economic matters.

The heads of delegations stressed the importance of expanding multilateral cooperation in the transport sector, including through construction of new and upgrade of existing international transport corridors for road and rail transport, designing high-speed motorways, creating combined logistics centers and implementing other joint infrastructure projects that provide for efficient use of the member states' transit potential. They pointed out the significance of building common and efficient transit system which would comply with the member states' laws and regulations, employ electronic document management systems and have a cargo tracking system.

The heads of delegations welcomed the enforcement of the agreement between the SCO governments on favourable conditions for international road transport (Dushanbe, 12 September 2014). They approved the outcome of the Joint Commission on Favourable



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi participates in the meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of SCO Member States in Sochi, Russian.

Conditions for International Road Transport's constituent meeting on 23-24 May 2017 in Beijing. The delegation heads believe that the adoption of the SCO Road Development Programme will be an important contribution to the expansion of transport links between the member states.

The heads of delegations welcomed the success of a high-level special event between the SCO and UN ESCAP entitled Towards Regional Transport Connectivity (Bangkok, 23 November 2017).

The heads of delegations stressed the importance of continued multifaceted cooperation in energy, the aim of which is wider use of renewable and alternative energy sources as well as developing efficient and environmentally safe technologies for production, delivery and consumption of traditional energy resources that would reduce adverse environmental impact and facilitate the transition to a low-carbon economy.

The heads of delegations expressed their support for enhancing cooperation in economy and finance in order to create conducive environment for trade and investment. They think it necessary to build a network of financial institutions and services as well as to strengthen financial control exchanges. They underlined the importance of taking full advantage of the potential of interbank cooperation, as well as existing and newly established financial mechanisms in the SCO. The member states will continue consultations at the expert level with a view to developing common approaches to the establishment of the SCO Development Bank and the SCO Development Fund (Special Account), to promote economic cooperation in priority areas, such as investment.

The heads of delegations noted the relevance of using national currencies in mutual trade and investment in order to reduce transaction costs, to make transactions faster, and to strengthen the positions of the member states' currencies in the international capital market.

The heads of delegations stressed the importance of more active engagement of the SCO Business Council and the SCO Interbank Consortium in the development of overarching economic cooperation. In this regard, they endorsed the adoption of the SCO Interbank Consortium's further development strategy for 2017-2021. The parties agreed that it would be reasonable to involve government bodies and business communities of the observer states and the SCO dialogue partners in the activities of these organisations.

The heads of delegations support further cooperation in agriculture — particularly, in the framework of the Agreement between the governments of the SCO member states on cooperation in agriculture (Tashkent, 11 June 2010). The parties expressed their willingness to explore possibilities for enhancing the cooperation in this area, specifically, with regard to food security, adaptation of agriculture to the climate change, development and implementation of innovative agricultural technology, joint projects in livestock breeding, crop production and produce processing, land reclamation, irrigation, agricultural trade and investment in farming, as well as developing cooperation between SCO member states' major universities in professional training of agricultural workers, cooperation in veterinary projects, plant quarantine and food safety, as well as participation in seminars, forums and specialised exhibitions held in the SCO member states.



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi meets with Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Mr. Sapar Isakov in Sochi, Russian.

The heads of delegations discussed cooperation between the regions and constituent entities, welcomed the initiative of establishing the SCO Regional Heads' Forum, and recommended to continue efforts in the area.

The heads of delegations pointed out the importance of supporting small and medium-sized businesses in order to stimulate economic growth and increase employment. In this context, they approved the memorandum of understanding on encouraging cooperation in the area of small and medium businesses between the SCO ministries for foreign trade and economy, and welcomed the annual Small Business Forum of the SCO and BRICS Regions in Ufa.

The heads of delegations supported further implementation of the Agreement between the SCO governments on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs affairs (Tashkent, 2 November 2017), other customs-related documents aimed at facilitating mutual trade and developing economic cooperation, as well as the SCO Customs Cooperation Programme for 2016-2021. They noted the results of the 31st and the 32nd sessions of the SCO Special Working Group on Customs Cooperation held in Almaty on 26-27 April 2017 and in Moscow on 1-2 November 2017.

The heads of delegations spoke in favour of expanding mutually beneficial and diverse cooperation between the SCO member states in communications and information technology, as well as in favour of discussing specific aspects of cooperation within the SCO Special Working Group on Modern Information and Telecommunication Technology.

The heads of delegations highly assessed SCO's participation in EXPO 2017 in Astana, which was particularly important for strengthening

the Organisation's international position as well as for compliance with the provisions of the SCO Development Strategy Towards 2025 and respective Action Plan for 2016-2020. They expressed confidence that this experience would give a fresh impetus to further promotion of interaction among the member states in the field of science, culture and innovations.

The heads of delegations stressed the importance of closer cooperation in culture, education, science and technology, environmental protection, healthcare, mass media, sports, tourism, study and preservation of SCO's cultural and natural heritage.

The heads of delegations welcomed the events organised during China's SCO Presidency to promote the Shanghai Spirit and youth partnership. They supported further expansion of interaction, contacts and exchanges between youth associations and young people in the member states.

The heads of delegations commended the outcome of the Meeting of SCO Culture Ministers (Astana, 2 June 2017) aimed at implementation of the Agreement Between the Governments of the SCO Member States on Cooperation in Culture (Bishkek, 16 August 2007). They will continue to promote cultural links within the SCO, strengthening of mutual understanding between the peoples, respect for member states' traditions and customs, preservation and encouragement of cultural diversity, international fairs, festivals and competitions, participation of performance groups and individual performers in the Organisation's events, extraction of historical records from archives and libraries, intense cultural exchange and cooperation between the countries, mutual study of our cultures and civilisations, as well as preservation of the

region's cultural and natural heritage, including along the historical Great Silk Road.

The heads of delegations welcomed Kyrgyzstan's intention to hold the Third World Nomad Games in 2018.

The heads of delegations supported more intense implementation of the Action Plan for Implementation of the SCO Intergovernmental Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology for 2016-2020 (Bishkek, 13 September 2013), and developing practical measures to unlock potential of the SCO science and technology partnership concept.

The heads of delegations stressed the need for increasing multilateral and bilateral cooperation in the field of healthcare, medical services, pharmaceutical services, prevention of communicable and chronic diseases, training and professional development of medical workers.

Acknowledging the threats posed by communicable diseases, the heads of delegations noted the importance of building collaboration in prevention, control and response to infections, as well as exchange of best practices within the framework of the Meeting of the Heads of SCO Member States Services in Charge of Ensuring Sanitary and Epidemiological Wellbeing. They called for extending cooperation in the area based the programme to inform the population about epidemiological situations caused by infectious diseases on the territory of the SCO member states (Tashkent, 29 November 2013).

The heads of delegations approved the outcome of the Fifth Meeting of the Heads of SCO Member States Services in Charge of Ensuring Sanitary and Epidemiological Wellbeing (Sochi, 31 October 2017) that produced proposals on further strengthening of the SCO's potential in responding to threats and challenges related to life-threatening infections and on drafting the SCO Heads of State Council joint statement on cooperation in preventing epidemics within the SCO, in 2018.

The heads of delegations appreciated the outcome of the first WHO Global Ministerial Conference on tuberculosis control in the context of sustainable development (Moscow, 16-17 November 2017).

The heads of delegations attach importance to further progress in the cooperation between the member states' mass media, including finding new methods of facilitating contacts and exchanges between the SCO mass media.

The heads of delegations noted the significance of cooperation sports to promote traditional sports and building friendships between the member states' peoples. In this context, the participants highly estimated the SCO and CICA International Marathon on 27 August 2017 in

Astana during the SCO Day at EXPO 2017, and welcomed the upcoming SCO-2017 Marathon in Kunming on 31 December 2017.

The heads of delegations lay emphasis on fulfilling the Action Plan for Implementation of the SCO Member States Programme for the Development of Cooperation in Tourism (Astana, 9 June 2017) and agree that the rapid expansion of tourist exchanges will serve further improvement of mutual understanding and friendship between the SCO nations.

Stressing the common objective of maintaining a safe environment for present and future generations, the heads of delegations spoke in favour of advancing environmental cooperation within the SCO. Specifically, they noted the importance of sooner approval of the draft concept of SCO member states' cooperation in environmental protection.

The heads of delegations pointed out the significance of the Global Snow Leopard Forum that took place in Bishkek on 25 August 2017. The participants confirmed that joint efforts will help maintaining the snow leopard population and its invaluable ecosystem.

The heads of delegations expressed their high appreciation for the outcome of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (New York, 20 September 2017) on the sidelines of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The heads of delegations acknowledged the 31st meeting of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure's Council (Beijing, 17 September 2017) and stressed the relevance of efficient practical cooperation in combating terrorism, separatism and extremism in the current international and regional climate.

The heads of delegations welcomed the meeting of the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group at the level of deputy foreign ministers (Moscow, 11 October 2017) and stressed the importance of supporting the efforts of Afghanistan's government and people for settling the conflict through political consultations and dialogue, in order to restore peace, stability and economic prosperity in the state. The parties expressed support of the plan to hold the Contact Group's meeting involving deputy foreign ministers, in early 2018 in China.

The heads of delegations approved the outcome of the 9th SCO Meeting of Heads of Emergency Prevention and Relief Agencies (Cholpon-Ata, 24-25 August 2017) and welcomed the proposal to hold the 10th meeting in India in 2019. The participants noted the significance of the action plan to implement the intergovernmental SCO agreement on emergency relief cooperation in 2018-2019 (Moscow, 26 October 2005).

The heads of delegations approved the results of the Meeting of the SCO Justice Ministers

(Tashkent, 20 October 2017), including the agreements on establishing working groups of experts in forensic activities and legal services, as well as on continuing the work to provide access to the SCO member states' legal databases, to the public, businesses and interested organisations.

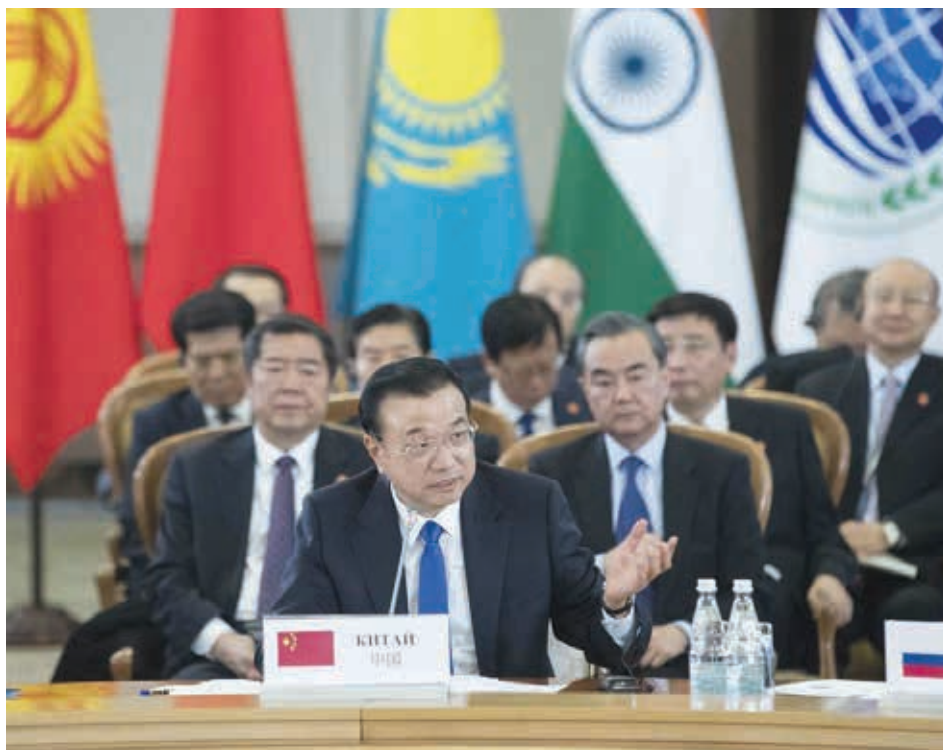
The heads of delegations positively assessed the results of the Meeting of SCO Supreme Court Chief Justices (Tashkent, 25-27 October 2017), which contributed to further development of cooperation between the SCO member states' judicial bodies in strengthening rule of law, order and justice in the SCO.

The heads of delegations noted the results of the 15th Meeting of SCO Prosecutors General (St. Petersburg, 28-30 November 2017) aimed at consolidating efforts to counter

Nations and its specialised agencies.

The heads of delegations approved the SCO Secretariat's report on the progress of the Programme of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation of the SCO Member States, and approved the Organisation's 2018 budget. Decisions were taken regarding finances and operation of the SCO's permanent bodies.

The heads of delegations noted the SCO's participation in the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (Beijing, 14-15 May 2017), the St Petersburg International Economic Forum (St. Petersburg, 1 June 2017), the 10th Astana Economic Forum (Astana, 16-17 June 2017), EXPO 2017 (Astana, 10 June to 10 September 2017), the Eastern Economic Forum (Vladivostok, 6-7 September 2017), the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's Summit



new challenges and threats, including crimes committed using modern information and communication technology.

The heads of delegations called upon the observer states and the dialogue partners to extensively use the opportunities provided to them for expanding mutually beneficial cooperation within the SCO. In this context, the participants noted the importance of employing practical cooperation mechanisms and joining the SCO legal framework.

The heads of delegations stand for developing cooperation with international and regional organisations, including those dealing with economic and humanitarian cooperation issues. Therefore, it is particularly important to set up practical cooperation with the United

on Science and Technology (Astana, 10-11 September 2017) and the Eurasian Economic Forum-2017 (Xi'an, 21-23 September 2017).

The heads of delegations thanked Russia for hospitality and the efficient organization of the SCO Council of Heads of Government Meeting.

The next SCO Council of Heads of Government Meeting will take place in Tajikistan in 2018.

The Prime Minister also had bilateral meetings with the Prime Ministers of Russia, China and Kyrgyzstan and interacted with the Heads of Government participating in the meeting. The Council adopted a number of decisions related to budget, financial and administrative matters of SCO. The Joint Communiqué issued by the Council focused on the economic, trade, energy, connectivity and social sector cooperation



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on the occasion of inauguration of Unit-1 (660MW) of 1320MW Port Qasim Coal-Fired Power Plant in Karachi

PM opens over 1,300 MW Port Qasim coal-fired power project

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said that the general elections will be held in August 2018 and added the future lies in democracy and there was no other way. He was speaking at the inauguration of unit-I of 1,320MW Port Qasim coal-fired power project here. "Pakistan has a vibrant democracy and the state institutions are on the same page and working for the betterment of Pakistan and its people."

Abbasi said the 660MW (unit-I) was completed in a record time while the unit-II will be commissioned by February 2018. The Port Qasim coal plant is jointly developed by the Power China Resources Limited and Qatar's Al-Mirqab Capital with a total investment of \$2.085 billion. The government completed the energy project on time that it had started. Nepra reduced the electricity tariff

by Rs2 per unit. Abbasi said the power generation has increased beyond the country's demand. He said Pakistan has achieved surplus generation and now other energy sector issues including transmission and distribution and circular debt were being dealt with. "This project reflects the vision of President Xi and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif," Abbasi said and added Pakistan is committed to CPEC as this would ensure economic growth of the country as well as the entire region.

Recalling numerous infrastructure projects initiated and completed during the current tenure, Prime Minister Abbasi said no government in Pakistan delivered so much for the people as the PML-N government did and that too at a much cheaper cost. Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing said the Chinese government and Chinese companies would make every effort to make CPEC a success for the betterment and prosperity of Pakistani people.

"The most important aspect of the Port Qasim power project is the involvement of Qatar, which reflects the political willingness of China and Pakistan to have peace and development in the region. We hope other countries would also join CPEC soon," Jing added. Speaking on the occasion, Sheng Yuming, Chairman Power China Resources Limited and Port Qasim Electric Power Company said the successful operation of two units will add 1,320MW of reliable energy. "Designed to meet the full operation load for 30 years, the power plant is expected to make a significant contribution to resolve the energy shortage in Pakistan."

Yan Zhiyong, Chairman Power Construction Corporation of China, said the last three years had witnessed firm determination of Pakistan government in elimination of terrorism, improvement in economic fundamentals and rising living standards, which led to significant inflows of foreign investment.



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi addressing the gathering on the occasion of inauguration of Unit-1 of 1320MW Port Qasim Coal fired Power Plant in Karachi.

Prince Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al Thani, Chairman of Al-Mirqab Capital expressed the hope that they would do more projects with China and Pakistan.

He also said that Qatar was willing to make investments in CPEC projects. The Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi thanked the Prince Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al Thani for gracing the inauguration event of two power plants at Port Qasim with his presence. He said the Port Qasim Coal Power Plant was a proof of Pak-China friendship.

One unit of the 1,320 megawatt coal-fired power plant at Port Qasim project has been jointly sponsored by Chinese and Qatari firms.



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi inspecting the control room of the first unit of Port Qasim Fired Power Plant at Karachi.



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Chairman Al-Mirqab Capital Sheikh Jassim exchanging views on the occasion of inauguration of Unit-1 (660MW) of 1320MW Port Qasim Coal fired Power Plant in Karachi.

Mr. Sheng Yuming

Chairman of Powerchina Resources Ltd
Chairman of Port Qasim Electric Power Company (Pvt.) Ltd



On the occasion of the inauguration of Unit-1 of 1320 MW Port Qasim Coal-fired Power Project, I'd like to, on behalf of Powerchina Resources Ltd., extend heart-felt appreciation to the Government of Pakistan, the Government of China and our partners and friends from all sectors for your tremendous support and help.

By drawing wisdoms from the history and studying the global changes and trends in recent years, the "Belt and Road Initiative" was put forward by the visionary Chinese top leadership. Considering the sound and constant collaboration between China and Pakistan, the two governments agreed to materially promote a flag ship project of the "Belt and Road Initiative": China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). We believe this grand program will certainly play a positive role in advancing economic and social progress in Pakistan and in the region.

As a Global Fortune Top 500 company and a Chinese state-owned enterprise, Power Construction Corporation of China ("POWERCHINA") enjoys unique competitive edge of knowledge on water and power, expertise on planning and engineering, strength on construction and installation, and ability on investment and operation, which has equipped itself to actively undertake many on-going CPEC projects. Powerchina Resources Ltd., an important overseas investment arm of POWERCHINA, has superior capability in capital operation and project development in electric power and mineral resource sector. Currently, there are 8 projects in operation in Cambodia, Laos, Nepal and D.R. Congo, and 6 projects are under construction in Pakistan, Laos and Indonesia. Meanwhile, a series of power and mineral projects in various countries, such as Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, Tanzania, Indonesia and Bangladesh, are now being actively promoted.

The Port Qasim Coal-fired Power Project, jointly developed by Powerchina Resources Ltd. and AMC from Qatar, is the first large-scale energy project launched under CPEC, of which a series of investment agreements were executed under the witness of two countries' top leaderships during President of China H.E. Xi Jinping's historic state visit to Pakistan in 2015. POWERCHINA attaches great importance to the project and has taken full advantage of integration of whole industry chain, to make



the project a demonstration project under the "Belt & Road Initiative" and CPEC.

Since the commencement of massive construction in May 2015, the project has been gaining the highest attention and strongest support from the governments of Pakistan and China. With the close cooperation with PPIB, NTDC, CPPA and other stakeholders, relying on the ample international operation management expertise and core leading technologies, POWERCHINA successfully built a high quality, technologically advanced and environment-friendly power plant on a literally barren plot of sea shoal within only 30 months. On November 10th, 2017, the 1st unit synchronization was successfully achieved

50 days ahead of the schedule. The success of the project has profoundly reflected the increasingly strengthened all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, witnessed the solid brotherhood and demonstrated the sincere cooperation between China and Pakistan.

The China-Pakistan relations will always be cordial and encapsulated by the bond of friendship and love. At this historic moment, we are deeply convinced that under the solicitude of the state leaders of two countries, scientific planning and effective governing by the two governments, joint effort made by the constructors of China and Pakistan, the CPEC and "Belt & Road Initiative" will achieve great success.



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi inaugurating Unit-1 (660MW) of 1320MW Port Qasim Coal fired Power Plant in Karachi

Pakistani students in China, raised to 22,000

2,500 new Pakistani students enrolled in Chinese universities in 2017

By Monitoring Desk, Web Desk

Around 2,500 new Pakistani students were enrolled in different Chinese universities this year, taking the total number of Pakistani students in China to 22,000, a senior official in Pakistan Embassy said quoted by APP.

With such a large number of students from Pakistan studying in the Chinese universities, China has now become the largest destination for Pakistani students seeking overseas studies, he told APP here.

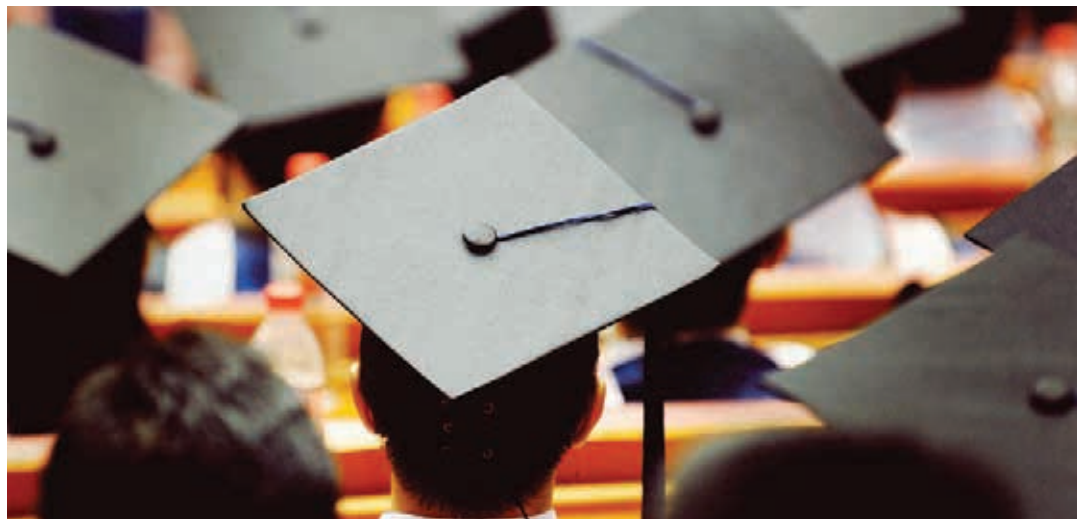
Out of total Pakistani students, 3,000 are completing their PhD degrees while other are studying engineering, economic, management, agriculture, medicine, information technology, communication and language.

According to experts, these students, got admissions under scholarships, are representing Pakistani society in China and becoming a source of enhancing culture exchanges and people to people contacts between the two brotherly countries.

Chinese universities are rising quickly on the list of Asia's best universities, with Peking University becoming the second best institution in Asia. In total, 45 Chinese mainland universities have made it to Asia's top 300, while six are from Hong Kong and 25 from Taiwan.

"As the Chinese universities strictly follow rules and regulations, it would benefit our students," they added.

A student studying in Beijing Language and Culture University informed that she hopes to get employment in projects being completed



under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative after finishing her degree.

According to statistics released by the Chinese Ministry of Education, more than 200,000 students from 64 countries along the Belt and Road Initiative were studying in China last year.

The number of students studying in China from countries along the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road has increased greatly under a series of preferential policies, education officials said.

Such a growth rate exceeds that of China's international students as a whole, said Xu Tao, director of the ministry's department of international cooperation and exchange, as more than 440,000 students from 205 countries

and regions were studying in China last year.

"A series of preferential policies drafted by the Chinese government for students from these countries have contributed to the remarkable rise in their numbers, including offering 10,000 places each year for students from countries along the Belt and Road Initiative to study in China under the support of the Chinese Government Scholarship," Xu said.

Fang Jun, deputy director of Xu's department, said the ministry signed agreements with eight Chinese provinces and regions adjacent to or having close connections with countries along the Initiative last year, such as the provinces of Fujian and Yunnan, and the Guangxi Zhuang and Xinjiang Uygur autonomous regions, supporting them to deepen education cooperation.

Kh Asif conferred Honorary Doctorate by Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations

Switzerland's prestigious institute of peace and security studies, the Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations (GSD) has conferred the degree of Honorary Doctorate to Khawaja Muhammad Asif, the Foreign Minister of Pakistan.

Awarding the Honorary Doctorate, President of the GSD, Colum Murphy paid tributes to meritorious services of Foreign Minister Asif, as an elected parliamentarian for over two decades and as Member of the Federal Cabinets of Pakistan, holding important portfolios of Defence, Privatization, Energy,

Water and Power and Foreign Affairs at various points of his illustrious career, foreign office said.

Besides the students and the faculty of the GSD, Ambassadors of Bhutan, Malaysia, Qatar, Thailand, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Sri Lanka, Syria Vietnam, as well as senior diplomats from a number of other countries also attended the event.

This honour has been accorded previously to leading international figures that includes among others, former President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev, President of Switzerland, Adolf Ogi, the President and Foreign Minister

of Bosnia, Haris Sladjik, State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China Yang Jiechi and President of Timor Leste, Jose Ramon Horta.





First Lady Begum Mehmooda Mamnoon Hussain inaugurating the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association Charity Bazar at Foreign Office.

First Lady graced PFOWA bazar

First Lady Begum Mehmooda Mamnoon Hussain said that vibrant nations get actively engaged with contemporary cultures to keep themselves abreast with new trends and learn good things from others to develop their own societies



By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Addressing at the annual charity bazaar of Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Begum Mehmooda Mamnoon Hussain said such events promoted informal diplomacy and enhanced harmony and brotherhood among nations.

Begum Mehmooda Mamnoon Hussain commended PFOWA for effectively discharging its responsibilities in highlighting Pakistani culture at the global level besides carrying out welfare activities to assist the under-privileged families belonging to Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

She expressed satisfaction that PFOWA charity bazaar had provided a good opportunity to diplomats of different countries to learn about each other's culture. "No doubt, mixing of

various cultures and people further strengthen the mutual relations between the nations," she told the gathering of diplomats, ambassadors and their families. She said it was heartening that PFOWA's scope was expanding as the number of women in Foreign Office at present had grown significantly in comparison with the past. She mentioned that for the first time in the country's history, the Foreign Office was headed by a woman Foreign Secretary, which

she said was an ample proof that Pakistani women were actively participating in every field along with their male counterparts. Begum Mehmooda Mamnoon Hussain announced Rs 0.5 million for PFOWA on behalf of Aiwan-e-Sadr and also visited different stalls set up at the bazaar. Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua said the holding of bazaar was special to mark the 70th anniversary of foundation of PFOWA in 1947 by Shaista Ikramullah. She said the



“No doubt, mixing of various cultures and people further strengthen the mutual relations between the nations,” Begum Mehmooda Mamnoon Hussain

bazaar brought together a variety of culinary taste from different countries and traditional artifacts besides holding welfare activities with a noble cause.

President PFOWA Dr. Ayesha Haq said PFOWA's reach had stretched to hundreds of low income families that also helped them during disasters and in arranging marriages of their children.

The PFOWA charity bazaar held at the lawns of Ministry turned out a 'cultural hub' that showcased stalls by diplomatic community from countries including China, Russia, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Egypt, Bangladesh, Iran, Japan, Kyrgyz Republic, Lebanon, Palestine, Portugal, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

In the segment 'Parade of nations', the children of diplomatic staffers adorning cultural dresses of their respective countries presented beautiful tableaux and waved their national flags.











Senior diplomat, veteran politician **Akram Zaki** Dies at age of 87

By Bilal Zafar

Senior diplomat and politician Muhammad Akram Zaki passed away in Islamabad at the age of 87.

He was admitted to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences' (PIMS) cardiac care unit (CCU) at about 12:00 noon in critical condition and breathed his last at 5:35 pm. He was a cardiac patient and had a history of cardiac diseases. He had undergone an angiography in 1993. Later on, he had an open heart surgery (CABG) in 2006 in PIMS.

Zaki was born on October 27, 1931. He was a senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League and had served as the chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs. Mr. Muhammad Akram Zaki was elected as a Member of the Senate of Pakistan from Federal Capital Islamabad for a six year term (March 21, 1997 - March 20, 2002). He had also served as Pakistan's ambassador to China,

Nigeria, the Philippines and the United States.

Zaki also worked as the secretary general and minister of state for foreign affairs during his long career with the Foreign Service that spanned the reigns of ZA Bhutto and Gen Ziaul Haq.

He had been an outstanding career diplomat who had to his credit vast and varied diplomatic experience of nearly 40 years starting from 1954. Even before joining the Foreign Service in 1954, Zaki had been actively associated with the Pakistan Muslim League and earlier with the Pakistan Movement. Zaki had been elected member of the Senate from Islamabad for a six-year term (March 21, 1997 to March 20, 2002). He remained associated with the Pakistan Muslim League, of which he had been an active member since his retirement from the Foreign Service in December 1993, concluding a distinguished diplomatic career from 1954 to 1993.



Diplomatic Council presented at Geneva Peace Week

By Mian Fazal Elahi

With a six-man delegation and its own session, the Diplomatic Council participated in Geneva Peace Week 2017. The focus of this year's Geneva Peace Week was on the prevention of violent conflicts. The theme had been chosen in line with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who is preparing a peaceful "diplomacy before peace" ahead of the military deployment of Blue Helmets.

The DC participated in the Annual Meeting of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform with contributions to the panels "Trends in peace mediation and conflict prevention", "what next in peacebuilding" and "Sustaining peace in the city", "business and peace". Involved in "a digital Geneva Convention" and "trends on water and peace". The Diplomatic Council pursues, in accordance with the statute, above all two approaches to peace: diplomacy for peace and economic prosperity as the basis for prosperity and peace.

At the same time, it is necessary to focus more intensively on both hybrid conflicts and micro-

conflicts. Often, multiple conflicts are related, overlaid by different micro-conflicts, and require a peaceful solution to bring together three, four, or five conflicting parties. Hybrid conflicts are currently occurring in South America, Africa, Europe and Asia. A typical example of this in Europe is the Ukraine, where apart from the Ukrainian population Russia and the EU as well as other "players in the background" belong to the conflict parties. How strong the impact of the economic environment can be was discussed at the Geneva Peace Week with the following statement: "If you imagine a company investment of 2 billion euros in a country or region with 5 billion euros gross

The members of the Diplomatic Council believe that sustainable and responsible economic activity is an essential foundation for people's well-being and social peace in a region or country.



domestic product, then it becomes clear: That will change everything! "In Africa, for example, most of the conflicts are economically induced: the population lives in absolute poverty in much of the continent; Out of this potential, terrorist groups emerge and feed. Hybrid conflicts are much harder to solve than conventional ones because of the danger that the "conflict solver" will do more harm than good. The risk management in the conflict resolution therefore gets an unprecedented importance.

The Diplomatic Council has focused on three topics of global importance in its own session following Secretary General Hang Nguyen's keynote address:

DC Business Ambassador Jamal Kaisar, DC Commissioner for UN Affairs: DC Peace Strategy This is how conflicts can be made non-violent if they can not be resolved;

DC Chairman Thorsten Nowak, Crime prevention through international cooperation between government organizations and non-governmental organizations;

Dr. Klaus-Ulrich Moeller, DC Commissioner for UN Affairs:

This is how the DC Code for Public Communication and Confidence in Media and Social Networks works. He represented the Diplomatic Council last year at the Geneva Peace Week and reports.



Azerbaijan, Pakistan mull military co-op

By M. Saeed Yousafzai

Azerbaijani defense minister, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov has met with chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee of Pakistan, General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, who is on an official visit to Azerbaijan, the press service of the country's Defense Ministry reported.

Firstly, the delegation led by Pakistani general visited the Alley of Honors, paid tribute and laid a wreath at the tomb of national leader Heydar Aliyev. The delegation also paid tribute and laid flowers at the grave of the prominent ophthalmologist, Academician Zarifa Aliyeva.

The delegation also visited the Alley of Martyrs, paid tribute and commemorated Azerbaijani heroes, who gave their lives for the independence and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, laid flowers to their graves and wreaths at the "Eternal Flame" monument.

Then an official welcoming ceremony for the Pakistani delegation was held in the Ministry of Defense. The guest passed along the guard of honor and national anthems of both countries were played. The "Book of Honor" was signed

in accordance with the protocol.

Then, Zakir Hasanov and Zubair Mahmood Hayat held a one-on-one meeting, which was continued in an expanded format.

During the meeting held with the participation of delegations, Hasanov, greeting the guests, expressed satisfaction with the friendly attitude and mutual trust between the two countries, as well as the development of Azerbaijani-Pakistani relations and the level of strategic partnership.

Touching upon the military-political situation in the region, Hasanov comprehensively informed the guest about the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Expressing gratitude for Pakistan's support to Azerbaijan's position in international organizations in resolving this conflict, the minister stressed that Azerbaijan also supports the territorial integrity of Pakistan.

The meeting highlighted the importance of cooperation in the military, military-technical spheres and in security and military education, as well as in expansion of relations between the air and naval forces of the two countries.



Then the Pakistani delegation visited a museum in the administrative building of the General Staff featuring expositions reflecting the life and activities of the national leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev, as well as got acquainted with the work in other office premises.



COAS discusses geo-strategic environment, defence, economic cooperation with Iranian leadership

By Monitoring Desk

Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Qamar Javed Bajwa met with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani at Presidential Palace and Iranian Foreign Minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif at Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The COAS also held met Iranian military and civilian leadership and discussed issues related to geo-strategic environment, defence and security and economic cooperation at bilateral as well as at the regional level. The Army chief, during an official visit to Iran, met Iranian Chief of General Staff (CGS), Major General Muhammad Bagheri at General Staff HQ, said an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) statement.

The COAS was presented guard of honour.

He also laid wreath at Martyrs Monument. Delegation level talks were held between the two sides. Iranian leadership thanked the COAS for his visit and acknowledged Pakistan's sacrifices and achievements in the war against terror, contributions towards regional peace and the important positive role that Pakistan was playing in this regard. Afghan situation, growing threat of ISIS in the region and Pak-Iran border security also came under discussion.

The COAS termed Pak-Iran border as border of 'Peace and Friendship' and emphasized its better security management so as to deny its exploitation by terrorists being a common enemy. Both the sides agreed to further the proposals for its formalization.



General Bajwa said Pakistan and Iran were two brotherly neighbours with shared history, culture and religion. Both armies also had a history of defence collaboration and cooperation, which had great mutually benefiting potential for its enhancement, he added.

Both the sides agreed to stay engaged for enhanced bilateral cooperation besides working jointly to assist in bringing positive developments in other issues concerning the region.

KSA keen to strengthen trade relations with Pakistan: Envoy

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Photos by Sheikh Arif

Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan H.E. Nawaf Saeed Al-Malkiy said that his country is keen to further strengthen trade relations with Pakistan as both countries have great potential to promote bilateral trade in many areas.

He said that Saudi Arabia considered Pakistan a very important brotherly country and will stand shoulder to shoulder with it in every critical situation.

He said that both the countries were facing some challenges and strong mutual cooperation was needed to cope with them. He added that Pakistani media should play a positive role in highlighting economic potential of their country.

Nawaf Saeed Al-Malkiy said this while addressing the business community at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Saudi Embassy Economic Affairs Director Abdullah Sabr was also present at the occasion.

The Saudi envoy said that business visa regime on both sides was a problem and he had already discussed this issue with the relevant authorities of both countries to liberalise it for businessmen. He added that Saudi Arabia was interested in CPEC and added that Pakistan should improve security, road infrastructure and facilities to attract foreign investment, including from Saudi Arabia.

He said that a lot of developmental projects were envisaged in Saudi Arabia under Vision 2030 and Pakistani investors should explore joint ventures and investment in his country. He added that after December 3, biometric verification for Pakistani umrah aspirants would be free for three months.

He also assured that his embassy would fully cooperate with Pakistani business community in visiting Saudi Arabia.

Speaking at the occasion, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President Sheikh Amir Waheed said that cordial relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia should be translated into growing trade and economic relations as the bilateral trade of \$2.5 billion was not reflective of their actual potential. He added that both the countries were doing trade in limited items and they should focus on diversification of trade to further enhance trade volume.





that Pakistani manpower was playing a key role in the economic development of Saudi Arabia and Saudi Arabia should address all manpower related issues. He said Saudi investors should explore JVs and investment in CPEC.

ICCI Senior Vice President Muhammad Naveed and ICCI Vice President Nisar Mirza said that Pakistan was trying for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and hoped that signing of FTA would give a big boost to Pakistan's trade with Saudi Arabia and the gulf. They added that Vision-2030 of Saudi Arabia and CPEC also offered great potential for joint ventures and investment between the two countries.

They also highlighted that both countries should streamline business visas so that private sectors can fully exploit untapped business opportunities. They added that frequent exchange of trade delegations and organising exhibitions would help in improving trade relations.

He said that many Pakistani products, including value-added textiles, surgical instruments, sports goods, organic foods, financial services, insurance and IT services and entertainment products could find a good market in Saudi Arabia and it should focus on importing these

products from Pakistan. He said that given the manufacturing base of Pakistan, it has much more to offer to Saudi Arabia and efforts should be made to exploit the huge potential of bilateral trade lying unrealised between the two countries. The chamber president also said

Sheikh Amir Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry is presenting souvenir to Ambassador of Tajikistan Sher Ali Jononov, during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Pakistan Ambassador to Bahrian Javed Malik in a meeting with Finance Minister of Bahrain Sheikh Mohammad Bin Ahmad Al-Khalifa in Bahrain.



Associates of Karachi Marriott Hotel visited WWF Wetland Centre and planted mangroves saplings



For more than 100 million years marine turtles have covered vast distances across the world's oceans, performing a vital and integral role in marine and coastal ecosystems. Over the last 200 years human activities have tipped the scales against the survival of these ancient mariners. Urgent global action is needed to ensure their future.

The Associates of Karachi Marriott Hotel visited WWF Wetland Centre where they planted mangroves saplings and participated in the presentation about the sea turtles and how the hatchlings can be saved and released in the sea carefully. All the Associates met the baby turtles and held them in their hands to feel how vulnerable they are to survive in the tough environment that is polluted by humans every day.



The Breast Cancer awareness session held at Karachi Marriott Hotel

Hashoo Hotels CSR collaboration with Shaukat Khanam entailed a series of events across its 9 properties. The Breast Cancer awareness session in Karachi was a joint event that was attended by most female Associates from both Pearl Continental Hotel Karachi and Karachi Marriott Hotel, held at the Karachi Marriott Hotel.



Cricket Match between Islamabad Serena Hotel & Regional Peace Institute



Serena Hotels organized a Friendly Cricket Match for Delegates of Regional Peace Institute, which encourages friendly Pak-US relations while testing physical prowess.

Serena Hotels under the Sports Diplomacy Initiative organized the cricket match for the delegates from Regional Peace Institute. Sports Diplomacy initiative not only encourages but also promote Sports in Pakistan and gives a platform to the public where they can practice healthy sport activities. A fervent group of more than 20 delegates and associates of Serena participated in the cricket match held at Islamabad Serena Hotel. The match was followed by Hi-tea. The players and spectators enjoyed the 10 overs match on a refreshing evening. These healthy sport activities promote the soft image of Pakistan to the foreign land.



MoU signed to Save the Aral Sea

By Usman Ghani Kharal

A signing ceremony of two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) took place at the side of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea in particular between:

The Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), represented by the Regional Programme “Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia (TWM CA)”, and The Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC).

The ceremony took place in a formal way with the participation of representatives of ministries and state agencies of Turkmenistan as well as international organizations.

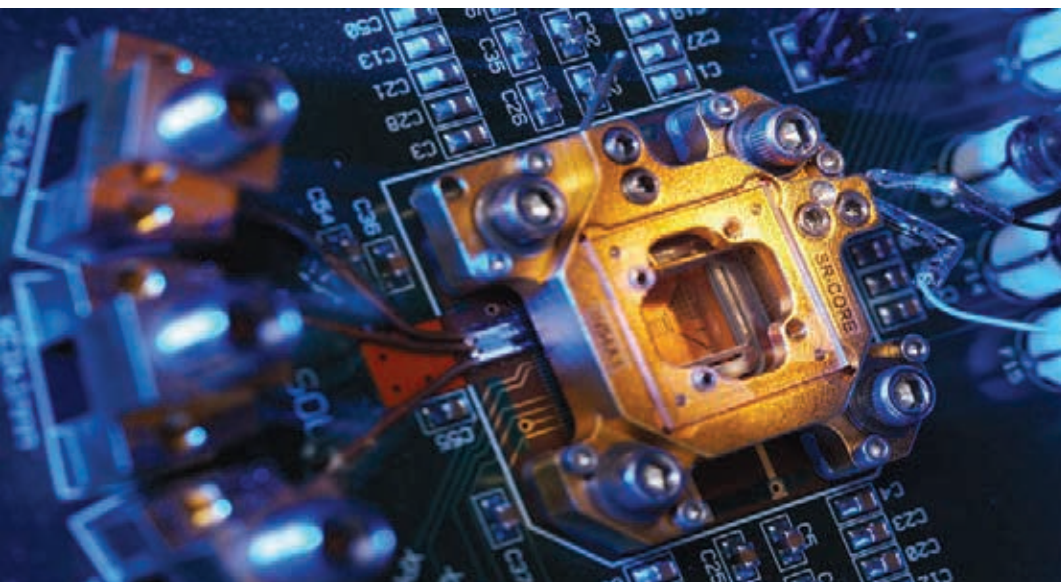
The main goal of the memoranda is to provide support for fostering regional water cooperation in Central Asia, improving the socio-economic and environmental situation in the Aral Sea basin, as well contributing technical assistance.

Upon signing the memoranda, the sides expressed assurances that these agreements will become an additional impact for expanding and strengthening regional water cooperation, which in its turn will benefit the people of the Aral Sea basin region.

Chief Guest, Dean of Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of Kazakhstan H.E. Bakhitbek Shabarbayev, Ambassador of Turkmenistan H.E. Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Tajikistan H.E. Sher Ali Jononov, Ambassador of Nepal Ms. Sewa Lamsal Adhikari, Ambassador of Russian H.E. Alexey Yurevich Devov and other cutting the ribbon occasion of Heavenly Akhal Teke Horses organized by Embassy of Turkmenistan.



Pakistan Computer service exports increase 32 % in FY 2017 – 18



The computer services exports from the country increased by 32.11 percent during the first two months of the current fiscal year compared to the corresponding period of last year. Pakistan earned \$111.380 million from the exports of computer services during July-August (2017-18) against the services of \$84.310 million, according to the data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Among the computer services, the country earned \$54.365 million by exporting software consultancy services during the first two months, showing a growth of 69.22 percent

when compared to the export of \$32.126 million during last year.

The country also exported hardware consultancy services worth \$0.732 million, witnessing a growth of 144.41 percent compared to the export of \$0.299 million of the same services during the last year.

The services for maintenance and repairs of computers also earned \$0.391 million for the country compared to \$0.231 million, showing growth of 68.97 million. However, the services for trade of computer software during the period under review witnessed negative growth

of 1.01 percent during the period under review as these declined to \$40.766 million this year from \$41.181 million during the last year.

The exports of other computer services also increased by 44.46 percent, from \$10.470 million last year to \$15.126 million during the current fiscal year, the data revealed.

Meanwhile, the export of telecommunication services from the country decreased by 0.93 percent by going down from the trade of \$63.430 million last year to \$62.840 million during the current fiscal year.

Among the telecommunication services, the exports of call center service grew by 16.53 percent as its trade was recorded at \$15.141 million during July-August (2017-18) compared to the exports of \$12.993 million in July-August (2016-17).

The exports of other telecommunication services witnessed negative growth of 5.43 percent during the first two months compared to the exports of last year. The exports of other telecommunication services increased from \$50.436 million last year to \$47.699 million during the current year.

It is pertinent to mention here that the overall services exports from the country increased by 4.94 percent during the first two months of the current fiscal year compared to the same period of last year. The services exports during the period under review were recorded at \$816.27 million compared to the exports of 777.84 million in last year.

Pakistan can be gateway to central Asia for oil & energy trade



Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Revenue Haroon Khan has said that Pakistan can be gateway to Central Asia for oil and energy trade.

He was addressing the inaugural session of the 8th Meeting of Economic Cooperation Organization in Islamabad.

Haroon Akhtar Khan said Pakistan holds a very important strategic position on the world map due to its proximity to China, Russia and India.

He said ECO countries together form a geo-politically important block and offer connectivity to various regions.

Haroon Khan said the share of ECO countries in the global trade is almost two percent as against its population of 6.2 percent in the world population. He called for simplification of Customs procedures for ease of trade and enabling the economic integration of ECO members to promote regional trade.

Haroon Khan also offered ECO countries training facilities in all the relevant areas of Customs cooperation.

Academia can also play an important role under the umbrella of CPEC to boost developmental activities: Dr. Fakhurul Islam



By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Positive and developmental approaches in diplomacy which based on mutual respect, cooperation, tolerance, peace, non-interference and for betterment of the humanity is the need of day, said by Mian Fazal Elahi in a seminar entitled "Role of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations" arranged by Area Study Center, University of Peshawar. In key note, he mentioned the bad consequences of the gulf region and interests of world powers, "In today world, wars are based on economic interests and Muslim

world should realise, their sovereignty is being exploited by others". Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi further added that Pakistan should strengthen its relations with neighbors and especially with central Asian states. Dr. Fakhurul Islam, Director of the center stress on to explore new areas of bilateral relations and ties. He also shared that a proposal suggest by him, is in initial stages to establish Pakistan study centers in China to close the ties with neighbor in terms of culture, language, history etc. Academia can also play an important role under the umbrella of CPEC to boost developmental activities, Dr. Fakhur added. Mian Fazal Elahi

handed over a set of his published books titled "Bonds of Friendship between Argentina and Pakistan: 1951-2016" to library of the Area Study Center, University of Peshawar. Large number of students and teachers attend the seminar.

Pakistan should strengthen its relations with neighbors and especially with central Asian states:
Mian Fazal Elahi





Good by reception held in the Honor of Dean of Diplomatic Corps in Islamabad

A good by reception held in Serena Hotel, Islamabad to honor the outgoing Ambassador of Kazakhstan H.E. Bakhitbek Shabarbayev. He is served as The Dean of Diplomatic Corps in Islamabad. H.E. Bakhitbek Shabarbayev announced Ambassador of Tajikistan H.E. Sherali Jononov as Acting Dean of Diplomatic Corps. Large number of Diplomates graced the event and acknowledged the services of H.E. Bakhitbek Shabarbayev.



Quaid's Bust reaches its final destination

High Commissioner installs the Bust at Lincoln's Inn Library



By Mian Asadullah

The Quaid-i-Azam's Bust reached its final destination, the Lincoln's Inn, on 29 November 2017. H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK installed the Bust at the Lincoln's Inn Library in the presence of a select group of people associated with the Inn and belonging to the legal fraternity.

Those who attended the installation ceremony included: The Rt Hon Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury, Treasurer of Lincoln's Inn; Sir Anwar Pervez of Bestway Group; Sir William Blackburne, former Treasurer of the Lincoln's Inn; Baroness Sayeeda Warsi; Rehman Chishti MP; Barrister Yasmin Qureshi MP; Barrister Sibghatullah Qadri QC; Asif Rangoonwala and the sculptor of the Bust, Philip Jackson.

In his welcome address on the occasion, The Rt Hon Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury, Treasurer of the Lincoln's Inn, shed light on the personality of the Quaid and his student days at the Inn. He said the Muhammad Ali Jinnah was impressed by the large number of books in the Inn's Library and that was one of the reasons he chose to study at the Lincoln's Inn. He also quoted some lively examples from the life of the Quaid reflecting his strength of character. Lord Neuberger termed the Quaid a great leader and great statesman who made a lasting impact on the history of the 20th century.

In his remarks at the ceremony, the High Commissioner termed the installation of the Bust "a dream come true". He said he had been working on the project for the last two years and eventually the task has accomplished. "This is a befitting tribute to the Father of the Nation, which the whole of Pakistan is rejoicing

in", added the High Commissioner. He paid rich tributes to the Quaid and termed him world's one of the leading statesmen who gave a separate homeland to a nation now as large as 207 million. He said that with the installation of the Bust, our year-long ceremonies to celebrate the 70th Independence Anniversary of Pakistan have concluded.

The High Commissioner thanked the Lincoln's Inn, the Treasurer and his team, and Sir William Blackburne for their valuable support for having the project accomplished, and of course, the sculptor, Philip Jackson for his hard work and dedication.

On this occasion, the High Commissioner announced the offer of one scholarship each from Sir Anwar Pervez's Bestway Group and Asif Rangoonwala Foundation annually for Pakistani students. The selection of the students will be done by the Lincoln's Inn. This was another highlight of the ceremony and the initiative was hugely appreciated by the Treasurer and other guests at the ceremony.

Fixed at a beautiful pedestal at the height of 6 feet, against the background of a brightly coloured huge window at the far end, with the vast Library at its front, the light bronze Bust stands out spectacularly. Installed at the most visible place, a masterpiece of the internationally renowned sculptor Philip Jackson, the Bust is going to be quite a treat for the eyes of the students and the visitors alike. A befitting place for the Bust of world's leading statesman who will keep inspiring the future generations of lawyers and leaders alike by sheer force of his invincible will, strong character, integrity, wisdom and unparalleled political acumen!

High Commissioner hosts lunch for senior FCO officials



A group photo of H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK (Center), Mr. Owen Jenkins, UK's outgoing Special Representative Afghanistan and Pakistan (left), Mr. Gareth Bailey (Right), and other officials at Pakistan High Commission, London.

Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK hosted a lunch to bid farewell to Mr. Owen Jenkins, UK's outgoing Special Representative Afghanistan and Pakistan, and to welcome his successor Mr. Gareth Bailey, at Pakistan High Commission, London on 08-11 2017, says a press release received from London.

The High Commissioner commended the services of Mr. Owen Jenkins for promoting bilateral relations and hoped that Mr. Gareth Bailey would further strengthen these ties. Other officials of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) were also present on the occasion.

By Mian Asadullah



Rich Pakistani culture showcased at The Commonwealth Fair

Spectacular Pakistani stalls at the annual fair of Commonwealth Countries League (CCL), turned out to be a great attraction for the visitors. The stalls showcased Pakistan's cultural richness and diversity through traditional handicrafts, clothes, souvenirs and exotic cuisine. Pakistani cuisine, especially, the rice dish 'Biryani', with its exquisite taste, aroma and presentation, was a culinary delight for the food lovers.

Begum High Commissioner, Mrs Sadaf Abbas, along with the ladies of the High Commission introduced the visitors to the beautiful

handicrafts made by the Pakistani women. Speaking on the occasion, Begum High Commissioner said: "The CCL fair is an annual feature on our list of events. The proceeds of the Pakistani stalls are donated to the Commonwealth Girls Education Fund (CGEF). The Fund equips the disadvantaged girls with education to bring about positive change in the society."

H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, the High Commissioner visited the Pakistani stalls and appreciated the efforts of the ladies of the High Commission

for actively promoting Pakistan's culture and traditional products through participation in international fairs. On this occasion, he said: We have excellent relations with the Commonwealth, and participation in such events would further cement these relations."

The Fair was held at Kensington Town Hall, London. The occasion provides the visitors with a great experience of cultures of the Commonwealth countries.





Message of

H.E. Hamad Al Zaabi,
Ambassador of United Arab Emirates

**on the Occasion of
46th National Day of the United Arab Emirates**



Today as we celebrate the 46th National Day of the United Arab Emirates we feel that over the four and half decades the wise leadership of UAE assured all constituents to be future-makers, both during the era of the founding father Late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, “May Allah bless his soul with peace” and the persistence of this enormous development movement in the era of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan through initiatives and major projects with the participation of all citizens, in this regard, His Highness launched an initiative by choosing 2017 as a year of giving (Aamulkhair) , and declared 2018 the “Year of Zayed” to highlight the role of the late leader in establishing the UAE Federation, and his local, regional and international achievements, and to engage all members of society of all ages, groups, nationalities and religions in achieving the vision of the late Sheikh Zayed locally, regionally and globally, His Highness Sheikh Muhammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum the Vice President, Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai recently launched another initiative by establishing new ministries which reflects the state’s endeavor to encourage citizens to participate in the elevation and prosperity of the country.

Happiness:

The UAE Government aiming to make the country among the top happiest countries in the world by 2021, created the post of Minister of State for Happiness and appointed H. E. Sheikha Ohood bint Khalfan Al Roumi as the Minister, Her main responsibility was to harmonise all government plans, programmes and policies to achieve a happier society, following the Cabinet reshuffle in 2017, another portfolio was added to the Minister of State for Happiness to become the Minister of State for Happiness and Wellbeing.

It is worth to mention that according to UN World Happiness Report 2017, the UAE came First in the Arab world for the third consecutive year and ranked 21st as the happiest globally, advancing eight ranks, the UAE would rank 12th globally if only UAE nationals were taken into account, as the 2017 report included a separate table of results for nationals and non-nationals in some Gulf countries with varying scores.

Youth role:

The UAE Government attaches great importance to the role of youth and their empowerment in order to enable them to shoulder responsibilities, innovate and contribute to the welfare of the international community. Emphasizing the skills, energy, enthusiasm and commitment of country’s youth, the UAE made several steps to ensure that the voice of the youth is heard and their views are shared, a 22-year old H.E. Shamma bint Sohail Faris Al Mazrui was appointed as the Minister of State for Youth Affairs. And Emirates Youth Council also established to represent the youth ideas, aspirations and solutions before the government.

Tolerance:

The UAE is strongly committed to embrace a moderate and tolerant society, in which extremism has no place or future, Tolerance is a virtue and an intrinsic part of the Islamic culture. It is observed at all levels: individual, organisational and national. With more than 200 nationalities living peacefully and successfully in the UAE, the UAE society has been an undisputed example of being a tolerant and inclusive country, as a practical application of the principle of tolerance, H. H. Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, ordered renaming the

Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Mosque in Abu Dhabi, to ‘Mariam, Umm Eisa’ ‘Mary, the mother of Jesus’.

Now, the Federal Government by appointing H.H. Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan as Cabinet member and the Minister of State for Tolerance is keen to promote acceptance and understanding as core values of the society, aiming to promote the culture of tolerance regionally and globally, the UAE Government has launched the International Institute for Tolerance in 2017 to provide solutions to the challenges of extremism and promote the UAE as a role model for tolerance, this institute is open to scholars and tolerance advocates who wish to work towards establishing a culture of tolerance and openness in our societies and against all forms of discrimination among people, based on religion, gender, race, colour or language.

Bilateral relations:

The deep rooted relations between the United Arab Emirates and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have acquired new dimensions at political, economic and social levels emerging into a strategic partnership, thanks to the wise leadership of the both countries, such affection between the two friendly nations derived from the depth of Islamic brotherhood and geographical, cultural and historical relations that date back to thousands of years.

UAE which has become hub of investments, exports, technologies, tourism and renewable energies and large number of Pakistanis (1.3 million) are contributing in the UAE’s economic boom has encouraged investment and helps in greater trade and commerce activities becoming one of largest investors in Pakistan but bilateral trade has been steadily growing over years and people-to-people contacts are constantly on increase.

Its pleasure to share the pride that UAE has a society conjoins more than 200 nationalities and the national economy has become overlapped with international economy through its knowledge and innovation based system as its (GDP) has reached 430.5 Billion Dollars with oil sector contribution in GDP minimized to 24% (Percent).

The UAE’s International approach has been a focus upon humanitarianism and assistance to those in need. The development, humanitarian and charitable assistance provided by UAE spanning more than 170 countries in 21 sectors. In this regard, the UAE Pakistan Assistance Program played its role in creating economic and human development in Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa and FATA areas by completing 165 projects covering the sectors of health, education, infrastructure such as roads, bridges and the supply of clean drinking water.

The UAE Vaccination Campaign against Polio in cooperation with the government of Pakistan, local governments, Pakistan Army and WHO also achieved impressive results in fighting against disease threatening the future generations which is the real assets of Pakistan

I would like to express best wishes and congratulations on this occasion to the wise leadership of UAE and thanks and gratitude to the government and people of Pakistan for their kind emotions towards the United Arab Emirates as they are celebrating here with us the occasion, and pray that the relationship of two countries may succeed the wider horizons of greater achievements for the betterment of the two countries and its peoples.

Pak-UAE Friendship Zindabad



Pakistan's Super Mushak and JF-17 Thunder take part in Dubai Airshow 2017



By M. Saeed Yousafzai

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum the Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) who also rules the Emirate of Dubai inaugurated the 15th edition of the event at Al Maktoum International Airport in DWC. At the biennial show's inauguration, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum — Dubai's Crown Prince and chairman of the Executive Council — accompanied Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid.

Pakistan's Minister for Defence Production Rana Tanveer Hussain was also present at Dubai Airshow 2017. Minister of State for Defence UAE has invited the Federal Minister to participate in the airshow. On the sidelines of the Airshow Rana Tanveer Hussain held meetings with heads of different international companies.

During the meeting with Mr. Temel Kotil CEO Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) Rana Tanveer Hussain expressed his desire to enhance collaboration between Pakistan defence industry and Turkish Aerospace Industry. An agreement for collaboration in the aviation field was signed with Turkish Company during 13th International Defence Industry Fair (IDEF) at Istanbul in May 2017.

Federal Minister also visited stall of Parker Aerospace and Trans-world Aviation and discussed avenues for cooperation in the aerospace technology. Kuwait Chief of Air Force

Starting in 1986 as Arab Air, the Dubai Airshow has grown and evolved to become one of the largest and most important aerospace events in the world. While a lot has changed within the past 30 years, the dawn of a new millennium has seen unprecedented change in the aviation industry. Helping to bring out that change, the Dubai Airshow has created a world class exhibition showcasing the latest and greatest in military, general and commercial aviation. The biennial event featured over 1,200 exhibitors — of which almost 100 took part for the first time and more than 160 aircraft were put on display.



Rana Tanveer Hussain Federal Minister for Defence Production held meeting with Mr. Alessandro Profumo CEO of Leonardo, the Italian Company in Dubai.



On the show's first day, PAF pilot Wing Commander Yasir Mudassar flew a JF17 Thunder in a remarkable display of his aerobatic skills. The JF-17 aircraft's capabilities were not any less than that of a US F-16.





visited PAC stall and held meeting with Rana Tanveer Hussain Federal Minister for Defence Production. Chairman Pakistan Aeronautical Complex was also present in the meeting. Speaking at the occasion Rana Tanveer Hussain said that Kuwait is our brother Islamic country and Pakistan values its relation with Kuwait.

Rana Tanveer Hussain also visited stall of Leonardo, the Italian company and held meeting with Mr. Alessandro Profumo CEO of Leonardo. Leonardo is an Italian global high-tech company and one of the key players in aerospace, defence and security.





46th National Day of UAE marked in Islamabad

To mark the 46th National Day of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a reception was hosted by UAE Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Alzaabi at the Serena Hotel, Islamabad. It was the biggest reception of the year as the new ambassador of the UAE received the guests with full vigour as he was hosting the first reception of the National Day of his country in Pakistan. Federal Minister for Water and Power Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari was the chief guest on the occasion. Ambassador Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Alzaabi, in his address, shed light on the progress of his country since it came into being way back in 1971. He also highlighted the relationship between Pakistan and the UAE during these years. He underscored that Pakistan and the UAE cooperated with each other whenever they needed each other's assistance. He expressed hope that the ties would further strengthen in years to come.

National Security Advisor (NSA) to the Prime Minister Lieutenant-General (retd) Nasser Khan Janjua, Lieutenant-General (retd) Talat Masood, Dr Anwarul Haq, PTI leader Dr Shahzad Waseem, Abdullah Gul, Alama Tahir Ashrafi, Chaudhary Munir Ahmad and Spokesperson of the Foreign Office Dr Muhammad Faisal Chaudhry were among the prominent guests.

Some Arab youths displayed traditional Arab dance on the tune of their country's music. A large number of politicians, diplomats, officials and prominent citizens attended the reception.







UAE Today . . .



On December 2, 2017, the UAE celebrates its 46th National Day. This same day in 1971 marked the establishment of the Emirates, a union that has come to be a leading model of sustainable development, progress and growth in the region and beyond.

On December 2, 2017, the UAE celebrates its 46th National Day. This same day in 1971 marked the establishment of the Emirates, a union that has come to be a leading model of sustainable development, progress and growth in the region and beyond.

The relations between Pakistan and UAE found their roots in the principles of cooperation and mutual respect, and evolved into a strategic partnership between the two countries and peoples over recent years. The mutual visits of the leaders of the two countries and the ever-growing volume of commercial, economic and cultural exchanges bear witness to the strong bilateral ties our countries share in various fields.

The UAE national day is a glorious occasion for UAE citizens to celebrate their belonging to this land, and express their pride in the wise leadership of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan President of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, as well as Their Highnesses the Supreme Council Members and

Rulers of Emirates.

UAE National Day is also about celebrating a leadership, its people's human capital, placing its citizens at the top stability and sustainable development.

These political, economic, social and cultural achievements were accomplished, thanks to the vision of our wise leadership and the sustained efforts of Emiratis who have toiled to build the future of our nation.

On the national front, the UAE laid the foundations and rules of good governance, building strong and stable national institutions based on principles and standards of transparency and accountability, the rule of law and good citizenship, thus establishing an oasis of security, stability, modernity and tolerance.

Late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan was the first to lay the foundations for a comprehensive national strategy aimed at achieving well-being for citizens, by stressing that "our main goal is to provide a decent life for citizens, for they are the true wealth behind the present and the future of this country". His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of the UAE, assumed his father's role to complete this strategy, and overcome its challenges

with determination and willfulness. "We are working to create a balanced economic structure based on diversification of national income, and ensure continuous growth across all sectors, and raise living standards and per capita income."

Inspired by the vision of the forefathers of the nation, the UAE Vision 2021 was launched, charting the next stage of the country's progressive journey towards achieving a cohesive and identity-based society, a first-rate education system, a world-class healthcare, a competitive knowledge economy, a fair judiciary system, a sustainable environment and integrated infrastructure, and a world-class standing.

The latest cabinet changes were part of the Government's continuous pursuit of this vision; the continuation of the UAE's journey will shift the UAE into a new phase of growth, development and prosperity. These changes are in line with the country's aspirations to strengthen its global leadership to enhance women's contribution, and empower its youth. They also reflect a leadership philosophy that places the development of human capital as a top priority.

The various plans and strategies announced and implemented over the past decade have assuredly come to fruition. International rankings based on global standards and a rigorous scientific approach reflects these achievements. In the UNDP Human Development Report, the UAE ranked amongst the top countries with very high human development, excelling in regional and international indicators measuring people's happiness, public satisfaction, security and stability, scoring high in the Social Progress index. The citizen-centered vision laid forth by our wise leadership deemed citizens as a top priority in current and future development plans, for they are the real wealth of the country.

On the foreign front, the UAE's foreign policy since its establishment in 1971 is grounded in wisdom, moderation, justice and advocacy, based on the principles of dialogue and understanding between brothers and friends, respect for international charters, adherence to the UN Charter, as well as respect for the rules of good neighbourliness, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The country has long adopted a foreign policy centred on peaceful resolution of disputes and non-interference in other countries' internal affairs.

The United Arab Emirates approached the world with great openness. This resulted in the establishment of strategic political, economic and commercial partnerships as well as judicious and key partnerships in the fields of culture, sciences, education and healthcare with many countries across the world, thus enhancing its prestigious standing in the international community.

Concomitantly, the United Arab Emirates persisted in its humanitarian approach, providing development, humanitarian and charitable aid to various countries and peoples of the world in 2017. Numbers are quite telling of UAE's leading humanitarian role from 1971 until this day. With Dh174 billion distributed to 178 countries, the UAE ranked as the world's top aid donor for three consecutive years by the OECD, posting the highest official Development Assistance (ODA) to Gross National Income (GNI).

During "the 2015 Sustainable Development Summit" in New York, on the sidelines of the 70th Ordinary General Assembly, the UAE solemnly pledged "not to ignore any country lagging behind in the development process and to help the world move to a path that supports sustainability and flexibility". Faithful to its pledge, its outstanding aid efforts have helped millions of people across continents, as it persists to implement the Millennium Development Goals and meet the objectives of the United Nations Development Plan 2030.

Fly Dubai setup its stall at 46th National day celebrations of UAE in Karachi



MESSAGE OF

H.E. Mr. Nicolaie Goia

Ambassador of Romania to Islamic Republic of Pakistan

On the occasion of the National Day of Romania

On December the 1st, Romanians living at home and all over the world celebrates their national day. This year marks the 99th anniversary of the Great Union of 1918, and the birthday of the Romanian modern state. Romania is only one year away from the Centenary of the 1918 Great Union.

The historical Great Union of all Romanian territories – made possible through the will of the Romanian people – is now celebrated as a milestone of our long lasting aspirations for liberty, unity and national dignity.

We already look forward to 1st of December 2018, the centennial anniversary of our national day. In these times, when the whole world is marked by major changes, we further need solidarity. A solidarity built not only around some persons or institutions, but especially around certain values or national objectives. This is why I think that new bridges should be reinforced or even rebuilt between Romania and friendly countries like Pakistan. We have the chance to offer the new generation arguments and facts so that Centenary Romania be rediscovered as a place of opportunity and prosperity.

The realization of the full unity of the Romanian state on 1 December 1918 was the result of the organization of some outstanding intellectuals with solid formation, of the fight of tens of thousands of peasants who fought in battlefields for defending their national territory. The fights waged during the World War I meant a great sacrifice for Romanians.

It was a lesson of patriotism which will remain a brilliant example for the entire period passed ever since. The authors of this Great Union taught us a sacred lesson, namely that of unity, solidarity, giving up vain selfishness, placing national interest higher than personal or group ambitions, promoting tolerance and mutual respect.

The international community now faces major challenges and provocations. As a member of the European and Euro-Atlantic family, Romania is actively assuming its obligations and responsibilities in dealing with the increasingly complex and dynamic issues of the current international landscape.

Currently Romania is on an ascending economic path and has the highest rates of annual economic growth within the European Union. That is not only a statistical fact, but also a reality already reflected in the living conditions of our people. More importantly, we have enough reasons to trust that the years to come will bring the same steady economic development that will benefit both Romanian people and foreign investors.

Romania has a strong bilateral relationship with Islamic Republic of Pakistan, both countries share values of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and the desire to live peacefully in harmony and tolerance.

It is in our mutual best interest to strengthen our future bilateral relations not only in economic, commercial, financial and investment fields, but also in terms of security, counterterrorism, cybersecurity and cultural cooperation.

On this auspicious occasion I also would like to convey to the Pakistani people a sincere message of friendship, peace and prosperity.



A full-length portrait of H.E. Nicolae Goia, Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan. He is a middle-aged man with glasses and a goatee, wearing a brown pinstriped suit, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. He stands in an office with a dark wood bookshelf behind him. On the shelf are a Pakistani flag, a plaque, and some books. To his right are the Romanian flag (blue, yellow, and red vertical stripes) and the European Union flag (blue with yellow stars).

I reiterate Romania's support to further developing the relations between EU and Pakistan

H.E. Nicolae Goia, Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan

We expect confidently and with much hope that the economic ties between Romania and Pakistan will deepen and diversify in the years ahead

H.E. Nicolae GOIA is the Romanian ambassador to Pakistan since December, 2016. H.E. started his diplomatic career from Yemen in 1979 and then served in Iran and Japan, while his previous assignment was in the United Arab Emirates. H.E. Nicolae GOIA has been a very active and energetic diplomat.

The Diplomatic Focus has found the opportunity to talk to His Excellency and learn about his early life, education career, experiences and most importantly his role as an ambassador in bringing Romania and Pakistan closer in terms of trade, diplomatic, education and cultural ties.

DF: Excellency! Pakistan and Romania have strong economic, trade and cultural relations rooted in decades old history. It's been a long time. How do you see the bilateral ties between the two countries over the years?

Ambassador: Romania and Pakistan have established diplomatic relations in 1964, we have had uninterrupted diplomatic ties for over 50 years, during which my country has contributed to the development of Pakistani economy by building cement factories in Labelled and Kohat, refineries in Karachi, tractor assembly factory near Islamabad and many other projects in various fields.

We have tradition, we have many success stories, and we have all the necessary ingredients to reset our economic cooperation

“Romania is only one year away from the Centenary of the 1918 Great Union”

to a much higher level that it is right now. As the ambassador of Romania in Pakistan, I will put high on my agenda laying down the foundation for increasing the people to people contact, work system so that our expertise in the fields like construction, infrastructure, insurance, banking and finance, MSE etc. will be transferred to our Pakistani partners.

DF: Trade volume between Romania and Pakistan that currently touched \$200 million mark. In this regard what are the steps to improve the statistics?

Ambassador: Pakistan is an important trading partner of Romania and both sides are interested to enhance the bilateral trade volume which is currently far below the potential of our economies.

My agenda is laying down the foundation for increasing the people to people contact, work system so that our expertise in the fields like construction, infrastructure, insurance, banking and finance, MSE etc.

Besides the bilateral cooperation through mutual investments, we are also interested to find options of working together on the third markets where, Romania and Pakistan might conjugate their resources and energies in the most constructive way. This is, unfortunately, a domain which had been somehow neglected lately because of focusing in the internal reconstruction of economy. Romania and Pakistan do have common areas of interest both geographically (Near East, Northern Africa etc.) and thematically (the common interest of developing sectors as IT and communications, civil constructions and infrastructure, agriculture etc.).

There is a strong need to strengthen the international economic cooperation and, simultaneously, to reconstruct the traditional relationship with the old friends, Pakistan among them. We expect confidently and with much hope that the economic ties between Romania and Pakistan will deepen and diversify in the years ahead. The real potential of the two countries is huge and we should take full benefit of the already identified areas of complementarity of the two economies.

I have said before but I keep saying that I am not pleased with the current level of bilateral trade because it does not reflect by far the real





potential of the two countries. Efforts must be made, and this is high on Embassy agenda, to identify new opportunities and fields for increasing the trade which should reach in a matter of one or two years at least half a billion of dollars in both ways.

DF: Excellency! As an ambassador of Romania to Pakistan, what are your priorities to strengthen the current bilateral relations between the two countries in new political dynamics and relations of the world?

Ambassador: The bilateral relationship is mature enough not to imply immediate supplementary incentive, but this reality does not exclude but recommends the development of political dialogue as a way to reconfirm the potential of cooperation. We have our priorities and so does the government in Islamabad and these priorities are heavily influenced by the geopolitical particularities of the geographical areas we are living in, but I know we do have also the resources to capitalize the quality of our dialogue so that to diversify the fields of common interests.

I reiterate Romania's support to further developing the relations between EU and Pakistan. I believe that the EU-Pakistan strategic dialogue will consolidate the current partnership aimed at preventing instability, extremism and people radicalization. Romania, in her double capacity, as a member of EU and NATO is supporting the enhancement of the EU/NATO-Pakistan relations through an intensified

"Pakistan and Romania are interested to enhance the bilateral trade volume which is currently far below the potential of our economies"

dialogue and wider cooperation.

DF: What are the potential opportunities that your embassy is providing to the foreign investors there in Romania and what suggestions will you give to the Pakistani investors to increase their business with Romania?

Ambassador: Our main priority is to increase and diversify the commercial exchanges between Romania and Pakistan, in a balanced manner for exports and imports.

Since my recent assignment as Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan, I noted with satisfaction the constant interest of local chambers of commerce and industries to enter into business partnership with Romanian companies.

At their invitations the Embassy discussed opportunities of cooperation in Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Sialkot etc.

Also, four honorary consulates in Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad and Peshawar are functioning and are waiting for business proposals in order to increase trade connections with our country.

As I have said before, our main priority is to increase and diversify the commercial exchanges between Romania and Pakistan, in a balanced manner for exports and imports.

DF: Excellency! Romania is an active member of European Union for the last 11 years. What you suggest, that how Romania can help for Pakistan in terms of trade and other ties with EU?

Ambassador: We want to facilitate the entrance to the European Market of our Pakistani partners through commodities, investments and other ways of cooperation.

We are directly interested to maximize these advantages so that to offer the Pakistani investors a bridgehead to European markets by developing, in Romania, economic projects, to be, at a later time, projected to different parts of the European continent.

Manufacturing industry, freight and passengers transport, tourism, exploration and commerce of natural resources are only a few examples of areas the Pakistani investors can concentrate on to develop their presence in European markets.

DF: Excellency! Presently, both countries are

We want to facilitate the entrance to the European Market of our Pakistani partners through commodities, investments and other ways of cooperation

looking to expand economic cooperation, as well as to enhance their import and export ties. In your opinion what are the various other sectors where Pakistan and Romania can cooperate and collaborate?

Ambassador: Romania invests substantially in the private sector, mainly in the fields which are in consonance with our immediate needs IT, banking & financing, light industry etc., as well as in the high technology and renewable energy. Despite the geographical distance we have many complementarities with the economy of Pakistan. Romania is a new starter as far as investments in the foreign markets are concerned, but having a real important dynamism of the exports is interested to see the sectorial progress made by the main Pakistani economic vectors. The bilateral juridical documents we have already concluded and the economic missions in the two countries whose number and quality have increased in the last couple of years call for optimism in assessing the future perspectives of our cooperation.

DF: Excellency! Romania is celebrating its national day, first of all congratulations and good wishes from the entire nation of Pakistan to people of Romania and government. My question is how Romanian celebrates its national day?

Ambassador: Romania is only one year away from the Centenary of the 1918 Great Union. In

these times, when the whole world is marked by major changes, we further need solidarity. A solidarity built not only around some persons or institutions, but especially around certain values or national objectives. This is why I think that new bridges should be reinforced or even rebuilt between Romania and countries like Pakistan. We have the chance to offer the new generation arguments and facts so that Centenary Romania be rediscovered as a place of opportunity and prosperity.

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The authors of this Great Union taught us a sacred lesson, namely that of unity, solidarity, giving up vain selfishness, placing national interest higher than personal or group ambitions, promoting tolerance and mutual respect.

The past must also be today a great time confirming the feelings that the inhabitants of the country must have, as its true sons and sons of humankind. Our nation has paid a great tribute of blood and sufferance. Victory and achievement stemmed from the love for homeland, from sufferance and sacrifice. Much more than this, here, at the gates of the East, we were the defenders of the continent and we stopped the invasions that threatened Europe, together with the Poles, our neighbours at the time.

We benefited at the time of clever leaders devoted to the nation and not to other interests, and succeeded, in a rather short historical time, not only to succeed in re-

establishing and restoring the country, but also achieving the mutual good understanding and national merge.

DF: Any message you want to give to the readers of 'Diplomatic Focus' and especially to the youth of Pakistan?

Romania invests substantially in the private sector, mainly in the fields IT, banking & financing, light industry etc., as well as in the high technology and renewable energy

Ambassador: To the youth of Pakistan, I will always tell not to ever abandon the pride of belonging to a brilliant nation, to stand up against any form of discrimination, to fight for dignity and protect the human rights, to read and study continuously and believe that a magnificent future can and will be built only with their full participation. They have the intelligence and talent needed for building up a bright future for this nation, for this beautiful country.

Thanks a lot Your Excellency! For giving time out of your busy schedule and of course for your nice talk.





Romania celebrates 99th Independence Day in Islamabad

Romania's Ambassador to Pakistan Nicolae Goia has said that bilateral ties between Bucharest and Islamabad are fast moving from cordial to excellent and hoped these would continue to grow in future besides expanding bilateral trade and active cooperation in defence sector.

He was speaking at the 99th Independence Day of Romania reception that he hosted along with his wife Soina Goia at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. He said there existed excellent relations between the two countries and referred different efforts on the part of two sides to strengthen the two relations. Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain Minister for Defence Production and Minister for Science and Technology was chief guest. A large number of politicians, diplomats, officials and prominent citizens attended the reception. He said some 73 years ago when the world was entangled in the second world war, Romanian army liberated the national territory from the foreign rulers and next year they would be celebrating the 100th years of independence. He said that his country was now a security provider in the region and flourishing in every aspect. He said that his country was an entry point or a strategic opening due to proximity to the Eastern border of the Europe. He said his country has vast investment opportunities and stressed the need of cooperation among the peace loving countries in the world.







Diplomatic Focus honor new envoys in Islamabad

Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi, CEO, Editor, Publisher of “Diplomatic Focus” magazine hosted a lunch reception in the honor of New Envoys to Islamic Republic of Pakistan at Serena Hotels, Islamabad.







Bosnian envoy celebrates National Day reception in Islamabad

Ambassador of Bosnia Herzegovina to Pakistan, H.E. Sakib Foric hosted a reception to commemorate the National Day and Armed Forces day of his country at a hotel in Islamabad. National Security Advisor, Naseer Khan Janjua diplomats; Armed Forces personnel of the diplomatic community; senior Pakistani officers and a cross section of Pakistanis from different walks of life attended the ceremony.



Ambassador H.E. Sakib Foric Speech on occasion

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is indeed a great privilege and honour for us that you have joined here this evening to participate in the celebration of our National Day and Armed Forces Day. Please accept our warmest greetings and profound thanks.



Honourable Guests!

Tonight we are here together in honor of two very important days for my country related with 25th of November our National Day/ exactly it is our Statehood Day and the 1st December what we celebrate like our Armed Forces Day.

Some of words about state Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H). Of course, it is very close to you but I like to stress something. It is stated with long story from 12th century when we 1st time recognize like the autonomy called BANOVINA from King KULIN BAN after that continue to be Kingdom of B&H until end of 14th century. In this time we were one of 1st and older Europeans Kingdom. From this time in the next several centuries we were part of Ottoman Emperor until Berlin congress 1878 when we continue under Austro Hungarian Emperor with special status and special close relations with both emperors.

Between two world wars Bosnia was in state called Kingdom of Yugoslavia. In the 2nd world war 25th of November 1943 B&H was establish like one of the 6th republic of Federal People Republic of Yugoslavia. The State Anti-fascist Council for the National Liberation of B&H was formed as the highest governing organ of the anti-fascist movement in B&H. At the first session, ZAVNOBIH is formally constituted as a General Policy Representation of People's Liberation Movement of B&H, but in reality and practice acted as its highest authority. B&H became brotherhood community in which they will be provided with full equality of all Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats. B&H have used the constitutional rights from 1945 and continue with that to use right from constitutional from 1974 to declare full independency 1992 in process of the desolation of former Federal Yugoslavia. B&H survived terrible aggression and war 1992 till 1995. At the end of 1995, an agreement was signed in the Dayton in US to terminate the war in B&H. Today B&H is structure very decentralize in two Entities and one District. It is stable country nice future in roads to join EU and NATO Aliens.

In case of Armed Forces Day I have to mention unique example of our transition from post conflict country with three Armed Forces to one unique Armed Force established on the state level with 16000 people fully professional without reserve and conscripts. We are part of NATO PFP program almost solved MAP we are part of mission NATO Aliens in Afghanistan and Iraq last 12 years several UN mission and we try to be useful for our Bosnian citizen to demining contamination beautiful country to give our people security environment. Also we develop Armed Forces capability to help our people in case of natural disaster. Our Military Industry is growing and we try to be partners with many countries and good example is Pakistan and B&H in this area.



As regards to our relations with my host country Pakistan, I feel happy to say that these two countries have always enjoyed good friendly relationship and I avail this opportunity to reaffirm to our Pakistani friends and leadership that B&H has an abiding interest in further strengthening of relations with Pakistan in all fields of mutual interest. Our emphasis is to build further economic and trade relations and to explore new vistas for mutual benefit based on shared vision and convergent goals. Finally, I wish to reiterate on this happy occasion that the everlasting friendship will further grow between Pakistan and B&H and always wish for the peace, prosperity and happiness of the peoples of the two brotherly countries!

Thank you all of you!!!! Special thanks for sponsorship this event our three Honorary Consuls, AG Majid, Asad Saleem and Danish Iqbal and the PRETIS and also Brig Asif Mehmood, Chairman AM 99 groups of companies. ...Thank you Marriott for your support....Also the special thanks for media people.



Mr. Túlio Araújo

A veteran lawyer from Lisbon, Portugal



Interview by Shahzada Khuram

It is indeed a great pleasure for “Diplomatic Focus” to find the opportunity to talk with you.

DF: First of all, thanks for your time. Please through some light on your career and self.

I would like to present myself: I am Túlio Araújo. I am a lawyer in Lisbon, the capital city of Portugal, the most west country of Europe. I work in Túlio M Araújo, Cristina Castro & Associates, Lawyers Company Ltd, also new as TMA&CC Associates Ltd. It is a law firm in

Lisbon, Portugal, with agreements with a lot of lawyer’s firms, all over the world. I did study law and economics. I am 55 years old and already a grandfather.

In TMA&CC Associates Ltd you will meet twelve persons in a table made of different perspectives, each one with an expertise in a sector of the law (enterprises, crime, investments, taxes, etc.). So, there, we reply all the legal problems, that we are solving to our clients. We have two senior partners, that gives the name to the lawyer company, but all are equals around the round table.

For instance, if someone brings us an immigration case, there is a lawyer to uphold the person, but we have a three persons staff to help in the process.

DF: Immigration situation throughout world is a rising issue of the day and governments are trying to introduce new laws and terms. How does your firm deal it?

Yes! The average number of immigration cases had increased to the double, in the last three years, and we had success in all cases, that our client has demonstrated financial capacity.

To be honest we also do pro bono legal work - to less fortunate persons – but these cases, sometimes, are very difficult. Nevertheless, we often recall a success case, in which we had obtained a residence visa, for a boy who traveled inside a shipping container, from a faraway country, because his parents had sold him as a slave. He didn’t have financial capacity, but we got the visa for him.

DF: Can you share with our readers the immigration process in Portugal?

An immigration case is a process for one-year time. Sometimes a little more, because it depends on the employment contract, if it is an immigration case grounded in a work contract. And after that, to obtain the Portuguese Passport and Nationality, after successful approval of the case by the immigration, it is needed more five years of residence. But it can be less time than that, if the applicant made something very important, like, for instance,



wrote a best seller book or is a well-known rock singer, etc. It can be, also, a case of Golden Visa, and then the process is no more than four months, normally. Golden Visa open golden doors. For that, the foreign applicant must be a landlords with a building or farm of more than five hundred thousand euros value in Portugal, or to have, in a Portuguese Bank, more than one million euros, or to buy / to open in Portugal a company with more than ten workers. It can be a branch of an oversee company.

But, if the applicant has no capacity to get golden, than must ask for a Normal Visa. It can be to work, to study or simply to live, if the person has financial means to do it. The person must have a minimum amount, to live or by working, with a working contract, approved by the Portuguese authorities. The minimum amount depends of the national minimum labor income, that, in this moment, is almost six hundred euros per month.

DF: I find The Portuguese people by nature are very loving and honest.

Yes! The Portuguese people love to live with foreigners. In fact, we are a melting pot country. I think because we respect the different way of thinking, making and being. And everybody is nice and will try to spike with you in english. It is in our ancient History and in our way of life. Our country has 874 years, and 500 years ago we discovered maritime path to half world. Today, our lawyer firm has three thousand registered clients, and almost half are foreigner. So, it shows how we, portugueses, live.

Portugal is a sunny country, we have almost no crime, the money is safe in the bank, we export Cientists and Doctors and, to be honest, the only problem is we have not many richt entrepreneurs as we had before. We need more investors. More factories. What did happend? Let me tell you: forty years ago we had a revolution (that we call the 25th of April) and some richt pleople, in that time, run away and we lost Angola, Mozambique, Guiné, Timor, Macau, were petrol was coming to us from. But after that, Portugal joined the European Community and, each year, a new entrepreneur comes to live with us.

This year it was Madonna, the singer, that is investing in some new business. In this moment the Aga Khan fundation is leaving France and bringing the Imamat Islaili center to Portugal. As you must know turism is in high here, and we are a exporting the best plastic injection molds, wines, cork and also cars.

Portugal's immigration policy is attractive because money of retirement pension and other cases of incomes that comes from out of Portugal is free of taxes, in lots of cases. French retired persons are in front of normal foreigners that came to Portugal – they like to

live well, and to pay less taxes. They get here their retirement pension, free of taxes.

But Portugal is also a country where normal workers have more studies. It is normal to find a factory worker, or an administrative secretary with a university degree. They know very well English language and everybody is computer friendly. That's why robotic is growing in Portugal, with agreements between universities and factories, in the sector of car industry and plastic injection tools. That is also why Volkswagen new model T-Roc is being made here.

It is a safe country to entrepreneurs and landlords. It is not an off-shore country, that is true. But we do not want to be it. We like to work and to play, and my law firm likes to help in all that senses.

As you can see, I am inviting you all to know better Portugal and the Portuguese people. We have bed and breakfast for everyone. I am sure you will come here and think, two times, to own something here and to be one of us. To be one more of us, without ceasing to be one of you, what is more stupendous.

Thanks Mr. Túlio Araújo for your time and I am hoping that the readers of "Diplomatic Focus" will find your words worthy and specially highlighting the immigration policy of Portugal.



H.E. Tasawar Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan to Mexico, Guest of Honour at the Annual 42 km mountain marathon, organized by CEMAC (Club de Exploraciones de México)



Painting exhibition at Satrang Gallery, Serena Hotel, Islamabad

A Painting exhibition held at Satrang Gallery Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Chief Guest was Ambassador of Austria H.E. Dr. Brigitta Blaha.



Serena Lauds Role of Tourism at Expo

Serena Hotels participated in the Pakistan Travel Mart Expo 2017 held in Karachi where Mr. Zubair Surti, Director Corporate Affairs of Serena Hotels and Chairman Pakistan Hotels Association, shared insightful views on the potential of Pakistan's hospitality industry during a panel discussion. Syed Sardar Ali Shah, Provincial Minister of Sindh for Culture, Tourism, Antiquities and Archives visited the Serena stall and appreciated the scale and vision of the expo.

Mr. Surti said, "The tourism industry is of vital importance for economic development and for sustainable management of resources and historical, cultural and national assets".

The tourism industry is a key sector in Pakistan with direct contribution of 2.9% to the GDP and supporting roughly 1.4 million jobs. Across the world, tourism comprises of 30% of the service economy. The sector is, however, far below the potential of a country like Pakistan with numerous terrains and historical and religious landmarks.

Some key elements that will determine the growth of tourism in Pakistan in future is the focus on sustainable tourism, key stakeholders working together to facilitate local and international tourists and the involvement of local communities in tourism and targeting the most likely segments such as domestic leisure tourism, diaspora visits and faith-based tourism. Mr. Surti said, "Tourism if done in a sustainable and inclusive way can improve the economy, empower communities and improve the image of the country".

Serena Hotels has always strived to develop the local communities while respecting their cultural, environmental and lifestyle values and contributing to empowerment initiatives



in collaboration with local governments and organizations. Squash legend Jahangir Khan visited the stall and Serena is pleased to announce that keeping up with our contribution in the field of sports Serena Hotels will once again sponsor the Pakistan Open & Chief Of Air Staff International Women Squash Championship 2017 in December.

In Baltistan, the 17th Century Fort Palace has been converted into an award-winning heritage conservation project managed by Serena Hotels.

The project combined the preservation and re-use of a significant historical and architectural site with a commitment to socially responsible tourism promoting economic development in the Shigar Valley.

Serena Khaplu Palace which comprises of historical buildings that date back to the 1840s, has been brought back to life following a carefully designed strategy of adaptive re-use and restoration, such that the Palace is the finest surviving example of a royal residence in Baltistan.





By M. Saeed Yousafzai

“Maldives Musical Evening” at PNCA

Embassy of Maldives with collaboration of PNCA and Honorary Consuls of Maldives in Karachi & Lahore organised “Maldives Musical Evening” held in Islamabad. Maldives Artists Ms. Rafiath Rameeza & Mr. Ali Abdul Kareem and Mr. Ibrahim Amir performed at stage. The evening was enjoyed by diplomats, members of diplomatic community, members of civil society, media.





Italian Defence Day celebrated in Islamabad

The Ambassador of Italy Stefano Pontecorvo, the Italian Defence attaché' Colonel Giorgie Raino and his spouse Rosa Di Lollo hosted a well-attended reception at a local hotel in Islamabad. Air Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The ceremony was attended by a huge gathering including politicians, business community representative, ambassadors, civilians, military attachés, and the representative from the armed forces of Pakistan.



Music finds a home at Serena

SARANGI- a music initiative by Serena launched amid fanfare



By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Serena Hotels hosted a star-studded evening to launch SARANGI and to conclude the winners for the Photography and Music competition initiated by Serena. Both the photography competition and Sarangi are part of the hotel's Cultural Diplomacy Initiative which aims to protect and promote the cultural heritage of Pakistan and encourage young talents by providing them with a platform through which their efforts can reach a broader audience.

Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO of Serena Hotels, said, "Serena continues to promote the arts and intercultural activities to inspire a culture of peace and hope. We truly believe in providing platform to the emerging artists so that they are recognised by a larger audience. Social media was used for the competitions that received tremendous response from all over Pakistan. Tonight, we are here to promote the incredible creative talent that Pakistan possesses".

Sarangi – a musical initiative began with an online competition which allowed amateur bands to compete. The 3 winners out of 50 entries were chosen by the professional jury panel comprising of Ali Noor of Noori, music director Nizar Lalani and Sarmad Ghafoor.

The winners of the first SARANGI competition were Sannan Mehboob from Swat, Ahad John & Band from Faisalabad and Gohar Nayab & Band from Faisalabad. The winners received a trophy, certificate and gifts from Serena Hotel and were given the opportunity to perform in the gathering of diplomats, bureaucrats, journalists and music lovers from Islamabad.

The concept behind the photography competition was to give recognition to the emerging architectural photographers of Pakistan. The judges of the photography competition were Mobeen Ansari, Syed Mehdi Bukhari and Wajahat Malik who selected Minhaj Ahmad from Karachi as the winner of the BE THE NEXT SERENA PHOTOGRAPHER and Sakina Hassan, also from Karachi as the runner-up out of 1200 entries.

The evening concluded with a performance by students of the Leiflarsen Music Centre (LMC). While thanking the Leiflarsen students, Serena Hotels announced to contribute towards the learning of their skills in the music field.



Oman marked its 47th National Day in Islamabad

Embassy of Oman hosted a reception to mark its 47th National Day at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Ambassador of Oman H.E. Mr. Al-Sheikh Mohammed Omar Ahmed Al-Marhoon along with Mr. Waleed Issa Al-Zadajali, Deputy Head of Mission, Oman Embassy welcomed the guests. Chief Guest was Mr. Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, Federal Minister for Religious Affairs & Inter-faith Harmony. A large number of politicians, diplomats, officials and prominent citizens attended the reception.



SERENA HOTELS



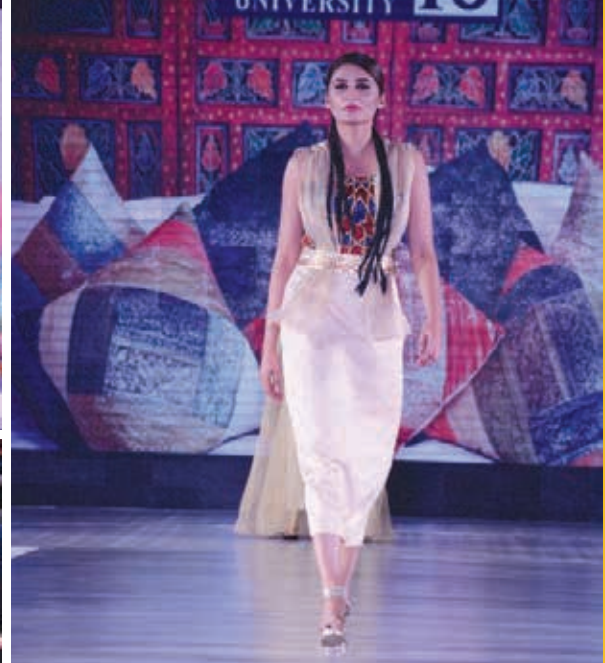
Traditional Uzbek costumes showcased at a fashion show in Islamabad

Photo by Ramzan Mughal

By M. Saeed Yousafzai

Embassy of Uzbekistan in collaboration with Iqra University hosted a grand fashion show in order to show case various traditional Uzbek costumes. The show, which was largely attended by members of civil society, media and diplomatic corps, provided the guests with an opportunity of getting them acquainted with the marvelous Uzbek costumes. Ambassador of Uzbekistan H.E. Furqat Sidqov in his brief remarks termed the event historic and landmark as it was happening for the first time that Uzbek costumes were exhibited in front of a large number of people.





Polish Independence Day celebrated in Islamabad

The Ambassador of the Republic of Poland H.E. Piotr Opalinski hosted a remarkable reception to mark the 99th anniversary of Poland Independence Day and to celebrate the Armed Forces Day at a local hotel in Islamabad. The Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani and the visited Marshal of the Senate of Poland, Stanislaw Karczewski was the chief guests while Lt Gen Nadim Raza, Commander 10 Corps graced the occasion as a special guest. Ambassadors, politicians, government officials, and business community representatives also attended the event.



207th Independence Day of Chile celebrated in Islamabad



H.E. Jean-Paul Tarud Ambassador of Chile hosted a reception to celebrate 207th Independence Day of his country at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. He was accompanied by his wife Alexandra Popescu and Chile's honorary consul general designate, Dewan Mohammad Yousuf Farooqi. The chief guest on the occasion was Human Rights Minister Mumtaz Ahmed Tarrar. The event was attended by 400 participants including Pakistani officials, diplomats from different countries and media persons.



Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Tallal Chaudry Minister of State for Interior in a meeting with Mr. Walliam Middleton Political Counselor UK High Commissioner, Islamabad.



Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Sadik Babur Girgin called on National Security Adviser LT. General (RETD) Nasser Janjua in Islamabad.



Swedish Ambassador Ms. Ingrid Johnson called on Minister of State for IT & Telecom Mrs. Anusha Rehman at Islamabad.



Germany's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan (SRAP), Markus Potzel called on Ambassador of Pakistan to the US, Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry at the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC.



H.E. Nawaf Saeed Al-Malki, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Pakistan called on Federal Minister for Communications, Dr. Hafiz Abdul Kareem in Islamabad.



Pakistan Ambassador to Bahrain Javed Malik in a meeting with Finance Minister of Bahrain Sheikh Mohammad Bin Ahmad Al-Khalifa in Bahrain.



Federal Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Laghari in a meeting with US Ambassador in Pakistan, David Hale in Islamabad.



National Security Adviser LT. General (RETD) Nasser Khan Janjua in a meeting with German special Representative on Afghanistan and Pakistan, Markus Potzel and the German Ambassador, Martin Kobler in Islamabad.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



H.E. Iwan Suyudhie Amri, Ambassador of Indonesia in Pakistan called on Federal Minister for Commerce and Textile, Mohammad Pervaiz Malik in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman held bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr. Henrik Asheim, Minister for Education and Research, Leader of Norwegian Delegation on the sidelines of 39th UNESCO General Conference at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.



Chairman Senate, Mian Raza Rabbani shaking hands with Marshal of Senate of the Republic of Poland Mr. Stanislaw Karczewski on his arrival at Parliament House, Islamabad.



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq shaking hand with Chairman of the State Duma Committee on International Affairs of the Russian Federation Mr. Leonid Slutsky at Islamabad.



Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Sartaj Aziz, Norwegian Ambassador, Tore Nedrebo and other participants of symposium to mark the conclusion of an institutional cooperation programme between Pakistan and Norway.



Minister for Defence Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan and Russian Minister for Trade and Industry Denis V. Manturov with their delegations at conclusion of 5th Pak-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission meeting in Moscow.

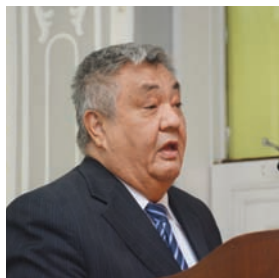


ECO day marked by member states in Islamabad

Seven Asian, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and three Eurasian nations marked the 26th Economic Cooperation Organization's (ECO) day. A special event in connection with the ECO day was held at Pakistan's Foreign Office in Islamabad,

where ambassadors of the member states were also present. Speaking at the event, Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua stressed on enhancing trade relations and people-to-people contacts among the member states. Bakhitbek Shabarbayev, dean of the ECO and Kazakh ambassador to Pakistan, termed the

establishment of ECO as a great achievement of member countries. An exhibition was also organized at the Foreign Office, where the stalls were set up by member states to showcase the cultural inheritance of their respective countries.





Reception hosted to mark 72nd Independence Day of Indonesia



To celebrate the auspicious occasion of the 72nd anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia, Ambassador Iwan S. Amri and Mrs. Rita Berlinia Amri hosted a reception at Serena hotel Islamabad. Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman was the chief guest on the occasion. The venue was beautifully decorated with flowers, artifacts and umbrella arrangements, creating a unique Indonesian ambience. The reception was well attended as the government dignitaries, diplomats, Pakistani military officers, businesspersons, politicians and representatives from across the civil society.





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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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