

Monthly Magazine on National & International Political Affairs, Diplomatic Issues | February 2018 | Volume 09 | Issue 02
Promoting Bilateral Relations | Current Affairs | Trade & Economic Affairs | Education | Technology | Culture & Tourism

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**Conflicts
& Wars
will benefit
No One**

President of Indonesia

H.E. Ir. H. Joko Widodo



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PAY FOR 3 AT DUMPUKHT**

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DUMPUKHT



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08



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| 08 | Conflicts & wars will benefit no one: President of Indonesia | President Mamnoon Hussain and President of Indonesia Ir. H. Joko Widodo have agreed to work together for peace in Afghanistan and said that peace in Afghanistan is necessary for the development and progress of the region. Both countries will work together in this regard |
| 18 | Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) to Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces Vice Admiral Fahad Bin Abdullah Al-Ghofaily | On the occasion, the President said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are the closest friends and the depth of their relationship is difficult to describe in words. |
| 24 | CPEC most important initiative of our generation: PM Abbasi | Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan said that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the most important initiative of our generation. "This is perhaps the most important initiative of our generation and the most visible part of the Belt and Road Initiative," he said while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the first-ever International Gwadar Expo. |
| 40 | India in 2017 An Eye Opening Report of Human Rights Watch | Vigilante violence aimed at religious minorities, marginalized communities, and critics of the government—often carried out by groups claiming to support the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)—became an increasing threat in India in 2017. |

64 "CPEC: Challenges & Opportunities 2018" an Event Organized by Diplomatic Focus

Ambassador of China said that "In my view, challenges may not be there but threats may be global economy. The regional and global cooperation, coordination is important and these types of challenges are existing. So for CPEC is for China, Pakistan, for regional countries and neighbors and we have needs to overcome on these challenges".



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Price

Pakistan	Rs.800	Middle East	10 Saudi Riyal
UK	£ 6	Schengen State	€6
Malaysia:	Myr.29	Canada:	\$9
USA:	\$8		

Published from Islamabad

Our previous Issues

January 2018



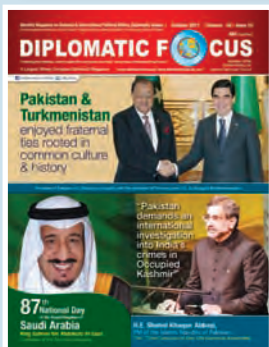
December 2017



November 2017



October 2017



Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan has announced visa-free entry for 24 nations including America in a bid to increase the tourist base of the country. In April, 2017 immediate suspension of issuance of visas on arrival (landing permits) to foreigners imposed to avoid any 'irregularities' in the database. The then interior minister said said central visa database is essential as it would enable Pakistani state institutions to keep a tab on all those travelling to Pakistan on any visa category. The then Interior Minister Ch. Nisar had a verbal clash with the current interior minister, Ahsan Iqbal, in the National Assembly over the visa and INGO issues. Defending his ministry's decision, Iqbal had said the country cannot be shut out to foreigners on the pretext of a 'security situation'. He assured that visas would be issued after strict security checks, adding that "every Tom, Dick and Harry" will not be given a visa.

Visa on arrival is matter of serious consideration. The whole process of issuance of Visa should be clear and full fill the requirements of our national security and National Action plane. The scheme should be on a mutual basis. Government should insure that what measurements had been taken or will be to avoid misused of scheme as had been in the past. The scheme

The valiant Kashmir people are as firm and steadfast today in their legitimate and just freedom movement as they were seven decades ago, despite facing continued persecution and restrictions of all sorts at the hands of Indian occupation forces,. Similarly and regrettably those claiming to be champions of democracy and human rights have also not altered their course of turning their backs to the plight of the oppressed people.

In fact, India never gets tired of being the biggest world democracy but the fact is that the system which actually protects fundamental rights and aspirations of the people is in the shambles especially ever since under Modi's installation as PM for supporting and promoting Hindu nationalism while usurping the rights of Muslims and other minorities. In case of occupied Kashmir, such a brute force is being used against innocent and armless Kashmiri people in the form of pellet guns and other ammunition of different sorts coupled with enforcement of black laws that the heads of those claiming to be flag bearers of human rights should hang in shame. Due to their political and economic expediencies and those wanting to make India policeman of the region are keeping a complete mum on the atrocities being carried out in occupied Kashmir. Anyway we have no doubt in saying that despite India's intransigence and world's insensitivity, the Kashmiri people will change the course of history through their relentless struggle and see the dawn of independence very soon. Whilst Pakistan has always expressed solidarity with their Kashmiri brethren, it is also time for other Muslim countries especially those enjoying good relations with New Delhi to listen to the cries of oppressed people, stand by them and force the Indian government to resolve the dispute.

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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By Agency

New Envoys presented credentials to President Mamnoon Hussain

Envoys-designate of Turkey, South Korea and Malaysia presented their credentials to President Mamnoon Hussain during credentials ceremony at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. Later, the Ambassadors/High Commissioner separately called on the President. Speaking on the occasion, The President said that Pakistan wants to further strengthen its relations with all brotherly and friendly countries. He hoped that all envoys designate will work toward further enhancing the bilateral relation of their respective countries with Pakistan.

He underlined that Pakistan's economy is back on right track due to the well planned policies of the incumbent government. He underscored that Pakistan is one of the most suitable country for investment as liberal investment policies adopted by the government provides numerous opportunities to the foreign investors in different fields. The President congratulated the newly appointed Ambassadors/ High Commissioner and wish them a pleasant stay in Pakistan. The envoys who presented their credentials included Ambassador-designate of Turkey Mr. Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul, Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Korea Mr. Kwak Sung-kyu, High Commissioner-designate of Malaysia Mr. Ikram Bin Mohammad Ibrahim.

Earlier, each envoy-designate arrived at the main gate of the Aiwan-e-Sadr in a horse driven carriage. On the occasion, the National Anthem of Pakistan and their respective countries were played and the envoys designate were also presented Guard of Honour.

President
Mamnoon Hussain
hooped that all en-
voys designate will
work toward fur-
ther enhancing the
bilateral relation
of their respective
countries with
Pakistan



President of Indonesia: Conflicts & Wars No One will benefit

Weapons and military power will never resolve conflicts in the world and arms race would continue to create tension: Indonesian President

By Monitoring, Agency

President Mamnoon Hussain and President of Indonesia Ir. H. Joko Widodo have agreed to work together for peace in Afghanistan and said that peace in Afghanistan is necessary for the development and progress of the region. Both countries will work together in this regard, they added. This was agreed between the two leaders in a meeting at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. The two Presidents had one on one meeting which was followed by delegation level meeting. Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs of Indonesia Darmin Nasution, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia Retno L.P. Marsudi, Minister for Trade of Indonesia Enggartiasno Lukito, Ambassador of Indonesia, Iwan Suyudhie Amri, while from Pakistani side Minister for Commerce Muhammad Pervaiz Malik, Federal Minister for Interior Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Energy Sardar Awaiz Ahmed Khan Leghari and other senior officials were also present in meeting. Earlier, President Mamnoon Hussain and First Lady Begum Mahmooda Mamnoon warmly welcomed

President of Indonesia Ir. H. Joko Widodo and First Lady of Indonesia Mrs. Iriana Joko Widodo upon their arrival at main entrance of the Aiwan-e-Sadr. On the occasion, children clad in traditional dress presented bouquets to the

visiting dignitary. A 21-gun salute heralded the arrival of President Widodo as he landed at Nur Khan Airbase, accompanied by First Lady Iriana Widodo, ministers, and a business delegation. President Mamnoon Hussain stated



President Widodo commended that Pakistan has played a very significant role in the peace process of Afghanistan



President of the Republic of Indonesia H.E. Mr. Joko Widodo with Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Shaid Khaqan Abbasi, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani, Before Addressing the Joint Session of the Parliament



President Mamnoon Hussain Receiving Indonesian President IR.H. Joko Widodo at the Nur Khan Air Base, Islamabad



President of Indonesia Mr. Joko Widodo Observing the Guard of Honour at PM House, Islamabad

that Pakistan and Indonesia have similar views on International issues. He expressed pleasure that both countries have similar viewpoint in this regard and we wish to work together which will yield positive impact. Indonesian President Ir. H. Joko Widodo said that Indonesia thinks that it can play a positive role in the peace process of Afghanistan. He commended that Pakistan has played a very significant role in the peace process of Afghanistan. He also proposed the establishment of a committee of Indonesian, Afghan and Pakistani Ulemas for this purpose. President Mamnoon Hussain also agreed to his proposal. During the meeting, the two leaders also agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation to further strengthen the defence and trade relations. Both leaders stressed that

“Economy of a country or a region can (only) grow if there is political stability and security”: President Widodo

expanded trade, investment and economic cooperation should be a vital element in their relationship. President Mamnoon Hussain expressed satisfaction over the progress of defence relations between the two countries. He expressed pleasure that activities under the bilateral Defence Agreement have been started. He hoped that the Joint Committee envisaged under the Agreement will soon be formed and start implementing the provisions of the Agreement. He stated that new initiatives of Army to Army talks, Navy to Navy talks and joint exercises will further boost our cooperation.

Both countries can utilize expertise of each other in defence production, he said. President Mamnoon Hussain highlighted that excellent cooperation exists between Pakistan and Indonesia on international issues. He also thanked the Indonesian President for their support to Pakistan's bid to become Full Dialogue Partner of ASEAN. President Mamnoon Hussain also hosted a banquet in the honour of the President of Indonesia. On the occasion, Federal Ministers, Parliamentarians, Senior Civil and Defence officers and eminent personalities from different walks of life were

President Mamnoon Hussain and President of Indonesia Ir. H. Joko Widodo have agreed to work together for peace in Afghanistan and said that peace in Afghanistan is necessary for the development and progress of the region.

also present.

President of Indonesia Joko Widodo also addressed the joint-sitting of the Parliament of Pakistan and said that "Conflicts and wars will benefit no one. I repeat, conflicts and wars will benefit no one. The people, mainly women and children always become the most impacted ones in conflicts and wars".

The session was chaired by National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and attended by Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Senate Chairman Mian Raza Rabbani, three services chiefs, besides the parliamentarians.

President of Indonesia called for a firm commitment to democracy terming it "the only way to serve interests of the people," Radio Pakistan reported.

Widodo, said democracy provides space for people in decision-making process, "helps maintain political stability and achieve growth".



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Shaking Hands with President of Indonesia Mr. Joko Widodo at PM House in Islamabad



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Meets President of Indonesia Mr. Joko Widodo at PM House in Islamabad



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and President of Indonesia Mr. Joko Widodo Leading their Respective Delegations During Delegation Level Talks at PM House in Islamabad

“Economy of a country or a region can (only) grow if there is political stability and security,” he said.

Referring to the challenges of terrorism, he said no country was immune to it. “Muslims are the biggest victim of terrorism, 76 per cent of terrorist attacks took place in Muslim countries. Besides, 60 per cent of armed conflicts happened in Muslim countries and 67 per cent refugees come from Muslim countries,” Widodo explained.

The Indonesian president said besides impacting the people, the conflicts and wars also destroyed the values of humanity.

Widodo, who started his speech with slogan of Pakistan Zindabad (Long Live Pakistan), also strongly advocated for democracy believing that “Democracy is the best way serving our peoples’ interests. Democracy provides the space for the people in decision-making process.

President of
Indonesia called
for a firm commit-
ment to democracy
terming it “the only
way to serve inter-
ests of the people,”

The Indonesian President said weapons and military power will never resolve conflicts in the world and arms race would continue to create tension. He emphasized the need to resolve conflict through dialogue.

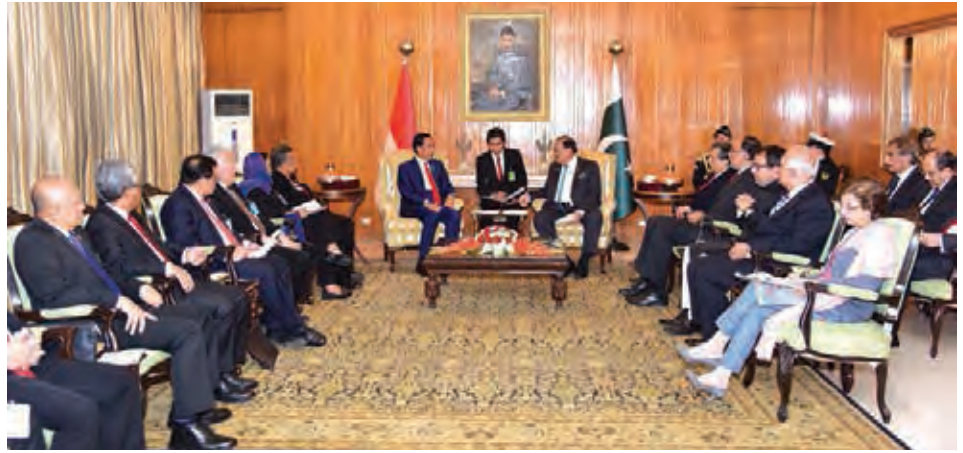
Earlier, welcoming Indonesian President Joko Widodo in the joint session of Parliament, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said Pakistan and Indonesia cherish deep bonds of history, religion and culture.

He said an everlasting peace in South Asia requires a just and peaceful solution of this unresolved issue in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and in light of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

The Speaker said Pakistan hopes that friends like Indonesia will continue helping Pakistan in this regard.

He said the historical association of our two people has diversified over the period of time and has helped our two governments to build a strong network of cooperation on all fronts.

The Speaker said as members of the United Nations, the OIC, the Inter-Parliamentary



Mamnoon Hussain and Indonesian President Ir. H.Joko Widodo during the delegation level meeting at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and President of Indonesia Mr. Joko Widodo Witnessing Signing of MoUs at PM House in Islamabad



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and President of Indonesia Mr. Joko Widodo Witnessing signing of MoUs at PM House in Islamabad

Union, the Parliamentary Union of OIC Member States and other international and regional forums, we have been supporting each other on all issues of common concern and interest.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said the recent years have seen enhanced people-to-people contacts between our two countries, which have opened new avenues of cooperation in higher education, cultural exchanges, bilateral trade and investment opportunities on both sides.

He said Pakistan has paid the heaviest price by rendering over sixty-five thousand lives and bearing a loss of over 120 billion dollars to its economy.

President Widodo is the second President of Indonesia to address the joint sitting as First Indonesian President Dr Ahmed Soekarno had addressed the National Assembly of Pakistan on June 26, 1963.

President Widodo is the 17th foreign dignitary to address the National Assembly and Senate's joint-sitting.

The others who addressed the sitting included leaders from Iran, Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Palestine, France, China, Britain, Turkey.

According to Foreign Office, President Widodo's visit will contribute towards strengthening existing fraternal ties between the two countries.

“Muslims are the biggest victim of terrorism, 76 per cent of terrorist attacks took place in Muslim countries. Besides, 60 per cent of armed conflicts happened in Muslim countries and 67 per cent refugees come from Muslim countries,”: President Widodo



President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Ghazanfar Bilour signing a memorandum of understanding with Chairman Indonesian Chambers of Commerce and Industry Roshan Perkasa



President of Indonesia IR. H. Joko Widodo being presented a Photo Album of his visit upon his departure at Nur Khan Airbase, President Mamnoon Hussain is also present on the occasion



President of Indonesia IR. H. Joko Widodo being briefed during the static display of JF-17 Thunder at PAF Base Nur Khan, Islamabad



Pakistan, Indonesia

Tied In Historical Bonds; Ties Getting Stronger: **First Lady**

By Agency

First Lady Begum Mehmooda Mamnoon Hussain said Pakistan and Indonesia were tied in historical bonds and the bilateral ties were getting stronger with the passage of time.

The first lady said this in a meeting with her Indonesian counterpart Irina Joko Widodo at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad.

The meeting was also attended by the spouses of visiting Indonesian trade minister and Indonesian ambassador to Pakistan. Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq comprised the Pakistani delegation.

The first lady said Pakistani women were proving their strength in various sectors and also lauded the role of All Pakistan Women Association.

She said Father of the Nation and First Indonesian President Soekarno was very popular among the Pakistani people. Even many roads and places had been named after him, she added.

The first lady also got some awareness about the Family Welfare Organization of Indonesia

and said Indonesian women were contributing to country's prosperity by serving in multiple fields.

Indonesian
first lady
thanked
for the
hospitality and
warm reception



Begum Mehmooda Mamnoon said the trend of tourism to Indonesia was increasing that would help to promote the bilateral ties.

She also felicitated Indonesian first lady on wedding of her daughter took place in November last and extended best wishes for the successful marital life of the couple.

The first lady viewed that the visit of the Indonesian president and the first lady would boost the warmth and brotherhood between the two countries.

Indonesian first lady thanked her Pakistani counterpart for the hospitality and warm reception and said that her family and Indonesian people wished the progress and prosperity of their Pakistani brethren.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Ambassador of Iraq Dr. Ali Al-Rehmani Called on President Mamnoon Hussain at the Awan-e-Sadar, Islamabad



Ambassador of China to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Yao Jing calls on Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at PM Office Islamabad



Chairman Senate, Mian Raza Rabbani Exchanging View with French Ambassador to Pakistan, MR. Marc Parety, at Parliament House Islamabad



Chairman Senate, Mian Raza Rabbani exchanging views with Mr. Muhammad Motahar Alashabi, Ambassador of Yemen, at Parliament House Islamabad



Ambassador of China Mr. Yao Jing called on Speaker National Assembly Saradar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, Islamabad



H.E Mr. Yao Jing, Ambassador of China called on Ms Marriyum Aurangzeb Minister of State for IBNH&LH in Islamabad



UAE Ambassador to Pakistan, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi called on National Security Adviser, Lt. Gen (R) Naseer Khan Janjua in Islamabad



Ambassador of France to Pakistan, Marc Barety called on Federal Minister for Commerce and Textile, Mohammad Pervez Malik in Islamabad

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



H.E. MAJ. GE. (R) Ashimiyu Adebayo Olaniyi, High Commissioner of Nigeria in Pakistan Called on Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at PM Office Islamabad



US Ambassador David Hale Called on Adviser to Prime Minister on France, Miftah Ismail in Islamabad



High Commissioner of Federal Republic of Nigeria, Maj.Gen. (R) Ashimiyu Adebayo Olaniyi Called on Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Defence Production at Rawalpindi



Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Nawaf Saeed Al-Malkiy Called on Minister of State for Finance, Rana Mohammad Afzal in Islamabad



Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Sikandar Hyat Khan Bosan meets H.E Perry Caldorccd, the High Commissioner of Canada in Islamabad



Minister for Commerce and Textile, M. Pervaiz Malik with British High Commissioner Thomas Drew and British Ambassador to Afghanistan Sir Nicholas Kay in Islamabad



British Ambassador to Afghanistan, Sir Nicholas Kay Called on National Security Adviser, Lt.Gen. (R) Naseer Khan Janjua in Islamabad



Japanese Ambassador, Takashi Kurai Called on Minister of State for Finance, Rana Muhammad Afzal in Islamabad



Turkmenistan-Pakistan Strategic Partnership

Turkmenistan and Pakistan traditionally enjoy close, cordial relations marked by trust and understanding and bilateral collaboration in different sectors is growing steadily. Turkmenistan and Pakistan have strategic partnership which has been further strengthened after the most recent visit of Deputy Chairman of Cabinet of Ministers/ Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India Gas Pipeline (TAPI) has already revolutionized the basic concept of “commercial diplomacy” among the participating countries. TAPI is a gift from Turkmenistan which will definitely further integrate energy cooperation in the days to come.

During recent visit of Turkmenistan foreign minister Rashid Meredov to Islamabad, both countries have agreed to expedite connectivity projects between the two countries including roads and rail linkages to increase bilateral trade. While meeting with Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Turk foreign minister discussed different aspects of early completion of TAPI and other energy projects with Pakistan.

The Prime Minister appreciated the progress made on the TAPI. The Turkmen Foreign Minister briefed the Prime Minister on the present status of the gas pipeline project and other energy projects including proposals for electricity transmission line and fiber optic connectivity.

He also invited the Prime Minister to visit Turkmenistan at his earliest convenience, which



the Prime Minister accepted. Turkmen Foreign Minister said that his country would welcome Pakistani participation in projects related to the petrochemical industry in his country.

The Turkmen foreign minister was accompanied by a high level delegation consisting of Minister of Energy, State Minister and Chairman of TurkmenGas, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India Pipeline Company Limited as well as experts and senior officials from other associated sectors of macro-economy of Turkmenistan. Foreign Ministers of both the countries led their respective sides to the inaugural session of Pakistan-Turkmenistan Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC).

Both the countries are also focused on measures for enhanced connectivity including air and land linkages to promote trade, travel, tourism and people-to-people contacts.

The Turkmen Foreign Minister also handed over an invitation from the President of Turkmenistan to the President of Pakistan for the link-up ceremony of TAPI being planned this year

In his most recent statement H.E. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov President of Turkmenistan rated strengthening of cooperation with neighboring countries in the Asian region, including Pakistan, as one of the key vectors of neutral Turkmenistan's foreign policy.

Being a strategic mega project of energy and game changer the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Japanese government expressed their interest in financing TAPI. In this connection, the Islamic Development Bank has already allocated a loan worth \$700 million for Turkmenistan to construct its TAPI section.

Most recently, Afghan Ministry of Mines and



Petroleum said TAPI gas pipeline which is being built in Turkmenistan would reach the Afghanistan border in Herat by January, 2018. The ministry said that initial work has begun to launch the project in Afghanistan. The TAPI will be 1,735 kilometers long and has the capacity of transferring 33 billion cubic meters of gas from Turkmenistan to Pakistan and India through Herat, Farah, Helmand and Nimroz provinces of Afghanistan.

The implementation of TAPI will earn Afghanistan up to \$500 million USD a year in transit duties. The project will also help Afghanistan to purchase 1.5 billion cubic meters of gas for thirty years at a reasonable price. The gas will be utilized in Hajigak iron mine and Mes Aynak copper project. Some 200 kilometers will pass through the territory of Turkmenistan, 735 kilometers through Afghanistan, 800 kilometers through Pakistan up to Fazilka settlement on the border with India.

The pipeline will change all the participant countries into a transit hub for Central Asia. It will be an important economic corridor for all the countries because other projects like a power transmission project, a railway project, industrial parts and an optic fiber project will be built along the TAPI pipeline route," Habibyar added.

CEO of the TAPI gas pipeline Murad Amanov, oject, said the project is of great importance to the Turkmen president. The project will help improve Turk's economy as it is one of the biggest

economic projects in the country. The design documents and initial work for the project have been completed and Turkmenistan is fully committed to its implementation. Turkmenistan will invest around \$25 billion to deliver 3.2 billion cubic feet of gas per day (bcfd) to energy deficit Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

Of the total, \$15 billion will be invested in



FM Khawaja Muhammad Asif and H.E Mr. Rashid Meredov FM of Turkmenistan Signing the Agreement between the Government of Pakistan & Turkmenistan abolition of Visa requirements for the holders of diplomatic passports in Islamabad

developing the gas field whereas \$10 billion will be poured into laying the pipeline over 1,680 km connecting Afghanistan, Pakistan and India with Turkmenistan. The Turkmenistan official said a consortium of Japanese companies was working on fast track to develop the gas field in Turkmenistan whereas a Chinese company was working on building the pipeline.

The multi-billion dollars Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project entered its practical phase in Pakistan after the process of initiating front-end-engineering-and-design (FEED) route survey was formally inaugurated.

Turkmenistan Ambassador in Pakistan Atadjan Nurlievich Movlamov is very energetic and doing his level best for the further strengthening of bilateral relations between Turkmenistan and Pakistan in terms of socio-economic integration, energy cooperation, transports, communications, business-to-business coordination, exploration of potential opportunities for joint ventures and foreign direct investments (FDIs) through rigorous commercial diplomacy.

Ashgabat and Islamabad agree to enhance cooperation on international and regional

issues of common interest, and continue coordination within international and regional mechanisms such as the UN, NAM, G-77, ECO and OIC. Now both countries express their resolve to work together for regional peace, development and shared prosperity.

Turkmenistan is endowed with huge hydrocarbon resources, which can provide energy to Pakistan to meet its needs. Pakistan also supports Turkmenistan's initiative to establish trans-regional energy corridors. TAPI will revolutionize the macro-economies of all the participating countries and will be the start of a new era of regional cooperation, peace and harmony.

TAPI is not just a gas transit initiative connecting energy-rich Central Asia with energy-starved South Asia, but a mega project of strategic importance that will open doors for greater regional economic collaboration and integration. Moreover, Pakistan will also import one thousand megawatt of electricity from Turkmenistan and the MOU in this regard was signed in 2017.

Writer is Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan, A veteran Journalist with grip on international relations. Courtesy to National Courier



President conferred Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military)

to Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces Vice Admiral Fahad Bin Abdullah Al-Ghofaily

By Mian Fazal Elahi



Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces Vice Admiral Fahad Bin Abdullah Al-Ghofaily Called on President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi is also present

President Mamnoon Hussain has conferred Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces Vice Admiral Fahad Bin Abdullah Al-Ghofaily at the Aiwan-e- Sadr, Islamabad. On the occasion, the President said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are the closest friends and the depth of their relationship is difficult to describe in words. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi,

He stated that Pakistan Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Forces stand behind each other in the hour of need. While expressing satisfaction over the cooperation between the Naval Forces of both countries he stated that it will yield far reaching and beneficial impacts. The President expressed his pleasure at the ongoing development process in Saudi Arabia under the leadership of King Salman bin Abdulaziz

and said that the development projects being initiated under his supervision will be a source of welfare for the masses. The President stated that Holy Prophet (PBUH) has called upon all Muslims as brothers, whether they live in any part of the world. He underscored that it is our responsibility to follow these teachings of Holy Prophet (PBUH) because secret of the success of Muslims is hidden in it.

Pakistan Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Forces stand behind each other in the hour of need: President Mamnoon Hussain

Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki and senior Civil & Naval Officers were also present during the investiture ceremony. Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces also called on President Mamnoon Hussain after the ceremony. Matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting. While talking to the Commander of Royal Saudi Naval Forces, the President emphasized that there are not only close ties between the Governments of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia but also between the people of the two countries. He underlined that the sincere friendship between the two countries will further grow in the coming days.



Rana Tanveer Hussain Federal Minister for Defence Production presenting a shield to vice admiral Fahad Bin Abdullah Al Ghofaily, Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces



A Delegation of Pak-Saudi Arabia Joint Ministerial Commission Headed by Minister for Commerce & Investment Dr. Majid B Al-Qasabi Called on President Mamnoon Hussain at The Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Saudi Arabia is our true friend & brotherly country: President Mamnoon

President Mamnoon Hussain has said that Saudi Arabia is our true friend and brotherly country while every Pakistani considers Saudi Arabia as his second home. Both countries are connected with each other through religious, cultural and economic linkages which provide fresh impetus to their relations, he added. The President said this while talking to a delegation of Pak-Saudi Arabia Joint Ministerial Commission headed by Minister for Commerce & Investment Dr. Majid Bin Al-Qasabi who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. Federal Minister for Commerce Mohammad Pervaiz Malik, Federal Minister for Defence Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, Minister of State for Finance & Economic Affairs Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Commodore Nawaf Saeed Ahmed Al-Malki, members of the delegation and senior officials were also present in the meeting. This high level delegation is visiting Pakistan to participate in the 11th Session of Pak-Saudi Arabia Joint Ministerial Commission. The President emphasized that Pak-Saudi Arabia relations are of special importance and there is a great atmosphere of trust and love between the two countries which is an example for the world. The President underlined that the two countries are cooperating in various fields while continues efforts are required to further enhance these ties. The President stated that the trade volume between the two countries is below its true potential which needs to be increased. He underscored that there should be regular exchange of meetings between

the investors and businessmen of the both countries. It will open up new avenues of investment and will further boost the relations between the two countries, he said. The President stated that Saudi vision 2030 is of great significance and it will play an important role in further strengthening the economy of Saudi Arabia. He pointed out that Pakistan is a one of the best countries in terms of investment opportunities and Saudi investor can benefit from the investment opportunities in the field of energy, construction and agriculture. The President recalled his recent visit to Saudi Arabia and meeting with His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz in which important matters of bilateral interest were discussed. The President pointed out that Saudi Arabia is home to 2.6 million Pakistanis who consider the kingdom as their second home. He said that these Pakistanis have substantially contributed to the socio-economic development of Saudi Arabia and act as a strong human bridge between the two countries. He thanked His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz for taking good care of the Pakistani community. Minister for Commerce & Investment of Saudi Arabia Dr. Majid Bin Al-Qasabi apprised the President that important decisions were made during meeting of the council which will have a far reaching impact.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi received 35-member Saudi delegation to participate in the 11th Session of Pak-Saudi Joint Ministerial Commission. The Prime Minister

By Fazal Elahi, Monitoring Desk

welcomed the holding of 11th Session of Pak-Saudi Joint Ministerial Commission, which is expected to enhance and strengthen bilateral economic relations. The substantive decisions taken during the meeting of the Pak-Saudi JMC were also discussed with the Prime Minister. These include establishment of a Working Group for export of Halal food from Pakistan to Saudi Arabia; Saudi investment in the construction of the South-North Gas Pipeline, accelerated negotiations on a bilateral investment treaty and exchange of parliamentary delegations. In the context of export of Pakistani manpower to Saudi Arabia, the Saudi side agreed to set up a training institute in Pakistan to help meet its human resource requirements. A delegation from the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development would also be received in Saudi Arabia early next week. Also

In the context of export of Pakistani manpower to Saudi Arabia, the Saudi side agreed to set up a training institute in Pakistan to help meet its human resource requirements.



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi meeting Dr. Majed Abdullah Al-Qasabi, Minister of Commerce and Investment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at PM Office

the Executive Director of NAVTTC has been invited to visit Saudi Arabia. The Saudi side also agreed to visa relaxation and reduction in visa fees for Pakistanis. The Prime Minister underscored that relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were not only important for the Government of Pakistan but that the people of Pakistan have a special affection for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Khadime-al-Harmain Al-Sharifain. Dr. Al-Qasabi also emphasized the importance attached by Saudi Arabia to the special relationship with Pakistan.

Earlier, the 11th Session of Pakistan –Saudi Arabia Joint Ministerial Commission was held. The Session was Co-chaired by Mr. Mohammad Pervaiz Malik, Minister for Commerce and Textile and also Co-chair of Pakistan and Dr. Majid bin Abdullah Al Qasabi, Minister for Trade & Investment, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and also Co-chair of the Commission from Saudi side. During the two day Session, meetings were held between the experts of the two sides on a number of issues, especially focusing on Trade, Commerce, Energy, Consular Affairs, Education, Health and other matters of mutual interest. During his stay in Pakistan, Dr. Majid bin Abdullah Al Qasabi Minister for Trade and Investment, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia called on President as well as Prime Minister of Pakistan. He also held meeting with the Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development on issues of bilateral interest. The closing session was held on January 17, 2018 and the Protocol of the Session was signed by both Co-chairs.

The highlights of major decisions taken during the meetings of the 11th Session of Pakistan –

The Saudi side agreed to visa relaxation and reduction in visa fees for Pakistanis.

Saudi Arabia Joint Ministerial Commission are as under:

a) Both sides agreed to hold exhibitions of new products in each other's countries. First single country exhibition of Pakistan in Saudi Arabia will be held in the second half of 2018.

b) Both sides agreed to review and simplify the procedure of business visa issuance. The business visa fee will also be rationalized.

c) The Commission called for reactivating Pak-Saudi Joint Business Council (JBC) by first quarter of 2018 followed by the first meeting of the Council.

d) A Commercial Attache will soon be designated in Saudi Embassy, Islamabad.

e) Pakistani side stressed the importance of cooperation between Saudi oil and gas companies to develop oil production in Pakistan including setting up of refineries.



Pak-Saudi Co-Chairs Mohammad Pervaiz Malik, Minister for Commerce, Pakistan and Dr. Majid Bin Abdullah Alqasabi, Minister of Commerce & Investment, Saudi Arabia Exchanging Documents After Signing Protocol of 11th Pak-Saudi JMC Session



f) Both sides agreed to expedite negotiations to finalize the MoU between Central Banks of two countries.

g) Both side will exchange and share security information and the expertise in the field of combating terrorism, organized crimes and money laundering.

h) The Saudi side praised the Pakistani pilgrims.

i) A draft Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners is likely to be signed at an early date.

j) The Commission encouraged exchange visits of the officials from the media field, share television cultural programs and documentaries, facilitate the missions of the official radio and television delegations between the two countries.

k) The Saudi side informed that there is a Saudi Royal Decree to establish labor Attache in Pakistan and one of the mandates of this Attachee is to approve the labor training centers to train manpower in accordance with the Saudi requirements...

l) It was agreed to encourage cooperation in the fields of scientific researches, exchange of

scholarships and experiences in health teaching and medical staff and exchange of student visits.

m) The Pakistani side requested increasing scholarships for Pakistani students studying in Saudi universities.

n) There will be cooperation in science and technology and exchange of research expertise.

o) Pakistan offered Saudi Civil Aviation training courses at Civil Aviation Training Institute, Hyderabad in the field of air traffic control, communication, navigation and surveillance engineering and aviation management.

p) Saudi Ministry of Health wishes will continue the cooperation in the field of recruiting qualified and trained Pakistani medical personnel to work in the Kingdom focusing on consultants, specialist and nurses in critical healthcare.

q) For focused and regular sectoral liaison, both sides agreed to nominate the Focal Persons from both sides for cooperation in the fields of trade, energy, investment, education, agriculture, etc

In the context of export of Pakistani manpower

The 11th Session of Pakistan –Saudi Arabia Joint Ministerial Commission discussed a number of issues, especially focusing on Trade, Commerce, Energy, Consular Affairs, Education, Health, and other matters of mutual interest.

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The Saudi side agreed to visa relaxation and reduction in visa fees for Pakistanis.

The 11th Session of Pakistan –Saudi Arabia Joint Ministerial Commission discussed a number of issues, especially focusing on Trade, Commerce, Energy, Consular Affairs, Education, Health, and other matters of mutual interest.



GDP

has grown significantly during the last few years: President

By Agency

President Mamnoon Hussain has said that GDP has grown significantly during the last few years which has also strengthened the national economy. He also stated that there is a need to further enhance national income and development through the continuation of policies and all segments of the country including industrial and business community should play their role in this regard. The President said this while talking to a delegation of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (RCCI) headed by its President Zahid Latif Khan who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. On this occasion, senior officials of the President's Secretariat and Ministry of Commerce & Trade were also present during the meeting. The President emphasized that the continuation of economic policies is imperative for the stability of national economy. He underlined that it is a matter of great satisfaction that the incumbent Government is working on the similar strategy. It will have a positive impact on the economic sector and Commerce & Industry, he added. The



President said that the decision to reduce tax rate will have a salutary effect on the economy and will also increase the national income.

The President underscored that national growth rate has increased during the last four years which is quite satisfactory. He added that corruption has been decreased which has also a positive impact on the economy. He told the delegation that the electricity production in the country has been increased, load shading has been controlled and after this the prices of electricity will also be reduced. Expressing satisfaction on the import of LNG for power production he stated that it will help to overcome the energy issues. The President noted that Government's policies are in the right direction but the trade and industrial community of the country must stay in a constant contact with the Ministry of

Commerce & Trade so that these policies may be further improved. He urged that Chambers of Commerce and other trade organizations should promote research in various field so that new opportunities for the national industry and commerce could be determined after reviewing the international trends.

The President said that it is inappropriate to deny development process and achievements only due to the political and personal differences. Different segments of society should discourage these elements in order to accelerate the pace of development of the country, he stated. He stressed that business community is the pillar of national economy and the Government is fully committed to promote industry & commerce and to resolve the issues of this sector. He added that this strategy is producing fruitful results.

Commander Pakistan Fleet, Rear Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi Exchanging View With President of Mauritius, Mrs Ameenah Gurib Fakim



Band

Visited Islamabad to celebrate Scotland

Photo by Sheikh Arif

Scottish band Reely Jiggered visited Islamabad for Burns Night — the annual celebration of Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns. Mr. Richard Crowder, Acting High Commissioner, hosted the Burns Supper celebrations. Band played at the charity Ball at the British High Commission and also visited an orphanage in Islamabad, where they played traditional Scottish music. Reely Jiggered are an award winning Ceilidh (pronounced kay-lee) band inspired by Celtic Folk and world music. They have toured international music festivals around the world and this was their first visit to Pakistan. They are made up of Alison McNeill (fiddle and vocals), Fiona McNeill (guitar, bodhran and vocals) and Scott McLean (percussion). Burns Night, which is celebrated around the world, involves Scottish dancing and eating Haggis, a traditional food.





most Important Initiative of **Our** Generation

PM Abbasi

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring

P rime Minister Shahid Khaqan said that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the most important initiative of our generation.

"This is perhaps the most important initiative of our generation and the most visible part of the Belt and Road Initiative," he said while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the first-ever International Gwadar Expo.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, the prime minister said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will not only benefit the two countries, but also bring pros to entire region.

The prime minister also reflected on the World Economic Forum, which was held in Davos. "...theme there [WEF] was 'Shared Future in Fractured World', the reality is that in today's world the largest initiative that is mending the fractures is [Chinese] President Xi's vision of taking the historical linkages of yesterday,

transposing them onto the fractures of today and creating linkages for tomorrow".

"CPEC, today, for Pakistan is the reality; the Gwadar port, the Gwadar Free Zone, the East way expressway and other projects in Gwadar. It is the motorways and the highways that are linking Gwadar to Khunjerab, that are linking Peshawar to Karachi. It is the modernisation of our railway system. It is the establishment of the power projects...and it is the special economic zones that will generate employment, that will create export for Pakistan and that will give prosperity to people of Pakistan," he remarked.

PM reiterated that the ongoing policies of economic development would continue no

matter which party forms the next government as these were aimed at development and prosperity of the nation. He reiterated that the country would hold its next general election in July this year after the completion of the five-year term of the PML-N government.

The prime minister termed CPEC a 'game changer' and said the potential of Gwadar has been fully realized owing to the vision of President Xi Jinping and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. He said due to the dedication and hard work of Pakistani and Chinese teams, both CPEC and Gwadar were heading towards a bright future. Addressing the challenges of Balochistan, the prime minister said the future of the province was in the hands of its political leadership. He said the provincial government needs to develop the entire coastline. He said there was an urgent need to transform Gwadar into an international city, which was fully functional and can serve the future demands of its people. He said the provincial government has to confront the challenges ahead.

**"The CPEC is a reality
now," PM Abbasi**



Abbasi mentioned the ongoing modernization of the railway system from Karachi to Peshawar and Khunjerab to Gwadar, upgrading of road network, building of necessary infrastructure, building of power projects and setting up of special economic zones to bring prosperity to the people of Pakistan through generation of economic activity, increase in exports and creation of jobs.

He said the new motorway networks would bring prosperity not only to Central Asian States, Western China and Afghanistan but also Pakistan and strengthen President Xi's vision of Belt and Road Initiative. He said Gwadar was the most visible section of this vision and termed it the most important contribution of the Chinese president for the future generations. He said the CPEC projects were based on financial viability and environmental sustainability.

The Gwadar Expo, which has been jointly organised by Gwadar Development Authority and China Overseas Ports Holding Company, is being attended by foreign personalities along with members of the diplomatic community and businessmen from across the globe attended the two day event.

First phase of the zone has been established at the gateway of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The Free Zone would help facilitate trade with different parts of the world especially Central Asia.

The expo seeks to provide a platform for interaction between local and foreign business entrepreneurs, financiers, investors and government officials to utilize the benefits of this mega project for enhanced investment, business and employment opportunities.

The prime minister later formally inaugurated the first phase of Gwadar Free Zone. He along with the chief minister, CJSCS, president AJK and others jointly pressed a large button to unfurl a huge red and green banner, covering the front gate of economic free zone, amidst a huge applause of Pakistani and Chinese nationals gathered at the historic event. The prime minister also opened the Gwadar Expo 2018 – the two-day conference and exhibition aimed at providing a



platform for Pakistani and Chinese businessmen already working on CPEC-related projects. The prime minister visited different sections of the free zone, business centre and the exhibition hall showcasing over 100 stalls by the companies. Spread over 60 acres, Gwadar Free Zone will

be operated by China Overseas Port Holding Company, which has also set up a business centre for handling of operations.

A business centre has also been set up by the China Overseas Ports Holding Company, which will provide a one-window operation for matters including immigration, customs, visa operations and port clearance facilities.

Chairman China Overseas Port Holding Company Zhang Baozhong has said with the construction of Free Zone, the port city of Gwadar would become a big commercial hub in the region.

In an interview, the Chairman COPHC said development of Gwadar would help to improve the overall economic conditions of the country and also of the local people.

Zhang said for construction of Gwadar Free Zone, China had employed around two thousand local people keeping in view their involvement in the mega project. He said Expo which would attract delegations from countries including Iran, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates would help proper marketing of local products including fishing, embroidery and dairy products.



Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Ambassador of France, Marc Baret called on Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Engr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman in Islamabad



Minister of State for Finance, Rana Mohammad Afzal meeting with Romanian Ambassador, Nicolae Goia in Islamabad



Minister of State for France, Rana Mohammad Afzal Meeting with Iranian Ambassador Mehdi Honardoost in Islamabad



Ambassador of UAE, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Alzaabi called on Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance, Miftah Ismail in Islamabad



French Ambassador Marc Baret called on Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance, Miftah Ismail in Islamabad



H.E Mr. Marc Baret, Ambassador of France to Pakistan called on the Minister of State for Finance and Economic Affairs, Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan at the Economic Affairs Division in Islamabad



Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Takashi Kurai called on Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance and Economic Affairs, Mr. Miftah Ismail in Islamabad



Federal Minister for States & Frontier Regions Lt. Gen. (R) Abdul Qadir Baloch in a meeting with Ambassador Roland Kobia, Special Envoy of the European Union to Afghanistan in Islamabad

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Us Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, Ambassador Alice G.Wells called on Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance, Dr Mifttah Ismail in Islamabad



High Commissioner of Canada, Perry John Calderwood called on the Federal Minister for Commerce & Textile Muhammad Parvez Malik in Islamabad



Then Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. Justice Mian Saqib Nisar in a meeting with Mr. Yao Jing, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan at Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad



Minister for Commerce & Textile, M. Pervaiz Malik & Secretary Commerce, M. Younas Dagha in meeting with Ambassador of Egypt, H.E. Ahmed Fedel Yacoub in Islamabad



Ambassador of Ukraine in Pakistan, H.E Volodymyr Lakomov called on Federal Minister for Commerce and Textile Mohammad Parvaiz Malik in Islamabad



H.E Mr. Adel Elarbi, Ambassador of Republic of Tunisia in Pakistan called on Mr. Irfan Siddiqui, Advisor to the Prime Minister at National History & Literary Heritage Division



Mr. Lijian Zhao Chief of Mission (DCM) Chinese Embassy called on Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui, the Secretary Planning, Development & Reform in Islamabad



Mr. Yao Jing Chinese Ambassador called on National Security Adviser Naseer Khan Janjua in Islamabad

WEF

engagements to generate billions of dollars' worth business potentials in **Pakistan:** **PM Abbasi**

By Monitoring, Agencies

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said the engagements at World Economic Forum will help to generate billions of dollars in business potentials in Pakistan.

Addressing news conference in Davos on Thursday, he said Pakistan has engaged the business leaders, company leaders of telecom, automotive technology and health care sectors at WEF.

Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that Pakistan want a strong relations with United States.

He said that the government is working for bright future the nation. He said the democracy is getting strengthened in Pakistan day by day.

Commenting on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he said that Pakistan is working to promote connectivity among the countries of the region and across the world as well.



Ambassador of Pakistan at Switzerland Mr. Ahmad Naseem Warraich receiving Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi upon arrival at Zurich

**Pakistan's
economic growth
will reach 6% in
2018**



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Alongwith Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Federal Minister for National Health Services Ms. Saira Afzal Tarar, MOS for IBNH&LH Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb and MOS for IT & Telecom Ms. Anusha Rehman Khan Holding A Press Conference at (WEF) Media Village in Davos



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Speaking at WEF's Public Session on "Belt and Road Impact"



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi met Mr. Omar Ishrak, Chairman and CEO, Medtronic at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos

Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said that Pakistan is a peace loving country and strongly demands

the world to resolve issues of Kashmir, Palestine and Rohingya.



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi met Mr. Carlos Ghosn, Chairman and CEO, Renault-Nissan at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos

Pakistan was expected to become a 500,000 annual car market by 2023

Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said that the government is using the media to establish the soft image of Pakistan before the country by spreading the real face of Pakistan.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Ali Jehangir Siddiqui also spoke on the occasion.

The prime minister was talking to Carlos Ghosn, Chairman and CEO, Renault-Nissan on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, said that Pakistan was expected to become a 500,000 annual car market by 2023 where Renault, Kia, Hyundai and a number of other automakers were entering the market to supplement Toyota, Honda and Suzuki, a press release received.

Minister National Health Services Saira Afzal Tarar and Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Special Assistant to the PM

Ali Jehangir Siddiqui and senior government officials were also present during the meeting.

The prime minister invited Renault-Nissan to consider Pakistan as their next investment destination.

Carlos Ghosn thanked the prime minister for his support and stated that Renault would bring its latest products and technological know-how to Pakistan. He said that with a car sales market of 0.3 million units per year, Pakistan has a huge potential in automobiles and auto-parts.

He stated that Renault was committed to bring its best products for Pakistani customers as it is



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Meets Chairman/CEO Trina-Solar Mr. Jifan Gao at the (WEF)

He said that Pakistan wants strong relations with the USA and Washington should also take steps in this regards.

Minister National Health Services Saira Afzal Tarar said that the despite of very bad law and order situation in frontier areas the government is moving forward for polio free Pakistan.

Pakistan is a peace loving country and strongly demands the world to resolve issues of Kashmir, Palestine and Rohingya



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Meets Founder and Chairman of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Professor Klaus Schwab in Davos

Presently, due to the hard work and commitment of our government, law and order situation has improved considerably and has restored investors' confidence



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Meets Mr. Dara Khowsroshahi, CEO of Uber at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Meets Mr. Kaeser, CEO of Siemens AG at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Meets Mr. Sigve Brekke, CEO of Telenor at the WEF in Davos

Pakistan is working to promote connectivity among the countries of the region and across the world as well



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Met Mr. Jermy Weir, CEO, Trafigura and Mr. Pierre Eladari, CEO, Puma Energy at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos

looking at the market as one with huge growth potential.

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi also met with Professor Klaus Schwab, Founder and Chairman of the World Economic Forum. Professor Schwab held discussion with the

Prime Minister regarding Pakistan's economy and the Prime Minister was pleased to share that Pakistan's economic growth will reach 6% this year Inshallah. Professor Schwab appreciated the efforts and measures taken by the present Government for registering a

significant growth in the economy. He also noted the size of young population of Pakistan and appreciated the Prime Minister's focus on creating jobs for the youth in Pakistan.

In sidelines meetings PM Abbasi met with Mr. Ishige Hiroyuki, CEO of Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), Mr. Jean-Yves Charlier, Group CEO of VEON (operating under brand name Jazz in Pakistan), Mr. Ken Kobayashi, Chairman, Mitsubishi Corporation, Mr. Jifan Gao, Chairman / CEO, Trina-Solar, Mr. Bill Gates, Co- Chairman of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Mr. Dara Khowsroshahi, CEO of Uber Technologies Inc. and Mr. Sigve Brekke, CEO of Telenor.

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi attended a breakfast meeting arranged by the Pathfinder Group in Davos. The Meeting was also attended by Pakistani businessmen, media representatives, friends of Pakistan from



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Meets Mr. Jin Liqun, President of Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in Davos



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Meets Mr. Tadashi Maeda, CEO Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos

Pakistan want a strong relations with United States

several nations. The Prime Minister stated that Pakistan is privileged to be part of the visionary Chinese leaderships' "Belt and Road Initiative". CPEC will provide dividends for centuries to come in the shape of employment generation, industrial growth and connectivity. Consolidation of democracy in Pakistan is a positive indicator and all institutions should work hand-in hand for development and stability of Pakistan. The PM stated that the PML-N government, on assuming power, was faced with major challenges of law and order, terrorism, energy shortage and an under-performing economy.

Presently, due to the hard work and commitment of our government, law and order situation has improved considerably and has restored investors' confidence. "I met several business leaders here at Davos and all of them expressed a strong desire to invest and expand businesses in Pakistan", stated the PM. While elaborating the successes achieved in eliminating terrorism, the PM said that Pakistan has fought the war against terrorism from its own resources with a heavy toll on human lives and substantial loss to the economy. Pakistan has been hosting around 3 million Afghan refugees since long which is the longest and largest refuge provided anywhere around the globe. The world must acknowledge our efforts and sacrifices, emphasized the PM. Regarding the progress made on energy front, the PM stated that Pakistan now has surplus gas and has overcome energy deficiency in a sustainable and efficient way. We have diversified our energy mix and with inclusion of Coal and Gas instead of expensive conventional fuels, added the PM.

Pakistan has achieved high economic growth with low inflation that is a positive scenario augmenting greater investor confidence, stated the PM. Pakistan has been able to construct 1700 Kilometers of 6 lane motorways under CPEC, a target which many developed countries find hard to achieve. Gawadar port is operational now and provides world class shipment and logistical facilities, stated the PM.



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Meets Mr. Bill Gates, Co-Chairman of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation at the Word Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Meets Chairman Mistubishi Corporation Mr. Ken Kobayashi at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Addressing During A traditional Pakistan Breakfast Hosted by Pathfinder Group and Martin Dow Group at Davos



Greater exchanges between **Pak-Iran** defence industries stressed

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Rana Tanveer Hussain Federal Minister for Defence Production, Science & Technology who visited Iran met Vice President of Iran H.E Mr. Eshagh Jahangiri. Mr. Eshagh Jahangiri announced his country's readiness to enhance relations with Pakistan in all fronts, adding "nobody can disturb the existing good relations." Mr. Jahangiri said Iran and Pakistan have a lot of capacities in the defense industry, emphasizing that Iran and Pakistan should resolve bilateral issues quickly and move towards the development of relations. Mr. Jahangiri said that "Iran sees no restrictions on the development of defense and military cooperation with Pakistan, and the visit made by high ranking military officials of the two countries in recent years has indicated a determination to enhance the level of such cooperation." Referring to talks with Iran defense minister, Pakistan's Minister for Defense Production and Science & Technology, for his part, said "in those talks, a mechanism was developed for the development of joint cooperation in the defense and science and technology sectors, and I hope that we will see an increase in the level of cooperation between the two countries in different sectors." Rana Tanveer described the Islamic Republic of Iran as a brotherly and friend country for Pakistan, pointing out the great commonality between the two nations, adding "Iran and Pakistan share a lot of cultural and religious affiliations, and geographically have a long shared border."



Mr. Eshagh Jahangiri announced his country's readiness to enhance relations with Pakistan in all fronts, adding "nobody can disturb the existing good relations."

Pakistan and Iran have also agreed to enhance cooperation in defence sector. The understanding was reached at a meeting

between Minister for Defence Production Rana Tanveer Hussain and Iranian Defence Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami in Tehran, Radio Pakistan Reported.

Both sides reviewed the bilateral relations and discussed the possibility of cooperation between the defence industries of the two countries.

The two sides also signed a joint statement after the discussion on bilateral issues.

Referring to the statement signed with his Iranian counterpart, Rana Tanveer Hussain said it showed Islamabad was deeply interested in the expansion of defence cooperation

“Iran sees no restrictions on the development of defense and military cooperation with Pakistan, and the visit made by high ranking military officials of the two countries in recent years has indicated a determination to enhance the level of such cooperation.”: Vice President of Iran

with Tehran, and sought new mechanism for the formation of joint defence cooperation committee with Iran.

Brigadier General Hatami said Iran and Pakistan are two important and influential countries as far as regional developments and Muslim world are concerned.

‘Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has always been emphasizing expansion of relations with Muslim and neighboring countries, especially the friendly and brother country, Pakistan, on bilateral and regional scales,’ he added.

Brigadier General Hatami went on to say that reciprocal visits of Iranian and Pakistani military and defense officials is of high importance and will prepare the grounds for expansion of ties in all sectors.

‘Fortunately, over recent months, very good moves and consultations have taken place between armed forces of the two countries for broadening of defense and military relations,’ he added.



Federal Minister for Defence Production, Science & Technology, Rana Tanveer Hussain met Vice President of Iran H.E Mr. Eshagh Jahangiri at Tehran.



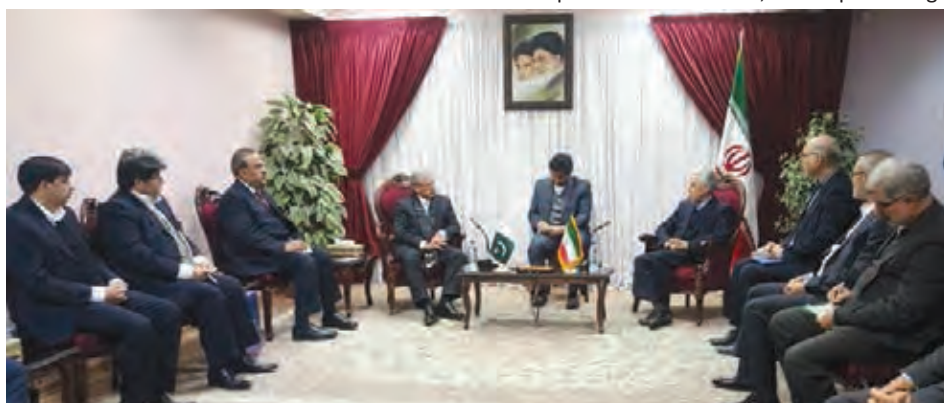
Rana Tanveer Hussain Federal Minister for Defence Production, Science & Technology held a meeting with Iranian Defence Minister Brig Gen Amir Hatami in Tehran

The minister said visit of Pakistani military commanders and officials to Iran will be important in expanding defense and military cooperation and consolidate of stability and security in the region.

‘Common, good and constructive dialogues and stances were observed in talks with Pakistani minister for Defense Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on regional issues, campaign against terrorism, the need for non-intervention of the trans-regional countries in regional developments and the like; we hope through

collaboration and joint endeavors, armed forces of the two countries will be able to further stabilize and consolidate security in the joint border regions.’

He said in that round of talks, both sides stressed that extremism is the product of the wrong and interventionist policies of certain powers, especially the US in west of Asia. ‘The best solution to get rid of the interventions is to promote cooperation on the basis of mutual respect of regional countries.’



Federal Minister for Science & Technology Rana Tanveer Hussain with H.E Dr. Mansour Gholami, Minister of Science, Research and Technology of Islamic Republic of Iran in a High Level Meeting of Science & Technology Experts at Tehran on

‘Fortunately, over recent months, very good moves and consultations have taken place between armed forces of the two countries for broadening of defense and military relations: Brigadier General Hatami



Brigadier General Hatami added that both Iran and Pakistan enjoy high capacities in defense industries and the achievements are partly results of imposing sanctions by westerners on Iran and Pakistan. 'In the talks, we agreed on putting the exchange of expert and technical delegations on agenda to get mutual and more insight on capacities and regulate effective and durable cooperation in the defense industries.'

The minister said activation of joint defense cooperation committee of Iran and Pakistan was another topic discussed in that round of the talks. 'Today, the text of the statements, signed with the Pakistan minister for defense production, is a representation of political will of the leaders of the two countries for expansion of defense cooperation based on mutual interest.'

He wished prosperity for Pakistani nation and government and thanked the Pakistani minister and the accompanying delegation for visiting Iran.

The minister and his delegation paid respect at the mausoleum of the distinguished founder of Islamic Revolution of Iran, Imam Khomeini. They also held meetings with Iranian vice-president and defence minister.

The Pakistan side thanked the Iranian side for warm reception and hospitality and extended an invitation to actively participate in the Defence Exhibition IDEAS-2018.

Iranian defence minister accepted the invitation to visit Islamabad.

Rana Tanveer Hussain also visited the Export Promotion Centre of Iranian Ministry of Defence.



By Monitoring Desk

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq meeting with Supreme Leader of Iran Ayatollah Khamenei at Tehran

Ayaz Sadiq stresses need for unity among Muslim states

"The Ummah has divided and discarded more than ever before"

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that 13th meeting of PUIC was opened at a time when Muslim communities across the globe passing through a saga of pain and prosecution.

He further said that Muslim world have remained the world theatre of wars, violence and worries. He expressed these views in his speech delivered at the General Assembly of Parliamentary Union of Islamic Countries (PUIC) held at Tehran, Iran, Media reported.

The Speaker said that Syria war, fighting in Yemen, terrorist surge in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan and the bleeding wounds of the Palestinians, Kashmiris and the Rohingya Muslims are a constant reminder for us.

He said that in recent years the Ummah has divided and discarded more than ever before that has not only harmed peace in our respective countries but has also hampered the growth and development of our people. "Our people are languishing in hunger, disease, illiteracy and lack of opportunities to a better

future despite owning the riches of the world."

Illiteracy was the main reason that our people were discriminated and forced to take a back seat in the global affairs, he added.

The Speaker said that despite braving the global wave of terrorism and sacrificing the maximum number of precious lives, we were being blamed for this menace.

He said that world has failed to appreciate the Muslims who were instrumental in the defeat of the Al Qaida and Daaish and were being asked to "DO MORE". He stressed the need for unity among the Muslims countries for peace and prosperity of Muslim Ummah.

He said the continued spate of tweets by the US President Donald Trump, attacking religions and coloured nations, equating Islam with terrorism and branding the poor African and Caribbean nations as "Shit Hole States" was not only demeaning but also not befitting to the stature of the President of the United States of America.



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq during his meeting with the Speaker of Iran Dr. Ali Larejani at Tehran

“The Pakistan delegation strongly denounces this mindset” he added. He said the malicious effort to alter the status of the Holy city of Jerusalem was not only a move to violate the International Law and the related UN resolutions but also a deliberate attempt to undermine the peace efforts in the Middle East.

Sadiq said that ethnic cleansing of the poor Rohingya Muslims and the continued persecution of innocent men, women and children of Kashmir needed immediate attention. He said the right of self-determination had been continuously denied to the Kashmiris by India for the last seven decades.

The Speaker said the Indian occupation forces had martyred more than one hundred thousand Muslim Kashmiris, about one hundred and thirty thousand had been arrested and over 20,000 men were missing with their fate unknown.

He said that a new phenomenon of pellet guns, which had resulted in the loss of partial or complete eye sight of more than 500 Kashmiris.

The Speaker said the firing by the Indian troops on the Line of Control in Kashmir, which was resulting in loss of precious lives and property on Pakistan’s side of the LOC, were deliberate attempt to divert the global attention from the gross human rights violations in the occupied Valley of Jammu and Kashmir” he added.

He said Pakistan had persistently called for an end to this madness and advocates a negotiated settlement of Kashmir dispute.

The Speaker said the Parliamentary Union of Islamic Countries was best placed to address all such pressing issues, confronting the Ummah today. “As parliamentarians, it is our duty to push our respective governments towards a policy of integration and not disharmony” he added.

Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani has warned that a nexus between the United States, Israel and India is emerging and the Muslim world needs unity to deal with this.

Leading a delegation of senators at the 13th session of Parliamentary Union of Islamic Countries (PUIC) in Iran, Rabbani said, “There



Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani Exchanging Views with Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei

is a changing world scenario in which a nexus among the US, Israeli and India is emerging and the Ummah [Muslim world] needs unity to deal with this because today it is Pakistan and Iran tomorrow it can be any other country, Express Tribune reported.

He said Pakistan strongly opposes US attempt to alter the legal and historical status of Al Quds Al Sharif and the move is a blatant violation of international law and United Nations (UN) Security Council resolutions.

Rabbani said Pakistan condemns the decision to derail Middle East Peace Process in an already volatile and strife-stricken region.

“This move not only defies the rule of law and international norms but also reinforces the hegemonic and belligerent “might is right” policies in international politics.”

Rabbani, however, underscored the need to make both Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) more proactive in responding to challenges being faced by the Muslim world.

“We must resolve and rise above divisive conflicts be it sectarian, ideological or communal” he observed.

Pakistan has borne the brunt of the war on terror for over one and a half decade. Thousands of Pakistanis, military personnel, as well as civilians, have lost their lives and almost as many have been maimed and wounded, he maintained.

Rabbani added that Pakistan would continue to play a proactive role against this tide of extremism and anarchy.

He termed PUIC a step forward for increased mutually-beneficial integration within the Muslim world as it envisages the “strengthening of contacts, cooperation and coordination between the various Muslim countries’ parliamentary, governmental and non-governmental organisations, with the aim

of advancing common objectives”.

Rabbani said we must admit that we haven’t yet fully exploited the huge potential for progress that the Muslim world collectively possesses and added that atrocities being perpetrated against Muslims in different parts of the world, particularly Palestine, Kashmir and Burma and unrest in Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq are a matter of grave concern and a collective challenge.

“We must not let a handful of extremists and transnational terrorists malign Islam for their vested interests,” he reiterated.

Later on, in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Dr. Ali Larijani, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq stressed the need for a greater cooperation among the countries of the region for common prosperity. He drew the attention of Iranian Speaker over the growing Indo-Israeli nexus and the visit of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to New Delhi.

“The Israeli Prime Minister has brought over 130 strong military and business delegation to India and the two countries are forging a military alliance, which is surely targeted towards the Muslims of the region,” said Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, terming it a threat to regional peace.

He especially mentioned the continued brutalities of Indian occupying forces against innocent Kashmiri people and lamented the silence of the Muslim world. “It is ironic that while Modi’s Government unleashes a reign of terror against Kashmiri Muslims, Muslim governments are busy promoting business ties with India,” observed Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.

Iranian Speaker Dr. Ali Larijani expressed complete solidarity with Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and assured his complete support to the issue once it was raised formally by the Pakistani Speaker at the Conference.



H.E Mr. Nermin Dzentic, Federal Minister of Energy, Mining and Industry of Bosnia & Herzegovina Alongwith a Delegation Held A Bilateral Meeting with Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Defence Production at ministry of Defence Production Rawalpindi

Pakistan Attaches Great Importance to Its Relations with Bosnia Herzegovina: Rana Tanveer

By Monitoring Desk

Minister for Defence Production Rana Tanveer Hussain said that Pakistan attaches great

importance to its relations with Bosnia & Herzegovina as our relations are based on friendship, feeling of

brotherhood and mutual trust.

Talking to Nermin Dzentic, Federal Minister of Energy, Mining and Industry of Bosnia & Herzegovina along with his delegation, he stressed the need to identify the areas of cooperation and joint ventures.

Minister for Defence Production Rana Tanveer Hussain has stressed the need to identify the areas of cooperation and joint ventures between Pakistan and Bosnia Herzegovina, reported Radio Pakistan.

He assured further enhancing the collaboration between the industries of both the countries, adding that the products of Pakistan's Defence Industry is not only compatible with international standard in quality and technology but are also available at much lower prices to Bosnia. He said that Bosnia can benefit from Pakistan's defence production industry in a great way.

The Minister said products of Pakistan's

Bosnia to benefit from Pakistan's defence production industry: Minister for Defence Production

Defence Industry are not only compatible with international standard in quality and technology but also available at much lower prices.

He also assured Pakistan's full cooperation to further enhance the collaboration between the

industries of both the countries.

Rana Tanveer Hussain further mentioned that Pakistan takes great pride in moral, diplomatic and material support extended to Bosnia during the 1990s. Secretary Defence Production Lt Gen (Retd) Muhammad Ejaz Chaudhary and other high officials also attended the meeting. Rana Tanveer Hussain briefed the delegation about the facilities produced by Karachi Shipyard, NRTC, PAC and other DP Establishments, Federal Minister mentioned that Bosnia can benefit from Pakistan's defence production industry in a great way.



H.E. Mr. Nermin Dzentic, Federal Minister of Energy, Mining and Industry of Bosnia & Herzegovina Called on Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Defence Production at Rawalpindi

TURKEY is ready to work closely with PAKISTAN in the aviation sector:

Turkish Envoy



By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Agency

Pakistan and Turkey have mutually agreed on extending their bilateral relations and to work collectively in the field of aviation particularly for the betterment of Pakistan International Airlines. Different matters relating to mutual cooperation in different sectors came under discussion in a meeting between Advisor to Prime Minister on Aviation Sardar Mehtab Ahmad Khan and Ambassador of Turkey in Pakistan Mr. Mustafa Yurdakul here in Islamabad. Senior officials of aviation division were also present on this occasion. Turkish Ambassador in Pakistan Mr. Mustafa Yurdakul appreciated the steps taken by the incumbent government particularly the efforts and contribution made by Sardar Mahtab in order to restructuring Pakistan International Airlines and for the betterment of Aviation sector in Pakistan.

Prime Minister's Adviser on Aviation said that we are focusing on strengthening regional cooperation and bilateral relations to ensure the prosperity and sustainable peace not only in Pakistan but in the whole region. He added that Pakistan and Turkey are brother countries and our friendship will last forever. We are enthusiastic to collaborate on different projects with Turkey to further promote this relation and to collaborate in aviation sector particularly for the betterment of different departments of PIA including IT and enhancement of engineering setup.



Adviser to the Prime Minister on Aviation, Sardar Mahtab Ahmad Khan Talking to the Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan, Mustafa Yurdakul Who Called on him at Aviation Division in Islamabad

Turkish Ambassador assured the Adviser that the existing cooperation in the aviation sector between the two countries will continue. He said that we are ready to work closely to provide further assistance to the Pakistan in the

aviation sector. Sardar Mehtab Ahmad thanked the Ambassador and expressed that Pakistan and Turkey have very strong bond and added that both countries are embracing strong relations with every passing day.

Pakistan and Turkey are brother countries and our friendship will last forever:
Sardar Mahtab



Senator Lt Gen (R) Abdul Qayyum presenting a shield to acting High Commissioner Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri at the Pakistan High Commission London



By Zahid Hussain

The Empire Strikes Back

Just as the situation seemed to be settling down a bit, the country was caught in another whirlpool of political uncertainty. The game is on and it is getting murkier. The political re-engineering in Balochistan has gone rather smoothly. Political loyalty has never been a virtue in this troubled province, yet it needed a masterstroke to have a minority party installed in government by getting disparate groups to come together.

Remarkable machinations saw the majority party dissolved into nothingness overnight, and a non-political entity — who was elected to the Balochistan Assembly with less than 600 votes in the 2013 general elections — installed at the



helm.

It has indeed been an amazing turn of fortunes, even in a country where shifting political alignments have long been a norm.

There is no denying that the members of the ruling coalition may have their own reasons for discontent but it certainly needed a facilitator to ignite the rebellion and make sure that it succeeded. It is not very hard to guess who could be the conductor of this surgical strike that has changed the political dynamics in the country just two months before the midterm Senate elections. It has also raised questions about the coming general elections being held according to schedule.

The empire has struck back bringing down a staunch Nawaz Sharif loyalist as the former prime minister ups the ante by intensifying

confrontation with the apex court and the security establishment. His tenor has become even more strident defying all predictions of

him having been reined in by his erstwhile hosts in the holy land. Sharif is not backing down and the security establishment will not let him come back





at any cost. The confrontation has threatened to destroy the entire political edifice of democracy.

This is a no-holds-barred confrontation that may spin completely out of control. The Balochistan episode has demonstrated the power of the deep state and its apparent ability to manipulate the system from within and without completely subverting it. But it may not always work.

Now the battleground has shifted to Lahore, the

revolt in the PML-N led by an influential cleric.

It is apparent that the younger Sharif too is in the eye of the storm. It is certainly a well-calculated move by the opposition parties to target the man who is the PML-N nominee for office of prime minister in the coming elections. Having distanced himself from his older brother's policy of confrontation, Shahbaz Sharif had made himself acceptable to the security establishment. He was also seen as a leader who could keep the party united. Meanwhile, the

Although the PPP and the PTI are at loggerheads and there is no possibility of them entering into any formal alliance, both find it politically expedient to join Tahirul Qadri's sit-in. Their main objective is to keep up the pressure on the Punjab government. For the PPP, it could provide an opportunity to infuse some life into the party in the province where it has lost ground. However, it remains to be seen to what extent the PTI can gain from the agitation. Qadri is just an instrument in the whole episode.

With all the opposition parties ganging up against him and the possibility of a brewing discontent within the PML-N turning into a full-scale rebellion, the ousted leader finds himself pushed to the wall. His possible conviction by the accountability court on graft charges in the next few months may seal his political fate. That leaves him with few options other than going down fighting. Many believe that he is fighting a losing battle.

It is, however, not such a straightforward situation. While Sharif is on a warpath taking on the two most dominant institutions of the state, his party still rules both at the centre and the most powerful province of Punjab. Despite being disqualified, he still heads the ruling party and continues to guide the federal government.

A major crisis is waiting to happen. How would the state institutions, including the federal government, respond in the event of the accountability court convicting Sharif and his children? A highly explosive situation is developing on the eve of the general elections. It is hard to see how the government,



Sharif citadel of power, where Tahirul Qadri is leading the charge and Sharif's two bitterest political rivals are joining hands against him. The 2014 Model Town carnage has long been an Achilles heel of the PML-N government in Punjab, but making public on court

Supreme Court ruling against the NAB petition to reopen the Hudaibya money-laundering case gave him huge relief. Both Shahbaz Sharif and Hamza Sharif were nominated in the case.

But the latest wave of protests in the province has brought him under tremendous pressure. That also raises questions about the party maintaining its unity as Nawaz Sharif's confrontation with the establishment comes to a head. With his relentless attacks, he has strengthened what appears to be an unintended nexus between the top judiciary and the security establishment.

There may not be a direct connection between the Balochistan episode and the Qadri-led opposition's anti-government campaign, but it does provide an opportunity for the unelected elements to further weaken Sharif's position. It may not be an orchestrated move yet it has the potential to paralyse the Punjab government, widening the cracks in the party. Certainly, it could not lead to the Balochistan-like internal revolt bringing down the Shahbaz administration. But it could deal a serious political blow to the party close to the general elections.



orders Justice Najafi's inquiry committee report has given impetus to the demand for the removal of the Punjab chief minister.

Shahbaz Sharif's position has become more beleaguered with widespread anti-government protests in the aftermath of the Zainab murder case in Kasur. Meanwhile, the newly emerged powerful Bareilvi extremist groups have also stepped up pressure on the government. The controversy has triggered an internal



the opposition parties and the security establishment can deal with this imminent crisis and save the political system. It is an extremely uncertain situation.

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**Mob with Full
Consciousness & Jingoism
Kills the Innocents
#Dadri #Hamirpur
PROTEST**



India in 2017

An Eye Opening Report of Human Rights Watch



Vigilante violence aimed at religious minorities, marginalized communities, and critics of the government—often carried out by groups claiming to support the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)—became an increasing threat in India in 2017. The government failed to promptly or credibly investigate the attacks, while many senior BJP leaders publicly promoted Hindu supremacy and ultra-nationalism, which encouraged further violence. Dissent was labeled anti-national, and activists, journalists, and academics were targeted for their views, chilling free expression.

Foreign funding regulations were used to target nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) critical of government actions or policies.

Lack of accountability for past abuses committed by security forces persisted even as there were new allegations of torture and extrajudicial killings, including in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, and Jammu and Kashmir.

Supreme Court rulings in 2017 strengthened fundamental rights, equal rights for women, and accountability for security forces

violations. In August, the court declared the right to individual privacy “intrinsic” and fundamental under the country’s constitution, and emphasized the constitution’s protections, including free speech, rule of law, and “guarantees against authoritarian behaviour.”

In July, the court ordered an investigation into 87 alleged unlawful killings by government forces in Manipur state from 1979 to 2012.

Violent Protests, Impunity for Security Forces

In the first 10 months of 2017, there were 42 reported attacks in the state of Jammu and Kashmir in which 184 people were killed, including 44 security force personnel. Several were killed or injured as government forces attempted to contain violent protests.

In May, the army gave a commendation to an officer who used a bystander unlawfully as a “human shield” to evacuate security personnel and election staff from a mob in Jammu and Kashmir’s Budgam district.

In a setback for accountability for security force abuses, the Armed Forces Tribunal in July suspended the life sentences of five army





personnel who were convicted in 2014 for a 2010 extrajudicial killing of three villagers in the Machil sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

The government failed to review and repeal the abusive Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), in force in Jammu and Kashmir and in parts of India's northeastern region, which gives soldiers who commit violations effective immunity from prosecution. At time of writing, the government had yet to comply with a Supreme Court ruling civilian authorities should investigate all allegations of violations by troops.

Several parts of India witnessed violent protests in 2017. In August, at least 38 people were killed

during protests in Haryana and Punjab led by supporters of a popular spiritual guru, after he was convicted of raping two female followers. In June, the West Bengal state government's decision to make Bengali language mandatory in all schools triggered protests in Darjeeling district over the longstanding demand for a separate Gorkhaland state, killing eight. Five farmers were fatally shot in June in Madhya Pradesh state, allegedly by police, during protests demanding debt relief and better prices.

In April, 26 paramilitary soldiers from the Central Reserve Paramilitary Force were killed in an ambush by Maoists in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district.

In June, Manjula Shetye died in a Mumbai prison

after six prison staff allegedly beat and raped her. The case drew attention to mistreatment in custody, but police reforms remained stalled.

Treatment of Dalits, Tribal Groups, and Religious Minorities

Mob attacks by extremist Hindu groups affiliated with the ruling BJP against minority communities, especially Muslims, continued throughout the year amid rumors that they sold, bought, or killed cows for beef. Instead of taking prompt legal action against the attackers, police frequently filed complaints against the victims under laws banning cow slaughter. As of November, there had been 38 such attacks, and 10 people killed during the year.

In July, even after Prime Minister Narendra Modi finally condemned such violence, an affiliate organization of the BJP, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), announced plans to recruit 5,000 "religious soldiers" to "control cow smuggling and love jihad." So-called love jihad, according to Hindu groups, is a conspiracy among Muslim men to marry Hindu women and convert them to Islam.

Two people died in caste clashes between Dalits and members of an upper caste community in Uttar Pradesh in April and May. Between April and July, 39 people reportedly died from being trapped in toxic sewage lines, revealing how the inhuman practice of "manual scavenging"—



disposal of human waste by communities considered low-caste— continues because of the failure to implement laws banning the practice.

In November, following a two-week official visit to India, the United Nations special rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, Léo Heller, called on the government to incorporate a human rights perspective into its national programs on water and sanitation, including the flagship Swachh Bharat Mission. As part of his preliminary findings, he said the government's emphasis on constructing toilets to end open defecation should not "involuntarily contribute to violating fundamental rights of others," including specific castes engaged in manual scavenging, or marginalized people, including ethnic minorities and those living in remote rural areas.

Tribal communities remained vulnerable to displacement because of mining, dams, and other large infrastructure projects.

Freedom of Expression

Authorities in India continued to use sedition and criminal defamation laws against government critics. In June, police in Madhya Pradesh state arrested 15 Muslims on sedition charges for allegedly celebrating Pakistan's victory over India in a cricket match, despite Supreme Court directions that sedition allegations must involve actual violence or incitement to violence. After a public outcry, the police dropped the sedition case but charged them with disturbing communal harmony. Also, in June, the Karnataka state assembly punished two editors for articles that allegedly defamed two of its members.

In March, authorities in Maharashtra state charged a journalist for spying and criminal trespass for reporting that officers improperly used subordinates for personal work, filming on army premises without permission, and using a hidden camera.

Journalists faced increasing pressure to self-censor due to threat of legal action, smear campaigns and threats on social media, and even threats of physical attacks. In September,



unidentified gunmen shot dead publisher and Editor Gauri Lankesh, a vocal critic of militant Hindu nationalism, outside her home in Bengaluru city.

State governments resorted to blanket internet shutdowns either to prevent violence or social unrest, or to respond to an ongoing law and order problem. By November, they had imposed 60 internet shutdowns, 27 of these in Jammu and Kashmir. In August, the government issued rules to govern temporary shutdown of the internet and telecommunications services in the event of "a public emergency or public safety [issue]." However, the rules do not specify what the government considers to be a public emergency, or a threat.

Civil Society and Freedom of Association

Activists and human rights defenders faced harassment including under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), which governs access to foreign funding for NGOs.

In April, the government canceled the FCRA license of the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), one of country's largest public health advocacy groups, accusing it of diverting foreign funds to lobby parliamentarians, media, and the government.

Although FCRA may be revoked if the groups violate procedures laid down in the law, the

government's political motivations became evident after the Centre for Promotion of Social Concerns (CPSC) challenged the government's decision in the Delhi High Court. A January 2017 government affidavit in response accused CPSC of using foreign funding to share information with United Nations special rapporteurs and foreign embassies, "portraying India's human rights record in negative light." In November 2016, India's National Human Rights Commission questioned the government's decision not to renew the FCRA for CPSC and concluded: "Prima-facie it appears FCRA license non-renewal is neither legal nor objective."

Women's and Girls' Rights

Multiple high-profile cases of rape across the country during the year once again exposed the failures of the criminal justice system. Nearly five years after the government amended laws and put in place new guidelines and policies aimed at justice for survivors of rape and sexual violence, girls and women continue to face barriers to reporting such crimes, including humiliation at police stations and hospitals; lack of protection; and degrading "two-finger" tests by medical professionals to make characterizations about whether the victim was "habituated to sex."

Rape survivors also lack adequate support services including health care, quality legal assistance, and compensation. While women and girls should have access to safe abortions if they become pregnant after rape, several rape victims have had to petition courts in 2017, including in Delhi and Chandigarh, seeking safe abortion when denied by doctors.

In a setback for women's rights, in July the Supreme Court passed several directives on section 498A of the penal code—the anti-dowry law—to curb what it said was "abuse" of the law, directing police not to make arrests until complaints are verified by family welfare committees, bodies the court recommended be comprised of members of civil society, not police.



Children's Rights

The murder of a 7-year-old boy in a private school in Haryana state in September highlighted that child sexual abuse is disturbingly common in homes, schools, and residential care facilities.

In a deadly outcome resulting from state corruption and neglect, over 60 children died in a public hospital in Uttar Pradesh state in August when a private supplier cut off the oxygen supply after government officials failed to pay long-pending dues.

Children's education was frequently disrupted in areas facing conflict and violent protests. Clashes between protesters and security forces in Jammu and Kashmir state that began in July 2016, continued to simmer throughout 2017, leading to frequent closing of schools and colleges. In May 2017, a student was killed by paramilitary forces inside a government school in Anantnag district during a violent protest.

Schools and colleges also faced disruptions in Darjeeling district in West Bengal state after violent protests and strikes erupted in June over demands for a separate Gorkhaland state. In October, the Supreme Court ruled that sex with a girl younger than 18 was unlawful, regardless of whether she is married or not, saying the exception for married girls was arbitrary and discriminatory.

India continued to abstain, and even played a negative role, in country-specific resolutions at the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and General Assembly.

In September, Prime Minister Modi visited Burma amid a growing humanitarian crisis as more than 600,000 Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine State fled to Bangladesh in the face of ethnic cleansing by Burmese security forces following attacks by a Rohingya militant group. India committed to providing aid for large-scale infrastructure and socio-economic development projects in Rakhine State, but did not call on the government to check abuses by its security forces or to amend its discriminatory citizenship law that effectively keeps the Rohingya stateless. At home, BJP leaders threatened to deport Rohingya refugees, saying they were illegal immigrants.

Courtesy to <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2018/country-chapters/india>



UN CREDIBILITY

AT STAKE ON PALESTINE, KASHMIR

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Agency

Pakistan said at the United Nations that if the Security Council did not implement its own resolutions on Palestine and Kashmir, people across the world can lose faith in the international body, says a press release received here today from New York. Speaking in the debate on the Middle East, Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN, Dr. Maleeha Lodhi called on the Security Council to live up to its responsibilities on resolutions it has adopted. Ambassador Lodhi reaffirmed Pakistan's continued support to the legitimate aspirations of people living under foreign occupation in Palestine, Kashmir and elsewhere. Describing the global peace and security landscape to be plagued by mounting and complex challenges, Ambassador Lodhi said that "Conflicts have intensified and new dangers have emerged while in fundamental ways, the world has gone in reverse". Commenting on the volatile situation in the Middle East, Ambassador Lodhi said that the two-state solution was in peril. "The plight of the Palestinian people is being betrayed at the altar of narrow and myopic political interests and the quest for peace and stability in the region is becoming more elusive than ever", she asserted. Arguing that occupiers have no case to make other than to create alternate facts, Ambassador Lodhi criticized those speakers in the Security Council who tried to deflect attention away from the tragedy of the Palestinian people during the debate. She voiced Pakistan's deep concern over the financial constraints faced by United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), whose activities are a lifeline for Palestinian refugees. "The unfortunate situation has been aggravated by the unilateral decision of a major UNRWA donor to withhold more than half its funding to the organization", Ambassador Lodhi said and urged the international community to ensure sufficient and sustainable financing for UNRWA. "The international community must not fail the Palestinian refugees", she remarked. Criticizing the recent decision by certain countries to relocate their Embassies to Jerusalem, the Pakistani envoy said that this has further inflamed the security situation in the Middle East. The legal status of Jerusalem is unambiguous, Ambassador Lodhi said, pointing to several Security Council and General Assembly resolutions which affirm that all legislative and administrative measures taken by the occupying power to alter the character and status of Jerusalem are 'null and void'. "Security Council Resolution 478 in fact calls on states that have established their diplomatic missions in Jerusalem to withdraw them from the Holy City", she added. She asserted that any contrary action was therefore, not only a manifest violation of the Resolution but also a blatant attempt to legitimize Israel's illegal occupation of East Jerusalem. The Pakistani envoy told the 15-member Council that the Middle East can only secure peace if it is built on the foundation of justice - an imperative that entails a viable, independent and contiguous State of Palestine on the basis of internationally agreed parameters, the pre-1967 borders and with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as the capital of the Palestinian State. Speaking on the situation in Yemen, Ambassador Lodhi called for a massive humanitarian surge to address the suffering of the Yemeni people, especially women and children. This, she said must complement a surge in diplomacy that was essential to kick-start an inclusive political process. On Syria, she said that continued engagement by all sides in genuine, representative and direct intra-Syrian negotiations was the only way forward towards finding a political settlement of the conflict.





New Trilateral Azerbaijan-Pakistan-Turkey Cooperation

By Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

The 7th Ministerial Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (HoA), titled “Security and Economic Connectivity towards a Strengthened Heart of Asia Region”, adopted the Baku Declaration on December 1 2017. It reaffirmed its commitment to the UN Charter and its enshrined principles of sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, inviolability of internationally recognized borders, sovereign equality of nations and non-intervention in the internal affairs of other states as well as universally recognized principles and norms of international law. It reiterated the importance of increased political dialogue and consultation between the countries comprising the Heart of Asia for a stable, peaceful and prosperous region.

It reiterated the obligation to refrain from the threat or use of force against the political independence, territorial integrity, or sovereignty of any state. It reaffirmed its commitment to develop friendly relations among HoA countries based on good neighborly relations, peaceful co-existence, and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

It strongly called for concerted regional and international cooperation to ensure elimination of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including dismantling of terrorist sanctuaries and safe havens, preventing and interdicting the movement of terrorists and terrorist groups, including foreign terrorist fighters, across the countries of the Heart of Asia region, as well

as disrupting all financial, tactical, logistical or any other support for terrorism without any distinction.

The Armenian President Sargysyan, in his speech during the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly on 19 September 2017, made groundless claims blaming Turkey for the delay in the ratification of the Protocols and stated that they will declare the Protocols null and void in the absence of progress and meet the spring of 2018 without those Protocols. The statement states that despite Armenia’s negative stance on the Protocols, Turkey is committed to the primary clauses of the Protocols.

Turkey says these Protocols are still on the agenda of the Turkish Grand National Assembly’s Foreign Affairs Commission and for their ratification, it is essential that a favorable political atmosphere and peace in the South Caucasus is secured. Turkey’s primary target pertaining to the Protocols process is to realize the normalization of relations between Turkey and Armenia in such a way that, comprehensive peace and stability in the South Caucasus is provided. In this vein, it is necessary that in the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict progress is achieved, based on Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity and in light of the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council. In any case, Armenia must put an end to its invasion of Azerbaijan’s territories.

On its part, Azerbaijan has urged neighbor Armenia to end an occupation of Azerbaijani lands and stop propagating baseless claims

against Turkey for sustainable peace and security in the region.

Previously, Turkey and Armenia signed two protocols to rebuild diplomatic ties and bilateral relations in 2009. The protocols proposed an impartial scientific examination of historical records and archives, as well as the mutual recognition of boundaries in order to restore confidence between the two nations, in a bid to find solutions to existing problems.

Turkish Foreign Ministry in a statement on Dec. 14 rebutted Armenian claims, saying Turkey was still committed to the primary clauses of the protocols and their ratification was on the agenda of Parliament’s Foreign Affairs Commission “despite negative attitude and statements by Armenian officials.”

Moreover, “The Armenian allegations of ‘genocide’ in 1915 against Turkey are baseless and examples of ‘fraudulent history’ used for ‘political gains. Turkey says the deaths of Armenians in eastern Anatolia in 1915 occurred after a group of Armenian nationalists sided with invading Russian forces and revolted against the Ottoman army. The subsequent relocation of Armenians resulted in numerous casualties. Turkey describes the events of 1915 as a tragedy for both sides and Ankara has repeatedly proposed the formation of a joint commission of Turkish and Armenian historians, along with international experts, to address the issue.

Armenia uses the “genocide” discourse for political gains but does not mention about Armenian atrocities in Anatolia during World War I, in 1918 Baku or the 1992 Khojaly Massacre, where 613 Azerbaijanis were killed by Armenian forces during the Nagorno-Karabakh War.

Concluding Remarks

Pakistan, Azerbaijan and Turkey relations are based on a concept of “shared prosperity”, rigorous commercial diplomacy and are consolidated on greater socio-economic connectivity, better political understanding and geo-strategic cooperation and increasing military cooperation. The three countries have unlimited opportunities for further strengthening of bilateral relations. The further strengthening of socio-economic ties and the development of trade and business

Relations among these countries will be beneficial to all.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan and Turkey have reiterated further strengthening existing bilateral ties through enhanced interaction between the public and private sectors by using rigorous commercial diplomacy, regional connectivity and greater socio-economic integration. All three countries are also very keen to further enhance bilateral, economic and commercial

relations with special focus on improving the deteriorating energy situation in the country.

The government of Pakistan considers the central Asia region and South Caucasus reliable security partner in the rapidly changing geo-political and geo-strategic world. In the ongoing war against terrorism and mushroom growth of non-state actors, rise of human and drug trafficking nexus, achieving greater socio-economic prosperity, better political understanding and greater regional peace and stability, the governments of Pakistan, Azerbaijan and Turkey are now initiating serious "Security Dialogue" to mitigate these spillover repercussions. The start of trilateral military cooperation among Pakistan, Azerbaijan and Turkey is giant step towards greater regional peace, harmony and security. It will provide a "Strategic cushion" for all the participating countries.

The government of Azerbaijan has been remained center of interfaith harmony, tolerance, dialogue and development since its inception. It initiated many meaningful international forums and as well as conducted various seminars and conference to showcase its strong commitment towards international dialogue, partnership and cooperation between Muslim and Europe. It also started "Baku Process" which was also supported by the UN whereas Armenia has been isolated due to its perpetual aggressive policies and actions against all the regional countries in South Caucasus. The Republic of Azerbaijan's main principles and requirements in the peace process are i.e. Armenia's withdrawal from the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent territories, and Nagorno-Karabakh's remaining within Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan always expresses its readiness to grant Nagorno-Karabakh the highest status under international law and practice.

Diplomacy is a complicated discipline which requires perfection and greater political understanding about different emerging socio-economic, geo-political and geo-strategic issues. Diplomacy also attaches elements of sensitivity, utmost care of bilateral relations and shunning of self-prejudice --- We are strategic partners with lots of commonalities of history, culture, traditions and civilization. We have close trace and commerce ties which must not be spoiled by writing an absurd article which has no factual sway. We have strategic trilateral format of cooperation which needs to be further strengthened and productive for the benefits of all the participating countries. Armenia is an aggressor and destroyer of holy mosque which cannot be friend of any Muslim country.

Writer is Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan, A veteran Journalist with grip on international relations. Courtesy to National Courier



H.E. Ali Alizade Pays Rich Tributes to Martyrs of Azerbaijan & Pakistan

An event "Martyrs are always alive and never forgotten" dedicated to the commemoration of martyrs of Pakistan and Azerbaijan, organized by Embassy of Azerbaijan in collaboration with Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control at Police Lines Headquarters, Islamabad. Additional Secretary Ministry of Interior Rizwan Malik and Inspector General Islamabad Police Sultan Azam Temuri, Ambassadors of Turkey and Belarus, D.H.M Ukraine was present at this occasion.

H.E. Ali Alizade, ambassador of Azerbaijan said on the occasion that Commemoration Day of the Martyrs of Azerbaijan that falls on January 20 remained in the memory of the people of Azerbaijan as a day of sorrow and at the same time day of pride. But today is double honor for us because we are commemorating also the Martyrs of our brotherly country, the brave sons and daughters of great Pakistani nation. Twenty eight years ago, on January 20, 1990, Soviet troops were invaded into the city of Baku by order of the Kremlin in an ultimately failed attempt to save Communist rule and suppress Azerbaijan's independence movement. As you know the present-day continuing Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno Garabagh conflict began at the end of 1987 with the territorial claims to Azerbaijan and attacks on the Azerbaijanis by Armenians following directions of the leaders of Soviet Union. This conflict resulted in a flood of million Azerbaijani refugees from native Azerbaijani lands and internally displaced Azerbaijani persons from Armenia in order to stop independent movement of our nation at that time. We regained independence but unfortunately we are still suffering from

Armenian terrorism and extremism. Every month the brave soldiers of Azerbaijan Army, innocents civilians, women, children lose their lives as a result of Armenian provocation and terrorism in the line of control. Ambassador of Azerbaijan expressed gratitude to Pakistani support and said "I extend my deepest thanks to Pakistan which showed brotherly approach supporting fair position of Azerbaijan all these years and didn't recognize aggressor country Armenia as a state. Azerbaijan value this brotherly approach".





TAPI Gas Pipeline From Idea to Reality

By Ussa Ussaev

I recall that the TAPI project entered into an active phase in 2010, when a quadrilateral intergovernmental agreement on this project was signed in Ashgabat. Then, from 2012 to 2016, the legal framework of the project was consistently supplemented by the Agreements for the purchase and sale of natural gas with all buyers, the Joint Stock and Investment Agreements.

In 2013, the Governments of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India designated respectively their state-owned gas companies Turkmengaz, the Afghan gas company, Inter State Gas Systems Limited (Pakistan), and GAIL (India) Limited to promote and invest in the TAPI project.

The project includes comprehensive works on the design, procurement, construction, operation and maintenance of the pipeline with a length of 1840 km from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. It is envisaged that after full commissioning of TAPI, up to 33 billion cubic meters of natural gas per year will be exported for 30 years.

This project can clearly be counted among a small number of international projects. It will have a stimulating effect on the sustainable development, social and economic growth of the countries of the region and will ensure their energy security. These factors, in turn, are the “columns” on which the modern architecture of the energy space is held.

In a relatively short period of time, significant progress has been achieved in the

implementation of the TAPI project, in particular, on key agreements such as the Agreement with Host Governments and the Agreement on the Transport of Natural Gas. A powerful impetus to the project's progress was given with the establishment of the consortium “TAPI Pipeline Company Limited” and subsequently the choice of the State Concern “Turkmengaz” as the leader of this consortium.

Let me remind you that the start of construction of TAPI was given in December 2015 in Mary province. Presidents of Turkmenistan and Afghanistan, Vice President of India and Prime Minister of Pakistan took part in the solemn ceremony on the occasion of the welding of the first joint – the symbolic “golden link” – of the new gas transportation artery. The laying of the 214-kilometer section of the gas main in the territory of our country is carried out by the State Concern “Turkmengaz”; it is planned to fully complete all works by the end of 2018.

In October 2016, the Agreement of the Government of Turkmenistan with the Islamic Development Bank was signed to finance the construction of the Turkmen part of the TAPI gas pipeline. The document provides for the allocation of a loan in the amount of 700 million US dollars.

In November this year, in Riyadh, the regular meeting of the Intergovernmental Turkmen-Saudi Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held with the participation of industry and energy leaders, as well as large companies of Saudi Arabia. During the meeting, issues of trade, economic and investment cooperation were discussed, including in the

fuel and energy sector, specific agreements were reached in several areas. In particular,

As is known, an important aspect of Turkmenistan's energy strategy is the expansion of the geography of export routes for the supply of Turkmen energy to world markets, including through the creation of a multivariate transport infrastructure. In this area, large investment projects are being implemented, among which the construction of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline (TAPI) occupies a special place. We asked the representative of the State Concern Turkmengaz on the board of directors of the company TAPI Pipeline Company Limited Muhammetmyrad Amanov about the progress of this project, which is of international importance.

the State Concern Turkmengaz has signed an agreement with Global Pipe Company for the delivery in 2018 of a large batch of pipe products intended for the construction of TAPI.

As you know, the resource base of TAPI at the initial stage will be the largest field “Galkynysh”. As part of the development of this field, the State Concern Turkmengaz together with its foreign partners is doing a great job, called to provide a high level of “blue fuel” TAPI.

I want to note other achievements. So, at the negotiation stage there are agreements on the project, which will be concluded with governments and state counterparts. Among them, the most important is the Agreement with the Governments of the host countries.

We have completed the tender process for the selection of contractors for detailed road surveys on the pipeline route. Key research – such as environmental and social impact assessment, and the development of a land allocation plan – are already under implementation in the Afghan and Pakistani areas.

Preliminary design for the gas pipeline and all stations, which is better known as Front-End Engineering & Design, has been completed.

The tender process has begun to select suppliers of long-lasting equipment- like the main pipe and large valves, as well as contractors for the construction of a linear part and stations for various purposes.

Draft contracts have been prepared, which will be concluded as a result of tenders. We do not expect long negotiations in view of the fact that the proposed contract scheme has been repeatedly accepted by the market and demonstrated its effectiveness and balance of interests of the parties. And the last, but not least, is that a team of advisers has been assembled among the companies – world leaders in their field.

In general, all this means that the project is progressing in accordance with the schedule; in 2019 it is scheduled to start gas deliveries to TAPI.

What support is provided for the construction of TAPI at the state level?

Initially, it should be noted that Turkmenistan is the locomotive of the promotion of this project. Thanks to the initiative and personal leadership of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the project has reached the current stage of development, namely, over the past ten years it has been embodied from the idea into reality. Already in the near future, construction work is expected to begin in the territories of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Undoubtedly, the governments of the participating countries fully support the TAPI gas pipeline project. There is an all-round



assistance to the activities of the consortium “TAPI Pipeline Company Limited” both at the level of shareholders, which in turn are state-owned gas companies, and at the level of state departments of the respective jurisdictions.

Representatives of the governments of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India work very closely and effectively. And this is confirmed by the fact that the TAPI project is extremely important for the development of the region's economy, primarily for the industrial sector, and large and small businesses. Thus, local contractors will be involved in the delivery and construction work.

The participating countries will receive a cheaper, more economical and environmentally friendly source of energy, as well as additional revenues from gas transit.

As esteemed President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov emphasizes, in addition to the economic development of the region, the solution of vital social issues, the implementation of the TAPI project will help to strengthen peace and stability here. In this context, the project is considered both by the participating countries, and by the world community as a whole.

In continuation of the topic, it is necessary to note one more important and long-term partner of the project – the Asian Development Bank. ADB is participating in the project from the very beginning, and continues to provide all-round support to TAPI, including through the provision of soft loans. Thus, an agreement was reached between the Government of Afghanistan and ADB on financing the Afghan part of the share capital in “TAPI Pipeline Company Limited”.

What are the criteria for selecting project consultants and contractors?

First of all, this is the presence of solid experience in the field of pipeline design, construction and operation, the introduction of the best world practices and standards into the draft. Particular attention is paid to the environmental aspect. When choosing the route, we were guided by the principle of minimum impact on the environment. By technical complexity, the TAPI project can be put on a par with other international gas pipeline projects. In this regard, it is necessary to note the successful work of our consultants – the German company ILF and the British Allen & Overy.

How to solve the financing of the project?

The State Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of Turkmenistan and Turkmengaz have extensive experience in attracting investments in large international projects and, accordingly, are working with various credit agencies and financial institutions. These include the Asian Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank, export credit agencies and sovereign funds of various countries; as well as international commercial banks.

Considering the fact that the “lion's” share of the necessary capital investments is the supply of goods and equipment of long-term production, export credit agencies can potentially play an important role in financing the project. In addition, the parties to the project unanimously reaffirm their commitment to the project and the obligation to provide their own capital, according to the shares of participation and arrangements.

Writer is editor-in-chief of the newspaper “Nebit-gaz”



Rai Tre named

Turkmenistan best tourist destination in 2018

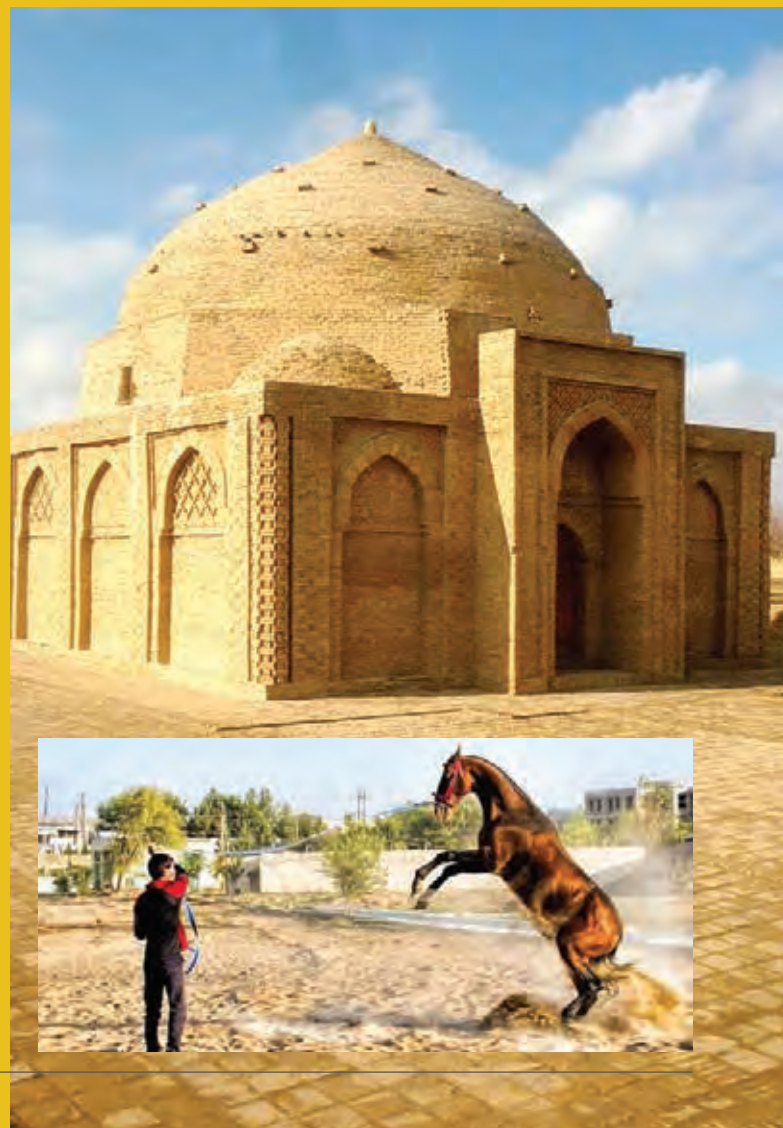
According to the survey held among the viewers, Italian TV channel “Rai Tre” named best destinations for travel in 2018. Turkmenistan became the leader of the survey in the nomination “History”, ORIENT.TM information agency reports.

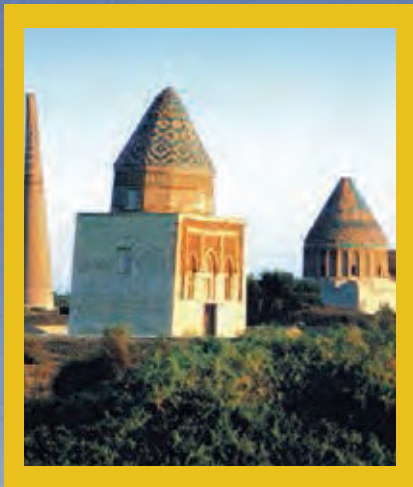
Following a numerous programs about tourism and travel to different popular destinations, the Italian TV channel “Rai Tre” conducted a survey among the TV audience and tourists to reveal the best countries for recreation in 2018. Turkmenistan won in the category “History”.

It is worth mentioning that Turkmenistan has a lot of historical sites for the people having interest in history. Among most attractive historical monuments of Turkmenistan there is so-called “Turkmen Stonehenge” – the Altyn Depe city. According to historians this ancient city is dating back to the Bronze Age (2300 – 1900 BC). Tourists can see the pictograms of ancient people that look like

proto-Elamitic and proto-Sumerian scripts.

Ancient cities of Parthia cause huge interest among travelers, especially its cultural capital city – Ancient Nyssa. Cities and fortresses of the Great Margiana will not leave anyone indifferent. On this very land the Greeks and the Romans met the Chinese for the first time. On this soil in 53 A.D.

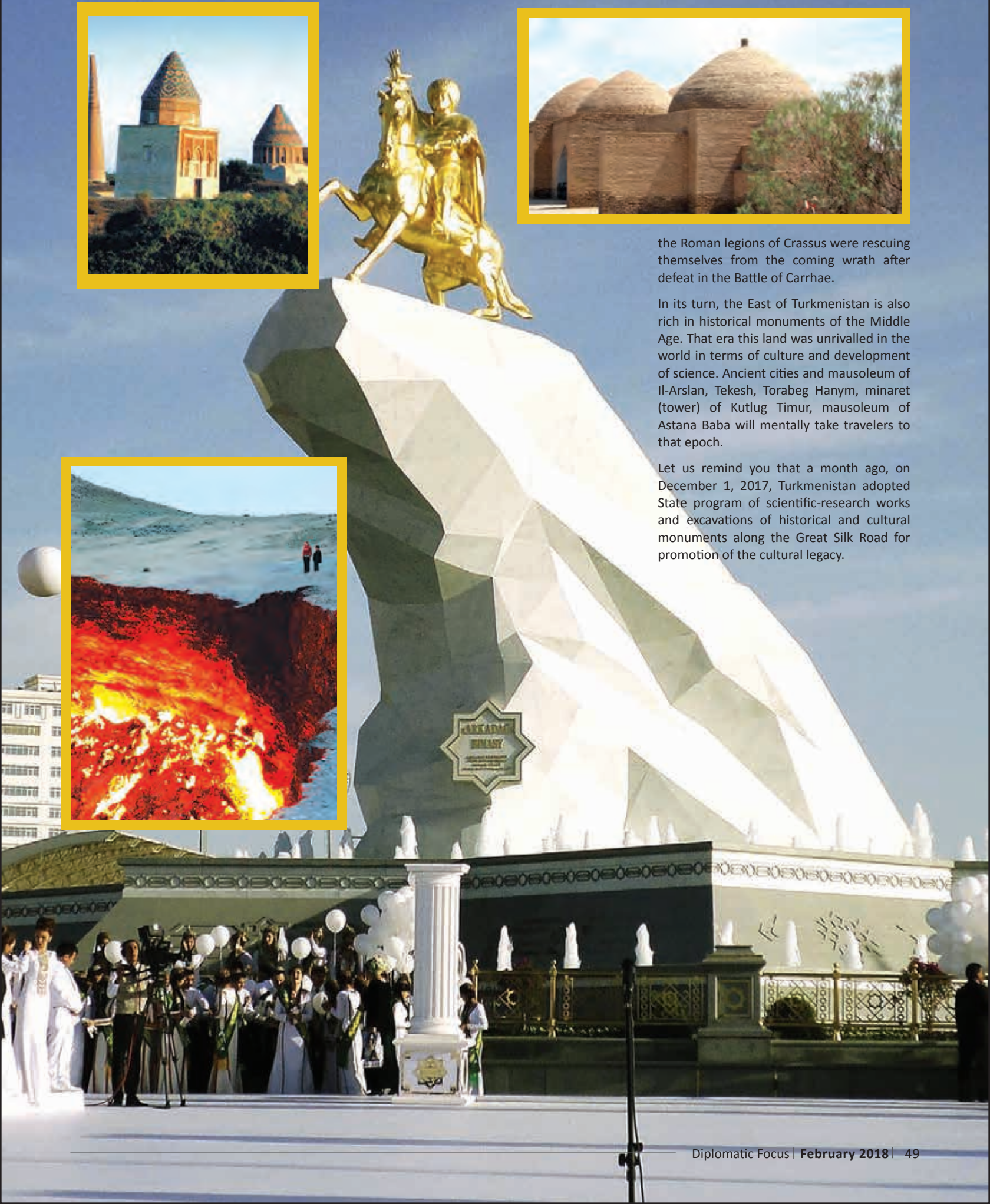




the Roman legions of Crassus were rescuing themselves from the coming wrath after defeat in the Battle of Carrhae.

In its turn, the East of Turkmenistan is also rich in historical monuments of the Middle Age. That era this land was unrivalled in the world in terms of culture and development of science. Ancient cities and mausoleum of Il-Arslan, Tekesh, Torabeg Hanym, minaret (tower) of Kutlug Timur, mausoleum of Astana Baba will mentally take travelers to that epoch.

Let us remind you that a month ago, on December 1, 2017, Turkmenistan adopted State program of scientific-research works and excavations of historical and cultural monuments along the Great Silk Road for promotion of the cultural legacy.





Pakistan - Mexico friendship

The Alpine Club of Mexico & Embassy of Pakistan in Mexico arranged a special mountaineering expedition

The Alpine Club of Mexico (known in Spanish as “Club Alpino Mexicano”), in collaboration with the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Mexico, arranged a special mountaineering expedition from 13-14 January, 2017 to the highest peak in Mexico called Citlaltepetl (also known famously as ‘Pico de Orizaba’ in Spanish or Peak of Orizaba) at a height of 1849 feet. The expedition was dedicated to Pakistan — Mexico friendship and named as “Hermanadad



Alpina Mexico — Pakistan” (Pakistan Mexico Alpine Brotherhood). On the invitation of Mr. Jose Aguayo Estrada, President of the Mexican Alpine Club Mr. Tasawar Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan to Mexico also joined the expedition till the base camp.

The expedition was preceded by a flag exchanging ceremony hosted by Mr. Juan

Navarro, Mayor of Chalchicomula de Sesna in the city of Cerdan. The Pakistan flag was presented by the Ambassador to the leader of the expedition to be flown at the summit.

The expedition was part of Embassy’s efforts to enhance cultural cooperation between Pakistan and Mexico. The Embassy has been consistently working with the Mexican Alpine



Club for the last few years to promote mountaineering and trekking opportunities offered by Northern Areas of Pakistan. Many Mexican mountaineers have availed of these opportunities in the past. The Embassy is currently also working with the Alpine Club for further enhancement and diversification of the cooperation by finalization of an institutional framework.



By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring

Bahraini FM appreciates Javed Malik's Efforts to Expand Bilateral Ties

Pakistan's Ambassador Javed Malik met with the Foreign Minister of Bahrain Sheikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Al Khalifa and discussed the growing bilateral ties between Pakistan and Bahrain. The Foreign Minister appreciated the valuable efforts by Ambassador Javed Malik in further consolidating and expanding the diplomatic, economic and cultural ties between both countries. Sheikh Khalid Al Khalifa said that Bahrain highly values its strong brotherly

relations with Pakistan. While recalling his recent visit to Pakistan in which he co-chaired the First Pakistan Bahrain Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC), the Foreign Minister said that the up-gradation of our diplomatic ties to Ministerial level was a major step and it highlights the significance that both countries attach to their relations, says a press release received from Bahrain here today. It may be noted that the JMC was followed by the first

a matter of great satisfaction that the vision of the high leadership of both countries has been executed in line with the understanding that was reached between the King of Bahrain and the Prime Minister of Pakistan during their meeting which 2015 in Bahrain. Ambassador Javed Malik said that Pakistan offered tremendous opportunities of business, trade and investment for Bahraini and Gulf based businessmen and expressed the confidence that the economic ties between both countries will be enhanced.



Pakistan Bahrain Business Opportunities Conference for which Bahrain's commerce Minister Zayed R. Alzayani had led a large government and business delegation to Pakistan in March 2017. While thanking the Foreign Minister for his support, Ambassador Javed Malik said that it was

Pakistan offered tremendous opportunities of business, trade and investment for Bahraini and Gulf based businessmen: Amb Javed Malik



Diplomatic Focus called on to President AJK



Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi, Editor, CEO, Publisher of "Diplomatic Focus" along with Mr. Zia ur Rehman Zabeeh Pattern In chief of "Diplomatic Focus" and Chairman of Zabeeh Group of Companies called on H.E. Sardar Masood Khan, President of Azad Jammu & Kashmir here in Islamabad. President AJK appreciated the role of Diplomatic Focus. Matters of mutual concerns came into discussion. Early, H.E. Sardar Masood Khan welcomed Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi and Mr. Zia ur Rehman Zabeeh.



The Pushback Against the Populist Challenge

By Kenneth Roth



The surge of authoritarian populists appears less inevitable than it did a year ago. Then, there seemed no stopping a series of politicians around the globe who claimed to speak for “the people” but built followings by demonizing unpopular minorities, attacking human rights principles, and fueling distrust of democratic institutions. Today, a popular reaction in a broad range of countries, bolstered in some cases by political leaders with the courage to stand up for human rights, has left the fate of many of these populist agendas more uncertain. Where the pushback is strong, populist advances have been limited. But where capitulation meets their message of hate and exclusion, the populists flourish.

The playing out of this struggle has made many Western powers in particular more inwardly oriented, leaving an increasingly fragmented world. With the United States led by a president who displays a disturbing fondness for rights-trampling strongmen, and the United Kingdom preoccupied by Brexit, two traditional if flawed defenders of human rights globally are often missing in action.

Buffeted by racist and anti-refugee political forces at home, Germany, France, and their

European Union partners have not always been willing to pick up the slack. Democracies such as Australia, Brazil, Indonesia, Japan, and South Africa have been heard actively defending human rights rarely, at best.

China and Russia have sought to take advantage of this vacuum. While focused on quelling any possibility of domestic mass protest against slowing economies and widespread official corruption, Presidents Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin have aggressively asserted an anti-rights agenda in multinational forums and forged stronger alliances with repressive governments. Their avoidance of public oversight has attracted the admiration of Western populists and autocrats around the world.

The retreat of many governments that might have championed human rights has left an open field for murderous leaders and their enablers. Mass atrocities have proliferated with near impunity in countries such as Yemen, Syria, Burma, and South Sudan. International standards designed to prevent the most horrendous abuses, and emerging institutions of judicial response such as the International Criminal Court, are being challenged.

In this hostile environment, a number of small and medium-sized countries have begun to assume greater leadership roles. By building broad coalitions, they have shown themselves capable of exerting serious pressure in defense of human rights. In some cases, they have been backed by an increasingly mobilized public. They cannot wholly substitute for the powers that have withdrawn, but their emergence shows that the drive to defend human rights is alive and well.

Responding to Populism

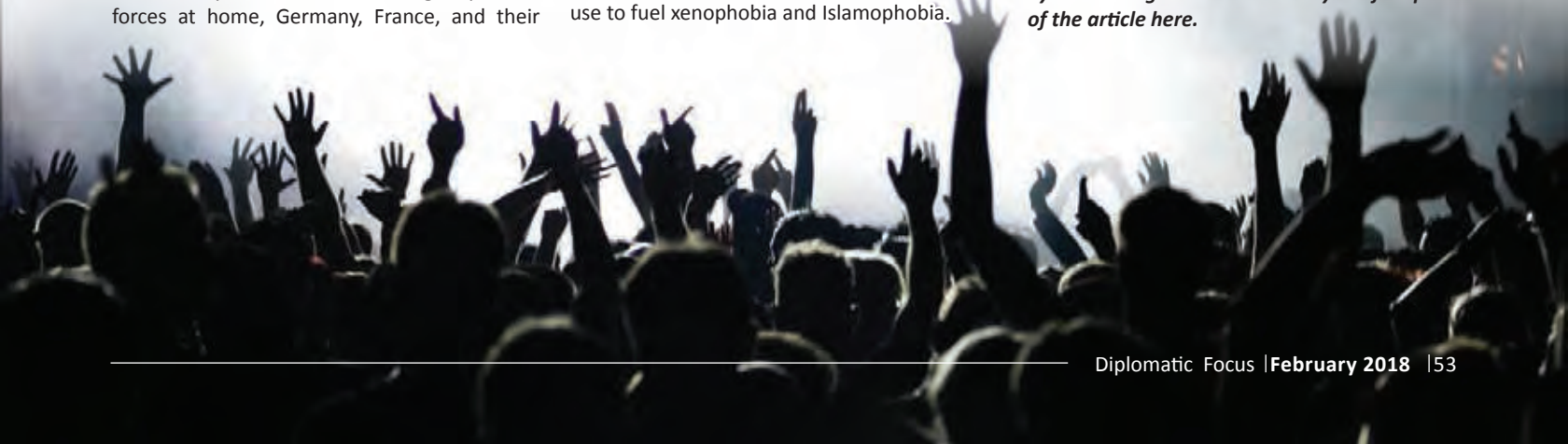
Real issues lie behind the surge of populism in many parts of the world: economic dislocation and inequality caused by globalization, automation, and technological change; feared cultural shifts as the ease of transportation and communication fuels migration from war, repression, poverty, and climate change; societal divisions between cosmopolitan elites who welcome and benefit from many of these changes and those who feel their lives have become more precarious; and the traumatic drumbeat of terrorist attacks that demagogues use to fuel xenophobia and Islamophobia.

Addressing these issues is not simple, but populists tend to respond less by proposing genuine solutions than by scapegoating vulnerable minorities and disfavored segments of society. The result has been a frontal assault on the values of inclusivity, tolerance, and respect that lie at the heart of human rights. Indeed, certain populists seem to relish breaking the taboos that embody these values. Invoking their self-serving interpretation of the majority's desires, these populists seek to replace democratic rule—elected government limited by rights and the rule of law—with unfettered majoritarianism.

Responding to this populist challenge requires not only addressing the legitimate grievances that underlie it but also reaffirming the human rights principles that populists reject. It requires trumpeting the advantages of governments that are accountable to their people rather than to their officials' empowerment and enrichment. It requires demonstrating that all of our rights are at risk if we allow governments to select which people deserve respect for their rights. It requires reminding ordinary people that they need human rights as much as dissidents and vulnerable groups.

The willingness of democratic leaders to take on this challenge and champion human rights has fluctuated. A year ago, as the populists seemed to have the wind at their backs, few dared. But in the past year, that has begun to change, to visible effect...

The Writer is Executive Director at Human Rights Watch. The article originally published by Human Rights Watch. It's only the first part of the article here.



ICCI hosted a dinner reception in honor of newly elected Office Bearers of FPCCI

Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted a dinner reception in honor of newly elected Office Bearers of FPCCI. Speaking at the occasion, Sheikh Amir Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry congratulated the newly elected office bearers of FPCCI. He also congratulated S.M.Munir Patron-in-Chief, Iftikhar Ali Malik Chairman and whole team of United Business Group for achieving 4th consecutive victory in FPCCI elections and hoped that UBG would continue to work for the betterment of the business community of the country. Muhammad Naveed Senior Vice President

ICCI, S.M.Munir Patron-in-Chief, Iftikhar Ali Malik Chairman UBG, Zubair Ahmed Malik, Khalid Javed, and others also spoke at the occasion. Representatives

of Rawalpindi, Chakwal, Attock, Jhelum, Gilgit, Vehari and Quetta Chambers of Commerce & Industry were also present at the dinner reception.



B&NH Ms Maryam Aurangezb, Chinese DCM Zhao Lijian, President RCCI Zahid Latif Khan and others performing the ribbon cutting ceremony of Rawal Int'l Expo 2018



President RCCI Zahid Latif Khan presenting a memento to Chairman Senate Mr Raza Rabbani during the launching ceremony of APWCPS 2018 at a local hotel rawalpindi

Big Heart Foundation

of UAE finances the establishment of school accommodating 1,000 students in Swat Pakistan

By M. Saeed Yousafzai

The Big Heart Foundation of UAE, (TBHF, an International Humanitarian Foundation for the Assistance of Refugees and People in Need around the world, based in Sharjah), announced to donate a US\$700,000 to fund the second phase of the establishment of a school for girls in Pakistan, as part of its dedication to ensuring that girls have access to education, and enabling them to contribute to the development of their local communities.

The school project will be funded by the TBHF 'Girl Child Fund', in cooperation with the 'Malala Fund', launched by Nobel Laureate and female education activist, Malala Yousafzai.

The move was announced in the presence of Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qasimi, The Big Heart Foundation's Humanitarian Envoy, and Malala Yousafzai, in Oxford, London, following an agreement signed by Mariam Al Hammadi, Director of TBHF, and Farah Muhammad, CEO of Malala Fund. The ceremony was also attended by Hassan Yaaqoub, Secretary-General of Sharjah Media Council, and Malala's parents: Ziauddin Yousafzai and Toor Pekai Yousafzai.

The school is being constructed in Swat Valley, and the opening ceremony is scheduled in April 2018. The donation will fund the school's second phase of development will open its doors to 350 girls in its 11 classrooms. Gradually, the educational services and school infrastructure will expand to accommodate 1,000 students in all grades.

Highlighting the symbolic role education has in contributing to building a better world, Al Qasimi said, "Under the vision of H.H. Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, and the directives of H.H. Sheikh Jawaher bint Mohammed Al Qasimi, wife of His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah, the emirate of Sharjah believes in the importance of education, especially to young girls, in building a nation that is founded on virtues of tolerance, justice and peace socially and politically.



The Chairman, Sharjah Media Council and TBHF's Humanitarian Envoy noted that many young girls worldwide face difficulties to have access to school, acquiring or even continuing their education, due to political unrest or various social and financial conditions that deprive them the right to education. He called for concerted efforts by international institutions to support girls and ensure their access to safe education, which would secure them a brighter future and help achieve developmental goals.

TBHF's donation, covering half the project's financial needs, will be used to build classrooms, science and computer labs, staff rooms, principal's room, a reception area and playground facilities. The school will also include a library, laboratory, an activity hall, and a dormitory for female teachers from remote areas.

TBHF objectives:

>To expand on the support offered to children in need and to provide them and their families with a secure and healthy environment through humanitarian care.

>To facilitate increased cooperation with local and regional government bodies, international humanitarian organisations and UN agencies to support and provide children with a better life

in the Middle East and North Africa region and around the world.

>Assist with increased financial support, enabling the development of programmes and initiatives to support children and families in need

About TBHF:

The Big Heart Foundation was established in May 2015 by Her Highness Sheikh Jawaher bint Mohammad Al Qasimi, wife of His Highness Dr Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the UAE Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah.

The organisation was set up to convene the wide-reaching humanitarian efforts based in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with the aim of helping children and their families in vulnerable situations outside of the UAE. The Big Heart Foundation's mission is to work wherever support is most needed and has actioned change in many countries, including Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Iraq and Syria, among others.

Originally set up as a fundraising campaign in June 2013, The Big Heart Foundation was developed into a full-fledged foundation, in 2015, to act as an umbrella organisation for overseeing the extensive international humanitarian support.





Islamabad Hotel Management in collaboration with Pakistan Hotels Association arranged a ceremony for Mr. Hamid Subhani for getting re-elected as Vice Chairman of Pakistan Hotel Association for the Year 2018.







Royal Thai Embassy

CELEBRATED Armed Forces Day

Royal Thai embassy hosted Armed Forces day in Islamabad. Vice Admiral Abdul Aleem was the chief guest of the eve. Ambassadors, politicians, government officials, members from Armed forces and business community representatives also attended the event.





2018 Fashion Trends

to start wearing now

Because we're always looking to stay on top of the newest, coolest, weirdest and most interesting trends, we've already got our eyes on the style trends that'll dominate fashion headlines in 2018.

Though 2017 introduced us to some cool and flirty trends — like paper bag waist pants and couch florals — we're eagerly awaiting what fun and fashionable things we can look forward to seeing on clothing racks in 2018.







Ayubia National Park also known as Ayubia is a protected area of 3,312 hectares (33 km²) located in Abbottabad District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Pakistan. It was declared a national park in 1984. Ayubia was named after Muhammad Ayub Khan (1958–1969), second President of Pakistan. The area supports temperate coniferous forest and temperate broadleaf and mixed forest ecoregion habitats, with an average elevation of 8,000 feet (2,400 m) above the sea level.

Ayubia National Park is surrounded by seven



major villages and three small towns of Thandiani, Nathiagali and Khanspur. The park has been developed as a resort complex from a

combination of four mini resorts of Khaira Gali, Changla Gali, Khanspur and Ghora Dhaka in Galyat. Currently, it is managed by the Wildlife and Parks Department of Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Climate

The climate of the park is cold in the summers, but harsh in the winters. While it remains only placidly hot in May and June, the cold sets in when the monsoons come to lash in late July and early August. In the winters cold increases



in severity gradually until the west winds bring rains, which eventually turn into snow. The park remains snow-capped through the later part of winters.

Wildlife

The park holds 104 species of plants. The main floral species are *Cedrus deodara*, blue pine, yew, silver fir, horse chestnut and oak. Around 21 plants belonging to 19 families are known for their medicinal properties.

The park harbors up to 203 species of birds. Many species of birds, including the golden eagle, the vulture, Eurasian sparrowhawk and the hill pigeon among others can be found here. It is also home to some of the rarer Himalayan pheasant species like the kalij and koklass pheasants. Ayubia National Park supports 31 species of mammals. Animals such as the Asiatic leopard, hill fox and flying squirrel can be found here.



Tourism

Standing at some 26 kilometers from the tourist hotbed of Murree Hill Station, over 100,000 tourists flock to Ayubia National Park and the places around every year. It is well known for its picnic spots. There are a large number of hotels and restaurants around the park. In addition to riding trails, hiking places, picnic spots and motels, there is a chairlift in the central place of Ayubia that takes the tourists to a nearby summit for a view of the forested hills. This chairlift was the first recreation facility of its kind in Pakistan and is still a major attraction for domestic tourists. The famous PTDC motel is located here.





By M.Saeed Yousafzai

CPEC: Challenges & Opportunities 2018” has been arranged and hosted by “Diplomatic Focus” with Collaboration of Zabeeh Group of Companies at Serena Hotel in Islamabad. Other sponsor was Ms. Amna Malik, President of COPAIR. More than 100 Chinese companies’ representatives, Pakistani investors, government officials, politicians, Diplomats, ex-Diplomats, Academia and business personalities participated. The participants declare CPEC as game changer not for Pakistan but for the whole region also.

The national anthems of Pakistan and china were played. Ambassador of Republic of China H.E. Yao Jing was the chief guest of the conference. Ch. Muhammad Shahbaz Babar, MNA/ Parliamentary Secretary, Syed Sajid Saleem Mehdi, MNA/ Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. Zia ur Rehman Zabeeh Chairman Zabeeh Group of Companies, Hamid Ali Khan Ex-Chairman NECTA, Admiral (r) Muhammad Asif Sandila NI(M) Former Chief of Naval Staff of the Pakistan Navy, Hamid Ali Khan Ex-Chairman NECTA, Dr. Manzoor Khan Afridi HOD (Politics & IR) International Islamic University Islamabad, Rear Admiral (R) Saleem Akhtar HI (M), H.E. Amb: (R) Sarwar Naqvi Executive Director Centre for International Strategic Studies Islamabad, H.E. Amb: (R) Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, Rear Admiral Mukhtar Khan DG Institute of Maritime Affairs Islamabad, Ms. Amna Malik and Mr. Ghazanfar Bilour President FPCCI graced the event.



Ambassador of China said that “In my view, challenges may not be there but threats may be global economy. The regional and global cooperation, coordination is important and these types of challenges are existing. So for CPEC is for China, Pakistan, for regional countries and neighbors and we have needs to overcome on these challenges”.

Admiral (r) Muhammad Asif Sandila pointed that “CPEC is for the whole Pakistan not for one region of the country”. He further added that if Pakistan plays his cards with right way, then CPEC will be a game changer.

Mr. Zia ur Rehman Zabeeh highlighted the projects development under the umbrella of CPEC. He emphasized in presentation that

CPEC will open new venues and ventures of mutual cooperation and development for both countries but for the whole region.

Ms. Amna Malik mentioned CPEC as international model of collective development. Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi Editor, CEO & Publisher of “Diplomatic Focus” said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a framework of regional connectivity. CPEC will not only benefit China and Pakistan but will have positive impact on Arab, Central Asian Republic, and the region. CPEC is journey towards economic regionalization in the globalized world. It founded peace, development, and win-win model for all of them. Ch. Muhammad Shahbaz Babar Parliamentary Secretary termed the CPEC as symbol of solidarity.











Qatar seeks to enhance cooperation in the fields of investment through the QIA & Hassad: Envoy

By M. Saeed Yousafzai

His Excellency Saqr Bin Mubarak Al Mansouri, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, met with Mr. Zahed Latif Khan, President of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Rawalpindi, in the presence of a number of RCCI members and Mr. Masoud Al Athbi consular at the embassy.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations, especially with regard to enhancing trade exchange between the two countries and the importance of developing them. They also reviewed ways to enhance cooperation

between the public and private sectors of Qatar and Pakistan and to hold joint trade and investment meetings to encourage businessmen to promote bilateral cooperation.

The Qatari ambassador stressed the interest of the State of Qatar in its relations with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in various fields, especially economic and trade, and its keenness to promote and develop these relations which he described as distinct, stressing that they are historical relations based on trust and mutual respect. He also pointed to the keenness of the leaderships of the two countries to promote and develop these relations to wider horizons to serve the interests of the two countries.

In the framework of cooperation between the two countries in the economic and investment fields, he stressed that the State of Qatar seeks to enhance cooperation in the fields of investment through the Qatar Investment Authority and Hassad in many fields including energy, agriculture, infrastructure ... etc.

For his part, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Rawalpindi of Pakistan stressed on the intention of Pakistani businessmen to take advantage of the opportunities for trade and investment cooperation with the Qatari side and informed that they have a visit scheduled to Qatar next month, to participate in the Pakistani products exhibitions in the State of Qatar.

Qatar Charity



- Spends more than 10 million
- QR in projects in Pakistan during 2017

The total cost of projects carried out by Qatar Charity in Pakistan during the year 2017 was 22,135,290 Qatari Riyals. While the cost of sponsorship and social care in Pakistan during the same year was 8.2 million Qatari Riyals.

Among the most important projects undertaken by Qatar Charity at a cost of 5.7 million Qatari Riyals, 1079 wells which were drilled in Pakistan benefiting more than

200,000 people. While at a cost of 6.5 million Qatari Riyals, relief projects benefiting more than 100,000 people have been implemented. The relief projects in Pakistan in 2017 included the distribution of food parcels and the distribution of cooked food for Iftari in Baluchistan province, this was in addition to the activities of the development of water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and holding of training courses and various events in this regards.



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Monthly Magazine on National & International Political Affairs, Diplomatic Issues | February 2018 | Volume 09 | Issue 02
Promoting Bilateral Relations | Current Affairs | Trade & Economic Affairs | Education | Technology | Culture & Tourism

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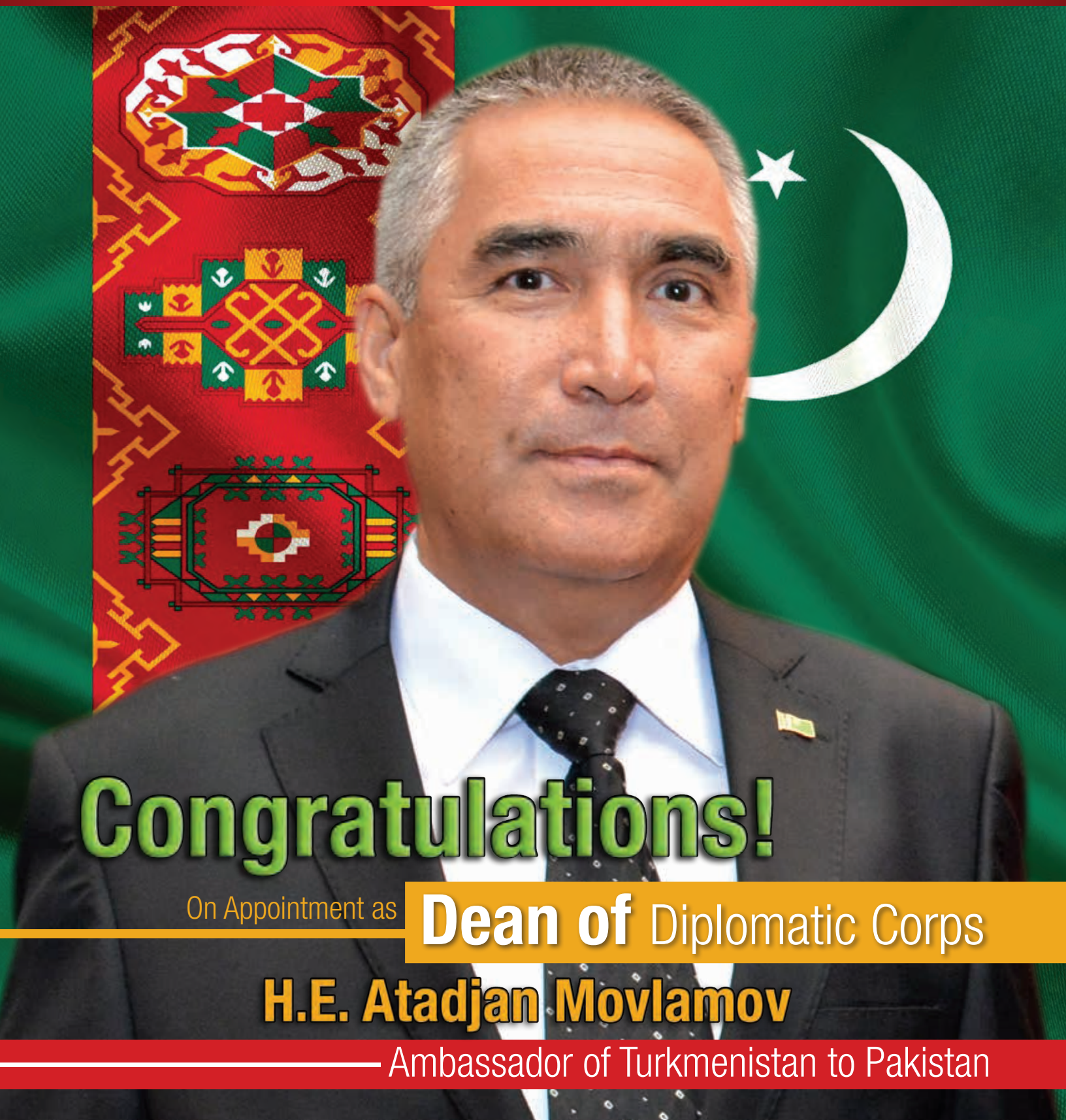
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