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Outcomes for Both Countries H.E. Kwak Sung-kyu

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Pakistan

Jordon agreed to bring greater focus on enhancing

bilateral trade and investment relations

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20 **TAPI** gas pipeline

Leaders launch start of Afghan section of Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov, Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani and India Minister of State for External Affairs M.J. Akbar launched construction work on the Afghan section of an \$8 billion natural gas pipeline...

34 Pakistan-Canada relations are based on strong foundations of Friendship & Cooperation: H.E. Tariq AzimKhan

In our initial decades after independence, Canada contributed to the completion of a number of important development projects like the Warsak Dam, Tarbela Dam, the first nuclear energy plant and the first cement plant in Pakistan.

Pakistan has an abundance of natural resources and skilled labor, while Korea is rich in capital, advanced technology and development experiences Our synergy can yield win-win outcomes for both countries:H.E. Kwak Sung-kyu Pakistani businessmen are welcome to business and trade collaboration projects with Korean entrepreneurs. My priority is to improve people-to-people exchanges and make economic and trade linkages stronger than before.

There is ample scope for further strengthening of relations between Pakistan & Mexico: H.E. Tasawar Khan

Pakistan and Mexico have always enjoyed cordial bilateral ties that have been following a positive trajectory. I don't think our traders and investors have benefitted from the economic opportunities offered by Mexico.

Pakistan & Jordon agreed to bring greater focus on enhancing bilateral trade and investment relations

His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan visited Pakistan. During his visit he met the President Mr. Mamnoon Hussain and the Prime Minister Mr. Shahid Khagan Abbasi.



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roundbreaking of the much-talked-about Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) is, indeed, a historic development and a moment of joy for people of the four participating countries as it would prove to be a win-win project for all of them. Apart from contributing towards resolution of the problem of critical energy shortage in the region, it would also be a source of income for Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan. TAPI is meant to export up to 33 billion cubic meters (BCM) of natural gas per year to the connected countries. TAPI is also in strong competition between another much apprised energy project of Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, as it is facing international and regional pressure. The project which will endure more seriousness, willingness and whose cooperating parties have the ability to manoeuvre the challenges faced, will see the light of competition in spite of the sheer competition or pressure. The successful accomplishment of the project would help accelerate pace of socio-economic activities in the participating countries besides creating direct and indirect employment opportunities. At the dawn of the renewed energy world order, there is strong need to secure our future for upcoming generations through energy conservation, building peace and prosperity for the conflict prone region.

akistan has promulgated an ordinance to ban outfits that the United Nations (UN) has designated as terrorist organisations. The ordinance amends the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997 and enables authorities to freeze the assets of 27 such outfits. Following an amendment in Section 11-B and 11-EE of the ATA, the organisations and personnel banned through the UN's Security Council's resolution will stand banned in Pakistan too. The extraordinary step taken through the ordinance means that in future if the name of a Pakistani individual or entity is designated by the UN as a terrorist, it will trigger an automatic proscription here in Pakistan. The ordinance just passed will now need parliamentary ratification within 120 days to become permanent. And after that comes the hard part of actually acting upon the decision. But, it's the time to eliminate such elements to save the future of the country and stability.





Mian Assad ullah

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 lpswich Road, SW17 9RH, London. Cell number:+44-7961005954/ 2087694850, Email: uk.diplomaticfocus@gmail.com, assadmian1@gmail.com











President Mamnoon confers

Nishan-e-Imtiaz on Malaysian

Navy Chief

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring

resident Mamnoon Hussain conferred Nishan-e-Imtiaz (military) on the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) chief Admiral Tan Sri Ahmad Kamarulzaman Ahmad Badaruddin, one of Pakistan's highest military awards.

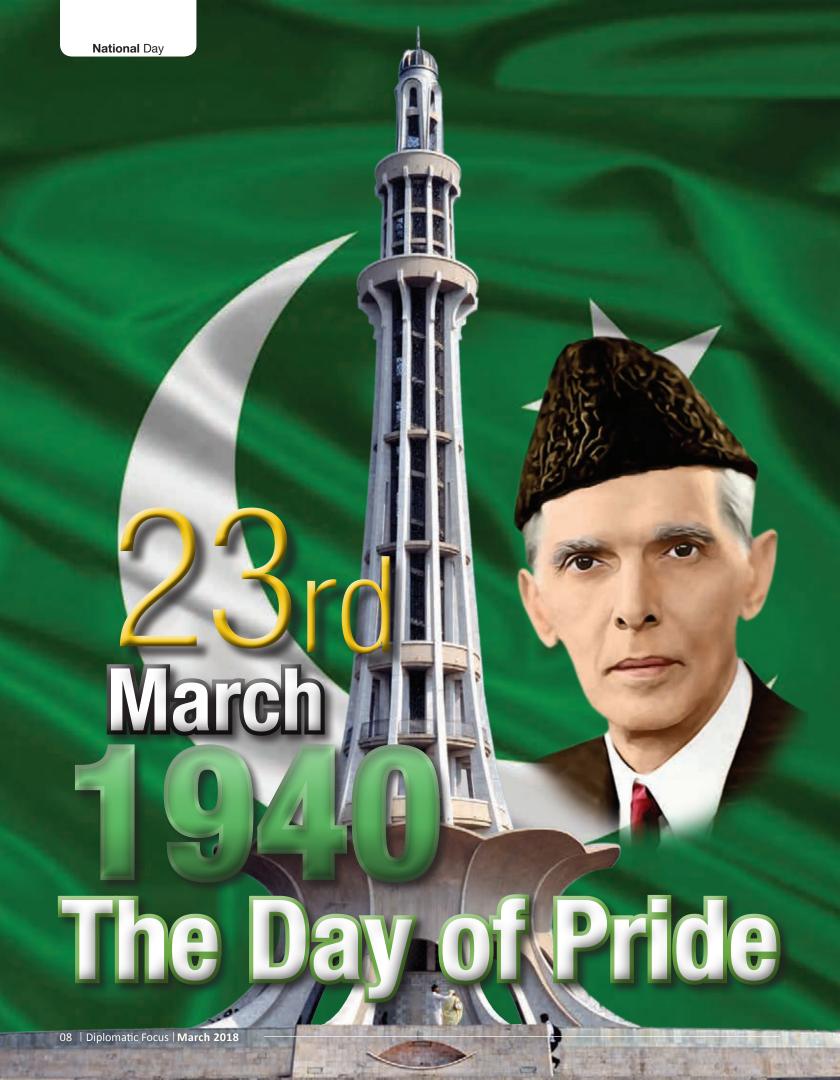
President Mamnoon said Pakistan and Malaysia are sincere friends who stand with each other in difficult times.

Admiral Ahmad Kamarulzaman said he was honoured to be awarded the Nishan-E-Imtiaz

Military (Highest Order of Excellence in Military Service) medal and that it was in recognition of Malaysia's Defence Ministry's strong bond with the Pakistani Government.

"I am confident this award will forge stronger military ties between the two countries, especially between RMN and the Pakistani Navy.

"I am humbled and grateful as this medal symbolises the Pakistani Government's respect towards Malaysia,"



23 March, Pakistan Day (Lahore Resolution) is the Day of Pride towards the Nation and the Day of feeling as the nation for every resident of Pakistan. 23 March in Pakistan History is the day when the Muslims from the different mind setting get the Platform to speak out for Lahore Resolution. Pakistan becomes for the betterment of the nation and upcoming cultures in Pakistan.

The Lahore Pakistan Resolution also known as Karar dadey Pakistan was indeed a landmark in the history for the Muslims of the sub-continent. Before this, the Muslims of sub-continent had no goal and no future in view and Muslim politics remained in the hands of the individuals with conflicting interests and inclinations. As soon as Lahore Resolution was passed by the Muslim League, the Hindu press started criticising the Muslim League and declared this resolution as Pakistan Resolution. The personality of Mohammad Ali Jinnah was also criticised by the



Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah explaining the significance of Pakistan Resolution, Lahore, March 23, 1940

Hindus and their prominent leaders. Mohammad Ali Jinnah got nationwide popularity after Lahore Resolution, because the Muslims of India had a lot of expectations from him and he was the only source of inspiration for the Muslims.

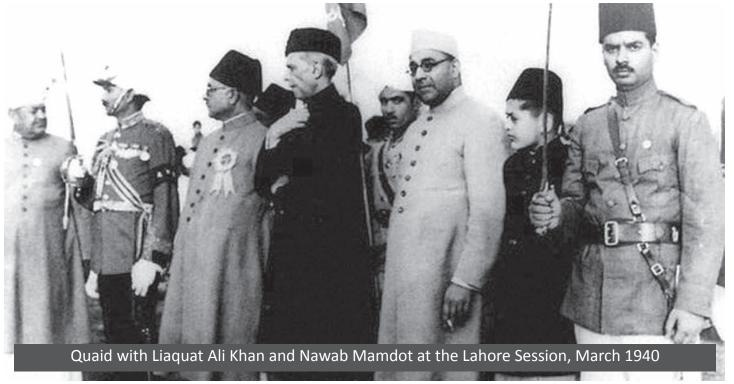


Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah arriving at Minto Park for the Adoption of Lahore Resolution, March 23, 1940

The All India Muslim League played a vital role in the creation of Pakistan in the year 1940. Muslim league had become a stronger political party for the Muslims of Indo-Pak Subcontinent, under which the Muslims were struggling for a separate homeland for them. The great leader of the Muslims, Mohammad Ali Jinnah by the time had become the lining symbol of Muslim unity and Muslim politics and the Muslims had so completely centred on him that he had become almost an institution in himself.

Pakistan Day is being celebrated every year with full loyalty and joy because of it is the day when Muslim was accepted the very first time as a detach nation on 23 March, 1940. The people of Pakistan celebrate the 23rd of March, with great keenness and interest, to memorialize the most wonderful success of the Muslims of South Asia who passed the historic Pakistan Resolution on this day at Lahore in 1940.

The celebrations regarding the holiday include a full military and civilian parade in the capital, Islamabad. These are presided by the President of Pakistan and are held early in the morning. After the parade, the President confers national awards and medals on the awardees at the Presidency. Wreaths are also laid at the mausoleums of Muhammad Igbal and Muhammad Ali Jinnah founder of Pakistan. In very rare times and significance, foreign dignitaries have been invited to attend the military parade.





There is an **Enormous**Potential

growth in economic cooperation and bilateral trade between

between

Pakistan



& Azerbaijan

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Agency

President Mamnoon Hussain has said that there is an enormous potential for growth in economic cooperation and bilateral trade between Pakistan and Azerbaijan. Both countries should work together to benefit from these opportunities, he added. The President said this while talking to Finance Minister of Azerbaijan Samir Sharifov who along-with a delegation called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. On the occasion, Finance Minister of Azerbaijan also delivered a special message of the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev to President Mamnoon Hussain. President Mamnoon Hussain emphasized that there should be frequent exchange of trade and business delegations between the two countries in order to enhance the bilateral trade. He also underlined that joint ventures should also be started in various fields. The President stated that the two countries have common position on key global and regional issues and they support each other in the international forum which is a reflection of close and brotherly relations between the both counties. He said that Pakistan supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders and particularly supports Azerbaijan on the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh. He also appreciated Azerbaijan's stance on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. Finance Minister for Azerbaijan said that Azerbaijan supports Pakistan's stance on the issue of Kashmir and believes that this issue can be resolved according to the resolutions of United Nations Security Council. He also stated

There should be frequent exchange of trade and business delegations between the two countries in order to enhance the bilateral trade: President Mamnoon Hussain



Pakistan supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders and particularly supports Azerbaijan on the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh: President Mamnoon Hussain

that Azerbaijan is desirous of further enhancing cooperation with Pakistan in various economic sectors.

Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, also deliver a special message from the President of Azerbaijan to the Prime Minister, seeking support of Pakistan for hosting of Expo 2025 and World Bank Conference 2021 by Azerbaijan, in Baku. Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi assured consideration to the request for support for hosting the above mentioned conferences. The two sides exchanged views on possible cooperation in areas of mutual interest, especially in the energy and agricultural sector and discussed various measures to enhance bilateral trade. They also discussed the current situation in Indian occupied Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh and reiterated continued mutual support on these disputes.

H.E. Mr. Samir Sharifov received by Minister of State for Finance, Rana Mohammad Afzal. Mr. Samir was accompanied by the Azerbaijan Ambassador Ali Alizad on the occasion. Welcoming the visiting dignitary, Rana Afzal said that both Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoy cordial relations in all spheres. He emphasized the need to focus on expanding economic cooperation. Both sides

agreed there was potential for furthering bilateral trade and that joint efforts must be made for enhancing trade relations in step with ties in other areas. Mr. Samir Sharifov said that Azerbaijan was offering educational scholarships to different Muslim countries and that Pakistan students were also welcome to avail these. Minister Rana Afzal welcomed the suggestion. He added that Pakistan wished to seek opportunities for export of technically trained personnel to Azerbaijan. He sought Mr. Samir Sharifov's support in this realm.



Azerbaijan supports Pakistan's stance on the issue of Kashmir and believes that this issue can be resolved according to the resolutions of United Nations Security Council: Finance Minister for Azerbaijan





Pakistan & Jordon

agreed to bring greater focus on enhancing bilateral trade and investment relations

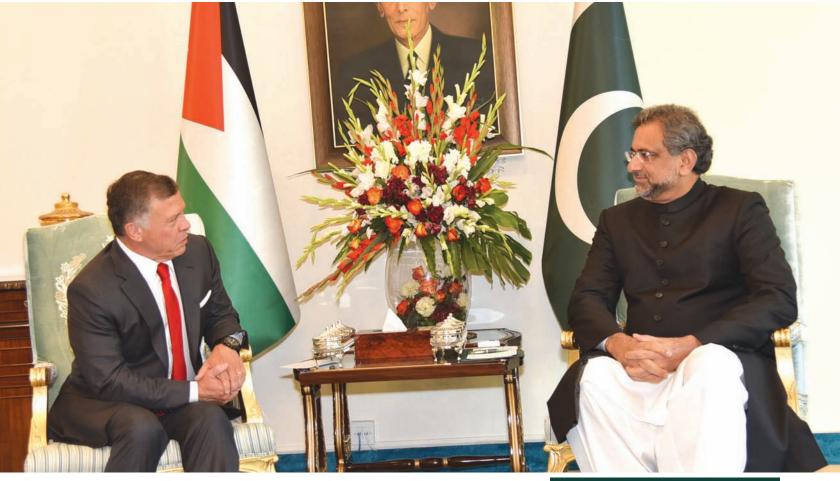
By Mian Fazal Elahi, Agency

is Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan visited Pakistan. During his visit he met the President Mr. Mamnoon Hussain and the Prime Minister Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi. His delegation included Minister of Foreign & Expatriate Affairs Mr. Ayman Safadi and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces Lt. Gen. Mahmoud A. Freihat and senior officials.

Foreign Minister Mr. Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Defence Minister Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan and Foreign Secretary Ms. Tehmina Janjua also participated in the talks held between the two sides.

His Majesty King Abdullah II held delegation level talks with the Prime Minister during which the two sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and exchanged views on ways to further expand these relations in a variety of fields. They agreed to bring greater focus on enhancing bilateral trade





and investment relations, to make the bilateral trade currently at USD 75 million, commensurate with the excellent political ties existing between Pakistan and Jordan. The two leaders also reviewed regional situation, with particular focus on the Middle East in the aftermath of recognition of Jerusalem by Washington as the capital of

Jordanian businessmen would be visiting Pakistan soon to meet their Pakistani counterparts in this regard: H.M. King Abdullah II

Israel. The Prime Minister expressed Pakistan's unequivocal support for the just cause of Palestine and reiterated Pakistan's rejection of the US decision. He also briefed the visiting dignitary on the current situation along the LoC, Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts and its commitment towards regional peace and stability.

H.M. King Abdullah II thanked the Prime Minister for the warm welcome accorded to him and his delegation. Both sides agreed to bring greater focus on enhancing bilateral trade and investment relations in order to make the Pakistan-Jordan bilateral trade commensurate with the excellent political ties existing between Pakistan and Jordan.

Prime Minister briefed the visiting dignitary on the current situation along the LoC, Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts and its commitment towards regional peace and stability.

During his meeting with the President, the President recalled the contributions of the late King Hussein Bin Talal in fostering close ties between Pakistan and Jordan, for which he is remembered with reverence by the people of Pakistan. He appreciated the leadership of H.M. King Abdullah II in promoting peace and stability in the Middle East. President Mamnoon Hussain emphasized that Pakistan greatly values Jordan's bold stance on the

H.M. King Abdullah II's visit is a reflection of the close brotherly relations existing between Pakistan and Jordan.





declaration of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel by US. On the occasion, H.M King Abdullah II of Jordan appreciated Pakistan's stance

Mamnoon Hussain underscored that the resolution of long standing issues of Kashmir and Palestine is imperative for international peace and security

regarding the resolution of challenges faced by Muslim Ummah. President Mamnoon Hussain underscored that the resolution of long standing issues of Kashmir and Palestine is imperative for international peace and security. The President highlighted that Pakistan and Jordan are connected through deep political, cultural and historical links. He further underlined that the bilateral trade do not fully commensurate the excellent brotherly relations between the two countries. He proposed that there should be a

regular exchange of trade delegation between Pakistan and Jordan.

H.M. King Abdullah II indicated his keen interest in strengthening economic ties with Pakistan stating that Jordanian businessmen would be visiting Pakistan soon to meet their Pakistani counterparts in this regard. He agreed with the President that both sides must enhance cooperation in education, culture, defence and through people to people contacts. In this regard, further discussions would take place during the Pakistan-Jordan Joint Ministerial Commission to be held in March this year.

Both sides reaffirmed that the legal status of Jerusalem based on Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and that the only legal solution is a viable, independent and contiguous State of Palestine on the





Both sides reaffirmed that the legal status of Jerusalem based on Security **Council** and **General Assembly** resolutions and that the only legal solution is a viable, independent and contiguous State of Palestine

basis of internationally agreed parameters, the pre-1967 borders and with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as the capital of the Palestinian State

The Agreement between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the Field of Civil Protection and Civil Defence was signed by Foreign Minister Mr. Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Housing and Works of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Ministry of Public Works and Housing of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was signed by Minister for

Housing and Works Mr. Akram Khan Durrani Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi.

H.M. King Abdullah II visited Pakistan after 11 years of his last visit in 2007. He was received by the President on arrival in Pakistan. He was seen off by the Prime Minister and given a ground display and aerial demonstration of JF-17 aircraft.

H.M. King Abdullah II's visit is a reflection of the close brotherly relations existing between Pakistan and Jordan. The visit provided an opportunity to further enhance a cooperative and sustained cooperative partnership between Pakistan and Jordan.





PM Meets President of Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan

values its special relations with

Pakistan

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamadov

By Agency

n the invitation from the President of Turkmenistan, Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi arrived in Mary, Turkmenistan to participate in the link-up ceremonies of TAPI Pipeline and associated projects. Upon arrival in Turkmenistan, the Prime Minister had a tete-e-tete meeting with the President of Turkmenistan Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamadov at Ruhiyet Palace, Mary.

Both the leaders highlighted the importance of TAPI pipeline project as an energy, trade and transit corridor and held fruitful discussions on subjects of mutual concern, including issues of regional security. Warmly welcoming the Prime Minister and members of the delegation, the President thanked the Prime Minister for joining the inauguration ceremony of TAPI and link-up projects going to be held tomorrow.

PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi observed that the Port of Gwadar will provide the most efficient access for the sea to Turkmenistan.

H.E. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamadov expressed hope for strengthening of cooperation in education, science, Healthcare and sports between the two countries.



The President stated that Turkmenistan values its special relations with Pakistan and highly appreciates the support given by Pakistan. He mentioned that Turkmenistan-Pakistan relations are based on two pillars namely Energy Security of which TAPI is a flagship project, and connectivity to include rail, road, IT and fiber optic. Elaborating on connectivity, he expressed keen interest in Gwadar Port project. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamadov expressed hope that Pakistan will benefit from the supply of gas especially for industry once TAPI reaches Pakistan. He also expressed hope for strengthening of cooperation in education, science, Healthcare and sports between the two countries. The President also stressed on promotion of cultural and humanitarian cooperation.

Prime Minister Shahid Khagan Abbasi thanked the President for the warmth and hospitality.



The Prime Minister stated that tomorrow is a historic day when another pipeline is going to be inaugurated. He termed the materialization of TAPI as success of the vision and commitment of President Berdimuhamadov and appreciated the personal commitment of the President in realization of the project. The Prime Minister stated that TAPI is an important project for Pakistan due to its growing energy needs. Referring to prospective purchase of electricity from Turkmenistan, the Prime Minister said

"PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi termed the materialization of TAPI as success of the vision and commitment of President Berdimuhamadov"

it will add a new dimension to the bilateral relations between the two countries. The Prime Minister appreciated President's vision of TAPI as a trade and transit corridor for gas, electricity transmission and fiber optic, connecting the region. He observed that the Port of Gwadar will provide the most efficient access for the sea to Turkmenistan. The Prime Minister apprised the President of the successful expansion in road network across the length and breadth of Pakistan including six lane motorways that will connect to Western China and the regional countries. We see Pakistan as the hub of connectivity in the region, the Prime Minister said. The Prime Minister stated that CPEC is the most visible part of the Belt and Road Initiative and stressed on enhancement in bilateral cooperation between the two countries while exploring new avenues for trade, particularly in livestock, IT and agriculture. Pakistan-Turkmenistan Governmental Commission (JGC) is an ideal forum to explore the trade and investment potential between the two countries, the Prime Minister said. He emphasized on the need for greater military and defence cooperation between the two countries and offered to assist Turkmenistan in meeting its defence needs. The Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's full support to Turkmenistan's policy of Permanent Neutrality and President Berdimuhamadov's initiatives at the UN. The delegation of the Prime Minister included Minister of State for Petroleum Jam Kamal Khan, Provincial Minister for Labour and HR Raja Ashfaq Sarwar, Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkmenistan Mr. Murad Ashraf Janjua and other senior government officials.

The Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's full support to Turkmenistan's policy of Permanent Neutrality and President Berdimuhamadov's initiatives at the UN.



Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Executive Committee of Turkey-Pakistan Business Council called on President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad



Political Counsellor of British High Commission, William Middelton Called on Federal Minister for Privatisation, Daniyal Aziz in Islamabad



The Secretary State for Foreign Affairs of Spain in a meeting with National Security Adviser Naseer Khan Janjua in Islamabad



FM for Overseas Pakistanis & HR Development Pir Syed Sadaruddin Shah Called on the Saudi Minister for Lahour & Social Development Mr. Ali bin Naseer Al ghafees in Jeddah



Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan, H.E.Nicolae Gola Called on National Security Adviser LT. General (Retd), Naseer Khan Janjua in Islamabad



Mr. Gareth Bayley, British PM's Special Representative for Afghanistan & Pakistan meeting with Dr. Miftah Ismail, Adviser to PM on Finance in Islamabad



National Security Adviser Naseer Khan Janjua is meeting with British PM's Special Representative to Afghanistan & Pakistan Mr. Gareth Bayley & British High Commissioner to Pakistan Mr. Thomas Drew in his office, Islamabad



Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan in Meeting with the Ambassador of Turkey in Pakistan Mr. Mustafa Yardakul in Islamabad

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Governor KPK Engr. Igbal Zafar Jhagra Talking to Ambassador of China to Pakistan Mr. Yao Jing here at Governor's House Peshawar



Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, H.E Ali Alizada Called on National Security Adviser, Lt. General (Retd) Naseer Khan Janjua in Islamabad



Ambassador of Peoples Republic of China H.E Yao Jing called on Advisor to the PM on National History & Literary Heritage Irfan Siddiqui at NHLH Division in Islamabad



FM for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari in Meeting with Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, H.E Jean Francois Cautain in Islamabad



H.E Mr. Gabriel Tiel Capote Ambassador of Cuba Called on Federal Minister for National Health Services Mrs. Saira AFzal Tarar in Islamabad



H.E. Movlamov Atajan Nurlyevich, Ambassador of Turkemenistan in Islamabad, called in on the Federal Minister for Commerce & Textile, Mohammad Parvaiz Malik in Islamabad



Ambassador of The Republic of South Korea to Pakistan, H.E.Kwak Sung-Kyu Called on Federal Minister for Science & Tehnology, Rana Tanveer Hussain at Ministry of Science & Technology, Islamabad



Chairman Senate, Mian Raza Rabbani in a Group Photo with the Participants of 3rd ECO Attorneys/Prosecutors General Conference 2018 in Islamabad



Leaders launch start of Afghan section of TAPI Gas Pipeline

By Monitoring

akistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov, Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani and India Minister of State for External Affairs M.J. Akbar launched construction work on the Afghan section of an \$8 billion natural gas pipeline that will link the energy-rich Central Asian nation of Turkmenistan through Afghanistan to Pakistan and India.

Turkmenistan holds the world's fourth-largest natural gas reserves. The project is expected to transport 33 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas a year along an 1,800 kilometer (1,125 miles) route from Galkynysh, the world's second-biggest gas field, to Fazilka near the border with Pakistan in northern India.

"South Asia is being connected with Central Asia through Afghanistan after more than a century of division..."We hope that this project [TAPI] will pave the way for hundreds of other projects and the hope is that our future generations will view this not only as the inauguration of a project and an economic corridor, but the foundation of a shared vision which will help us fight poverty, unemployment, extremism and insecurity in our region," Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said.

Earlier, addressing a groundbreaking ceremony of the link-up projects of electricity transmission lines and fibre optics at Serhatabad, Prime Minister Abbasi said the TAPI gas pipeline project would unite people, boost socioeconomic development and bring in peace

dividends to the entire region.

"TAPI will lead from a gas pipeline into an energy and communication corridor," Abbasi said, adding that as well as providing energy, the pipeline would underpin development of road, rail and communications networks.

Calling diversification of gas deliveries an "important part of politics", Mr Berdi-muhamedov said work on the Turkmen section of the pipeline was still under way.

The Head of Turkmenistan noted that Central and South Asian is the space for active international economic cooperation. These are the territories, through which ancient trade routes connecting Europe and Asia used to run for many centuries. At present time, the states



Taliban Vows to Protect TAPI Gas Pipeline Project

"The Islamic Emirate views this project as an important element of the country's economic infrastructure and believes its proper implementation will benefit the Afghan people. We announce our cooperation in providing security for the project in areas under our control," the Taliban statement said.

of these regions occupy important positions in the intensification of global economic partnership, which main parts are composed by energy and transport spheres. Realization of the projects in these directions opens colossal perspectives for optimization of transport and energy relations in Eurasian space.

The pipeline will run for hundreds of kilometers (miles) through areas of southern Afghanistan largely controlled by Taliban insurgents fighting the Western-backed government in Kabul but the movement has signaled that it will not hinder the project.

After the speeches the documents signing ceremony took place. The following documents have been signed:

Intergovernmental Agreemen t on Electrical Power Turkmenistan - Afghanistan - Pakistan



the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan;

The General Conditions of the Agreement with the Government of Receiving State on Turkmenistan – Afghanistan – Pakistan – India pipeline project.

The Taliban issued a statement on Friday, pledging its cooperation with TAPI, which it said would be an important element in building up Afghanistan's economic infrastructure.

The pipeline will allow Turkmenistan to find new consumers in Asia. It is also being seen as a central plank in ambitious regional development goals. Afghanistan, which suffers from chronic energy shortages, is expected to take 5 billion cubic meters of gas itself, with

the rest divided equally between Pakistan and India. In addition, Kabul will earn hundreds of millions of dollars in transit fees.

The construction of the Turkmen section of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline started in December 2015. The 1.840-kilometer TAPI gas pipeline will provide the opportunity to export 33 billion cubic meters of Turkmen natural gas annually.

The Head of Turkmenistan noted that Central and South Asian is the space for active international economic cooperation. ... Realization of the projects in these directions opens colossal perspectives for optimization of transport and energy relations in Eurasian space.



Chief of Army Staff

Gen Qamar Bajwa

addressed at the Munich Security Conference where military chiefs and civilian leaders have gathered to discuss the world's most pressing security issues.



JIHADISM After CALIPHATE

By. Agency

"Bissmillah Irrakhman Nirraheem"

Respected Panel Members, Excellences', Ladies & Gentlemen!

Good Evening

• It is my proud privilege today to be addressing this august gathering, on a subject of critical importance to all of us. Let me first offer my sincere thanks and gratitude for this opportunity Ladies and Gentleman, I will make no pretence about my intellectual credentials. But may I humbly say that I have the honour of commanding an Army, which has achieved great successes, against violent extremism and terrorism, of course at a huge cost and sacrifice. My perspective would therefore be, that of a soldier and not of an intellectual

• Let me say from the outset, that, the present Jihadism is a misnomer. Jihad is a highly evolved concept that underlines myriad struggles against tyranny of all types. Muslims are taught that control of self is the most elevated form of Jihad. There is also a saying of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) that 'the best of Jihad is a word of truth in the face of a tyrant ruler'. On the other hand, 'Qitaal', or aspect of 'armed jihad' comes at the lowest end of the spectrum of actions and beliefs that comprise the concept of jihad and can only be sanctioned by a State authority and nobody else.

· However, there is no denying the fact, that a powerful concept such as jihad, can easily be misused for propagating extremism or terrorism. Particularly, as many Muslims, world over, are not only feeling alienated, but disowned, targeted and devoid of positive expression. Same is true for the concept of caliphate which is more of a nostalgic response rather than actual possibility for most Muslims.

Ladies & Gentlemen!

• In Pakistan, the notion of caliphate has not found any traction, but jihad has definitely been used to radicalize fairly large tracts of population. However, this phenomenon is

not a recent creation or started after 9/11. The Frankenstein was actually created by the liberal free world, with willing, but myopic cooperation from our side after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. Therefore, we all are responsible for making the world population in general and Muslim population in particular, hostage to this extremist ideology.

- · Times have surely changed since the noon of March 10, 1982, when, President Ronald Reagan, dedicated the March 22nd launch of the Columbia Space Shuttle to the valiant Afghan Mujahedeens or Jihadis and termed their struggle against the Soviet occupation forces as a representation of 'man's highest aspirations for freedom'
- When I was young, Pakistan was as normal a country as any other on the earth. Jacqueline Kennedy flew to Karachi, the Beatles visited us, Queen Elizabeth went to the Khyber pass to chat with the tribesmen. We were a favourite tourism destination for many. We were hosting world cups of hockey and cricket, besides many other multi-national events. World Bank termed Pakistan in 1963 as one of the most progressive and dynamic developing country in Asia
- The seventies were nothing less than a disaster for us, but even the separation of the Eastern part of our country and the political upheavals thereafter, did not change the society as deeply as the events of 1979, the year the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan and the Iranian revolution happened, next door. It was only then that we started learning that we were not only Muslims, but were Sunnis and Shias. It was also the time that we were drawn to conviction of fighting Soviet invasion and also challenging communist ideology
- With the able intellectual assistance of free

world, a syllabus was designed in one of the Western University for Madrassahs wherein jihad was fed to young minds in a concentrated dose without context or explanation. An exception was created, using a 'self defence' clause to justify declaration of jihad by Non State Actors. Young men were recruited from all over the world, radicalized and then left and disowned after they had delivered us, the success.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

 I apologize for a long lesson on history, but while it is history for you, it is still very much a live issue for us back home, as fairly large no of people are radicalized, armed and empowered politically and ideologically. They cannot be wished away, just because we don't like them anymore. We are harvesting what we sowed 40 years back. So it will be a while before this scourge is eliminated in totality - but first, let's stop calling it Jihadism as it is nothing else but terrorism.

With this rather long context, let me now come to the story of Pakistan's struggle against extremism, terrorism and so called Jihadism

- · Pakistan Army has waged a relentless and bloody fight against terrorism and violent extremism, at a monumental human and material cost:-
- o Over 35,000 Pakistanis have lost their lives
- Over 48,000 are critically wounded or
- o Financial cost exceeding US \$ 250 Billion only a fraction of which is actually shared by our global partners
- o Today, I can say with pride and conviction that there are no organized terrorist camps on our side of the border. However, presence of

terrorists of various hues and colours cannot be ruled out. We still have their active and sleeper cells, who are hiding in mountains, border towns and 54 refugee camps, besides some major towns and cities.

o For your information, out of the last 131 terrorist attacks in our border areas last year, 123 were conceived, planned and executed from Afghanistan. We understand their predicament therefore we do not blame them, but instability in Afghanistan is also hurting us badly – and it is happening despite the presence of the most powerful alliance in Kabul.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

• Unfortunately, Afghanistan, success of 2003 was lost when resources were pulled out prematurely for war in Iraq. Today, after spending more than 1.4 Trillion, the situation can best be described as a stalemate. But to my reckoning the cause of stalemate is not only the Haggani Network or TTA, as they had almost been defeated 13 years ago; it was the pursuit of a wrong strategy which led to their resurrection. Let me say that the popular assertion of TTA not being defeated in totality due to presence of part of their leadership in Pakistan, is not correct or whole truth. We defeated Al-Qaeda, Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan and Jamat-ul-Ahrar, while their safe heavens still exist in Afghanistan at a mere fraction of resources employed on the other side of the border. Now instead of blame games, it is time for NATO and allies to conduct an audit and introspection to find out causes for this stalemate.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

• In our war against terror, military operations were not the only thing that we conducted. We realized very early that the complex



problem of violent extremism could not be handled through military operations only. First and foremost, we generated public opinion to defeat the terrorists' narrative. We also formulated the National Action Plan, aimed at fighting terrorism and gradually rooting out extremism. We launched Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad in 2017, we the aim of:

- o Firstly, targeted kinetic and enhanced law enforcement operations to locate and destroy the residual terrorist presence across the country
- o Second prong of our campaign, comprises supporting the National Action Plan, that involves better prosecution, policing, education reforms, along with curbing terror financing and hate speech
- o Equally important is our information prong aimed at discrediting the terrorist ideology including the misuse of the terms like Jihad and Caliphate. Most recently, 1854 eminent Pakistani religious scholars, representing all schools of thoughts within Islam, teamed up to issue a resounding fatwa against violence, extremism and terrorism in the name of religion. Called the Message of Pakistan, it bans suicide bombing and jihad, other than the one sanctioned by the State.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

- Our successes have been made possible by the collective resolve and resilience of our entire nation. However, we are far from done. It is my sincere belief that Pakistan's lasting domestic peace hinges on peace and stability in Afghanistan, therefore, despite our limited resources, we are trying our best to export peace to our Neighbours in the west. Please remember, at times our efforts are curtailed by capacity and not by will.
- Pakistan and Afghanistan are sovereign countries. Both countries have a right to peace and progress. However, this will only be possible if our respective soils are not used against each other. In this regard, two aspects are important:-
- o Firstly we still have nearly 2.7 Million Afghan refugees in our country, whose concentrations are routinely used by TTA and Haggani Network to recruit, morph and melt. It is time for these refugees to be repatriated with dignity. It is the only way we can ensure that no one is misusing our hospitality and soil for mischief in Afghanistan. This is possible at a fraction of the cost of war in Afghanistan, which is currently around \$ 46 Billion per year.
- o Secondly, our border with Afghanistan is highly porous. We have unilaterally taken many steps to ensure proper management of this border. We gave raised tens of new border specific units, built hundreds of new border surveillance forts and have started the process

Path to regional peace passes through Afghanistan; **Gen Qamar**

By Monitoring

eneral Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) attended Chiefs of Defence (CHOD) Conference held at Kabul. Commander USCENTCOM, Commander Resolute Support Mission (RSM) and Army Chiefs of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan also attended. The main agenda items in the security conference are boosting the fight against terrorism and narcotics. The conference concluded to continue cooperation for peace and stability in the region.

Speaking at the occasion, COAS reiterated that path to regional peace and stability passes through Afghanistan. COAS said that regions develop as a whole, not individual countries. He said that Pakistan has eliminated all terrorist sanctuaries from its soil, however, residual signatures of terrorists who take advantage of presence of 2.7 million Afghan refugees and absence of effective border

of fencing 2300 Kilometers of the border. We are putting scanners and biometrics at border terminals to ensure that while common Afghans are facilitated, miscreants and terrorists are prevented or arrested.

Furthermore, we are fully committed to the international consensus, that political reconciliation is the only solution to Afghan issue. While we are actively supporting the new US strategy in the region, based primarily on kinetic approach, we are not leaving any stone unturned to try and do our best in bringing the parties of the conflict on the negotiation table.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

· Despite the seeming frustration, very few countries have achieved as much success that we have in our war against terror. With over 1100 Al-Qaeda operatives killed and other 600 handed over to US, Pakistan is instrumental in disruption and decimation of Al-Qaeda from Afghanistan and Pakistan. But the struggle continues as the threat is morphing. Intelligence agencies of multiple countries have confirmed the on-going relocation of fleeing Daesh fighters to Afghanistan. Being worst-hit by perennial instability in Afghanistan, Pakistan



security coordination, are also being traced and targeted through ongoing operation Radd ul Fasad. He also assured that Pakistani territory is not allowed to be used against any other country and Pakistan expects the same in reciprocity. He said that collaborative approach and persistence is the answer to all challenges, for which Pakistan is ready to play its part.

This was the army chief's second visit to Kabul in four months. He last visited the war-torn country in October last year and held wide-ranging talks with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and other leadership. The October visit was termed as positive by Afghan leadership as the two sides had agreed to a series of proposals to address the mistrust and security challenges.

But the visit of the army chief suggests that the two sides are not giving up and still looking to find a way out of the current impasse. Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have remained tense for many months now as the two sides accuse the other for turning a blind eye towards certain militant groups.

has legitimate concerns about this new threat joining the roster of over 20 terror outfits. So far we have been successful in denying any foothold to Daesh in Pakistan, but we are very concerned about its unchecked growth in the neighborhood. We need to counter the threat much more proactively through collaboration and cooperation.

The war against terrorism and extremism will take some time before the world is free of it, therefor we all have to be patient and remain steadfast. We need to first counter terrorist' narrative with a superior narrative before breaking their back. Unfortunately, we have not done enough in this regard. Finally, trust, cooperation and sharing will work, scapegoating won't.

To conclude,

Let me say that terrorists thrive on our divisions and feed on our inability to come together against them. I humbly call upon all of you, to deny them these chinks in our collective armour. Please realize that it's a global problem and needs a global approach. Lack of focus and commitment and individual efforts won't take us anywhere. I thank you.

Chief of Royal Malaysian Navy Visited NHQ & called on CNS **Pakistan Navy**

By Agency

Chief of Royal Malaysian Navy, Admiral Tan Sri Ahmad Kamarulzaman Hj Ahmad Badaruddin visited Naval Headquarters Islamabad and called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi. The dignitary was received by Chief of the Naval Staff and was presented Guard of Honour.



Later, Admiral Tan Sri Ahmad Kamarulzaman Hi Ahmad Badaruddin discussed professional matters and bilateral naval collaboration. Various avenues of cooperation between the two Navies were also focused. Pakistan's commitment and performance in fight against terrorism including participation of Pakistan Navy in Coalition Maritime Campaign Plan



(CMCP) and Counter Piracy Operations were also highlighted. Admiral Tan Sri Ahmad Kamarulzaman Hj Ahmad Badaruddin highly appreciated role and contributions of Pakistan Navy in maintaining peace and stability in the region.

The call was followed by a comprehensive brief given to the visiting dignitary on Pakistan

Navy's perspective on regional issues and PN contributions towards peace and stability at sea.

Chief of Royal Malaysian Navy also laid floral wreath at Shuhada Monument at Naval Headquarters. The visit of Chief of Royal Malaysian Navy is expected to further strengthen the bilateral collaboration between





Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi exchanging views with H.E. Mr I Mustafa Yurdakul Turkish Ambassador at Naval Headquarters Islamabad



CNS Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi exchanging views with H.E. Mr Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al Zaabi, UAE Ambassador at NHQ

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Ambassador of Turkmanistan to Pakistan, H.E Atadjan Movlamov Called on National Security Adviser, Lt. General (Retd) Naseer Khan Janjua in Islamabad



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Presenting a Sheild to Ambassador of Germany Mr. Martin Kobler at Parliament House



Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, H.E Ms. Margret Adamson Called on Secretary Water Resources, Shamil Ahmad Khawaja in Islamabad



Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, Mehdi Honardoost Called on National Security Adviser, Lt. General (Retd) Naseer Khan Janjua at his Office in Islamabad



H.E Ihsan Mustafa Turdakul, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey Called on Deputy Chairman Planning Comission Sartaj Aziz In islamabad



Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan Mustafa Yurdakul Called on Federal Minister for Education & Professional Traning Engr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman in Islamabad



Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Takashi Kurai Called on Federal Minister for Privatisation, Daniyal Aziz in Islamabad



High Commissioner of Mauritius to Pakistan, H.E. Rahidally Soobadar Called on Advisor to The Prime Minister on National History & Literary Heritage, Irfan Siddiqui at National History & Literary Heritage Division, Islamabad

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Mr. Sakib Foric Ambassador of Bosnia & Herzegovina called on Federal Minister for Industries & PRoduction, Ghulam Murtaza Khan Jatoi in Islamabad



Federal Minister for Defence Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain Presenting a Sheild to H.E. Ihsan Mustafa yurdakul, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in Islamabad



H.E Ardi Stoios-Baraken Ambassador of the Republic of Netherland called on Federal Minister for Defence Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain in Islamabad



Federal Minister for Defence, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan Presenting a Gift to General Mikhail Kostarakos, Chairman EU Miltary Committee at Ministry of Defence in Rawalpindi



National Security Adviser Lt. General (R) Naseer Khan Janjua Meeting with the Turkish Ambassador Mr.Ishan Mustafa Yardakul in Islamabad



Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engr. Igbal Zafar Jhagra talking to Russain Ambassador to Pakistan Alexy Y Dedov at Governor House, Peshawar



High Commissioner of Mauritius Rashidally Soobadar Called on Federal Minister for Education & Professional Training, Enger, Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman in Islamabad



Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Enger. Iqbal Zafar Jhagra Talking to Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Margaret Adamson at Governor House Peshawar

First phase of joint maritime special operation forces exercise Aff'aa al Sahil concludes

By Monitoring

he first phase of Joint Special Operation Forces Maritime exercise Aff'aa Al Sahil being held at Karachi between Pakistan Navy (PN-SOF) and Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF-SOF) has concluded. During the First phase, series of land and harbour exercises



were scheduled; wherein, Maritime Special Operations were rehearsed prior exercises at sea in second phase. Exercise Aff'aa Al Sahil is aimed on enhancing interoperability and sharpening the tactical proficiency in countering Maritime Human trafficking, Piracy

> and Terrorism. The exercise will synergy

being conducted annually between the two sides since 2011. Culmination of First phase will led to Sea Phase; wherein sea based Maritime Special Operations will be conducted.

Beside Exercise Aff'aa Al Sahil at Karachi, Exercise Dera Al Sahil between Pak Marines and RSNF Marines is also under progress at Saudi



akistan has called on the UN Security Council to implement its own resolutions on Kashmir, says a press release received from New York. Speaking in the debate on the Working Methods of the Security Council, Pakistan's Ambassador to UN, Maleeha Lodhi said, "The Council should periodically review implementation of its resolutions, especially on longstanding issues like the Jammu and Kashmir dispute". 'Selective' implementation of its resolutions, she stressed, undermines the credibility of the Council. "Failure to enforce its own resolutions undercuts not just the Council's standing in the world, but the UN's as well", she stated emphatically. Noting that all member states have a stake in the maintenance of international peace and security, the Pakistani envoy highlighted the need for enhanced engagement of the Council with the wider UN membership. "The number and proportion of open meetings of the Council must therefore be increased", she added. Ambassador Lodhi also called for ensuring meaningful participation of states with a legitimate stake in the Council's deliberations throughout the decision-making process. This, she said, was especially true for troop and police contributing countries, Pakistan being among the consistent and leading ones. "It is essential that the Council's effective partnership with Troops Contributing Countries (TCCs) is extended beyond the mere operational aspects of a mandate, and include decision-making, policy formulation

Security Council

should enforce its own resolutions on

Kashmir

:Dr. Maleeha

By Agency

mandate formation as well", she added The Council, she said, should be more transparent and balanced in the working of its subsidiary organs. Elected members, she emphasised, should have a more equitable representation



on these organs and they should also play a bigger role as 'penholders' on issues on the Council's agenda. Ambassador Lodhi also urged the Council to rely more on the instrument of diplomacy and pacific settlement of disputes than on coercive measures. "Increasing reliance on Chapter VII can lead to impasse and at times a diminished focus on diplomacy, which is not desirable", she added. She said that before mandating actions under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Security Council should ensure that all recourse to peaceful means have been exhausted, and that it is a measure of last resort. Expressing the necessity to augment openness and transparency in the Council's working, Ambassador Lodhi said that over the years, elected members of the Council have led the charge in bringing improvements to its working methods. "There is in fact, an inextricable link between the nature of membership of the Council and the need felt to make the Council more open and

transparent. This link is called 'Accountability'", she added. She concluded by asserting that the best way to enhance the democratic and representative character of the Council was to reinforce the norm of accountability, and not to support any actions that threaten to undermine or reverse these ideals.



"Selective' implementation of its resolutions, she stressed, undermines the credibility of the Council. "Failure to enforce its own resolutions undercuts not just the Council's standing in the world, but the UN's as well"



Where should China-US

Relations be going



By Zhang Wenzong

he Trump administration labeled China a strategic competitor, military adversary, and an economic aggressor in its National Security Strategy and National Defense Strategy. It seems the US would like to implement a tougher policy towards China without completely giving up its engagement and hedging strategy of the past three decades.

Why does Trump administration regard China so negatively? From President Donald Trump's perspective, the world is full of danger and competition, with globalization and the rise of China at the expense of the US economy and US workers. Furthermore, it's natural that such military and trade hawks as defense secretary James Mattis, national security adviser H.R. McMaster, and Director of the

White House National Trade Council Peter Navarro had a bigger voice in drafting the reports, while some moderate senior officials in the State Department were marginalized. Most importantly, China's rapid rise made US elites; both Republicans and Democrats, feel American leadership and national interest were being eroded.

Where you sit determines what you say. US elites speak for themselves, but it's fair to say that US policy makers and strategist have political bias and wishful thinking with regard to China.

The NSS said that US policy in the past two decades was based on the assumption that engagement with rivals and their inclusion in international institutions and global commerce would turn them into benign actors and trustworthy partners. For the most part, this premise turned out to be false. From the Opium War to the establishment of the PRC, China explored the development model, a political and social system suitable for herself. Based on the positive and negative historical experiences, China chose Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, just as US chose liberal democracy. Although China refused to blindly copy the Western-style system, China accepted the US-led international order and became a responsible stakeholder, while pursuing its peaceful development. After the end of the Cold war, China has done its best, overcoming domestic obstacles, to cooperate

If the Trump administration regards China as a competitor, then China will become a competitor for US.

with the US and the international community in maintaining peace, promoting the world economy, preventing WMD proliferation, fighting climate change, protecting cyber security, and maintaining open seas and free trade.

The NSS said the US will not tolerate economic aggression or unfair trading practices, and regards China as a main target. The US cannot change the economic realities by resorting to populism and nationalist rhetoric. Technological advancement and higher wages in America contributed more to the US' economic problems. In fact American companies have made huge profits by investing in China and cooperating with Chinese companies. The benefits from cooperation far surpass the disadvantages from competition for both sides. Even healthy competition between the US and China is good for both countries. When China accepted free markets and free trade, Chinese workers with much lower wages may be more competitive than US workers. What the US government should do is to improve the workers' skills, enhance infrastructure construction, and narrow the gap between the rich and poor, instead of blaming China for its domestic economic problems.

The NDS lays out a world where great-power competition, rather than counterterrorism, will drive the Defense Department's decisionmaking and force structure. China's military modernization has given it a greater ability to protect its sovereignty. But China's policy is defensive in nature, not aggressive. This is different from regional hegemony, where a dominant power intervenes in the internal affairs of other countries and implements a coercive diplomacy. What China did in the dispute in the East China and South China Seas was to implement a defense strategy of settlement through peaceful negotiations between parties directly concerned and it will attack only after being attacked.

How will US strategy guide its military deployment and economics? Will Congress approve the Defense Appropriation Act? How will US allies and partners respond? In any case, it's likely that US policy towards China will become more competitive and less cooperative.

It's too early to say what the Implications of the US strategy will and how China will respond to it. China's strategy is pursuing economic and social development domestically while maintaining peace and prosperity for the world. And its top priority now is to deepen its reforms and continue its opening-up policy, to prevent any major financial risks, intensify efforts in targeted poverty reduction, and better results in pollution control. But the US policy may change China's strategic environment and force it to adjust its priorities. For example, If US strengthens political and security relations with Taiwan, or turns the "Quad" (comprising the US, Japan, Australia, India) to establish an "Asian NATO", China will surely strengthen its strategic posture and improve its combat readiness. Furthermore. China will definitely deepen the comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination with other countries, including Russia, who was also stigmatized by the NSS and DSS. All of this will make a new Cold War a possibility.

China will continue to make efforts to improve relations with US on the condition of upholding

China will sustain socialist democracy to safeguard the **fundamental** interests of the people. China will not just mechanically copy the political systems of other countries, nor will it export its development models to others. It's too early to say what the Implications of the US strategy will and how China will respond to it.

its sovereignty and territorial integrity. At the 19th CPC National Congress, Xi Jinping said China will adopt policies to promote highstandard liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment, grant more power to pilot free trade zones to conduct reforms, and explore the opening of more free trade ports. Importing more oil, gas, agriculture commodities, and consumer goods will not only help balance the trade relations between the two countries, but also in some degree placate US strategic anxieties towards China. In any case, a trade war should be the last option.

There should not be competition of political systems between the two sides. China will sustain socialist democracy to safeguard the fundamental interests of the people. China will not just mechanically copy the political systems of other countries, nor will it export its development models to others. The NSS said the US understands that the American way of life cannot be imposed upon others. Bilateral relations will be relatively smooth if each side respects the other's choice. And one will become sensitive, angry and hostile if the other side tries to incite revolutions in the other's

In sum, the NSS and DSS cast a shadow on bilateral relations. The security and political interactions between China and US may have much influence on economic relations. Both countries have been neither allies nor enemies in the past three decades, but they certainly can cooperate well. Professor Joseph Nye once said, "If you treat China as an enemy, then you will guarantee to have an enemy in the future." If the Trump administration regards China as a competitor, then China will become a competitor for US. Since President Richard Nixon visited China in 1972, eight US presidents, five national leaders of China, and innumerable individuals have worked hard to develop relations. It's a huge challenge and a great responsibility for policy makers and strategists on both sides to continue their predecessors' efforts and halt any deterioration in this most important and consequential relationship in the world today.

The author is Associate Research Fellow, CICIR.

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FM emphasized for Close & Cordial Pakistan, Tunisia

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Monitoring

oreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has emphasized for close and cordial ties between Pakistan and Tunisia marked by commonality of faith, history and culture.

He was talking to Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi in Tunisia. The Foreign Minister also discussed with President Essebsi the substantive decisions taken during the 9th Session of the Bilateral Joint Commission including signing of various bilateral cooperation agreements. He also briefed Essebsi in detail regarding the Afghan situation and Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir. Speaking on the occasion, President Essebsi said relations between Tunisia

and Pakistan are not only special for both the governments but also for the two people who are bound in fraternal ties, friendship and brotherhood, Radio Pakistan Reported.

H.E Mr. Khawaja Muhammad Asif payed a twoday working visit to Tunisia at the invitation of H.E Mr. Khemaies Jhinaoui, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia, to co-chair the 9th Session of the Pakistani-Tunisian Joint Commission (JMC) on the 14th and 15th of February, 2018.

A week before the visit of H.E. Khawaja Muhammad Asif, a partnership agreement has been signed between Tunis Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Gujrat Chamber of Commerce and Industry in order to promote the "Tunisia Trading" platform to Pakistani companies wishing to export their products to African countries. Furthermore, both sides expressed their wish to diversify and strengthen trade between Pakistan and Tunisia and to encourage participation in trade exhibitions and events organized in both countries.

Delegation of businessmen from the Gujrat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GTCCI) also visited the Tunisian Export Promotion Center (CEPEX) headquarters in Tunis. The delegation was received by Mr. Tarek Ben President Essebsi said relations between Tunisia and Pakistan are not only special for both the governments but also for the two people who are bound in fraternal ties, friendship and brotherhood

Kebaier, Central Director of Market Approaches in charge of Export Promotion at the CEPEX.

Mr. Mohamed Ikbal khaldin, Director of Sectors at Cepex, gave a presentation on the activities and the main achievements accomplished by the Center. He highlighted the important economic and business opportunities that Tunisia offers to its partners and foreign investors and emphasized the huge number of activities that could be subject of partnership agreements between the economic operators and businessmen from Tunisia and Pakistan.

A working Session also held, at the headquarters of the Tunisian Union of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts (UTICA), between members of a delegation and some Tunisian economic operators. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Khaled Sellami, member of UTICA Executive Board, and Mr. Ali Ansar Ghumman, President of Gujrat Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



The Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) is a mechanism established in February 1982 whereby state ministers representing each country outline the general mode of cooperation and focus on promoting ties in the economic sphere.

Relations between Pakistan and Tunisia are generally cordial. Ties between the two countries are premised upon religious and historical affinity. Diplomatic relations between both states were established in 1957. Pakistan opened its embassy in Tunis in 1958 at the Charges d' Affaires level which was later upgraded to that of Ambassador/ Plenipotentiary in 1964. Tunisia introduced its embassy in Islamabad in 1980. Pakistan supported Tunisia during its struggle for independence.







Khwaja Asif briefed President Essebsi in detail regarding the Afghan situation and Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir.

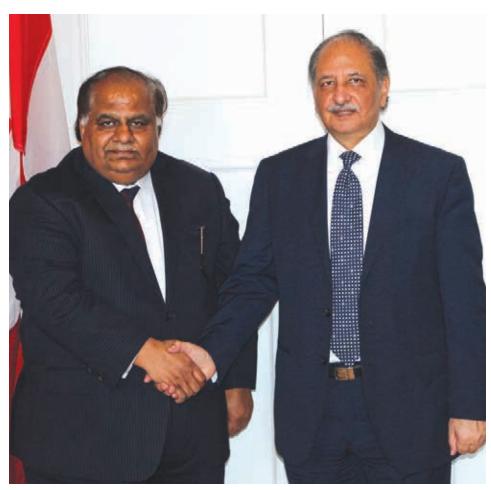


Pakistan is keen to engage in a 'full spectrum' partnership, including in trade and investment sectors

H.E Tariq Azim Khan has been a very active and energetic person. H.E. Tariq Azim Khan, joined as High Commissioner for Pakistan to Canada on 28 September 2015. Before being appointed as High Commissioner to Canada, H.E. Tariq Azim Khanwas elected as a Senator to the Senate of Pakistan for the term 2003-2006, and was re-elected in 2006 for 2006-2012 term. H.E. Tarig Azim Khan served as Federal Minister of State for Overseas Pakistanis from 2004 to 2006 and Federal Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting from 2006 to 2007. The Diplomatic Focus got the opportunity to talk to His Excellency and learn about his early life, education, career, experiences and most importantly his role as High Commissioner in bringing Canada and Pakistan closer in terms of trade, diplomatic, education and cultural ties.

DF: Excellency! First of all, we arethankful to you for giving time. After that, I would like to learn a bit about your early life, education and career.

My early education was at St. Patricks School Rawalpindi. After graduation from Gordon College, Rawalpindi, I did my Post Graduate studies in Industrial Administration from London and MBA from Brunel University, London.During education I also took part in debates and played cricket. I took part in student's union during college days and was elected President in 1963.



DF: Pakistan and Canada are enjoying cordial relations. How do you see the bilateral ties between the two nations over the years?

Pakistan-Canada relations are based on strong foundations of friendship and cooperation. In our initial decades after independence, Canada contributed to the completion of a number of important development projects

The volume of our bilateral trade in goods alone has doubled in the last three years from C\$ 703.7 million in 2014 to C\$ 1.4 billion in 2016. . However, it is far below the existing potential.

like the Warsak Dam, Tarbela Dam, the first nuclear energy plant and the first cement plant in Pakistan. Later, Canada offered technical cooperation for Agricultural Research Projects in 1980s.

Pakistan considers Canada very important partner for the size of its economy and membership of important for like G-7, G-20, WTO and the Commonwealth. Pakistan is keen to engage in a 'full spectrum' partnership, including in trade and investment sectors.

We appreciate that Canada also seeks to enhance relations with emerging economies and partners in Asia. It is very encouraging to note that the volume of our bilateral trade in goods alone has doubled in the last three years from C\$ 703.7 million in 2014 to C\$ 1.4 billion in 2016.

In 2017, the volume of trade in goods stood at C\$ 1.1 billion. However, it is far below the existing potential and both sides are working together to enhance bilateral trade.

DF: Excellency! A significant Pakistani diaspora are active contributors to Canada economy and welfare. What are the statistics numbers of Pakistanis over in Canada? Furthermore. what is the role playing by Pakistani High Commission for their development and nurturing?

There are almost half a million Canadians of Pakistani origin. First and foremost, there is a dire need for Pakistani Canadians to get involved in mainstream Canada to work on the issues affecting them in their adopted land. The Community needs to devise a strategy to introduce our rich and diverse cultural values to

"Diplomatic Focus" is playing a very powerful role in projecting Pakistan's strengths in the international community.

the Canadians and to promote understanding and goodwill for our Community and social values. In my interaction with Community I persuade them to actively participate in the Canadian politics, culture and charitable events.

DF: Excellency! Canada is one of the important country of North America. Recently Pakistani Commerce Minister visit to Canada, which shows that Pakistan seeks greater market access for its exports to Canada. Would you like to share the information of volume for

the Canadian immigration authorities decreased the processing time for issuance of visit visas from 55 days to 23 days

trade and the products which are import/ export between the two countries? And how do you see the export opportunities for Pakistani businesses to Canada? What are the outcomes of Minister's Visit?

The Commerce Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Pervaiz Malik visited Canada from February 12 - 16, 2018 at the invitation of Canadian Minister for International Trade. The last bilateral visit of any of our Federal Minister at the invitation of Government of Canada took place in 2003. The Minister had a



detailed meeting with Mr. Francois-Philippe Champagne, Minister for International Trade. The Minister informed the Canadian counterpart that under the WTO, Pakistan is looking for level playing field for export of its goods to Canadian market and issues like, travel advisory for visit to Pakistan and visa restrictions for Pakistani businessmen are hampering bilateral trade. He urged for immediate removal of these irritants in order to enhance bilateral trade volume. Both the sides agreed to hold high powered joint working group meeting in Islamabad during March 2018 to remove the hurdles in enhancing bilateral trade and to engage meaningfully to develop partnership in economic, trade, agriculture and investment sectors

The Minister also met with Mr. Ahmed Hussen, Minister for Immigration, Mr. Lawrence MacAulayMinister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, and Ontario's Minister for International Trade, Mr. Michael Chan. The visit provided an excellent opportunity to put across our point of view on issues of importance to us.

DF: What are the diverse trading prospects that Pakistan is offering to Canada to invest in Pakistan? What are the areas which Pakistan and Canada can explore to cooperate with each other?

With 210 million consumers. Pakistan is a promising market. I appreciate the interest of Canadian energy firms to explore the market in Pakistan in recent months. Likewise, Pakistani businessmen attend the textile, construction and food industry exhibitions in Canada regularly. Canada's major corporations like SNC-Lavalin, Canada Solar and smaller chains such as Second Cup Coffee have their presence in Pakistan and we are working to bring in more investment from Canada to Pakistan.

DF: As a High Commissioner, your role is very crucial in the bilateral ties and have keen eye on International relations. My questions is that how do you see the current polarization in bilateral ties among the nations? And how Pakistan can get benefits in new paradigms of relations and ties?

I believe that personal contacts matters and regular exchange of visits by officials, businessmen and people to people contacts could bring together nations. Pakistan can benefit from enhancing economic and trade relations with the international community and in this regard Pakistani diaspora can also play important role in bridging the gaps.

DF: Excellency! What are the facilities and policies you developed in the High Commissionfor the Pakistanis living in Canadaafter joining themission?

Our policies are focused on providing improved counselor facilities at the High Commission and the Consulates for Pakistani-Canadians. We try to provide better services to the community members. I regularly meet with community organizations/members during my visits to the Consulates and oversee all the facilities being provided to the people who visit our facilities.

DF: Excellency! You are actively participating in culture and other events in Canadaregularly. In these modern days, the importance of cultural ties has been increased so much. What do



Pakistan is looking for level playing field for export of its goods to Canadian market and issues like, travel advisory for visit to Pakistan and visa restrictions for Pakistani businessmen are hampering bilateral trade.

you think what further steps should be taken to enhance and boost cultural ties between Pakistan and Canada furthermore?

Exchange of ideas, values and other aspects of culture strengthen relationships and enhance socio-cultural cooperation. We try to benefit from all opportunities to showcase our food, dress, products and music to the Canadians. In this regard Pakistani diaspora also plays an important role to introduce our cultural values to the Canadian friends.

DF: Pakistan is blessed with natural beauty. **Excellency! My question is how both countries** can promote tourism and what are the barriers are being faced by this divers sector?

Pakistan can be a best tourist destination in the world. Pakistan has a lot to offer to the international tourists. Now that we have improved security situation and better infrastructure, we are inviting Canadians to visit our northern areas and cities which are cultural hubs. The religious tourism has a great potential as Pakistan is the birth place of three major religions.

DF: Excellency! During the recent visit of Minister of Commerce, we heard that The



Canadian Minister for Immigration briefed the Commerce Minister about the steps being taken to ease visa processing for Pakistani businessmen, students and tourists. Can you put some light on those steps?

We have taken up the issuance of visas to Pakistan businessmen, tourists and international students with the Minister for immigration. It's heartening to note that the Canadian immigration authorities decreased the processing time for issuance of visit visas from 55 days to 23 days. We have been informed that family/ spousal visas processing time has been improved significantly. We expect that the Canadian side will further make it easier for Pakistani tourists, businessmen and students to get visit visa. We are working closely with the Canadian immigration department on

DF: Excellency! 23rd of March is very important day in history of Pakistan and been celebrated widely. How Canadian Pakistani celebrating this day and specially at the High Commission

The High Commission celebrates the day with flag raising ceremony at Ottawa and at the Consulate Generals of Pakistan at Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. Moreover, a reception is also held at Ottawa in which Federal Ministers. Member of Parliament, Federal and Provincial officials, media persons and community notable are invited. Availing the opportunity we also show documentaries during receptions to portray the image of Pakistan.

we have improved security situation and better infrastructure, we are inviting Canadians to visit our northern areas and cities which are cultural hubs

DF: How do you see the role of 'Diplomatic Focus' in enhancing the bilateral ties of Pakistan with other countries of the world?

Diplomatic Focus is playing a very powerful role in projecting Pakistan's strengths in the international community. We appreciate the endeavors of the Magazine to introduce Pakistan's culture and touristic value to the diplomatic circles. I wish you and your team success in this noble cause.

Thanks a lot Your Excellency! For giving us some of your precious time from your busy schedule and of course for your nice talk.



Pakistan

seeks greater market access for its

Exports to Canada

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Agency

ue to its prudent economic policies, Pakistan has laid the foundation of sustained economic growth and macroeconomic stability; It offers attractive trade and investment opportunities, to Canadian Investors and, on reciprocal basis, seek greater market access for its products" said Mr. Pervaiz Malik, Commerce Minister of Pakistan in his meeting with the Canadian Minister for International Trade, Mr. Francois-Philippe Champagne and Minister for Immigration Mr. Ahmed Hussen.

Minister informed the Canadian counterpart that under the WTO, Pakistan is looking for level playing field for export of its goods to Canadian market and issues like, travel advisory for visit to Pakistan and visa restrictions for Pakistani businessmen are hampering bilateral trade. He urged for immediate removal of these irritants in order to enhance bilateral trade volume.

The Minister added that Pakistan's Investment Policy, characterized by liberalization, deregulation and privatization, is one of the most liberal in the region and provides a conducive environment for attracting FDI. He highlighted manifold increase in FDI in energy and infrastructure projects under CPEC and international investments in automobile, telecom, manufacturing and tourism industry in Pakistan.

Minister Malik underlined that Pakistan meets the priority of Canada's foreign trade in consumer products, industrial machinery, ICTG, infrastructure, mining, oil and gas, clean technologies, agriculture and education



Federal Minister for Commerce and Textile, Mohammad Pervaiz Malik in a Group Photo with Canadian Minister for International Trade, Mr. Francois Philippe Champagne and Minister for Immigration, Mr. Ahmed Hussen During Pakistan-Canada Trade Talks at Ottawa

sectors. He said that with, over 200 million consumer market and large booming middle class, Pakistan is a promising market for Canadian goods, services and investment.

In his remarks Mr. Champagne expressed his gratitude to the Commerce Minister for accepting the invitation to hold trade dialogue in Ottawa. He said that Canada would like to

"Pakistan's Investment Policy, characterized by liberalization, deregulation and privatization, is one of the most liberal in the region and provides a conducive environment for attracting FDI: Pervaiz Malik"

increase the trade volume between the two countries and all practical steps would be taken to enhance cooperation in the areas of mutual interest. The Minister added that Canada also seeks to enhance relations with emerging economies and partners in Asia and Pakistan certainly provides opportunity for Canadian investors to benefit from increasing demand of consumer goods and services.

The Canadian Minister for Immigration briefed the Commerce Minister about the steps being taken to ease visa processing for Pakistani businessmen, students and tourists. He said that Pakistan has great potential and Canada would like to ease and facilitate visa processing for all categories in order to increase people to people ties.

Both the sides agreed to hold high powered joint working group meeting in Islamabad during March 2018 to remove the hurdles in enhancing bilateral trade and to engage meaningfully to develop partnership in economic, trade, agriculture and investment sectors.

Latter, Commerce Minister of Pakistan Mr. Pervaiz Malik met with the Canadian Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Mr. Lawrence MacAulay, to take a holistic view of agriculture sector cooperation between the two countries.

While appreciating Canada's cooperation for construction of dams and irrigation system since 1960s, the Commerce Minister said that it is time for Canada to extend support in forestry, fishing, heavy agricultural machinery and other areas of agricultural cooperation. He said that Pakistan is an emerging economy and with over



5% GDP growth rate Pakistan is a promising market for Canadian FDI in agriculture sector.

He said that the bulk of Canada's imports to Pakistan are agro-based products and both the sides should exchange expertise in research, development and innovation in the agriculture field. The Canadian Minister for agriculture appreciated the economic progress Pakistan has made during the last five years and agreed to provide fresh impetus to the cooperation in agriculture field. He said that Canada would like to have robust interaction for exchange of high level delegations in order to remove the constraints and irritants related to fumigation issue. Instead of relying on ad hoc arrangements, both the sides agreed to have a permanent science based solution to the longstanding fumigation issue of agro-based Canadian exports to Pakistan, which are worth



Group Photo of Commerec Minister Mr. Pervaiz Mailk, Ontario's Minister for International Trade Mr. Michael Chan & High Commissioner of Pakistan Mr. Tariq Azim Khan during meeting on Trade Relations between Pakistan and Ontario Province at Toronto



Federal Minister for Commerce & Textile, Mohammad Pervaiz Malik being received by Canadian Minister for International Trade, Mr Francois Philippe Champagne at Ottawa



Pakistan has an abundance of natural resources and skilled labor forces, while Korea is rich in capital, advanced technology and development experiences

We can take Advantage of our Synergy & Earn win-win achievements

H.E. Kwak Sung-kyu

Ambassador Republic of Korea to Pakistan

"Korea's GDP is now over 1.4 trillion dollars, making it the 11th largest economy in the world"

H.E. Kwak Sung-kyu is the new ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Pakistan. H.E. presented his credentials to the President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E. Mamnoon Hussain on February 1, 2018.

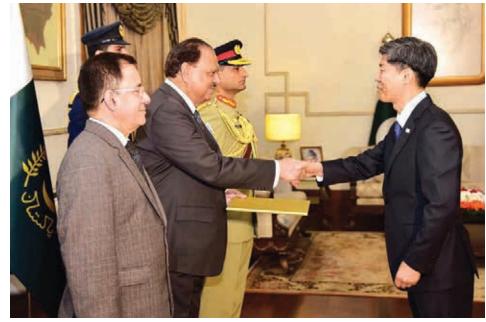
H.E. started his diplomatic career in May, 1991 and has served in China, Australia, Bangladesh, Iran, Netherland and Israel. H.E. Kwak Sung-kyu is a very active and energetic diplomat.

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

DF: Diplomatic Focus is thankful to you for giving time for interview. Readers would like to know about your profile, your career and your experiences as a diplomat.

Thank you, Mr. Elahi. I am honored to have an interview with the Diplomatic Focus magazine. I am fortunate to have served as a Korean diplomat for the last 27 years. In retrospect, my diplomatic career has been very rewarding as my service in many different areas of the world, such as Beijing, Canberra, Dakar (Bangladesh), the Hague, Tehran and Tel Aviv, allowed me to meet many people and experience various cultures. Pakistan is one of the 7 countries to which I have been posted and I am looking forward to my tenure here.





DF: Please tell us about the current state and future potential of Korea-Pakistan bilateral relations.

Since Korea's establishment of diplomatic relations with Pakistan in 1983, there have been many interactions between the leaders of Korea and Pakistan. These include the visits of the Korean Prime Minister and the National Assembly Speaker to Pakistan in 2014 and the summit meeting, on the sidelines of the 70th UNGA Session in New York, between the Korean President and the Pakistani Prime Minister in 2015. In 2017 another Korean Speaker visited Pakistan and met His Excellency Shahid Khagan Abbasi, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, as well as many other dignitaries. These high-profile visits have given a strong boost to the positive momentum of our bilateral relations.

I believe that Korea and Pakistan have complimentary advantages to offer each other, sharing great potential for cooperation. Pakistan has an abundance of natural resources

and skilled labor, while Korea is rich in capital, advanced technology and development experiences. Consequently, our synergy can vield win-win outcomes for both countries.

DF: What are the salient features of Korean economic growth?

Korea's GDP is now over 1.4 trillion dollars, making it the 11th largest economy in the world. Korea presents a compelling story of economic development as it successfully made the transition from a resource-poor, low-income nation to a high-income advanced economy in only three decades. This journey of rapid development was due to many factors such as the trade and investment facilitation policy, the export-driven-industrialization strategy, the construction of roads and allied infrastructure, the fruitful implementation of five-year economic development plans, the gradual opening of the economy to global competitors and the strong focus on education and developing human resources.

Successive governments incentivized corporations to develop new technologies and to invest in heavy industries like steel, chemical and shipping in order to compete in the highly-competitive global market. Additionally, the inflow of foreign capital was greatly encouraged to supplement the shortage of domestic savings. Korea achieved rapid economic growth of over 8% for almost thirty years. Policy makers in developing countries can study the Korean economic

"Pakistani businessmen are welcome to business and trade collaboration projects with Korean entrepreneurs."

I would like to attach much priority on improving people-to-people exchanges and making economic and trade linkages stronger than before.

development model and learn valuable lessons from this proven legacy.

DF: Would you like to illustrate the nature of Pak-Korea economic relations?

Since the establishment of diplomatic ties between Korea and Pakistan in 1983, our bilateral relations have expanded in various areas, especially economic cooperation, including trade, business, development and financial assistance.

Korea is one of the leading trade partners of Pakistan and trade volume between our two countries was above \$1.3 billion in 2017. In order to further increase this trade partnership both countries have started discussions regarding a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Koreans are keenly investing in Pakistan in various sectors including energy, petrochemical, automobile, confectionery and electronics. The presence of Korean companies in Pakistan is contributing to Pakistan's economy in terms of FDI, job creation and transfer of technology.

I believe the Asia-Pacific region faces many challenges due to its complex historical legacy, but it also has a lot of room for cooperation

the infrastructure development area, Korean companies have completed a variety of landmark projects including the Islamabad-Lahore Motorway (M-2), the Lowari tunnel, several hydro and thermal power plants, the Karachi Port expansion and the Hyderabad-Mirpurkhas carriageway. On the development assistance side, Korea is providing financing and aid-grants for various socio-economic



development projects in Pakistan. In the last two years Korea has pledged over \$216 million under the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) for highway, health and IT infrastructure projects. An additional \$800 million is in the pipeline for the period of 2018~20. Korea is also extending aid-grant for social welfare projects and capacity building.

Korea looks forward to building upon our existing ties with a vision towards achieving a healthy, stable and mutually beneficial partnership for both our countries.

DF: Level of Korea-Pakistan trade and commerce in increasing. Would you please highlight opportunities that are offered for Pakistani businessmen?

Pakistani businessmen are welcome to business and trade collaboration projects with Korean entrepreneurs. Pakistani businesses may also take advantage of the latest technologies and management techniques perfected by Korean companies. My embassy and the KOTRA office in Karachi are glad to facilitate such business

partnerships. The recent joint ventures of Hyundai and KIA Motors with local partners will be great examples of such success stories.

DF: As the new ambassador of Korea to Pakistan, what are your priorities to strengthen the current bilateral relations between the two countries, in light of the new political dynamics?

Korea seeks to improve its relations with all countries of the world. President Moon Jae-In was elected less than a year ago but, in a very short span of time, his administration has been very active and dynamic on many fronts, including foreign affairs.

As the new Korean Ambassador to Pakistan, I aim to further strengthen Korea-Pakistan bilateral relations in all areas. My priority is to improve people-to-people exchanges and make economic and trade linkages stronger than before.

DF: Asia Pacific is very important region; these days different issues are posing severe threat to security in the region. Keeping in mind the

I am looking forward to meeting many Pakistan people and to fully enjoying the rich culture and stunning natural beauty that Pakistan has to offer.

present scenario, how do you see the future of the region as complex interdependence in prevailing in the region?

I believe the Asia-Pacific region faces many challenges due to its complex historical legacy, but it also has a lot of room for cooperation. Despite their historical disagreements, many countries in the region have a very high volume of trade and strong cultural bonds with each other.

As far as the Korean peninsula is concerned, I would like to emphasize the recent positive developments. A great milestone was achieved when the Olympic teams of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK/North Korea) and the Republic of Korea (South Korea) marched under one flag at the inauguration of the 2018 Winter Olympics, being held in PyeongChang, in South

Korea seeks to improve its relations with all countries of the world.

Korea. Further, North and South Korea fielded a unified team for the women's ice hockey event and North Korea sent cheerleaders and a musical band to the Olympics. On the sidelines of the Olympics several high level meetings were held between the two sides. The North Korean leader praised the way South Korea was managing the Olympics as 'very impressive' and the North Koreans invited our President to visit their capital. We hope that this positive momentum can last and lead to lasting peace on the Korean peninsula and eventual reunification of our people.

DF: People to people contacts are very important; do you think these relations can be improved further? Is there any cultural and student exchange cooperation between our two countries.

When I met H.E. Mr. Mamnoon Hussain, President of Pakistan on the occasion of presenting my President's credential to him on 1st February, he emphasized the necessity



of the sustainable cooperation between our two countries in the field of education, which I totally agree with. There are already many cultural and student exchange programs between our countries. Nearly a thousand Pakistani students have benefitted from Korean government, KOICA and university scholarships in the past few years. At a more professional level, hundreds of Pakistani government officials have visited Korea for various training

In recent years our cultural exchanges have also increased a lot. Each year various functions are held in Pakistan to increase our cultural links. These include Taekwondo tournaments, Korean film festivals, Hangeul [Korean language] talking competitions, K-pop competitions and performances of Korean musical troupes in Pakistan.

Conversely, a collection of Gandhara artifacts from Pakistan were exhibited in Korea in September 2017, attracting many Koreans to the exhibition. And this year, Pakistani athletes competed in the Winter Olympics for the first time, in Korea.

DF: As an Ambassador, what is your opinion about the people of Pakistan and how many Pakistani cities have you visited.

My interactions with Pakistanis have been very pleasant, positive and productive. However, so far I have only visited Lahore, the heart of Punjab, because it has only been a few weeks since I presented my credentials to His Excellency, President Mamnoon Hussain. I am looking forward to meeting many Pakistan people and to fully enjoying the rich culture and stunning

natural beauty that Pakistan has to offer.

DF: Any message you want to give to the youth of Pakistan?

I have great expectation for Pakistani youth because I see great potential in them. They are intelligent, active and dynamic. I am sure the young generation will play pivotal roles in the future development of Pakistan. Thank you.

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

A great milestone was achieved when the Olympic teams of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK/North Korea) and the Republic of Korea (South Korea) marched under one flag at the inauguration of the 2018 Winter Olympics, being held in PyeongChang, in South Korea



There is ample_scope for further strengthening of relations between

Interview by Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan & Mexico

H.E. Tasawar Khan

Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Mexico

"Pakistan and Mexico have always enjoyed cordial bilateral ties that have been following a positive trajectory"

Ambassador Tasawar Khan is an experienced diplomat and has been a very active and energetic representative of Pakistan. He has been the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Mexico since July, 2017. Ambassador Tasawar is also concurrently accredited to Panama, Costa Rica, Belize, Guatemala and El Salvador.

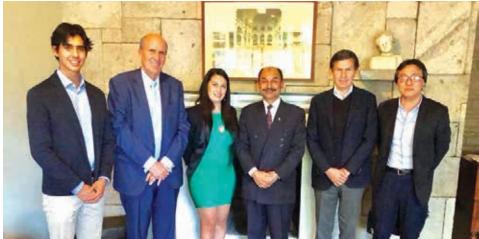
Before his appointment as Ambassador to Mexico, Ambassador Tasawar Khan was

We are striving for enhancing cooperation in the field of education as well as science and technology... I have visited several leading academic institutions in Mexico to explore the possibilities of their cooperation with prestigious Pakistani educational institutions

serving as Additional Secretary (Middle East & Africa) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since March 2016. He was given the special responsibility of Chief Coordinator for the







Meeting and briefing on business opportunities in Guadalajara at COMCE de Occidente by Director General Ms. Clara Ibanez.



With the Minister of Finance Mr. Ildefanso Guajardo, President ANTAD Mr. Vicente Yanez and Hon Consul of Pakistan Mr. Mark McGuiness at the inauguration of ANTAD 2018

13th ECO Summit, which was immaculately held in Islamabad on 1st March 2017. He has also served as the Chief of Protocol and Director General (Special Projects) from 2014-16. Ambassador Tasawar joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1987. Ambassador

Tasawar Khan is an accomplished diplomat with a demonstrated history of working in the diverse positions dealing in international relations, diplomacy, conflict resolution and crisis management. In his career of over 30 years, Ambassador Tasawar has dealt with



With the President of Polo Association and Prince of Camaroon.

Absence of Mexican Mission in Islamabad is in fact a serious impediment in promoting people to people contacts and interaction between the businessmen of our two countries. Since my arrival, I have personally raised this issue at the highest political level in Mexico.

issues related to multilateral as well as bilateral diplomacy.

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

DF: Excellency! First of all, we congratulate for new assignment and thankful to you for giving me time. After that, I would like to learn a bit about your early life and education.

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to be part of Diplomatic Focus, a high quality diplomatic magazine, both in presentation and content, and popular in the diplomatic community in Pakistan.

"Pakistan and Mexico have always enjoyed cordial bilateral ties that have been following a positive trajectory"



Call on by Ambassador Aldin Rivera Montes of Honduras to discuss cooperation in the field of Micro-financing

Diplomatic Focus is also covering the activities of Pakistani Missions aboard and is a good source of information for those, who wish to keep themselves abreast with Pakistan's relations with the world as well as diplomatic and social life of Islamabad. I have spent my early life in many cities of Pakistan because my late father was working in the National Bank of Pakistan, from where he retired as Assistant Vice President in early 90s. After early education in several cities, I did my intermediate from the prestigious

UK, Saudi Arabia, Zimbabwe, Australia, USA and now Mexico.

DF: Pakistan and Mexico are enjoying cordial relations. How do you see the bilateral ties between the two nations over the years?

Pakistan and Mexico have always enjoyed cordial bilateral ties that have been following a positive trajectory. Both the countries have unanimity and consensus on a number of international issues, including the centrality of UN Charter, Security Council reforms, global



Meeting and briefing at the Ministry of Competitiveness, Labour and Economic Development of State of Puebla to discuss cooperation in trade and investment

Government College, Lahore. Thereafter, I earned my commission and graduated from Pakistan Military Academy, Kakul and had the honour of serving in the Armed Forces of Pakistan from 1980-1987. I joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1987 and since then have served in various positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Pakistani Missions abroad. My diplomatic assignments have been diverse in countries like Mauritius,

developmental agenda, and a just and fair international political and economic order. Both countries are part of an important group on Security Council Reforms called "Uniting for Consensus" and traditionally support each others' candidatures to international bodies. Mexico is an important country in terms of physical size and magnitude of its economy. It is situated in a region of global importance and identifies itself with North and Latin America.



Visit and Luncheon meeting with the leadership of University of Monterrey to discuss academic cooperation.

"Pakistan has huge prospects for business and investment. Our investment policy is very business friendly and encourages foreign investors to benefit from the opportunities..."

While Mexico is already an upper middle income country, Pakistan is a rising and growing economy, particularly as we see the unfolding of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The economic opportunities offered by both countries add to the significance of our bilateral relations with Mexico.



Presenting copies of Credentials to H.E. Wilfred Erlington, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belize at Ministry of Foreign Affairs

I believe that, despite geographical distance, there is ample scope for further strengthening of relations between Pakistan and Mexico. It is satisfying to note that an institutional framework already exists between the two countries, which can be further built upon. This framework comprises of several bilateral agreements of mutual cooperation in diversified fields. Besides efforts to strengthen our political and economic relations, we are striving for enhancing cooperation in the

"I believe Mexican companies can benefit by seeking joint ventures with Pakistani companies in CPEC"

field of education as well as science and technology. Mexico's literacy rate of over 95% and the country has excellent public and private educational institutions, with strong international collaborations. I have visited several leading academic institutions in Mexico to explore the possibilities of their cooperation prestigious Pakistani educational institutions. We would soon be formalizing these cooperation arrangements. I believe that educational collaboration in the form of sharing experience, publication, faculty and student academic exchanges will help in benefitting form each others' strengths.

DF: Excellency! A significant Pakistani Diaspora is active contributors to North America economy and welfare. What are the statistics numbers of Pakistanis over in Mexico? Furthermore, what is the role playing by Pakistani Embassy for their development and nurturing?

Yes, there is huge Pakistani Diaspora in North American region particularly US and Canada. In fact, Pakistanis are among the most significant immigrants in these countries. However, in Mexico the population of Pakistanis is not very large. There are around 300 Pakistanis in Mexico. With the exception of few, most of them are small traders. One of the major Pakistani expatriate businessmen has textile, hotel, power generation, and real estate business in Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras under the organizational name "Grupo Karim's". Few Pakistani businessmen are in sports goods, surgical instruments and restaurant business as well.

Embassy of Pakistan has been facilitating the Pakistanis living not only in Mexico but also in the countries of concurrent accreditation including Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Panama. We facilitate them through efficient consular services and in taking up their matter with the host government as and when required. The Embassy has nominated a focal person to address the complaints of Pakistanis living in Mexico and countries of concurrent accreditation.

To support Pakistani community in other parts of Mexico and counties of accreditation, we



Conversation with Right Honorable Dean Borrow, Prime Minister of Belize at Prime Minister Secretariat. Belmopan



visit to Leigh Richardson Knowledge Centre and Samual Havnes Institute of Excellence Extension as part of Belizean Government efforts for skill development, women empowerment and social safety net.



Briefing on Development and Conservation initiatives by the Government of Belize.



Visit to Headquarters of ruling party PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party), meeting with Secretary for International Relations and Explaining dynamics of CPEC



Lunch to celebrate the success of expedition "Mexico Pakistan Alpine Brotherhood" with the President of Alpine Club and Members of the expedition at Pakistan House.



Receiving the agreement of one of the best Mexican universities "Instituto Politécnico Nacional (IPN), for educational cooperation with the prestigious Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (GIKI).



Meeting with Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology of State of Guadalajara Mr. Jaime Reyes Robles to discuss cooperation in IT field



Presenting credentials as High Commissioner of Pakistan to Belize to H.E. Sir Collville Young, Governor General of Belize at Belize House, Belmopan.

Panama, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Belize.

DF: Excellency! Mexico is one of the important countries of North America. Pakistan is Mexico's 67th biggest global trading partner while Mexico is Pakistan's 49th biggest global trading partner, respectively. Would you like to share the information of volume for trade and the products which are import/export between the two countries? And how do you see the export opportunities for Pakistani businesses to Mexico?

Mexico is the 11th largest economy of over \$2.4 trillion, by purchase power parity, and it is a significant player in international trade. However, Mexico's US\$ 817 billion international trade is primarily US focused, as 81% of its exports are destined for the United States and 46.6 % of its imports come from United States. The other important trading partners are China, Japan and European Union. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has been a game changer for Mexico and since signing of this agreement these countries have also invested heavily in the Mexican industrial sector.

Mexico's strong links with North American market and ten Free Trade Agreements with 45 countries present a great economic opportunity for us to export our products to Mexico. Mexico is a promising market and also is a gateway to many countries of Latin America. I don't think our traders and investors have benefitted from the economic opportunities offered by Mexico. The volume of bilateral trade has increased from US\$169 million in 2013 to US\$ 200 million in 2016. Pakistan is primarily an agricultural country with major crops including wheat, rice, cotton, sugarcane, maize, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables. Agriculture aside, Pakistan is also a semi-industrialized country and specializes in the manufacturing and export of finished products in textile, leather, surgical/ medical instruments, sports goods, chemicals, pharmaceutics and carpets.

Despite its enviable industrial development, Mexico also has a strong agriculture sector, with main crops including corn, sugarcane, sorghum, wheat, chili peppers, beans, barley, tomatoes, coffee and fruits like bananas, oranges, lemons, limes, mangos, avocados and blue agave. Mexico primarily imports sports goods (especially footballs, basketballs, boxing and martial arts equipment), medical/surgical goods and finished textile products from Pakistan. Mexican exports to Pakistan include machinery, articles of iron or steel, wood pulp, fibrous cellulosic material, roots and tubers, plastic articles and chemicals etc.

DF: What are the diverse trading prospects that you offer to Mexico to invest in Pakistan? What are the areas which Pakistan and Mexico can explore to cooperate with each other?

Pakistan has huge prospects for business and investment. Our investment policy is very business friendly and encourages foreign investors to benefit from the opportunities. We have robust banking and telecommunications sectors. Then there is great potential in auto parts, energy, agriculture and real estate for Mexico. Mexican companies can explore the possibility for improving production and processing of primary agricultural products. Mexico, as a fourth largest exporter of cars and

We have also provided the online application facility, which can be availed by the applicants as per their convenience

biggest producer of flat screen TVs, can benefit from 210 billion strong Pakistani market. Since the initiation of CPEC the investment opportunities have further expanded. The \$67 billion project has opened multiple avenues. Now there is scope in energy and infrastructure. Information about CPEC is one of the most important points that I always make during my interaction with Mexican officials and businessmen. I believe Mexican companies can benefit by seeking joint ventures with Pakistani companies in CPEC. Mexico has a poverty rate of around 50% and is focusing on uplifting of its under developed regions. It has launched several special economic zones, with lucrative incentives for the investors, who can also benefit from its free trade agreements with a large number of countries. Similarly, the state governments in Mexico also offer incentives to attract investors in their respective states. Pakistani investors can also benefit from the opportunities offered by Mexico.

DF: As an ambassador your role is very crucial in the bilateral ties and have keen eye on International relations. My questions is that how do you see the current polarization in bilateral ties among the nations?

Two kinds of polarization generally continue to exist in the world. One is in the East-West relations and the other in the North-South Relations. Differences in ideology and social systems between the East and the West have been causing this polarization, which is likely to continue in future. East-West relations continue to be of fundamental importance to world politics, and therefore efforts to stabilize the relationship are an indispensable prerequisite for international peace. Such efforts must be aimed at promoting dialogue and exchanges, while, at the same time, maintaining and strengthening the frameworks, which prevent conflicts from arising between the East and the West.

North-South ties carry much weight in current international relations owing to the importance of development of countries in the South. The countries in the South have all concentrated their efforts on their respective national development and to this end have sought to obtain aid and expand their trade relations. Nevertheless, the economic gap between North and South continues to be widening. South has been putting demands to the North for changing the international economic order with a view to redistributing wealth and income in the belief that the existing international economic system has itself caused the gap to increase. The North, however, finds it extremely difficult to accept such demands in their entirety.

Equally significant is the fact that the number of independent states in the South now total more than one hundred, accounting for more than two-thirds of all the members of the United Nations, and that they have come to demonstrate the strength of numerical superiority by acting in concert in international arenas, such as the U.N. General Assembly.

DF: Excellency! What are the facilities and



With Mr. Enrique Solana Senties, President of the Confederation of National Chambers of Commerce, Services and Tourism (CONCANACO), equivalent of FPCCI, to explore trade and investment opportunities.

policies you developed in the Embassy for the Pakistanis living in Mexico after joining the mission?

Responding to the needs of the Pakistanis living in Mexico is our primary responsibility. The first and foremost step that I took was the shifting of a Chancery building to relatively better premises, at a better location. The new

premises has better facilities for the community, where the Machine Readable Passport (MRP) system is fully operational. We have also provided the online application facility, which can be availed by the applicants as per their convenience. The system for attestation of documents has been streamlined. We have an active response system to address the queries of Pakistanis, through appointment of a focal person. The Mission has an active website and uses social media to keep in touch with the community. We have our facebook as well as tweeter account. We frequently use e.mail and WhatsApp to communicate with the Pakistani community in Mexico and countries of accreditation. The Embassy of Pakistan is always available to support its community members in case of emergencies. In the last few years, a number of Pakistanis, who confronted such situations, have been assisted by the Embassy, in all possible ways. I would like to highlight here that despite being a small Embassy, we prioritize the needs and requirements of Pakistani community and help them resolve their issues to the best of our capabilities and available resources.

DF: Excellency! You are actively participating in culture and sports events in Mexico regularly. In these modern days, the importance of cultural ties has been increased so much. What do you think what further steps should be taken to enhance and boost cultural ties between Pakistan and Mexico furthermore?

Strengthening of cultural ties between Pakistan and Mexico is an absolutely important area. There is an ample scope for expanding the cultural horizon. Both the countries have a rich cultural heritage that dates back to centuries.

Pakistan is home to many famous civilizations such as the Indus civilization, Gandhara civilization and also witnessed Mughal rule. Remnants/monuments of these civilizations can be found till date. Similarly, the Mexicans are proud owner of Mayan and Aztec heritage. There is a commonality of passion for music, art, festivals, handicrafts and spicy foods between the peoples of our two countries. An MoU on Cultural cooperation is under consideration between the two countries, which once signed will pave way for cultural collaboration among different institutions in both countries.

DF: Mexico is a country known for its beaches and its diverse landscape of mountains, deserts and jungles. On the other side Pakistan is also blessed with natural beauty. Excellency! My question is how both countries can promote tourism and what are the barriers are being faced by this diverse sector?

Tourism is one area, where I think Pakistan and Mexico have a lot to offer to each other. Pakistan has a range of tourism opportunities including historical monuments, archaeological sites, pristine mountainous valleys, ice-capped

snow peaks and beautiful beaches. Some of the famous tourist sites in Pakistan have now been declared UNESCO World heritage. Similarly Mexico is a country known for its Pacific and Gulf of Mexico beaches and its diverse landscape of mountains, deserts and jungles. Ancient ruins such as Teotihuacán and the Mayan city of Chichén Itzá, which are scattered throughout the country, as are Spanish colonialera towns. I believe that we should utilize our tourist potential to the maximum and promote it effectively. The recent initiatives taken by the Government of Pakistan to improve tourism are being highlighted by the Mission. We also need



At visit of Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of Interior, Planning and Development at Pakistan House, México City.

to develop more clubs and organizations that are dedicated to promotion of tourist activities and that actively arrange and coordinate tourist expeditions. The Embassy is endeavouring to formalize collaboration between the Alpine Club of Mexico and Alpine Club of Pakistan. I believe that an agreement between adventure and tourist organizations in Pakistan and Mexico can help in promoting tourism between our two countries. We are also working with another organization called Club De Exploradores De Mexico (CEMAC) to encourage mountaineering and tracking in Pakistan. May I share with you, that due to our collaboration and efforts, the Alpine Club of Mexico recently organized an expedition namely "Pakistan Mexico Alpine Brotherhood" to Pico de Orizaba, the highest peak in Mexico. It was a pleasure for me to personally join the expedition and proudly have the Pakistani flag hoisted, for the first time, at the highest peak in Mexico.

DF: Excellency! In May 1974, Pakistan opened embassy in Mexico City while Mexico reciprocated the gesture by opening an embassy in Islamabad in 2007, however, the Mexican embassy in Islamabad was closed in 2009. Currently, Mexico is accredited to Pakistan from its embassy in Tehran, Iran. Is there any steps are being taken or in pipeline that Mexico will open its embassy in Islamabad. Is there any updates or talks?

Re-opening of Mexican Embassy is crucial to promote bilateral ties. Absence of Mexican Mission in Islamabad is in fact a serious impediment in promoting people to people contacts and interaction between the businessmen of our two countries. It is an important matter, which had been regularly raised with the Mexican side in the past and is being vigorously pursued by the Embassy. Since my arrival, I have personally raised this issue at the highest political level in Mexico. It is heartening that a political decision has been taken to reopen the Mexican embassy in Pakistan, on completion of administrative formalities. I am confident that the opening of Mexican embassy in Islamabad, which should happen earlier than later, will greatly help in deepening our bilateral relations.

DF: How do you see the role of 'Diplomatic Focus' in enhancing the bilateral ties of Pakistan with other countries of the world?

I consider that the magazine has been doing a commendable job. Media has a critical role to play in creating and molding perceptions. The soft power at the hands of media can help strengthen ties between the countries. Your magazine provides an opportunity to project the positive and constructive image of Pakistan in eyes of diplomatic community. On the other hand, you also bring forth the opportunities which Pakistanis can offer to different countries. Your efforts thus help create a network of friendly associations that push forward the amicable ties among the countries. I believe it is a great service to the nations.

DF: Your Excellency! Any message you want to give to the readers of the 'Diplomatic Focus'? And also you can share anything you think we have missed in the interview?

My message to the readers of the magazine is that whenever they are abroad, they should try to present the best image of Pakistan. I believe when abroad, each one of us is our country's representative and an "ambassador" of our beloved country in his own capacity. So, we should make an effort to be a nation that other nations feel pride and pleasure in associating with.

Thanks a lot Your Excellency! For giving us some of your precious time from your busy schedule and of course for your nice talk.

Despite being a small Embassy, we prioritize the needs and requirements of Pakistani community and help them resolve their issues to the best of our capabilities and available resources.



New Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Korea honored by **Diplomatic Focus**

ian Fazal Elahi Editor, CEO, Publisher of "Diplomatic Focus" hosted a welcome dinner reception in the honour of Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Korea H.E. Kwak Sung-kyu at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. The event was graced by newly appointed Dean of Diplomatic Corps H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan. Mr. Elahi welcomed to new ambassador H.E. Kwak Sung-kyu and expressed gratitude and congratulation on the appointment of H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan as Dean of Diplomatic Corps. H.E. Kwak Sung Kyu is a sessional diplomat from Republic of Korea and H.E efforts will further increase the relations between the two countries, and abolish barriers, Mr. Elahi added.

Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi further said that His Excellency Atadjan Movlamov is contributing his valuable services for strengthening Pak-Turkmenistan relations throughout his tenure here in Pakistan and we hope that as DEAN H.E. will deliver more efforts to strengthen the relations of Pakistan and other countries.

Newly Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Korea H.E. Kwak Sung-kyu appreciated the role of "Diplomatic Focus" in strengthening the relations among the countries. In his speech Ambassador of Korea hoped that during his tenure the bilateral relations, trade, cooperation will further improve.

Ambassador of Turkmenistan H.E. Atadjan Movlamov thanked to Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi and Muhammad Tanveer Sadiq CEO of Travelpro, sponsor of the reception. He expressed hope that during tenure of newly appointed Ambassador of Korea, the relations between Pakistan and Korea will touch new heights.

Pakistan and Korea relations are symbolic in terms of bilateral cooperation said by Mr. Muhammad Tanveer Sadiq CEO of Travelpro. He through some lights on services and achievements of his company and expressed that he and his team is working continuously to get bench mark of Excellence in traveling and

Souvenirs were presented to dignitaries by Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi and Mr. Muhammad Tanveer Sadiq. Large number of Diplomates, businessmen, media persons along with Mr. Shah Jamal Special Secretory MOFA, Mr. Imtiaz Alam Director at MOFA, Ambassador of Yemen, Morocco, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Azerbaijan, Libya, Portugal, Poland, Syria, Kirghizstan, Deputy ambassador of Oman, Afghanistan, Ukrain, Minister counselor of Romania, Russia and Honorary counsel of Paraguay, Ambassador Designated to Cambodia of Pakistan graced the event.



















































CPEC is harbinger

of shared economic prosperity: State Minister

Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb termed this visit to China a visit to her home

By Monitoring,

inister of State for Information, Broadcasting, National History and Literary Heritage Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a "harbinger of shared economic prosperity and peace" in the region.

She said this in her meeting with Jiang Jianguo, vice minister of the Propaganda Department of the Central Committee of Communist Party of China (CPC), and the Minister of State Council Information Office (SCIO) in Beijing.

She was on a four-day official visit to China at

an invitation of the Chinese Ministry of Culture. Welcoming the minister, Jiang Jianguo said that

it was a pleasure to receive her on her first official visit to China. He said that their two people and countries shared a high level of mutual trust, respect and friendship.

He further said that the CPEC being the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was an



Pakistan and China were carrying a legacy of cooperation, the foundations of which were laid by their ancestors: State Minister

BRI, a vision of President Xi Jinping, would change not only the destiny of people of China but would also benefit the people of the region and beyond: State Minister

initiative for the shared future of the region. The minister also shared pleasant memories of his visit to Pakistan in 2017.



Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb thanked the Minister of SCIO for their warm hospitality. She termed this visit to China a visit to her home. She said that Pakistan and China were carrying a legacy of cooperation, the foundations of which were laid by their ancestors.



She said that BRI, a vision of President Xi Jinping, would change not only the destiny of people of China but would also benefit the people of the region and beyond. Pakistan's Ambassador to China Masood Khalid was also present on the occasion and said that SCIO was playing a very important role in sharing the Chinese vision with the world. He said that support of SCIO



was crucial in enhancing media cooperation.

The ambassador said that currently 22,000 Pakistani students are studying in China and they will be permanent ambassadors of Pak-China friendship.

Earlier upon her arrival in Beijing, Marriyum received by Ambassador Khalid and Chinese officials at Beijing Capital International Airport. During her visit, Marriyum Aurangzeb has welcomed the proposal by the Chinese Vice Minister of State Administration of Press Publication, Radio, Film and Television (SAPPRFT) Mr. Tong Gang for working on an agreement between the two countries for cooperation in the area of film production and film infrastructure which the latter made when the former called on

20th partner in this field. She informed the Chinese minister that Pakistan had set up a Chinese cultural centre in Pakistan National Council of the Arts. She said that Pakistan was committed to participate in the film festival on the eve of summit meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Mr. Tong Gang informed Marriyum Aurangzeb that China was producing 700 films annually and had nearly 50,000 screens. China, he said was keen to share its experience with Pakistan. Marriyum reiterated that success of CPEC required mutual understanding of culture, heritage and language by the people of China and Pakistan.



him. She expressed the hope that the agreement would be prepared and formalized expeditiously. The MOS dilating on collaboration between Radio and Television of both the countries, informed her host that the present government was formulating a film policy which would include various incentives for the revival of the film industry in Pakistan adding that it would soon be announced.. She said that Pakistan was now producing good quality films for cinema viewers; however, it wanted to follow Chinese model to further develop the film industry on modern lines. Marriyum Aurangzeb observed that presently China was collaborating with 19 countries in film production and Pakistan wanted to become its

Marriyum reiterated that success of CPEC required mutual understanding of culture, heritage and language by the people of China and Pakistan

Uzbekistan

FM appreciated the professionalism of

Pakistan

Armed Forces & sacrifices

By Monitoring, Agency

.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Kamilov, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, along with a four-member delegation, visited Islamabad. During the visit, the Foreign Minister met with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Khawaja Muhammad Asif. He conveyed a letter from the Uzbek President Mirziyoyev Shavkat Miromonovich, addressed to President Mamnoon Hussain regarding the convening of a conference titled "Peace Process and Cooperation in the field of Security and Regional Cohesion", scheduled to be held in Tashkent on 26-27 March 2018. The meeting



also provided an opportunity to review the present status of bilateral relations and discuss various measures to further strengthen the close brotherly relations between both

Later, H.E Mr. Abdulaziz Kamilov, called on General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, Chairman JCS

Committee at Joint Staff Headquarters. Bilateral security and defence cooperation and regional security environment were discussed.

minister appreciated professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and sacrifices made by Pakistan in war against terrorism.





Turkmenistan is a brotherly Muslim country

Pakistan

attached great importance to cordial and cooperative relations: NSA

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Monitoring

ean of Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Turkmenistan H.E. Atadjan Mavlamov called on National Security Adviser Lt. General (Retd) Nasser Khan Janjua. Matters pertaining to promotion of bilateral relations, issues regarding defence cooperation and overall regional security situation came under discussion. It was first called on of H.E. Atadjan Mavlamov as Dean of Diplomatic Corps. The NSA warmly welcomed the guest and said that Turkmenistan is a brotherly Muslim country and Pakistan attached great importance to cordial and cooperative relations with Turkmenistan. Both countries have immense potential to expand the spectrum of bilateral relations. The Ambassador said that Pakistan and Turkmenistan share historic, cultural and religious bonds. Over the years both Pakistan and Turkmenistan had successfully developed excellent diplomatic relations. "Our leadership is keen to strengthen these ties further by extending cooperation in multiple areas including political, defence and economic sector such as trade and energy he added. The Ambassador stressed the need of increasing the momentum of bilateral meetings to strengthen cooperation. Discussing TAPI gas pipeline project, the envoy said that Turkmenistan considers Pakistan as a strategic partner for this project and is ready to cooperate more with Pakistan in energy sector. He also highlighted the fact that the two countries shared views on major regional and international issues concerning peace and security. NSA said that cooperation in energy sector is a big lead forward. "Pakistan can offer connectivity to Turkmenistan and together we can multiply our economic potential as well." Both sides agreed to take steps to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

Our leadership is keen to strengthen these ties further by extending cooperation in multiple areas including political, defence and economic sector such as trade and energy: H.E. Atadjan Mavlamov



VOC is South **Terrorist**

President AJK

By M.Saeed Yousafzai Photo By Ramzan Mughal

ardar Masood Khan, President has said that Modi and BJP's para-military arm RSS are committing atrocious acts of terrorism in Indian Occupied Kashmir.

The President made these remarks while the 2nd Inter-Universities addressing Speech Competition on the title "Human Right Violations in IOK and the role of the International Community", organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell here at Kashmir House, Islamabad.

Speaking on the occasion the President commended the speakers on their style of delivery, passion and informative speeches. He said that it is indeed encouraging to see the younger generation speaking with such confidence on the Kashmir issue. "These speeches are an eye opener for not only the participants of this event but also the world community who have deliberately ignored this pertinent issue."

President Masood Khan in his speech said that the issue of Kashmir is a historical and geographical issue based on the forced occupation of Jammu and Kashmir and an incomplete partition.

Speaking of the atrocities in IOK, the President said that Modi's government has adopted a policy of aggression and subjugation leading to the murder, maiming, illegal incarceration and forced evacuation of the Muslim population. He said that the innocent Kashmiris striving for their freedom have been cordoned off and made aliens in their own homeland. "Modi is South Asia's biggest terrorist and the people in IOK are facing an ethnic genocide of massive proportions."

The only terrorism in IOK is the state-sponsored terrorism of the central government at Delhi: President AJK

The President said that the only terrorism in IOK is the state-sponsored terrorism of the central government at Delhi. He said, India's appetite has not been satiated by these killings and instead is maliciously painting the innocent

Kashmiris as terrorists and falsely claiming to be the victim. He said that these acts of hostility will never subjugate the people of Jammu and Kashmir and their freedom struggle will continue with the political, diplomatic and moral support of the people and Government of Azad Kashmir and Pakistan.

In a clear and open message to the PDP government in IOK led by Mehbooba Mufti, the President of Azad Kashmir said that facilitation of the Indian armed forces and the para-military forces must end. "By facilitating these acts of terror, you (Mehbooba Mufti) are an abettor to war crimes and crimes against humanity."

President Masood said that the eerie silence of the international community to these crimes is deplorable. The United Nations has totally failed its mandate by not resolving this 70-year issue, he said. Furthermore, he said that the UN Secretary General must avoid artificially balancing out the issue between Pakistan and India by waiting for a concurrence from the two nations. "India being the aggressor will never concur and engage in any sort of concrete and structured dialogue for the resolution of this matter", he said.





The UN has totally failed its mandate by not resolving this 70-years old issue: President AJK

President Azad Kashmir said that bilateral talks have been a farce leading to further delay in the resolution of the Kashmir issue. He said that excluding the Kashmiris from the dialogues is incomprehensible as they are the key constituent to the issue and arriving at a viable solution without their political consent is impossible.

Addressing the students, he urged them to use modern means of communication including the social media to garner support for the freedom movement and help highlight the war crimes taking place in IOK. He said that by using the #KashmirMatters trend all students must continue to tweet and post on the Kashmir issue.

The President praised Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell Muhammad Idrees Abbasi and his team for successfully organizing this mega event and raising awareness on this issue among the younger generation.

In the end of the event, the President presented the winning speakers with cash prizes and congratulated all the speakers on their marvelous performance.

The event was also attended by Convener APHC Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Faiz Naqshbandi, Brig. (R) Dr. Muhammad Khan, and a large number of students from the public sector universities of AJK.















































62nd Independence Day of Sudan celebrated

H.E. Tageldin Elhadi Eltahir Ambassador of Sudan, his wife and senior embassy staff welcomed guests to a large reception to celebrate Sudan's 62nd Independence Day. The chief guest on the occasion was Federal Minister for Human Rights Mr. Mumtaz Ahmed Tarar. The reception was well attended as the government dignitaries, diplomats, businesspersons, politicians and representatives from across the civil society.







Sri Lankan 70th National Day celebrated

n the occasion of 70th anniversary of Independence Day of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the high commissioner of Sri Lanka H.E. Maj. Gen (R) Jayanath Lokuketagodage hosted a colorful event at Serena Hotel in Islamabad. Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training. Engr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman was the chief guest. The new Dean of the diplomatic Corp and Ambassador of Turkmenistan H.E. Atajan Movlamov attended the 2nd reception as Dean.

Sri Lankan National Day event was like a cultural festival that depicted everything about the country. It was a fusion of discussion and music. Sri Lankan Cultural Troupe including Arunashantha, Nuwan Kumara, Sarath Nuwan Kumara, Priyanath, Dayarathna, Athanayaka, Senadeera, Chanthurika, Perera Kasg had come from Sri Lanka especially to perform at the event. They highlighted the tradition, and culture of their country. Several ambassadors put their heart in the event to make it memorable. The venue was fully packed as people from various walks of life including politicians, business community representatives, diplomats, and media men of from all over the country attended the event.

There was an unprecedented representation of the business community from all over Pakistan. President FPCCI Ghazafar Bilour, Vice president SAARC chamber of commerce and industry Mr. Iftikhar Ali Malik ,Shakil Ahmed Dhingra, Mariam Chaudhy and Rizwana Shahid ,Shireen Arshad from Karachi Chamber of Commerce and from Islamabad chamber of commerce and industry Sheikh Amir Waheed, Nasir Qureshi, Khalid Igbal Malik, Zahid Maqbool participated in the event.

SAARC Countries ambassadors including Indian High commissioner Mr. Ajay Bisaria, Nepal Ambassador Ms Sewa Lamsal Adhikari, Bangladesh High commissioner Mr.Tarik Ahsan , Afghanistan Ambassador Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal and Maldives ambassador Mr. Ahmed Saleem were sitting on the stage.





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The diplomats from China, Russia, United Kingdom, Japan, Greece, Austria, Yemen, Iran and others along with their families have participated at Orange Festival arranged at Taxila's Zildar House where special horse dance, traditional stone lifting and Sufi music were arranged. The co-host were deputy Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and the Ambassador of Tajikistan H.E. Jononov Sherali and Dean of Military Corps & Military Attachi at Embassy of Romania in Islamabad.







Nepal Army Day celebrated

Ambassador H.E. Sewa Lamsal Adhikari and Defence Attaché Col. Hem Raj KC hosted a reception in Serena Hotel to mark Nepal Army Day recently. Maj Gen Farhat Abbas Sani, DG Air Defence and Arms Branch, was the chief guest on the occasion.

During the event, a video titled 'Nepal Army at a Glance' was screened which highlighted activities of the country's military, such as its participation in UN peace keeping missions. The army's assistance after the earthquake in 2015 and other national disasters were also highlighted.

The guests on the occasion included defence attachés from Saarc countries and elsewhere, along with other diplomats and senior

members of the Pakistani society. Also, several of Pakistan's former ambassadors to Nepal attended the event.































H.E. Nizar A. Nabiyah Ambassador of Libya

in Pakistan hosted a lunch reception in the honor of ambassadordesignate to Libya Maj. Gen.(r) Sajid Iqbal in Islamabad. Large number of Diplomates graced the gathering.









Kuwait celebrates National



Ambassador H.E. Nassar Abdulrahman J. Al-Mutairi of Kuwait hosted a glittering reception in the federal capital to celebrate 57th national Day and 27th Anniversary of the Liberation Day of his country.

Chief Guest was Minister Federal Education and Training Engineer Baleegh-ur-Rahman.

A large number of guests were there to share joy of the Kuwaiti nation on their national day. They included Arab and other Muslim ambassadors, diplomats of friendly countries, senior civil and military officers as well as prominent citizenry.





Russia opens Honorary Consul Office in Peshawar

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Monitoring

Russia inaugurated its consulate in the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province.

At the inauguration ceremony in Peshawar, Russian Ambassador H.E. Alexey Yurievich Dedov said his country and Pakistan have enjoyed 70 years of diplomatic relations.

Recent developments, including visits of Pakistani premiers to Russia, show that bilateral ties are improving, he added.

"Trade between the two countries has reached \$541 million, and we want this to grow further. We need to give an additional push to the current dynamics," he said, adding that the consulate is aimed at promoting bilateral friendship and cooperation in various sectors.

Mohammed Arshallah Khan, Russia's honorary

consul for KP, said the two countries are "natural allies" by geography and culture. "We need to give this a helping hand to make this friendship long-lasting," he added.

Russia "has had highs and lows in diplomatic relations with Pakistan," and the inauguration of the consulate "is a new chapter" in those relations: Governor KP

In his address at the ceremony, KP Gov. Iqbal Zafar Jhagra said Russia "has had highs and lows in diplomatic relations with Pakistan," and the inauguration of the consulate "is a new chapter" in those relations.

Former Pakistani Ambassador to Russia, Khalid Khattak, also addressed the ceremony, welcoming the consulate's opening and expressing hope that it will promote bilateral ties. Provincial Assembly members Shah Farman, Atif Khan and Sardar Hussain Babak were also present.

Dr. Sarfaraz Khan, director of the Area Study Center (Russia, China and Central Asia) at the University of Peshawar, told Arab News: "The opening of the consulate shows the paradigm shift in Pakistan's policy."

"Pakistan and Russia carried out joint military exercises in Gilgit-Baltistan (Pakistan) and also in Russia in 2017. The KP government has also signed an agreement with Russia to set up an oil refinery in Karak district. These activities show growing relations between Russia and Pakistan."



Russian Armed Forces Day

marked in Islamabad

On the occasion of the Russian Armed Forces Day, The Ambassador of the Russian Federation H.E. Alexey Y.Dedov and Military, Air & Naval Attaché Captain (Navy) & Mrs. Vladimir I. Balashov hosted a reception in Islamabad to mark the day. The event was attended by diplomats, civil and army officials of Pakistan and diplomatic Defence Corps.

























A public diplomacy initiative by **Serena:**



A panel discussion on Breast Cancer Awareness

Serena Hotels hosted a panel discussion on Breast Cancer Awareness -Women Healthcare, under Raabta, a public diplomacy initiative by Serena Hotels. The event was Moderated by Sidra Iqbal — Prominent Broadcast Journalist. Keynote Speaker was Dr. Azmina Tajdin \ali Mohammad — Consultant Oncologist, Aga Khan University Hospital with Panelists: Dr. Qasim Menmooci Buttar - Senior Oncologist, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Dr. Kashifa Ehsan — Cancer Awareness Physician Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Dr. Arif Malik Director Surgical Services, Shifa International Hospital, Dr. Sarwat Bokhari — Head Histopathology, National institute of Health (NIH), Nadya Kamran - Game Changer and Paiwasna Yousuf – Thriver.



























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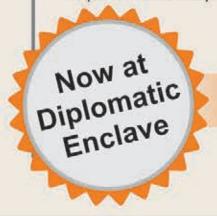
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Dr. Shahid Mamood is a graduate from the University of Texas, at San Antonio, USA with specialization in Endodontics and Implantlogy. He has twenty years of experience to his credit. He has also had the privilege of setting up the Department of Dentistry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



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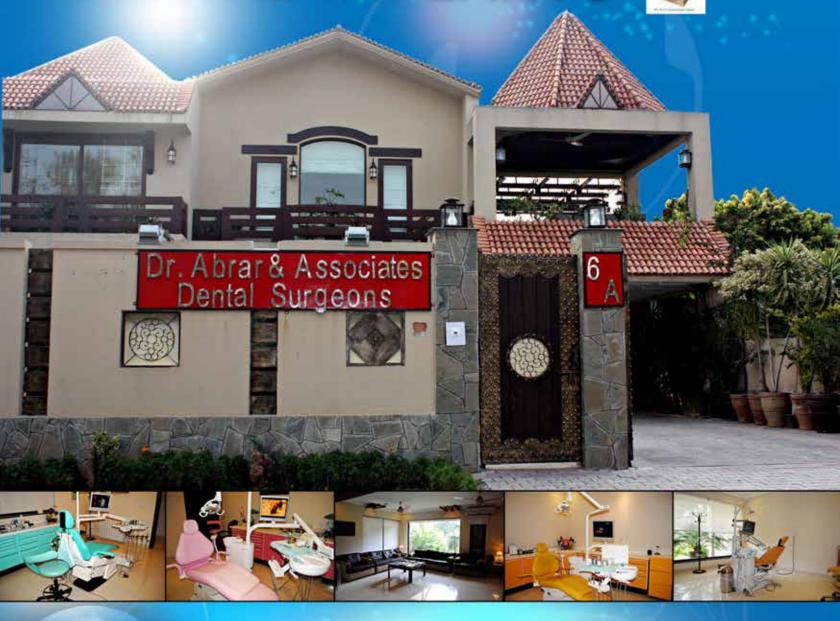




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