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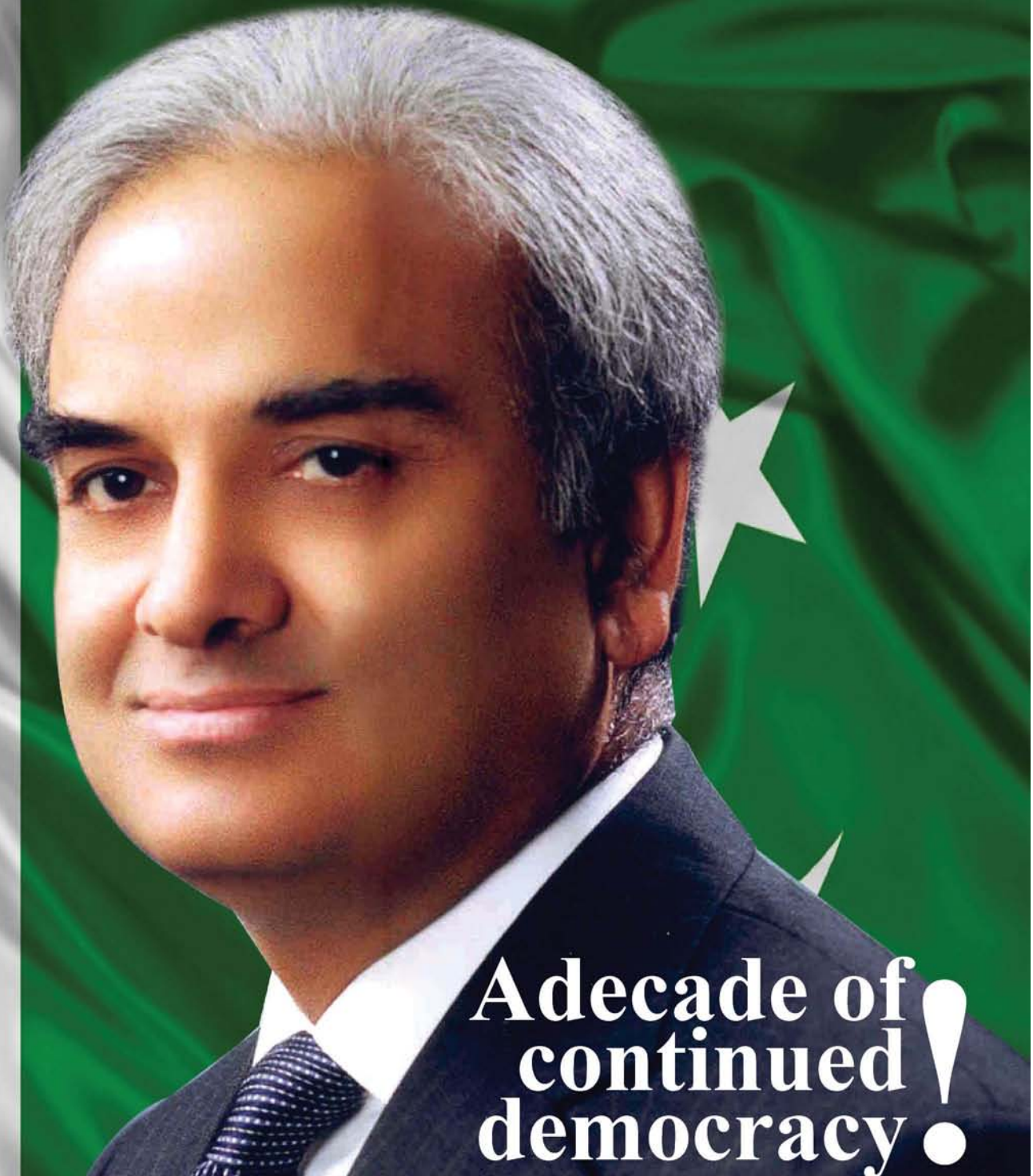
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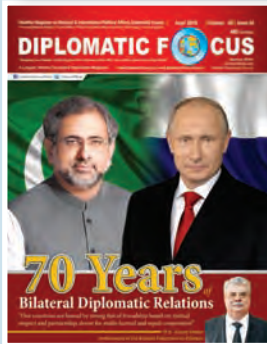
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## Our previous Issues

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March 2018



February 2018



Mian Fazal Elahi

Some elements aimed to seeking delay in holding elections for reasons, but all major political parties have categorically stated that they would resist any such attempt and would not allow postponement of polls on any pretext. The consensus emerged during last session of the National Assembly when outgoing Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and opposition leaders from PPP asserted that Constitution is absolutely clear in this regard and they would not entertain any suggestion for delaying the elections.

The confusion arose when Balochistan Assembly passed controversial resolution for delaying polls and KP Chief Minister Pervez Khattak wrote a letter to the Election Commission of Pakistan urging it to postpone the electoral exercise till arrangements are also made for holding of elections in areas formerly known as FATA, which have now become part of KP. This requires undertaking of huge work of delimitation of constituencies involving many issues and stages and it is quite obvious that it would mean delaying elections for at least six months. Islamabad and Balochistan High Courts also contributed to the confusion by nullifying delimitation of constituencies in several districts and it was feared that disposal of the issues involved would take much time. On other side, Lahore High Court (LHC) nullified the nomination papers, which would be submitted by candidates for the upcoming general election, ruling they did not seek necessary information and declarations. However, Supreme Court suspends LHC nomination papers verdict.

The Election Commission seems to be firm in its resolve to hold elections on the already announced date of July 25. In an informal chat with media persons after his oath taking ceremony, he said the elections will be held on time.

We hope that no idea for postponement of elections will be entertained at any level of decision. It is already been committed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Saqib Nisar that he would now allow a day's delay in elections in violation of the Constitution. Much depends on the caretaker Prime Minister retired Justice Nasirul Mulk, who took oath on 1st June, and given his track record and commitment to rule of law and supremacy of the Constitution, it is expected that he would succeed in foiling all attempts aimed at delaying the electoral process.

### Important Announcement

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



Mian Assad Ullah

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Chief of the General Staff Turkish Armed Forces General Hulusi Akar Called on President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

Close and fraternal relations between

# Pakistan & Turkey

are the guarantee of stability and prosperity in the region: President Mamnoon Hussain

By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Mamnoon Hussain has said that close and fraternal relations between Pakistan and Turkey are the guarantee of stability and prosperity in the region. The President said this while talking to Chief of the General Staff Turkish Armed Forces General Hulusi AKAR who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. Turkish Ambassador Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul and other senior officials were also present on the occasion. The President emphasized that Pakistan and Turkey have very deep brotherly relations which cannot be described in words.

He underlined that Turkey is playing a very positive role towards the resolution of different international issues. Turkey has dealt with the Middle East crisis and especially the issue of refugees in a very positive manner, he added. He stated that Turkey has always supported Pakistan stance on the issue of Kashmir and we are grateful to our Turkish brothers for it. He added that Pakistan unconditionally supports Turkey's stance on the issue of North Cyprus. He underscored that Pakistan strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. He also praised the leadership of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and said that he is a

brave leader of the Islamic World who always takes a just and fair stand for the resolution of challenges face by the Muslim Ummah. The President also expressed his pleasure on close cooperation between the two countries in different fields including defence which will further grow in the coming days. He also conveyed his best wishes to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Chief of the General Staff Turkish Armed Forces General Hulusi AKAR thanked the President and said that Pakistan has always supported Turkey in difficult time for which Turkish nation is grateful to the people of Pakistan.



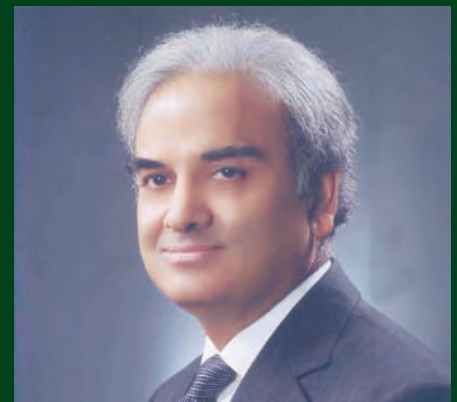
President Mamnoon Hussain greeting the Caretaker Prime Minister Justice (R) Nasir-ul-Mulk at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

# 7 Caretaker PM of Pakistan th Former CJP Nasirul Mulk

Former CJP Nasirul Mulk was born on August 17, 1950 in Mingora, Swat. He completed his degree of Bar-at-Law from Inner Temple London and was called to the Bar in 1977.

His father, Kamran Khan, was a businessman known for his philanthropic work in Swat.

Mr. Mulk practiced as an advocate in all fields of law for more than 17 years until his elevation as a judge of the Peshawar High Court. He remained PHC chief





President Mamnoon Hussain administering the oath of office to Justice (R) Nasir-ul-Mulk as Caretaker Prime Minister at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. Former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi is also present.

justice for some time before his elevation as a judge of the Supreme Court in 2014. He took oath as the 22nd chief justice of Pakistan on July 6, 2014.

He has also delivered lectures in Khyber Law College, Peshawar and Peshawar University besides delivering lectures as a guest speaker at the KP Provincial Services Academy, Peshawar.

He is remembered for the way he conducted a contempt case against then Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani.

He convicted the then chief executive for 30 seconds while maintaining the dignity and honour of the court, and left the disqualification issue opens to the Election Commission of Pakistan and the then speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Fehmida Mirza.

Justice Mulk is one of the seven judges who signed a restraining order on Nov 3, 2007, when retired Gen Pervez Musharraf imposed emergency and forcibly sent the judges home.

Justice Mulk later joined the judiciary on Sept 20, 2008, under the Naek formula

Justice Mulk is one of the seven judges who signed a restraining order on Nov 3, 2007, when retired Gen Pervez Musharraf imposed emergency and forcibly sent the judges home.

when he took a fresh oath as a judge of the Supreme Court with his seniority intact.

Justice Mulk resigned from the post of the acting Chief Election Commissioner the day he was designated as the next chief justice.

He has also held the office of the chairman of the enrolment committee of the Pakistan Bar Council as well as the chairman of the building committee of the under-construction Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) complex.

The former chief justice was named the caretaker PM on May 28 ahead of General Elections 2018 to keep the country running between the dissolution of parliament and the new government being sworn in. The announcement was made by Leader of the Opposition Khursheed Shah at a press conference along with Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq.

# The Royal wedding 2018



Prince Harry told his bride  
**“you look  
amazing”**  
to which Meghan replied  
**“thank you”**

Since announcing their engagement in November 2017, the world has been preparing for Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's royal wedding.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex begin their first day as a married couple following an emotional ceremony that captivated the nation and a night spent partying with close family and friends.

They are expected to travel home to take up their royal duties following a day that saw them exchange rings, process through Windsor in a carriage and listen to an emotional speech made by Prince Charles.

The celebrations culminated in a black-tie wedding dinner staged at Frogmore House and hosted by Charles for 200 of the couple's closest friends and family. James Corden reportedly acted as compere.

The married couple arrived at the evening reception in ultimate style - riding in a silver blue Jaguar E-Type Concept Zero, which was originally manufactured in 1968 and has since





The top of the vast West Steps, where the West Door was decorated with hundreds of cream and white flowers and green foliage.

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle exchanged vows in front of 600 guests including the Queen, more than 30 royals and famous faces such as Oprah Winfrey, tennis champion Serena Williams, actor George Clooney and his barrister wife Amal Clooney, Sir Elton John, David and Victoria Beckham and actor Idris Elba.

An estimated 100,000 people turned out to see the couple as they sat in an open-top Ascot Landau for a carriage procession through Windsor.

The couple joined their guests for a reception in Windsor Castle hosted by the Queen.

The Queen's grandson and the American former actress, who is now an HRH and a member of the British royal family, said their vows in front of 600 guests including the monarch and more than 30 members of the Royal family.

Ms Markle wore a stunning elegant white gown - with a white veil and boat neck - was created by British designer Clare Waight Keller.

The royal family expressed gratitude to all those who enjoyed the wedding, saying on the official Twitter account: "Thank you to everyone who came to Windsor and those who followed from around the UK, the Commonwealth, and the world. The wedding was forecast to attract a global audience of 1.9 billion people.

been converted to electric power to Frogmore House in Windsor.

The car's number plate bore the date of the wedding - E190518 - and Prince Harry proved

he was the perfect gentleman as he opened the door of a vintage car to let his bride step in, as he drove her to their private evening reception in a scene akin to a James Bond film.



# Pakistan & Saudi Arabia are linked

through deep historic, religious and cultural relations whom are difficult to emulate: President Mamnoon Hussain



Deputy Minister of Education of Saudi Arabia Hamad Nasser A Al-Mehrej along with a delegation called on President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

President Mamnoon Hussain has said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are linked through deep historic, religious and cultural relations which are difficult to emulate. These relations will further grow in the future, He added. The President said this while taking to Deputy Minister of Education of Saudi Arabia Hamad Nasser A Al-Mehrej who along with delegation called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. Mr. Nawaf bin Said Al Maliki, Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Abdulaziz Abdullah A Al-faleh, Member, Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Dawah and Guidance, Mr. Mohammed Saad Al Hakbani, Member, Ministry of Finance, Mr. Ibrahim Saleh I AlHodaithi, Member, Interior Ministry, Mr. Mohamed Ahmed A Al-Magsoudi, Member, Institute of Public Administration, Mr. Fahad Ibrahim A Al-Suqayhi, Secretary to Deputy Minister of Education, Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasinzi, Rector International Islamic University and Prof. Dr. Yousif Al-Dariweesh, President International Islamic University were also present on the occasion. The President emphasized that exchange of high level delegations will further strengthen the relations between two countries especially it will enhance cooperation in the field of education. He underscored that bilateral trade between the two countries is below its true potential which needs to be increased. He expressed hope that Saudi businessmen and investors will

benefit from the investment, business and trade opportunities in Pakistan. The President stated

**President underscored that bilateral trade between the two countries is below its true potential which needs to be increased**

that International Islamic University has shown remarkable performance in the education sector and Saudi Arab's cooperation in this regard is very valuable. He underlined that a campus of this university should be established in any city of Saudi Arabia to provide better education facilities to the Pakistanis residing in Saudi Arabia. On the occasion Deputy Minister for Education of Saudi Arabia Mr. Hamad Nasser A Al-Mehrej said that Saudi Arabia will continue to play its role in the promotion of education in Pakistan. He apprised the President that Saudi Arabia has increased the number of scholarship for Pakistani students to 580.



President Mamnoon Hussain in a group photo with the Saudi Delegation headed by Deputy Minister of Education Hamad Nasseer A Al-Mehrej at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Acting President Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Conferring the Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) Upon General Zhang Youxia, Vice Chairman of Chinese Central Military Commission at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

## Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon General Zhang Youxia, Vice Chairman of CCMC

Acting President Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani conferred the Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon General Zhang Youxia, Vice Chairman of Chinese Central Military Commission during an Investiture Ceremony at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. All Services Chiefs, Senior Military and Civil Officers were also present on the occasion. General Zhang Youxia, Vice Chairman of Chinese Central Military Commission also called on Acting

President Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani after the Investiture Ceremony. Acting President congratulated General Zhang Youxia on the conferment of Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) and said that Pakistan and China are close friends, neighbors and trusted partners because their relations are based on mutual respect and trust. He emphasized that Pak-China friendship is the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy and our defence relations are the

guarantee of peace and stability in the region. He stated that Pakistan deeply values China's support on the issues of national and regional security including Kashmir. On the occasion, Vice Chairman of Chinese Central Military Commission General Zhang Youxia thanked the Acting President, Government and people of Pakistan and said that Pakistan and China enjoy a time-tested friendship which will further grow in the coming generations.



# Pakistan stands with Palestinians in face of tyranny, PM tells OIC

“We must reject double standards in the enforcement of council resolutions.”

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has reiterated that Pakistan stands in complete solidarity with the Palestinian people in the face of unbridled tyranny.

He said that Pakistan joins the OIC countries in conveying its strong condemnation of the massacre and maiming of innocent Palestinians by Israeli forces earlier this week.

In a statement at the 7th extraordinary Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Summit on the question of Palestine held here, he said “We are at an important juncture in history. It is no longer a question of choice but of necessity – to rise above our differences, demonstrate solidarity and support for the people of Palestine and above all ensure that international law is upheld without exception.”

The prime minister stressed that the OIC countries’ response should, therefore, be multi-pronged and well-considered.

“It is essential to reaffirm and renew our complete solidarity and unity among and between our countries and peoples. We must

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan urged the Muslim states’ leaders to overcome divisions to combat Israel’s “brutality.”

also set aside our political differences. Even more important is to faithfully implement the OIC plans of action that are already in place in diverse areas,” he added.

He noted that only by taking these actions, they could resist external pressures, reverse the losses and take their destinies in their own hands.

The prime minister suggested that on the diplomatic front, they must continue to demand that the UN Security Council fulfilled its key responsibility for implementation of its existing resolutions.

PM Abbasi said, “We must reject double standards in the enforcement of council resolutions.”

He observed that if the UN Security Council was unable or unwilling to act, they should mobilize support in the UN General Assembly for rejection of revisionist decisions and ensuring accountability of violators of international law.



He also stressed for follow-up on OIC decisions for economic and other appropriate actions to change the behaviour of the occupying forces.

The prime minister also suggested that they should also consider the possibility of seeking the ICJ's advisory opinion on the illegality of recent actions.

Besides that, PM Abbasi said that the OIC member countries needed to reach out to other states and groups 'to sustain support for the just cause of the Palestinians, put an end to continued killings and state terrorism and build an independent and contiguous state of Palestine, on the basis of internationally agreed parameters, the pre-1967 borders, and with Al-

Quds Al-Sharif as its capital'.

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that it was deeply regrettable that the US did not heed to universal calls for rescinding its decisions about recognising Jerusalem as the so-called capital of Israel, and relocation of its embassy to the holy city.

"It is, therefore, in the fitness of things that our conference resolutely condemns and rejects unilateral decisions and recurrent violations of international legality. Concurrently, it is heartening to note that the strong message of solidarity and support by the OIC for their Palestinian brothers and sisters in these turbulent times," he added.

Abbasi arrived here in Istanbul earlier in the day to lead the Pakistani delegation at the OIC Summit being hosted by Turkey to discuss the grave situation of blatant human rights' violations by Israeli forces in Palestine. Khurram Dastgir Khan, the minister for foreign affairs and defence, as well as other senior government officials accompanied him.

The extraordinary meeting was called by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in his capacity as the chair of the OIC summit. It focused on the latest incidents of violence on the Gaza strip where more than 60 civilians were mercilessly killed by the occupying Israeli forces, whereas scores of others — including women, children, and elderly — sustained injuries.

## "If we need to speak clearly, the Islamic world failed in the Jerusalem test." Turkish President

The extraordinary meeting of OIC was called by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in his capacity as the chair of the OIC summit.

In his own address, he urged the Muslim states' leaders to overcome divisions to combat Israel's "brutality."

The Turkish strongman has been outspoken over the killing by Israeli forces of some 60 Palestinians on the Gaza border as well as the move of the US embassy to Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

"The time has come to stand against Israel's tyranny," Erdogan told a sea of protesters waving Turkish and Palestinian flags.

"I invite all Muslims and all humanity to take

action ... against those who drag our region and the world into [a] catastrophe with their religious fanaticism," he added.

He told the rally that Muslims had too often given a "shy and cowardly" image to their foes and failed to sort out internal disagreements.

Describing the issue of Jerusalem as a "test", he said: "If we need to speak clearly, the Islamic world failed in the Jerusalem test."

This is the second emergency OIC meeting Erdogan has hosted in the space of half a year after the December 2017 summit, also in Istanbul, that denounced US President Donald Trump's decision to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. A draft summit communique called for "international protection for the



Palestinian people" and condemns Israel's "criminal" actions against "unarmed civilians." The text also accused the US administration of "encouraging the crimes of Israel".

**Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi presenting a memento to Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at the opening session of “International Maritime Symposium” held in Islamabad**



## Pakistan & Nepal's Army Chiefs discussed matters of mutual interests

Gen Rajendra Chhetri, Chief of Army Staff Nepalese Army called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa at GHQ.

During the meeting matters of mutual interest including military to military relations, regional

security situation and measures to improve bilateral relations were discussed. Visiting dignitary acknowledged and appreciated Pakistan Army's sincere efforts and sacrifices in war against terrorism and for stability in

the region. Earlier on arrival at GHQ, Nepalese Army Chief, laid a floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Army presented the Guard of Honour to Nepalese Army Chief.

## UAE Envoy & COAS discussed UAE-Pakistan Assistance Program

By Mian Fazal Elahi

H.E Mr Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al Zaabi, UAE Ambassador to Pakistan called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ.

During the meeting matters of mutual interest and UAE-Pakistan Assistance Programme (UPAP) projects under execution in Pakistan were discussed. Later on, an MoU was also signed for continuing UPAP projects for social development in remote areas of Pakistan.



# President Emomali Rahmon expressed satisfaction over the friendly relations and multifaceted cooperation between Tajikistan & Pakistan

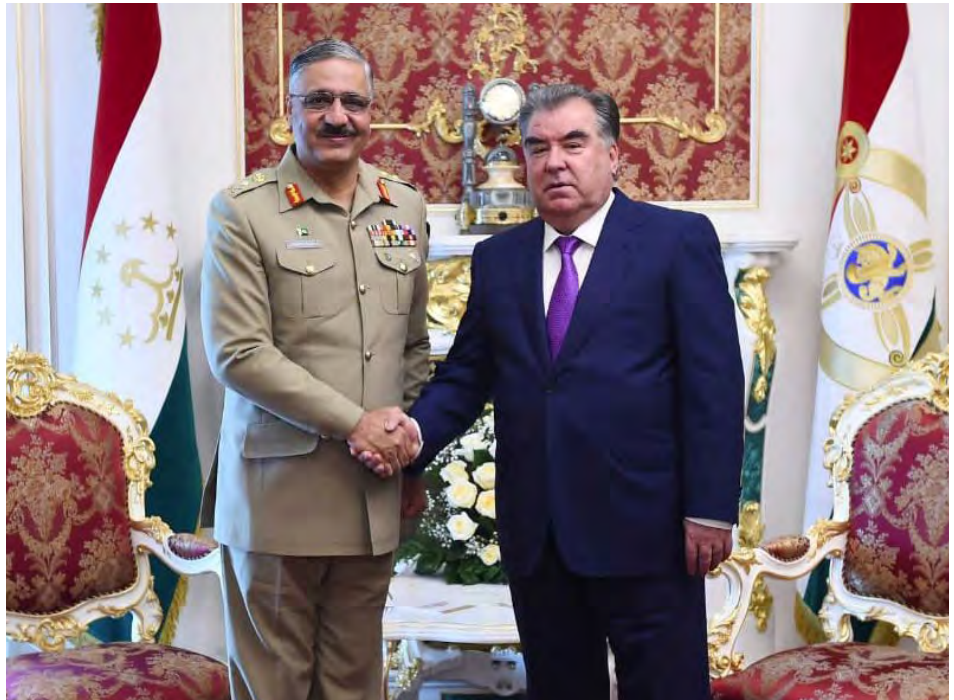
On May 30 the Founder of Peace and National Unity - Leader of the Nation, President of the Republic of Tajikistan His Excellency Emomali Rahmon received the Chairmen Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan General of Army Zubair Mahmood Hayat, who was on a working visit in Tajikistan.

At the meeting wide spectrums of issues of political, social and economic cooperation of the countries have been considered.

President of the country Emomali Rahmon expressed satisfaction over the friendly relations and multifaceted cooperation between the countries, which has new content by the efforts of the heads of the states.

The sides discussed the issues of strengthening bilateral cooperation in combating terrorism, extremism, drug production and transnational crime.

Strengthening the relations between Tajikistan and Pakistan in the security and defense sectors, the military and technical cooperation of the countries in order to address regional challenges and to find ways to address the political and military situation in Afghanistan,



was considered very important.

During the meeting, they also exchanged views on the course of the implementation of the

project on the construction of high voltage power transmission line "CASA-1000" and the use of the extensive hydropower potential of Tajikistan.

## COAS inaugurated work on border fencing along the Balochistan portion of Pak- Afghan border

By Mian Fazal Elahi

General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) inaugurated work on border fencing along the Balochistan portion of Pak- Afghan border at Panjpai. Chief Minister Balochistan Abdul Qadoos Bazinjo and interior minister Sarfraz Bugti were also present on the occasion. Interacting with the tribal leaders and locals at the occasion, COAS thanked them for their full support and cooperation in fencing as well as their participation in maintaining security situation. He said that the fencing will check cross border movement of terrorists. However special arrangements have been made to facilitate bilateral economic activity and legal movement in any way or form through designated crossing points. CM Balochistan thanked Pakistan Army and FC for working hand in glove with the provincial govt to achieve a common vision of shining Balochistan.



# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Foreign Minister of Kenya Ambassador Dr. Monica Juma calls on Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at Islamabad.



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi being presented with a memento after inauguration of Diabetes Center at Phulgron on 27th April 2018 Ambassador of UAE to Pakistan, H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim salem Al-Zaabi is also present.



Ambassador of Japan Mr. Takashi Kurai during meeting with Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Parliament House, Islamabad.



Foreign Minister Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan Shaking hand with H.E Mr. Kong Quan Vice Chairman Foreign Affairs Committee of CPPCC at Foreign Office, Islamabad.



Ambassador of South Korean Mr. Kwak Sung-Kyu called on Deputy Speaker National Assembly Murtaza Javed Abbasi in Parliament House, Islamabad.



Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engr Iqbal Zafar Jhagra talking to Ambassador of Japan Mr. Takashai Kurai at Governor's House, Peshawar.

# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Rector of Republic Institute for Vocational Education, Belarus Valery Golubovsky called on Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Engr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman in Islamabad.



Barrister Usman Ibrahim, Federal Minister of Defence Production Presenting a shield to H.E. Mr. Kwak Sung-Kyun, Ambassador of Republic of Korea who called on home at Rawalpindi.



Federal Secretary Commerce, Mohammad Younus Dagha in meeting with Ardi Stoios-Braken, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to Pakistan in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Commerce and Textile Muhammad Pervaiz Malik in a meeting with Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Mr. Ali Alizada in Islamabad.



Minister of State and Chairman Board of Investment, Naeem Y. Zamindar in a meeting with Ambassador of Azerbaijan, H.E. Ali Ali Zada at Board of Investment in Islamabad.



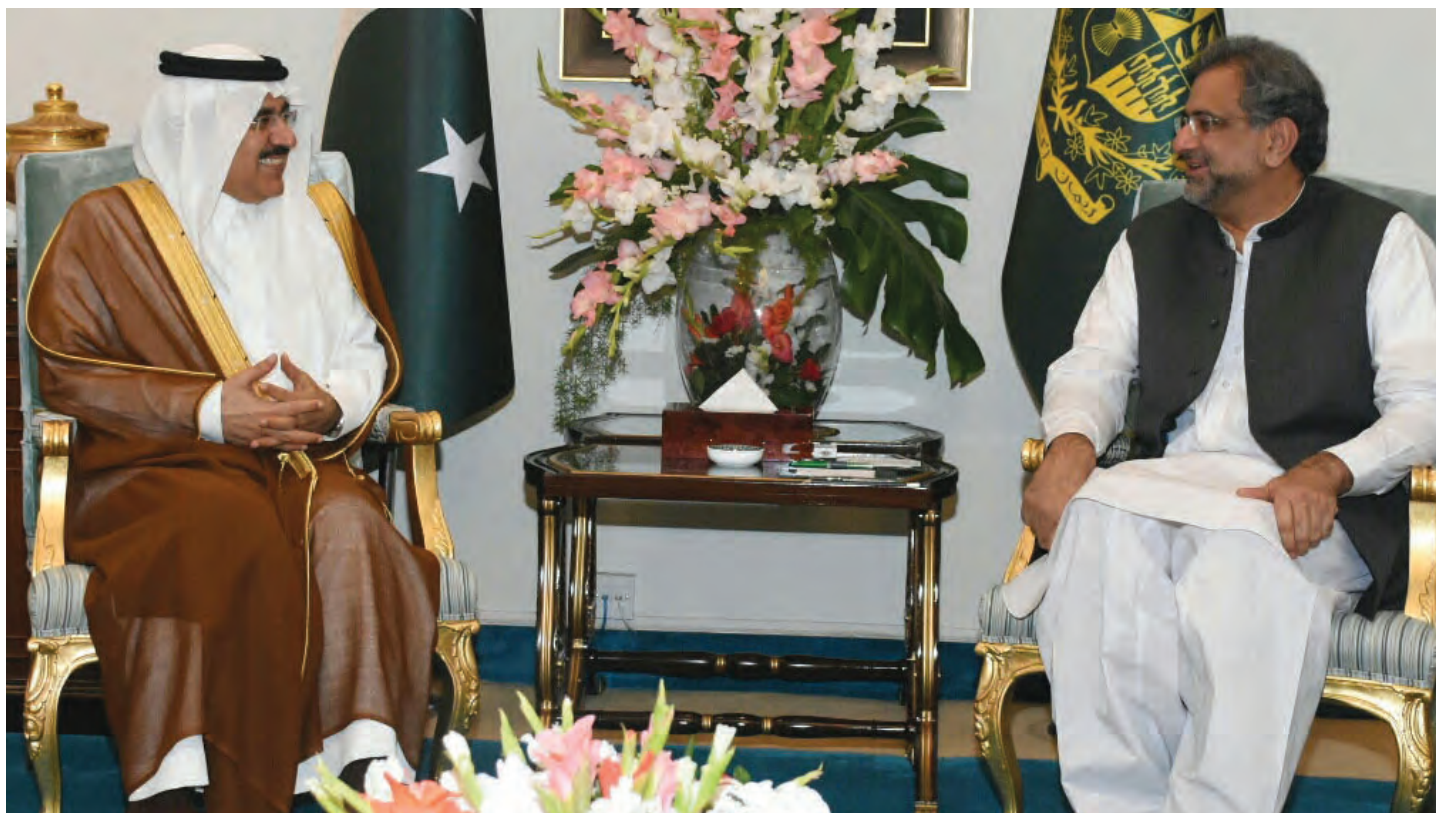
Minister of State and Chairman Board of Investment Y. Zamindar in a meeting with Mr. Gregory Huger, Assistant Administrator/Bureau Chief of the office of Afghanistan and Pakistan at Board Investment, Islamabad.



Barrister Usman Ibrahim Federal Minister for Defence Production is presenting a gift to H.E. Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey at Rawalpindi.



Ambassador of Italy, Stefano Pontecorvo meeting with Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Sartaj Aziz in Islamabad.



H.E Mr. Khalid A. Al-Falih, Minister of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources of Saudi Arabia calls on Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at Islamabad.

## Saudi Arabia has keen interest in closer economic and trade relations with Pakistan

By Mian Fazal Elahi

His Excellency Mr. Khalid A. Al-Falih, Minister of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources called on the Prime Minister at the Prime Minister's House. He was accompanied by His Excellency Dr. Mosaad M.A. Alaiban, Member of the Council of the Ministers, Advisor to the Royal Saudi Court, Major General Talal Abdullah Al-Otaibi, Special Advisor to the Minister of Defence and His Excellency Mr. Nawaf Saeed bin Al-Malkiy, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Saudi delegation conveyed the greetings of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and His Highness Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, to the Prime Minister. He informed the Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia's interest in closer economic and trade relations with Pakistan. The Prime Minister welcoming the Saudi delegation reiterated Pakistan's close fraternal ties with Saudi Arabia and the Government's commitment to strengthen the bilateral relations in all areas of mutual interest. The Prime Minister also conveyed his greetings to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and His Highness Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and the brotherly people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

### Saudi Envoy visited AFIRM, Rawalpindi

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

H.E. Mr Nawaf Saeed Al-Malkiy, Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) visited Armed Forces Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine (AFIRM), Rawalpindi.

The Ambassador met the war wounded soldiers and inquired their well being. was given detailed briefing on the role and contributions of AFIRM is premier rehabilitating

institute for the war wounded soldiers who have sacrificed their limbs during various military operations. This State of the Art facility also provides services to both military and civilians affected by accidents, calamities, any kind of violence and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

The visiting dignitary appreciated the high morale of soldiers and paid tribute for their contributions for peace and stability in the region.





A Group photo of the Participants after Inauguration of SCO-Rats Legal Experts Meeting by Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua in Islamabad.

# SCO-RATS Legal Experts meeting held in Islamabad

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

The Legal Experts Group Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization-Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (SCO-RATS) took place in Islamabad said in a press release by MOFA. It further stated that, this was the first ever SCO meeting that was held in Pakistan since becoming member of SCO in June 2017. Legal Experts from eight member states, namely China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan, as well as representatives of the SCO-RATS Executive Committee participated in the meeting.

The SCO-RATS, based in Tashkent, was established by the member states of the SCO in 2001 to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism. As a permanent organ of the SCO, it is a regional forum for exchange of views and best practices on countering terrorism and extremism. The highest decision making body of the SCO-RATS is the Council, which meets once in six months.

The decisions of the Council of SCO-RATS are

The first ever  
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2017

prepared and vetted by the Legal Experts Working Group, which meets three times before every Council meeting. These expert level meetings are held in all members of the SCO on voluntary or rotational basis.

The meeting of the legal experts in Islamabad deliberated upon the agenda of the 33rd Session of the Council of SCO-RATS, which will be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in October 2018. Member states discussed various proposals for enhancing regional cooperation in countering terrorism and extremism. The legal experts also discussed administrative and organizational matters.

According to the MOFA statement, the hosting of the meeting in Islamabad demonstrates Pakistan's commitment as a full member of SCO to the idea and working of the organization. The participating countries appreciated Pakistan's efforts in this regard.



By Mian Fazal Elahi

# Religio-Political Extremism and elections 2018

A Pakistani political party placed on the U.S. list of foreign terrorist organizations vowed to continue its political activities and participate in upcoming elections 2018, according to Reuter's recent story. The Milli Muslim League (MML) is controlled by Islamist leader Hafiz Saeed, who has a \$10 million U.S. bounty on his head. The U.S. State Department termed MML an alias for militant organization Lashkar-e-Taiba. In response MML president Saifullah Khalid said "We clearly state that on U.S. announcements we will not discontinue our political activities at any cost...Milli Muslim League will fully participate in the 2018 elections and will field candidates from across Pakistan."

Last year, the emergence of two hardliner Islamic groups—Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan and Milli Muslim League—during the NA-120 bye-election surprised the analysts. Though, Islamabad has tried to convince the international community not only that has it done enough to curb terrorism and extremism but also that it has suffered great loss, including more than 60,000 lives and over US\$100 billion financially. But last year by-elections in Lahore presented a different picture and somewhat contradict the narrative of going all-out against terrorism and extremist groups. These groups gained the third and fourth positions respectively in the contest for the constituency considered a stronghold of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz. In sectarian terms both these newly formed parties—backed by extremist organisations—are on different ends of the ideological spectrum. Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) adheres to the Barelvi sect while Milli Muslim League (MML) is closer to Ahl-e-Hadith sect. These denominations of Islamic faith in South Asia consider each other's interpretation of Islam as incorrect.

On other side, THE religious parties have come together in anticipation of a general election. The Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal has been revived, with the JUI-F and Jamaat-i-Islami taking the main offices ie president and general secretary.

The grouping is supposed to be representative of all shades of opinions on the right of the political spectrum. But while it does reflect some election-specific agreement among a wide range of views, many groups, which are at the moment striving to assert their roles with far more persistence than the MMA components, are not part of the alliance.

One purpose of the MMA then would be to contain the extremist influence, besides aiming for the main objective of capturing power where it can or at least attaining a bargaining position in places such as KP. The decision of the various parties to be part of the alliance, especially the JUI-F and JI, raises significant questions.

Is the revival of the MMA proof that these parties had lost all hope of striking some kind of a partnership with a strong mainstream party? Or was a grouping of these right-wing outfits thought to be their best bet to attract votes in the general election? Perhaps a bit of both led to the MMA's restoration.

Historically, Islamist parties in Pakistan garner more votes when mainstream political party leaders have been compromised, like the religious alliance of the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal in the 2002 Musharraf supervised general election. Generally however, religious parties have never fared well in mainstream politics.

Political experts see challenging times ahead for the political parties as they enter into the elections in 2018.

Pakistan's National Action Plan (NAP) — formulated after the Peshawar school attack in December 2014 — called for a ban on groups spreading hate speech and not allowing banned outfits to operate under different names. But in 2018 elections, the extremists will try to proceed in and gain more acceptances on political level. Hence these forces will enable to perform in national level decisions and proceed on their agendas of extremism. But actually such elements are poses a challenge to the NAP objectives. Violent acts by non-state groups against the general population for political purposes are abhorrent crimes that, when widespread or systematic, can amount to crimes against humanity.

Terrorism and religious extremism remains an important issue in Pakistan since 2001, but no political party has the courage to make it an issue in the coming elections. With the exception of the PPP, ANP which have been quite vocal against the extremists, other parties especially the PML-N and the PTI are still confused over how to deal with this menace. PML-N though, saying that "in their tenure terrorism is at lowest level in 2018 than 2013". But on other hand extremism is on high level. Political scientists are saying that PML-N and PTI fear losing their religious vote if they took practical steps to end religious extremism.

This is a worrying message for elements of civil society who have been striving for a tolerant and pluralistic society. For the last one decade, Pakistan's political parties, with active support and pressure from civil society have made constitutional and legal advances. But such distortion of politics through legitimizing hardliners will reverse the gains made earlier.



BY A.G. Noorani

"It is a narrow policy to suppose that this country or that country is to be marked out as the eternal ally or perpetual enemy of England. We have no eternal allies, and we have no perpetual enemies. Our interests are eternal and perpetual, and those interests it is our duty to follow." Lord Palmerston said this to the House of Commons in March 1848 but his words were misunderstood and misquoted.

However, interests do not speak by themselves; they are perceived. Europe's perception of its ally America was affected by its policies on Iraq. President Donald Trump's cry of 'America First' shook its complacency. Now, his decision to abandon the nuclear deal with Iran has shattered it. His abrupt calling off of the summit with Kim Jong-un will add to the distrust. The first retort came from German Chancellor Angela Merkel last year, when she said in French President Emmanuel Macron's presence, "It's no longer the case that the United States will simply just protect us. Rather, Europe needs to take its fate in its own hands. That's the task for the future."

Macron asked Europe to unite and assert European sovereignty in the face of unilateral moves by the US on Iran and climate change. He urged Europe to defend the multilateral global order to ensure Europe's sovereignty. The two are linked. Such language had never been heard before though foreign ministers Hubert Védrine of France and Joschka Fischer of Germany came close to it.

Now we have French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire asking Europeans not to act as 'vassals' of the US. He wants European companies to continue trade with Iran despite Trump's decision to reimpose sanctions. Le Maire made

a far-reaching proposal: set up a European body with the same powers as the US Justice Department to punish foreign companies for their trade practices. European and US companies will lose billions in commercial deals stuck since the accord with Iran in 2015 and also lose access to a major new export market.

The most meaningful words were said by the European Council president, Donald Tusk, this month: "The EU should be grateful to Donald Trump for his latest decisions ... Thanks to him we got rid of all illusions. We realise that if you need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of your arm."

Things won't be the same again; even if the differences are reconciled eventually. Despite those protests, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced, on May 21, the "strongest sanctions in history" against Iran. It is unlikely that Europe will back down. The consequences will be political and economic.

Europe's perceptions of its interests have changed. The latest rift will add to its disillusion and yearning for change. The North Atlantic Treaty did not make sense even when it was signed in 1949. Then secretary of state Dean Acheson assured the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the treaty "does not mean that the US would automatically be at war if one of the other signatory nations were the victim of an armed attack". A State Department paper said it was not a military alliance.

The worst-case scenario on which it was based was an illusion even in 1949. Having lost 27 million of its people, the Soviet Union was not in a condition to invade Western Europe. The British minister in Moscow, Sir John Balfour opined "as a shrewd realist, Stalin, so far as

can be judged, has no wish to overreach the limits within which he can prudently exercise autocratic power". Stalin's concerns centred on Eastern Europe. Churchill conceded that to him at Moscow in October 1944. Roosevelt sabotaged it. He sought a Pax Americana. Charles de Gaulle warned against it. Churchill banked on a 'special relationship' with the US.

After 1945, the US liked "to give orders, and if they are not at once obeyed, they become huffy", Anthony Eden remarked in 1954. Christopher Meyer, the UK's ambassador to the US (1997-2003), forbade use of the words 'special relationship' inside the embassy. "Most Americans, whether Republicans or Democrats, sophisticate or redneck, believe that their country's actions in the world are intrinsically virtuous."

The collapse of the USSR led to the 'rise of the Vulcans' which James Mann describes in his book of this title. The mood was summed up in Charles Krauthammer's famous article 'The Unipolar Moment'. The New York Times published in March 1992 a report by Patrick E. Tyler titled 'US Strategy Plan Calls for Ensuring No Rivals Develop'. It was based on official documents. Thanks to Trump, that order is disintegrating. A new world order is emerging with an assertive Europe, a determined Russia and a China on the rise. The Third World can play its part in this process; if only it ends its own squabbles. Western Europe will not be able to forge a viable order without the participation of Russia.

*The writer is an author and lawyer based in Mumbai. Courtesy to Dawn,*

# Normalising ties with India

Even as Indian and Pakistani guns continue to thunder along the Line of Control in Kashmir, there are several signals of a desire on both sides to improve relations.

Most notably, Pakistan's army chief has on several occasions articulated openness to evolving a *modus vivendi* with India, dubbed the 'Bajwa doctrine'. Recently, the Indian defence minister stated that such peace overtures from Pakistan will be reciprocated.

The Indian military attaché was invited to the Pakistan Day parade and accepted. Pakistan hosted India with other Shanghai Cooperation Organization members to discuss regional terrorism. In September, Pakistan and India will participate in SCO joint counterterrorism exercises in Russia. Last month, Pakistan hosted a Track II dialogue with India.

For its part, Pakistan has consistently advocated resumption of the Composite (now Comprehensive) Dialogue with India. And while it was preoccupied with fighting terrorism within its territory and from across its western border, it made strategic sense for Pakistan to seek a calm eastern frontier.

Unfortunately, since its inception, Narendra Modi's BJP government made normalisation conditional on Pakistan's disavowal of support to the Kashmiri freedom struggle and acceptance of culpability for Mumbai and other terrorist incidents in India. It evolved an enveloping strategy to destabilise Pakistan domestically, through sponsorship of Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terrorists and Baloch insurgents, and to isolate it internationally as a sponsor of terrorism.

Several developments may have shifted Indian calculations.

First, a significant convergence has emerged between Pakistan and major regional powers, Russia, China and Iran, on the need for a negotiated settlement in Afghanistan with the Afghan Taliban. India and the US were seen as spoilers.

Second, despite Donald Trump's anti-Pakistan rhetoric and insults, a US confrontation with Pakistan and its designation as a state sponsor of terrorism, widely anticipated by India, have not happened and appear highly unlikely. On the contrary, the US continues to rely on Pakistan's cooperation to sustain its presence in Afghanistan and promote a political settlement with the Afghan Taliban.

Third, after the Doklam stand-off last year, China offered India several olive branches

— larger trade and investment, access to CPEC and, through it, to Central Asia and beyond, an intimate Xi-Modi summit. Afghan developments, American unpredictability and Chinese flexibility, appear to have inspired a policy recalibration in New Delhi to balance its vaunted strategic partnership with the US through more positive relations with China and Russia.

Fourth, India failed in its quest to destabilise or isolate Pakistan.

Pakistan's several military operations in Fata and actions in Balochistan have succeeded in containing cross-border terrorism sponsored by India from Afghanistan. Cross-border attacks will be further restricted once Pakistan fully fences the Pak-Afghan border. Likewise, India has little hope now of isolating Pakistan given the central role it is expected to play in promoting a negotiated settlement in Afghanistan and the political convergence that has emerged among Pakistan, Russia, China and Iran on Afghanistan and terrorism.

Finally, India has been unable to suppress the ongoing popular revolt of the Kashmiri people for over two years. It may calculate that opening a dialogue with Pakistan could help to end the revolt.

For Pakistan, the most critical issue in any normalisation process will be (and has always been) Kashmir. No government or leader in Pakistan will be able to normalise relations with India while it continues a campaign of brutal suppression in India-held Kashmir (IHK).

If the past is any guide, India's effort will be to focus any dialogue with Pakistan on terrorism and press for the elimination of pro-Kashmiri militant groups in Pakistan (Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Hizbul Mujahideen) and the incarceration of their leaders. Islamabad would find it difficult to act against these groups, especially the Hizb, which is not internationally outlawed, while Indian suppression continues in IHK. In the context of terrorism, Pakistan would obviously raise India's sponsorship of the TTP and Baloch insurgents.

Contrary to simplistic analyses, India's capacity to impose terrorist pressure on Pakistan is not unlimited. Pakistan can substantially neutralise India's sponsorship of the TTP and the Balochistan Liberation Army through pressure on Kabul, negotiations with the US, fencing the border, political accommodation of Baloch grievances, Fata reforms and, if needed, direct action against terrorist bases. Pakistan does not need Indian concessions to eliminate cross-



By Munir Akram

border terrorism from Afghanistan. Nor does it need to compromise its position on Kashmir to do so.

However, despite the false starts of the past, it is possible that in the midst of the current global strategic flux, India may have decided that its national interests would be better served by playing a positive role in the emerging Eurasian security and economic structures, epitomised by the SCO, rather than serving as America's cat's paw. If there is indeed such a shift in India's strategic posture, it could open the door to addressing, if not fully resolving, the major issues between Pakistan and India.

Reciprocal assurances can be negotiated on terrorism, the non-use of force and the pacific settlement of disputes. Some issues, such as Siachen and Sir Creek, can be quickly resolved. Existing confidence-building measures could be enlarged, eg by agreeing to limits on force and weapons deployments and elimination of the possibility of surprise attacks and preemptive strikes.

India's participation in CPEC could be agreed without prejudice to Pakistan or India's positions on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. However, India would need to extend Pakistan reciprocal transit rights to Nepal and Bangladesh.

Expansion of bilateral trade could be mutually beneficial so long as Pakistan is provided assurances against deindustrialisation by subsidised Indian exports.

Water scarcity is a critical threat to both countries; they need to build on the Indus Waters Treaty to avert a water crisis that may become the spark of a future conflict.

It remains to be seen if the initial Pakistan-India overtures will lead to dialogue and whether this can be sustained. The endeavour to normalise Pakistan-India relations is like a second marriage: a triumph of hope over experience. But no one can be resigned to accept the alternative: continued turmoil in South Asia and the ever-present danger of a war between two nuclear weapons states.

The writer is a former Pakistan ambassador to the UN. Courtesy to DAWN

## The Deputy Chairman & CEO HASHOO GROUP Mr. Murtaza Hashwani & Mrs. Sumeira Hashwani Hosted an Iftar Dinner in Islamabad. Ambassadors, politicians, government officials and business community representatives graced the event





By Dr. Bushra Anwar

# Polarization in International Relations & PAKISTAN; Opportunities and Trade hurdles in forth coming year

Pakistan is confronting Polarization from world that will affect its future Financial Trade policies, at the same time a new direction is emerging. Situation prevailing must be seen as internal issues and external influences.

## INTERNALLY

Concerns faced internally are inflation, a disconnect on ground, inter-provincial polarization, federal vs provincial non-cooperation, ill-planned services deliverance, human resource ignored, wrong investments, more non-developmental compared to developmental funds.

Polarization seen in Political, economic and Social Sectors geared by Economic Factor. Poor Exports are result of Expensive Rate of Labor due to inflation, higher electricity Rates, Pilferages, poor competition with India, Bangladesh and China.

Imports duty on rise, no Improved Agriculture reforms. Cotton not making successful Industry. Sugar cane granted unfair prices to Farmers.

Root cause of diseases is not eliminated. Modernization by Roads construction while neglecting clean drinking Water, Sanitation, Solid waste management not possible, Rural budget quota pinched off, Mega share to one Province from Federal govt, spreading Insecurity to smaller Provinces.

## Externally:

Externally the New World order and Power Politics is in a flux. What matters to Pakistan is it's relations with many countries.

### 1) Relations with China:

We have a giant Chinese Project of CPEC, where China and Pakistan have agreed to build One Belt One Road corridor 2,000-kilometer transport link between Kashgar in northwestern China to Pakistan's Gwadar port on Arabian Sea near the border with Iran connected by roads,

railways and pipelines. To improve economy and trade, enhance regional connectivity, overcome energy crises, develop infrastructure and establish contacts. China has emerged as Demographically, Economically and Population-wise Biggest world Giant.

### 2) Relations with Afghanistan:

Pakistani is trying to ease strained relations between the two countries and facilitate talks between Kabul and Taliban.

Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed that the institutional mechanism between the two countries needs to be strengthened to enhance trade relations between the two countries by overcoming existing challenges.

### 3) Relations with India:

Despite very tragic recent Indian Atrocities on Kashmiris, the Latest development from Pakistan's side this year has been heading towards peace talks. But a genuine normalization of relations between India and Pakistan is lacking.

The Pakistani military leadership is reaching out to India because it believes that the way to peace and prosperity is through military cooperation with India.

The two countries will also take part in joint military drills in Russia in September, with Chinese participation.

### 4) Relations with Iran:

Pakistan supported Iran against the United States President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the historic nuclear deal of 2015.

Under a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) sanctions were lifted which had crippled Iran's economy.

President Trump walked out of the agreement of JCPOA warning sanctions which would target industries, Iran's oil sector, aircraft

manufacturers exporting to Iran and Iranian government attempts to buy US dollar bank notes, expected to hit major European and US companies within six months doing business in Iran.

### 5) Relations with USA:

Relations with Pakistan are Generally all-time low in Rating. America had acrimonious relations even under Obama. The efforts to pressure Pakistan will not have lasting impact on Washington's influence over Islamabad.

### 6) Relations with UK:

Pakistan and UK have historically enjoyed robust bilateral relations, over wide matters of common interest, including peace and stability in the region. UK concerns on human rights violations in Indian-held Kashmir. Pakistan's achievements in fight against terrorism and extremism are praised by UK.

### 7) Relations with Saudi Arabia:

Pakistan is committed to further strengthen close bilateral relations with Saudi Arabia. Pakistani-Saudi relations have close fraternal ties to the benefit of both countries. Saudia desires to promote trade ties with Pakistan.

Pakistan army contingent will be stationed in Saudi Arabia on a "training and advisory mission",

### 8) Relations with Russia:

New development of Russia Paksitan talks is positive for the region. These relations are called a beginning of New Super Power Axis. Russian President appreciated the Army's hard work towards peace. Russian peace objective with China is to make USA stay away from this region. India previously was Russia's closest defense Pact ally against Pakistan now tilted towards US. The Army chief has been visiting Russia with a new military Drill expected to go side by side.

*The author is a political Analyst, based in USA.*



By Sung-kyu Kwak  
Ambassador of the Republic of Korea

## Peace on the Korean Peninsula & President Moon Jae-in as the Peacemaker

At 5 am, Pakistan local time, of April 27th, I was already awake. Being surprised and awed, I watched the young North Korean leader, Kim Jong Un, shake hands with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and cross the Military Demarcation Line. I believe, just as I did, all the world including 80 million Korean people may have been touched and thrilled by the historic inter-Korea summit meeting at the truce village of Panmunjeom. It was the first time in almost 6.5 decades the North Korean leader set his foot on the South Korean soil. One of the most fascinating scenes was of the two leaders walking along Foot Bridge, sitting on a bench at the end and talking privately, with cameras filming from far away, only picking up sounds of wind and birds.

After the one-day-long summit meeting, the two leaders signed the Panmunjeom Declaration, in which they declared “no more war on the Korean Peninsula” and “a new era of peace”. The South and North Korea agreed to completely cease all hostile acts against each other, to pursue a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula through complete denuclearization, to turn armistice into a peace treaty, to establish joint liaison office in Gaeseong and to encourage more cooperation, exchanges, visits

and contacts at all levels, to take only several points. Unquestionably, it was president Moon Jae-in who convinced North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to his strategic determination of coming to a dialogue with South Korea and the United States.

But who exactly is president Moon, peacemaker? He was born into a North Korean refugee parent. They were among the refugees aboard the SS Meredith Victory, a US ship which evacuated 100,000 refugees from Hungnam during the Korean War. Being a student protester he was jailed after taking part in pro-democracy rallies against the dictatorship in the 1970s. Then he became a human right lawyer. Last year he was elected as new Korean president through the so called “candle revolution”. His leadership was based upon the people’s power which successfully achieved impeachment of the corrupt and incapable president Park without any blood-shed.

Foreign media appraised president Moon Jae-in as “a masterful dealmaker” (CNN), “the master tactician who could be bringing Trump and Kim to the summit table”(SCMP), “a leader who turned Trump’s North Korea policy upside down with a master class in diplomacy”(VOX)

and more. Even before his inauguration, he advocated peaceful engagements with North Korea. As president he offered a peace overture in his speech in Berlin last July. President Moon capitalized on the Pyeongchang Winter Olympic to ease tensions with North Korea and bring detent mood on the Korean Peninsula. His sincerity paid off, moving North Korean leader to a dialogue. Despite such a great contribution, he is ascribing the success to president Trump and North Korean leader. He told “president Trump should win the Nobel Peace Prize. What we need is only peace.” What a humble posture he has!

Now we are expecting another summit meeting between the United States and North Korea in May [June 12]. Before and at the US-North Korea summit, president Moon has been and will play very constructive mediating roles between the two leaders. We are really looking forward to seeing the summit meetings lead to complete denuclearization, ushering in reconciliation, ever-lasting peace, stability on the Korean Peninsula and co-prosperity of the Korean people as a whole.

*The writer is Mr. Sung-kyu Kwak, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea*



ISLAMABAD SERENA HOTEL

# DIPLOMATS MEET UP WITH President of PMLN **Mr. Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif** at Serena Hotel, Islamabad



# Colorful Cultural Exchanges between China and Pakistan



Yao Jing, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan

China and Pakistan are not only friendly neighbors, but also two major ancient civilizations that have maintained close ties in cultural exchanges and mutual learning. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1951, the two countries have made great efforts to promote cultural exchanges and cooperation. The Cultural Cooperation Agreement between China and Pakistan was signed in March, 1965. During her official visit to China in February 2018, Madam Marriyum Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National History and Literary Heritage signed the Executive Programme of the Cultural Agreement for 2018-2022 with Mr. Luo Shugang, Minister of Culture and Tourism of China, which outlines the overall framework for China-Pak cultural exchanges and cooperation in the next 5 years.

In 2018, the CPEC Cultural Caravan was implemented with the support of the Ministry of Information of Pakistan. Artists from China and Pakistan carried out a series of exchange activities along the ancient Silk Road and CPEC construction sites. This further strengthened China-Pak friendship, and promoted the mutual understanding of our two peoples. Apart from that, artists from the two countries have visited each other frequently, so as to learn from each other and enhance our oriental civilization jointly.

The Pakistani government attaches importance to the development of broadcasting and film industry. The Programme has made it clear that the two sides shall strengthen the mutual cooperation in the technology fields of radio broadcasting, films and television among the state radio, film and television organizations of both countries. China and Pakistan are maintaining close communication and coordination and actively expanding exchanges and cooperation in this area. Film industry is booming in both China and Pakistan. China will adopt measures to further cooperate with Pakistan in this field, including introducing Pakistani films to Chinese film festivals, importing Pakistani films into Chinese cinema lines, and promoting the film companies of the two countries to jointly produce film and television programs.

May 14, 2018

# DEADLIEST DAY IN YEARS

By M. Saeed Yousafzai

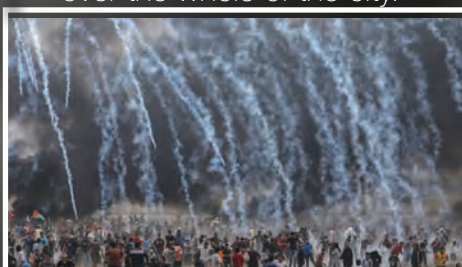


“58 Palestinians reported killed, were included eight children under the age of 16, including a baby of eight months, Layla al-Ghandour and At least 2,700 were reported injured on May 14, 2018 when Israeli troops opened fire during protests, in the deadliest day of violence there since a war in 2014.”

“Israel has faced international condemnation over the deaths, from the UN, OIC, UK, France, Russia, Pakistan and others.”

“Israel has defended its actions, and the US has voiced its support.”

“May 14, 2018 the US inaugurated its first embassy in Jerusalem, a controversial step by the Trump administration that broke with decades of US policy and incensed Palestinians. Palestinians claim East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state. Many see the US move as backing Israeli control over the whole of the city.”





## **Gaza protests highlight humanitarian crisis and lack of political progress to peace**

Fifty years after Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip, it controls these areas through repression, institutionalized discrimination, and systematic abuses of the Palestinian population's rights, Human Rights Watch said in 2017.

According to Human Rights Watch, at least five categories of major violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law characterize the occupation: unlawful killings; forced displacement; abusive detention; the closure of the Gaza Strip and other unjustified restrictions on movement; and the development of settlements, along with the accompanying discriminatory policies that disadvantage Palestinians. Many of Israel's abusive practices were carried out in the name of security.

Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip, particularly restrictions on movement of people and on outgoing goods, continued to have severe consequences for the civilian population, separating families, restricting access to medical care and educational and economic opportunities, and perpetuating unemployment and poverty. Approximately 70 percent of Gaza's 1.9 million people rely on humanitarian assistance, reported by Human Rights Watch.

The U.N. reports that 90% of Gaza's drinking water is not fit for human consumption.

According to systematic assessments conducted by international humanitarian organizations, the whole of Gaza's civilian population has progressively suffered. International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank reports show that Gaza's economy has been decimated. Basic infrastructure and services such as education and healthcare, electricity supplies, and sanitation are also adversely affected.



## Japan contributed \$3,730,935 for multiple projects to UNODC Country Office Pakistan

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

The UNODC Country Office in Pakistan and the Embassy of Japan hosted a play up media event for UNODC projects aimed at enhancing air cargo security, combating transnational organized crime, strengthening border security against illicit drug trafficking and response to counter terrorism at Serena Hotel today. This is to be implemented under the UNODC Country Programme for Pakistan (2016-2019) through the financial support of the Government of Japan. In total, the generous contribution of the Japanese government for four projects will be amounting to about 3,730,935 US dollars for duration of one year. Officials from the Ministry of Narcotics Control, National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) were present at the occasion.

Four (04) one-year projects will receive the funding from April 2018 to March 2019.

- 1- Combatting Transnational Organized Crime and strengthening borders in Pakistan - US\$ 2,545,335
- 2- Strengthening the response of Pakistan's Action to Counter Terrorism Financing (CTF) - US\$ 500,000
- 3- Improving Forensic Capacity of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to Investigate Terrorism Cases' - US\$ 300,000
- 4- Enhancing Air Cargo Security through

establishment of Air Cargo Control Unit at Lahore Allama Iqbal International Airport in Pakistan - US\$ 385,600

H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Pakistan, Mr. Zulfiqar Bhatti, Director Counter Terrorism, NACTA, Mr. Asad Raza Rizvi, Chief International Customs, Federal Bureau of Revenue, Mr. Shahzad Durrani, Deputy Secretary Ministry of Narcotics Control, Mr. Fazal Umminallah, Chief of Security (COS), Civil Air Authority (CAA), and officials from ANF and other agencies attended the event.

Mr. Cesar Guedes, Representative UNODC, in his opening remarks said that the Government of Japan has always been forthcoming to support the people of Pakistan in advancing towards a peaceful and prosperous future. The partnership between UNODC and the Government of Japan is based upon a diligent professional relationship; as we are closely coordinating future capacity-building interventions to improve the rule of law under the ownership of the Government of Pakistan.

He further added that the financial support for these multiple projects has been received at a juncture when the importance of regional and international cooperation in Asia has increased manifolds. While on the one hand, the nexus of organized crime and terrorism has emerged as a critical threat to the world, on the other, violence continues to undermine

stability and development across the globe. Conventional drugs and new psychoactive substances continue to proliferate outside international control, posing new risks for the world at large. Through the financial support of the Government of Japan, these projects will contribute to the vision of creating "a safer community, free from the threats posed by illicit narcotics trafficking and transnational organized crime."

H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Pakistan, reaffirmed Japan's commitment to help Pakistan eradicate all types of transnational organized crime including illicit drug trafficking. Mr. Kurai stated that the Government of Japan stands committed to combating international criminal syndicates, which through their illicit activities hinder the economic development and prosperity of the Pakistani people.

Mr. Guedes thanked the Government of Pakistan and its law enforcement agencies especially the Ministry of Narcotics Control and Anti-Narcotics Force as the lead on counter-narcotics in Pakistan, National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for their constant support to UNODC for the smooth implementation of UNODC Country Programme. It reflects UNODC and the Government of Japan combined strategy to combat the menace of drug trafficking and other transnational organized



**H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai**  
Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan

hosted a reception at his residence  
to celebrate the Conferment of  
**“SITARA-E-PAKISTAN”**  
by the President of the Islamic  
Republic of Pakistan upon  
**Mr. Kimihide Ando**  
CEO, Mitsubishi Corporation Pakistan



## The Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Inaugurates Upgraded Japanese Language Department at NUML Islamabad

H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, today inaugurated the upgraded department of the Japanese language at the National University of Modern Languages which was funded by the government of Japan. The Government of Japan had extended a grant of US\$ 83,064 to NUML under its Grant Assistance for the Improvement of Learning Environment of Japanese Language Department at NUML. Maj. Gen (R) Zia Uddin Najam, Rector, National University of Modern Languages, was also present at the occasion.



# Saudi Envoy Hosts Iftar Dinner

The ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki hosted an Iftar dinner at Serena hotel in Islamabad, an effort to enhance communication with Ulema, business community, parliamentarians, Media persons and civil society of twin cities. Senator Raja Zafar ul Haq, prominent religious scholar Maulana Tariq Jamil, PUC chairman Tahir Mahmood Asharafi, JUI (F) secretary General Abdul Gafoor Haidri, Jamiat Ulema-i-Pakistan, Shah Owais Noorani, Ansar ul Ummah head Fazal Rehman Khalil, ambassadors of Tunisia, Sudan, Egypt and Morocco were prominent among the guests. The event was attended among others by ambassadors of various countries and community members from different sections of the society. The heads of missions of Arab and Islamic countries, military attachés and representatives from the Pakistan government, the military establishment, heads of Pakistani institutions, businessmen and media representatives were welcomed by the envoy.



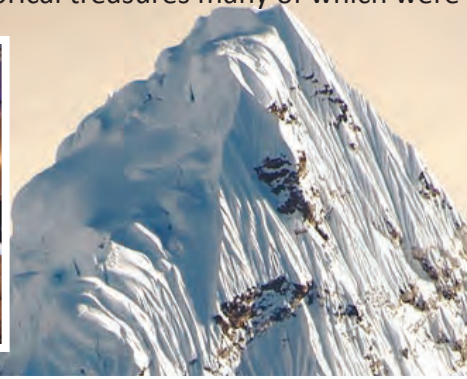
# 'Raabta' holds debate on federal budget

Raabta, a public diplomacy initiative by the Serena Hotels, held a panel discussion on the Federal Budget 2018-2019 with the expert panellists bringing their unique perspectives to the conversation. Among panellists were Muhammad Younus Dagha, secretary commerce, Teresa Daban, resident representative of the International Monetary Fund, Naeem Zamindar, minister of states and chairman at the Pakistan Board of Investment, and Enrique Blanco Armas, lead country economist at the World Bank Pakistan, while the event was moderated by Sidra Iqbal. The event was well attended by the representatives from corporate, government and private sector in addition to the ambassadors and high commissioners.



# Mount Everest Day celebrated

The Embassy of Nepal celebrated the Mount Everest Day 2018 in collaboration with the Serena Hotels in Islamabad. Mr. Aitzaz Ahmad, special secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was the chief guest of the event along with mountaineer Abdul Jabbar Bhatti. Ambassador of Nepal Sewa Lamsal Adhikari said the Everest Day was special in the history of mountaineers as in 1953; the Mount Everest was scaled for the first time. Aziz Boolani, CEO of Serena Hotels, said both Pakistan and Nepal had been blessed with spectacular mountains and extraordinary historical treasures many of which were world heritage sites.



## Message H. E Ali Alizada, Ambassador of Azerbaijan on the occasion of 100th anniversary of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic

This year Azerbaijan celebrates the 100th anniversary of Republic Day. President of Azerbaijan has also declared 2018 as the Year of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in Azerbaijan. The creation of Azerbaijani Democratic Republic 100 years ago was a historic event for Azerbaijani nation. A democratic republic was established for the first time in the Muslim world in Azerbaijan, on May 28, 1918 and recognized by the democratic nations of the world. Azerbaijan Democratic Republic left an indelible mark in the history of national statehood with its rich state building experience and prepared a good basis for the future independence of Azerbaijan. The history, the statehood traditions created 100th years ago remained in the blood and entered forever into the history of our nation. The Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan proved that neither bloody tyranny nor the regime of suppression could terminate the independent state system establishment and concepts of freedom of Azerbaijani people and 1991 Azerbaijan once again regained independence. After regaining independence Azerbaijan made great strides in all areas. Now Azerbaijan is a state which successfully continues its dynamic development for more than 25 years. Over these years Azerbaijan achieved stable and rapid growth in all fields within the country and by the wise policy of the President the dynamic development of Azerbaijan strongly continues. The modern, emerging, stable, prosper and

peaceful Azerbaijan is now the successor of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and we are proud of it.

From the first day of the restoration of Azerbaijan, Pakistan and Azerbaijan as two brotherly countries always enjoy longstanding warm and cordial relations. Pakistan-Azerbaijan have time tested relations which based on strategic partnership, confidence, mutual respect and trust. We always support each other on all international and regional issues, as well as on Nagorno-Karabakh and Kashmir issues based on UN Security Council resolutions. We very appreciate the Pakistan's fairly stand on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and Pakistan always supports the territorial integrity of our country which is unanimously recognized by the international community and UN. In 2012 and last year the Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs of the Senat and National Assembly of Pakistan adopted a resolution to demonstrate solidarity with the Government and People of the Republic of Azerbaijan and condemned the occupation of Azerbaijan's territories by the Armenian armed forces and genocide perpetrated by Armenia in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly in 1992 against the civilian population.

If we will glance to our relations for only one year, last year starting from the visit of H.E. President of Azerbaijan we had more than 30 mutual visits of ministers, government and

military officials from both sides, such visits as the visit of Chief of Air Staff, the visit of Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Committee of Pakistan etc. Due to excellent relations and brotherhood between our people and states we achieved good results in the number of visitors as well, in the last year and increased it more than 5-6 times in comparison with previous year and a number of visitors grow steadily. We are very keen and try to boost our economic ties and trade turnover which have great potentials and fortunately the first quarter of 2018 shows increase in this ties as well. With the aim to achieve good results in economic ties we had established two Joint Working Groups last year, one in Trade Cooperation, another one in Agriculture. We also continued our fruitful cooperation on defence industry, security, cultural, science and education ties, started our energy cooperation and keep on our relations in humanitarian-social field. During the year different humanitarian-social projects were also implemented by Heydar Aliyev Foundation of Azerbaijan in Pakistan. And we remain committed to further strengthen our relations with brotherly Pakistan. Taking this opportunity, on the occasion of 100th Anniversary of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic I would like to congratulate not only my countrymen, as well as people of Pakistan, because we always share our grief together and rejoice in our success together.

Pakistan-Azerbaijan Dosti Zindabad!



# 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic Celebrated

The declaration of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in 1918 made Azerbaijan the first democratic Islamic nation in the world when liberation movement won due to the assistance of Turkey. This year has been declared as the year of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic by the President of Azerbaijan. The ambassador of Democratic republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Ali Alizada and his spouse Aynura Alizada hosted a remarkable reception with colour of festivity to mark the 100th anniversary of the national day of their country at a local hotel in Islamabad. Barrister Usman Ibrahim, Federal Minister for Defence Production was the chief guest on the occasion. Along with National Security Advisor Lt Gen (R) Nasir Janjua, a large number of guests including Government Officials, Diplomats, civilians, and notables from various walks of life, media representatives and business community joined the Reception.





# High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh H.E. Tarik Ahsan Hosted an Iftar Dinner in Islamabad. Large number of diplomatic community members graced the event.



# Good governance and economic connectivity focus of OSCE Regional Ministerial Conference in Turkmenistan



"Good Governance and Economic Connectivity - best practices within the OSCE region" was the topic of the OSCE Regional Ministerial Conference organized by the OSCE and the Government of Turkmenistan that ended in Ashgabat on 31 May 2018.

The two-day conference brought together some 120 participants, including high-level officials and decision-makers from five Central Asian countries and Afghanistan and 21 OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation. Representatives of international organizations, academia, the private sector and non-governmental organizations also participated in the event.

**The ongoing global changes and new economic environment require the world community to undertake effective measures to improve the world governance architecture, in order to gain maximum benefit from globalization through concerted action and ensure sustainable and balanced development: Chairman of the State Committee on Statistics of Turkmenistan**

The conference addressed a wide spectrum of topics ranging from trade facilitation and improvement of regional transit through harmonization of border and customs mechanisms to the latest developments in the digitalization and modernization of economies. The event highlighted the importance of good governance as a driver for economic growth and connectivity and the impact of good governance on the creation of a positive business and investment climate.

The international experts provided insights on how to improve connectivity through e-business and digital trade, the security implications of the digital economy, and new technologies for secure transport management.

The participants discussed ways to enhance political dialogue on key economic issues in the region and share best practices on economic good governance. Other debated topics included how to promote co-operation among regional economic initiatives on sustainable transport and renewable energy issues.

Vuk Zagic, coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, referred to Ministerial Decision adopted in Hamburg in 2016, stating that it is "based on the fundamental assumption that comparable levels of good governance, transparency and accountability of public authorities in all OSCE participating States are conducive for establishing confidence".

"Concurrently, engagement in trade and transport facilitation measures enhances the reliability of procedures and public services, which in turn can lead to higher levels of connectivity and trust," said Zagic. "This conference confirms the OSCE's relevance as a platform for dialogue and as a mechanism for the implementation of our commitments."

Halykdurdy Gurbanov, Chairman of the State Committee on Statistics of Turkmenistan, stated:

"The ongoing global changes and new economic environment require the world community to undertake effective measures to improve the world governance architecture, in order to gain maximum benefit from globalization through concerted action and ensure sustainable and balanced development."

"It is our belief that the conference will serve as an efficient platform for the exchange of opinions on topical aspects of multidimensional interaction," Gurbanov said.

One of the outcomes of the conference was a set of recommendations, developed by international experts, for improving economic good governance, facilitating trade and transport, modernizing economies and strengthening public-private partnerships in energy infrastructure and sustainable transportation projects.

**The conference addressed a wide spectrum of topics ranging from trade facilitation and improvement of regional transit through harmonization of border and customs mechanisms to the latest developments in the digitalization and modernization of economies.**

# Exhibition of sculptures and paintings depicting life in the many cultures hosted by the Ukrainian embassy

Husband-wife duo Tariq Kakar and Natalia Boichenko-Tariq presented an exhibition of sculptures and paintings depicting life in the many cultures they have lived in, at Safa Gold Mall. Ambassador of Ukraine H.E. Volodymyr Lakomov opened the eve. Safa Gold commercial and cultural centre continues an initiative of the Embassy of Ukraine in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to promote an exhibition of popular Ukraine – Pakistan artists Mr. Tariq Kakar (sculpture) and Mrs. Natalia Boicenco-Tariq (painting). Both talented and world-known artists are graduates of the Ukrainian State Academy of Arts (Kyiv). Sculptures and paintings also displayed at Embassy of Ukraine in Islamabad.



# A Number of Countries Sign Agreements with Ukraine on Visa-Free Regime

By Monitoring

Briefing Journalists on the recent statement of Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, Ambassador of Ukraine to Pakistan, Volodymyr Lakomov said that a number of other countries had signed agreements with Ukraine on the introduction of the visa-free regime, reported by APP.

He said that more than 117 countries had opened doors for Ukrainians and the Ukrainian biometric passport had become one of the 30 most attractive passports in the world. The Ambassador said that the president stressed a firm confidence to follow the path of cardinal reforms in the country.

Quoting the text of the president statement, Volodymyr Lakomov said, "We will resolutely continue the reforms. I will not allow to stop the pace of reforms."

He noted that the Parliament had supported the draft law on national security initiated by him in the first reading:

"I hope that in June, at the NATO summit, we will be able to present the already signed law".

The Head of State said that today the Day of Europe was celebrated in Ukraine.

According to him, earlier this celebration was only an empty formality and the state did not take any steps in order to finally ruin Ukraine's ties with the Soviet Union and the Russian Empire and return to the family of European nations.

The President also reminded that the day before, the Government had made a decision on the implementation of the document signed by him on the visa-free regime with Qatar. The Head of State stressed that the visa-free regime with the Schengen area, with the European Union had been a matter of principle for the Ukrainian authorities.



# 120th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the Republic of the Philippines celebrated

Ambassador of the Philippines H.E. Daniel R.Espiritu, Hosted a reception to celebrate 120th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the Republic of the Philippines at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Chief Guest of the eve was Foreign Minister Engr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman. The reception was attended by diplomats, including those from ASIAN member countries; Pakistani officials; business men and others.



# Philippines envoy host reception to mark national day in Karachi



Philippines Ambassador Daniel Ramos Friday evening held a function to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the declaration of independence of Philippines Republic at a local hotel.



The lovely evening was turned colourful by the costume dances of Philippines. A special troupe presented Philippines cultural dances to the great delight of the guests. Prominent among them were consuls general of Germany Rainer Schmiedschen, Bangla Desh Nooor-e-Helal Saifur Rehman, Switzerland Phipillpe, and his wife, John Robinson of the US consulate and representatives from Japan, consuls general of Afghanistan and Iran.



Sindh Assembly Speaker Agha Siraj Durani presented bouquet to the ambassador, while Sindh information minister Syed Nasir Hasan Shah, also spoke briefly with Agha Siraj Durani. Prominent business person like Kalim Farooqui, and a number of others were also present.



# EU Celebrated Europe Day by Organizing Eurovillage in Islamabad

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

European Union and EU member states in Pakistan celebrated Europe Day with the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage with a 'Euro village' set up in Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) aiming at promoting the European culture and values.

Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan Jean-François Cautain recalled that the reason the EU was organising a Euro village with participation from the Member States was "to remind everyone of the EU's cultural richness while also underlining our unity".

Ambassador affirmed that the European Union is, and will continue to be a strong, cooperative and reliable partner to Pakistan. "We stand for multilateralism, for human rights, and for international cooperation. We work at home and abroad to promote sustainable development, inclusive societies, and the fight against inequality of any type", he added.

The general public was provided with multiple displays of Europe as a culturally rich and friendly place. EU's as well as the Member States' stands showcased the countries' cultures and traditions, languages, food and music to Pakistan's general public as well as

general information about the EU and the EU member States.

The premises of PNCA were transformed into a genuine carnival with stalls with European typical food. There were information and activity booths for adults and children including quizzes, selfie walls and giant cut outs of famous landmarks in Europe. The evening ended with live performances of the European bands Lohninger & Fischbacher Duo, Wild ManGoes, Hun Solo and the Pakistani artist Zeb Bangash. A famous European illusionist Charlie Caper also enthralled the audience with his performance.





# 67th Anniversary of establishment of China-Pakistan Diplomatic Relations Celebrated at PNCA

Musical event organised by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan, China Cultural Center in Pakistan and NICE, Network of International Culture Entities at PNCA, Islamabad. To celebrate the 67th anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between China and Pakistan formally established on May 21, 1951. The Chief Guest was the Ambassador of People's Republic of China to Pakistan H.E Mr. Yao Jing and Federal Minister of States and Frontier Regions Lt General (retd) Abdul Qadir Baloch. The Chinese Musicians presented classical music of China along with traditional musical instruments and mesmerized the audience.



## H.E. Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan and Dean of Diplomatic Corps hosted a reception on the behalf of the Heads of Missions of the Diplomatic Corps and Spouses to bid farewell to Ambassador H.E. Dimitrios Zoitos of HELLENIC REPUBLIC Greece in Pakistan in Islamabad



# Corporate Iftar Dinner 2018 hosted by Islamabad Serena Hotel

Corporate Iftar Dinner 2018 held on May 20, 2018 at Islamabad Serena Hotel. The event was well attended by the diplomatic community, senior officials from the armed forces, government sector, senior media representatives, corporate heads and other prominent personalities of the twin cities.





# 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Russia celebrated in Islamabad

H.E. Alexey Y. Dedov, Alexey Dedov Russian Ambassador hosted a reception to mark the seventieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and the Russian Federation in a local Hotel in Islamabad. Chief Guest of the eve was Mr. Khurram Dastgir Federal Minister. The reception was well attended as the government dignitaries, diplomats, businesspersons, politicians and representatives from across the civil society.





# MP Bhandara Memorial Polo Cup 2018 won by Kalabagh Asean

Sports need to be promoted in Pakistan; Isphanyar Bhandara

Youngsters can be kept away from terrorism, drug addiction and other negative activities through sports Member National Assembly and Chief Executive Murree Brewery Co. said that sports need to be promoted more in Pakistan so youngsters can be kept away from terrorism, drug addiction and other negative activities. Multi National and National companies should play their role in the establishment of a healthy

society. He expressed his views while talking to journalists after the prize distribution ceremony of the final match of the M.P. Bhandara Memorial Polo Cup. Mr. Roumen, the Ambassador of Bulgaria to Pakistan was the Chief Guest of the ceremony which ended the tournament in which a total of six teams participated.

The team of "Kalabagh Asean" won the final by 5 goals and scored a total of 8 goals against the team of "Security 2000". Ms. Sumera Malik was present to support the "Kalabagh Asean" whereas; Justice (R) Ali Nawaz Chauhan especially participated in the ceremony. He mentioned that Murree Brewery's historical Polo Tournament started in 1904.



Mr. Isphanyar Bhandara receiving H.E. Ivan Ivanissevich Ambassador of Argentina



H.E. MR. Roumen Pirontchev, Ambassador of Bulgaria presenting shield to winner



Mr. Isphanyar Bhandara receiving Mr. Khurram Muzaffar



Mr. Isphanyar Bhandara, Maj Sabih & H.E. Mr. Roumen Ambassador of Bulgaria



Defense attache UK with Isphanyar Bhandara



Spectators



Ball throwing



Defense attache UK Presenting shield to Winner



Ambassador and MD Tetra Pak watching and enjoying Polo



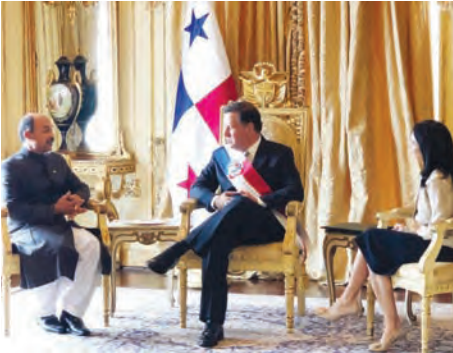
Group photo with winning team



Murree Brewery Management Team during polo match

# H.E. Tasawar Khan Ambassador of Pakistan to Mexico Presented Letter of Credence to President of Panama

H.E. Tasawar Khan Ambassador of Pakistan to Mexico Presented Letter of Credence to H.E. Juan Carlos Varela Rodríguez, President of Panama, in the presence of Vice President and Foreign Minister H.E. Ms. Isabel de Saint Malo de Alvarado at State House, Panama City.



Ambassador Tasawar Khan of Pakistan with the Ambassadors of Namibia, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Myanmar, Albania Bulgaria, and Finland after presentation of credential in Panama city.



Ambassador Tasawar Khan Speaking on the subject of "Business potential and opportunities in Pakistan for Mexico" at "Foro Mundial De Plataformas Logísticas" by ANIERM in the city of Manzanillo



Ambassador Tasawar Khan met with Mr. Ernesto Cerrud Jefe Encargado, Under Secretary for Asia Pacific, Africa and Middle East, SRE and discussed Pakistan Panama bilateral relations.



# Dushanbe conference acted as an important platform for constructive interaction and fruitful dialogue: Envoy

By M.Saeed Yousafzai



Photos by Ramzan Mughal

The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan in Pakistan held a briefing on the results of the High-Level International Conference “Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism” (3-4 May 2018, Dushanbe), which was attended by ambassadors of a number of States, representatives of the electronic and print media of Pakistan, political analysts of the research centers of the host state, as well as the representatives of the Regional Office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The Ambassador of Tajikistan, Jononov S. Sh. told about the aims of the High-Level International Conference brought to the attention of the

participants of the briefing the main points of the keynote address of the Founder of the Peace and National Unity – Leader of the Nation, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon and the “Dushanbe Declaration”.

It was stressed that the Dushanbe conference acted as an important platform for constructive interaction and fruitful dialogue, was the center of attraction for all stakeholders who advocate the importance of strengthening multilateral cooperation mechanisms, and it has made a significant contribution in the process of building and further promotion of initiatives on topical issues of ensuring international and regional security and peace.

## Qatar envoy visited Pakistan Thalassaemia Center

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

His Excellency Mr. Saqr Bin Mubarak Al Mansouri, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan visited Pakistan Thalassaemia Center in Islamabad; he was received by Dr. Khaled Mahmood, Deputy Director of the Center, stated in a press release by Embassy of Qatar in Islamabad.

His Excellency visited various sections of the center during his visit and donated medicines to patients being treated there.



## Pakistan, Cuba sign MoU to enhance cooperation in literature

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Photos by Ramzan Mughal

Pakistan and Cuba Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in the field of literature through exchange of books, conducting joint research and arranging joint book fairs, conferences and workshops.

The MoU was signed by Federal Secretary for National History and Literary Heritage (NH&LH), Engineer Aamir Hasan and Ambassador of Cuba to Pakistan, Gabrel Tiel Capote in a ceremony held at the division.

Under the MoU, National Library of Pakistan

(NLP) and National Library of Cuba- “Jose Marti” will collaborate for joint research projects in library and information sciences, publishing articles of mutual interest and holding exhibitions, joint conferences and workshops in each other’s countries.

It is pertinent to mention here that NH&LH division has already signed MoU with Belarus,

Turkey and Tajikistan while signing of MoU with Bulgaria, Portugal and Hungary is in process.

The literary corners of different countries including Belarus, Azerbaijan, Turkey and United States have already been established while work on setting up corners of China and Iran is in process.





High Commissioner Tariq Azim Khan inaugurating Jinnah Park in Winnipeg, Canada. Park has an area of over 210 acres including small lakes on both ends.

## Tariq Azim Khan inaugurated the Jinnah Park at Winnipeg

High Commissioner Tariq Azim Khan inaugurated the first ever Muhammad Ali Jinnah Park at Winnipeg, Manitoba. In his address, the High Commissioner said that credit goes to the vibrant Pakistani-Canadian community in Manitoba for succeeding in naming of first ever Public Park in North American to be named after Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the Founder of Pakistan. He said that this is the moment for us to pay tribute to the great sacrifices rendered by our founding fathers in order to have a separate homeland for Muslims in subcontinent.

The High Commissioner, while appreciating the struggle of the Pakistani community referred to the quote of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, "With faith, discipline

and selfless devotion to duty, there is nothing worthwhile you cannot achieve". He said that the community in Winnipeg is promoting and showcasing Pakistani culture and soft image through holding of cultural galas and they are acting as a bridge in promoting understanding between communities.

Dr. Rashid Bahri, Community leader who led the campaign for Jinnah Park said in his opening remarks that Muhammad Ali Jinnah is closer to the heart of people of Pakistan and this park will remind our future generations about our great leader.

Masrur Khan President PSA Manitoba said that today is historic day for Pakistanis in Canada

and naming a park in Jinnah's name shows how much migrant Pakistanis love the founder of Pakistan.

Terry Duguid and Iqra Khalid Members of Canadian Parliament also addressed the ceremony and congratulated the Pakistani community in achieving this milestone.

City Councilor Janice Luke said on the occasion that she is very happy to work with the Pakistani community for the maintenance of the Park and to make it worthwhile for the families to visit and hold cultural galas in the Park. She announced preparing a cricket ground within the park area for holding of local cricket tournament.

## Pakistani Mission is working with the Canadian officials to facilitate visa issuance to Pakistani traders and international students: HC

A delegation from Senate of Pakistan led by Deputy Chairman Mr. Saleem Mandviwalla, currently visiting Ottawa at the invitation of Forum of Federations met with the High Commissioner Tariq Azim Khan here today. Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi and Senator Aurangzeb Khan also accompanied the Deputy Chairman Senate.

High Commissioner Tariq Azim Khan briefed the Senate delegation about the current status of Pakistan-Canada bilateral relations and efforts being made to enhance bilateral relations between the two countries. He informed that the Mission is working with the Canadian officials to facilitate visa issuance to Pakistani traders and international students. He also briefed the delegation on Pakistani-Canadian diaspora and what important role the community can play in promoting better

understanding of Pakistan in their adopted homeland.

The Deputy Chairman and the accompanying

senators exchanged views on enhancing bilateral relations and promoting soft image of the country in Canada.



# World Bicycle Day

On April 12, 2018, at the 82nd meeting of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly on the initiative of the Honourable President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov was unanimously adopted Resolution 72/272, which declares 3rd June of each year as the "World Bicycle Day".

Noting the importance of sport as a factor in ensuring sustainable development, Turkmenistan reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen international cooperation aimed at implementing the principles of development and peace. For its part, Turkmenistan hosted a cycling event in early April 2018 in Ashgabat.

World Bicycle Day will allow the global cycling community to raise awareness about the importance of cycling for all and in everyday ways all over the world.

The primary purpose of establishing the Day was to celebrate on an annual basis the bicycle, which had been in use for two centuries.

Among the secondary goals was the global unification of the bicycle enthusiasts' efforts to present the cycling's role as a solution to worldwide challenges, including transportation, pollution, climate change, poverty, health and quality education. With many noteworthy days of recognition celebrated by the United Nations, the bicycle as a loyal instrument of humankind deserves a day of recognition too.

Turkmenistan currently focuses on development of physical education and sports. Extensive works are carried out to improve public health; increase life expectancy; create conditions for physical training and practicing sports; raise our



massive bicycle rides has become a good tradition in our country. Earlier this year we launched the Amul-Hazar 2018 international bicycle marathon.

The range of activities and development of the sports movement in the country encourage our people to engage in sports. Improving public health, developing sports and massive physical training are of crucial importance.

This is also confirmed by the decision



country's international profile as a sports nation.

During the years of Independence, modern sports facilities – state-of-the-art stadiums, equestrian centers, sports academies – were built in all regions of the country. Conditions were created to train our athletes and ensure their participation in different levels of games and international tournaments.

Central Asia's largest Olympic Village was built in Ashgabat. In 2017, 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games were successfully held for the first time in Turkmenistan's history.

Much attention is also given to the development of cycling. Holding annual

adopted by the United Nations General Assembly declaring 3rd June as World Bicycle Day based on our country's initiative. This document that will further raise Turkmenistan's international profile was co-sponsored by 56 countries of the world. And we are entitled to take pride in this.

The World Cycling Alliance (WCA) and the European Cyclists' Federation (ECF) welcome this resolution adopted by the UNGA. WCA and ECF Secretary General Dr. Bernhard Ensink states "Cycling is a source for social, economic and environmental benefits – and it is bringing people together. WCA and ECF are extremely happy with this declaration. This UN declaration is an acknowledgment of the contribution of cycling to the



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in which it is shown that cycling, delivers directly on at least 12 of the 17 SGD's".

Viatcheslav Yekimov, President of the Russian Cycling Federation, Russian former professional racing cyclist, six-time world champion, triple Olympic gold medalist famous cyclist six times world champion, three-time Olympic champion, a record-holder, emphasized that taking into account the excellent organization of the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games demonstrated by Turkmenistan in 2017, including track cycling, the Russian Cycling Federation, using its positions in the International Union of Cyclists, would actively work on the idea of holding the Cycling World Championship in Turkmenistan in 2019 year.

The wonderful indoor cycle track, built in compliance with the Olympic standards deserves the highest assessment. The erection of this sports facility is a very important step in the development of cycling in Turkmenistan. According to international experts and experts from the International Cycling Union, all necessary requirements are observed there and all necessary infrastructures is created that provides conditions for holding international high-level cycling tournaments in Ashgabat.

The highways running along the Kopetdag Mountains have hosted numerous national cycling competitions for many decades, and in recent years have been the venue for international training camps for leading athletes. This is facilitated not only by the climate of Turkmenistan, which allows cycling in the open air almost all the year round, but

also the perfect quality of the highways in the country.

The most important is the special attitude to cycling paid by the President of Turkmenistan, who regularly organizes bike rides and bike parades as well as participates in these events.

Recently, on May 20 2018, mass cycling ride was held in Ashgabat along the highways of Kopetdag Mountains. The participants of the event included representatives of ministries and departments, students, numerous supporters of healthy life style who inspired by personal example of Turkmen leader promote the ideas and beginning of the Head of the State on the development of sport movement in the country.

Number of cycling supporters in Turkmenistan is always growing both among young and elder



generation. Citizens of our country learn to ride bicycle with pleasure, having appreciated its advantages for doing sports and health improving rides as well as comfortable and environmentally friendly type of transport.

Having announced the care of health and

wealth of the nation, upbringing of physically fit and morally strong generations as the utmost objective of the state importance, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov give organized and targeted character of long-term national strategy to the development of mass physical and health improving movement and

sports of highest achievements.

Neutral Turkmenistan will continue to pursue efforts to strengthen peace, friendly relations; develop sports; ensure peaceful and happy life for the whole mankind, stresses the presidential address.





ISLAMABAD SERENA HOTEL



Photo by Ramzan Mughal

# Diplomatic Focus hosted Get together Dinner reception

Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi Editor, CEO, Publisher of "Diplomatic Focus" hosted a Get together Dinner reception in the honor of the Ambassadors of Russia, Belarus, Afghanistan and Central Asian States at Serena Hotels Islamabad. The diplomats who graced the reception were H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov Dean of Diplomatic Corps & Ambassador of Turkmenistan & Mrs. Atadjan Movlamov, H.E. Mr. Sherali Jononov, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan, H.E. Mr. Furqat Sidikov, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan & Mrs. Furqat Sidikov, H.E. Mr. Erik BEISHEMBIEV, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic & Mrs. Erik BEISHEMBIEV, H.E. Mr. Barlybay Sadykov, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Alexey Y. Dedov, Ambassador of Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Andrei G. Ermolovich, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus & Mrs. Andrei G. Ermolovich, Mr. Zardasht Shams, Deputy Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and H.E. Mr. Ali Alizada Ambassador of Azerbaijan Republic.







# Murtaza Hashwani sworn in as New Belgian honorary consul

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Belgian Ambassador Frédéric Verheyden hosted a reception at Hashoo House for the swearing-in ceremony of Hashoo Group CEO & Deputy Chairman Murtaza Hashwani as the honorary consul for the Kingdom of Belgium in Karachi.

Many dignitaries and members of the diplomatic community attended the event, including Anwar Zaheer Jamali, Aslam Siddiqi, Ehsanul Haq, Fawaz Valiani, Gohar Ayub Khan and others.

Mr. Hashwani said: 'After watching my father

served as honorary consul for so many years, I share his enthusiasm for the potential shared between our two countries. Belgium is one of the most dynamic and open economies worldwide and remains one of Pakistan's top trade partners.

'Belgium has worked hard to capitalise on its outstanding research and education facilities and highly skilled workforce over the past decade. Pakistan's sizeable young and vibrant workforce and equally energetic entrepreneurial class present endless opportunities for trade and investment on both sides. I will work to

bolster the continued presence of Belgium in the economic and commercial heart of Pakistan and to protect its interests both diplomatic and commercial in Karachi'.

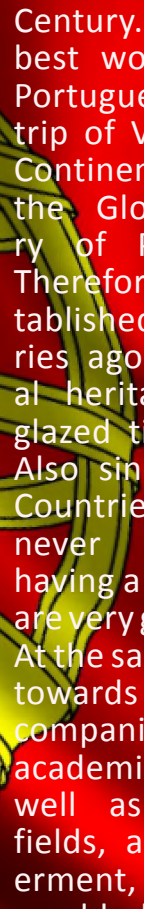
Sadrudin Hashwani, Mr. Hashwani's father, served as honorary consul for almost three decades and was appointed to the rank of knight-commander in the Order of Leopold II, the house order of the Belgian monarchy to reward outstanding personalities having rendered exceptional services to the Kingdom by the decision of His Majesty King Philippe in April 2014.

# MESSAGE



On The occasion of  
**National Day of Portugal**

**H.E. JOÃO PAULO MARQUES SABIDO COSTA**  
**Ambassador of Portugal to Islamic Republic of Pakistan**



I would like to thank the team of Diplomatic Focus for giving the opportunity to mark the National Day of Portugal, more precisely the Day of Camões and Portuguese Communities. That designation pretends, not only, to signalize the members of the Portuguese Diaspora, dispersed all over the World, but also Luís de Camões, the greatest Portuguese poet who, himself, was an example of that Diaspora, spending almost all his life outside Portugal, namely in Northern Africa, the Indian Subcontinent and China during the XVIth Century. In Asia, Camões wrote some of his best works, especially *The Lusíadas* (The Portuguese), a long poem about the maritime trip of Vasco da Gama around the African Continent till this very region of the Globe, as well as on the History of Portugal till the XVIth Century. Therefore, Portuguese and Pakistani established relations since several centuries ago and that is patent in the cultural heritage we share in which respects glazed tiles, ceramics, pottery, and so on. Also since the inception of Pakistan, our Countries always held very good relations, never having a problem. Our institutional relations are very good and should be more developed. At the same time, we should keep on working towards strengthening the ties between our companies, exporters and importers, Youth, academic, researchers and students, as well as cooperating in many relevant fields, as Human Rights, Women Empowerment, Development or Environment. I would also like to underline the very good relations both our countries have in multi-lateral instances, having the opportunity to contributing to the World's wellbeing. In the field of Health, Portugal established, in Pakistan, cooperative ties with the Aga Khan University, in Karachi that we hope can be fruitful for both our populations, also enabling us to create synergies in this area in other continents like Africa. The problem of Energy, related with climate change and Environment, is nowadays a challenge for the international society. Definitely, it is an area where we

have a great potential for cooperation, namely regarding Renewable Energies, water resources and development non pollutant sources of power. In the cultural field, and due to its own experience in this area of the World, Portugal would be willing to cooperate with Pakistan in classifying its vast and rich national monuments in order for them to be recognized as World Heritage by UNESCO. I use this opportunity to refer to the joint and well succeeded Pakistani and Portuguese candidature proposing for the traditional Art of Falconry to be recognized as immaterial heritage by UNESCO. In Lisbon, but also all in many Portuguese institutions, there are «kilometers» of untapped documents, collected since the XVth century and pertaining this area of the World where now is Pakistan. It would be remarkable to research and study all those archives, in a way to contribute to the History and knowledge about our Countries and Civilizations.

Still this month, the Portuguese Embassy is organizing, also in cooperation with the »Diplomatic Focus« and Serena Hotel in Islamabad a fashion show of one of the main Portuguese fashion designers, João Rolo. This will be also an opportunity to establish more ties of cooperation, as well as to promote, in the future, the magnificent and spectacular Pakistani fashion, design and rich fabrics in Portugal and internationally. Next month, in Lisbon, it will take place the Celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of His Highness the Prince Aga Khan. Many Pakistani will be present on this memorable and historical occasion, of which one of the main events will be a performance by the famous Rahat Fateh Ali Khan Qawal group. Also in July, Pakistan will be having its national election, an important moment for its People and its Future. Portugal is close to Pakistan in this historical event, wishing it all the best for this great Country. As you see, both of us, Portuguese and Pakistani will have many things with which to rejoice and commemorate.

# Messages



**Mr. Fakir Ayazuddin**

Honorary Consul of Portugal in Karachi

It is great honor to extend my felicitation and congratulations to the people and the government of Portugal on the occasion of the Portugal National day on the behalf of Pakistani People. On June, 10th, Portugal celebrates its National day, commemorating the Death of the poet Luís de Camões. Luis de Camões is one of the main authors of Portuguese Language literature. Having a classical academic formation, namely in which concerns Latin and Greek, he wrote mostly in Portuguese. At the same time, he received a very important impression from the cultures and languages he was exposed to, during its protracted stay in Northern Africa, first, and then in India and China, where he spent many years.

Therefore, Portugal has a long relation with Asia, inclusive with the Subcontinent. With Pakistan and the region where it lies, our ties have been always very good. Pakistan and Portugal enjoy cordial relations at all multilateral fora and these relations between Portugal and Pakistan are growing and improving very fast.

Pakistan is a beautiful land, culture with a very hospitable and friendly people and Portugal is known for their art and architecture, cuisine and exotic foods and for its exhilarating environment and beautiful people.

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

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

It is a great honor for me to represent Portugal in Karachi as the honorary consul.



# THE OCCASION OF THE PORTUGAL DAY



**MR. IFTIKHAR FIROZ,**  
HONORARY CONSUL OF PORTUGAL IN LAHORE

It is my privilege to extend my felicitation to the people and the government of Portugal on the occasion of the Portugal day.

Every 10th Day of June, the Portugal day is celebrated known as “die de Portugal” this date commemorates the death of Luis de cameos, a significant figure in the history of Portugal. Camoes is best known for his work on lusiadas, the national epic poem that depicts the achievements of the Portuguese in world exploration in the 16th Century. Portugal played an important role in the discovery of the new world and their contribution to the development of the world social and cultural ethos is monumental.

The relationship of Portugal and Pakistan can go back to 1948 with a very strong bond of friendship when the diplomatic links were first established.

The bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the field of political, economic and cultural spheres stand strengthened till today. Portugal has been a strong supporter of Pakistan within the European community and at other political and economic forums.

Portugal is known for their art and architecture, cuisine and exotic foods and for its exhilarating environment and beautiful people.

It is indeed an honor for me to represent Portugal in Lahore as the honorary consul.

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Member American Association of Endodontist.  
Former Head of Dentistry,  
Shifa International Hospital

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

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**Mr. Fakir Ayazuddin**  
Honorary Consul of Portugal in Karachi



**Mr. Iftikhar Firoz**  
Honorary Consul of Portugal in Lahore

**Cordially  
Congratulations on  
National Day of  
Portugal**

**H.E MR. JOÃO PAULO MARQUES SABIDO COSTA**  
Ambassador of Portugal in Islamic Republic of Pakistan

