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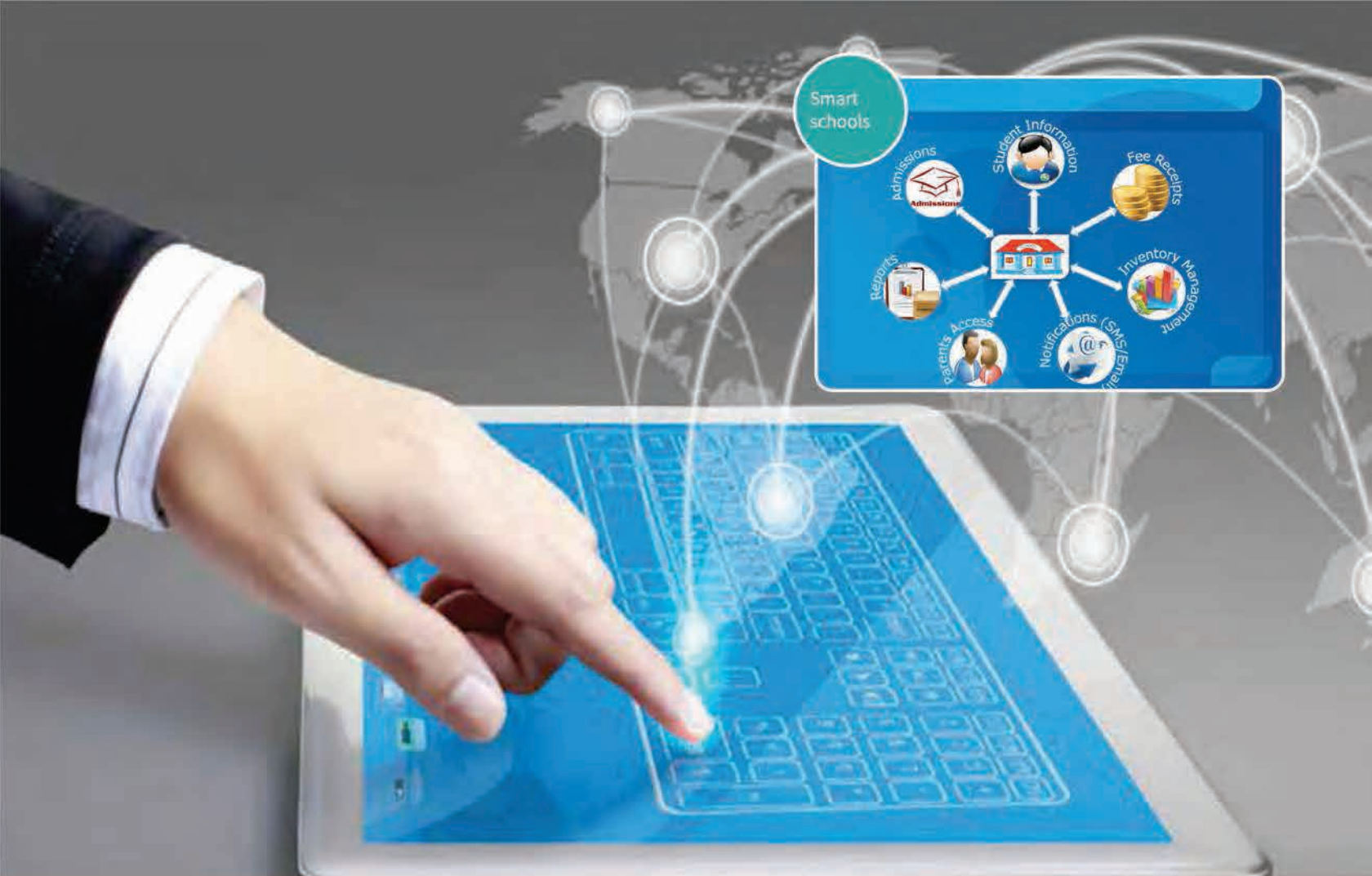
a land of unlimited opportunities for

Bahrain's Investors

H.E. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif
Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan

with

H.E. Mr. Zayed R. Alzayani
Minister for Industries, Commerce & Tourism, Kingdom of Bahrain



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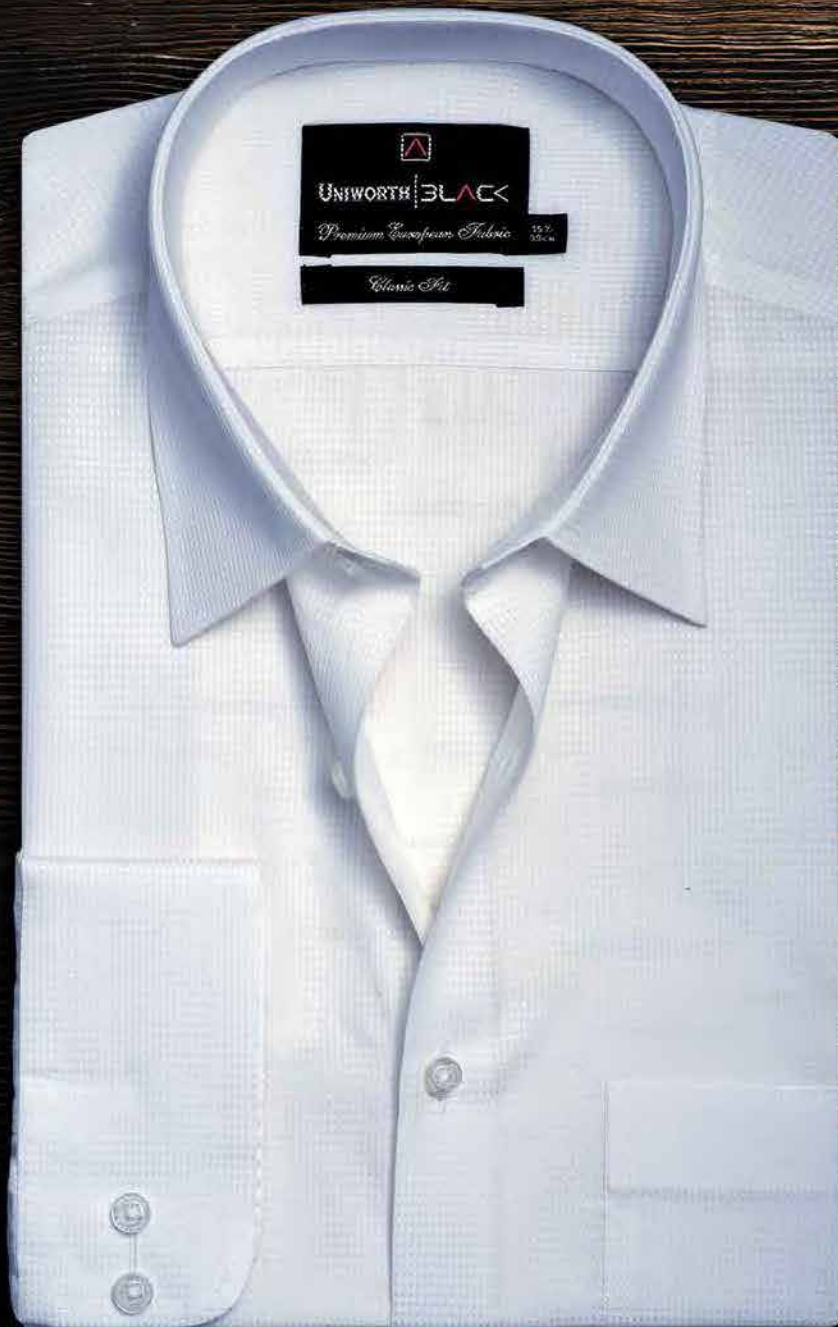
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Mian Fazal Elahi

As the announcement of the Supreme Court's verdict on the Panamagate case draws nearer, there is a palpable build-up in political tension as all camps gear up for the upcoming election. The marriage of convenience between the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is on the rocks and no one seems to be willing to rescue it. The two opposition parties had happily aligned themselves against the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) during the Panamagate hearings, but one tirade from Imran Khan later, everyone is bristling with anger and resentment, even some members of his own party. However, it is difficult to tell if this was a result of a deliberate electoral strategy or Imran Khan being his usual abrasive and spontaneous self. It seems, then, that it is too early for the parties to decide what deals they can cut with their opponents and who they will be marking for an eventual face-off. As they posture and campaigns, all eyes will remain on the Supreme Court, which right now is in the unenviable position to set the tone and tenor for the parties' campaigns in the months to come with its verdict on the Panamagate case.

On the other side, The Interior Ministry has declared that Pakistan will no longer be offering the visa-on-arrival facility under the garb of landing permits. This is in line with the Interior Ministry's attempts to streamline the visa process and clamp down on espionage activities from other countries. The move is not likely to have an effect on bilateral visa waiver agreements with foreign dignitaries' passports; but now those accompanying them must have valid documents prepared in advance. The Interior Ministry's argument is based on a sensible principle – irregularities in the visa process have caused the country numerous problems, one of the most memorable of which would be the Raymond Davis affair. It is not as if other countries offer Pakistanis the option to get visas on arrival, whether it's for landing permits or otherwise, which is why the government's move must be fully supported. The country's visa regulations are very lax, especially for foreigners hailing from developed countries and this must change, especially considering that the terrorism problem has more or less killed the tourism industry. Under the new provisions under discussion, tourism is not likely to be affected if the government keeps the visa process simple, impartial and transparent. Among other changes to the visa regime, an online application system and greater transparency in line with pre-existing visa regulations is also on the cards. The Pakistani government is currently in the process of making its border crossings safer, and travel through air and sea must also be more regulated to achieve a more comprehensive travel mechanism. A central visa database would go a long way in establishing greater internal security and keep Pakistan more secured from internal threats. It remains to be seen how the Interior Ministry handles this though, the Interior Minister has successfully pointed out all the holes, now he must get to filling them.

[Signature]

Important Announcement

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



Mian Assad Ullah

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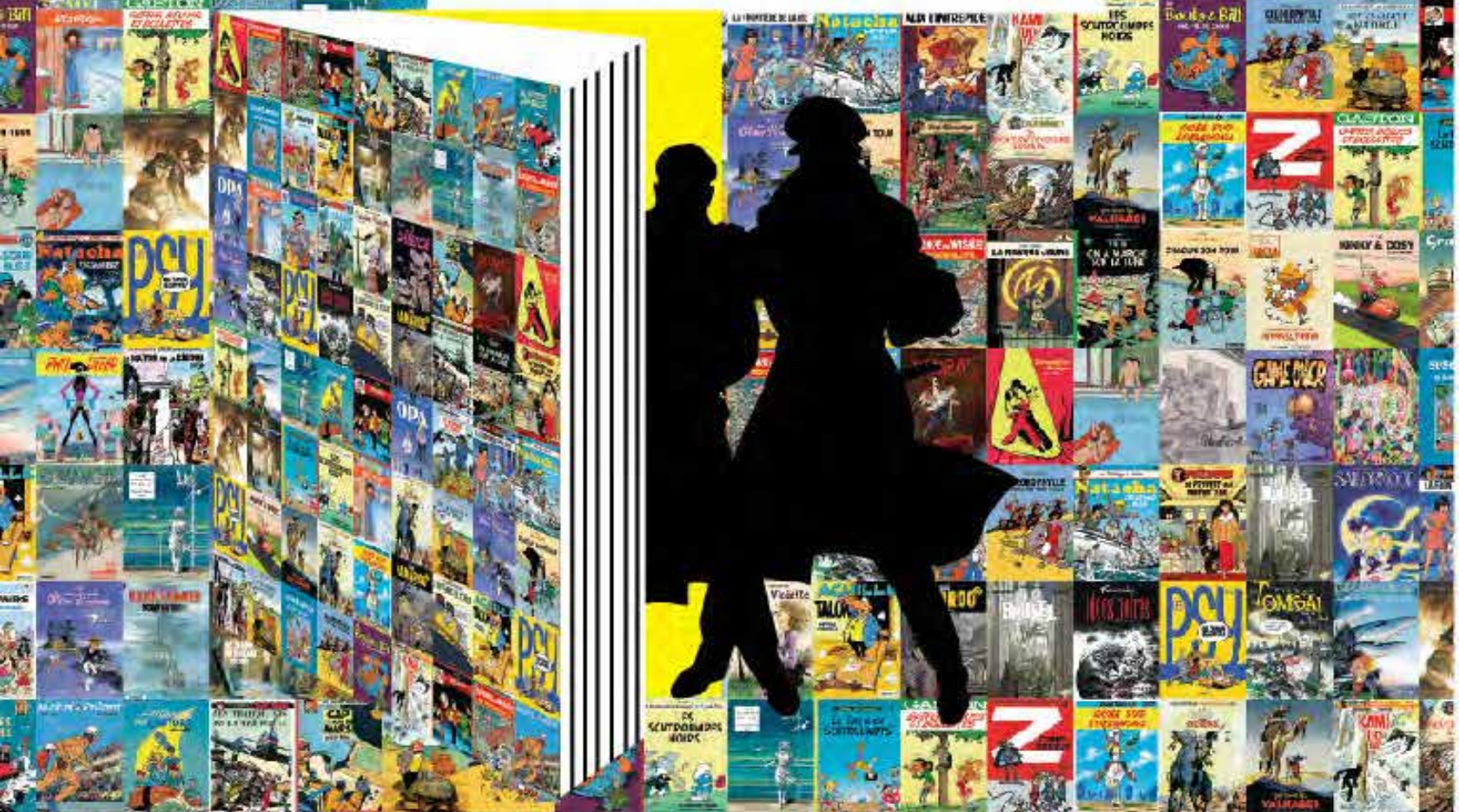
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PM Nawaz invited Bahraini investors to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan

BY Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring Desk

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif invited Bahraini investors to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan, particularly in commercial and tourism sectors.

A high level delegation comprising of prominent businessmen and investors from Bahrain called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM Office.

H.E. Mr. Zayed R. Alzayani, Minister for Industries, Commerce & Tourism, Kingdom of Bahrain was also present on the occasion. The Bahraini business delegation was led by Mr. Khalid Almoayed, Chairman, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BCCI).

While warmly welcoming the business delegation to Pakistan, the Prime Minister stated that Pakistan welcomes the initiative of establishing the Pakistan-Bahrain Joint Holding Company by Bahraini Businessmen. We are confident that it will be successful in increasing bilateral trade and investment, said the PM.

The Bahraini businessmen appreciated the Prime Minister's policy of welcoming Foreign investment and said that they are keen to play an active role in expanding the volume of trade between both countries.

The Prime Minister informed the delegation about China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and

stated that CPEC is not only a framework of regional connectivity, but a game changer for the region. CPEC is a corridor of energy, roads, motorways, pipelines, rail networks and optic fiber with an investment outlay of over US\$ 51 billion, added the PM. Government, as well as business community of Bahrain can benefit immensely from the opportunities and prospects offered by CPEC, said the PM.

The Prime Minister stated that the Economic outlook of Pakistan has altogether changed in the last three years, which is being

acknowledged by independent financial rating institutions. "My government after coming into power started making best efforts to put the economy on a path of sustained long-term economic growth. In this context, focus remained on public-private partnership in the development process, improved productivity in agriculture sector, removal of energy shortage, enhanced industrial competitiveness, better service delivery system and upgraded human capital formation", stated the PM.

The Bahraini delegates expressed their keen



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif held a meeting with a High-Level Delegation of Prominent Businessmen and Investors from Bahrain who called him at PM Office, Islamabad.

interest to take part in Pakistan's emerging economy and highlighted their interest in further expanding exports from Pakistan for Gulf countries.

The PM further stated that Pakistan is open for business. There are over one thousand Multinational companies profitably operating in Pakistan. They enjoy a level playing field with the domestic investors and do not face any barriers to entry or exit. They can expand capital and infrastructure without hindrance, added the PM.

The PM said that the Foreign Direct Investment is protected under Law through the Acts of Parliament and the Law of Special Economic Zones has been made to meet the global challenges of competitiveness to attract Foreign Director Investment (FDI). The Law allows creating industrial cluster with liberal incentives, infrastructure, investor facilitation services to enhance productivity and reduce cost of doing business for economic development and poverty reduction, said the PM.

The Prime Minister assured the delegation that Pakistan is a land of unlimited opportunities and offers investment opportunities in various sectors such as Energy, Agriculture, Food processing, Infrastructure, Information and Communication Technology, Textiles, Apparel, Surgical Instruments and Leather products. "I am confident that investors from Bahrain will benefit from opportunities arising from the economic growth of Pakistan leading to further growth of our trade relations" stated the PM.

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industries' delegation thanked the Prime Minister for his warm welcome to Pakistan and expressed the hope to further strengthen trade ties with Pakistan.

The Business delegation of Bharian comprised of Mr. Khalid Al Zayani, Vice Chairman BCCI, Sheikh Mohamad Bin Isaac, Senior Member BCCI, Mr. Muhammad Sajid, Executive Board Member BCCI, Mr. Muhammad Usman, Chairman Joint Council BCCI, Mr. Ahmed Bin Hindi, Executive Board Member, Mr. Ali Ahmed Bufarson, Member Parliament, Mr. Ahmed Al Saloom, Chairman SME Council, Ms. Ferial Nas, Chairwoman of Business Council, Ms. Suhair Bokhammas, Member BCCI and others.

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Finance, Engineer Khuram Dastagir Khan, Minister for Commerce, Mr. Javed Malik, Ambassador to Bahrain and other senior officials were also present during the meeting. Later on, in meeting with Minister for Commerce Khuram Dastagir Khan said that Pakistan attaches immense importance to its relations with Bahrain and appreciated the participation of delegation in the Second Pakistan-Bahrain Business Opportunities Conference. The honorable minister for commerce, Engr. Khuram Dastgir



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Escorts H.E. Zayed R. Alzayani, Minister for Industries, Commerce & Tourism, Kingdom of Bahrain prior to their meeting at PM Office, Islamabad.

Khan supported the idea of concluding a Free Trade Agreement with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), that comprise of Six countries including Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Mr. Dastgir directed the officials of commerce ministry to send the text of Framework Agreement to GCC immediately.

"Our bilateral relations are founded on shared history, cultural linkages and strong people-to-people contacts,"
PM Nawaz

Mr. Dastgir maintained that Pakistan-Bahrain second business opportunities conference that are starting from tomorrow in Islamabad and which will be co-chaired by commerce ministers from Pakistan and Bahrain would certainly pave way for exploration of more business opportunities and enhancement of trade between the two countries. In 2015-16, bilateral trade between Pakistan and Bahrain was US\$ 143.10 million including US\$ 66.47 million exports from Pakistan and US\$ 76.63

million imports from Bahrain. "The two apex chambers (BCCI & FPCCI) need to devise a short-term road map for trade enhancement which should commensurate with our fraternal ties, added the minister.

Mr. HE Zayed R. Alzayani appreciated the commerce minister for hospitality and warm welcome and invited Pakistan for concluding FTA with GCC to boost trade. He also stressed on making the Strategic Committee functional. Mr. Zayed R. Alzayani also invited Pakistan to hold food and cultural festivals in Bahrain.

Minister for Commerce, Engr. Khuram Dastgir Khan welcomed the invitation of his counterpart and said that Pakistan may hold a food and cultural festival in Bahrain in October this year and also invited Bahrain to hold and participate in Trade Exhibitions in Pakistan and exchange business delegations. Mr. Dastgir maintained that to enhance trade between the two countries non-tariff barriers and some tariff barriers needs to be removed and that Bahrain should ease the business visa process to encourage more business to business interaction. "Pak-Bahrain Joint Business Council (JBC) meetings should be held on regular basis", said Dastgir. The JBC was set up in 2007 and its first meeting was held in September, 2016. Earlier, the delegation also visited the Board of Investment (BOI), Pakistan.

**Javed Malik,
Ambassador of
Pakistan to the
Kingdom of Bahrain
called on Chief
Minister Punjab,
Shahbaz Sharif
and briefed him
on growing ties
between Bahrain
and Pakistan**



Javed Malik, Pakistan's Ambassador in Bahrain hosted a Dinner to welcome Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Zubair Mahmood Hayat with Bahraini dignitaries.



Javed Malik, Pakistan's Ambassador to Bahrain, Commodore Muhammad Shoib, and Vice Admiral Donnagan at Change of Command Ceremony in Bahrain.



Jordanian Journalist and Author, Omar Mohammad Nazzal Armouti called on President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

President Mamnoon Hussain meets Jordanian Historian, talks Palestine, Kashmir

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring Desk

President Mamnoon Hussain said great transformations were going to occur in the world in the next decade as a result of which the issue of Kashmir and many problems of the Arab world would be resolved. The president said this while talking to Jordanian historian and author Umar Mohammad Nazal Armouthi who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. He said the issues of Kashmir and Palestine would remain unresolved unless they were settled in accordance with aspirations of the people of the regions.



Jordanian Journalist and Author, Omar Mohammad Nazzal Armouti presenting a memento to President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Pakistan values its friendly relations with the Kyrgyz Republic: PM Nawaz

By M. Saeed Yousafzai

Mr. TURSUNBEKOV Chynybai Akunovich Speaker of Kyrgyz Parliament along with a delegation called on the Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM House this morning.

Welcoming the delegation, the Prime Minister said that Pakistan values its friendly relations with the Kyrgyz Republic and is keen to further strengthen these ties in all fields. The PM said that participation of Kyrgyz Prime Minister Jeenbekov Sooronbay in the ECO Summit helped advance our common desire for effective regional cooperation and deepening our bilateral ties.

'Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan enjoy excellent political relations and strong defence cooperation. Cooperation between the two National Assemblies must grow to transform our special ties into a strategic partnership encompassing all areas of bilateral relations', said the PM. The PM said that Pakistan is ready to share its parliamentary experience with Kyrgyz brothers and extended the offer to organize courses at the institute of Parliamentary services in Islamabad.

The PM emphasized that both the countries should facilitate interaction between business communities and investors to promote trade and joint ventures. Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi Deputy Speaker National Assembly, MNA Abdul

Majeed Khan and senior government officials were also present during the meeting.

The visiting delegation included Members of Kyrgyz Parliament Mr. YUSUROV Abdumazhit, Mr. Aynakulov Muhtar, Mr. Nishanov Nurgazi, Mr. Nurmatov Kunbanychbek, Mr. Toktoshev Emil, and Mr. Beishembiev Erik Aidarkanovick, Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan.

Earlier, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that Pakistan has emerged as linchpin in facilitating connectivity between South, Central and West Asian regions respectively. He outlined that Pak-Kyrgyz deeper connectivity will open a new era of unhindered flow of trade between Central Asia and Middle East through a secure and cheaper

Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan enjoy excellent political relations and strong defence cooperation. Cooperation between the two National Assemblies must grow to transform our special ties into a strategic partnership encompassing all areas of bilateral relations:
PM Nawaz



Speaker National Sardar Ayaz Sadiq signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) of Kyrgyz Mr. Chaynybal A. Tursunbekov in Parliament House.



President Mamnoon Hussain in a meeting with Chairman of the Supreme Council, Kyrgyz Republic, Chyngybai A. Tursunbekov, who along-with a delegation called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

trade route via Pakistan. He was talking to the parliamentary delegation of Kyrgyz Republic led by his counterpart of the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) Mr. Chyngybai A. Tursunbekov, who called on the Speaker in Parliament House on Monday. Convener of Pak-Kyrgyz Friendship Group Mr. Abdul Majeed Khan and Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic in Pakistan Mr. BEISHEMBIEV Erik Aidarkanovich were also present on the occasion.

Both the Speakers discussed matters pertaining to the bilateral relations with emphasis on enhancing cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries. They also shared interests in a broad range of issues like peace and stability, trade and economic cooperation and regional integration.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq underlined the need for proactive parliamentary diplomacy to supplement



Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) of Kyrgyz Mr. Chyngybal A. Tursunbekov & Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq planting a sapling of Mangolia Grandiflora in Parliament Lawan.

Kyrgyz Speaker Mr. Chyngybai Tursunbekov endorsed Sardar Ayaz Sadiq's proposal for consistent Parliamentary engagement and underlined the need for facilitating people to people contacts via tourism, cultural exchange visits and meetings of the Parliamentary Friendship Groups.

government-to-government interaction. Referring to the role of Parliamentary Friendship Groups, he added that consistent Parliamentary engagements are highly imperative for facilitating diversification of trade and economic relations. He reiterated the need to exploit the economic complementarities of both the states and utilizing their affinities in the domain of history, culture and civilization as bedrocks for regional integration. The Speaker stated that the endemic poverty and human under development in the region pose considerable challenges to the policy makers in the region. He added that these are common challenges and require consistent and durable collaboration.

The Speaker remarked that Pakistan is committed to foster regional integration by linking regional countries into 'One Belt'

of trade, prosperity and connectivity and further added that Kyrgyzstan strategic location and friendly ties with Pakistan shines prominently in Pakistan's strategic calculation of regional integration. He assured the Kyrgyz Parliamentary delegation that Pakistan is determined to benefit the entire region from CPEC and its sea ports to assist the regional countries in achieving shared prosperity.

Kyrgyz Speaker Mr. Chyngybai Tursunbekov endorsed Sardar Ayaz Sadiq's proposal for consistent Parliamentary engagement and underlined the need for facilitating people to people contacts via tourism, cultural exchange visits and meetings of the Parliamentary Friendship Groups. He also welcomed Ayaz Sadiq's proposal for diversification and expansion of trade and economic relations.

He said that Pakistani and Kyrgyz



Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) of Kyrgyz Mr. Chanybal A. Tursunbekov calld on speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Parliament House.

parliamentarians have a lot to learn from each other's experience and for this purpose closer cooperation and greater parliamentary interaction is needed. He further said that both the brotherly countries are rich in natural resources which can be exploited through joint ventures for the benefit of both the nations. Endorsing his counterpart's emphasis on bilateral cooperation for tackling regional challenges, Mr. Chanybai remarked that both the countries have great responsibility in addressing regional challenges.

Later on, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed between National Assembly of Pakistan and Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) of Kyrgyz Republic in an impressive ceremony held in Parliament House. The MoU was signed by Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh Mr. Chanybai A. Tursunbekov. Earlier, the Kyrgyz Speaker has planted a Sapling of Mangolia Grandi Flora in the lawn of Parliament House. The visiting delegation also witnessed the proceedings of the House. They were welcomed by the Leaders and other members of all the political parties in the National assembly. Kyrgyz delegation visited the site of Solar Energy project installed at parking area of Parliament House.

The visiting delegation also held a meeting with Federal Minister for Water and Power, Khawaja Muhammad Asif. Welcoming the Kyrgyz delegation, the Minister said, he has visited the Kyrgyzstan twice and received very warm welcome from the Kyrgyz, people. While expressing the importance of bilateral relationship between the two countries, the Minister mentioned that, projects like CASA 1000 proved to be a major milestone in establishing socio-economic connectivity

between the two countries.

Both the leaders have expressed their satisfaction over the on-going project, which would benefit Pakistan energy demand by 1300 MW. The electricity export from CASA 1000, from Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan to Pakistan would be increased in the times to come, the minister added.

Moreover, Kyrgyz parliament has invited Pakistani business community to invest in the agricultural, mining, pharmaceutical and manufacturing sectors. The minister emphasized the need to develop more

economical routes including air or rail, to facilitate the trade and cooperation between the two countries.

While mentioning the first ever formal parliamentary delegation visit from Kyrgyz, in the last 25 years, the speaker said, we will seek help from Pakistan in managing GSP-Plus status, recently awarded to Kyrgyz government. The Minister said that the bilateral relationship would be beneficial for both the sides to establish a strategic link between warm waters and the euro-asian market.



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq receiving Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) of Kyrgyz Mr. Chanybal A. Tursunbekov at Parliament House.

Pak-Kyrgyz deeper connectivity will open a new era of unhindered flow of trade between Central Asia and Middle East through a secure and cheaper trade route via Pakistan: Speaker Ayaz Sadiq



Pakistan, Qatar

Enjoy deep brotherly relations: PM Nawaz

By M. Saeed Yousafzai

P rime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that Pakistan and Qatar enjoy deep brotherly relations.

He was talking to Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, father of Qatar's Emir, who called on him in Islamabad.

The Prime Minister said relations between the two countries will be further cemented for betterment of the people of both the countries. He also expressed good wishes for Qatar's Emir.

**Father of
Qatar's Emir
meets Prime
Minister
Nawaz Sharif
in Islamabad**



PAKISTAN RENEWS SUPPORT FOR LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF YEMEN

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring Desk

President Mamnoon Hussain has said that Muslim countries should work in unison for attaining progress and stability by avoiding mutual differences.

Talking to Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of

President Mamnoon Hussain says war has badly affected Yemen and expressed optimism that peace will soon be restored in country



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meeting H.E. Mr. Abdulmalik Al-Mekhlafi Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister of Yemen at Islamabad.

Foreign Affairs of Yemen Abdulmalik Abduljalil Al-Mekhlafi in Islamabad, he said that Pakistan wants to contribute in the progress and stability of Yemen and desires that peace be restored soon in the country.

He said that war has badly affected Yemen and expressed optimism that peace will soon be restored in the country.

Mamnoon said that Pakistan supports the efforts of President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadhi for peace in the country and regards him as

the legitimate leader adding that Pakistan will continue to support him. He said that Pakistan will continue to support Yemen for peace and progress in the region.

The President expressed gratitude for the cooperation that had been extended by Yemen in evacuation of thousands of Pakistani nationals from the country.

He said that brotherly relations between the two countries are based on mutual cooperation, friendship and trust and called for further

deepening bilateral relations.

Abdulmalik Abduljalil Al-Mekhlafi said that his country accords great importance to

PM Nawaz announces \$1m humanitarian aid for Yemen

his relations with Pakistan adding that his government will welcome Pakistanis returning to Yemen.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has proclaimed immediate provision of one million dollar humanitarian assistance for the distressed people of Yemen.

He made this announcement during a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Yemen Abdul Malik Abduljalil Al-Mekhlafi.

The Prime Minister said that Pakistan and Yemen have traditionally enjoyed special relations, which are based on trust, friendship and cooperation.

He expressed gratitude for Yemen's assistance and support in successful evacuation of thousands of Pakistani nationals from Yemen in March 2015.

The visiting dignitary thanked the Prime Minister for Pakistan's support to Yemen.

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz in a separate meeting with Al-Mekhlafi assured the Yemeni foreign minister that Pakistan always supported the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Yemen and would continue to extend all possible assistance for restoration of complete peace and stability in the country.

This was stated by Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz, while talking to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Republic of Yemen Abdulmalik Abdul Jalil Al Mekhlafi in Islamabad.

He said Pakistan and Yemen are enjoying close coordination at the bilateral and multilateral levels in various areas.

The Adviser appreciated the efforts of the internationally recognized Government of President Abd Rabu Mansour Al-Hadi towards restoration of peace, harmony and stability in the country.

He added that the menace of terrorism posed common threat in the region and could only be defeated through coordinated efforts by all countries.

The Adviser particularly thanked the Government of Yemen for their assistance in recent release of seven Pakistani prisoners held in Yemeni jails.

The Deputy Prime Minister thanked Pakistan's for its continued political support and economic assistance to Yemen.

He briefed about the efforts by the Government of Yemen to pursue the path of peace and reconciliation rather than conflict, as well as the success achieved so far in subduing the threat posed by terrorist networks in the country.

Issues related to serious humanitarian situation in Yemen, suffering from serious food shortages anywhere in the world, was also discussed. He also highlighted the efforts being undertaken by the Government to address the multiple securities, political and economic challenges confronting Yemen.



Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister of Yemen Mr. Abdulmalik Abduljalil Almeklafi called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.



Advisor to the PM on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister of Yemen H.E. Abdul Malik Jalil Al-Mekhlafi in Islamabad.



Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister of Yemen H.E. Abdul Malik Abdul Jalil Al-Mekhlafi called on Federal Minister for Industries & Production Ghulam Murtaza Khan Jatoi in Islamabad.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in delegation level meeting with H.E. Mr. Rustam Naurgaliyevich Minnikhanov, President of Tatarstan at PM House, Islamabad.

Visit of Tatarstan's president will promote mutual relations

By Monitoring Desk

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said that Pakistan's longstanding partnership with the Russian Federation as well as with its Muslim regions, including the Republic of Tatarstan, would witness significant progress in all areas of mutual interest.

The prime minister reiterated his resolve to establish a strong partnership between Pakistan and Russia in all fields as this cooperation would positively contribute to promoting peace and stability in the region.

CM Shahbaz Sharif has assured to provide full protection to investors of Tatarstan

He was talking to the President of Republic of Tatarstan, Rustam Minni-khanov, who called on him at the PM House, according to a press release.

While warmly welcoming the Tatarstan leader and his delegation to Pakistan, Mr Sharif said

that longstanding bilateral relations were the manifestation of a common desire to explore possibilities for enhancing cooperation between Pakistan and Russia.

He emphasised that Pakistan was pursuing a policy of peaceful neighbourhood and wished to resolve all outstanding issues with its neighbours through dialogue.

Mr. Minnikhanov thanked the prime minister for extending warm hospitality during his visit to Pakistan and said that the Tatar business delegation held fruitful meetings in Lahore.

Mr. Sharif expressed the hope that the joint business forum with businessmen from both sides would develop mutually beneficial contacts and help boost bilateral trade.

Cooperation in sectors, including banking, Halal food, production of cement, automotive industry, pharmaceuticals, technology, culture and education, should be explored, he added.

Earlier the Tatarstan President Rustam Minnikhanov and Deputy Prime Minister Roman Shaykhutdinov have arrived in Lahore on one-day visit. Provincial Finance Minister Ayesha Ghaus Pasha, Provincial Minister for Industries Shaikh Allaud Din, Commissioner Lahore and others welcomed the guests at

PM Nawaz emphasised that Pakistan was pursuing a policy of peaceful neighbourhood and wished to resolve all outstanding issues with its neighbours through dialogue



Lahore airport. Later, the guests left for hotel amid strict security.

Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif held a meeting with President of Tatarstan Rustam Minnikhanov in Lahore on Saturday. They discussed matters of mutual interest, bilateral relations and promotion of cooperation in different sectors. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister hoped that the visit of the distinguished guest will promote bilateral relations between the two countries. He said Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif visited Tatarstan in 1999 when Rustam

Minnikhanov was Prime Minister. The President of Tatarstan called for promoting active collaboration between the two countries in various fields.

Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has assured to provide full protection to investors of Tatarstan saying they will also own hundred percent of their investment.

Addressing Punjab-Tatarstan Business Forum in Lahore, he said Punjab government wants to promote economic cooperation with Tatarstan. He said there are vast potential for promotion

of tourism in Pakistan, especially in Punjab and we would like to benefit from the expertise of Tatarstan in this regard.

The Chief Minister said Punjab has very strong infrastructure which can support all the investment activities and joint ventures. He said the landmark China Pakistan Economic Corridor Project can create a linkage between Pakistan and Tatarstan.

Shahbaz Sharif said thirty six billion dollars are being spent on energy projects under the CPEC that will end load-shedding from country by the end of current year or early next year.

Punjab
government
wants to promote
economic
cooperation with
Tatarstan





70 Delegates from 23 countries gather in Capital to create Asian Parliament

“We, the parliamentarians of Asia sitting here, represent the people who are suffering, under-nourished, objects of poverty and victims of terrorism. If we are unable to find an indigenous solution to the problems of our own people, history will not forgive us,” Raza Rabbani

By Monitoring Desk

Over 70 representatives of 23 Asian countries met in Islamabad to discuss the possibility of creating a regional bloc similar to the European Union (EU) during a conference hosted by the Senate. However, with huge rivalries among countries of the continent, the possibility of establishing such a bloc is remote. India and Afghanistan both sent envoys to the

conference — a three-day meeting of a special committee on the creation of Asian Parliament and Asian Parliamentary Standing Committee on Political Affairs — which comes amid increasingly tense relations the two of them have with Pakistan.

Ramzan Sajid, a parliament spokesman, said the conference from March 13-17 is likely to suggest the formation of an APA.

Senate Chairman Raza Rabbani, addressing the gathering, told participants “that the destiny of

Asia must not be directed by capitalist Western states”.

Rabbani said Asia must look within itself and decide its own destiny, as ‘western imperialism’ will not help it solve its problems.

“We, the parliamentarians of Asia sitting here, represent the people who are suffering, under-nourished, objects of poverty and victims of terrorism. If we are unable to find an indigenous solution to the problems of our own people, history will not forgive us,” he said, according to



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Standing in honour of National Anthem during Asian Parliamentary Assembly meeting of Special Committee on Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP) in Islamabad.



a press release issued by the Senate Secretariat. Rabbani said that Asia is a land of natural resources, but these resources were exploited by 'western imperialism'. He observed that Asia continues to suffer through neo-colonialism and pointed out the changing context of the world by highlighting the consequences of Brexit and the United States presidential election.

Rabbani said the threat of racism is a threat to the Asian region which must be countered.

The Asian people will lose hope in their parliaments if our generation fails to rise to meet their expectations, Rabbani told conference participants.

Speaker of People's Assembly of Syria Dr. Hadiyeh Abbas said she believed that the need for cooperation and solidarity is greater than ever before.

Speaker of the National Assembly of Bhutan Lyonpo Jigme Zangpo said that diversity has

always been the mass-code of Asia, and that fragmentation of our continent would never facilitate cooperation.

The SCCAP committee must represent collaborated interests, commitment and

The destiny of Asia must not be directed by capitalist Western states. Asia must look within itself and decide its own destiny, as 'western imperialism' will not help it solve its problems: Raza Rabbani

symbolise unity in sharing our resources, he said, adding that another perspective to this mechanism is that although parliaments may vary in their working, they retain similar goals. A delegate from Cambodia deliberated on the importance of parliament in promoting peace and security in regional and global affairs.

He noted that political stability is indispensable in Asia. Peace and security require efficient peace mechanisms. Hence, a parliamentary system is a prime method of promoting dialogue and cooperation, he said.

The Asian Parliamentary Assembly dates back to September 1999 when a group of Asian Parliamentarians decided to join hands for promoting peace and human rights in Dhaka, Bangladesh, by setting up the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP), which was later converted to APA in 2004.



Group Photo of Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq with participants of inaugural session of Conference on "The Role of Women Parliamentarians in Strengthening Democracy and Social Justice" Organized by (WPC) in Islamabad.



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq addressing on the occasion of Unveiling of the Monument for the Unsung Heroes of Democracy in the Lawan of Parliament House.

Monument in memory of the 'unsung heroes of democracy'

Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani had come up with the idea for the monument

By Monitoring Desk

A monument in remembrance of 'unsung heroes of democracy' was established in the lawns of Parliament House and was inaugurated on Friday by Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani and Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.

They also lay a wreath at the memorial during the inauguration.

Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani had come up with the idea for the monument six months ago about which the speaker National Assembly was also briefed. Four artists from Lok Virsa worked on the monument along with Capital Development Authority staff and completed it in a month and a half.

The chairman Senate had also come up with the idea for Constitution Lane or Gali-i-Dastoor, which was established in Parliament House last year.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Rabbani said the incumbent democratic government is due to the sacrifices of many political workers, intellectuals, journalists, labourers, farmers, writers and people from all walks of life, who are the "unsung heroes of democracy".

He said political workers have been tortured

and imprisoned in the Lahore Fort and that the monument has been established as tribute to all the unnamed "heroes".

He added that the monument may be small but has great importance. The leaders of both houses have decided that all visiting foreign

dignitaries coming to Parliament House will first be taken to the monument and will place a wreath on it.

"It is unfortunate that in the past, the state [misrepresented] those people who played their role in strengthening the rule of law, the



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq addressing on the occasion of Unveiling of the Monument for the Unsung Heroes of Democracy in the Lawan of Parliament House.

Constitution and parliament. "What we are now and the status we enjoy today is due to these unsung heroes. The benefits of democracy have been underplayed and that of a dictatorship exaggerated through pre-planned efforts," he said.

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said he cannot compare his political struggles

Mr. Rabbani said the incumbent democratic government is due to the sacrifices of many political workers, intellectuals, journalists, labourers, farmers, writers and people from all walks of life, who are the "unsung heroes of democracy".

with the sacrifices that the chairman Senate had made for democracy. He stressed on the need for promoting the culture of tolerance. Mr Sadiq added that the monument was established in remembrance of people's sacrifices and the tortures they were put through.

Deputy Chairman Senate Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, Deputy Speaker National Assembly Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Leader of the House in Senate Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq and other parliamentarians, members of the civil society and media also attended the inauguration.



Group photo of Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Deputy Speaker National Assembly Murtaza Javed Abbasi & Leader of the House in Senate Raja Zafar Ul Haq on eve of Unveiling of the Monument for the Unsung Heroes of Democracy in the Lawan of Parliament House, Islamabad.



Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani & Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq arriving at the occasion of Unveiling of the Monument for the Unsung Heroes of Democracy in the Lawan of Parliament House, Islamabad.



A delegation headed by Speaker of the People's Council of Syria, Hadiya Abbas postured after laying wreath at the Monument to pay tribute to the Unsung Heroes of Democratic struggle at the Lawan of Parliament House, Islamabad.



Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq shaking hands with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara, Turkey.

SPEAKER AYAZ SADIQ CALLS ON PRESIDENT RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring Desk

The commitment to further reinforce the special ties and growing cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey was reaffirmed as the Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, called on President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in Ankara.

President Erdoğan was accompanied by the Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) Ismail Kahraman, Chairman of Turkey-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group Muhammet Balta, and other senior Turkish officials. Speaker Ayaz Sadiq was accompanied by the Convener of Pakistan-Turkey Friendship Group in the National Assembly, Pervaiz Malik,

and Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkey Sohail Mahmood.

During the meeting, Speaker Ayaz Sadiq conveyed cordial greetings of the leadership and people of Pakistan and lauded the remarkable progress made by Turkey under President Erdoğan's stewardship, adding that it was a shining example for the Muslim Ummah



Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara.

to emulate. He also conveyed best wishes from Pakistan for Turkey's enhanced political development and economic progress in the future.

Reiterating Pakistan's strong solidarity with the Government and people of Turkey against the heinous coup attempt on 15 July, the Speaker expressed deep admiration for the historic resistance by the Turkish people – led from the front by President Erdoğan – against the illegal action, which served as an inspiration for people across the globe. He also recalled his own interaction with the TGNA Speaker on the night of 15 July to convey Pakistan's unequivocal support and solidarity and highlighted the unanimous Resolutions adopted, later, by the two Houses of Pakistan Parliament in support of Turkey's democracy and democratic institutions.

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq highlighted the immense growth of Pakistan-Turkey relations under the leadership of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and President Erdoğan. Stressing both sides' resolve at the highest level to bring the bilateral economic relationship at par with their excellent political relations, the Speaker noted that the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) would play a crucial role in this endeavor. The Speaker also thanked Turkey for its growing investments in Pakistan, which were making important contribution towards prosperity and development of both countries. The National Assembly Speaker also apprised President Erdoğan of the pivotal role of the two Parliaments, especially of the Pakistan-Turkey Parliamentary Friendship Groups, in following the lead of the highest political leadership towards forging a robust partnership between the two countries.

Extending a warm welcome to the Speaker, President Erdoğan conveyed his greetings

for President Mamnoon Hussein and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Noting the consistent growth in the multifaceted Turkey-Pakistan relationship, President Erdoğan stressed that steps should continue to be taken to take the political, economic, trade, defence, defence industry, and cultural cooperation to newer levels. Recalling his recent visit to Pakistan to attend the 13th Economic Coordination Organization (ECO) Summit in Islamabad, he hoped that the momentum generated by it would enable the regional countries to impart further depth to their economic initiatives. President Erdoğan also reaffirmed Turkey's full support and solidarity for Pakistan on all issues and reiterated the resolve to further fortify bilateral ties.

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq conveyed cordial greetings of the leadership and people of Pakistan and lauded the remarkable progress made by Turkey under President Erdoğan's stewardship



Group photo of Speaker NA Sardar Ayaz Sadiq along with his Parliamentary delegation at Mausoleum of Mevlana Jalaluddin Rumi Konya.



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in one on one meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Mr. Binali Yildirim at Ankara, Turkey.

Turkey considered Pakistan as a true brother: PM Binali Yildirim

By M.saeed Yousafzai, Monitoring Desk

The parliamentary delegation of Pakistan led by Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, currently on a visit to Turkey called on the Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim.

The two sides exchanged views on further deepening the brotherly Pakistan-Turkey ties, particularly the enhancement of bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

They noted with satisfaction the ongoing progress on Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which is expected to be concluded soon. Once signed, they hoped that it would provide a major boost to the realization of the robust economic partnership as envisioned by the leadership of the two countries.

Mutual support on each other's national causes, i.e. Cyprus and Kashmir, was reiterated. Prime Minister Binali Yildirim extended felicitations on Pakistan's National Day (23rd March) and stressed that Turkey considered Pakistan as a true brother. He particularly appreciated the strong support and solidarity extended by the leadership, Parliament and

people of Pakistan against the heinous coup attempt of July 15, 2016 in Turkey.

Referring to the recent visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to Turkey, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said that notable

progress was made on cooperation in diverse fields including infrastructure development, health, communications, media and culture, and bilateral investments.

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq highlighted the unique



Meeting of Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Sardar Ayaz Sadiq with Turkish Prime Minister Mr. Binali Yildirim at Ankara, Turkey.

quality of Pakistan-Turkey relations and thanked the Turkish Prime Minister for taking deep personal interest in promoting closer cooperation with Pakistan. He also lauded the remarkable progress made by Turkey and commended the public welfare-oriented policies of the Turkish government. He noted

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq particularly thanked the Turkish leadership and Prime Minister Binali Yildirim for their support for the cause of Kashmir.

with satisfaction that the two sides were forging a strong partnership at all levels.

He stressed that the special ties between Pakistan and Turkey should be sustained through more parliamentary exchanges and people-to-people contacts and that the abiding tradition of solidarity and standing by each other should be transmitted to the future generations.

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq particularly thanked the Turkish leadership and Prime Minister Binali Yildirim for their support for the cause of Kashmir. He also expressed deep appreciation of the people of Pakistan for the participation



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq meeting with Secretary General of the Turkish Parliament Mir Mehmet Ali Kumbuzoglu at Ankara, Turkey.



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq along with his Parliamentary delegation during a meeting with Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly Mr. Ismail Kahraman at Ankara.



Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and accompanying Parliamentary Delegation visited Mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk and Laid Floral Wreath, Ankara, Turkey.



Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly Mr. Ismail Kahraman received Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Turkish Parliament, Ankara, Turkey.



Secretary General of the Turkish Parliament Mr. Mehmet Ali Kumbuzoglu receiving Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Ankara, Turkey.

Turkey's traditional Mehtar Band in the Pakistan Day Parade in Islamabad on 23rd March 2017. Secretary General of the Turkish Parliament Mr Mehmet Ali Kumbuzoğlu, Chairman of Turkey-Pakistan Friendship Group in Turkish Parliament Mr Muhammet Balta, Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey Mr. Sohail Mahmood,

Deputy Governor Ankara, and senior officials of the Turkish Parliament and Pakistan Embassy received the delegation.

The Pakistan Parliamentary delegation comprises MNAs Mr. Muhammad Parvez Malik, Ms. Shagufta Jumani, Ms. Seema Mohiuddeen Jameeli, Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb, Ms. Shaista

Pervez Malik, Mujahid Ali, Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote, and Sheikh Salahuddin. Secretary National Assembly Mr. Abdul Jabbar Ali and Director General Public Relations of National Assembly Muhammad Anwar Sial are also accompanying



Governor Konya Yakup Janbolat presenting a Memento to Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Konya.



Federal Minister for Commerce, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan and Minister of Industries Mr. Vitaly Vovk Signing the Agreement Between Pakistan and Belarus at Karachi.

Pak, Belarus agree to enhance bilateral trade

The two-day second Pak-Belarus Joint Ministerial Commission meeting on promotion of bilateral trade volume and improve economic cooperation, concluded. The meeting was co-chaired by Federal Commerce Minister Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan and Republic of Belarus Minister of Industry, Vitaly Vovk, and after having deliberations on various sectors of economy and other matters of mutual cooperation, both the ministers signed meeting's minutes.

The JMC meeting was attended by Belarus Ambassador in Pakistan, Consular, Head of South Asia Affairs Section, and Pakistan's Economic Affairs Division Secretary Tariq Bajwa and other relevant authorities from both sides. The meeting adopted the agenda comprising Trade and Investment, Industry, Agriculture, Energy, Health, Education, Inter-regional Cooperation, Sports, Culture, Banking Sector Co-operation and Barter mechanism. The meeting also evaluated the progress of the decisions taken during first session of Pak-Belarus JMC held in Minsk on August 7, 2015. During the discussions in the second JMC session, the delegates from both countries



Federal Minister for Commerce, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan and Minister of Industries Belarus Mr. Vitaly Vovk exchanging Document after signing the agreement between Pakistan and Belarus at Karachi.

presented various proposals to enhance bilateral trade and industrial development, joint ventures, lifting of visa and export/import restrictions, promotion of banking, communication, information technology, media development, industrial and agricultural development, and energy to Pakistan and cooperation in other areas of mutual interest like education, health, culture and sports.

On this occasion, Khurram told media persons that Pakistan greatly values the warm and long-standing relations with the friendly country of Belarus, and committed to further enhancing these bilateral relations. He said political-economic relations between Pakistan and Belarus had witnessed a boost during the last two years, particularly in 2015 following three high-level exchanges between the two countries, as about 68 MoUs and agreements

were signed during these visits.

The Federal Minister said that Pakistan and Belarus had tremendous scope to improve trade and economic relations in various sectors, asserting that trade worked as a catalyst in improving political and economic relations between countries, but presently the bilateral trade was much below the potential of both countries. The true potential could only be harnessed by bringing diversification in bilateral trade, adding value to our products, establishing complementarities and creating enabling environments for business, and formation and activation of Joint Business Council (JBC), he added. During the Lahore visit, the Belarus delegation head and Minister of Industry Vitaly Vovk also called upon Punjab Governor and Chief Minister, and discussed matters of mutual interest and regional importance.

Pakistan greatly values the warm and long-standing relations with the friendly country of Belarus, and committed to further enhancing these bilateral relations:
Khurram Dastgir



South Africa, Pakistan ink defence agreements

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Monitoring Desk

Pakistan and South Africa signed a defence deal with Pakistan that will entail increased military cooperation between the two countries at a ceremony held at the defence ministry in Rawalpindi.

The agreement signed by the two countries includes the purchase of military equipment, training of armed forces, and enhanced defence cooperation overseen by a bilateral defence committee.

South Africa's Minister of Defence and Military Veterans Affairs N.N. Mapisa Nqakula, who represented her country, reportedly expressed an interest in acquiring JF-17 Thunder fighter jets and Super Mushshak training aircraft and other defence equipment.

She also agreed to a combined committee that would oversee increased defense co-operation between the two countries.

According to press release of South African Government that due to sanctions and embargoes imposed against South Africa, the two countries did not officially initiate bilateral relations only until the end of apartheid in 1994. However, since then, Pakistan-SA relationship has been gaining momentum.



Federal Minister Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif presenting a gift to his South African Counterpart Ms. Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula at Ministry in Rawalpindi.

The importance of continuous cementing of relations in an effort to share knowledge and ideas can never be overemphasized. As the South African National Defence Force,

we believe in empowering ourselves and others through collaborative partnerships and agreements, said Minister Mapisa-Nqakula. In addition, Minister Mapisa-Nqakula expressed

The agreement signed by the two countries includes the purchase of military equipment, training of armed forces, and enhanced defence cooperation overseen by a bilateral defence committee.

hope that the MoU will yield the expected results.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said Pakistan is developing its relationships with friendly countries like South Africa through defence cooperation agreements, thus reducing its dependence on western countries. On the occasion, federal minister added that Pakistan is at the forefront in war on terror and that the troops destroyed terror hideouts and rehabilitated displaced families in Pakistan.

Nqakula also called on Army Chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa at General Headquarters, a statement issued by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

During the meeting, views were exchanged on issues of mutual interest including defence and security cooperation between both the countries and overall regional security situation. The minister expressed her appreciation for Army's successes in elimination of terrorism from Pakistan.

Earlier, on arrival at GHQ, the Defence Minister laid floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada. A

smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Army presented the guard of honour to the visiting dignitary, the ISPR statement said.

The minister expressed her appreciation for Pakistan Army's successes in eliminating

terrorism in the country, the statement added. Minister Mapisa-Nqakula's maiden trip to Pakistan marks the first official visit by a South African Minister of Defence and Military Veterans in democratic South Africa.



Federal Minister for Defence Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain in a meeting with South African Defence Minister Ms. Nosiviwe Mapisa-NQakula at Ministry of Defence in Rawalpindi.



Federal Minister Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif in a Group photo with South African Defence delegation at Ministry of Defence in Rawalpindi.



Z.A Bhutto & April 4

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was born on January 5, 1928. He was the only son of Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto completed his early education from Bombay's Cathedral High School. In 1947, he joined the University of Southern California, and later the University of California at Berkeley in June 1949. After completing his degree with honors in Political Science at Berkeley in June 1950, he was admitted to Oxford.

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto married Nusrat Isphahani on September 8, 1951. He was called to Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1953, and the same year his first child, Benazir Bhutto, was born on June 21. On his return to Pakistan, Bhutto started practicing Law at Dingomal's.

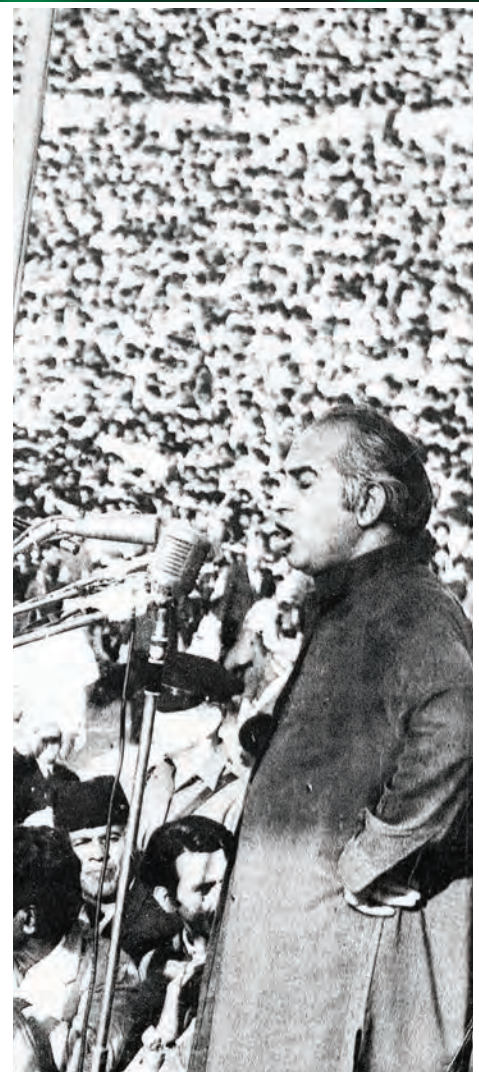
In 1958, he joined President Iskander Mirza's Cabinet as Commerce Minister. He was the youngest Minister in Ayub Khans Cabinet. In 1963, he took over the post of Foreign Minister from Muhammad Ali Bogra.

His first major achievement was to conclude the Sino-Pakistan boundary agreement on March 2, 1963. In mid 1964, Bhutto helped convince Ayub of the wisdom of establishing closer economic and diplomatic links with Turkey and Iran. The trio later on formed the R. C. D. In June 1966, Bhutto left Ayub's Cabinet over differences concerning the Tashkent Agreement.

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto launched Pakistan Peoples Party after leaving Ayub's Cabinet. In the general elections held in December 1970, P. P. P. won a large majority in West Pakistan

Bhutto's Talents

As a member of Pakistan's delegation to the United Nation in 1957, at the age of 29 years, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto addressed the Sixth Conference of the United Nations on "The Definition of Aggression", a speech which is still regarded as one of the best on the subject. As a participant at the International Conference in Geneva, Switzerland in March, 1958 Zulfikar Ali Bhutto spoke for mankind with the bold declaration: "The High Seas are free to all." He was the youngest Federal Cabinet member in the history of Pakistan, at the age of 30.



but failed to reach an agreement with Sheikh Mujib-ur-Rahman, the majority winner from East Pakistan. Following the 1971 War and the separation of East Pakistan, Yahya Khan resigned and Bhutto took over as President and Chief Martial Law Administrator on December 20, 1971.

In early 1972, Bhutto nationalized ten categories of major industries, and withdrew Pakistan from the Commonwealth of Nations and S. E. A. T. O. when Britain and other western countries recognized the new state of Bangladesh. On March 1, he introduced land reforms, and on July 2, 1972, signed the Simla Agreement with India, which paved the way for the return of occupied lands and the release of Pakistani prisoners captured in East Pakistan in the 1971 war.

After the National Assembly passed the 1973 Constitution, Bhutto was sworn-in as the Prime Minister of the country.

On December 30, 1973, Bhutto laid the foundation of Pakistan's first steel mill at Pipri, near Karachi. On January 1, 1974, Bhutto nationalized all banks. On February 22, 1974, the second Islamic Summit was inaugurated in Lahore. Heads of States of most of the 38 Islamic countries attended the Summit.

Following a political crisis in the country, Bhutto was imprisoned by General Zia-ul-Haq, who imposed Martial Law on July 5, 1977.

On April 4, 1979, the former Prime Minister was hanged, after the Supreme Court upheld the death sentence passed by the Lahore High Court. The High Court had given him the death sentence on charges of murder of the father of a dissident P. P. P. politician.

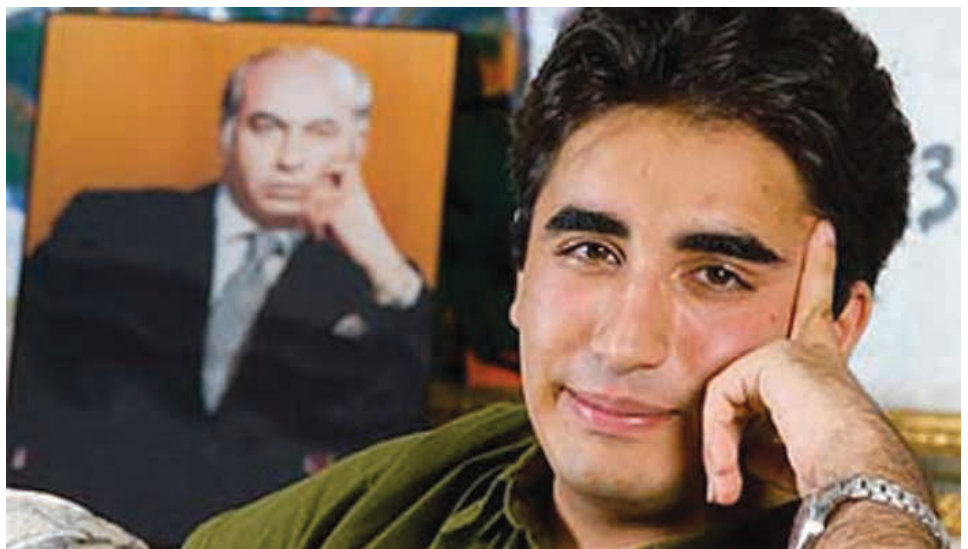
Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was buried in his ancestral village at Garhi Khuda Baksh, next to his father's grave.



Bilawal pays tributes to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto on 38th death anniversary

"When the judicial murder of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and assassination of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto could not deter us from his mission, how can victimisations, wild accusations, and conspiracies stop us...A democratic, egalitarian, progressive, peaceful and model Muslim nation with each citizen enjoying equal rights is his philosophy, which is being still harshly resisted by dictatorial, political sharks and their puppets in the form of victimisation and sheer propaganda"

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari
Chairman PPP



Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Outgoing Ambassador of Myanmar Win Naing called on President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong with Prof. Tang Mengshang called on President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Ms. Amber Rudd member Parliament, Home Secretary of the United Kingdom called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM House, Islamabad.



Mr. Wang Binghua, Chairman State Power Investment Corporation of China called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at Islamabad.



Interior Minister Ch. Nisar Ali Khan and British Home Secretary Amber Rudd exchanging views during their meeting in Islamabad.



Ambassador of France, Mrs. Martine Dorance called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, Islamabad.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the Ambassador of Qatar H.E. Saqer Bin Mubarak Al-Manooori in Islamabad.



Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi in a meeting with Minister for Labour and Social Development on Saudi Arabia Mr. Ali Bin Nasir Al Ghafis in Riyadh.



Indian Parliamentary delegation called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, Islamabad.



Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi in a meeting with the US Department of State's Special Advisor on Religious Minorities Mr. Knox Thamaes in Islamabad.



Ambassador of European Union Mr. Jean-Francois called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, Islamabad.



UK High Commissioner Thomas Drew called on Interior Minister Ch. Nisar Ali Khan at Punjab House Islamabad.



A Wonderful Journey to the Top Tourist Destination: Bangkok, Thailand

By Mian Fazal Elahi

H.E. Mr. Suchart Liengsaengthong, Ambassador of Thailand to Pakistan, together with Mr. Natthakorn Chunchacha, Country Manager of Thai Airways in Pakistan, took a Pakistani delegation; comprised of H.E. Mr. Chaudhry Abdul Ghafoor Khan, Managing Director of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (MD of PTDC), and journalists from Business Recorder, Global Affaires, Pakistan Observer, and Jang Group, to a 4-day journey and exploration of Thailand's capital city, Bangkok.

Here are the top 5 main activities that the group experienced firsthand to see whether Bangkok lives up to its ranking by MasterCard as a city most visited by international travellers in 2016.

1. Staying at the Hotel Centara Grand & Bangkok Convention Centre at Central World

The Centara Grand Hotel is one of the top

choices for international travellers due to its location in the heart of Bangkok, with the distance of 700 metres from Siam sky-train station and around 1 km from Airport Rail Link station, and also due to its seamless connection to the Central World Mall, one of the biggest lifestyle and shopping complexes in Southeast Asia. In this connection, the Centara Grand Hotel has seen increasing number of Pakistani clients and, therefore, planning to send a team

to further explore the market and find potential business partners in Pakistan.

2. Meeting with Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and Thai Tourist Police at TAT Head Office

TAT and Thai Tourist Police are the backbone organizations to the thriving tourist industry in Thailand. On the promotion of tourism, TAT gave a presentation to the delegation on



its utilization of media, its strategy of holding special events with incentive to target groups, and its execution of the best practices in promoting different types of tourism to attract international and domestic tourists

to various destinations in Thailand. With the number of 32 million tourists visited Thailand from abroad last year, this year the TAT aims to reach its target of 34 million people. Together with the TAT's marketing

strategy and execution, the Thai Tourist Police ensured their utmost commitment and capability in providing services and safety to tourists in Thailand.



3. Exploring the diverse culture of Thailand through Siam Niramit

Thailand is a country of diverse culture, which can mainly be categorized according to the region of The North, The South Seas, The Northeast (Issan), and the Central Plains. Majority of the Thai people are Buddhists and also believed in a mystical world of Heaven and Hell. From these beliefs, Thais hold many festivals and religious ceremonies to attain an auspicious and prosperous life. These cultures, ideas, and practices are shown through stunning performances by more than 100 performers and animals, like elephants, at the state of the art theatre called Siam Niramit.

4. Visiting King Power Group: Thailand's duty free pioneer

Besides being the sole retailer of goods in all duty free shops at Thailand's Suvarnabhumi Airport, the King Power Group also has its shops selling duty free products in Don Meung Airport, Phuket Airport, Chiang Mai Airport, Hat Yai Airport, downtown Bangkok, Pattaya City, and also Phuket City. Tracing this success in bringing world's leading brands and premium local Thai products to places frequented by international travellers, the delegation visited



the King Power Downtown Rangnam Complex and was received by Executive Vice President–Group Marketing of King Power Group.

5. Experience the Spa and Medical Tourism

Thailand is renowned as a destination with world class hospitals, health services, and spa.

To experiencing the reputation and attraction in this tourist sector, the delegation visited World Medical Hospital, Let's Relax Spa, and Thai Airways' Royal Orchid Spa.





Khalid Iqbal Malik, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry presenting a shield to Adviser to Prime Minister on Energy Zahid Muzaffar who was chief guest at a 'Roundtable Energy Conference' organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry.



President Mamnoon Hussain interacting with a delegation of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



President Mamnoon Hussain in a group photo with a delegation of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) at Aiwan-e-Sadr Islamabad.

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at Karachi Marriott Hotel welcomed by Regional General Manager, Karachi Marriott Hotel Mr. Hartmut Noack on a two-day visit and attended an event to celebrate the Holi festival.





Interior Minister Ch. Nisar Ali Khan chairing meeting of the Ambassadors of Islamic countries in Islamabad.

MUSLIM ENVOYS DECIDE TO FORMULATE JOINT STRATEGY AGAINST BLASPHEMOUS CONTENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

A formal reference will be sent to Arab League and OIC Secretary Generals raising the issue of blasphemous content.

**Sections of the Western world must get out of double standards about Islam and the Muslims:
Ch. Nisar Ali Khan**

By Monitoring & Web Desk,

A meeting of Muslim Ambassadors in Islamabad decided to formulate a joint strategy to address the issue of blasphemous content on social media.

Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan chaired the meeting.

It was decided that a comprehensive strategy paper will be circulated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs among the ambassadors of the Muslim countries, which they will share with their governments to evolve future plan of action.

A formal reference will also be sent to Secretary General of the Arab League and Secretary General of OIC raising the issue of blasphemous content on social media.

The meeting decided that after response is received from the government of the Islamic countries, the matter then will be taken up at the level of United Nations.

Besides, legal options will be explored to follow up the matter legally in the courts of the respective countries from where such content is being generated.

Addressing the meeting Interior Minister Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan said the Islamic Ummah must strive together to impress upon the international community to shed off Islamophobia.

He said distortion of any religion is also another

form of terrorism that the international community must acknowledge.

He said sections of the Western world must get out of double standards about Islam and the Muslims.

The Ambassadors greatly appreciated the Interior Minister's initiative for highlighting the issue and taking lead role towards finding a solution to the issue.

Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs, secretary interior and senior officers of the interior ministry were also present during the meeting. The ambassadors present during the meeting were Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Qatar, Somalia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Palestine, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and high commissioners of Maldives and Brunei Darus Salam.

The Islamic Ummah must strive together to impress upon the international community to shed off Islamophobia: Ch. Nisar Ali Khan



“Pakistan Past and Present”

**in connection to mark Pakistan Day
at Nazriya Pakistan Council, Aiwan-i-Quaid, Islamabad.**





Foreign Secretary Tehmina must cross five rivers

Cerebral, indefatigable and focused like a laser beam, she has earned the respect of her seniors, peers and juniors alike

By: Dr Aamir Khan

In a remarkable development, Ms. Tehmina Janjua has been nominated the new Foreign Secretary of Pakistan. The development is remarkable because Tehmina is the first woman to be appointed to this prestigious and high-profile post. It is also highly commendable. Pakistan needs women role-models at every rung of its antediluvian, male-dominated structures. Tehmina is one of the most competent diplomats forged by the venerable Ministry of Foreign Affairs is beyond doubt. Cerebral, indefatigable and focused like a laser beam, she has earned the respect of her seniors, peers and juniors alike.

Her competence notwithstanding, she will need to cross five major rivers on assuming charge. This she will have to do both quickly and in ways that are acceptable to the relevant stakeholders. The first will be transitioning from the role of an Ambassador to developing a worldview of her own on all major global developments directly affecting Pakistan. India has been cantankerous since Mumbai and bilateral equilibrium has been sustained largely by the two neighbors' reluctance to fight a costly war. Afghanistan is at loggerheads with us. The US, maladroitly mired in Afghanistan, has no good clue on its exit strategy. And the Foreign Office does not know Trump well.

To her relief, Tehmina will find in China a trustworthy and benevolent friend with sangfroid. However, she may wonder: How many in the Foreign Office understand China and can name top officials there except the President and possibly the Prime Minister? She will need to involve the Foreign Office in the management of CPEC, and perhaps even in its marketing within Pakistan. More important, she will need to tread a fine line between the interests of the US and China, a task that is bound to get more intricate with the passage of time.

Once she develops her own personal worldview on the US, India and Afghanistan, largely aided by analyses sent to her by hundreds of her Ambassadors and other diplomats (some

crisp and thoughtful, others long-winded and desultory), she will face a new river to cross, having crossed the first river (to translate a famous Urdu verse). She will discover that the Foreign Office has lost its seat at the table over the last three decades. In fact, the Foreign Office does not really make foreign policy anymore, even though it gets to prepare briefs and talking points which few read. Winning back lost turf from more powerful and less generous stakeholders will test Tehmina's mettle. These stakeholders include not only the Establishment but also the mighty media. As one diplomat confided in me recently "These media now rip us apart in two minutes on prime time and we cannot do much about it". Once Tehmina manages to convince her institutional rivals (the office of the Prime Minister, the Establishment, the TV and print media, the other political parties) that even though the cachet of the Foreign Office of the 1950s and 1960s cannot be recreated, her Foreign Office deserves at least a seat, however small, at the table, she will face a third river to cross. Its currents will be almost as strong as in the second. She will need to change no less than the very ethos of the Foreign Office.

Pakistan's Foreign Office was invented long before the birth of Pakistan, at a time when diplomacy was left to diplomats because kings, and later prime ministers, found it prohibitively cumbersome to actually travel to the other country. Diplomats in turn came up with stylized formats of communication. One such format was country reports that contained prices of vegetables and eggs. Another was shipping a five hundred-page annual report that nobody with self-respect would read. Funnily, these practices are in vogue even now.

But things have changed. Take CPEC. It is a huge bilateral undertaking, worth perhaps more than USD 50 billion and may grow even further; the umbrella term of CPEC subsumes a large number of full-fledged projects. The Foreign Office however is threatened with exclusion from practically all of its aspects. CPEC needs project management skills, financial skills,

engineering skills, legal skills, even language skills. Can the Foreign Office provide these? The Foreign Office still has some of the finest bureaucrats as its members but have they been properly trained? Even writing speeches has become a technical expertise rather than a general skill. Very soon, the Foreign Office will be facing the threat of seeming like a post office protocol office combined in one.

But disparaging the Foreign Office is the last thing one should do — least of all this writer who learnt most of what he knows today from his generous seniors of this venerable institution. What Tehmina will thus need to do above all is somehow to motivate her people because the Foreign Secretary is, or should be, the Chief Human Resource Officer. I say this because in all my management experience, I have found that no one variable more important in accomplishing a task than motivating the workforce. But motivation will not come by augmenting the dollar amount each diplomat gets at the end of each month. Frederick Herzberg taught us half a century ago that until an employee enjoys autonomy and finds his or her work interesting, he or she will not be motivated. But this will only happen when the Foreign Office gets a seat at the table. The five rivers are in fact a complex delta.

Finally, Tehmina will need to let go of the very asset that catapulted her and many of her predecessors into this job — control over her domain. A great leader trains his successors. To make this happen, she or he needs to delegate work. Somehow, this might prove to be the most difficult river to cross because talented officers on reaching the pinnacle in the Ministry eventually stop trusting, and thus training, their subordinates.

I have not discussed Panama and its implications for the Foreign Office. For now, hats off to Tehmina for breaking the glass ceiling. We wish you the very best.

The writer has studied at Oxford, INSEAD and Cranfield. He was trained at the Foreign Office by Ambassadors Inamul Haque, Riaz Khokhar and Ashraf Qazi



Tehmina Janjua

The new foreign secretary of Pakistan

The first woman appointed to the Foreign Office's top post

Ms. Tehmina Janjua is a seasoned diplomat with a career spanning over 32 years. She has rich experience of working in bilateral and multilateral domains — both at the headquarters and missions abroad. She also served as a director at the foreign secretary's office, director general strategic planning, and briefly as a spokesperson for the ministry of foreign affairs during 2011.

At Pakistan's Mission Abroad, Ms. Tehmina Janjua served as:

At Pakistan's Missions Abroad, Ms. Tehmina

Janjua served as: Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Geneva (October 2015 - March 2017); Ambassador of Pakistan to Italy (concurrently accredited to Albania, San Marino, Slovenia, FAO, IFAD and WFP) (2011-2015); Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Geneva (2005-2009); Counsellor Pakistan Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Geneva (1996-2000); and

Second Secretary/First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations, New York (1990-1995).

She served as the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad in 2011.

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad, Ms. Tehmina Janjua has served as:

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad, Ms. Tehmina Janjua has served as: Director General (Strategic Planning), Foreign Secretary's Office (2009 to 2011); Director Foreign Secretary's Office (2004-2005); Director Minister of State for Foreign Affairs' Office (2000); Director Foreign Secretary's Office (1995-1996); Acting Director of the Office of the National Security Adviser (1989); and Desk Officer, Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, Foreign Office (1986-1987).

Holds Masters in International Relations (M.I.A) degree from School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), Columbia University and Literature, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad (1983).

Married to Syed Mansur Raza.





**Pakistan, US should work together to destroy ISIS before it gains foothold in Afghanistan:
I am confident that
President Trump & his administration
will engage positively with Pakistan
for the common benefit of our two countries: Ambassador Aizaz**

By Monitoring Desk

Pakistan's new ambassador to the United States Aizaz Chaudhry has expressed the confidence that President Trump and his new administration will engage positively with Pakistan, saying the two nations have been partners for last seven decades and their multifaceted ties have benefitted both.

In his first interview with APP, after assuming his new assignment in Washington, Ambassador Chaudhry said he would work to deepen the mutually beneficial ties the two countries have enjoyed since long.

The Ambassador said that given that both President Trump and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif have strong business backgrounds, the two countries can certainly profit from strong economic relations.

"One area where the two countries have cooperated closely in the recent past is the shared desire to defeat the menace of terrorism. Our partnership has helped to defeat Al-Qaeda," the Ambassador said.

Underscoring Pakistan's unwavering commitment to counter terrorism, the Ambassador said that Pakistan and the US could continue this mission until our region is rid of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. On Afghanistan, the Ambassador stated that

the two countries could also work together to stabilize Afghanistan. "Pakistan would like to see a stable, peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan. We have suffered in the past from instability in Afghanistan."

Responding to a question, he said that it was vital that the United States and Pakistan work together to destroy ISIS before it gains any footholds in Afghanistan.

When his attention was drawn to the fact that some US lawmakers continue to express reservation about Pakistan's commitment to fight terrorism, the Ambassador stated that it was important that the US lawmakers were apprised of the reality of today's Pakistan, which was way too different from the perceptions created by some detractors.

He said that Pakistan has turned the tide against terrorism and Operation Zarb-e-Azb was a resounding success. "We are now consolidating through a new military operation Radd ul Fasaad, which is meant to search and eliminate terrorists hiding in our society," he added.

The Ambassador said that the implementation of the National Action Plan has become one of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's top priorities.

"As Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, I was honored to sit in many high level meetings where such decisions were taken and reviewed. I can say it with authority that Pakistan is now well on its

way to defeat terrorism in our country."

He said he would make efforts to take this positive story to each member of the US Congress and show them the fast emerging positive reality of Pakistan. "We would also welcome the US legislators to visit Pakistan and see for themselves the new, stronger and prosperous Pakistan," he added.

Ambassador Chaudhry said that before arriving in Washington, he called on the President and the Prime Minister as well as senior civil and military leadership, and there was a complete consensus in Pakistan to have friendly and cooperative ties with the United States.

"The US remains one of our most important relationships in terms of trade, economy, defense, energy, health, education, and culture," the Ambassador said and added that he was here to build on the excellent history of cooperation the two countries have enjoyed since long.

"I am confident that President Trump and his administration will engage positively with Pakistan for the common benefit of our two countries," the Ambassador added.



Deputy Deen of GCC Countries & Jordan Ambassador hosts farewell reception for Saudi Ambassador

The Ambassador of Jordan to Pakistan, H.E. Nawaf Khalifeh Saraieh hosted a farewell reception for the out-going Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Abdullah Marzouk Al-Zahrani at Embassy of Bahrain in Islamabad. The reception was also attended by the Ambassadors of GCC countries in Pakistan.



Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the Deputy Foreign Minister of Italy H.E. Benedetto Della Vedova in Islamabad.



Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engr. Iqbal Zafar Jhagra talking to the Ambassador of France to Pakistan Mrs. Martine Dorance who called on him here at Governor's House, Peshawar.



Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi in a meeting with the Former Prime Minister of Norway mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik in Islamabad.



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Erik Beishembiev in Islamabad.



Ambassador of Belarus to Pakistan, H.E. Andrei G. Ermolovich called on Federal Minister for Defence Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain in Islamabad.



Finance Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in a meeting with Italian Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, Mr. Benedetto Della Vedova in Islamabad.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the Director General for International Security Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey Mr. Alper Coskun in Islamabad.



Minister of State/Chairman Board of Investment Dr. Miftah Ismail in a meeting with H.E. Ole Thonke, Ambassador of Denmark in Islamabad.



Chairman Foreign Relation Committee of China Mr. Wang Xiaochu called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Islamabad.



Women Parliamentary delegation from Islamic Parliament of Iran Ms. Parvaneh Salashouri & Ms. AghaPor Alishshi Member Parliament called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, Islamabad.



Ambassador of Tajikistan H.E. Jononov Sherali called on Federal Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Muhammad Asif in Islamabad.



British High Commissioner to Pakistan, H.E. Thomas Drew called on National Security Adviser, Lt. Gen. (R) Nasser Khan Janua in Islamabad.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar had a meeting with the US Ambassador, Mr. David Hale in Islamabad.



Sports Minister of Zimbabwe, Makhosini Hlongwane called on Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan in a meeting with French Ambassador to Pakistan Ms. Martine Dorance in Islamabad.



The North Korean Ambassador, Dr. Suh Dong-Gu called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engr. Iqbal Zafar Jhagra at Governor's House, Peshawar.



Federal Minister for Railways, Khawaja Saad Rafique meets Swedish Ambassador H.E. Ms. Ingrid Johansson who called on him in Islamabad.



Dr. Ali Al-Rahmani, Ambassador of Iraq called on Secretary Defence Lt General (Retd) Zameer-ul-Hassan Shah, in Ministry of Defence, Rawalpindi.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi in a meeting with the delegation of the Indonesian Parliamen in Islamabad.



H.E. Jean Francois Cautain, Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan called on Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, Minister of State for IB & NH in Islamabad.



Dr. Ali Al-Rahmani, Ambassador of Iraq, presenting a souvenir to Secretary Lt General (Retd) Zameer-Ul-Hassan Shah, in Ministry of Defence, Rawalpindi.



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz with Hon Patricia Scotland, Secretary General Commonwealth in London.



Tenun Exhibition & Fashion Show

Hosted by Ms. Rita Berlinia Amri spouse of Indonesian ambassador to Pakistan at the residence in Islamabad





Happy birthday



to

Ms. Jasmina
Makarevic
Better Half of
H.E. Makarevic
Nedim Ambassador
of Bosnia and
Herzegovina in
Pakistan





EU launches 'Subai-Pakistan' project to strengthen Provincial Assemblies

A high-level launch of the 3-year EU-funded Subai-Pakistan Project was hosted by the Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, H.E. Jean-François Cautain, in the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) in Islamabad



By M. Saeed Yousafzai

The event was attended by the Honourable Speakers of the Provincial Assemblies of Punjab, Balochistan, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as the Speakers of the Legislative Assemblies of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. The Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly and the Chairman Senate were also in attendance as well as senior Pakistani officials, Ambassadors of the EU Member States, EU delegates and senior representatives from the donor community and civil society. The Subai-Pakistan Project will focus on providing wide-ranging support services to the Provincial and Legislative Assemblies. These will serve to strengthen the institutions, provide support for elected representatives and selected committees, secretariats, as well as help improve the transparency and accessibility of the Provincial Assemblies.

Learn from Pakistan how to combat extremism, says EU ambassador

By M. Saeed Yousafzai



Mr Cautain was speaking at the first session of the two-day international conference titled 'Countering radicalisation and terrorism in Europe, the Middle East and South Asia in the wake of international migration — moving towards peace and harmony'. Organised by the University of Karachi's Area Study Centre for Europe and the Hanns Seidel Foundation, Islamabad, the conference was attended by former and serving diplomats, ambassadors and academics.

Mr Cautain's talk was focused on three main issues and the counter-strategy to be used amidst the ongoing refugee crisis. These issues pertained to, what he believes, were "rising concerns regarding terrorism in the wake of international migration."

A counter-strategy in this scenario, he said, should focus on "cutting links between terror groups as external links between such groups are highly crucial to internal security."

Identifying the needs of EU states, concrete action including better identity checks, and reaching out to international networks to provide expertise and help in ensuring peace, were some of his other suggestions.

Mr. Cautain also spoke about Europe's tryst with the Irish Republican Army (IRA) between 1970-1980 and Red Army Faction of West Germany from 1970 till the late 1990s. "Four hundred people were killed every year all over Europe by these [groups]. Terrorism in its present form is religion-based and far more concerning to the Europeans," he added.

As part of the new global strategy, "there is a need to develop close cooperation networks with not just [the] east but also [the] south of Europe. It can be used to find new synergies

"Ending radicalisation is no more a one-way street or about the West teaching others. Countries such as Pakistan have ample experience in dealing with extremism for years. Its expertise can help foster international networks to help secure borders," said ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Jean Francois Cautain.

and militant networks."

Allowing genuine refugees and preventing the entry of illegal ones is another step which needs to be taken efficiently, he said, adding that, "[Migration] is a phenomenon which is going to increase."





“Highlights of the Belgian Comic Strip Art”



The Embassy of Belgium in Islamabad jointly with the Marriott Hotel in Karachi arranged the famous comic strip art of Belgium at Marriott Hotel of Karachi.

The exhibition display the covers of some of the most famous comic strip books of Belgium. With more than 700 comic strip authors, Belgium has more comic strip artists per square kilometre than any other country in the world. It is here that the comic strip has grown from a popular medium into an art in its own right. Nowhere else comics are so strongly rooted in reality and in people's imagination.



The exhibition produced by the Comics Art Museum of Brussels and showcases more than 50 of Belgium's best-known comic strip heroes: from Tintin, Spirou, Bob and Bobette to the Smurfs, Lucky Luke and many, many others.

The comic book exhibition is one of the many events that are organized in the framework of the Francophonie Week, the annual event which celebrates the French Language in Pakistan.



Francophonie Week

French Ambassador

H.E. Martine Dorance

hosted a ceremony to launch the Francophonie Week held at the residence of French Ambassador in Islamabad.



Republic of Lithuania celebrated National Day

H.E. Mr. Audrius Bruzga, Ambassador of Lithuania to Pakistan and Mr. Masud M. Khan Honorary Consul General of Lithuania along his spouse Asmara Masud hosted a reception dinner to celebrate the National Day of Republic of Lithuania and 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the Honorary Consulate General of Lithuania in Pakistan.

The function was held at the residence of the Pakistani hosts and attended by a mixed guest list of Pakistanis from different walks of life and members of the diplomatic community. Prominent among the Pakistanis was Governor Punjab, Muhammed Rafique Rajwana who was the guest of honour; Mayor Islamabad, Sheikh Ansar Aziz; statesman and lawyer, Wasim Sajjad who served as the acting President of Pakistan for two non-consecutive terms and as the Chairman of the Senate.







Earth Hour love for planet earth

A hundred and seventy countries, including Pakistan, observed the 10th Earth Hour 2017 on March 25, between 8.30 to 9.30pm local time, and participate in the World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) effort to show global commitment to the planet.

Each year, businesses and landmarks set aside an hour to switch off non-essential lights and observe Earth Hour in an effort to advocate action for climate change.

A ceremony was held at Parliament House in Islamabad on Saturday to mark the 10th Earth Hour observed worldwide, including Pakistan. Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb was chief guest of the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, she said Pakistan is one of 144 countries taking part in this campaign. She said Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Hyderabad, Quetta, Multan, Peshawar are included in 7001 cities worldwide that are putting off lights for one hour to mark the event. Minister of State said Pakistani Parliament last



Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb Minister of State for IB & NH addressing on the eve of a ceremony held in connection to mark Earth Hour celebration in Islamabad.



Pakistan's Vision 2025 considers climate change as one of the top national priorities: Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

year promised to convert itself into solar energy. Now, it is first legislative house in the world

Pakistan will play its due role to boost the national climate change resilience, protect lives and livelihoods of the people: Mian Raza Rabbani

completely running on Solar Power. She said Pakistan's first reverse monitoring system has also been introduced at parliament. Marriyum Aurangzeb said during three and half years of this government, a number of energy projects have been started to overcome the shortage of power in the country. Now, the duration of load-shedding has reduced from

17-18 hours to 3 to 4 hours daily. She said by 2018, 80% projects will start generating electricity.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said under China Pakistan Economic Corridor, special attention has been paid on generation of energy. Besides, energy conservation is being made part of school curriculum and it will be started from federal capital. Lights were put off at the Parliament House and all other important buildings in the federal capital from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm to demonstrate love for planet earth. At Parliament House, candles were lit to mark the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister of Capital Administration and Development Division Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said slogan of saving energy has been adopted by the whole world and Pakistan is very much part of this campaign. He said the government is making all-out efforts to increase energy production in the country according to the vision of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. However, it is not oblivious to its responsibilities of protection of environment and

energy conservation. A number of parliamentarians and people from various walks of life attended the ceremony.

Meanwhile, in his message in connection with Earth Hour, Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani said Pakistan will play its due role to boost the national climate change resilience, protect lives and livelihoods of the people. He said this Movement is an attempt at protecting the

environment and by small steps like these we aim to create a world with a better environment. He said the Parliament of Pakistan is glad to be a part of the Earth Hour movement which will see its tenth year this year.

In his message on Earth Hour, National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that Pakistan's Vision 2025 considers climate change as one of the top national priorities.



Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb Minister of State for IB & NH and Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry Minister of State for CADD, Lighting a candle on the eve of a ceremony held in connection to mark Earth Hour celebration in Islamabad.

Dinner reception hosted in honor of H.E. & Mrs. Muhammad Zubair Governor Sindh by Dr.& Mrs. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Chairman Baig Group at their residence attended by dignitaries, foreign diplomats, leading industrialists, leaders of the business community & social elite of the city.



Dr. Ikhtiar Baig cutting his birthday cake with Muhammad Zubair, S.M.Munee, Khalid Tawab, Noreen Baig, Shireen Saleem & Mr&Mrs. Omair Baig.



Omair Baig, Muhammad Zubair, Najma Zubair & Iman Baig.



Dr. Baig, Surgeon Faiz, Muhammad Zubair, Ishtiaq Baig, Yasin Malik, Saleem Yousuf & Shireen Saleem.



Najma Zubair, Ishtiaq Baig, Muhammad Zubair, Shireen Saleem & Saleem Yousuf.



Mrs. Zubair, Khalid, S.M.Munee, Abdul Sami, Najma Zubair, Noreen, Beena, Shireen Saleem, Samina, Mrs. Ahsan, Iman Baig, & Bushra Noman.



Nadia Baig, Carla Joseph, Dr. Ikhtiar Baig, Muhammad Ijaz, Mr&Mrs. J.P.Li & Nadeem Ejaz Shamsi.



Noreen Baig, Najma Zubair, Muhammad Zubair, Dr. Ikhtiar Baig, Mrs. Ahsan & Tariq.



Arif Habib, Ishtiaq Baig, Khalid Tawab, Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, S.M.Muneer, Governor Sindh Muhammad Zubair, Zubair Tufail, Muhammad Ijaz, Surgeon Faiz Khan, Salman Tufail & Dr. Farhan Essa.



Mr&Mrs. J.P.Li, Muhammad Ijaz, Dr. Ikhtiar Baig, Mrs. Calara Joseph, Muhammad Zubair, Ishtiaq Baig, Nadia Baig & Nadeem Shamsi



Ali Sufiyan, Azneem Bilwani, Masood Naqvi, Dr. Ikhtiar Baig, Moneeza Usman, Omair Baig & Noman Zakaria .



CG of Switzerland Philippe Crevoisier greeting Muhammad Zubair, also seen Dr. Ikhtiar Baig.



Zubair Tufail, Arif Habib, Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Yasin Malik, S.M.Munner, Surgeon Faiz Khan, Philippe Crevoisier CG of Switzerland & Salman Tufail.



Zubair Tufail, Dr. Farhan Essa & Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig.



Imran Baig with Salman Tufail.



Noreen Baig with Governor Sindh Muhammad Zubair.



Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig with Governor Sindh Muhammad Zubair.



Iman Omair Baig, Shireen Baig, Beena & Noreen Baig.



Host Dr. Ikhtiar Baig receiving Governor Sindh Muhammad Zubair.



Iman Baig, Mrs. Ahsan & Bushra Noman.



SERENA HOTELS

“Culinary Arts Festival” Amazing Taste of Thailand

The Islamabad Serena Hotel, in collaboration with the Royal Embassy of Thailand, the Okura Prestige Bangkok and Thai Airways presented the first-ever international food festival at its signature restaurant Wild Rice.

The opening was attended by the Ambassador of Vietnam, H.E Nguyen Xuan Luu, Ambassador of Brunei, H.E Dato Paduka Haji Mahmud bin Haji Saidin, Ambassador of Argentina, H.E Ivan Ivanishevich and Mr. Daniel Ritz CEO PTCL and many diplomats, government officials and food lovers.

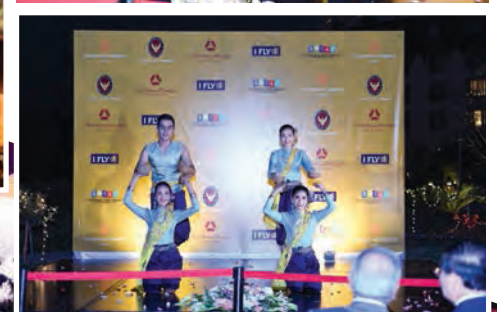
The CEO of Serena Hotels, Mr Aziz Boolani, the Thai Ambassador His Excellency Ambassador Suchart Liengsaengthong and the General Manager (GM) of the Islamabad Serena Hotel, Michel A. Galopin opened the festival. They were accompanied by the city's food enthusiasts.

The Thai Ambassador said: “The Royal Thai Embassy is very pleased to work with Serena Hotel to present authentic and Halal Thai food to Pakistani guests. Thailand is famous for excellence in food and for its wonderful cultural heritage as well as the amazing cultural performances. The Royal Thai Embassy in Islamabad hopes that everyone will enjoy the authentic Thai cuisine and the very lively performances by the professional cultural troupe from Thailand.”

CEO Serena Hotels South & Central Asia said: “This year Islamabad will witness a flavourful journey from around the world at Islamabad Serena Hotel. We begin our Culinary Arts Festival with the Amazing Taste Of Thailand and welcome the executive chef from Okura Prestige Bangkok. Serena Hotels will continue to provide entertainment in addition to providing a range of authentic cuisines.”

The GM, Mr. Michel A. Galopin, said: “We feel privileged and excited to give everyone an opportunity to explore the exquisite cuisine and the warm hospitality from the “Land of Smiles” at Wild Rice. Thanks to the generous support of our partners, the guests will be able to enjoy the food festival which will feature the best of Thai cuisine prepared from the finest and freshest ingredients to create an exotic menu that combines a refined palette with native flavours to serve the most authentic dishes to all Thai food lovers.





Al-Wida

to the outgoing
Ambassador of
Saudi Arabia
**H.E. Abdullah
Marzouk
Al-Zahrani**





Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Abdullah Marzouk Al-Zahrani paid a farewell call on President Mamnoon Hussain at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Abdullah Marzouk Al-Zahrani paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, at PM House Islamabad.



Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Abdullah Marzouk Al-Zahrani paid Farewell call on the advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz in Islamabad.



Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Abdullah Marzouk Al-Zahrani called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, Islamabad.



Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Abdullah Marzouk Al-Zahrani called on Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sardar Muhammad Yousaf in Islamabad.



Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi, Editor, CEO & Publisher Special Supplement of "Diplomatic Focus" on 86th National Day of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Ambassador of Saudi Arabia H.E. Abdullah Marzouk Al-Zahrani.



61st anniversary of Independence of Tunisia marked in Islamabad



SERENA HOTELS



Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia in Pakistan H.E. Adel Elarbi hosted a reception to celebrate 61st anniversary of Independence of his country at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. The guest of honour was Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination, Riaz Hussain Pirzada. The event was attended by a large number of guests both Pakistanis and from the diplomatic community along with ambassadors of African and Arab countries.





Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting hosted a dinner reception in the honor of Diplomats in Islamabad



Farewell Lunch hosted by SAPM in honour of Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Syed Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs hosted a lunch in honour of H.E. Mr. Abdullah Marzouk A-Zahrani, the out-going Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The SAPM extended his felicitations to the out-going Ambassador on the completion of a fruitful and productive assignment in Pakistan and appreciated the contribution made by him in further strengthening the existing excellent bilateral ties between the two countries.

Declaring the Kingdom as a true and trusted friend of Pakistan, the Special Assistant expressed satisfaction over the brotherly relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, and expressed the desire to continue working closely with the next Ambassador of the Kingdom for the enhancement of these ties. He also conveyed his best wishes to the out-going Ambassador, in his future endeavors.

Ambassador Al-Zahrani reciprocated the SAPM's sentiments and expressed gratitude for the support and cooperation extended by the

Government and people of Pakistan during his tenure in Islamabad. He expressed confidence that the bilateral relations would continue to

grow in years to come. The lunch was also attended by the Heads of Mission of all GCC countries in Pakistan.



Photos by Sultan Bashir

Diplomatic Affairs

Acting Australian High Commissioner in Pakistan, H.E. Jurek Juszczy and
CEO Serena Hotels Mr. Aziz Boolani with players of IMCG G-11/1 after won the

2nd PCB-AHC Girls' Cup 2017

at Murghzar Cricket Ground, Islamabad.



SERENA HOTELS



British High Commissioner H.E. Thomas Drew inaugurate an exhibition titled

“Sharing the Same Sky”

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at Satrang Gallery Serena Hotel, Islamabad





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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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