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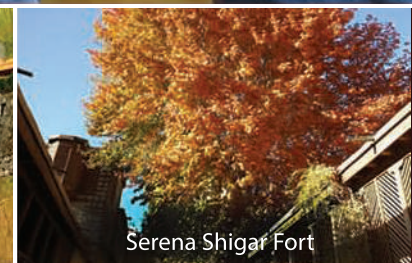
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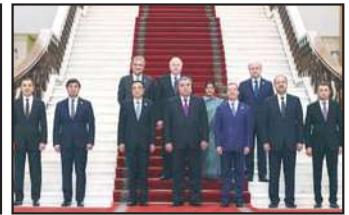
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FM Shah Mehmood Qureshi highlighted the importance of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as a vital platform to achieve the objectives of peace, security and stability across Eurasia. He underscored the need of upholding peace in an increasingly tense international environment, a foreign office statement issued here said.

**Saudi Arabia pledges \$6bn package to Pakistan**

Saudi Arabia has agreed to give Pakistan \$3 billion in foreign currency support for a year and a further loan worth up to \$3 billion in deferred payments for oil imports to help stave off a current account crisis.



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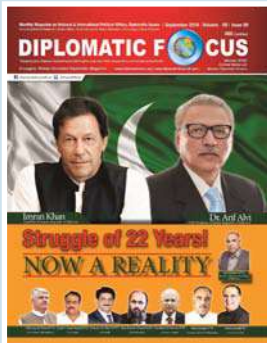
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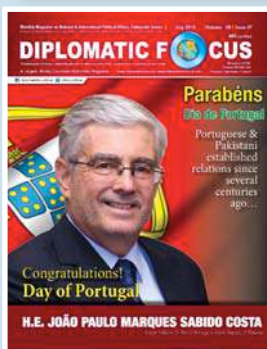
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August 2018



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## Our previous Issues



Mian Fazal Elahi

**P** rime Minister Imran Khan is going to pay his first visit to China, on the invitation of Chinese leadership. Government is optimistic about getting a comprehensive package from China after securing a good deal from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during recent visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan. It is premature to say what actually would be outcome of the visit but given the Chinese goodwill for Pakistan and commitment to contribute aggressively in its economic development, it is highly likely that expectations of authorities concerned would be realised. Recently, the Chinese foreign ministry said that the upcoming visit would provide an opportunity for the leaders of the two countries to open a new chapter of the development of bilateral relations under the new circumstances. China has already made substantial investment in various projects under CPEC umbrella and it is more than willing to invest more and expand the scope of cooperation. China has committed over \$55 billion investment in Pakistan at a time when the country is making frantic efforts to attract investment and create and develop its infrastructure.

“We have also provided assistance to the Pakistani side to the best of our ability. We believe that the Pakistani government has the ability to overcome temporary difficulties and maintain a healthy and stable economic development.” Chinese Foreign Ministry statement is reflecting China and Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and friendship.

**The Indian security forces are committing worst form of state terrorism** in occupied Kashmir using every mean including weapons and pellet guns against innocent and armless Kashmiri people yet no amount of oppression has succeeded to shake their resolve for the right of self-determination despite passage of so many decades. Now the flag of Kashmiri freedom movement has been taken over by youths who are now being mercilessly targeted by occupying forces for exposing the evil Indian face on the social media. All these long years it is only Pakistan, who always stood by the Kashmiri people. Once again saw the people of Pakistan expressing their complete solidarity with the Kashmiris on the occasion of Black Day observed on October 27 to highlight the need for just resolution of the longstanding conflict as per UN Security Council Resolutions. It is time for the new government in Pakistan to resort to more proactive diplomacy on Kashmir dispute.

The articles, columns, Opinions are published in Magazine in good faith. However, the contents of these writings may not necessarily match the views of the Editor/Publisher/Organization.



Mian Assad Ullah

### Important Announcement

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

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## President conferred the Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon COS of the Italian Air Force

By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Dr. Arif Alvi conferred the Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon Chief of Staff of the Italian Air Force Lt. Gen. Enzo Vecciarelli during an Investiture Ceremony at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Senior Military and Civil Officers were also present on the occasion. Chief of Staff of the Italian Air Force Lt. Gen. Enzo Vecciarelli also called on the President Dr. Arif Alvi after the Investiture Ceremony. The President congratulated Lt. Gen. Enzo Vecciarelli on the conferment of Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) and emphasized that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Italy and regards Italy as a friend and a reliable partner. He added that Pakistan deeply values its relations with Italy, both bilaterally and within the context of the European Union. He underlined that both countries enjoy commonality of views on a host of regional and global issues and continue to work closely on all issues of common interest. The President underscored that Pakistan is keen to enhance cooperation in defence training and institutional collaboration between the two countries. He also reiterated Pakistan's commitment in eradicating extremism and terrorism from its Soil. On the occasion, Chief of Staff of the Italian Air Force Lt. Gen. Enzo Vecciarelli thanked the President, Government and people of Pakistan and hoped that bilateral relations between the both countries will continue to grow in the future.







# Saudi Arabia pledges \$6bn package to Pakistan

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Saudi Arabia has agreed to give Pakistan \$3 billion in foreign currency support for a year and a further loan worth up to \$3 billion in deferred payments for oil imports to help stave off a current account crisis. The \$6 billion total exceeds forecasts by analysts and will likely reduce the size of any bailout Pakistan it receives from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), with whom it is currently engaged in talks on a rescue package.

The agreement came between the two countries during a visit by Prime Minister Imran Khan to Riyadh where he met King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz.

Agreements in this regard were signed on the sidelines of the second edition of the annual Future Investment Initiative (FII) Conference in Riyadh. It showcases economic and investment opportunities in Saudi Arabia as it pursues Vision 2030 for diversifying its economy. The Pakistani delegation was led by Prime Minister Imran Khan. This was the prime minister's second visit to Saudi Arabia in five weeks. The primary objective of both trips was to seek financial assistance to deal with impending balance of payments crisis.

The Foreign Office in a statement said: "A MoU was signed between the Finance Minister Asad Umar and the Saudi Finance Minister Muhammad Abdullah Al-Jadaan. It was agreed

Saudi Arabia will place a deposit of USD 3 Billion for a period of one year as balance of payment support."

It was further "agreed that a one year deferred payment facility for import of oil, up to USD 3 Billion, will be provided by Saudi Arabia. This arrangement will be in place for three years, which will be reviewed thereafter".

Pakistan, which is facing the current account deficit, had earlier this month sought assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to deal with the aggravating balance of payments problem. An IMF mission is scheduled to visit Islamabad on Nov 7 for talks on the size of the loan facility that Pakistan could be requiring. Imran Khan had in an interaction with the media recently said that the country could immediately need around \$12bn to address with the problem.

Saudi Arabia has in the past also helped rescue Pakistan's economy from dire situations on a number of occasions. The Kingdom had last time in 2014 gifted Pakistan \$1.5bn to beef up its foreign exchange reserves.

It is believed that improved foreign exchange reserves would strengthen Pakistan's negotiating position in talks with the Fund. The situation could further improve if China also makes some commitments to rescue its 'all-





# Saudi Arabia will place a deposit of USD 3 Billion for a period of one year as balance of payment support

weather friend'. PM Khan is scheduled to travel to China on Nov 3.

During talks with Mr. Khan, the Saudi government reaffirmed its interest in setting up an oil refinery in Pakistan. Talks on setting up of the refinery had started during the prime minister's visit to the Kingdom last month. Later a Saudi delegation visited Pakistan for studying the prospects of the project.

"Saudi Arabia confirmed its interest in this project, and a MoU will be signed after obtaining cabinet approval," the Foreign Office said.

An agreement for setting up of refinery near Gwadar is expected to be inked between the Pakistan State Oil and Saudi Aramco soon.

Speaking at the FII Conference, the prime minister while identifying lucrative investment opportunities in the tourism sector, minerals, coal and gas exploration, and Information Technology said Pakistan needed two oil refineries to meet demand.

Saudi officials and businessmen during their meetings with Mr. Khan showed interest in mineral resources development. The prime



minister pointed out the presence of vast reserves of untapped mineral wealth of Pakistan. He said the reserves could not be exploited in the past due to terrorism and corruption, but things were changing now.

A Saudi delegation would be invited to visit Pakistan for an exploratory trip after consultations between the federal and provincial government of Balochistan, the FO said.

Mr. Khan held bilateral discussions with King Salman bin Abdul Aziz and Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman. The crown prince, the FO said, accepted Mr Khan's suggestion for reduction of visa fee for Pakistani workers. It described the decision as "a significant step towards enhancing Pakistan's workforce in Saudi Arabia, as well as facilitating travel of people from both countries".

Mr Khan in his speech at the FII Conference said that his government would once again offer peace talks to India after the coming elections in the neighbouring country.

"Now what we are hoping is that we wait until the elections then again we will resume our peace talks with India," he said as he recalled that he had soon after coming to power offered dialogue to India. He said Pakistan's offer was then rebuffed.

Both brotherly Countries agreed that a one year deferred payment facility for import of oil, up to USD 3 Billion, will be provided by Saudi Arabia. This arrangement will be in place for three years, which will be reviewed thereafter

The crown prince accepted Mr Khan's suggestion for reduction of visa fee for Pakistani workers







## President Arif Alvi calls for strong seaward defense

By Monitoring

President Arif Alvi reaffirmed the commitment to provide all necessary resources to enhance capabilities of the Pakistan Navy and develop the maritime sector on modern lines. The president was addressing the commissioning ceremony of Pakistan Navy Fleet Tanker in the metropolis. In his speech, President Alvi pointed out

that the complete operationalization of China Pakistan Economic Corridor Project (CPEC) and Gwadar port will enhance trade activities manifold, Radio Pakistan reported. The president further said that such development also calls for a strong seaward defense not only for Gwadar but the entire coastal belt. "The government is cognizant of the need to have a potent Pakistan Navy,"

President Alvi said as he commended the efforts of the force for maritime security. Addressing the ceremony, Naval Chief Zafar Mahmood Abbasi said the induction of indigenously built ship is a symbol of pride and landmark achievement that reflects Pakistan's industrial strength. President Alvi, who was the chief guest at the ceremony, was presented with a guard of honour.



## Karachi shipyard hands over indigenously built 32 t bollard pull tug to Pakistan navy

Handing Over ceremony of 32 T BP Tug built for Pakistan Navy was held at Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works (KS&EW) today. Rear Admiral Ather Mukhtar HI(M), Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Project) graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Indigenously

The Tug has a 34 meter overall length with a displacement of 481 tons. It has maximum speed of 12 knots and propelled by 2 x Diesel Engines and same number of Azimuth Thrusters. It is fitted with a very robust fendering arrangement for all round tugging operations of almost all sizes of ships and crafts of Pakistan Navy. On the occasion, the Honorable Chief Guest said that this project is indeed a loud manifestation of the vision of Pakistan Navy to pursue self reliance in field of ship's construction. He appreciated Ministry of Defence Production and Karachi Shipyard for their valuable contribution towards attaining goal of self-reliance in the field of ship building. He said that Karachi Shipyard is one of the few public sector industries which has made a remarkable turnaround in last decade

and is playing a pivotal role in supporting all components of national maritime sector. Earlier MD KS&EW, Rear Admiral Ather Saleem SI(M) in his welcome address thanked Pakistan Navy and MoDP for their continued support. He said that this project has been completed with self sufficiency in all phases of construction and no foreign assistance has been sought. He also briefed about the ongoing Shipbuilding, Ship Repair and General Engineering activities at KS&EW. He assured that each and every worker of Karachi Shipyard is ready, prepared and committed to complete all assigned projects on time while meeting international quality standards.

The ceremony was attended by high ranking officials from Government, Pakistan Navy, Corporate Sector and KS&EW.







# PN celebrates 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary OF Pakistan navy day

8<sup>th</sup> September is celebrated as 'Pakistan Navy Day' to commemorate Pakistan Navy's stunning performance against a much bigger and devious enemy during 1965 war. Daring attack by Pakistan Navy Warships on Dwarka and confinement of entire Indian Navy Fleet by PN Submarine GHAZI are the glorious reminiscence of the day.

In his message on the occasion, Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi said that Pakistan Navy commemorates this day to pay tributes to our Ghazis and War Heroes whose sacrifices and gallant acts instill in us a renewed spirit and unbaiting resolve. While fondly remembering the daring acts of our officers and men who humbled and frustrated the adversary, this day calls for rekindling the spirit of sacrifice and selfless devotion to the country.

The Admiral reiterated that 8th September 1965 will remain a golden chapter in our naval history and continue to inspire our new generation of officers and sailors to be bold and innovative in our professional pursuits. We stand committed to keep the spirit of 8th September 1965 alive and pledge to defend our sea frontiers with unflinching resolve, devotion and commitment.

In order to commemorate this day and to pay tributes to our Shuhada and Ghazis Pakistan Navy arranged an impressive Four Dimensional demonstration of naval capabilities at PNS QASIM, Manora Karachi. Mr. Murad Ali Shah, Chief Minister Sindh graced the occasion as chief guest.

The special demonstration of Pakistan Navy assets and their capabilities included Skim past by Pakistan Navy surface combatants, Fly

past by Aviation assets, Visit Board Search & Seizure (VBSS) operation, Search and Rescue operation drills, Para jumps, Fast Boat Recovery and Allouette helicopter aerobatics etc. Beach Assault drills were performed by Pakistan Navy Special Operation Forces comprising Pak Marines and Special Service Group (Navy). Pakistan Navy Frigates, Submarine, and Missile boats were also part of the demonstration.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Murad Ali Shah, Chief Minister Sindh highlighted Pakistan Navy's heroic performance during 1965 war with reverence and pride, and expressed his satisfaction at the level of Pakistan Navy's competence and capabilities displayed during the demonstration.

A large number of Civil and Military dignitaries, families of Shuhada and war veterans were also present on the occasion.







# Ambassador of China called on COAS General Qamar Javed Bajwa

**A**mbassador of China to Pakistan Yao Jing called on Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa at the General Headquarters.

Matters of mutual interest came under discussion during the meeting, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

Earlier talking to reporters, the Chinese ambassador reiterated his country's support to

steer Pakistan out of the economic crisis, saying Beijing was cognizant of the problems faced by Pakistan.

Yao Jing said China was looking forward to the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan. "The visit will provide an opportunity to both the countries to learn from each other's experiences," he added.

He said Pakistan was a responsible member

of world community and had important role in regional peace especially with regards to Afghanistan.

Regarding the economic corridor (CPEC) project, the ambassador said that the mega project needed to be seen in a broader context. "The corridor project will benefit not only Pakistan but also other regional countries," he added.

**COAS General Qamar Javed Bajwa at UK Met British CDS, Secretary of State for Defence, SREP for Afghanistan & Pakistan and NSA. British leadership was unanimous in acknowledging Pakistan's extraordinary achievements in Counter Terrorism and commended the improved security situation in Pakistan.**





# Pakistan Army

team won gold medal

## For the 4th consecutive time

### By Monitoring

11 member Pakistan Army team won gold medal, for the fourth consecutive time, in the world's toughest Cambrian Patrol competition held at Wales, UK. Pakistani Team was from



a Battalion of Northern Light Infantry, the brave soldiers from Pakistan's Gilgit Baltistan. 134 teams from 31 countries are participating in the two weeks long competition which started

on 8th October. Cambrian Patrol is mission and task oriented patrolling exercise of 48 hours during which participants of patrolling team cover 60 kilometers carrying 25 kilograms.

# Russian

*troops arrived in Pakistan*

## For 3rd joint military drill

### By Monitoring

Russian Army Contingent arrived in Pakistan to participate in Pak-Russia Joint Training Exercise 'Druzhba-III'. According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), this will be the third joint military drill between Islamabad and Moscow under the bilateral training cooperation agreement. Russian military announced that the joint war games codenamed Druzhba – Slavic word for friendship – would be conducted at a training range in the town of Pabbi. Russia and Pakistan have been holding the "Friendship" drills since 2016. In October 2016, they held their first-ever joint military exercise in Pakistan. In 2017, over 200 servicemen took part in the drills, hosted by Russia at Minralney Vody in the North Caucasus at an altitude of 2,300 meters above sea level.







# PAKISTAN WILL NOT JOIN the nuclear weapon race, vows President Arif Alvi

President Alvi praised Iran for its commitment to the 2015 nuclear deal with the west

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring

Pakistan's nuclear programme is fully compliant with the rules and regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the country has no intention of joining any arms race, President Arif Alvi said.

Addressing an international conference titled "Global Non-Proliferation Regime: Challenges and Response" organised by the Strategic Studies Institute in Islamabad, Alvi said that Pakistan's nuclear deterrent is only meant to

maintain a strategic balance in the region.

The president warned that the current global security landscape was not very encouraging and instead of meaningful efforts towards global disarmament, a nuclear arms race had begun.

"The international security landscape is far from encouraging. The euphoria generated by the end of the Cold War and the committed expectations of meaningful steps towards global disarmament have given way to a qualitative nuclear arms race," he said.



\*\*\*  
**PAKISTAN'S  
 NUCLEAR  
 DETERRENT IS  
 ONLY MEANT  
 TO MAINTAIN A  
 STRATEGIC  
 BALANCE IN THE  
 REGION:  
 PRESIDENT ALVI**  
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The president emphasised that threats to international peace and security can only be dealt with through collective efforts and Pakistan is ready to cooperate with global actors. Alvi added that the United Nations is a suitable platform to resolve international conflicts, but at the same time, he stressed the need for uniform implementation of its resolutions.

The president further said new technologies such as cyber threats and drones attacks “lower the threshold for war and put machines at the helm of the decisions of life and death” and called for globally binding frameworks to regularise the use of emerging technologies. Stressing the need for international efforts for a nuclear-free world, Alvi praised Iran for its commitment to the 2015 nuclear deal with the west and also hailed developments towards denuclearisation in the Korean peninsula.

“We should be progressing toward a nuclear-free world. But unless all countries come to some understanding and reduce the area of conflicts...and unless conflicts are resolved and unless we reduce our postures, reduce our weapons, the world will not see peace,” he concluded.

Human Rights Minister Dr Shireen Mazari while chairing the first session said Pakistan had been confronting discrimination at international level in the nuclear field. She mentioned that discriminatory instrument in Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and policy regarding the new entrant states was a challenge. She expressed the confidence that the Conference would help the participants understand the point of view of different countries about nuclear non-proliferation. Pakistan would not join the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in prevailing situation. She said there is an increasing arms race in South Asia. India’s BMD system and US support for India’s NSG membership are undermining strategic stability in South Asia. Dr Mazari said that there are problems with the NPT indicating that those who need to implement it are violating it. “US and other signatories have violated the Article 1 and 2 of

NPT by signing new deals with India. With this attitude, countries outside the NPT cannot join it, she said. Shireen Mazari said that no one talks about Israel’s Nuclear Program; we have to start discussion on Israel’s Nuclear Program for any progress on Non-Proliferation. Experts from Iran, Russia, UK, France, China, Egypt and US along with Pakistani experts attended the conference.

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**THE  
INTERNATIONAL  
SECURITY  
LANDSCAPE IS  
FAR FROM  
ENCOURAGING:  
PRESIDENT ALVI**

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**THERE  
IS AN  
INCREASING  
ARMS RACE  
IN SOUTH ASIA:  
DR. SHIREEN  
MAZARI**

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# CUI Delegation led by the Rector calls President Arif Alvi

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

A delegation of senior officials of COMSATS University Islamabad led by the Rector Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar was invited to call on the President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

President Dr Arif Alvi said that universities have an important role in the Human Resource Development, which ultimately contributes toward economic progress of the country.

The later in the capacity of Chancellor of the University was apprised about the university's key challenges and achievements by the Rector. Prof Dr. Raheel Qamar impressed upon the President to address some pressing issues regarding formulation of the University Senate, also ensuring representation of the university faculty.

He also informed the President about the challenges of strained funding that the university has been facing and the measures of austerity adopted to address the resource constraint. Dr. Alvi opined that CUI must remain as a top notch institution of the country, develop collaborations for joint degree programs with foreign universities as well as employ new virtual technologies to address the issue of teacher shortage. He said that in order to make the university graduates employable, avenues of bringing the industry on board various

academic bodies needs to be enhanced.

The President emphasized that promotion of education is among the priority of the Government. He underscored that focus should be laid down creating knowledge capital and technological know-how to enable Pakistan to join the ranks of advance countries. Moreover, he added that the culture of research and development should be promoted in higher educational institution. He also stressed the need for open source knowledge sharing so that developing countries could also timely benefit from the modern research.

The President proposed that new campuses of COMSATS should also be established in Sindh and Balochistan. He directed the management of COMSATS to utilize data of BISP in awarding stipend to the deserving students. He also congratulated the management of COMSATS for its up gradation from an institute to the university through an Act of the Parliament. Dr. Alvi said that it was imperative for the University Senate to meet and deliberate on rules for key statutory positions in order to take the university to new heights and speed up the framing of Rules and Regulations.

Also present in the meeting were senior officials from the President House and Ms. Yasmin Masud, Federal Secretary of Science & Technology.

The President Alvi proposed new campuses of COMSATS should also be established in Sindh and Balochistan





# PM IMRAN VOWS to extend Support to Newspaper Industry

**DUES OF THE PRINT MEDIA WOULD BE CLEARED SOON: PM IMRAN**

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Prime Minister Imran Khan has said his government will extend all-out support to the newspaper industry to enable it to deal with its longstanding problems. Prime Minister Imran Khan said that as media had a pivotal role in promotion of democracy, good governance, ensuring transparency and merit as well as creating awareness among the masses, the government would extend its full support to media in that respect. He said media had played an important role in conveying the ideology of Pakistan Tehreek-

e-Insaf (PTI) to the masses and making it a success. "If media would not have been there, I would not have been here (on this position). We will fully support media," he remarked. At a meeting with a delegation of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), Mr. Khan said that dues of the print media would be cleared soon, according to a press release of the PM's Office. A strategy was being formulated to ease the financial pressures being encountered by the newspaper industry through payment of outstanding bills inherited from the previous government, the prime minister said. The prime minister said that the PTI had

attained this position after a struggle of 22 years, adding it had come to power due to its political efforts and with the support of masses.

"When I entered the politics, my struggle was not against the politicians but mafias. I know which party has evolved in which nursery. The PTI has not grown in any incubation center," he remarked.

The prime minister said that no political party in Pakistan's history had struggled as much as the PTI had.

He said Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who achieved his objective through continued struggle and democratic means, was his ideal in politics.

The prime minister said his political competition was with those who were criminals and calling them democrats was the insult of democracy. He said not a single case of political victimization was registered during the previous PTI tenure in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Whereas, the Prime Minister said, over 30 cases were made against him during the previous government's tenure including eight in the Election Commission and two in the Supreme Court.

Imran Khan said that due to highlighting the Panama Papers issue, he had to face character assassination and for that purpose women were used.







The prime minister while making a political comparison of provinces said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which was earlier famed for not giving the mandate again to any political party, honored PTI with the two-thirds mandate in 2018 election.

## Imran Khan concedes media role in making him “Prime Minister”

He said as the PTI was a democratic party its government did not make any intervention in the recent bye-elections in Punjab.

The prime minister said after the 2013 election, he had demanded to open only four constituencies and continued to strive for that purpose for a year, but the then government did not open them.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, Special Assistant to PM on Media Iftikhar Durrani, Senator Faisal

Javed and Secretary Information Shafqat Jalil were also in the meeting.

The APNS delegation felicitated Imran Khan on being elected as the prime minister and apprised him of the problems faced by the newspaper industry.

Latter on office bearers and members of All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) called on President Arif Alvi at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. President Dr Arif Alvi said that Pakistan was facing numerous challenges which required a national approach for their resolution and media should play their proactive role in this regard. He underscored that media was cornerstone of democracy and the government was committed to the freedom of both print and electronic media. The delegation congratulated the president on his election and also briefed him regarding the issues being faced by newspaper industry. The president assured the delegation of his full support in resolving these challenges. Office bearers of Council of Newspapers Editors (CPNE), Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) and All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) delegation called on PM Imran Khan again a week after the first meeting in the month. Prime Minister Imran Khan said that Pakistan might not have to approach the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for loans as the government was in contact with ‘friendly countries’ for resolution of economic issues faced by the country.

**Media had played an important role in conveying the ideology of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to the masses and making it a success. “If media would not have been there, I would not have been here (on this position). We will fully support media,” PM Imran Khan remarked**



Syed Umar Nazar Shah Group Chairman of Hassan Limited Textile Group, 7 News HD, Aspire Group of Colleges and Savvy School System in his special message congratulated the president Arif Alvi and PM Imran Khan and hope that under PM Imran Khan Leadership; Pakistan is now on the path of development and prosperity.





# Pakistan attaches great importance to close cordial and fraternal relations with Egypt

**By Mian Fazal Elahi**

President Dr. Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan attaches great importance to close cordial and fraternal relations with Egypt and is also keen to further strengthen the political, economic and trade relations between the two countries.

The President said this while talking to Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan Ahmed Fadel Yakoub who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. Ambassadors Ahmed Fadel Yakoub conveyed felicitation of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to President Dr. Arif Alvi on assuming the office. The

President emphasized that bilateral relations between the two countries are rooted in shared faith and heritage. He hoped that Ambassador Yakoub will continue to play his positive role toward further strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.





# **Qatar Keen to work with new leadership**

## **for further strengthening close and cordial relations between Pakistan and Qatar**

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring

Sheikh Muhammad Bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, called on Prime Minister Imran Khan to convey the felicitations and best wishes of Amir of Qatar on his victory in elections.

The Qatari deputy prime minister conveyed the keen desire of the Amir to work with the new leadership in Pakistan, for further strengthening close and cordial relations between Pakistan

and Qatar.

Expressing appreciation for the warm sentiments of Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the prime minister reciprocated by underlining the commitment of his government to build mutually beneficial relations with Qatar for the benefit of the two peoples.

Referring to an increase in Pakistan's exports to Qatar, the premier hoped that bilateral trade will further expand in the coming years.

**The prime minister Imran Kahn expressed the hope for early implementation of Qatar's decision to import 100,000 workers from Pakistan.**





He invited Qatari investment in all sectors of Pakistan's economy, especially in agriculture, livestock and energy. The prime minister also expressed the hope for early implementation of Qatar's decision to import 100,000 workers from Pakistan.

Sheikh Muhammad Bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani thanked the prime minister for receiving him and reciprocated the sentiments and assured him of the full support and cooperation of the Government of Qatar in attaining the dream of a progressive, prosperous and forward looking Pakistan.

The prime minister conveyed his best wishes for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the state of Qatar, under the leadership of Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi had also met with the dignitary earlier, with the two having a dialogue over bilateral relations and issues appertain to the interest of both the nations.

"FM Qureshi underscored the importance of the relationship between Pakistan and Qatar. Discussing bilateral, political and economic relations between the two countries, the ministers decided to hold the next Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) in December this year," the statement read.

H.E Sheikh Mohammad Bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani congratulated the Foreign Minister on assuming office. He conveyed his keen desire to work with the Foreign Minister for cementing brotherly relations between Pakistan and Qatar. Foreign Minister Qureshi underscored the importance of relationship between Pakistan



& Qatar. Discussing bilateral, political and economic relations between the two countries, the Ministers decided to hold the next JMC in December this year. It was also agreed to hold Bilateral Political Consultations at the same time. He highlighted the huge potential for bilateral cooperation in energy, petroleum and petrochemical, agriculture and livestock sectors. Recalling his meeting with H.E Sheikh Mohammad Bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani in New York on the side-lines of 73rd UNGA last month, the Foreign Minister reiterated his request for fast tracking the recruitment process for import of more Pakistani workers by Qatar. He offered the services of professional Pakistani workforce for 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

H.E Sheikh Mohammad Bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani thanked the Foreign Minister and reiterated his invitation to him to visit Doha on mutually convenient dates. The Foreign Minister accepted the invitation.

Qatar's Foreign Minister Mohammad bin Abdulrahman al-Thani also called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa at the General Headquarters.

In a statement released by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) it was revealed that the two went into discourse relating to affairs of shared concern including regional security measures. It was added by the COAS that: "Pakistan will

continue to positively contribute towards regional peace and stability."

**Shah Mehmood  
Qureshi offered  
the services of  
professional  
Pakistani  
workforce for  
2022 FIFA  
World Cup  
in Qatar**

**Pakistan  
will continue  
to positively  
contribute  
towards  
regional  
peace and  
stability:  
COAS**



By Mian Fazal Elahi

Prime Minister Imran Khan received Mr. Song Tao, Minister of International Development of the Communist Party of China at the Prime Minister's Office. Welcoming the Minister, the Prime Minister said that the "all weather friendship" between Pakistan and China held particular significance to the people of Pakistan. President Xi Jinping's terming of this friendship as that of "iron brothers" reflects an undeniable reality. He added that President Xi is a great statesman for whom there is much admiration by the people of Pakistan. Appreciating the growing relations between PTI and Communist Party of China (CPC), the Prime Minister emphasized on further enhancing these ties through exchange of delegations

and sharing of ideas. On his upcoming visit to China, the Prime Minister stated that he looked forward to his meetings with the Chinese leadership. This would provide an opportunity to underscore the importance of the "all weather strategic cooperative partnership" between the two countries. The Prime Minister added that Pakistan would like to learn from Chinese experience in poverty alleviation, fighting corruption and agriculture development through sharing expertise, technology and best practices in the sector. The China International Import Expo would provide an opportunity to the two sides to look into export possibilities from Pakistan to China. Minister Song Tao underscored the importance attached by the leadership and people of China

to Pakistan-China relations. He assured China's support to Pakistan at all regional international fora, as well as in addressing the agenda of poverty alleviation, fighting corruption and agricultural development. He added that exchanges between political parties would help in sharing ideas to achieve common and shared development. He termed CPEC as a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative, which would make significant contributions towards building a New Pakistan.

Earlier, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has said that Gwadar would become a hub of trade and economic activities and investors must explore new avenues for investment as the environment is conducive and enormous vistas still remain unexplored while talking to Chinese Minister for International Development Song Tao at the Parliament House. He said that Pakistan places relations with China at high esteem and both the countries have supported each other in testing times. He, however, underscored the need for more close collaboration between the Parliaments and said that frequent exchange of delegations would help in further consolidating the bond of friendship between the two sides. Chinese Minister for International Development said that China and Pakistan are strategic cooperative partners and both enjoy all weather friendship. He said that parliamentarians are the representatives of people and it is important to promote further parliamentary cooperation and deepen the mutually beneficial bilateral relation. The Chinese side also visited Senate Hall and planted a sapling in the lawn of the Parliament.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was also signed between the Communist Party



**CPC &**  
**PTI**  
**vow to more**  
**cooperation**





of China and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Chinese Minister Song Tao have signed the MoU that is aimed at strengthening party to party relations. The two parties have agreed to further strengthen and make effective links between the two parties and will sign a

memorandum of understanding in this context. The delegation of the Communist Party of China (CPC) also called on PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in Zardari House.

The delegation comprised Song Tao, minister of international department of the CPC, Sun Haiyan, DG of the International Liaison

Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC), Ma Xuesong, deputy DG, Ms Zheng Junlv, director and interpreter, Qi Wei, director, Hu Xiaodong, deputy director, Ambassador Yao Jing, Mei Jing, first secretary and Chen Yongpei, third secretary. Matters of mutual interest were discussed in the meeting.





# Learning from CHINA

By Dr. Atta-Ur-Rahman

In order to develop a strong knowledge economy in Pakistan, we need to follow China's example and make science, technology and innovation the focal points for development.

China has turned around its economy in the last 35 years and become one of the most powerful countries in the world. In the 1980s, the country decided to focus on the following major areas to lift over a billion people out of poverty: agriculture; high-technology manufacturing; education, science, technology and innovation; and promoting the private sector and research and development.

After much deliberation, China decided on a strategic approach to focus on agriculture for short-term gains and on the manufacturing and export of medium/high-technology products in the long term. The world market is largely composed of medium and high-technology goods while natural resources and low-technology products have a low overall value and need to be replaced.

To manufacture high-technology products, a large number of leading scientists and engineers, and incentives were required. A massive programme was undertaken to send China's brightest students to top universities abroad to acquire training in key areas of science and engineering. This initiative started with about 800 students in 1978 and the number of students rose to about 600,000 by 2017.

Around 500,000 students are returning to China after completing their PhDs and postdoctoral training and being clustered in centres of excellence. China has emerged as a superpower with capabilities to build spacecraft, satellites, fighter aircraft and super computers. Indeed, it is now the world leader in quantum computing and is ahead of the US in this fast-emerging area of computer engineering.

China's well-thought-out strategy for socioeconomic development has worked. Its agriculture reform programme lifted millions of people out of poverty and generated enough income for investment in industrial innovations. The Spark Programme was launched in 1986 by the Ministry of Science and Technology and helped to transfer managerial and technological knowledge from more advanced sectors to rural enterprises. This helped to increase productivity and employment.

However, the real reason for the emergence of China as the next superpower is the country's clarity of vision and strategy. This was based on the understanding that progress in this knowledge-

driven world can only be made through a dynamic interaction among the three key pillars of a country: its educational and research institutions; its private sector that is motivated to enter into high-tech manufacturing; and its enabling government policies.

The main programmes that brought about the transformation in China were the Key Technologies R&D Program, the 863 Program and the 973 Program, the Spark Program and the Torch Program. Each of these initiatives is a beacon of light for Pakistan.

The Key Technologies R&D Program, launched in 1982, was the single largest science and technology initiative of the 20th century. Aimed at massive economic reconstruction, it covered agriculture, electronic information, energy resources, transportation, materials, resources exploration, environmental protection, medical and healthcare, and several other fields. The programme engaged thousands of people from more than 1,000 scientific research institutions nationwide and shaped the face of China as it is today.

In March 1986, the National Hi-tech R&D Program (or the 863 Program) was launched, covering 20 themes, including information technology, lasers, robotics and automation, energy, biotechnology, space flight, new materials, and marine sciences.

China's most important programme to promote high-tech industries was the Torch Program launched in 1988. High-tech products were identified for industrial production and exports, and universities and research centres were strengthened to produce manpower that is capable of mass producing high-tech products. It wasn't confined to conventional fields, but included new and emerging areas. We need to implement this initiative under CPEC.

Science has opened up vast opportunities for those countries that understand the key ingredients of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which has now begun. The truth is now stranger than fiction. For instance, new materials have been synthesised, which can bend light and make objects invisible (metamaterials). You can hang an elephant on a strand of graphene that is 150 times thinner than a human hair and the strand won't break because it is 200 times stronger than steel.

Nanotechnology-based filters are already available to purify water. An exciting new technique for accurately splicing genes (CRISPR/Cas9) has created possibilities to cut out salt-tolerant genes from sea weeds or cactuses and incorporate them into edible crops.

Super-fast gene sequencing allows the entire human genome to be sequenced within minutes. Anti-ageing compounds have been discovered and when given to old mice, it made them younger. Stem cells promise to cure damaged organs and may change the manner in which medicine will be practised in the future.

Unfortunately, our Ministry of Science and Technology is in shambles because past governments lacked vision. They spent billions of rupees on greedy transportation schemes while the development budget released last year for the Ministry of Science and Technology was only Rs0.9 billion. We will need to grant a 'pioneering status' to high-tech industries along with providing them a suitable long-term, tax-free status to promote manufacturing and exports in high-tech fields. This could be accompanied by establishing regional industrial clusters to manufacture and export high-tech products, preferably in collaboration with China's private sector.

We will need resources to launch these programmes. Pakistan's immediate problems include the huge gap of about \$40 billion between imports (\$64 billion) and exports (\$24 billion). We, therefore, need to immediately impose a ban on all imports apart from industrial raw materials and essential commodities.

Cars with a capacity that is above 1,300cc should also be banned. We simultaneously need to reduce the cost of doing business by supplying cheap electricity to industrial states. This could be done by establishing new power plants that produce electricity at five cents per kilowatt hour and sell it to industrial states at seven cents per kilowatt hour. The huge losses being made by our public sector companies could be addressed by giving them away at nominal rates on a long-term lease so that this huge gap in our budget can be plugged.

The sum of \$200 billion stacked by corrupt politicians abroad should be brought back in the same way that Saudi Arabia dealt with corrupt officials. However, in our case we shouldn't detain politicians involved in corruption at a luxury hotel. Instead, they should be put in prisons with C-class facilities till they cough up plundered national wealth. They also shouldn't be provided the option of a plea bargain.

**The writer is the former chairman of the HEC, and president of the Network of Academies of Science of OIC Countries (NASIC). Email: [ibne\\_sina@hotmail.com](mailto:ibne_sina@hotmail.com)**

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# CPEC

## is not to blame for the current financial difficulty in Pakistan: China

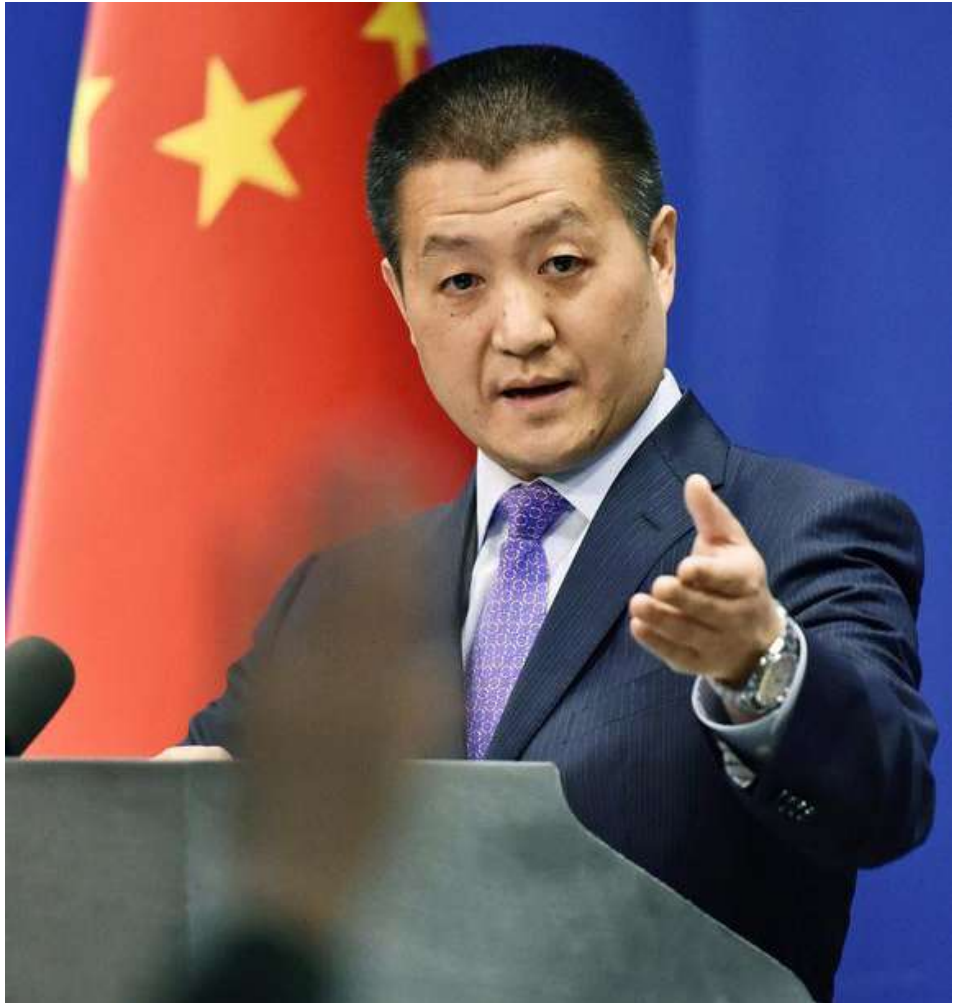
By M.Saeed Yousafzai

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a project co-built by the Chinese and Pakistani governments under the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits. The choice of the projects and financing arrangement are decided by our two sides through equal-footed consultation. In fact, you may have noted that according to what is released about the debt structure by the Pakistani government, the debt incurred by CPEC makes up a very small proportion of Pakistan's debt composition and it is not to blame for the current financial difficulty in Pakistan. I would like to clearly point out that the Chinese side is willing to join hands with Pakistan to continuously enrich and expand CPEC building

and help the Pakistani side enhance its capacity for self-driven development. As a member of the IMF, China supports the organization in making an objective evaluation of Pakistan based on professionalism and earnestly helping it properly address the current difficulty. The relevant measures should not affect the normal bilateral cooperation between China and Pakistan. This statement came from Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference while he was responding to a question related to IMF and Pakistan's current talks for loan and some media believe that Pakistan asking for help from the IMF has something to do with the debt incurred by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which leads to "debt traps". And The IMF has

already said that they will be scrutinizing the Chinese loans provided to Pakistan. And the US officials have indicated that they will also scrutinize the Chinese loans to Pakistan before the IMF takes any decision on this.

Lu Kang further said that recently there are many discussions over Pakistan's debt issue and the financial difficulty it incurred. Like I just said, if we take a look at the country's debt structure as released by the Pakistani government, the debt incurred by CPEC only constitutes a very small proportion of Pakistan's debt composition and it is surely not to blame for the current financial difficulty in Pakistan. Officials of relevant department in the Pakistani government have already made this point very clear in recent remarks.



**The Chinese side is willing to join hands with Pakistan to continuously enrich and expand CPEC building and help the Pakistani side enhance its capacity for self-driven development.**

# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Ali Fikrat Oglu Alizada called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad on October 11, 2018.



Ambassador of China to Pakistan Yao Jing Called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad on October 15, 2018



Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Exchanging Views with High Commissioner of Australia, Ms. Margaret Adamson, At Parliament House Islamabad on October 04, 2018.



Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Exchanging Views with Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan. Mr. Nicolae Goia, At Parliament House Islamabad on October 04, 2018.



Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Exchanging Views with Ambassador of France to Pakistan, Mr. Marc Baret, At Parliament House Islamabad on October 04, 2018.



Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Exchanging views with Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Pakistan, Mr. Saqr Bin Mubarak Al-Mansouri, At Parliament House Islamabad on October 04, 2018.



Minister of State for Interior, Shehryar Khan Afridi In a Meeting with Ambassador of Qatar, H.E. Saqr Bin Mubarak Al Mansoori In Islamabad on October 1, 2018.



His Excellency, Saqr Bin Mubarak Al Mansouri, Ambassador of the State of Qatar, called on Zulfikar Bukhari, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistan in Islamabad on October 15, 2018.



# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Makhdoom Shan Mahmood Qureshi In a Meeting with Ambassador of Iraq to Pakistan, H.E. Dr. Ali Yassin Mohammed Karim at Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad on October 19, 2018.



Ambassador of China to Pakistan He Mr. Yao Jing called on Ms. Zobaida Jalal Federal Minister for Defence Production on October 03, 2018.



Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan, H.E. Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul Called on Federal Minister for Defence Production, Ms. Zobaida Jalal in Rawalpindi on October 03, 2018.



H.E. Mr. Yao Jing, Ambassador of China called on Chaudhry Fawad Hussain Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting in Islamabad on 16-10-2018.



H.E. Mr. Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi, Ambassador of UAE called on Chaudhry Fawad Hussain Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting in Islamabad on 16-10-2018.



Human Rights Minister Shireen Mazari talking to Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi, UAE Ambassador to Pakistan who called on her in Islamabad on October 15, 2018.



H.E. Hamad Obaid Al-Zaabi, Ambassador of UAE to Pakistan, called on Advisor to PM on Commerce, Textile & Industry Production and Investment, Abdul Razaq Dawood, in Islamabad on 16th October, 2018.



H.E. Mr. Ali Alizada, Ambassador of Azerbaijan called on Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting in Islamabad on 19-10-2018.



# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



H.E. Mr. Fadel Ahmed Yahoub, Ambassador of Egypt called on Chaudhary Fawad Hussain, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting in Islamabad on 10-10-2018.



H.E. Mr. Mohamed Karmoune, Ambassador of Morocco called on Chaudhary Fawad Hussain, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting in Islamabad on 9-10-2018.



H.E. Mr. Nicolae Goia, Ambassador of Romania called on Chaudhary Fawad Hussain, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting in Islamabad on 8-10-2018.



H.E. Mr. Martin Kobler, Ambassador of Germany called on Chaudhary Fawad Hussain, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting in Islamabad on October 15, 2018.



H.E. Mr. Marc Baret, Ambassador of France called on Chaudhary Fawad Hussain, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting in Islamabad on 12-10-2018.



Human Rights Minister Dr Shireen M Mazari talking to the Ambassador of Morocco to Pakistan, Mohamed Karmoune who called on in Islamabad on October 09, 2018.



Federal Minister for Human Rights Dr Shireen M Mazari in a meeting with the Ambassador of France, Marc Baret in Islamabad on October 12, 2018.



H.E. Mr. Takashi KURAI, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Pakistan called on Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood in Islamabad on 5th October, 2018.



# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Morocco's Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Mohamed Karmoune called on the Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Barrister Dr. Muhammad Farogh Naseem, to discuss bilateral issues in Islamabad on October 16, 2018.



H.E. Mr. Takashi KURAI, Ambassador of Japan paid a courtesy call on Dr. Farogh Naseem, Minister for Law and Justice in Islamabad on October 4, 2018.



Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to Pakistan, ARDI Stoios-Braken called on Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Aamir Mehmood Kiyani in Islamabad on October 10, 2018.



Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Nicolae Gola called on Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Aamir Mehmood Kiyani in Islamabad on October 19, 2018.



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, Industry & Production and Investment, Amdul Razak Dawood in a Meeting with British High Commissioner, Thomas Drew in Islamabad on October 05, 2018.



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, Industry & Production and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood in a Meeting with Dr. Marc Barety, French Ambassador in Islamabad on October 12, 2018.



German ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Martin Kobler called on the Federal Minister / Advisor to PM on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam Khan at MOCC, Islamabad on October 12, 2018.



Ambassador of France to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Marc Barety called on federal Minister For Information Technology and Telecommunication, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui at his Office in Islamabad on October 03, 2018.





# Five million in five years

By Miftah Ismail

**W**ith much fanfare – albeit with austerity too – Prime Minister Imran Khan announced his intention of building five million new homes in Pakistan. I say ‘austerity’ here because his plan really was austere and parsimonious in its details.

The PM said that he would mobilise the private sector to build the houses, conduct surveys to ascertain the demand, had instructed the Ministry of Finance to propose a financing plan, and was setting up a new office within the PM Secretariat to facilitate people. All of this of course means that, while PM Khan has good intentions and wants to build five million homes, so far there is no plan.

The only concrete numbers shared so far with the public have been by the prime minister’s friend and confidante Aneel Musarrat. The Pakistani-origin British real-estate developer has said that the government will provide land free of cost and that the total cost of building these houses will be \$180 billion. That’s Rs24,300 billion. In his plan, the cheapest home was to be built for \$10,000 and the most expensive one for \$100,000. On the other hand, Tariq Bashir Cheema, the federal minister for housing, says that the most expensive home should not be for more than Rs2.5 million. So quite obviously there are still a lot of loose ends in the plan and nothing has been set in concrete yet.

Yet another spokesman of the government says that the cheapest house will be for Rs1.5 million, for which the homeowner will be expected to pay Rs150,000 as down payment and the rest will come from a bank loan. Given 10 percent interest rates and 20 years payback, the equal monthly payment for this mortgage will come to around Rs13,000. This is again a little confusing as the form that the government is selling for Rs250 each as part of its housing demand survey says that the minimum income required for getting a house is Rs20,000 per month and the minimum monthly payment required will be Rs6,000. And yet the cheapest mortgage comes to Rs13,000 which will be 65 percent of the income for a household that makes Rs20,000 a month. The only way to bring monthly payment to Rs6000 per month is to charge 0.65 percent interest per year, which is to say that the government will essentially give homeowners 20-year loans interest free.

The State Bank of Pakistan’s policy rate today stands at 8.5 percent, having increased by 200 basis points over the last four months; and most economists think that the rates will probably be increased by another 300 basis points as the government tries to slow down the economy to bring about a reduction in imports. This of course means that even a 10 percent mortgage rate can only be done through a government subsidy to private banks and that is something the government hasn’t budgeted for in its mini budget. Plus the amounts we are talking about are so large that even a much larger and richer economy cannot afford to undertake such a huge project, let alone a poor country like Pakistan.

Consider the amount required for building all the homes again: Rs24,300 billion over five years. This means Rs4860 billion per year. This is more than the total taxes the FBR is expected to raise this year. This is also more than the sum of the private and foreign investment undertaken in Pakistan every year. In other words, if all the money Pakistanis invest to open shops, restaurants, malls, factories, power plants, schools, colleges, clinics, hospitals, stores, butcher shops, bakeries, hair salons, tuition centres, banks, trucking companies and so on and so forth, were diverted to build homes even then this won’t be enough. So five million homes in five years is a lovely dream but it’s just that: a dream.

One more statistic to show the implausibility of this dream and then I shall endeavour to make some suggestions. The proposed five million homes are more than all the ‘pucca’ homes in the cities of Karachi and Lahore. So the PTI is promising to build in five years more houses than exist in Lahore and Karachi. I am tempted to say that the PTI wants to build more houses in the next five years than have been built in the 70 years since independence. But the fact is that there are houses in Lahore that were built during Ranjeet Singh’s time and homes in Karachi include Wazir Mansion, the birthplace of our Quaid.

This reality check aside, the fundamental idea of PM Khan to enable the private sector to build affordable homes is a great idea and something that can fulfil a great need as well as boost the economy. So let us look at what is it that prevents more affordable homes to be built. I think the primary hindrance is the non-

availability of affordable land near people’s workplaces. Add to that the complexity of finding land with proper documentation. And of course our anti-growth zoning laws and the red tape and harassment involved in getting building permits also add hugely to the cost. And finally, getting water, electricity, gas and sewerage connection is no easy feat in Pakistan. All told our laws, regulations, historic legacy about land-holding, bureaucratic inertia and venality and inadequate utility infrastructure all contribute to the lack of affordable housing. Given our federalist government structure, almost all of these are the responsibilities of the provinces. The governing structure in Sindh and Balochistan are especially a challenge. It is not clear to me how a PTI federal government fixes these issues while respecting provincial autonomy.

The government is keen to give free land to developers for affordable housing. But governments don’t own much land near city centres and faraway homes are not practical for many low-income people.

In view of all this, one of the best things the federal government can do is to work with provinces and – where possible – give titles to residents of katchi abadis. Once people have title to the land, they will over time build decent houses for themselves.

The second major step, something the PML-N government had started doing in Punjab, is to make land use laws and regulations rational and people friendly. Dr Nadeem ul Haque, the former deputy chairman of the planning commission, has been arguing for years that allowing tall buildings everywhere in the city will allow not only result in cheaper residences but will also give a huge boost to the economy.

To incentivise builders to build homes by giving them free land and forcing banks through the State Bank of Pakistan to lend to new affordable homes will create the mother of all bad debts. This is a pitfall the government must avoid. Working slowly to improve laws and regulations, something which doesn’t attract much publicity on the media, is probably the way to go about when bringing homes in the reach of more low-income citizens.

The writer has served as federal minister for finance, revenue and economic affairs.

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# Government announces **NEW ENVOYS** at key overseas missions

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

The Federal government has decided to appoint “career diplomats” in key world capitals, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said, doing away with “political appointments” in London, Washington and Riyadh.

The foreign minister, while briefing the media here, said that Nafees Zakaria would be the

new Pakistani high commissioner to London, while Dr Asad Majeed will be appointed an ambassador to the United States.

He, however, said the appointments will take some time, adding that the matter has already been discussed with Prime Minister Imran Khan.

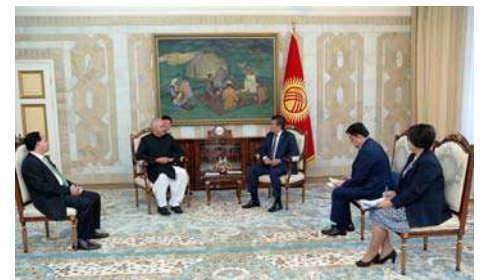
Qureshi further said Raja Ali Aijaz is going to be posted in Riyadh as the new ambassador.

He said that all appointments included “career diplomats.”

Hamid Asghar Khan will be appointed an ambassador to Rabat and Shehryar Akbar Khan in Serbia, the minister said further.

He added that Sahibzada Ahmed Khan will discharge diplomatic responsibilities in Havana, whereas Ahmed Amjad Ali will be appointed consul general in Dubai.

## The President of the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Mr. Jeenbekov has accepted the credentials from the Ambassador H.E. Faisal Niyaz Tirmizhi of Islamic Republic of Pakistan



# Austrian National Day Greetings

**H.E. Dr. Brigitta Blaha**  
**Ambassador of the Republic of Austria**



The relations between Austria and Pakistan, established over 60 years ago, have always been friendly. Over the past few years, bilateral ties between our two countries have further strengthened, especially in terms of trade, education and cultural exchange. I am hopeful of a bright future for Pakistan and I am confident that there will be many further opportunities through which our two countries can learn and benefit from each other.

It is my pleasure to send my warmest greetings throughout Pakistan on the occasion of the Austrian National Day. On 26 October, Austria celebrates its sovereignty, which was fully regained ten years after the Second World War in 1955. This day also marks the anniversary of Austria's commitment to neutrality, decided in the same year. Relations between Austria and Pakistan were formally established shortly after, in 1956, and have been friendly ever since.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the longstanding friendship between Austria and Pakistan. Although it may not be evident at first glance, our two countries have several points in common. Indisputably, both Austria and Pakistan enjoy breathtaking landscapes and pristine nature, including stunning mountains, fresh lakes, powerful rivers, and fertile plains. Due to their geographic locations, both countries – one in the heart of Europe, the other at the core of the Silk Road – have is under 30 years of age. The future of Pakistan will be decided by its youth. Austria remains committed to cooperating with Pakistan in the field of research and education. In Austria, education is open to everyone and the Austrian education system offers academic, as well as technical and vocational training systems. A number of Austrian educational institutions are currently working together with the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to build an Institute of Applied Science & Technology in Haripur based on the Austrian model of Fachhochschule.

Due to the amazing and often untapped natural beauty of Pakistan, there are many opportunities for further development of its

been influenced by a wide variety of different cultures and religions. This natural and cultural diversity provides a lot of potential to further develop commonalities through even closer cooperation.

Trade ties between Austria and Pakistan have strengthened significantly in recent years. Austrian exports to Pakistan in the first six months of 2018 rose by 21 per cent compared to the same period last year, while Pakistani exports to Austria rose by 10 per cent. Pakistan has shown that it can be competitive and the improving security situation has been helpful in this regard. However, there is room for more economic cooperation and investments.

One of Pakistan's main challenges impeding economic development is its energy sector. Austria is a world leader in renewable energies and is currently working on plans to ensure that 100 per cent of its energy stems from renewable sources by 2030. Austrian expertise can contribute towards effectively developing Pakistan's clean energy potential, especially its hydropower capabilities. This can help make a lasting positive impact on many people's lives and the Pakistani economy as a whole.

Broad and inclusive access to education is also crucial to development, especially in Pakistan, where, according to a recent UNDP publication, over 60 per cent of the population



tourism industry and Alpine sports facilities. As an Alpine country, Austria has a flourishing tourism sector and is world-renowned for its winter sports. In recent years, Austrian ski instructors have been regularly travelling to the Northern areas of Pakistan to help teach Pakistani youth how to ski and to offer climbing courses. Valuable cultural exchange and mutual learning can take place through sports. There is potential for further cooperation in the field of Alpine sports and mountaineering in Pakistan. As a cultural nation, proud of its rich musical and artistic heritage, as well as its contemporary scene, Austria is highly engaged in promoting intercultural experiences and artistic performances and interactions in Pakistan. In recent years, the Austrian Embassy has organized cultural events in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi. In March this year, Austrian artist Kay Walkowiak presented some of his photographic series at the first Lahore Biennale. In May, the musical duo “Lohninger & Fischbacher” played their unique jazz tunes in Islamabad and Lahore. Two Austrian artists, Linde Waber and Anna Stangl, exhibited some

of their artwork at COMSATS University Gallery and were able to interact with Pakistani artists and students through workshops and studio visits in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. In addition, from 15-20 October, the Austrian music group “KUSIMANTEN” will be performing in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi as the musical highlight of our National Day celebrations in Pakistan.

Today – perhaps more than ever – fostering friendship and cooperation between countries is paramount. This year marks the 100-year anniversary of the end of the First World War, which led to the death of around 19 million people. In Europe, after centuries of conflict, we are now lucky enough to benefit from a peaceful economic and political environment. Yet, we must not take this situation for granted. Since July 2018, Austria has held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Given its geographic location right in the center of the EU, its obligation of neutrality and its traditional role as a bridge-builder, Austria has endeavored to contribute to the unity within the EU during its Council Presidency.

Over the past 100 years, the nature of war may have changed; however, conflict is still rife in many parts of the world and thus commitment to the multilateral spirit remains critical. Austria appreciates Pakistan’s efforts as a multilateral partner. It is important to stay focused towards achieving the targets that the international community has set for itself, in particular, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the framework of the Agenda 2030, and to ensure the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women.

Pakistan is an amazingly diverse country, full of hidden cultural treasures, and most of all distinguished by the kindness and generous hospitality of its people. I am hopeful of a bright future for Pakistan and I am confident that there will be many more opportunities through which our two countries can learn and benefit from each other. Let us not only celebrate what we have in common, but let us also learn from our differences and intensify the ties between Austria and Pakistan for years to come!

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**Depicts the Golden Roof in Innsbruck**



**Depicts a city view of Vienna**



**Depicts the Golden Roof in Innsbruck**



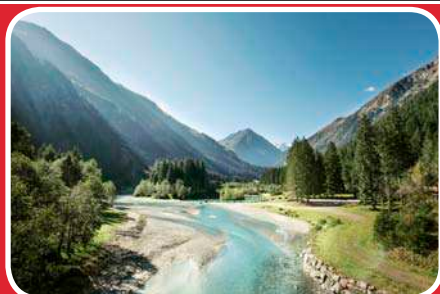
**Depicts Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna**



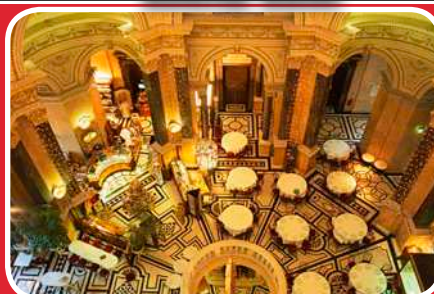
**Depicts snowboarders on Hintertux Glacier**



**Depicts the Mirabell Gardens in Salzburg**



**Depicts a view of the Stubai Valley**



**Depicts the Cafeteria of the Natural History Museum in Vienna**



**Depicts the town of Hallstatt in Upper Austria**



# Austrian national day celebrated

The Austrian Ambassador Dr Brigitta Blaha hosted a reception to mark the national day of the country at her residence in Islamabad. The Federal Minister for Power Omar Ayub Khan graced the occasion as the chief guest. The celebration event was attended by European ambassadors, politicians, civil society members and the representatives of business community. Austrian Musicians performed and thrilled the audience.





# Farewell reception in honour of outgoing Ambassador of Austria

Dean of Diplomatic corps and Ambassador of Turkmenistan H.E. Atadjan Movlamov hosted a farewell reception in honour of the outgoing Austrian Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Carlos Morales. H.E. Dr Brigitta Blaha, highlighted the services and contributions of the outgoing ambassador and paid him rich tributes. A large number of Ambassadors from the Diplomat Corps were present to bid farewell to their colleague.





# EU & WWF-Pakistan celebrate Climate Diplomacy Day

European Union and WWF-Pakistan joined hands to promote action on climate change by celebrating Climate Diplomacy Day in Islamabad. The event kicked off with the participants cycling from the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on a designated route as a symbolic gesture to raise awareness to curtail the growth of greenhouse emissions by promoting eco-friendly modes of transportation. The event then moved on to a screening of documentary, Thank you for the rain, which is the story of a Kenyan farmer, Kisilu. Ambassador of the European Union, H.E. Jean-François Cautain said: "The EU remains committed to the Paris Agreement and its full implementation. Mr. Hammad Naqi Khan, Director General WWF-Pakistan, stressed the importance of promoting a common worldwide understanding of the need for action to mitigate climate change. The event brought together people from diverse backgrounds to become part of the exchanges taking place worldwide in the crucial reflection on how to explore the opportunities arising through the irreversible transition to low carbon economies while ensuring equitable access to sustainable development.









## Kazakhstan being the biggest producers and hub of energy in the Central Asia Region (CARs) has a comprehensive energy policy

# Kazakhstan's Energy Pursuits

By Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan



Energy has become one of the most important actors of sustainable economic development, security and above all human survival in the world. Energy gears development, massive industrialization and channels of production and Kazakhstan being the biggest producers and hub of energy in the Central Asia Region (CARs) has a comprehensive energy policy. It is dynamic and forward-looking. It promotes regional connectivity. It shares socio-economic prosperity in the region and beyond. It is diversified in terms of supplies and demands. It promotes elements of energy security and efficiency. It reduces incidents of climate change by announcing and implementing various projects of green/renewable energy in the country. Indeed, Kazakhstan is the champion of energy reserves in the CARs.

Kazakhstan is the champion of energy reserves in Central Asia and CIS. Kazakhstan is a very large producer of all fossil fuels. Kazakhstan was the 10th largest coal producer in the world. It also ranked among the top producers of crude oil (16th) and natural gas (23rd). Kazakhstan's energy production covers more than twice its energy demand. It enables Kazakhstan to be major energy exporter. In 2016, the country was the 7th largest coal exporter in the world, 12th crude exporter and 20th natural gas exporter.

In Kazakhstan, coal accounts for more than 70 percent of the electricity production, followed by natural gas (19 percent). Renewable energy accounted for 9 percent of electricity generation (0.2 TWh from solar and wind, 9.3 TWh from hydro).

Kazakhstan, possesses one of the largest energy potential in the world, strives to establish stable structure of the global energy security, which is built on the principles of justice, balance of interests of both supplying countries and transit countries and consumers. Energy cooperation, based on beneficial and long-term partnership,

formed on the basis of common principles and rules, is a condition of steadfast development of the world community.

It has a comprehensive energy policy which stipulates its national economy. It caters its energy demands and creates balance even in supplies mechanism. Its energy policy is the ideal combination of energy security, energy efficiency and of course energy diversification. It enhances national as well as regional connectivity. It utilizes its vast energy reserves for regional development. It supports greater socio-economic prosperity in the region and beyond.

Its energy policy is very attractive and provides a befitting proposition for both the producers and consumers. It gears up channels of production as well as supports massive industrialization in the country as well in the region.

Kazakhstan's Green Economy Concept policy (KGECP) was adopted in May 2013, emerged in response to the Rio+20 'Earth Summit'. President Nazarbayev has since reaffirmed his government's commitment to mainstreaming the green economy agenda into national development.

It has ambitious aims to diversify the economy with alternative, cleaner sources of energy. It will transform its agricultural and industrial sectors. It will motivate economic drivers of green development. It shows sustained political commitment, significant long-term investments and a range of other enabling conditions.

Kazakhstan's energy policy facilitates its macro-economy due to which it has been achieving highest GDPs percentage in the Central Asia and the CIS since its inception. Immense social development has been the resultant of its unparalleled growth in oil & gas sector. It has been one the main reasons in reduction of poverty in the country. It supports infrastructural development in the country.

Its oil & gas reserves are the life line to national

as well as regional human survival as well as industrialization. It cements concept of energy security and efficiency in the region. It is playing a significant role in the massive industrialization drive of China. It is one of the key players to achieve strategic development goals in the country.

Kazakhstan's geographic imbalances are one of the main reasons of its greater regional connectivity in terms of energy cooperation with South East Asian Countries including Pakistan. Although the scope of greater bilateral relations in terms of trade & commerce, science & technology, joint venture in RES, oil and gas exploration, energy transmission, agro-cooperation and last but not the least, infrastructural development are immense between Pakistan and Kazakhstan.

Policy makers in Kazakhstan especially its visionary leader President H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev has already outlined a Strategic Road Map (SRP) for the further development of oil & gas reserves as well as Renewables Energy Mix (REMs) in the country. His National Concept for Transition to a Green Economy up to 2050 reflects his strong commitments towards a safer and better world where climate change will be managed. It is a giant step to reduce carbon footnotes and achieving the concept of de-carbonization in the country. It is a right step in the right direction achieving the goals of "green economy".

Kazakhstan has a vast potential for renewable energy sources. There is no shortage of wind and solar energy. According to Kazakhstan Ministry of Energy as of January 1, 2017, there are 50 enterprises operating in the country using RES with a total capacity of 295.7 MW (HPP139.8, WPP-98.2, SPP-57.3, biogas plants-0.35 MW). For 2016, the installed renewable energy capacity in Kazakhstan increased by 18 percent. In 2016, 4 renewable energy projects with a total capacity of 50.39 MW were implemented;



in 2017, 12 RES facilities with installed capacity of 114.25 MW were also implemented. The installed capacity of WPP increased by 37 percent up to 98.2.

The total capacity of renewable energy sources in Kazakhstan during will reach 490 megawatts. "In 2018 Kazakhstan intends to introduce another 138 megawatts of renewable energy sources, 58 enterprises using RES are operating in the country, their total capacity is 352 megawatts. As a result of 2018, the total capacity of renewable sources in Kazakhstan will be about 490 megawatts.

According to Kazakhstan Ministry of Energy about 1.1 billion kWh of green energy was generated in Kazakhstan, 5 projects of RES with a total capacity of 35.6 MW were realized in Almaty and South Kazakhstan regions and in Astana in 2017. 1 gigawatts of capacity will be auctioned during 2018.

President H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev 2050 provides policy framework to gradually lessen dependency on conventional energy resources especially oil & gas. Kazakhstan is blessed with conventional as well as non-conventional energy resources and mix. Its geography has a comparative advantage for the development of solar, wind and biomass energies in the region. Attractive tariff in the formation of green economy is one of the main reasons for regional as well as international investors in the fields of renewables in the country.

There is an urgent need to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, in the country which burns mostly fossil fuel, namely coal, oil, and gas. Resultantly, primary sources of energy are on the decline and by. The consumption of oil will increase by 15 percent, gas-by 38 percent, and coal by 5 percent. The relevance of developing alternative energy based on RES is caused by extremely high infrastructure wear and tear: 70 percent, generation capacities, 65 percent, electric networks, 80 percent, heating networks.

Kazakhstan has a significant potential for the development of alternative energy. The potential of wind energy is estimated at 760-920 GWh per year, which is 10 times higher than the current electricity consumption in the country. Northern Kazakhstan, where winds reach 7.5 m/s, is a promising area, as well as other ideal characteristics for the Aeolian Park, such as the Shelek Gorge, which is in 100 km from Almaty, Zhambyl district in East Kazakhstan Region, Mangystau Mountains in Western Kazakhstan, etc.

The hydro potential of Kazakhstan is estimated at 62 billion kW, which is 70 percent of the total consumption in the country. As for the potential of solar energy in the southern regions of the country, it is about 2500-3000 thousand hours of sunshine per year, which corresponds to a capacity of 1200-1770 kW/m<sup>2</sup> per year, and allows the southern regions of Kazakhstan to

be competitive with the sunniest countries in the world. This is approximately 2.5 billion KW per year. The construction of a plant for solar panels production in Astana will also contribute to the development of solar energy.

The importance of Kazakhstan as a major energy supplier and contributor towards diversification of energy sources for the EU markets. Kazakhstan now supplies around 5-6 percent, of EU oil demand and meets more than 21 percent of the EU uranium demand.

Kazakhstan strives to give its unlimited energy resource potential to the disposal of the mankind, realizing the energy policy based on the principles of combined modernization of fuel and energy complex and diversification of energy supplies to the world markets.

Energy policy of Kazakhstan is based on diversified operationalization and channelization of energy resources, efficiency and saving of energy, optimal use of energy resources, energy security, investments, energy diplomacy, innovations and the last but not the least development of renewable or green energy resources. Moreover, increasing internal/national production capacity to meet external demands, diversifying energy export routes, increasing export capacity, securing energy transportation and networks to external markets are also salient features of its energy policy.

Main characteristics of its energy policy are dialogue between energy consuming and energy producing countries, cooperation with oil companies from many countries of the world, reducing instability of oil market and diversification of energy resources transportation routes. Kazakhstan energy policy is instrumental for achieving desired goals of socio-economic integration, greater energy connectivity, qualitative life and above all human survival. It values the concept of further diversification of energy resources (solar, wind, biomass). It has a comprehensive plan for diversification of supplies and demands. Moreover, guidelines of Kazakhstan's energy policy are based on 3Es i.e. energy security, energy efficiency and environmental safety. It has short as well as long term policies, programs and projects. Guiding lines of Kazakhstan's energy policy speaks about foreign direct investments (FDIs), joint ventures (JVs), public-private partnership (PPPs) and last but not the least, sustained development of companies and constructive dialogue to maintain energy price stability and security.

It is one the ideal countries of FDIs in oil & gas sectors in the region. It facilitates national as well as international investors to make investments in various projects of conventional as well as non-conventional energy. It chalks out Strategic Road Map (SRP) for the development of national companies for exploration of oil & gas reserves in the countries. It has befitting

proposition even for international companies.

The State Committee on Resources (SCR) indicates recoverable hydrocarbon reserves of the Republic of Kazakhstan onshore which are highlighted in the above given figure IV. According to SCR report Kazakhstan ranks among ten leading countries in the world in terms of hydrocarbon reserves and 15th in the world projected reserves. The largest explored reserves of natural gas dissolved in crude oil are concentrated in large developed deposits such as Karachaganak, Tengiz, Zhanazhol, Urikhtau.

According to latest official figures Kazakhstan has 4.1 Gt for oil, around 2 000 bcm for gas and 33.6 Gt for coal the 7th largest coal reserves in the world, end of 2016. About 70 percent of the Kazakhstan's oil potential is located in the west of the country, particularly in the Caspian Sea Kashagan.

Kazakhstan is rich in natural resources including coal, oil, natural gas and uranium. It has significant renewable potential from wind, solar, hydro-power and biomass. Coal-fired plants account for 75 percent of total power generation. Recent economic growth in Kazakhstan has driven increased demand for energy services, making the construction of additional generating capacity necessary for enabling sustained economic growth. In this context, renewable energy resources are becoming an increasingly attractive option to help bridge the demand-supply gap and to decrease national greenhouse gas emissions.

According to many research studies and reports of World Bank, IMF and Asian Development Bank, Kazakhstan is the dominant nation of Central Asia economically, generating 60 percent of the region's GDP, primarily through its oil/gas industry. It is a major producer of oil, gas and coal, as well as being the largest producer and exporter of uranium ore in the world. However, due to falling oil prices export revenue from oil and gas has declined by 35 percent since 2015.

**Energy policy of Kazakhstan is based on diversified operationalization and channelization of energy resources, efficiency and saving of energy, optimal use of energy resources, energy security, investments, energy diplomacy, innovations and the last but not the least development of renewable or green energy resources.**





# TAPI project will become a bridge among the peoples: Pakistan

## Turkmenistan will complete its share of TAPI project by this year: DHM

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

The Embassy of Turkmenistan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in collaboration with Pakistan's "Measac Research Center (MRC) for political studies" conducted a seminar dedicated to the "Strategic significance of TAPI Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project in the region" at multipurpose hall of Islamabad Club. The chief guest of the event was State Minister for Parliamentary affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr. Muhammad Ali Khan. The event was also attended by Director General of Measac Research Center Mr. Muhammad Abdullah Gul, heads of the diplomatic missions accredited in Pakistan, diplomats, scholars and experts of scientific-research institutes as well as Pakistan's Media. During this seminar held by the initiative of Pakistan's Measac Research Center for political studies participants exchanged views on the implementation of TAPI gas pipeline project, which is region's enormous gas main.

At the beginning in his introductory speech, Muhammad Abdullah Gul highly appreciated regional importance of TAPI gas pipeline. He underlined that this project is meant to connect peoples and to provide peace and stability in the region.

**Indian High Commissioner termed TAPI as "peace line"**

Speakers on at a seminar "received a detailed briefing by Brigadier Abdul Rahman Bilal who described the details of TAPI gas line project.

In opening remarks Turkmenistan Deputy Head of Mission Begench Gurbanov said his country is rich in hydrocarbons and gas reserves and will complete its share of this project by this year. The DHM expressed the confidence that all other stakeholders of the project will take keen interest to complete their part earliest. TAPI is a key project, it will get peace in of the region" said Turkmen DHM in Pakistan. State Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Muhammad Ali Khan mentioned that TAPI project will become a bridge among the peoples. Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs while addressing the ceremony said that it is the time to promote bilateral peace and harmony in the region. The Minister added that Pakistan want peace in the region that is connected to the peace of Afghanistan. "We should try to establish peace in Afghanistan that is imperative for the peace of the whole region. Ali Mohammad added that due to mutual hatred in past, we have made a difficulty of each other but now it is time to create and promote peace and harmony for the better development







and mutual prosperity of the region. "Prime Minister Imran Khan also wants peaceful relations neighboring countries especially with India and Afghanistan" said the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs. He said TAPI project would be proven as a milestone for bringing peace in the region. It may also be recalled that Memorandum of Understanding between Turkmenistan and Pakistan for further cooperation in the fields of fuel and energy was signed on March 16, 2017 and this agreement is valid for five years. The TAPI project is a multiple areas of mutual cooperation including LPG, oil and gas. The mega cooperation is including exchange of experience and participation in establishment of oil and gas installations as well as the import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan Afghanistan, Pakistan and India are the main stakeholders in the project. Indian High Commissioner in Pakistan Ajay Bisaria addressing the seminar has said that this project is significantly important for the energy and regional cooperation and said "this pipeline is peace line" for the partner countries. He added that the project would not only bring harmony but may call "incentive for peace". TAPI project would help to boost regional connectivity and



trade said Ajay Bisaria. Referring to the Pakistan India Relations he said that the project can help establishing peace between two countries. TAPI project would boost security cooperation among member countries. H.E. Mr. Zardasht Shams, Deputy Head of Mission of Afghanistan to Pakistan, speaking on the occasion said that the pipeline project will bring harmony, peace and regional security in the region. He stated that it would help to overcome the differences between the countries could be used to facilitate each other to overcome the challenges.

**The pipeline project  
will bring harmony,  
peace and regional  
security in the  
region: DHM  
Afghanistan**



**MD Pakistan  
Bait ul Mal  
visited Khyber  
Agency KPK**



Young and Energetic MD Pakistan Bait ul Mal Mr. Aon Abbas Buppi visited Khyber Agency KPK. He ensured quality rehabilitation and provision of standard welfare benefits to the people of Khyber Agency keeping in view the agenda of Government.







By Bilal Zafar, Monitoring

The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled that an Austrian woman's criminal conviction and fine for her statements accusing the Prophet Muhammad of pedophilia did not breach her right to free speech. The decision by a seven-judge panel came as an Austrian national identified as E.S. by the court, had held seminars on Islam in 2008 and 2009 for the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ) where she discussed the prophet's marriage to his wife Aisha, a child at the time, and implied that he was a pedophile. An Austrian court convicted her of disparaging religious doctrines in 2011 and fined her 480 euros (548 dollars), a judgment that was upheld on two appeals. Stating that the court had found that "the applicant's statements had been likely to arouse justified indignation in Muslims" and "amounted to a generalization without factual basis", the Strasbourg-based ECtHR said that the woman's comments could not be covered by the freedom of expression.

**Defaming the Prophet Muhammad exceeds the permissible limits of freedom of expression, ruled the European Court of Human Rights, upholding an Austrian court's decision**

**INSULTING**  
Prophet Muhammad  
**NOT**  
'free speech,'  
**ECtHR**  
*rules*

The court said it "found in particular that the domestic courts comprehensively assessed the wider context of the applicant's statements and carefully balanced her right to freedom of expression with the right of others to have their religious feelings protected, and served the legitimate aim of preserving religious peace in Austria." The statement also added that there had been no violation of Article 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights, covering freedom of expression. The Austrian courts had drawn a distinction between pedophilia and child marriage, which was also a common practice historically in European ruling families. The ECtHR also underlined that it classified the 'impugned' statements as "an abusive attack on the Prophet of Islam, which was capable of stirring up prejudice and putting at risk religious peace." It noted that the Austrian courts had held that ES was making value judgments partly based on untrue facts and without regard to the historical context.

## Foreign Secretary lodged a strong protest on the blasphemous tweets by Dutch Parliamentarian Geert Wilders

Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua called Ambassador of the Netherlands to the Foreign Office and lodged a strong protest on the blasphemous tweets by Dutch Parliamentarian Geert Wilders. The Foreign Secretary conveyed deep concern and disappointment of the government and people of Pakistan on continued and deliberate malicious attempts of the

Dutch Parliamentarian to hurt the sentiments of hundreds of millions across the world. The Foreign Secretary underscored that such acts cannot be allowed with impunity under the pretext of freedom of expression. These discriminatory incidents spread hate and intolerance and provoke extremism and violence, which were prohibited under

human rights laws and standards. She called upon the Dutch government to condemn and take suitable measures to counter and prevent such actions from taking place. The Dutch Ambassador assured that concerns of Government and people of Pakistan would be conveyed to the concerned authorities in the Netherlands.



# Turkish cuisines in the Heart of Islamabad

Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul and Federal Minister for Law and Justice Barrister Dr. Farogh Naseem inaugurated an eight-day Turkish Food Festival, where guests had the opportunity to meet the renowned chefs from Çiragan Palace Kempinski Istanbul.

Serena Hotels as part of its Cultural Diplomacy initiatives has invited Serdar Ongel, Sous Chef, Davut Kutlugun, Chef de Partie, and Servet Kanat, Pastry Chef de Partie, from Çiragan Palace to bring the flavors of Istanbul to Islamabad.



# "UZBEKISTAN THE LAND OF GREAT ISLAMIC SCHOLARS"

Embassy of Uzbekistan in Pakistan and with collaboration of Centaurus Mall organized a Painting Exhibition in Islamabad. Ambassador H.E. Furqatbek Akhmed Sidiq & Sardar Yasir Ilyas inaugurated the exhibition. Visitors took keen interest in portraits of Islamic Scholars of Uzbekistan.





# Romania celebrates Armed Forces Day

Ambassador of Romania Nicolae Goia, and Defence Attaché of Romania Lt. Col Leonard Viza hosted a reception to celebrate Armed Forces Day in Local hotel, Islamabad. Chief Guest of the event was Vice Admiral Abdul Aleem Chief of Staff, Personnel (COS-P). The event was well attended by government official, members of the diplomatic corps and members of the armed forces.







# Huawei Collaborates With HEC to Launch ICT Competition Pakistan 2018-2019

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Monitoring

Huawei is a leading global Information and Communication Technology (ICT) solution provider. Huawei's Certification System is well recognized and is becoming a standard for ICT talent cultivation. In order to promote ICT industry technology certification, develop ICT industry talent and a strong ecosystem, Huawei is inviting colleges and universities in Pakistan to participate in the Huawei ICT Competition Pakistan 2018-2019.

Huawei has collaborated with Higher Education Commission in launching its 3rd ICT Competition in Pakistan. Together with HEC, Huawei has launched the Huawei Authorized Information and Network Academy (HAINA) program as well. There are 14 academies for now, but the plan is to take the number to 30 academies in a year's time. This program provides opportunities to promote studies of advanced technologies through R&D and adopt Huawei's globally renowned university-enterprise cooperation model.

The ICT Competition will help enhance the quality of future ICT professionals in Pakistan, along with increasing national ICT competitiveness and supporting local students across Pakistan.

In 2018, the 3rd ICT competition aims to motivate more students into registering for the competition and elevate their ICT talent. Huawei is focusing on holding awareness seminars, workshops and preliminary rounds of

this year's competition at Pakistan's 14 running HAINAs starting from this month. Huawei is also visiting universities for road shows.

The roadshows play an imperative role. They help to attract more students to participate in the Huawei ICT Competition, which will also bring more of them to take Huawei Certification exam. These also promote a deepened cooperation and partnership between Huawei and its partners like HALPs and Huawei ICT Academies. Till now more than 10,000 students from reputable universities have registered. 5,000+ students will take the preliminary test, out of which 500 students will appear for the e-learning test. The top 100 students will take the lab test. The most competitive 6 students will be selected for the international round which will be held in Huawei headquarters in Shenzhen, China. Not only will the winners of the competition receive certificates, trophies, and prizes, they will also get a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to China and gain access to a top global ICT company.

Huawei will grant an exclusive fully sponsored trip to the company's international headquarters in Shenzhen to the winners and the chance to meet with the brand's leadership. They will gain unrivaled exposure to Huawei's expertise in telecommunications, enterprise, and consumer business, not to mention a priceless cultural experience and knowledge exchange.

The competition is part of Huawei's longstanding effort to have a positive impact on

the community of Pakistan. Huawei has already implemented a Seeds for the Future program to offer training and internships to promising students across the country. Each year a group of approximately 20 students visits two states of China for learning their culture and gain exposure.

The ICT Competition offers students additional opportunities to gain valuable experience of ICT industry. Participants will get the opportunity to work in a real laboratory, and tackle some of the industry's most complex challenges. The competition material is based on advanced IP and IT material, and tests contestants on their knowledge of cloud computing, switching, routing, and network security. It is a unique opportunity for students to test their abilities in ICT's most cutting edge fields.

## President Dr. Arif Alvi approved the appointments of VCs

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

President Dr Arif Alvi approved the appointments of Dr Mohammad Ali as vice chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University, Dr Ziaul Qayum as VC Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) and Dr. Masoom Yasinzai as rector International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI). The president approved the appointments for four years as the chancellor of these universities. Dr. Saqib Riaz Chairman of Department of Mass Communication AIU welcome to Dr Ziaul Qayum as VC Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) and congratulated him.





**By Ken Livingstone**

**T**ump's threats of war, sanctions and promises to make America great again could be dismissed as the ranting of an eccentric politician. But this isn't all about Trump. What he advocates is representative of much of the US elite.

The president and his generation of Americans grew up in a world where the USA was the greatest superpower in human history. It was not just their vast arsenal of nuclear weapons and their war machine but, in 1945, around 50 percent of the entire world's economy was in the United States of America, with Britain and the USSR hobbling along with around 10 percent each. America dwarfed the power that the British empire had in the 19th century.

In the years that followed, America would intervene all over the world, not to spread democracy, but to overthrow governments that were not working in America's commercial interests. Whether it was the coup that removed the government of Iran in 1953 and brought back the dictatorship of the Shah; or the military coup in Brazil in 1964 that overthrew a socialist, democratically elected government; or the dozens of other coups around the world, America crushed any opposition to its economic interests.

Some 45 years after the end of the Second World War came the collapse of the Soviet Union, by which time America's share of the global economy was down to 25 percent. The collapse of the Soviet Union unleashed a wave of assumptions about the future. The most significant of these was Francis Fukuyama's 1992 book 'The End of History and The Last Man.' This was met with acclaim around the world as he argued that the ideological evolution of humanity was over with the triumph of Western liberal democracy. Fukuyama had previously worked in the US State Department under Ronald Reagan and later worked for the first George Bush. Now he is a senior fellow at Stanford University and has just published a book called 'Identity' looking at

he predicted that the collapse of communism meant there was only one system left for our planet: pragmatic liberal democracy and the world would never change again.

In an interview in The Guardian, Fukuyama talks about the "ruthless cunning of Vladimir Putin" and points out that Trump and Brexit are a backlash against multiculturalism and international cooperation. He warns that "globalization has clearly left a lot of people behind. There is greater automation, greater inequality." He says he believed the financial crash would see a surge of left-wing populism and was therefore surprised by the rise of Trump.

Across much of the capitalist West, tens of millions have seen their lives get worse and this has fueled the growth of far-right groups and racial hatred. But different things are happening elsewhere in the world, of which the most significant is the rise of China. Around 40 years ago, China was a basket economy with 90 percent of its people living in poverty, but the economic strategy of China has lifted over 500 million Chinese out of poverty and their economy has grown to a point where it is about to overtake the USA. Not surprisingly, this has caused a backlash in the American establishment.

Paul Wolfowitz, a key player in America's invasion of Iraq, had warned back in 1992 in a secret memo to Defense Secretary Dick Cheney that "our strategy must now refocus on precluding the emergence of any potential future global competitor." But with the growth of China's economy and America's economic decline, Wolfowitz's strategy has now become the consensus in the American government, including Democrats like Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. During Obama's administration, they were pushing aggressive policies by expanding NATO to encircle Russia and devising a strategy for the economic containment of

# US has to come to terms with its place in the world, just as Britain did when its empire collapsed

the current political situation. But it was his 1992 book that dominated the political debate as

China. Obama's Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) tried to create an economic bloc around the Pacific that would exclude China. Fortunately, this was rejected by most Asian governments and never happened.

America's paranoia about China ignores why Beijing's economy has soared. Unlike the West, which allows the financial sector to dominate and set the economic agenda, China focused on scientific and technological development, investment in infrastructure (like high-speed rail) and kept its financial center under firm regulation, thus avoiding its banks collapsing as they did in the West in 2008.

Sergei Glazyev, a key adviser to President Putin, has warned against the continuing US and EU sanctions against Russia, and the capricious policy of the Trump administration that has seen the start of a trade war. He warns that "if the US keeps contradicting international law... the first measure we would have to take together with China and other countries who are suffering from US aggression would be to get rid of the dollar as the key international currency." China, he said, "has created the most progressive system in the world for directing economic development, combining planning with market self-regulation, and subordinating private initiative to the needs of raising the general welfare through an increased volume and efficiency of production."

Another consequence of China's growth is BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa). These countries are increasingly cooperating and as their economies continue to rise, we will never again see a world in which one country's economy can dominate the whole planet, as was the case with America after 1945.

This global economic shift has caused a backlash with former British prime minister Tony Blair claiming: "America needs Europe united and standing with it, not isolated as individual nations, able to be picked off one by one by the emergent new powers."

China's President Xi, speaking at the G20 conference two years ago, warned that "we can no longer rely on fiscal and monetary policy alone," and called for spreading visionary and



inclusive economic growth driven by innovation in science and technology... “to spearhead the fourth industrial revolution.” He went on to promise direct support to help the countries of Africa see their economies grow.

Xi also said “the Silk Road Economic Belt is progressing rapidly and the Maritime Silk Road is well underway. But this is not China creating a sphere of influence but rather a means of supporting the development of all countries. We are not building China’s backyard garden but we’re building a garden to be shared by all countries.”

Also, in September 2016, Russia’s President Putin advocated “big, ambitious, complex and long-term tasks” to transform Russia’s Far East into a hub of Eurasian development. At the same time, President Obama was still pushing for the TPP and demanding that “America should write the rules, not China.” A significant response to Obama came from Germany’s Minister of Economic Affairs Sigmar Gabriel, who said: “In my opinion, the negotiations with the United States have de facto failed because we Europeans did not want to subject ourselves to America’s demands.”

These views were not shared by Britain’s Prime Minister May, as she launched what seemed to be the beginning of a new Cold War against Russia. Her views were echoed by the Sunday Telegraph’s editor, Allister Heath, who called for Britain to take the lead in creating a new global military and economic alliance to enforce democracy but also capitalism across the globe. Heath’s column was titled ‘Forget NATO. We need a new world alliance to take on totalitarian capitalists in Russia and China.’ Heath continued: “NATO is no longer enough: it is too European, too many of its members are outright pacifists and Turkey’s membership is problematic.” Heath claimed that the new alliance he was advocating “would be the biggest shift in geopolitics since the creation of the UN. It would dramatically shift the global balance of power, and allow the liberal democracies finally to fight back. It would endow the world with the sorts of robust institutions that are required to contain Russia and China...”

No one power is ever going to dominate the world again. The choice we face is to cooperate with the emerging new economies like China and those that will follow around the rest of the Third World or get caught up in an economic Cold War led by the American establishment and its UK ally. America has got to come to terms with the world as it is now, just as Britain had to the same when its empire collapsed. We should work with China and Russia and the other emerging economies and, in doing so, ordinary people around the world will benefit – including in the USA, if only America stops looking back to the past.

The writer is an English politician; he served as the Mayor of London between 2000 and 2008. He is also a former MP and a former member of the Labour Party.



## “Thank You for The Rain” Screened at NUST

Ambassador Ardi Stoios-Braken attended the screening of a documentary - Thank You for the Rain - at IESE Department of NUST to celebrate the Climate Diplomacy Day. Responding to questions after the screening, she encouraged the students to take small steps such eat less meat, use eco-friendly transport and save energy to play their role in fighting the effects of climate change!



## Uzbek Envoy met with Adviser of Coordinator General of COMSTECH

In order to further develop bilateral scientific and technological collaboration between Uzbekistan and the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the OIC (COMSTECH), a meeting was held between Adviser of Coordinator General of COMSTECH Dr. Khurshid Hasanain and Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan H.E. Furqatbek Akhmed Sidiq.

During the meeting they discussed perspectives of further enhancing mutually beneficial partnership with COMSTECH, in particular organization of joint scientific events, specialized programs, as well as acceleration direct interaction between scientific institutions and agencies of Uzbekistan and the Standing Committee.

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By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Monitoring

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi highlighted the importance of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as a vital platform to achieve the objectives of peace, security and stability across Eurasia. He underscored the need of upholding peace in an increasingly tense international environment, a foreign office statement issued here said. The Foreign Minister stated this while participating in extended sessions of the 17th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of the Member States of SCO in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on the invitation of Prime Minister of Tajikistan Qohir Rasulzoda. The Foreign Minister conveyed greetings

of Prime Minister Imran Khans to all leaders participating in the meeting. He emphasized on cooperation among (SCO) countries in the field of multilateral trade and removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers. He also supported the initiative of establishment of SCO development bank and development fund. While speaking about economic development through regional connectivity, the Foreign Minister highlighted the importance of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). In the context of SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), the Foreign Minister pointed out Pakistan's commitment in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. He offered to SCO member states the sharing of expertise gained in fighting terrorism.

**FM termed  
SCO as Vital Platform  
to achieve  
the objectives  
of peace,  
security and  
stability  
across  
Eurasia**

Shah Mahmood Qureshi also expressed Pakistan's full support for peace and stability in Afghanistan and assured full cooperation for SCO's initiative in this regard. He also held important meetings on the side-lines of the summit. This was the second CHG meeting attended by Pakistan after becoming a full member of SCO in June last year. Prime Ministers of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Foreign Minister of India also attended the meeting. The Council of the Heads of the Government exchanged views on the emerging economic situation in the region and beyond and held in-depth discussions on economic integration, regional connectivity and peace and security.

He also briefed Mr. Zarif about the active efforts launched by the Pakistan law enforcement agencies to ascertain the whereabouts of the missing Iranian guards, in coordination with the Iranian military and intelligence counterparts. It was noted that the two Directors General (Military Operations) were in close contact through hotline to coordinate the search and rescue efforts including enhanced air surveillance and troops deployment in the border area where the incident took place. Foreign Minister, Qureshi said that such incidents are the handy work of our common enemies unhappy with the existing close, friendly relations between Pakistan and Iran. Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment of not allowing anyone succeed in such malicious efforts, Mr. Qureshi noted that Pakistan and Iran have traditionally shared a 'border of peace and friendship' which would be maintained in the same spirit. Thanking the Foreign Minister, Mr. Javad Zarif underscored Iran's desire to overcome all hurdles jointly with Pakistan in maintaining complete peace along the Pak-Iran border.

# Pakistani FM expressed serious concern on abduction of Iranian guards

By Agency

The Foreign Minister of Iran Mr. Javad Zarif called Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi to discuss the situation arising

following abduction of Iranian guards near the Pakistan-Iran border point of Mirjaveh. The Foreign Minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi expressed his serious concern on the incident.



# Kyrgyz National Day Celebrated

The ambassador of Kyrgyzstan H.E. Erik Beishembiev hosted an impressive reception to celebrate 27th anniversary of his country at Serena hotel in Islamabad. The chief guest on the occasion was

Federal Minister for Religious Affair Pir Noor Ul Haq Qadr. This glorious event was attended by people from different spheres of life including diplomats, ambassadors, businessmen and civilians.







## Pakistan & Azerbaijan vowed to more cooperation

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Pakistan has invited Azerbaijan to invest in the country's oil, gas, mineral and petrochemical sectors as it wants to develop these areas and curtail imports, which are a very burden on the foreign currency reserves. The investment was sought in the second session of the Joint Working Group on trade cooperation between Azerbaijan and Pakistan held in Islamabad. The Azerbaijani delegation was headed by Mr. Rufat Mammadov, Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Pakistani delegation was headed by Mr. Mohammad Younus Dagha, Secretary Commerce. Both Sides exchanged views on current cooperation in different fields for development, underlining the potential to enhance bilateral trade and economic relations. Azerbaijani side gave information on economic reforms being

performed in Azerbaijan, especially in non-oil sector and manufacturing of non-oil competitive products, as well as potential of Azerbaijan, export missions realized to foreign countries and "Made in Azerbaijan" brand. Pakistani side invited Azerbaijan to invest in Oil, Gas, Minerals and Petrochemical sectors in Pakistan, being a market of 207 Million people. Both Sides agreed to consider having Mutual Recognition Agreement to enhance trade of agricultural commodities, prepare trade promotion plans, enhance customs cooperation, facilitate business visas and also looked into possibilities of having direct flights between the two countries. It was also agreed to enhance trade and strengthen bilateral trade relations through exchanging information on laws and regulations pertinent to imports and exports in both countries; encourage visits between business communities as well as the

participation in fairs and exhibitions held in both countries; After technical session of the Joint Working Group, Mr. Rufat Mammadov was received by Mr. Abdul Razzak Dawood, Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce, Textiles, Industries and Investment and discussion were held, followed by signing of the agreed minutes. The minutes were inked by Mr. Mohammad Younus Dagha, Secretary Commerce and Mr. Rufat Mammadov, Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The next meeting of the Joint Working Group will be held in Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani delegation thanked the Ministry of Commerce for the hospitality and spirit of economic cooperation. The delegation held detailed deliberations at the Petroleum Division and Board of Investment to explore possibilities of cooperation in Oil, Gas and Mineral sectors in Pakistan.

Later on, a reception ceremony was hosted







by Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry in honour of the delegation. The Deputy Minister of Economy Rufat Mammadov of Azerbaijan said at

He urged business community of both countries to boost volume of trade with each other.

The Minister said that there are opportunities for bilateral cooperation in the field of tourism as Azerbaijan government had eased the tourist visa process and also suggested to increase cooperation in oil, gas and minerals.

The Azerbaijan delegation highlighted the economic reforms being undertaken in the Central Asian state, especially in the non-oil sector and manufacturing of non-oil products.

On the occasion President RCCI Malik Shahid

Saleem said that Azerbaijan has always been very friendly and supportive to Pakistan. The cooperation between the two states extends to every sphere ranging from political, economic, technological, security to cultural arenas.

Azerbaijan and Pakistan are enjoying good relations that describe them as "friendly and brotherly" countries, he added.

He said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has now become a reality on the ground. There is a need to explore new avenues of joint ventures and trade connectivity under the umbrella of CPEC.

He said Pakistan would become hub of regional connectivity as CPEC would put it on a centre stage due to new energy infrastructure and

trade routes.

Azerbaijan delegation presented Certificate of Appreciation to Former President Mr. Zahid Latif Khan for arranging a large delegation to Baku in July, this year.

The ambassador of Azerbaijan Ali Alizade, Acting President of Azerbaijan Export and Investment Promotion Foundation (AZPROMO) Yusif Abdullayev, Hafiz Zeynalov-Head of Department of Interstate Economic Cooperation, Chingiz Garibli deputy head of mission of Azerbaijan in Pakistan and Shandana Gulzar Khan- Parliamentary Secretary of Commerce along with officials of customs, TDAP and Agriculture were also present on the occasion.



# RCCI

## new team assume office

Newly elected President RCCI Malik Shahid Saleem (c) Senior-Vice President Muhammad Badar Haroon (R) and Vice President Muhammad Fayyaz Qureshi (L) pose for a group photo after assuming charge.



# National day of South Korea celebrated

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Kwak Sung-Kyu hosted the National Foundation Day, at the ambassador's residence in Islamabad. Chief Guest of the event was Minister of Science and Technology Mohammad Azam Khan Swati and Guest of honor was Dr. Khalid Maqbool Saddique, Minister for information technology and telecommunication. The event was well attended by government official, members of the diplomatic corps, the private sector and civil society.





# Gwangdae: Korean Traditional Performing Art Troupe

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea organized a traditional cultural performance for the citizens of Rawalpindi and Lahore as part of its efforts to continuously strengthen cultural linkages between Korean and Pakistani people. The cultural events featured performances by the Gwangdae, which is a Korean traditional performing arts troupe of the "Goseong Five Clowns". The troupe creates modernized performances which incorporate traditional folk arts such as Talchum (mask dance-drama), Pungmul (folk percussion ensemble) and Namsadang nori (all-male vagabond clown play).

The cultural events were held at the Rawalpindi Arts Council and Lahore Art Council (Al-Hamra Hall).

Mr. Kwak Sung-kyu, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea remarks at the Rawalpindi Arts Council that "I am pleased to be here in Rawalpindi this evening and very pleased to introduce to the Pindi citizens a traditional performing arts troupe from Korea, "the Gwangdae". I understand their performance originates from "Goseong Gwangdae Play", a mask dance drama of 5 clowns, which has been widely performed in Goseong, southern province of the Korean peninsula since the late 19th century. It was neither the story of royal court nor the upper noble class. But it was performed in the marketplace among commoners in the rural area. So, it reflects daily life of the under-class people. Of course, its themes focus on cynical satire against the ruling class and sometimes immoral monks.

I know today's performance also consists of several pieces, including Pangut, Lion dance, Sogo drumming, Sangmonori, Beona nori etc. Finally, I hope an increasing number of cultural exchanges will take place in Pakistan and in Korea as well in the days to come. It is also my wish it would be instrumental in enhancing the understanding of the each other people, and further bonding Korean and Pakistani people closer culturally. Now please enjoy the performance'.





# Egypt celebrated armed force day in Islamabad

Embassy of Egypt hosted a reception on the occasion of the 45th Anniversary of the Great October War Victory at Serena Hotel Islamabad. The Defence Attaché Brig. Gen & Mrs. Waleed Ibrahim Saeed Ahmed and Ambassador of Egypt H.E. Ahmed Fadel Yakoub welcomed the Guests. Chief Guest was General Zubair Mahmood Hayat NI, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee. Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs was also graced the event as Guest of Honor. The venue was packed with notables from all walks of life including the government and military officials, diplomats and business community.









# Moldova celebrated national day in Islamabad

Honorary Consul Mian Mehmood and his better half hosted a dinner reception to celebrate 27th National Day of Moldova at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Yousaf Raza Gilani was the chief guest along with Guest of Honor Mr. Shehryar Khan Afridi Minister of State for Interior. The event was attended by diplomats, government officials, business community members and journalists.





# Farewell reception in honour of outgoing Ambassador of Spain

Dean of Diplomatic corps and Ambassador of Turkmenistan H.E. Atadjan Movlamov hosted a farewell reception in honour of the outgoing Spanish Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Carlos Morales. H.E. Atadjan Movlamov, highlighted the services and contributions of the outgoing ambassador and paid him rich tributes. A large number of Ambassadors from the Diplomat Corps were present to bid farewell to their colleague.



Ambassador of Spain Carlos Cesar Morales Sanchez paid a Farewell call on President Dr. Arif Alvi at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.





# Spanish National Day celebrated in Islamabad

Spanish Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Carlos Cesar Morales Sanchez hosted a reception to mark national day of his country in Islamabad. Federal minister for Information Fawad Chaudhry, was chief guest of the event. A large number of foreign diplomats, parliamentarians, religious scholars, members of the business community and journalists were among the participants at the reception.





# NATIONAL DAY OF CZECH REPUBLIC CELEBRATED IN ISLAMABAD



Ambassador of Czech Republic H.E Jan Fury hosted a reception to mark National Day of his country at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Mr. Omar Ayub Khan Federal Minister for Power was the chief guest.

This glorious event was attended by people from different spheres of life including diplomats, ambassadors, businessmen and civilians.





# German Unity Day Celebrated in Islamabad

German envoy to Pakistan H.E. Martin Kobler hosted a dinner reception to celebrate the German Unity Day at his residence in Diplomatic Enclave, Islamabad. Mr. Shehryar Khan Afridi Minister of State for Interior was the chief guest on the occasion. The event was attended by a very large number of diplomats, government officials, philanthropists, journalists, politicians and friends of Germany.









# 62nd Hungarians National Day celebrated

On the occasion of the national day of Hungary on the 62nd anniversary of the 1956 Revolution and Freedom Fight, the ambassador of Hungary, Istvan Szabo and Mrs. Emilia Szabo hosted a reception at the Serena Hotel. Federal Minister for Water Resources, Muhammad Faisal Vawda was the chief guest while the Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Khusroo Bakhtiar was the guest of honour. The function was more interesting as it featured the "Hun Gastro Festival" in cooperation with Hungarian Gastronomic National Association (HGNA), MOL and Serena Hotel. People from various walks of life including ambassadors, diplomats, businessmen and civilians attended the event.







**Hungary is believed to be a heaven for tourists. Four Hungarian chefs Zoltán Barabás, Attila Timár, Mária Rózsa and Gerg Balázs specially came all the way from Budapest to Islamabad, to promote Hungarian Food art.**





# Turkish

## Embassy marked 95th year of Turkish Republic

Turkish ambassador Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul along with his better half hosted a reception to mark 95th anniversary of the Turkish Republic at embassy, Islamabad. Chief Guest of the Event was Federal Minister for Defence Mr. Pervez Khattak. The event was well attended by government official, Parliamentarians, members of the diplomatic corps, members of the chamber of commerce & Industries, Turkish and Pakistani communities.

### Speech of Turkish ambassador Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul:

Honorable Minister of Defense of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and our Chief Guest, Mr. Pervez Khattak, Members of the Senate, National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies, Commanders of Pakistan Army, Navy and Air Force, Ambassadors, High Commissioners and representatives of diplomatic missions, Representatives of Turkish community in Pakistan, Business people, bureaucrats, representatives of academia and ulamaa, Brothers and sisters from Pakistan who are not mere guests but actually the true residents of this house, ladies and gentleman, dear guests, Assalam aleikum ve rahmatullahi ve barakatuh, Let me start by saying thank you to all for being with us for this important anniversary of Turks and muslims all around the world.

Allow me now to deliver the message of President of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan for today:

"I celebrate the 29 October Republic Day of our citizens who live in our country and abroad, as well as all our friends accompanying us on this day which is source of joy and pride.

At the 95th anniversary of the proclamation of our Republic, I commemorate all our heroes, in particular Ghazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, leading our victory on the War of Liberation and the foundation of our new state.

I express our gratitude to our Members of Parliament making efforts for the liberation, development, growth and strengthening of our country as the representatives of our national will, since the First Assembly up until now.

I wish Allah's mercy upon all our ancestors, martyrs and veterans shedding blood and making great efforts for every inch of the Anatolian territory, our millennial motherland. The sacred memory of the members of our security forces and citizens who lost their lives during the fight against terrorism and on July

15th will forever remain in our nation's heart and maintain their place in the identity of our state.

I see each step we have taken towards an advanced democracy and a strong economy in our efforts to carry our country "beyond the level of contemporary civilizations" as a light kindled for our glorious future.

Our new airport, which we are inaugurating today in İstanbul, is one of these lights.

Inshallah, we will crown our great and everlasting journey, starting from Seljuk Empire to Ottoman Empire and reaching the young Republic of Turkey, with our 2023 goals and carry it to a higher level with our visions for 2053 and 2071.

Each progress starting from our victory in Manzikert and continuing with the other ones in Çanakkale, Kut'ül Amare, Dumlupınar and Cyprus during the last century and our humanitarian stance in Syria is the symbol of the noble stance of our nation.

Each success of Turkey also nurtures, boosts and catalyses the hopes in the hearts of the oppressed and victims in our region and all over the world, as well as in the common conscience of mankind.

For this reason, our country ranks first in humanitarian assistance relative to its national income, although it is the world's 17th biggest economy.

While everyone closed their doors and hearts to asylum seekers, Turkey heartily welcomed them, being the only country that rightly fulfils its humanitarian responsibilities.

It is quite an honour for us to make history as a nation that shares its home and bread with the oppressed, instead of turning its back on them, and always makes its choices in favour of equity and justice.

We will make no concessions to our stance, and never allow any obstacle, sabotage or design prevent us from reaching our goals.

We will continue working with all our strength

for the Republic of Turkey to stand forever, as we reach the 95th anniversary of its foundation. With these thoughts, I celebrate once again our 29 October Republic Day."

Bearing in mind that you have time and again heard the depth and importance of the bond between Turks and Pakistanis from myself, I thought that this time it should be the representatives of brothers and sisters of this country who should be speaking tonight. Nevertheless, being the Turkish Ambassador in Pakistan is both a blessing and a competition. It is a competition because yesterday, today and tomorrow, you have approximately 210 million other Ambassadors in this country who was, who are and who will always be there to stand for this eternal bond and fraternity between our nations.

So, with your permission I now give the floor to ..... then I will be playing a recorded message of Tehreem Aisha Thaheem who will be hailing from Karachi.

I have just shared with you, let me emphasize the nature of relations between Turkey and Pakistan with a metaphor: When you occasionally have to leave the place where you live for any reason, your options to whom to give the key to look after your place are obvious: either your relatives, or your friends or your neighbours. There is not an obvious order between those three; you go for the option where you feel most secure and comfortable. For us, the Turks, that option is time-tested, signed and sealed by each and every respective citizen and thus obvious: Pakistan.

**Turki-Pakistan dosti zindabad!**

**Islami Cumhuriyya Pakistan, Cumhuriyya Turki paidabad!**

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# Dear Mr. Prime Minister

## WITHOUT A FREE PRESS WILL THERE BE A NAYA PAKISTAN?

A free press and a vibrant democracy together constitute the bedrock of your vision for *Naya Pakistan*. A Pakistan where freedom of press, as enshrined in Articles 19 & 19A of the constitution, is treated by the government with due reverence. Where citizens live in a society that thinks freely, and they are fully empowered by access to unbiased information from government and from media.

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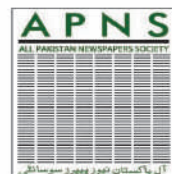
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