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Ambassador of Romania in Pakistan



H.E. Piotr A. Opalinski

Ambassador of Poland to in Pakistan



Dr. Mahathir Mohamad

Wished

Pakistan greater progress

in its national development

Under the New Government

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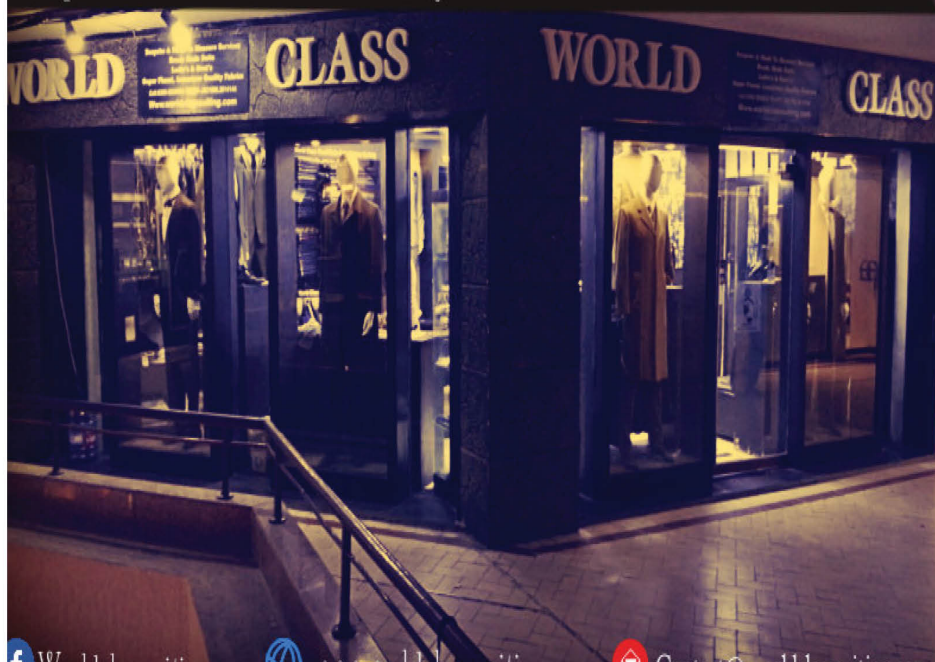
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10 Dr. Mahathir Mohamad wished Pakistan greater progress in its national development Under the new government

Prime Minister Imran Khan congratulated Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad on his electoral victory and commended the smooth and peaceful transition of power from the previous government. Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad also congratulated Prime Minister Imran Khan on his recent resounding election as the new Prime Minister of Pakistan and wished Pakistan greater progress in its national development under the new government.

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26 Let's give peace a chance, Pakistan tells India

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32 Pakistan, UAE tie up Against Transnational Crimes

Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) resolved to strengthen bilateral trade and economic ties, besides fostering cooperation to deal with transnational organised crime, including money laundering, drug and human trafficking.

Special Supplement on 47th National Day

UAE

by

Mian Fazal Elahi
CEO/Editor/Publisher
"Diplomatic Focus"



pg 34



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SPIRIT OF THE UNION
NATIONAL DAY اليوم الوطني
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES الإمارات العربية المتحدة

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Printer

Roohani Art Press, Chughtai Plaza, Fazal-e-Haq Road,
 Blue Area Islamabad.

Publisher

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Price

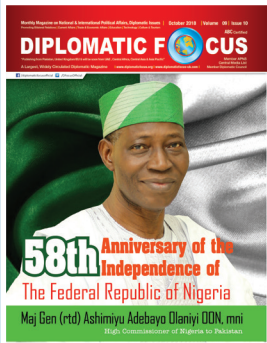
Pakistan	Rs.999	Middle East	37 Saudi Riyal
UK	£ 8	Schengen State	€9
Chinese Yuan:	69	Canada:	\$13
USA:	\$10		

Published from Islamabad

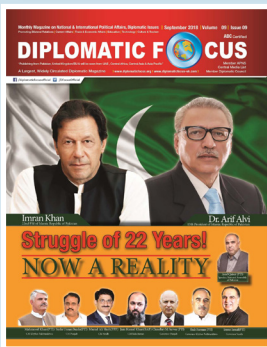
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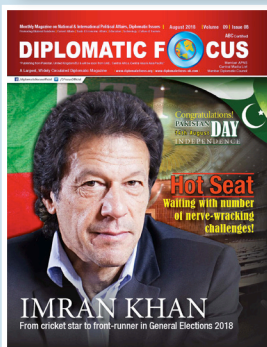
October 2018



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Our previous Issues



Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan is not US' hired gun anymore said by Prime Minister Imran Khan in his first foreign interview to the Washington Post. "I would never want to have a relationship where Pakistan is treated like a hired gun — given money to fight someone else's war. We should never put ourselves in this position again. It not only cost us human lives, devastation of our tribal areas, but it also cost us our dignity. We would like a proper relationship with the U.S.". In a wide-ranging interview with the top US newspaper, the premier said he wanted a 'proper relationship' with Washington.

Trump, in a letter to PM Khan couple of days ago, had sought Islamabad's help in ending Afghan conflict and bringing Taliban leadership to the negotiating table.

Defending ties with Beijing, the PM said our relationship with China is not one-dimensional. It's a trade relationship between two countries and we wanted a similar relationship with US.

The history of Pak-US relations is always a test case for each other. Since its infancy Pakistan opted for the US bloc. Being member of SEATO and CENTO Pakistan extended full support to the US. But the ongoing Afghan campaign and the price that Pakistani people and armed forces are paying for siding with USA cannot be easily dismissed. No doubt the US is a great country but Pakistan in its own right is an important country that may not be taken lightly. Cooperative rather than adversarial relationship is likely to produce win win situation for US, Pakistan, region and the world.

Great expectations were pinned with the opening of Kartarpur Corridor – the step which was also seen with great interest the world over. The initiative taken by Prime Minister Imran Khan was dubbed as the one which will serve the purpose of promoting people-to-people contacts and reducing tension between Pakistan and India. However, within a few days, both the Indian media and its leaders have started creating uncertainty and doubts about the prospects of this initiative. This has once again exposed the Indian anti-Pakistan posture. Pakistan has always shown positivity to improve relations with India and as pointed out by Prime Minister Imran Khan in his recent interaction with the Indian media, the other side will have also to reciprocate to move forward to address longstanding issues.

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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New Envoys presented their credentials to



By Mian Fazal Elahi

Envoys-designate of Thailand, Sri Lanka, Austria, Canada, Spain and Jordan presented their credentials to President Dr. Arif Alvi in an impressive credentials ceremony at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. Later, the Ambassadors/High Commissioners separately called on the President. Speaking on the occasion, The President said that Pakistan wants to further strengthen its relations with all friendly countries. The President emphasized that today's Pakistan provides very conducive environment for better investment and business

opportunities and hoped that investors from these countries will avail them by investing in diverse areas. He also emphasized that regular exchange of bilateral delegations is essential for strengthening people to people contact and forging strong political and economic linkages. The President felicitated the newly appointed Ambassadors/High Commissioners to Pakistan and hoped that they would work for further strengthening the existing ties of their respective countries with Pakistan. The envoys who presented their credentials included Ambassador-designate of Thailand Mr. Pornpop Uampidhaya, High Commissioner-

designate of Sri Lanka Mr. Noordeen Mohamed Shaheid, Ambassador-designate of Austria Mr. Mag. Nicolaus Keller, High Commissioner-designate of Canada Ms. Wendy Christine Gilmour, Ambassador-designate of Spain Mr. Manuel Duran Gimenez-Rico and Ambassador-designate of Jordan Mr. Ibrahim Yali Moh'd (Ostaalmadani). Earlier, each envoy-designate arrived at the main gate of the Aiwan-e-Sadr in a horse driven carriage. On the occasion, the National Anthem of Pakistan and their respective countries were played and the envoys designate were also presented Guard of Honour.

Mian Fazal Elahi

FELICITATED

New Ambassador of Jordan



H.E. Ibrahim Yali Moh'd Ambassador of Jordan felicitated by Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi, CEO, Editor and Publisher of "Diplomatic Focus" at the Embassy of Jordan in Islamabad. Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi paid a courtesy call on Ambassador H.E. Ibrahim Yali Moh'd to congratulate the ambassador on assuming the office. Several issues for mutual benefits were discussed. H.E. Ibrahim Yali Moh'd Ambassador of Jordan thanked to Mr. Elahi and expressed that Jordan and Pakistan are brotherly countries and enjoying cordial relations.



Dr. Mahathir Mohamad Wished Pakistan greater progress in its national development Under the new government

Pakistan, Malaysia sign MoU to partially abolish visa requirements

By Monitoring Desk, MOFA

At the invitation of the Honourable Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, His Excellency Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Pakistan undertook an Official Visit to Malaysia.

During the visit, Prime Minister Imran Khan was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Perdana Square, Prime Minister's Office, Putrajaya by the Honourable Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia.

After the welcoming ceremony, Prime Minister Imran Khan held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad in Putrajaya. Both leaders held fruitful and in-depth discussions, which took place in a warm and cordial atmosphere. The discussion covered a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interests.

Prime Minister Imran Khan congratulated Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad on his electoral victory and commended the

smooth and peaceful transition of power from Dr. Mahathir Mohamad also congratulated the previous government. Prime Minister Tun Prime Minister Imran Khan on his recent





resounding election as the new Prime Minister of Pakistan and wished Pakistan greater progress in its national development under the new government.

Both leaders acknowledged the long history of close cooperation between both countries since Malaysia's independence. The Malaysian side recalled the contribution by Justice Abdul Hameed of Pakistan, member of the Reid Commission, in the drafting of the Malaysian constitution. Both Leaders reaffirmed the commitment to strengthen the partnership which meets the interests of both countries. In setting the tone and future direction of bilateral relations between the two countries, both leaders stressed the importance of exchanges of visits at all levels, with a view to further expand the depth of bilateral relations.

The two leaders welcomed the establishment of Bilateral Consultation between the senior officials of both Ministries of Foreign Affairs as the mechanism to intensify engagements between both sides. In this regard, Malaysia and Pakistan will convene the first Bilateral Consultation in Islamabad next year.

Reflecting longstanding and substantial economic, commercial, and investment ties,



Premier Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and PM Imran Khan reaffirmed the commitment to strengthen the partnership which meets the interests of both countries.

both leaders welcomed continued efforts to intensify cooperation between Malaysia and Pakistan. They underpinned their shared desire to strengthen bilateral economic ties, expand trade and investment, create favourable conditions for commerce and business in both countries, particularly in palm oil, agri products, food retail, halal products, automotive parts, energy, science and technology, and telecommunication. The sole electric provider company in Malaysia, Tenaga Nasional Berhad is open to business opportunities with Pakistan including in renewable energy.

Reaffirming the Malaysia-Pakistan Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (MPCEPA) signed on 8 November 2007 in Kuala Lumpur which entered into force on 1 January 2008, Malaysia and Pakistan recognised the importance of regular discussions to strengthen the trade relationship in key sectors and addressing bilateral trade imbalance. Both leaders welcomed continuing efforts to further enhance bilateral economic relations and underscored importance of these efforts in advancing cooperation between Malaysia and Pakistan. In this regard, both sides look forward to a possible MPCEPA Joint Committee Meeting in the near future with the intention to enhance





On the Inter-Governmental Agreement on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) between Malaysia and Pakistan signed in November 2017, Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad reiterated Malaysia's commitment to assist Pakistan in addressing its energy shortfall. In this regard, Prime Minister Imran Khan welcomed Malaysia's cooperation in LNG and other energy sectors including hydroelectric and renewable resources.

Recognising Malaysia's success in the high-tech industry hub in the northern state of Penang, Pakistan highlighted their intention to explore greater collaboration between high-tech industries in Malaysia and Pakistan. Malaysia invited Pakistani companies to invest in Malaysia in both manufacturing and services sectors where the companies are able to leverage Malaysia's strategic location in expanding their investments into ASEAN and the Asia Pacific regions. Pakistan invited potential Malaysian companies to explore the possibility of investing in Special Economic Zones to take advantage of Pakistan's strategic location at the crossroads of Central, South and



Malaysia invited Pakistani companies to invest in Malaysia in both manufacturing and services sectors.

Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation and looked forward to the 13th Joint Committee on Defence Cooperation (JCDC) which will be convened in 2019 in Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia invited Pakistan to participate in the upcoming Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) in 2019. Pakistan also welcomed Malaysia's participation in the upcoming Defence Expo IDEAS- 2018.

Malaysian side took note of the massive counter terrorism efforts that Pakistan has successfully undertaken in an effort to eliminate terrorism. The two leaders agreed on the need to enhance educational ties between Malaysia and Pakistan and agreed that close cooperation on education and training are critical elements of the next phase of the relationship.

Both sides acknowledged the importance of the tourism industry and youth exchanges in promoting greater people-to-people contacts, sustainable socio- economic growth, and in fostering mutual understanding between the two countries. Both sides also reaffirmed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Recruitment of Pakistan Workers signed in Islamabad, Pakistan on 20th October 2003.

Noting the momentum building up worldwide for better quality products and services as consumers gain confidence in the halal process, Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad conveyed Malaysia's readiness to share its experience and expertise in the halal industry. Both leaders agreed to share information and best practices in this endeavour.

Recognising Malaysia's earnest efforts in eliminating corruption, Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed Pakistan's keen interest in learning from Malaysia's experience and accomplishments in this field.

As two peace-loving Islamic nations, the two leaders agreed to increase their collaborative efforts to uphold the true values of Islam in international fora while strengthening the solidarity of the Muslim Ummah. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to collaborate more closely on issues affecting the Muslim world including taking joint efforts in underscoring Muslim sensitivities in attacking Muslim holy personalities and religious





Pakistan invited potential Malaysian companies to explore the possibility of investing in Special Economic Zones to take advantage of Pakistan's strategic location at the crossroads of Central, South and West Asia.

belief. Both stressed that terrorism cannot be associated with any religion or belief. Views were exchanged on the situation in Palestine and in the Rakhine State, Myanmar involving Rohingya Muslims. On the Palestinian issue, both countries agreed to contribute positively in other forums, especially in the OIC Committee of Six on Palestine, of which Malaysia and Pakistan are members. Prime Minister Imran Khan briefed Prime Minister Tun Mahathir on the grave human rights situation in Kashmir and in this regard referred to the Reports of UNOHCHR, Amnesty International, International People's Tribunal and All Parties Parliamentary Kashmir Group, UK. He also discussed the role of OIC Contact Group on Kashmir to highlight the issue.

Both leaders witnessed the signing of the Partial Visa Abolishment Agreement (PVAA) which will reinforce the positive momentum in the bilateral relationship by broadening contact at the officials' level between the two countries.

Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed deep appreciation and sincere gratitude to Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and the people of Malaysia for their warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to him and his delegation during their stay in Malaysia.

Prime Minister Imran Khan also extended an invitation to Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad to undertake a visit to Pakistan. Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad accepted the invitation with appreciation. The dates of the visit will be coordinated through diplomatic channels.

Recognising Malaysia's earnest efforts in eliminating corruption, PM Imran Khan expressed Pakistan's keen interest in learning from Malaysia's experience and accomplishments in this field.



STRENGTHENING



China-Pakistan

All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring

Pakistan and China has agreed to further strengthen the China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, and build closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the new era.

In a joint statement, both sides reiterated that the friendship between Pakistan and China has withstood the test of time, notwithstanding the changes in domestic, regional and international environments.

In political relations and strategic communication, both sides stressed that they will continue to view China-Pakistan relations from a strategic and long-term perspective. The Chinese side reiterated that China's relationship with Pakistan is always a matter of highest priority in its foreign policy. China appreciated the consistent and strong support by Pakistan to China's issues of core interest, and reaffirmed its support and solidarity with Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty,

independence, territorial integrity and security. The Pakistani side stressed that Pakistan-China relationship is the cornerstone of its foreign policy, and friendship with China represents national consensus and the common desire of all Pakistani people. Pakistan unequivocally upholds the one-China policy and supports all efforts made by the Chinese government to realize national reunification.

Both sides agreed to maintain frequent exchange of visits and meetings at the leadership level and continue to hold bilateral meetings between their leaders on the sidelines of major multilateral conferences and events. The two sides agreed to further strengthen links between their legislative bodies. China welcomed the establishment of China-Pakistan Friendship Groups in Pakistani Parliament. Both sides agreed to establish the mechanism of China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue and rename the former Strategic Dialogue at Vice Foreign Minister-level to Political Consultations. They also agreed to

continue exchange programmes pertaining to training of diplomats. On China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the two sides reiterated that BRI represents a win-win model of international cooperation and provides new opportunities for economic rejuvenation and prosperity of all countries. As a signature project of BRI, the fast development of CPEC has played a significant role in the Belt and Road cooperation.

Both sides reviewed the early harvest phase of CPEC and expressed satisfaction that rapid progress has been made in all areas, especially in the energy sector. The two sides reaffirmed their complete consensus on the future trajectory of the CPEC, timely completion of its on-going projects and joint efforts for realization of its full potential with a focus on socio-economic development, job creation and livelihoods and accelerating cooperation in industrial development, industrial parks and agriculture.

Both sides agreed to task the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) to explore new



areas of cooperation. In this regard, it was decided that the eighth session of the JCC will be held in Beijing before the end of the year. To further expand cooperation under CPEC, the two sides announced the setting up of a working group on socio-economic development, to assist with livelihood projects in Pakistan.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to CPEC and agreed that it was a win-win enterprise for entire region and would bring regional prosperity and development through enhanced connectivity.

Recognizing the significance of Gwadar as an important node in cross-regional connectivity and the central pillar of CPEC, both sides agreed to speed up progress on the Port and its auxiliary projects.

They dismissed the growing negative propaganda against CPEC and expressed determination to safeguard the CPEC projects from all threats. Pakistan recognized the immense contribution of the Chinese personnel working on various economic projects in Pakistan. The Chinese side expressed its appreciation for the measures taken for the security of Chinese personnel and projects in Pakistan. On trade, investment and financial cooperation, the two sides agreed to further consolidate and expand bilateral



economic relations as a matter of high priority and to strengthen multi-faceted pragmatic cooperation in trade and investment. They agreed to boost Pakistan's industrial capacity including through joint ventures in priority areas, relocation of labor-intensive industry and SMEs collaboration.

The two sides noted the growing volume of bilateral trade and agreed to take concrete measures to address trade imbalance. The two sides agreed to conclude the second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement as early as possible, and continue discussions on the Pakistan-China Agreement on Trade in Services. They agreed to hold the next round of the Joint Economic Commission early next year. The two sides attached importance to friendly cooperation between the People's Bank of China and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). They expressed satisfaction at the operationalization of the currency-swap agreement and reaffirmed the need to further strengthen cooperative ties of financial and banking sectors between the two countries. Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation on tourism promotion. On marine, science and technology, space, environmental and agricultural cooperation, both sides agreed to further strengthen policy

dialogue and strategic communication on maritime issues and expressed satisfaction on the Pakistan-China Maritime Cooperation Dialogue. They agreed to continue their close cooperation on navigation security, marine economy, exploration and utilization of marine resources, marine scientific research and marine environmental protection.

Both sides agreed to further expand and deepen their collaboration including in the areas of new and emerging technologies, nanotechnology, biotechnology, ICT, which can contribute to improved living standards through their applications in the fields of health, agriculture, water, energy and food security.

Expressing satisfaction on the launch of Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite earlier this year, both sides agreed to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in space technology applications. The two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in the field of manned space, and the China Manned Space Engineering Office and SUPARCO will sign a framework agreement on cooperation.

Both sides agreed to enhance their cooperation in the areas of climate change, desertification control, desalination, water management, afforestation and ecological restoration,



Prime Minister Imran Khan Meeting with Mr. Jin Liqun, President of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, .



Prime Minister Imran Khan meeting with Mr. Chen Fenjian, Chairman China Railways Construction Corporation (CRCC).



Prime Minister Imran Khan Meeting with Chinese Vice President Mr. Wang Qishan.



wetland protection and restoration, wildlife protection, forestry industry development, disaster management and risk reduction, and other areas of mutual interest. Both sides agreed to build on existing cooperation in the area of agriculture and explore new areas of joint collaboration. On social sector cooperation, Pakistan expressed a desire to learn from the Chinese poverty alleviation model, which has lifted over 700 million people out of poverty over the last forty years. China is willing to strengthen policy dialogue, experience sharing and capacity building in the field of poverty reduction with Pakistan, and support Pakistan to establish poverty alleviation demonstration projects. The Chinese assistance will also be directed towards agriculture, education, health, poverty alleviation, safe drinking water, and vocational training.

The Pakistan side recognized China's unrelenting efforts to combat corruption and its great achievements, and evinced interest in learning from the Chinese experience and accomplishments in the field of anti-corruption.

On people-to-people and cultural linkages, both sides reiterated the importance of people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges and agreed to encourage mutual visits of nationals of the two countries. Both sides agreed to improve visa facilitation for mutual visits.

Both sides decided to celebrate Pakistan-China Year of Friendship/Sister Cities next year and to establish friendship city relationships between corresponding Chinese and Pakistani cities and provinces. The two sides agreed to further enhance cooperation between neighboring regions of the two countries, particularly in the areas of economy, trade, transportation, energy, industry, tourism, education, people-to-people contacts and livelihoods.

They expressed satisfaction at the growing cooperation in the field of education and agreed to intensify educational linkages especially between higher education institutions.

They agreed to encourage respective universities to develop bilateral linkages including through joint degree and exchange programmes. They further agreed to promote

teaching of Pakistan Studies and Urdu language at Chinese Universities and Sinology and Chinese language at Pakistani Universities. Both sides agreed to negotiate agreements on mutual recognition of higher education degrees, diplomas and certificates, as early as possible.

The Chinese side agreed to continue supporting Pakistan in technical and vocational training to develop a skilled manpower for employment in CEPC projects. They agreed to further promote exchanges between the think tanks including through conferences, seminars and fellowships. Both sides would encourage cooperation between their media houses and exchange visits and training programmes for journalists/media personnel. Both sides agreed to further enhance cooperation in culture, arts, broadcasting, films, publication and sports under the Executive Programme of the Cultural Agreement between the two countries. The two sides shall discuss the possibility to organize an Ancient Pakistan and Gandhara Artifacts Exhibition in Beijing. They also agreed



Mr. Chen Siqing, Chairman Bank of China Group (BOCG) calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan.



Mr. Li Dacan, Chairman China Rainbow International Investment Company calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan.



Mr. Yan Zhiyong, Chairman POWER China calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan.

to strengthen cooperation in the field of sports. The respective sports authorities will discuss further details. The two sides will actively encourage and support their publishing houses to translate and print literary classics so that the people of the two countries can appreciate each other's rich culture.

They also agreed to establish China-Pakistan Youth Communication Committee, which will coordinate the exchange of youth and cooperation on youth affairs. On defence, security and counter-terrorism cooperation, both sides agreed to further enhance defence cooperation, maintain high-level visits and exchanges at various levels between relevant departments of the two armed forces, make full use of the China-Pakistan Defence and Security Consultation mechanism, deepen cooperation in areas such as military exercises, training cooperation, personnel exchanges, and equipment and technology cooperation.



peace and security through its achievements and successes. The Chinese side recognized Pakistan's efforts in actively strengthening financial regulations to combat terrorism financing, and called on all relevant parties to view Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts in an objective and fair manner.

of the peoples in the region. All nations should promote cooperative and sustainable security, refrain from developing relations targeting any third country, contribute more to the mutual trust between regional countries, and respect sovereign decisions of countries in determining their development paths and respective foreign policies, so as to jointly safeguard the peace and stability of the region.

Both sides believe that a peaceful, stable, cooperative and prosperous South Asia is in the common interest of all parties. Both sides emphasized the importance of pursuit of dialogue and resolution of all outstanding disputes to promote regional cooperation and advance the goals of lasting peace, stability and shared prosperity. China appreciates Pakistan's quest for peace through dialogue, cooperation and negotiation, on the basis of mutual respect and equality, and supports Pakistan's efforts for improvement of Pakistan-India relations and for settlement of outstanding disputes between the two countries. Pakistan supported active participation of China at the platform of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

They agreed to strengthen cooperation on the Afghan issue and support the 'Afghan-owned and Afghan-led' peace and reconciliation process. China appreciates that Pakistan and Afghanistan are coordinating closely through the Afghanistan-Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity (APAPPS) to enhance cooperation between the two countries in all areas. Both sides agreed on the importance of China-Afghanistan-Pakistan consultations at the Foreign Ministers level aimed at deepening



Both sides agreed to further enhance cooperation against "Three Evils" of extremism, terrorism and separatism. Both sides will continue to regularly utilize their existing mechanisms of Strategic Dialogue and Counter-terrorism and Security Consultations to further promote communication and cooperation in relevant fields.

The Chinese side conveyed its support to Pakistan's commitment and efforts to counter terrorism, assured Pakistan of its support in implementing its counter-terrorism strategy, and commended the tremendous sacrifices made by the Pakistani nation in fight against terrorism and for Pakistan's immense contribution to regional and international

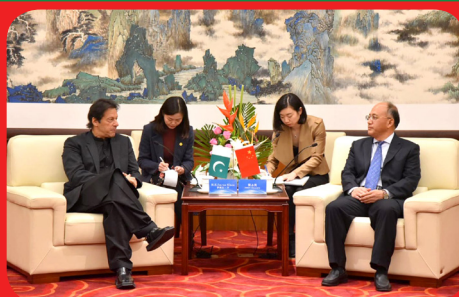
The Pakistani side reaffirmed its support to the Chinese side in safeguarding its sovereignty and security, and combating separatism, terrorism and extremism including East Turkistan Islamic Movement. On international and regional issues, both sides reaffirmed their

commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, promoting international peace and security, and safeguarding the contemporary world order and the UN-centric international system. They agreed to jointly promote multilateralism, free trade and win-win cooperation. The two sides support a consensus-based reform of the United Nations so that it responds to the interests and concerns of all Member States. Being major contributors to the UN Peacekeeping Operations over the years, the two sides agreed to enhance policy coordination, capacity building and sharing of good practices on peacekeeping.

Both sides believe that peace, development, cooperation and win-win are shared aspirations



Prime Minister Imran Khan Meets H.E. Li Zhanshu, Chairman National People's Congress (NPC) at Great Hall of the People.



Prime Minister Imran Khan Meets Mr. Zhen Zhanmen, Acting Vice President Central Party School.



Mr. Hui Wing Mau, Chairman and Executive Director Shimao Property called on Prime Minister Imran Khan.



trilateral cooperation for shared progress, development and security and for strengthening peace and stability in Afghanistan. Both sides supported Afghanistan to host the second tripartite foreign ministers dialogue within this year.

The two sides underlined the importance of peaceful settlement of all disputes in the Middle East on the basis of mutual respect and in accordance to the precepts of international law.

They reaffirmed their commitment to multilateral, non-discriminatory arms control and non-proliferation endeavours. China appreciates and supports steps taken by Pakistan for strengthening the global non-proliferation regime. In this context, China supports Pakistan's engagement with the Nuclear Suppliers Group and welcomes its adherence of NSG Guidelines.

Recalling the commitments of all states for implementation of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions relating to international terrorism, both sides underscored the need for all States to avoid politicization of the UN Sanctions regime and the work of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Both sides also reiterated the need to evolve the text of Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism on the basis of consensus. Both sides agreed to strengthen coordination and cooperation on international and regional issues of common interest; and maintain close communication and coordination within international and regional organizations and mechanisms. China welcomed Pakistan's membership of SCO and appreciated its active participation in the SCO Summit in Qingdao in June 2018.

During the visit, the two sides also signed fifteen agreements/MoUs on a range of bilateral issues.



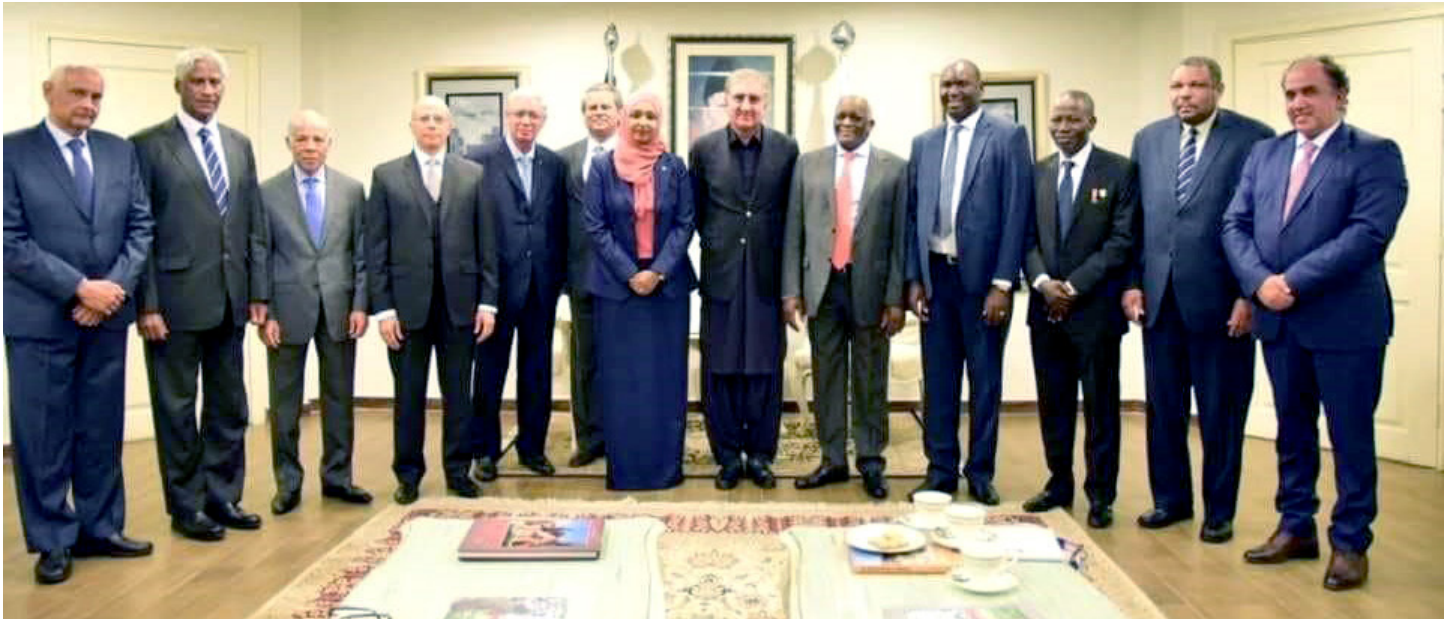
Prime Minister Imran Khan meeting with Russian Premier Dmitry Medvedev in Shanghai.



Chinese President Xi Jinping Visits Pakistan Pavilion in China International Import Expo along with other world leaders including Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat at Shanghai on 5th Nov, 2018.



Prime Minister Imran Khan in a group photo with other world leaders during the welcome banquet hosted by President Xi Jinping for leaders participating in china International Import Expo at Shanghai, China



Pakistani FM stressed on close ties with African Countries

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

H.E. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of Pakistan received the High Commissioners and Ambassadors of the African Group for a joint meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Foreign Minister articulated the government's vision of forging close trade, commercial and investment ties with the African continent. He stated that more robust relations with the continent of the future would be a cornerstone of the PTI government's foreign policy, stated in a press release by MOFA in Islamabad.

The High Commissioners and Ambassadors of South Africa, Tunisia, Kenya, Algeria, Somalia, Sudan, Morocco, Mauritius, Nigeria, Egypt and Libya expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to hold detailed discussions with the Foreign Minister at length.

They conveyed that the ties between African countries and Pakistan were marked by mutual respect, admiration, warmth and cordiality and Pakistan was viewed as an important country in the region.

The envoys were unanimous in underlining

the need for high-level engagements as a way forward for robust bilateral relations. The need for the exchange of regular official and private sector business delegations was also reiterated. The Foreign Minister remarked that it would be his endeavor to ensure that warmth and cordial relations were translated into robust trade, economic and investment ties and that regular bilateral visits take place, with cooperation expanding into a range of diverse fields.

The meeting concluded with deep appreciation by the envoys for a unique opportunity to share common concerns and ideas relating to important Pakistan-Africa relations.

More robust relations with the continent of the future would be a cornerstone of the PTI government's foreign policy: Pakistani FM

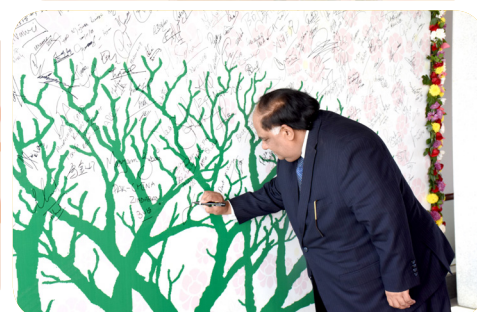


Prize Distribution Ceremony of Essay Competition

‘To China, With Love - A Letter to China’

Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy, organised an essay competition, with the topic ‘To China, With Love -A letter to China,’ which aimed to depict the popular perception of Pakistanis, especially youth, regarding Pakistan -China Friendship. Abeera Hassan from Karachi was the first prize winner for the English category and Tehzeeb Hussain Bercha from Gilgit Baltistan was the first prize winner for the Urdu category. The prize distribution ceremony for the winners of the essay competition was held in the Embassy of People’s Republic of China, Islamabad. The ceremony was part of the event ‘Open House Event and Sangam Club Gala 2018,’ Giving the opening remarks, Ambassador Yao Jing said that since the past 40 years of ‘reform & opening up’, the Chinese people have devoted resources towards the economic development of the country, lifting 700 million people out of poverty. He further added that the Chinese economy has been growing at an annual average of 9.5% and through the signing of CPEC, China wishes to bring a similar change for the better in the lives of the people of Pakistan. The 500-plus diverse audience largely comprised of students from different universities and media groups, plus people from all provinces of Pakistan.







Qatar was now importing 140,000 workers from Pakistan: Qatari dignitary informed

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring

President Dr. Arif Alvi has expressed deep appreciation for the Emir of Qatar's decision to import 100,000 workers from Pakistan.

He was talking to Sheikh Falah Bin Jassim Bin Jabor Al-Thani, Member of the Ruling Family of the State of Qatar, who called on him in Islamabad. Sheikh is on a visit to Pakistan at the invitation of Chairman Senate. The president warmly welcomed the visiting dignitary.

He expressed satisfaction on the steady growth of bilateral relations, particularly increasing volume of Pakistan's export to Qatar following the linking of Karachi Port with Hamad Port.

Noting the contribution of Pakistani manpower in the progress and development of Qatar, he offered the services of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled Pakistani workers to meet the requirements of Qatari job market.

He appreciated Qatar's decision to choose Pakistan for setting up Qatari visa centers, to streamline the recruitment process and assured Qatari dignitary of Pakistan's full cooperation in the matter.

Underscoring the importance of leadership level contacts between the two countries, the President looked forward to the next session of Joint Ministerial Commission in Doha early

next year. He extended an invitation to Emir of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to visit Pakistan.

Sheikh Falah Bin Jassim Bin Jabor Al-Thani thanked the President for accepting his call. Expressing deep association and affection for Pakistan and its people, the Qatari dignitary informed that Qatar was now importing 140,000 workers from Pakistan.

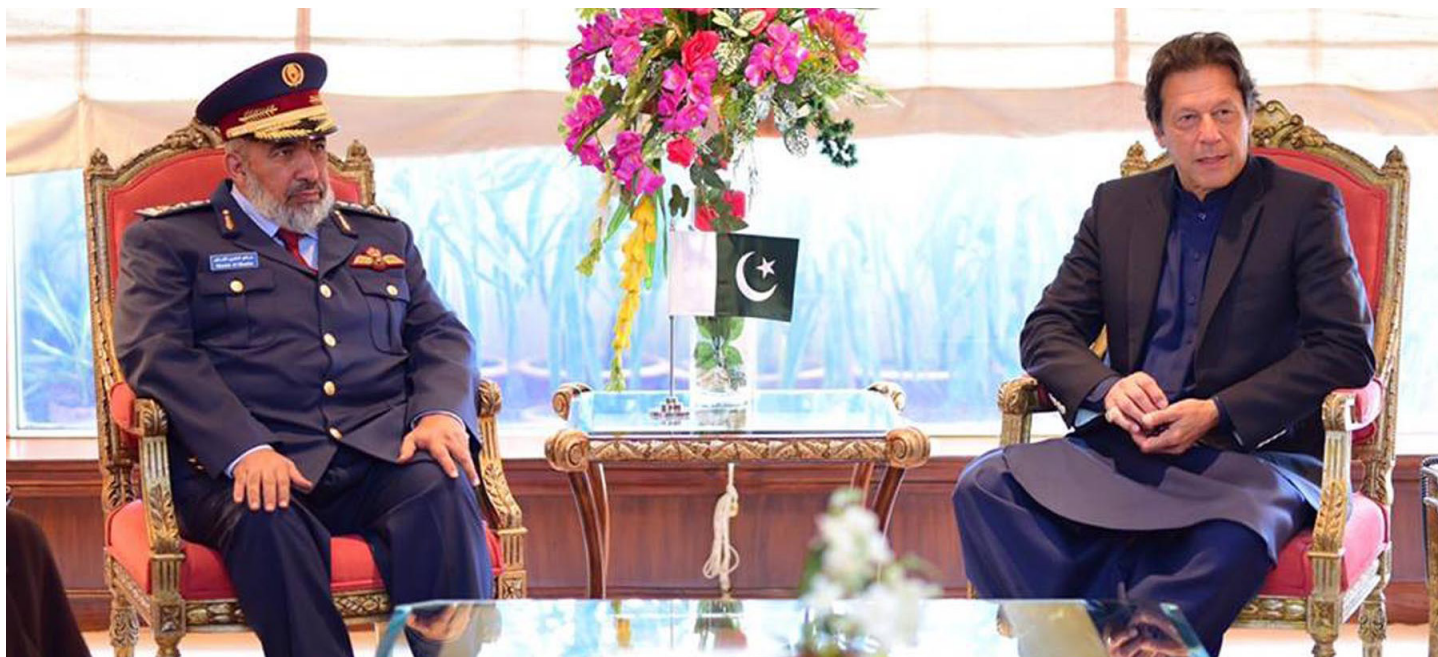
Referring to Port Qasim Coal fire power plant, he observed that the \$1.5 billion project was the first joint venture in CPEC between Power China and Al Mirqab.

He expressed the confident that the Gwadar port will emerge as a major regional port within 15-20 years.

The President conveyed his best wishes and prayers for the health and happiness of the Emir and lasting peace, progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of Qatar.

Chairman Senate Mr. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Senator Naseebullah Bazai and Senator Ahmed Khan were also present.





PM welcomed the establishment of Labour Offices by Qatar In Karachi & Islamabad, To streamline and expedite the recruitment process

By Mian Fazal Ealahi

Lt. Gen Ghanim Bin Shaheen Al Ghanim, Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces, called on the Prime Minister. The Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces conveyed the greetings of His Highness Emir and Prime Minister of Qatar. The Chief of Staff also felicitated the Prime Minister on assumption of office as Prime Minister. Expressing his satisfaction over the steady growth of bilateral relations, the Prime Minister underlined the commitment of his government to build mutually beneficial relations with Qatar, to the benefit of the two peoples. Referring to 73% increase in Pakistan's exports

to Qatar, following launching of the Hamad Port and its linking with Karachi Port through a ferry service, he expressed confidence that the bilateral trade will further expand in the coming years. The Prime Minister expressed his desire for amity, friendship and good relations among Muslim countries and solidarity to confront common challenges. The Prime Minister expressed gratitude for Qatar's decision to import 100,000 workers from Pakistan and welcomed the establishment of Labour Offices by Qatar in Karachi and Islamabad, to streamline and expedite the recruitment process. The Prime Minister conveyed his best

wishes and greetings to the Emir and Prime Minister of Qatar and expressed his desire to have more robust fraternal and political relations between Pakistan and Qatar. H.E Lt. Gen Ghanim Bin Shaheen Al Ghanim thanked the Prime Minister for his warm sentiments and assured him 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 sagacious leadership of HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani.



Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Sheikh Falah Bin Jassim Bin Jabor Al Thani, Member of The Ruling Family of the State of Qatar and Others in a Group Photo At Parliament House Islamabad on November 27, 2018.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



President Dr. Arif Alvi talking to Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki, who called on him in Islamabad on Noember 06, 2018.



President Dr. Arif Alvi talking to Ambassador of Turkmenistan Atadjan Movlamov, who called on him in Islamabad on November 20, 2018.



President Dr. Arif Alvi talking to Ambassador of Yemen Mohammed Motahar Alashabi who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad on November 7, 2018.



President Dr. Arif Alvi talking to Former Prime Minister of Norway Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik, who called on him in Islamabad on November 26, 2018.



Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Nawaf Saeed Al Malkiy calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan at PM office on 14th November, 2018.



H.E. Mr. Ikram Bin Mohammad Ibrahim, High Commissioner of Malaysia in Islamabad, called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at PM Office Islamabad on November 16, 2018.



Ambassador of Yemen to Pakistan Mr. Mohammed Motahar Alashabi calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan at PM Office Islamabad on 7th November, 2018.



Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and Dr. Yahya Bin Mahfoudh Al Mantheri, Chairman of The State Council of Oman Signing The (Mou) Between The UPPer Houses of Both Countries on Parliamentary Cooperation In Muscat, Oman on November 20, 2018.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Shaking Hands With Mr. Zhung Chunxian, vice Chairman of The Standing Committee of The National People's Congress of China At Parliament House Islamabad on November 09, 2018.



Speaker National Assembly Mr. Asad Qaiser Presenting Souvenir to Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Mr. Nawaf Bin Saeed Al-Malkiy at Parliament House on 16.11.2018.



Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, Ghulam Sarwar Khan Shaking Hand With Ambassador of Turkmenistan, Atadjan Movlamov in Islamabad on November 30, 2018.



H.E. Mr. Adel Elarbi, Ambassador of Tunisia called on Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting in Islamabad on 26.11.2018.



H.E. Mr. Mehdi Honardoost, Ambassador of Iran called on Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting in Islamabad on 13.11.2018.



H.E. Mr. Jean Francois Cautain, Ambassador of the European Union Called on Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting In Islamabad on November 12, 2018.



Ambassador of The Republic of South Korea To Pakistan, H.E. Kwak Sung-Kyu Called on Federal Minister for Railways, Shaikh Rasheed Ahmed At Minister of Railways in Islamabad on November 12, 2018.



Abdul Razaq Dawood, Advisor to PM for Commerce, Textile Industry & Production and Investment, in a meeting with H.E. Mr. Yao Jing Ambassador of China in Islamabad on November 14, 2018.



All the political parties, government and the army in Pakistan were on same page: PM Imran

Let's give peace a chance,

Pakistan *tells* India

Pakistan rejects negative propaganda campaign in Indian Media against "Kartarpur Corridor" Initiative

By Monitoring

Prime Minister Imran Khan performed the ground-breaking of the four kilometer-long Kartarpur Corridor. He said the happiness he saw on the faces of the Sikh pilgrims. He said both the countries cannot move forward without breaking the chains of past.

Khan cited examples of France and Germany who fought many wars. "If France and Germany can move forward, why can't we?"

He said all the political parties, government and the army in Pakistan were on same page.

"We want civilized relationship. Kashmir is the only problem. Are not we capable of solving a dispute? We need will to resolve the issue," he said.

"Think about the potential we have. I want good relationship with India. If we open our

borders and start trade, poverty would decline," he said. Citing China's example, he

"If France and Germany can move forward, why can't we?"

said no other country has lifted as many people out of poverty as China. He said he was unable to understand the criticism against Sidhu when he returned to India after attending his oath taking ceremony. "What other options do we

have other than friendship," he said.

The prime minister said both Pakistan and India can learn a lot from each other.

He once again reiterated if India takes one step towards friendship Pakistan will take two steps. The prime minister was accompanied by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar and other government officials.

The ceremony was also being attended by an Indian delegation, ambassadors of several countries as well as local and Indian Sikh pilgrims.

Cricketer turned Indian politician Navjot Singh Sidhu was also among the prominent guests who were invited to the ceremony. He sat next to the Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The United States has welcomed efforts by Pakistan to increase people-to-people ties with India following the opening of the visa-free Kartarpur corridor for Sikh pilgrims.

But on the other side in India, Media started negative campaign against "Kartarpur Corridor" Initiative.

Pakistan rejects negative propaganda campaign in Indian Media against "Kartarpur Corridor"





Initiative “We are deeply dismayed at the relentless negative propaganda campaign being waged by a section of the Indian media against Pakistan on the “Kartarpur Corridor” Initiative said by MOFA in press release. “We categorically reaffirm that the initiative to open this Corridor



has been taken by the Government of Pakistan solely in deference to the longstanding wishes of our Sikh brethren, and especially in the wake of the forthcoming 550th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak Dev ji. Attributing any other motives is purely malicious.... We are convinced

that those seeking to sow negativity around this initiative for partisan purposes or due to their known anti-Pakistan proclivities will not succeed in their designs. The Government of Pakistan will continue do what is right for advancing this noble initiative”.



Govt's Kartarpur decision highly laudable
Business community terms it a significant breakthrough

By Mian Fazal Elahi

The business community fully supported the decision to build Kartarpur corridor to facilitate Sikhs travel to the final resting place of Baba Guru Nanak, a business leader said. The decision will not only help Sikhs to visit Pakistan without a visa but it can also bring Pakistan and India together while improving the image of Islamabad, said Daroo Khan Achakzai, FPCCI's presidential candidate. Speaking to the business community, he said that both the countries have decided to allow decades-old proposal which can also pave way for resolving other disputes. This is a significant breakthrough which is highly praiseworthy and so important that Prime Minister Imran Khan would be breaking ground it, he added. Daroo Khan Achakzai said that political consideration has remained

one the biggest hurdles in the development of the SAARC region which houses 22 percent of the world population. The situation calls for immediate steps by all the SAARC countries to boost intra-regional trade lest we miss the boat, he added. The UBG leader said that SAARC is the biggest trading block in the world with the lowest level of trade. The contribution of South Asia in the Global GDP is less than 2 pc and its share in exports in only 1.5 pc. The pace of growth in SAARC region has been slower at 5 pc as compared with the other blocs, he said, adding that for greater Asia we should enhance cooperation with China, Iran, Afghanistan, and Myanmar. He said that the cost of cross-border trading in SAARC remained highest in the world while visa difficulties have become a barrier keeping people poor therefore new trade rules should be framed.



By Assad Mian

Dubai Property Show Inaugrated in London

The official inauguration of the Dubai Land Department's Dubai Property Show held at Olympia London. The Dubai Property Show is showcasing leading real estate companies offering multiple stylish properties like; super luxury apartments, houses, villas, beach properties etc, as well as advice from experts across the Dubai real estate industry in how to best invest.

The Dubai Property Show was inaugurated by Dignitaries; H.E. Sultan Butti Bin Mejren, Director General of Dubai Land Department, H.E. Majida Ali Rashed, CEO of the Real Estate Promotion and Investment Management Sector at Dubai Land Department, H.E. Rawdha Al Otaiba, Deputy Head of Mission, UAE Embassy in London along with Platinum Sponsors H.E Ali Rashed Lootah, Chairman, Nakheel, H.E. Salem bin Ahmad Almoosa, Chairman & General Manager, Falconcity of Wonders, Mr. Tirthankar Ganguly, Chief Marketing Officer, Sobha Realty. On the head table of the press conference we were joined by H.E Sultan Butti Bin Mejren, Director General of Dubai Land Department, H.E. Rawdha Al Otaiba, Deputy Head of Mission, UAE Embassy in London,

H.E. Salem bin Ahmad Almoosa, Chairman & General Manager, Falcon city of Wonders and Mr. Tirthankar Ganguly, Chief Marketing Officer, Sobha Realty expressed their best wishes and visions about the Dubai Property Show.

With Dubai now the Brit's second most

preferred destination to invest in, Dubai Land Department's Dubai Property Show provides the opportunity to find out about every aspect of investing in Dubai. According to the Dubai Land Department, British investors are rank the 2nd Highest Foreign Investors into Dubai Real





Estate.

H.E. Majida Ali Rashed, CEO of the Real Estate Promotion and Investment Management Sector at Dubai Land Department, commented: "Dubai is one of the most attractive cities for foreign investors, and Dubai Land Department has always been exploring ways to enhance the sustainable growth of the real estate sector. The Emirate is on a lot of UK residents' radars,

sectors such as technology, education, medicine and real estate and is ranked as one of the best places to live in the Middle East, promising an excellent quality of life."

Mr. Aqil Kazim, Chief Commercial Officer, Nakheel, said: "After first exhibiting at DPS London in 2016, we are proud to be back as Platinum Sponsor with an exciting range of projects and investment opportunities, many

These factors make it easy to understand why investors from the UK are flocking to Dubai to invest in property. With foreign real estate investments to the tune of AED 162 billion in the first nine months of 2018 coming in from foreign investments, the Dubai property market continues to be the preferred investment destination for various nationalities."

Visitors to the show will have the opportunity



especially when considering the substantial number of British expatriates that we are glad to be serving. It is, therefore, our pleasure to host Dubai Property Show in London again, and look forward to organizing more events of this nature."

H.E. Salem Almoosa, Chairman and General Manager, Falconcity of Wonders LLC, said: "From the impeccable infrastructure to the warm and welcoming Arabic hospitality, Dubai is a preferred destination among tourists, businessmen, entrepreneurs, and investors.

of which come with very attractive payment plans. Our diverse range of offerings includes luxury apartments on the world-famous Palm Jumeirah, stylish high-rise units at Dragon City and villas with private pools at the high-end Jumeirah Park community."

Mr. PNC Menon, Founder & Chairman, Sobha Group said, "Dubai is one of the most popular destinations for UK nationals, not just for vacationing and shopping, but for the overall aspirational lifestyle it offers. Over the years, Dubai has also emerged as a strong business

to attend free seminars offered by qualified professionals with experience in property, law, and other subjects, where they will learn about property investments, upcoming Dubai hotspots, financing and legal information to keep in mind when investing in Dubai, and much more. Exclusive payment plans and financial loans will also be made available.

The Dubai Property Show endeavors to be the platform for investors to see and purchase fantastic property developments in Dubai.



As a booming economy, tourism has played a pivotal role in putting the Emirate on the world map. Dubai has attracted investments from around the world and across a vast array of

hub offering various investment incentives and tax-free policies. To top it, the number of Dubai expatriate residents exceed two million, forming a formidable part of the workforce.

To find out more about the Dubai Property Show, log on to: <http://dubaipropertyshow.com/>



TAPI GAS PIPELINE: FROM CONCEPT TO REALITY

An interview with Muhammetmyrad Amanov the representative of the State Concern “Turkmengas” on the Board of Directors of “TAPI Pipeline Company Limited”

As it is well known, an important aspect of Turkmenistan’s energy strategy is the expansion of the geography of export routes for the supply of Turkmen energy to world markets, including through the creation of a multivariate transport infrastructure. In this area, large investment projects are being implemented; among them the construction of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline (TAPI) occupies a special place.

Q1: We asked the representative how this important international project is going through with it.

- Let me remind you that in 2010 the TAPI project got in the active phase by signing in Ashgabat a four-party intergovernmental agreement on this project. Then, from 2012 to 2016, the legal framework of the project was coherently refilled by the Agreements for the purchase and sale of natural gas with all buyers, joint-stock and investment agreements.

In 2013, the Governments of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India designated their state-owned gas companies to promote and invest in the TAPI project.

The project includes comprehensive works on the design, procurement, construction, operation and maintenance of the 1840 km pipeline from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. It is envisaged that after full commissioning of TAPI, that within 30 years

up to 33 billion cubic meters of natural gas per year will be exported.

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

In a relatively short period of time, significant progress has been achieved in the implementation of the TAPI project, in particular, on key agreements such as the Agreement with Host Governments and the Agreement on the Transport of Natural Gas. A great impulse for the promotion of the project was given by the establishment of the consortium “TAPI Pipeline Company Limited” and subsequently the election of the State Concern “Turkmengas” as the leader of this consortium.

Let me remind you that the start of construction of TAPI was given in December 2015 in Mary region. Presidents of Turkmenistan and Afghanistan, high-ranking representatives of India and Pakistan took part in the solemn ceremony on the occasion of the welding of the first joint symbolic “golden link” of the new gas transportation artery. The laying of the 214-kilometer section of the gas pipeline in the territory of our country is carried out by the State Concern “Turkmengas”, and it is planned

to complete all works at the end of 2018.

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

In November this year, in Riyadh, the regular meeting of the Intergovernmental Turkmen-Saudi Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation with the participation of industry and energy leaders, as well as large companies of Saudi Arabia was held. During the meeting, issues of trade, economic and investment cooperation, including in the fuel and energy sector, were discussed, specific in several areas agreements were reached. In particular, the State Concern “Turkmengas” has signed an agreement with the Global Pipe Company for the delivery in 2018 of a large batch of pipe products intended for the construction of TAPI.

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

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

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

Preliminary design for the gas pipeline and all stations, which is better known as Front-End Engineering & Design, has been completed. The tender process of selection suppliers of equipment for long-term production - as a main pipe and large valves, as well as contractors for the construction of a linear part and stations for various purposes has been started.

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

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

Q2: What support is provided for the

construction of TAPI at the state level?

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

Undoubtedly, the governments of the participating countries fully support the TAPI gas pipeline project. There is a full-scale assistance to the activities of the consortium "TAPI Pipeline Company Limited" both at the level of shareholders, which in turn are state-owned gas companies, and at the level of state departments of the respective jurisdictions.

Representatives of the governments of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India work very closely and effectively. And this is confirmed by the fact that the TAPI project is extremely important for the development of the region's economy, primarily for the industrial sector, large and small businesses. Thus, local contractors will be involved in the delivery and construction work. The participating countries will receive a cheaper, more economical and environmentally friendly source of energy, as well as additional incomes from gas transit.

As President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov emphasized, in addition to the economic development of the region and the solution of vital social issues, the implementation of the TAPI project would help to strengthen peace and stability there. From this point of view the project is considered both by the participating countries, and by the world community.

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

Q3: What are the criteria for selecting consultants and contractors for project?

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

Q4: How the financing issues of the project are solved?

- The State Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of Turkmenistan and the SC "Turkmengas" have extensive experience in attracting investments in major international projects and, accordingly, working with various credit agencies and financial institutions. Among them - the Asian Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank, export credit agencies and sovereign funds of various countries, as well as international commercial banks.

Taking into account the fact that the lion's share of the necessary capital investments is taken by the supply of goods and equipment of long-term production, export credit agencies can potentially play an important role in financing the project. In addition, the project parties unanimously confirm their commitment to the project and the obligation to provide their own capital in accordance with the shares of participation and agreements.



TAPI will be a game changer for this region:

(Pakistan)

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Monitoring

H.E. Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan called on Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources at Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division)). Federal minister said that we have fraternal and pleasant relations with Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India Pipeline (TAPI) will be a game changer for this region. In the near future Petroleum Division and TAPI Pipeline Corporation will sign an essential document. He further added that Petroleum division will support TAPI at all levels. The Ambassador said that economy of Turkmenistan depends upon oil and gas. Through TAPI Pakistan will receive 1300 million cubic feet gas. Through this pipeline Turkmenistan will provide gas to Pakistan and India via Afghanistan. Mubeen Saulat, MD, ISGSC was also present in the meeting.

Pakistan, UAE tie up Against Transnational Crimes

By Mian Fazal Elahi,
Monitoring

Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) resolved to strengthen bilateral trade and economic ties, besides fostering cooperation to deal with transnational organised crime, including money laundering, drug and human trafficking.

The bilateral ties were discussed in the meetings between the UAE leadership and Prime Minister Imran Khan, who paid a day-long visit to the Emirates, at the invitation of Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of UAE Armed Forces, according to a Foreign Office statement.

The prime minister was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Finance Minister Asad Umar, Minister for Petroleum Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Minister for Power Omar Ayub Khan, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood and Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa.

On his arrival at the Presidential Palace, Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan received the prime minister and accorded a ceremonial reception which was followed by delegation level talks.

In Dubai, the prime minister was received by Sheikh Muhammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

The prime minister also visited Sheikh Zayed Mosque and the Martyrs' Memorial where he paid homage to Emirati heroes, who had sacrificed their lives in the service of nation.

In the delegation level talks with Crown Prince Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayed, the two sides focused on all areas of bilateral, regional, and global interest.

Expressing satisfaction at the positive trajectory of relations, the two leaders agreed to take immediate measures to further elevate their historic partnership.

They expressed satisfaction over the fruitful outcome of the recent visit of a high-level UAE economic delegation to Pakistan and reiterated their resolve to transform the existing special



relations into a Strategic Long-Term Economic Partnership by adopting a direct, transparent and time bound approach.

The two sides agreed to chalk out a comprehensive road-map to accelerate cooperation and partnership in areas encompassing trade, investment, economic development, energy, infrastructure and agriculture., with a view to accrue early dividends from the economic partnership.

Prime Minister Imran Khan and Crown Prince Muhammad bin Zayed decided to hold the next Pakistan-UAE Joint Ministerial Commission, to be co-chaired by the respective foreign ministers in Abu Dhabi in February 2019.

They further reaffirmed their commitment to hold the Senior Officials' Bilateral Political Consultations between the foreign ministries and fast track finalization of pending agreements at the earliest.



The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the ongoing defence and security cooperation, and resolved to explore further collaboration in the areas of training, joint exercises and defence production.

The two leaders noted that a key element of partnership between the two countries was the complete identity of views on regional and global importance.

They reiterated their strong belief that only by espousing the principles of tolerance, inclusivity, non-interference and focusing on a people centric development agenda the region could attain sustainable peace and stability.

They strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and expressed their resolve to work closely to root out the scourge. The crown prince recognised the efforts and unparalleled sacrifices made by Pakistan to eliminate terrorism and extremism.

Prime Minister Imran paid rich tribute to the founder and first President of the UAE, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan for his foresight and visionary leadership and his contribution towards laying the foundation of Pakistan-UAE friendship.

Sheikh Zayed, the prime minister recalled, was a sincere friend of Pakistan and had had great love in his heart for the country and its people. The people of Pakistan reciprocated that love, and continued to hold Sheikh Zayed and the leadership of the UAE in high esteem, he added. The prime minister further lauded the progress achieved by the UAE in fostering tolerance, inclusive economic development, innovation, and youth and women empowerment.

In particular, he appreciated the UAE's success in promoting tourism, and leveraging technology for improved governance.

He thanked the UAE and its leadership for their continued commitment to Pakistan's socioeconomic development in the shape of Pakistan Assistance Programme.

He also thanked Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan for his support to eradicate polio from Pakistan. The prime minister briefed the UAE leadership about his government's people-centric reform agenda, including the steps being taken to eliminate corruption and promote transparency, and accountability at all levels of government.

Pakistan reiterated its readiness to actively participate in Expo 2020 and extend full support to the UAE in making the mega event a great success.

Pakistan offered the UAE the services of its information technology professionals and skilled labour, in preparing for Expo 2020.

Acknowledging the contribution of Pakistani professionals as well as skilled and unskilled workers in the development of UAE, the two sides agreed to enhance cooperation on all labour related issues.

President Dr. Arif Alvi

Conferred Hilal-i-Imtiaz

Upon

Rear Admiral (PILOT)

Saeed Bin Hamdan

Bin Mohammed

Al Nehyan

**Commander,
UAE Naval Forces**

By Mian Fazal Elahi



President Dr. Arif Alvi conferred Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon Rear Admiral (PILOT) Saeed Bin Hamdan Bin Mohammed Al Nehyan Commander, UAE Naval Forces in a special Investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi and senior officials were also present in the ceremony. Later on, Rear Admiral (PILOT) Saeed Bin Hamdan Bin Mohammed Al Nehyan Commander, UAE Naval Forces also called on President Dr. Arif Alvi. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Pakistan and UAE have longstanding strategic and close political relations. He added that both countries maintain similarities of views on all important regional and international issues. The President emphasized that a lot of scope exists between the two Armed Forces for enhancement of existing cooperation, including Joint Exercises, enhancement of

defence export and Joint Production. Talking about the training of UAE Military persons in Pakistan Armed Forces Training Institutions be added that more Naval Officers of UAE can avail of these opportunities. The President underlined that bilateral trade with both countries does not commensurate with its actual potential. He stressed that efforts must be made to further enhance bilateral trade. He underscored that businessmen from UAE can benefit from vast opportunities of investment in Pakistan in various sectors, especially tourism. Rear Admiral (PILOT) Saeed Bin Hamdan Bin Mohammed Al Nehyan Commander, UAE Naval Forces thanked the President and the Government of Pakistan on being awarded with HI (M) and hoped that bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries would further grow in future.





Message of Ambassador

H.E. Hamad Al Zaabi,

On the Occasion of

47th National Day of the United Arab Emirates

On the auspicious occasion of the 47th National Day of the United Arab Emirates, I extend on behalf of the UAE leadership and its people my thanks and gratitude to the leadership and the people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for their messages of felicitations and sharing our celebrations.

Today, 2nd December, 2018 marks the 47th anniversary of the Founding of the Federation of the United Arab Emirates by the founder (late) Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

During this year, the Emirates witnessed steady evolution in the economic and trade sectors sustained under the leadership of the President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Vice President, Prime Minister H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum in making substantial progress in the economic and social development and has continued to play a vital role in the regional and international affairs.

The UAE adopted an active approach to

diplomacy, with a marked openness to the outside world, establishing an extensive network of relations with various countries around the world, essentially based on the respect for the principles and charters of the United Nations and the international community, foremost of which are democracy and human rights, and non-interference in other countries' internal affairs. One of the most salient indicators of the success of UAE diplomacy is the strength of the UAE passport, which in recent years has achieved consecutive leaps.

In 2018, it ranked 1st in the world according to the World Passport Index, reaching 167 countries visa-free.

Furthermore, UAE ranked 1st on Arab and 20th on global level in Happiness index

1st in Rule of Law in the MENA region

5th in Safety Index globally

20th in Government Effectiveness globally

2 UAE seaports rank among the top 50 world container ports with Jebel Ali Port ranking 9th globally & 1st in Middle East & Africa".

The most significant thing to say is that the UAE is emerging as regional leader in promoting the innovation, tolerance and happiness

Dubai Expo 2020 is one of the most important achievements under way. The exhibition is an effective implementation of international cooperation policies and plays a central role in expanding and bolstering bilateral and multilateral relations. The exhibition is expected to host more than 200 participating countries. It will contribute to strengthening cultural understanding and nurturing cultural dialogue between nations, while changing the prevailing perceptions on the region. Dubai Expo 2020 will position the UAE as a cradle of emerging technology, an incubator for SMEs and entrepreneurs in the region.

UAE and Pakistan enjoy a unique friendship that withstood various tests and the scope of our cooperation kept expanding with the passage of time covering various fields.

I have tried since my assignment as head of this mission to give an impetus to the bilateral relations which was established by none other than His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding father of the UAE, based on deeply rooted in strong political, religious, cultural and economic links.

Since then, the bilateral relations have been sustained, the two countries witnessed high level exchanges, the most prominent is the twice visit of H.E. Imran Khan the Prime Minister of Pakistan to UAE in last two months where the leaderships of both countries resolved to further intensify and strengthen the wide ranging and mutually beneficial relations between Pakistan and the UAE, in view of the conducive investment environment in Pakistan it is a matter of pride that the UAE' Public and private corporations and companies are actively engaged making investment in various areas, in this regard a high-level delegation comprising 22 members from CEOs and Managing Directors of prominent UAE Companies visited Islamic Republic of Pakistan in October to explore other areas of investment and trade partnership specially in the field of energy, agriculture, oil refineries and other sectors.

Derived from UAE's commitment toward the humanitarian development assistance, the UAE Pakistan Assistance Program signed the agreement for third phase of its program to implement humanitarian and developmental projects in Baluchistan and KPK provinces with the financial support worth US \$ 200 Million Dollars, this came in addition to 165 completed projects for economic and human development in Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa and FATA covering sectors of health, education, infrastructure.

I trust that Pakistan under the courageous leadership will continue its journey towards peace, social and economic development, I am confident that under the joint efforts of the leaderships of both countries, the relations will continue to keep pace with the time.

I wish Pakistan all the success with renewed commitment of cooperation and support.

Pak-UAE Friendship Zindabad!

December 2nd of every year is an occasion for UAE nationals and residents alike, to express pride in the country's developmental and civilizational achievements. This year, the United Arab Emirates celebrates its 47th National Day, forging ahead with wisdom and perseverance, following in the footsteps of its founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, under the leadership of the President, HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and his brothers their highnesses the members of the Federal Supreme Council, Rulers of all the emirates, and through the hands of its loyal daughters and sons who stand at the heart of the country's growth and development, attaining developmental, cultural, economic, political and social achievements.

The UAE's 47th National Day coincides with the centenary of the birth of the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding father of the UAE, as HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed dubbed 2018 the "Year of Zayed". The late Sheikh Zayed was renowned for his wisdom and vision, his role and his policies in building the country, achieving development, strengthening its economy and national security, and leading it on the path towards a prosperous future.

The values of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may God have mercy on him, laid the foundations of modern cultural and developmental renaissance in the country. Inspired by these values, the wise leaders of the country took to building a bright future for the UAE, strengthening its stance among the countries of the region and the world, turning it into an oasis of peace and political stability, economic and social development, and tolerance.

The UAE has championed the values of tolerance and multiculturalism, rejecting discrimination and hatred by adopting nationwide programs in partnership with various local, regional and international bodies. Today, the UAE forges ahead, a model of tolerance and acceptance, with more than 200 nationalities living in harmony, chasing it as their second home. The law guarantees residents, similarly to nationals, enjoy the right to use the state's healthcare, educational, cultural and entertainment facilities without any discrimination.

The UAE has appointed a Minister of Tolerance, to promote the values of tolerance and peaceful coexistence, and support moderate religious discourse. The country adheres to



Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan

(6 May 1918 – 2 November 2004)

The Founding father of the UAE

several international conventions on tolerance, coexistence and rejection of violence and extremism, including but not limited to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 1974, and the UAE has adopted many legislation, measures, initiatives and measures that contribute to the promotion of a culture of tolerance at the national level, including the "Combating Discrimination and Hate" Law, which includes articles criminalizing discrimination between individuals or groups on the basis of religion, sect, race, color, origin, or the exploitation of religion in atonement, or financially supporting terrorism.

The UAE is also active in the fight against extremism and terrorism. The fight against terrorism and extremism is a key element in the UAE's efforts to ensure its national security and enhance international security. The country has accomplished key achievements in this regard, both through military participation in Islamic and international alliances or through the enactment of local laws that combat terrorism and its causes, such as the Anti-Discrimination and Hatred Act and the Federal Law establishing Hedayah, the International Guidance Center for Excellence in the Fight Against Violent Extremism, in addition to a decreed law that criminalizes acts of contempt against religions and their sanctities, combating all forms of discrimination, renouncing hate speech, and criminalizing discrimination between individuals or groups on the basis of religion, creed, sect, race, color or origin.



روح الاتحاد
47 SPIRIT OF THE UNION
اليوم الوطني
NATIONAL DAY
الإمارات العربية المتحدة
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

UAE is the world's 1st foreign aid donor

The vision of Sheikh Zayed, may God rest his soul in peace, was founded on the need to build an integrated economy in successive consecutive times. It was brought to life as the country succeeded in building and developing a buzzing and prosperous business environment that is currently attractive for foreign direct investment. The UAE ranked first among Arab countries in 2017 for its ability to attract foreign direct investment, which established its position as a strategic trade hub that provides foreign investors access to regional markets, as well as the freedom to transfer funds and profits, in addition an effective judiciary system and legislation, neutral courts, laws and legislation that protects foreign capital, and low customs tariffs that range between 0 and 5 percent on all goods.



Report by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation



Sheikh Zayed's vision was an inspiration for the foreign policy of the UAE, which committed itself to building bridges of friendship,



HH Sheikh Mohammed
@HHShkMohd

For the fifth year running, the (OECD) named the UAE as the world's largest Official Development Aid donor relative to national income - giving Dh\$19.3 billion to 147 countries in 2017. We share our good fortune with all humanity.
♡ 2,346 10:05 PM - Apr 9, 2018

work and cooperation with other nations. Today, the UAE continues to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which represent a road map or a specific path for building a better and more sustainable tomorrow for the world and future generations. The country continues to devote itself to addressing major global challenges, especially those related to poverty eradication, environmental protection, climate change, the establishment of justice and peace, supporting and promoting global progress.

Accordingly, the UAE has achieved qualitative growth across all areas. This reflected directly and clearly through several indicators, according to the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report, which covers numerous key areas such as quality of life, infrastructure, technology, and the adoption of business-friendly government policies. This comes to confirm that the country perseveres in its endeavors in accordance with the long-term approach of Sheikh Zayed to achieve stability and prosperity in the country, in the region and in the world at large.

For the fifth consecutive year, the UAE ranked first as the largest international donor of Official Development Aid (ODA) relative to gross national income (GNI). The country spent 1.31% of its GNI on foreign developmental aid in 2017, which is nearly twice the global target of 0.7% set by the United Nations as a global standard to measure the efforts of donor countries.

Donations made in 2017 amounted to a total ODA contribution of Dh\$19.32 billion (US \$ 5.26 billion), a year-on-year growth rate of 18.1% from 2016. Over 54 percent of the ODA was in the form of non-refundable grants to 147 countries (including 40 of the least developed countries) across the world,

The UAE continues to hold a leading position on the list of Official Development Aid (ODA) donors as a share of the Gross National Income (GNI), one of its many achievement on the international level and across various fields.

These achievements are aligned with the legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed, as the UAE perseveres in its mission to serve humanity and support friendly countries while achieving economic prosperity and countering the effects of crises and disasters. The country aims to make impactful positive and tangible contributions to achieve the ultimate goals for humanity: eradicate poverty eradication and attain sustainable development by 2030. The UAE has taken the lead in efforts to combat poverty and provide foreign assistance to the needy, including the most vulnerable.

Empowering women nationwide and around the world

The United Arab Emirates has adopted a powerful stance in empowering women, setting new standards based on a unique model drawn from the vision of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, founding father of the UAE. This approach perpetuates in the current leadership's vision for the future, whereby women stand as active partners and contributors in the country's development process and play a vital role in raising future generations.

and economic indicators and other indicators.

The country's constitution supports the participation of Emirati women in decision-making, a core component of economic empowerment. In December 2014, the UAE Cabinet adopted a decision imposing the appointment of women on the boards of directors of all institutions and government agencies, setting the proportion of female representation at 15% in government institutions. Nine women sit on the Federal National Council for the 16th legislature, representing 22.5% of 40 members. Furthermore, women make up 27% of the new Cabinet formed in 2016 which includes nine women ministers, one of whom is the youngest minister appointed to Cabinet (23 years).

The UAE Gender Balance Council was established in 2015 as a federal agency dedicated to scaling up the UAE's efforts to achieve gender balance across all sectors nationwide, and in decision-making positions. Women are actively involved in the judiciary sector with several women judges and prosecutors, as well as a significant female presence in the police and the military. In the diplomatic field, women currently hold 30% of positions in the diplomatic corps at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, which comprised 234 women employees in 2017, including women ambassadors and diplomats representing the



The UAE Constitution guarantees equal rights for women and men. The country is leading the way in a number of regional and global indexes on gender equality and women's achievements, education and literacy, women's employment, and respect for women among several social

UAE abroad.

Moreover, the UAE has made remarkable progress in reducing gender disparities in girls' education in schools and higher education, with more than 70 percent girls graduating from universities. In the economic field



and in the business world, women have set themselves as partners, making up 46.6% of the total workforce, holding 66% of the jobs of the public sector, 30% of which are decision-making positions. Furthermore, 23,000 businesswomen manage projects worth about USD15 billion in the UAE.

At the international level, more than 14 per cent of total international aid contributed by the United Arab Emirates in 2016 was devoted to empowering women and girls around the world. After deducting bilateral support to government budgets, which accounts for more than half of the value of foreign aid contributed by the UAE in 2016, the proportion of aid allotted to the promotion gender equality and women's empowerment accounts for nearly one-third of total aid.

UAE Passport Ranked 1st in 2018 The Most Powerful in the World

One of the most salient indicators of the success of UAE diplomacy is the strength of the UAE passport, which in recent years has achieved consecutive leaps. In 2018, it ranked 1st in the world according to the World Passport Index, reaching 167 countries visa-free. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has launched the Passport Power initiative that aims to place the Emirati passport on the list of the five most important passports in the world by 2021, upon the directives of His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

This great achievement reflects the recent success of the UAE diplomacy in carrying out the directives of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu



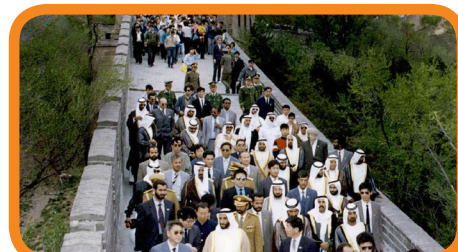
Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, on openness to all countries around the world.

The feat also comes as a result of the efforts exerted by the UAE diplomacy to establish strategic relations and partnerships in the political, economic, commercial, cultural, scientific, educational fields in addition to partnerships in the field of health, to enhance the country's standing internationally.

The aspirations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for diplomacy are both ambitious and realistic, drawn from the vision of the country's wise leadership, led by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and their brothers, the Supreme Council of Rulers of the UAE and the Government and people of the UAE.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation forges ahead confidently and continuously striving to achieve its goals and

purpose, with a key focus on the happiness of Emirati nationals, and on gaining a standing of consequence among developed countries in all fields.



47th National Day of UAE Observed

Ambassador of UAE H.E. Hamad Al Zaabi hosted a reception to celebrate 47th National Day of the United Arab Emirates at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Chief Guest of the eve was Federal Minister Power Division Mr. Omar Ayub Khan while Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Zulfi Bukhari, Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem, PTI leader Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan among the prominent. The event was a well-attended with diplomats; members of the diplomatic community; senior Pakistani officials and member of civil society.



64th National Day of Algeria celebrated

The Ambassador of Algeria H.E. Lakhal Benkalai hosted a reception to celebrate national day of Algeria at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Federal Minister for Defence Production Ms. Zubaida Jalal was the chief guest while Mayor of Islamabad Mr. Sheikh Anser Aziz was also among the guests of honour. A large number of diplomats from various countries as well members of civil society attended the reception.





Saudi Arabia started humanitarian projects for brotherly country “Pakistan”

By Bilal Zafar

Saudi Arabia is keen in the developmental and humanitarian programs funded by the Saudi Fund for development in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan through the Saudi Arabia Grant of SR 600 million, the Saudi housing complex was recently inaugurated on 27-11-2018 at Ayub Medical and Teaching Institute Abbottabad in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northwestern of Pakistan.

His Excellency the Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr. Nawaf bin Saeed Al Malki, said that the inaugurated project is a grant from the Saudi Arabia Government, through the Saudi Fund for the development to our brothers in Pakistan. The complex consists of 19 building each building has six Apartments with a capacity of 456 people, at a cost of about \$10.5 million.

He added that this project is one of 31 projects to be implemented from the grant, these projects will be followed by other projects,

by Allah willing which will be implemented through the Saudi Funds for Development from the second grant of 375 million Riyals, including the construction of a hospital in Islamabad,

consisting of 200 beds at a cost of 20\$ million And other project is the construction of 8000 housing units in the Baluchistan region at an estimated cost of about \$26 million.





His Excellency the Ambassador stressed that these projects are the humanitarian role played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the directives of the custodian of the Two Holy Mosque King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, may Allah protect them, to support the need of the brotherly people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The opening ceremony of the housing units at Ayub Medical Complex in Abbotabad was

attended by Eng. Abdullah Bin Mohammad Al Shuaibi, Regional Director, Operations Department, in Saudi Fund for Development, and the Deputy Head of Mission of the Saudi Embassy in Pakistan Mr. Habibullah Al-Bokhari, senior official of the Pakistani government, and representative of the Ayub Medical Complex. For his part, Director General of Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority, Brigadier General Aftab Qureshi expressed his thanks and appreciation to the kingdom of the

Saudi Arabia represented by the Saudi Fund for Development for its continuous support to Pakistan. He added that kingdom is considered one of the biggest supporters of development in Pakistan, pointing out that the Saudi Fund has contributed in the implementation of several development projects in Pakistan, especially in the fields of education and medical services improve the road network and restore the areas affected by the earthquake floods and terrorism.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Ambassador of Tunisia to Pakistan, Mr. Adel Elarbi Called on Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Shafqat Mahmood in Islamabad on November 22, 2018.



H.E. Kwak Sung-kyu, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Islamabad calls on Haroon Sharif, Chairman Board of Investment at Boi, Islamabad on November 26, 2018.



MD Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) Aon Abbas Buppi presenting Souvenir to Ambassador of Mauritius H.E. Soobadar Rashidally in PBM Head Office, Islamabad on November 13, 2018.



H.E. Mr. Ali Alizada, Ambassador of Azerbaijan called on Ms. Zobaida Jalal Federal Minister For Defence Production in Islamabad on November 06, 2018.



H.E. Mr. Niculai Gola, Ambassador of Romania called on Ms. Zobaida Jalal Federal Minister For Defence Production in Islamabad on November 06, 2018.



H.E. Stefano Pontecorvo, Ambassador, Embassy of Italy, Islamabad calls on Haroon Sharif, Chairman Board of Investment in Islamabad on November 8, 2018.



Federal Minister For Planning, Development & Reform, Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar Talking To Ambassador of France, Mr. Marc Barety, who called on Him at Islamabad on November 22, 2018.



H.E. Mr. Ali Alizada Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan called on Federal Minister for National Health Services, Aamer Mehmood Kiani in Islamabad on November 19, 2018.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Deputy Chairan Senate, Senator Saleem Mandviwalla Exchanging views with High Commissioner of Malaysia, Mr. Ikram Bin Muhammad Ibrahim, At Parliament House, Islamabad on November 15, 2018.



Leader of the House In The Senate, Senator Syed Shibli Faraz Exchanging Views with Mr. Claudio Lins, Ambassador of Brazil in Pakistan At Parliament House Islamabad on November 14, 2018.



H.E. Mr. Ikram Bin Mohammad Ibrahim, High Commissioner, High Commission of Malaysia called on Chairman Board of Investment, Haroon Sharif At Boi, Islamabad on November 02, 2018.



Chairman Board of Investment, Mr. Haroon Sharif With Ambassador of Norway, Kjell-Gunnar At Embassy of Norway in Islamabad on 02-11-2018.



Mr. Andrei Ermolovich Ambassador of Republic of Belarus called on Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Mr. Sahibzada Muhammad Mehboob Sultan in Islamabad on November 14, 2018.



US Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State (South and Central Asian Affairs) Alice Wells calling on Finance Minister Asad Umar in Islamabad on 6.11.18.



Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Barrister Dr. Muhammad Farogh Naseem met with Ms. Teresa Daban Sanchez, IMF Resident Representative for Pakistan in Islamabad.



Abdul Razak Dawood, Advisor to PM for Commerce, Textile, Industry & Production and Investment, in a meeting with British High Commissioner in Islamabad on 30th November 2018.

NUST PRESENTS RS 5 MILLION CHEQUE TO CHAIRMAN HEC FOR DAMS FUND

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

The Pro Rector (P&R), National University of Sciences & Technology, Maj Gen Jahangir Khan, HI (M) Retired, called on the Chairman HEC Dr. Tariq Banuri at HEC office, Islamabad. The Pro-Rector (P&R) presented a cheque of



worth Rs. 5 million to the Chairman HEC for donation in Supreme Court of Pakistan and The Prime Minister of Pakistan Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand Dams Fund on behalf of faculty and staff of the National University of Sciences &

Technology, Islamabad. On this occasion, the Pro Rector (P&R) said that faculty and staff have given donations for the noble cause. The Chairman HEC appreciated the contribution of the NUST faculty and staff.



The hot topic in the UK for the last 2 years has been its decision to leave the European Union. As expected, there has been a lot of debate and difference of opinion on the matter. All has become further complicated from the intense difference of opinion by each of the different states, leaving Teresa May and her cabinet the difficult job of convincing the entire country that Brexit is a good idea. However, as much as the Government has tried and continues to do so to hold on to the support they once had, much of their reasoning as proven to be not only wrong, but also false. This has left the country questioning if they have made the right decision by voting for Brexit and have those voters lost their faith in the Government for lying to them, making the supporters of Brexit vote to leave.

There are mixed feelings in Scotland about leaving the EU, firstly because the Scottish National Party came into power during the Referendum vote in 2007 by a small margin. This shows that there is a large divide in the country with almost half of Scotland not supporting the Scottish Government, thus not having their voices heard. Scotland then poses the question that is Scotland strong enough to survive as a nation? With the Scottish government also seeking a chance to have another Referendum to separate from the UK, they will be even more vulnerable and not have their voice heard. 62% of Scotland voted to stay in the EU and this proves that the people believe leaving will

Brexit set to change the face of the UK

become detrimental to the survival of their jobs, businesses and industries which rely on trade with the EU.

As of yet no deal has been put in place between the UK and the EU, meaning the future of those same jobs and industries still hangs in the balance. There is no promise or sign of surety for those who will suffer due to this. So much so, that even the Government is now working on a series of guidelines for those industries about how to deal with Brexit when it will implemented in March next year. With all the negativity, it is also possible the Scottish Government may move towards asking for another Referendum to leave the UK to safeguard Scotland's position in the EU.

Such changes are likely to have an adverse effect on the Scottish Asian community as well, in particular for those who have their own businesses. The signs of distress are already visible with the increasing stringency of tax laws and the ever-increasing cost of goods, transport, utilities just to name a few. Naturally consumers have now created a habit of bulk buying from supermarkets that are helping to keep the consumer's costs down by the volume they are able to purchase direct from suppliers. The smaller business owner is just not able to compete and when the UK says its final goodbye to Europe, the same supplies' costs are anticipated to increase – and that is without taking into account the restrictions or issues which may have to be faced by all the small to medium business owners in order to continue to trade with the EU. This adverse effect on those businesses is one of the main reasons why a lot of the Scottish Pakistani community seems to be very opposed to Brexit since a lot of the community own small businesses.

Foreign policy however has not been on the high end of Scotland's agenda due to it being a state and not a country and not even National Government. This means that Scotland is not able to influence or make fundamental decisions, thus having the future of the country

in the hands of the National Government.

Scotland however has been extremely vocal on its stance about various policies and issues around the world in which the UK has played a role in. Scotland has always supported and been vocal about coming to a 2-state solution for Palestine as well as the welcoming a higher number of refugees into the country. It has always lobbied for peace in the Middle East and because foreign policy is controlled by the UK Government, Scotland has minimum influence, therefore cannot put its voice on the discussion table. Leaving the EU means Scotland will be further distanced from those issues and will slowly lose its opinion and identity. Further, when Brexit happens in March next year, Scotland will not be able to voice its opinion on the issues it strongly believes in as well as opposing the National Government.

The writer is a Senior Journalist and Political Analyst from UK. She has been in print, radio and consultancy media since 1996. You can reach to her at shabana@idmag.co.uk



The ICRC supported National Ability Sports Festival 2018, brought together more than 500 sportspersons with disabilities competing in various sporting events including wheel chair archery, table tennis, basketball and cricket. The ICRC supports 26 physical rehabilitation centers run by its partners across the country. By the end of 2018, more than 50,000 people will have received rehab services from these centers.

China defends its alliance with Pakistan after consulate attack



By Monitoring

China has stood by its strategic relationship with Pakistan, reiterating its strong ties with the South Asian nation after armed militants stormed the Chinese consulate in Karachi. The bilateral alliance is “higher than (the) mountains and deeper than (the) sea,” Lijian Zhao, deputy chief of mission at the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad, said on Twitter days after the terror attack. “The friendship has never been empty talks, but deeply imprinted in hearts of Chinese and Pakistani people,” Zhao said.

The spokesperson said during a press briefing that according to the investigations by Pakistan, the attack on the Chinese Consulate in Karachi on November 23 was a terrorist attack, which killed two Pakistani police officers and injured one security guard. Two civilians were also killed and all three militants were shot dead, he said.

The Prime Minister, Imran Khan, condemned the attack, describing it as part of a conspiracy against Pakistan and China’s economic and strategic cooperation. Khan lauded the Karachi police and paramilitary rangers, saying they showed exceptional courage in defending the consulate and the “nation salutes the martyrs”. He ordered an investigation and vowed that such incidents would never be able to undermine relations with China, which are “mightier than the Himalayas and deeper than the Arabian Sea”.

Wang Yu told that citizens of China are collecting donations to raise money to help the families of the two policemen. Sindh Inspector General Kaleem Imam thanked the Chinese authorities for their compassion.

Chinese civilians have donated to the families of Pakistani security officers who died during the attack



Farewell reception in honour of outgoing Ambassador of Afghanistan

Dean of Diplomatic corps and Ambassador of Turkmenistan H.E. Atadjan Movlamov hosted a farewell reception in honour of the outgoing Afghanistan Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Dr. Omar Zakhilwal. H.E. Atadjan Movlamov, highlighted the services and contributions of the outgoing ambassador and paid him rich tributes. H.E. Atadjan Movlamov welcomed and introduced the new designated envoys H.E. Mr. Nicolaus KELLER Ambassador of Austria and H.E. Ms. Wendy Gilmour, High Commissioner of Canada. A large number of Ambassadors from the Diplomat Corps were present to bid farewell to their colleague.



Delegation of Pakistani Tribal Elders visited China

Habib Malik Orakzai is Pakistani politician, Human Rights activist, President (PIHRO) and chairman MQP lead a delegation of Tribal Elders from FATA & KP to China. On return from China Habib Malik Orakzai and delegation of Tribal Elders met with Ambassador of China HE Yao Jing and thanks for support.



Egyptian ambassador's wife fetes foreign minister's spouse

Mrs. Ghada Ahmed Yacoub, Spouse of H.E. Mr. Ahmed Fadel Yacoub, Ambassador of Egypt, in her capacity as the President, Spouses of Heads of Diplomatic Missions Group accredited in Pakistan, hosted a lunch at her residence, in honour of Honorable Mrs. Mehriene Qureshi, Spouse of H.E. Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Spouses of Ambassadors /High Commissioners of All Diplomatic Missions accredited to Islamabad attend this beautiful reception.







Speech of

H.E. Piotr A. Opalinski

Ambassador to Pakistan

on the Occasion of 100 Years Celebrations of Independence of Poland

Very respectable Mr. Sayed Ali Haydar Zaidi, Honorable Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Respected Major General Arshid Mahmood, Voice Chief of General staff, Doctor Shehzad Wasim, Respected Governor, Pakistan and Poland friendship group in the Senate of Pakistan, Excellencies! Ladies and gentlemen, Ambassadors, Embassy and dignitaries! Asalamo Alaikum!

I welcome you all on behalf of the Polish Government, My Better half and my Colleagues. We invited you on the day, which always be a memorable day in the history of all nations. What happened on November 1918 is Poland regained its freedom and 2018 Poland is celebrating as Century year; And it's a great honor to celebrate this day with you all and many congratulations to all of you.

Dear Friends,

This year in November we celebrate the centenary of the State of Poland regaining its independence. It is its hundred's birthday. The Republic of Poland is a state with an over thousand year history, with a long lasting tradition and rich, original culture, a country, which, as the first in Europe, developed modern political ideas of freedom, democracy and equality. These values are included in the first Polish Constitution of May 3rd, 1791 – the first constitution in Europe.

At the end of the 18th century, Polish lands were torn between the three aggressive empires. The Polish State disappeared from

the world map, but not from the minds and hearts of millions of Poles. Numerous attempts to fight for freedom were suppressed by the cooperating aggressors. It was only the period of First World War, in which the invaders confronted each other, that created the opportunity for the revival of a free and independent Poland. We regained independence after 123 years, on November 11th, 1918.

This was mainly due to the perseverance and dedication of the active part of Polish society, who, during the period of servitude, passed down their allegiance to the language and national culture to new generations of young Poles. And it was thanks to immense sacrifices of brave Polish soldiers that our state was resurrected after years of partitions and foreign occupation.

On November 1918 the Chief of State Marshal Józef Piłsudski sent a jubilant message to all head of states of the countries, but could not receive any feedback. But now that the Poland is celebrating its 100 years of independence, you can wish to us on this occasion!

Dear Friends,

It is a matter of great joy and pride to me that for many years now Poland and Pakistan have been bound with bonds of friendship and mutual assistance. We gratefully remember that during the Second World War 30 thousand of Polish refugees found shelter in Karachi and Quetta. And when the Islamic

Republic of Pakistan achieved independence, a big group of Polish officers, led by Air Commodore Władysław Turowicz, have for many years contributed to establishment and development of the Pakistan Air Force, Navy and space program. They were bestowed the highest Pakistani decorations and granted with honorary Pakistani citizenship. And they are still remembered as brothers by their Pakistani comrade-in-arms.

Ladies & Gentlemen, I have the honour to inform you that at my invitation the two Special Guests have graced us with their presence at this Centenary Celebrations:

Colonel Rtd. Azam Qadri, the author of "Sentinels in the Sky" – a fundamental book on the history of Pakistan Air Force, in which one chapter is devoted to the Polish pilots, and a very Special Guests – Gen. Rtd. Talat Masud and Air Commodore Rtd. Sajjad Haider, a veteran who in his illustrious military service served also with Air Commodore Władysław Turowicz and Major Władysław Banach. Please give them the big round of applause.

Ladies and gentlemen!

With sensation and hope that, the Poland and Pakistan relationship gets stronger and better in upcoming days and years. And we will continue celebrating this joy together.

Long live Pakistan and Poland friendship. Long last Pakistan.

National day of Poland celebrated

To celebrate the centenary of Regaining Independence by the Republic of Poland and the Polish Armed Forces Day, Ambassador Piotr Opalinski and Mrs Jolanta Opalinski hosted a reception at local Hotel in Islamabad. The event was co-hosted by Defence Attache Col. Andrzej Stanek and attended by diplomats; members of the Diplomatic Defence Corps; Pakistani armed forces officers and civilians of note, while the guest of honour was minister for Maritime Affairs, Syed Ali Haider Zaidi.



Serena Hotel organized a Heritage Fair to celebrate the cultural heritage of Pakistan. Various artisans and craftsmen displayed their products that depicted the rich heritage of Pakistan.





By Rashid Nazir Choudhary

Preservation and maintenance of stable maritime order, in the Indian Ocean particularly in the Arabian Sea, is one of the cornerstones of Pakistan's maritime security strategy. This means that our adversaries, both conventional and unconventional, remain deterred from harming our maritime interests; and assure our friendly countries that we would be reliable partners for keeping the sea conducive for maritime economic activities. Realization of this end necessitates well-equipped, well-trained and well-adaptive maritime force. Adaptation to a fluid security milieu requires a military force to be responsive, dependable and highly resilient. Achieving these markers of combat potential can only be done through simulations, exercises and war games. Besides numerous paper and computer-based military simulations, Pakistan Navy conducts the Ex Seaspark every two years. Principal objective of the exercise is to evaluate the Navy's readiness for war across the spectrum of conflict against both conventional and unconventional adversaries. It is also meant to validate operational concepts and test emergent changes in the Navy's tactical doctrine.

Pakistan Navy, being a potent and combat ready multi-dimensional force, assesses, refines and demonstrates its war preparedness through the conduct of maritime exercises in North Arabian Sea and along Pakistan Coast from Jiwani to Sir Creek. The ongoing Seaspark is a manifestation of Pakistan Navy as force of choice for Pakistan to protect its maritime interests. The exercise involves participation of PN ships, submarines and aircraft alongwith Special Forces and Marines. Additionally, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency, Pakistan Air Force and Pak Army Air Defence elements are also participating as joint forces to achieve the chief purpose of safeguarding the country's maritime interests. The exercise also affords valuable opportunity to sharpen fighting skills of Pakistan Navy's combat units to meet the estimated maritime security threats. The proceedings of exercise spanning over two months include deployment of forces, simulating hostilities and followed by threadbare analysis of the procedures, concepts and tactics validated during the exercise.

This Seaspark saw Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Z M Abbasi undertake whirlwind tours of our Coastal and Creek areas to see firsthand level of readiness of Pakistan Navy. These visits covered areas from Gwadar, Turbat, Ormara

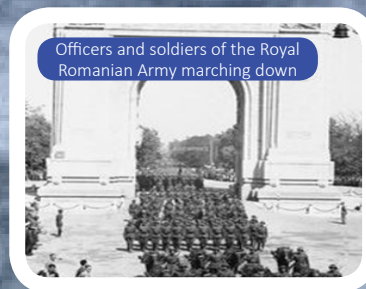
along the coast of Makran in Baluchistan to Sir Creek in Sindh. At these places, the Naval Chief received operational briefings by on-scene commanders. The Naval Chief was unequivocal in expressing his resolve to ensure protection of Gwadar deep sea port against all kinds of conventional and unconventional threats. He reiterated that providing a safe and secure environment both, on land and at sea, is essential for smooth functioning of Gwadar port as well as to accrue desired socio-economic advantages of CPEC. While at sea during the exercise, Chief of the Naval Staff witnessed the operational view of the fleet units engaged in Seaspark.

Pakistan Navy has come of age from merely being a coastal navy to a Navy with an ability to radiate its influence region-wide with global outlook. It has emerged as a reckonable force with wide international recognition. Pakistan Navy, today, is regarded as a dependable military service for security and stability in the Indian Ocean. Pakistan Navy is braced up to thwart misadventure or overambitious designs of nefarious elements in the region. The exercise Seaspark would provide impetus to Pakistan's resolve of maintaining peace, security and stability in the region.





Casa Poporului Bucharest House of Parliament



Officers and soldiers of the Royal Romanian Army marching down



The Romanian capital of Bucharest

H.E. Nicolae Goia

Ambassador of Romania in Pakistan

On the occasion of

Romanian Centenary 1918-2018



Alba Iulia Gate



Ateneul Roman



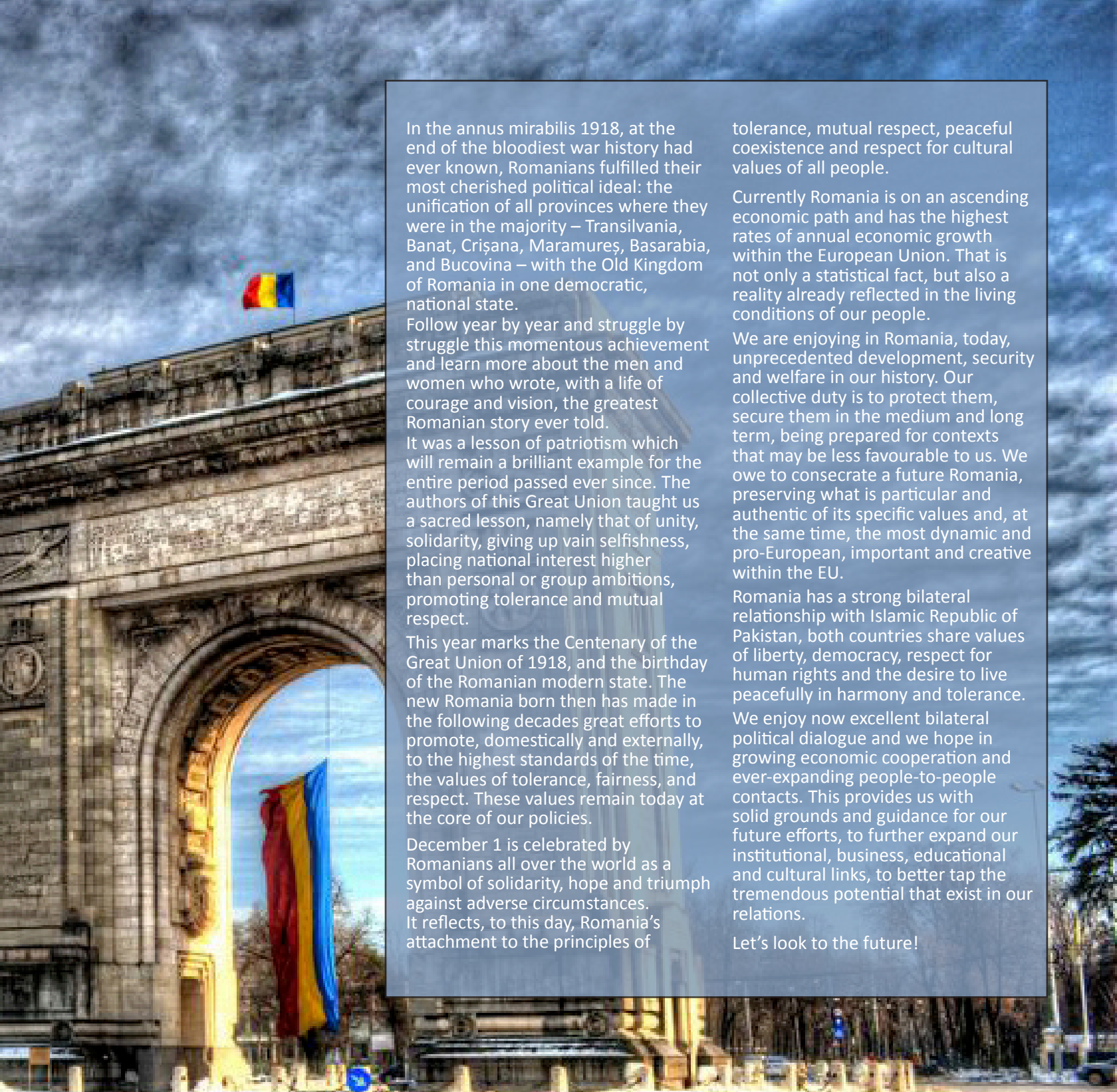
Bran Castle Romania



Casa Poporului



Constantin Brancusi Ta



In the annus mirabilis 1918, at the end of the bloodiest war history had ever known, Romanians fulfilled their most cherished political ideal: the unification of all provinces where they were in the majority – Transylvania, Banat, Crişana, Maramureş, Basarabia, and Bucovina – with the Old Kingdom of Romania in one democratic, national state.

Follow year by year and struggle by struggle this momentous achievement and learn more about the men and women who wrote, with a life of courage and vision, the greatest Romanian story ever told.

It was a lesson of patriotism which will remain a brilliant example for the entire period passed ever since. The authors of this Great Union taught us a sacred lesson, namely that of unity, solidarity, giving up vain selfishness, placing national interest higher than personal or group ambitions, promoting tolerance and mutual respect.

This year marks the Centenary of the Great Union of 1918, and the birthday of the Romanian modern state. The new Romania born then has made in the following decades great efforts to promote, domestically and externally, to the highest standards of the time, the values of tolerance, fairness, and respect. These values remain today at the core of our policies.

December 1 is celebrated by Romanians all over the world as a symbol of solidarity, hope and triumph against adverse circumstances. It reflects, to this day, Romania's attachment to the principles of

tolerance, mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and respect for cultural values of all people.

Currently Romania is on an ascending economic path and has the highest rates of annual economic growth within the European Union. That is not only a statistical fact, but also a reality already reflected in the living conditions of our people.

We are enjoying in Romania, today, unprecedented development, security and welfare in our history. Our collective duty is to protect them, secure them in the medium and long term, being prepared for contexts that may be less favourable to us. We owe to consecrate a future Romania, preserving what is particular and authentic of its specific values and, at the same time, the most dynamic and pro-European, important and creative within the EU.

Romania has a strong bilateral relationship with Islamic Republic of Pakistan, both countries share values of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and the desire to live peacefully in harmony and tolerance.

We enjoy now excellent bilateral political dialogue and we hope in growing economic cooperation and ever-expanding people-to-people contacts. This provides us with solid grounds and guidance for our future efforts, to further expand our institutional, business, educational and cultural links, to better tap the tremendous potential that exist in our relations.

Let's look to the future!



si Table of Silence



Danube River Decebal Carved statue



Hunyad Castle



Palace of culture Iasi



Peles castle

48th National day of Oman celebrated

Ambassador of Oman Sheikh Mohamed Al-Markhoon hosted a reception to celebrate 48th national day of Oman at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Federal Minister for Defence Production Ms. Zubaida Jalal was the chief guest. Senator Rehman Malik, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Nawaf Said Ahmad Al-Malkiy, Azeri Ambassador Ali Alizada, Ambassador of Kazakhstan Barlybay Sadykov, President of President of International Islamic University (IIUI) Dr Ahmed Yousif Ahmed Al Draiwesh, European and African countries' envoys and high commissioners too were present on the occasion.






National & Armed Forces Day of Bosnia & Herzegovina Celebrated

To celebrate the National Day and Armed Forces day of Bosnia and Herzegovina, ambassador Brigadier General (r) Sakib Foric and his better half hosted a reception in Islamabad. The guest of honour was Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) General Zubair Mahmood Hayat. The event was a well attended with diplomats; members of the diplomatic Defense Corp; senior Pakistani officers of the Armed Forces and civilians.





A portrait of Mrs. Azra Jamshed, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, wearing a black top and a colorful patterned shawl. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting.

Azra Jemshed as a President WCCIPD not only a catalyst but a bridge of opportunities for women of KPK who are unaware of potential opportunities available for them, and encouragement for the motivated women who should be facilitated to achieve their goals of life.

Exclusive Interview of

Mrs. Azra Jamshed

President of Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Peshawar Division (WCCIPD)



By Mian Fazal Elahi

First of all, I, on behalf of 'Diplomatic Focus' appreciate your efforts for women empowerment and entrepreneurship and also thankful to you for giving us time out of your busy schedule.

How you will elaborate or define "Azra Jemshed"?

Azra Jemshed as a President WCCIPD not only a catalyst but a bridge of opportunities for women of KPK who are unaware of potential opportunities available for them, and encouragement for the motivated women who should be facilitated to achieve their goals of life.

How does it feel to stay away from Home and family"? How you manage your life?

When I am away from home and family for such noble cause, for welfare of humanity, especially for women empowerment, I count that time as my IBADAT. Alhamdulillah, I know how to balance my work life and family. I have never neglected my family; always try to manage balanced life style.

You have to consider three C's in life for success that is Co-ordination, Co-operation & Collaboration.

What things have you learned about life and the working conditions from being a business woman? What are your greatest strengths and weaknesses?

I have blind trust in Allah and positive approach drives you to your goal when you work passionately for your profession. You

can overcome all the obstacles. My strength is my belief in Allah, and my family support, my weakness is the limited time period given to me. But I am dedicated to devote the rest of my life for the noble case of empowerment of the women.

What is your philosophy towards your work? How do you define success and how do you measure up to your own definition?

I convert profession into passion and I love to do that work for the rest of my life. As far as I concerned, success has no limits but when you are satisfied by the blessings of Allah that is actual success in front of me and by the grace of Allah, I feel blessed.

What is "Women's Empowerment"? Is this about gender equality, or is it more than that?

In my opinion, women are empowered by our religion. It's not about gender equality we just have to take it or look it with positive approach.

As a leading entrepreneur lady, what you want to suggest for common women to become entrepreneurship? And especially in a conservative society of KP you are working for the empowerment of women so how do you overcome with the problems you face so that other women get motivation from you?

I want to suggest that to maintain balance between the work life and family life and also like to clarify one thing by using platform of "Diplomatic Focus" that in my opinion KP is not a conservative society. Large number of people is well educated but there are several women who have lack of awareness. We are providing them training and introducing them in the market. My morale is high and by the grace of Allah the women attached with WCCIPD will start exporting their product in different foreign countries very soon. I believe in the quotation "there is a will there is a way".

What three things do you need to be a successful business woman? And what deals should be avoided for a business woman?

You have to consider three C's in life for success that is co-ordination, co-operation and collaboration. These three steps helps you to

achieve success and never keep the think in mind that you belonged from any backward area or you are unable to deal with people.

Can you share your personal icons of empowered women and what sets them apart?

I always consider Bibi Khadija as an icon. She was also a working women and I must say that every women should read the biography of Bibi Khadija. She was an inspirational working lady.

How Women of Chamber of Commerce and Industry safeguard the interests of women entrepreneurs in the province? What programs you have started for Empowering Women Entrepreneurs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Region? How do you see the role of KP business women in business and trade of KP?

We have 400 women in our chamber of commerce. We are providing them opportunity, access to different markets. We try our best to remove middle men who always take more benefit from their business products by just doing better marketing. We provide them financial support. Help them in arranging seminars, training and meeting with financial stack holders. We facilitate them with back bat its long and tough process we try to make it easier. We arranged B2B meeting from related sector in my tenure. And we also are conducting training session with FBR ,banks, stitching saving cutting and beauty classes to give them confidence to encourage them. We facilitate and teach them.

Women are empowered by our religion [Islam]. It's not about gender equality

Is there any organization that is supporting you? What projects you are currently working on?

I always consider FBR and SMEDA as major partners in my tenure. The way these two institutes supporting women empowerment program are highly appreciable.

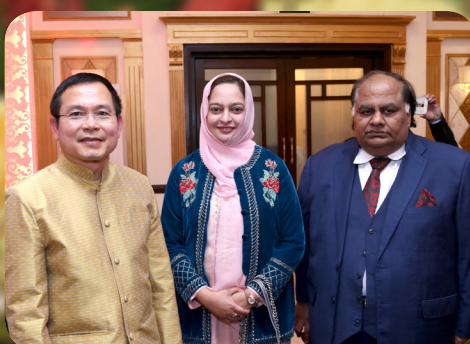
Currently we are working on major project i.e.

- Big conference for women empowerment in Islamabad in which all stakeholder and all ambassadors to be invited
- Mid-February all Pakistan president conference

I am really thankful to "Diplomatic Focus" in terms to highlighting the new venues for women and promoting the cause of Women empowerment.

Thailand National Day Observed

Ambassador of Thailand H.E. Pornpop Uampidhaya hosted a reception to commemorate the National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand, the Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, and Thailand's Father's Day in Islamabad. The event was graciously attended by a Chief Guest, Mr. Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad Federal Minister for Railways, high ranking officials from the government of Pakistan, members of diplomatic corps, private sector and academia.





PFOWA charity bazaar 2018

Turns into cultural medley of nations

The Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) on Sunday held its annual charity bazaar, bringing together a vast mix of cultural diversity from different countries. First Lady, Samina Alvi inaugurated the charity bazaar at the premises of Foreign Affairs Ministry, where stalls showcased traditional artefacts of countries including China, Russia, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Egypt, Bangladesh, Iran, Japan, Central Asian states, Malaysia, Portugal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Yemen. Begum Alvi in her address said it was heartening that the charity bazaar was presenting a bouquet of culture, art and cuisine with an essence of harmony and affinity among different nations. She lauded Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the diplomatic community in Islamabad to team up for a noble cause of philanthropy. She added that the PFOWA charity Bazaar was a good opportunity for diplomats from different countries to learn about each other's cultures. First Lady also visited different stalls set up at the bazaar. PFOWA President Anila Hassan in her welcome address said the theme of the bazaar which was 'celebration of diversity' was apt at a time when the world is facing issues of tolerance and discrimination on the basis of race, colour, caste and creed. Patron PFOWA Mehreen Qureshi said the association was adhering to its mission of philanthropy since 1947 to reach out to low-income families in diplomatic corps. A 'Parade of nations' was held where children of diplomatic staffers, donning cultural dresses of their respective countries presented tableaux and waved their respective national flags.





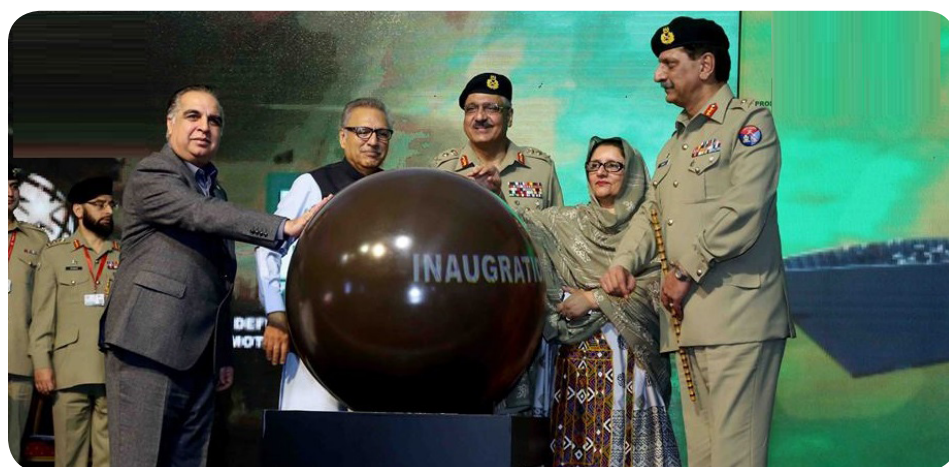






IDEAS together industries across the globe to showcase the latest technological innovations

International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) is a biennial defence exhibition, organized by Defence Export Promotion Organization (DEPO), Ministry of Defence Production (MoDP), Pakistan.



The tenth International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) held in Karachi with major participation from some of the biggest names in the global defence industry. The most productive geopolitical region of Asia is one of the largest markets for Defence Products. In a bid to effectively meet the new challenge posed by the transformed regional and global security dynamics, Asia, as well as governments of the neighboring continent of Africa, allocates significant budgets for modernization and up-gradation programs for their armed forces.

President Arif Alvi inaugurated the 10th International Defence Exhibition and (IDEAS - 2018) with the resolve that arms production in the country has been and will always be for



defence purposes and never for offense.

Paying glowing tribute to the Pakistan Army for securing the national borders and their committed endeavor to counter terrorism, he said the sacrifices rendered by the armed forces of the country in particular and people in general must not be overlooked by the world community.

The president highlighted that Pakistan's strategic location with respect to regional trade was enhanced due to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

He added that Pakistan was in the neighbourhood of oil-producing countries in the Gulf and also "in the neighbourhood of states which have created conflict as far as Pakistan is concerned".

"Issues have to be resolved, war is no option."

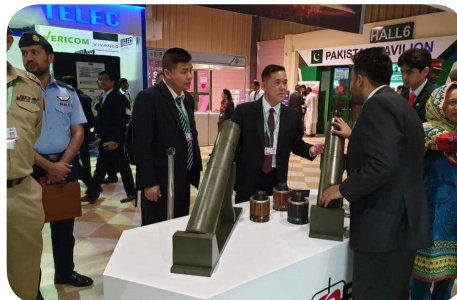
President Alvi urged India to come to "the peace table and discuss issues rather than staying away with different excuses".

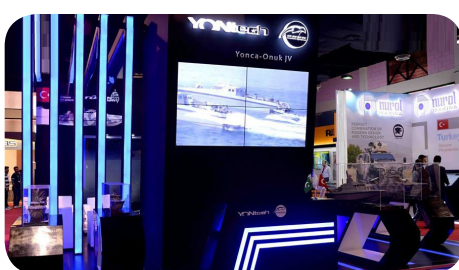
Alvi insisted that Pakistan is a peaceful country and added that it would "look forward to resolution of all our disputes in a peaceful

manner, but at the same, nations should keep in mind that you cannot suppress people at all."

"There will be 522 exhibitors from 50 countries this year," the media director of DEPO, Commodore Tariq Javed said in a media briefing.

Besides, Pakistan itself other major exporters of defence technology including China, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Poland, Russia, South Korea, Turkey, UAE, Ukraine, USA were have their exclusive country pavilions.





IDEAS PAKISTAN 2018 DINNER



Ambassador of European Union to Pakistan, H.E. Jean Francois Cautain hosted a get-together reception at his residence in Islamabad. Friends and Envoys participated.



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47 روح الاتحاد
SPIRIT OF THE UNION
NATIONAL DAY اليوم الوطني
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES الإمارات العربية المتحدة

I trust that Pakistan under the courageous leadership will continue its journey towards peace, social and economic development, I am confident that under the joint efforts of the leaderships of both countries, the relations will continue to keep pace with the time.

I wish Pakistan all the success with renewed commitment of cooperation and support.

Pak-UAE Friendship Zindabad!

Cordially Congratulations!
47th National Day
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

H.E. Hamad Al Zaabi,

Ambassador of United Arab Emirates To Islamic Republic of Pakistan