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Malaysia & Pakistan

desire to further strengthen bilateral economic ties

Both 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.

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Prime Minister of Malaysia

with

H.E. Imran Khan
Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan



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15 Malaysian PM conferred Pakistan's highest civil award

President Dr. Arif Alvi conferred Nishan-i-Pakistan on HE Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, in an investiture ceremony at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. Prime Minister Imran Khan, Federal Ministers, Parliamentarians, High level Military and Civil Officers were also present on the occasion.

16 Nation celebrates Pakistan Day With commitment to ensure progress, strong defense

The nation observed Pakistan Day with a renewed pledge to make Pakistan a developed and progressive country with a strong defence. The ceremony marked commemoration of the passage of Lahore Resolution on this day in 1940, under which the Muslims of the sub-continent set the agenda of a separate homeland for themselves. The day dawned with thirty-one-gun salute in the federal capital and twenty-one-gun salute each in provincial capitals.

22 Pakistan, Malaysia desire to further strengthen bilateral economic ties

Pakistan and Malaysia expressed the desire to further strengthen bilateral economic ties, expand trade and investment and create favourable conditions for commerce and business in both countries. At the invitation of His Excellency Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Islamic Republic Pakistan, the Honourable Tun. Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia undertook an Official Visit to Pakistan from 21-23 March 2019. He was the guest of honour at the Pakistan Day Parade.

44 Book Launching Ceremony of Senator Dr. Rehman Malik

In this background, Senator Rehman Malik's book "Modi's War Doctrine" has exposed the Indian designs against Pakistan and it is well-researched work taking readers back to Gujarat riots in which Modi orchestrated massacre of hundreds and thousands of Muslims.

79th Pakistan Resolution Day Celebrated

The National Day of Pakistan is celebrated every year on the 23rd March to commemorate the outstanding achievement of the Muslims of Sub continent who passed the historic "Pakistan Resolution" on this day at Lahore in 1940 which culminated in creation of Pakistan after 7 years.



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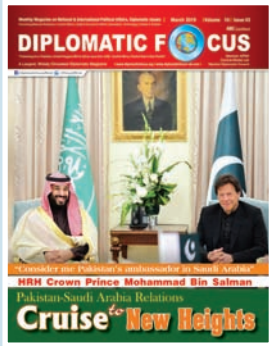
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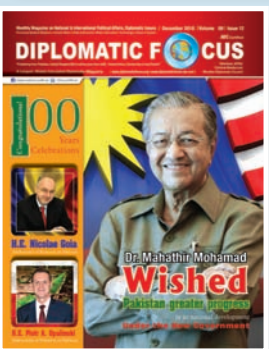
February 2019



January 2019



December 2018



Mian Fazal Elahi

The world has been left in a state of shock and grief when a mosque in Christ Church, New Zealand was subject to a violent terrorist attack. Just as Muslims in Christ Church were assembling together for Jumma prayers, an alleged Australian gunman walked in the Al-Noor mosque and opened fire on to helpless men, women and children. The death toll so far has been estimated at 49, making it the deadliest act of violence in New Zealand, a country with one of the lowest murder rates. The response of the New Zealand and the Australian government was appropriate and progressive in that it declared the attack as an incident of terrorism- a commendable move since most actions by white terrorists are simply dismissed as "lone-wolf" incidents. The way PM Jacinda Ardern took stand for the Muslim community is very encouraging. The reactions of other countries, however, have not been impressive. US President Donald Trump waited to condemn the incident and in his condemnation did not call it terrorism or mention white supremacy. It is only further confirmation of the malicious spread of Islamophobia and other forms of racism, emboldened by the ascent of far-right parties across the developed world and the activation of the (only barely latent) ideology of white supremacy embedded in the history and body politic of these nations. This was an extremely senseless and heart-wrenching tragedy and we stand in solidarity with the victims and their families.

The Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Muhammad has stepped foot in Pakistan. The tour of Mahathir and previous visits of foreign leaders to Pakistan can be seen as a significant success for the PM Khan, his party as well as for Pakistan in the international arena. The new government has taken urgent steps to step up its foreign policy game.

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 designate presented credentials to **H.E. Dr. Arif Alvi,** President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan at Aiwan-e-Sadr

Envoys-designate of Japan, Apostolic Nunciature, Tajikistan, Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Burkina Faso, Republic of Benin, Republic of Congo and Republic of Slovenia presented their credentials to President Dr. Arif Alvi in an impressive credentials ceremony at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. Later, the Ambassadors 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 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 Japan Mr. Kuninori Matsuda, Ambassador-designate of Apostolic Nunciature Archbishop Christophe-Zakhia El-Kassis, Ambassador-designate of Tajikistan Mr.

Ismatullo Nasredin, Ambassador-designate of Cooperative Republic of Guyana Mr. Bayney Karran, Ambassador-designate of Burkina Faso Mr. KONE Souleymane, Ambassador-designate of Republic of Benin Mr. Naim AKIBOU, Ambassador-designate of Republic of Congo Mr. Luc Joseph OKIO and Ambassador-designate of Republic of Slovenia Ms. Kristina Radej. 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.

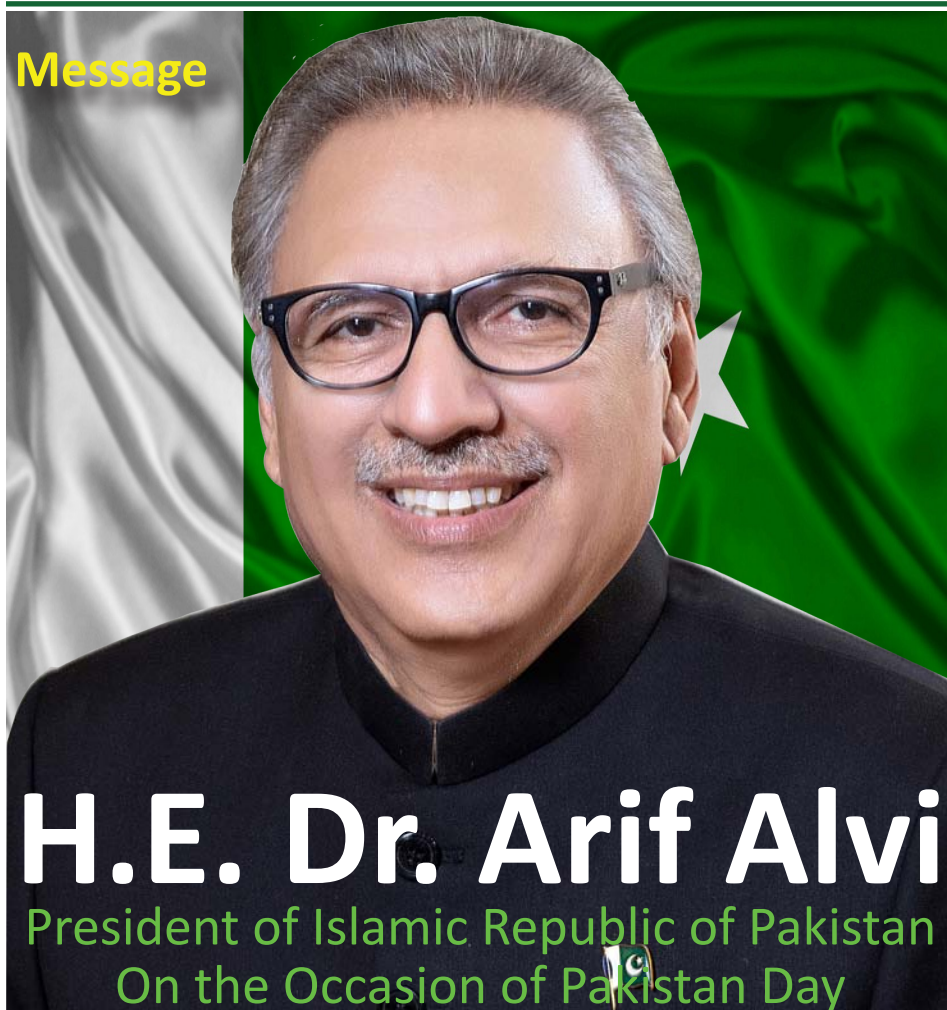


Malaysian PM conferred Pakistan's highest Civil Award

By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Dr. Arif Alvi conferred Nishan-i-Pakistan on HE Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, in an investiture ceremony at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. Prime Minister Imran Khan, Federal Ministers, Parliamentarians, High level Military and Civil Officers were also present on the occasion.

Message



H.E. Dr. Arif Alvi
President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan
On the Occasion of Pakistan Day

2 3rd March marks the historic day when the Muslims of sub-continent decided to unite in their democratic demand for a separate homeland, where they could establish and practice their lives in accordance with their values and traditions especially justice, equality, and freedom. Today, therefore, is an occasion to pay tribute to the struggle and sacrifices of our founding fathers and pledge once more to live up to the ideals that form the foundation of the idea of Pakistan. Pakistan has surmounted unprecedented challenges and demonstrated resilience in the face of extraordinary circumstances. It has accomplished exemplary successes in fight against terrorism and extremism. However, there still remains the challenge of socio-economic development. We need to work even more for national progress and prosperity. We are committed to democracy, justice, and peace. Given our human talent and natural resources, our potential is immense. We are destined to achieve the status of a model democratic state, as envisioned by Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. Let us have faith and remain united and let us commit to work hard with discipline to make Pakistan strong and prosperous. May Allah's blessings be with us all.



Nation celebrates Pakistan Day

With commitment to ensure progress, strong defense

Main Fazal Elahi

The nation observed Pakistan Day with a renewed pledge to make Pakistan a developed and progressive country with a strong defence.

The ceremony marked commemoration of the passage of Lahore Resolution on this day in 1940, under which the Muslims of the sub-continent set the agenda of a separate

homeland for themselves.

The day dawned with thirty-one-gun salute in the federal capital and twenty-one-gun salute each in provincial capitals.

Special prayers were offered in mosques after prayers for progress and prosperity of the country. The main feature of the day was a spectacular military parade at Parade Avenue in Islamabad where three wings of the armed

forces demonstrated their professionalism and military prowess.

Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan has reiterated PAF's commitment to safeguard the air frontiers of Pakistan. While crossing the dais in an airplane on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan Day Parade, the Air Chief using the radio communication from the aircraft saluted the resilience of Pakistani nation in his words,

**Malaysian
Prime Minister
Mahathir
Mohamad was
invited to be
the guest of
honour at the
parade**





“Make no mistake; we will always safeguard Pakistan.”

He further communicated saying presenting to you our wings of freedom and the guardians of your skies. Pakistan Zindabad. Air Chief led the formations of PAF fly-past aircraft on the auspicious occasion.

Keeping the tradition of his predecessors, Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan flew over the venue in an F-16 Block 52 aircraft performing a magnificent vertical roll over the parade square.

The fascinated audience fervently watched and went ecstatic to see the aircraft of Air Chief disappear in the sky.

The Turkish and Chinese pilots also demonstrated aerial maneuvers, which were applauded by the audience. A formation of Chinese Air Force presenting excellent aerobatics spread spiral of red and green smoke symbolizing Pakistan-China time-tested friendship. The parade also featured troops from Azerbaijan, China, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Bahrain and Sri Lanka.

Mechanized columns including tanks, armored personnel carriers, rocket launchers, air defense system, tactical communication system, indigenously built UAVs, short and long ranged missiles Ra’ad, Nasr, Ghauri and Shaheen were showcased on the occasion.

Paratroopers from Pakistan Army, Air Force and Navy demonstrated marvelous free fall.

There was also similar demonstration by the paratroopers from Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Sri

Lanka, Bahrain and Brunai.

Floats were depicting culture of Azad Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan and the four provinces added colour to the celebrations.

Prime Minister Imran Khan, Defence Minister Perviz Khattak, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Zubair Mehmood Hayat and Services Chiefs witnessed the parade.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad was the guest of honor of the parade.

Pakistan believes in peaceful co-existence but its desire for peace should not be misconstrued as weakness: Dr. Arif Alvi

Minister of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan Colonel General Zakir Hasanov, Commander National Guard of Bahrain Sheikh Mohamed Bin Isa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, foreign diplomats, a large number of people from all walks of life, including artists, sportsmen, women and children witnessed the parade.



The parade culminated with presentation of a special song with the theme ‘Pakistan Zindabad.’

Addressing the military parade in Islamabad, President Dr. Arif Alvi says Pakistan believes in peaceful co-existence but its desire for peace should not be misconstrued as weakness.

He said Pakistan is a responsible nuclear state and it wants peace and development, not war. He said Pakistan respects integrity and sovereignty of other states.

The President said India’s irresponsible attitude has jeopardized peace in the region. He said India will have to accept Pakistan as a reality, and it must come to the conclusion that dialogue is the only way to resolve issues.

The President said we are a peaceful nation, but are not oblivious to our defence, and the same has been proved in the recent demonstration of Pakistan’s defence capability.

Dr. Arif Alvi said Pakistan has the right to respond to any aggression.

He said Pakistan’s armed forces, which have always been alert to defend the motherland, befittingly responded to the Indian strike after Pulwama incident, for which the entire nation pays tribute to its valiant armed forces.

Dr. Arif Alvi said today Pakistan is a strong military force and an emerging economy.

Terming terrorism as a threat to world peace, the President said Pakistan has successfully overcome the challenge of terrorism by carrying out effective military operations.

He said country is safe and now moving on



the path of progress and development. He, however, pointed out that the country is dealing with the challenges of poverty, unemployment and extremist mindset.

Dr. Arif Alvi said peace in Afghanistan is imperative for durable peace and stability in Pakistan. He said Pakistan has no interest in Afghanistan except peace, and it fully supports political reconciliation in Afghanistan.

He said the participation of the representatives of Pakistan's friendly countries including Saudi Arabia, China, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Bahrain and Sri Lanka has added valour to military parade and this signifies Pakistan's friendship with these countries.

The major event of the day was Joint Services Pakistan Day Parade, which was held at Shakarparian Islamabad. Participating troops included foot columns of the Pakistan Army, Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Air Force, Frontier Corps K-P, Pakistan Rangers Sindh, Islamabad Police, Tri-Services Lady Officers, Tri-Services Armed Forces Nursing Service, Girl Guides, Boy Scouts, and Special Service Group of the three services.

The Turkish and Chinese pilots demonstrated aerial maneuvers, which were applauded by the audience

There were also mechanised columns of the Armoured Corps, Mechanised Infantry, Artillery, Army Air Defence, Engineers, Signals, Army Strategic Force Command and mounted columns of the Camel Band and the Presidents Body Guard.

Contingents of the Defence Security Force, which participated for the first time, and Mujahid Force also took part. Cultural floats representing Balochistan, Punjab, K-P, Sindh, Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan were also part of the parade.

Students of Pakistan Navy academic institutions also sang national anthem and patriotic songs at the venue.

A graceful change of guards ceremony was held at Mazar-e-Iqbal in Lahore on Saturday morning in connection with Pakistan Day.

A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Air Force assumed guards' duty at the Mazar. Base Commander of PAF, Air Commodore Syed Sabahat Hassan, who was chief guest on this occasion, laid floral wreath on behalf of Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force and People of Pakistan.

He also offered Fateha and recorded





There was demonstration by the paratroopers from Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Sri Lanka, Bahrain and Brunai

impressions in the visitors' book. Sindh Governor Imran Ismail and Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah along with the cabinet members visited the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. They laid floral wreaths at the Mazar and offered fateha and paid tribute to the great leader for untiring efforts that paved the way of acquiring a separate homeland for the Muslims of Sub-Continent. Speaking on the occasion, they said that the day requires us to renew our resolve to work for country's stability, unity and progress.

A special hallmark of the parade was the participation of paratroopers from Azerbaijan, Brunei, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka. The Special Services Group's Sky Divers undertook free-fall jumps from a height of 10,000 feet.





Malaysia was ready to work with Pakistan in all spheres: Dr Mahathir Mohamad

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring, Agency

Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad and President Dr. Arif Alvi had delegation level as well as one to one meetings in Islamabad. During the meetings they discussed matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations. Both leaders talked about the similarities between the two brotherly countries including drive against corruption and efforts to uplift and revive their economies. They also discussed about the promotion of e-commerce. Speaking on the occasion, President Dr. Arif Alvi said that elevating the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Malaysia to the level of strategic partnership would pave path towards more extensive and tangible cooperation in diverse fields. He

added that closer cooperation between the two countries is very important especially in the scenario of paradigm shift in global politics resulting in the emergence of new partnerships and its bearing on our region. The President emphasized that Pakistan attaches high importance to its relations with Malaysia and both countries enjoy close and cordial relations based on the solid foundations of a shared faith, culture and heritage. He added that it is our endeavour to further strengthen the existing excellent bilateral relations, both in strategic and economic terms, to the mutual benefit of the people of our two countries in the years ahead. He stressed that regular exchanges at the highest level are indispensable to provide strategic direction to relations and boost the

bilateral cooperation.

Later, a banquet was held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in honor of the Prime Minister of Malaysia and his delegation. Addressing a dinner reception, president said that the Muslim world was eyeing Pakistan and Malaysia for their role against Islamophobia.

The reception was attended by Prime Minister Imran Khan, Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser, federal ministers, parliamentarians, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan and diplomats.

The president said Pakistan had learnt a lot while fighting against terrorism and securing its

borders.

He said extremism had devastated the societies and such ideas took around 20 to 30 years to die down. The world was learning now what Pakistan had already learnt while coping with the challenges it had been facing, he added.

The president said consequent to the sacrifices by its people, Pakistan succeeded to get rid of terrorism.

He said Pakistan had wholeheartedly hosted 3.5 million Afghan refugees contrary to the European countries that had been reluctant to host even a thousand refugees.

He said after assuming the office, Prime Minister Imran Khan had given a message of peace to other countries including India as it was inevitable for economic development.

President Alvi said in the recent conflict with India, Pakistan had exercised restraint and told India not to attack it; else the country would be compelled to retaliate.

Referring to the human rights violations in Indian Occupied Kashmir, the president said everything could not be scrapped under the carpet of terrorism.

He said the will of the people could not be suppressed in Indian Occupied Kashmir as the people there were fighting for their right to self-determination.

In his remarks, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad thanked the prime minister and the president for inviting him to attend the Pakistan Day event.

He said Pakistan and Malaysia had been enjoying diplomatic ties since independence. He said there was a need to understand new technologies and both the countries should benefit from each other's experiences. He said Malaysia was ready to work with Pakistan in all spheres and that the businessmen accompanying him would help establish links with Pakistani business community.

Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysians were



already familiar with Pakistan that would also help strengthen the bilateral ties. He also thanked Pakistan's leadership for honoring him with the highest civil award saying that he felt strengthened after this gesture. He said it was good to have closer bilateral ties as the countries could not progress in strangeness. He said the industrial revolution helped change the lives of the people. Pakistan was a nation of 200 million people and manpower played a key role in national development. The Malaysian prime minister also expressed his willingness to cooperate with Pakistan to strengthen Pakistan's tourism sector believing that it would accelerate country's economic development.

Elevating the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Malaysia to the level of strategic partnership would pave path towards more extensive and tangible cooperation in diverse fields.: President Arif Alvi





Pakistan, Malaysia

desire to further strengthen bilateral economic ties

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring

Pakistan and Malaysia expressed the desire to further strengthen bilateral economic ties, expand trade and investment and create favourable conditions for commerce and business in both countries.

At the invitation of His Excellency Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Islamic Republic Pakistan, the Honourable Tun. Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia undertook an Official Visit to Pakistan from 21-23 March 2019. He was the guest of honour at the Pakistan Day Parade.

During the visit, Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Prime Minister's House, Islamabad. After the welcoming ceremony, Prime Minister Imran Khan held a meeting with Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad. 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, according to a joint statement issued by the Foreign Office.

Both sides took note of the exchange of notes and the ratification of the MoU on the Partial Abolition of Visa Requirement for Diplomatic and Official Passport holders, signed between the two countries during visit of Prime Minister

Imran Khan from 20-21 November 2018.

The two Leaders took note that the 1st Bilateral Consultations between the Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan and the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, as a mechanism to intensify the engagements between both sides, was successfully held on 25 February 2019 in Islamabad, Pakistan. The 1st Bilateral Consultations between both countries had covered various issues of mutual concerns such as debt management and anti-corruption, defence cooperation, labour matters, consular matters, as well as, regional and international dynamics.

Both Leaders acknowledged the successful convening of the 13th Joint Committee on Defence Cooperation (JCDC) which was held from 26-27 February 2019 in Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia invited Pakistan to participate in the upcoming Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) from 26-30 March 2019.

Prime Minister Tun. Dr. Mahathir Mohamad expressed his sincere appreciation to the President of Pakistan, His Excellency Dr. Arif Alwi for hosting a State Banquet and bestowing him with the Nishan-e-Pakistan (Order of Pakistan), Pakistan's highest civil award.

Both Leaders agreed that the existing relations between Pakistan-Malaysia be elevated to a Strategic Partnership. It marked a new level of the bilateral cooperation between both countries in various fields, namely trade in palm oil, agricultural products, food retail, halal





products, automotive parts, energy, science and technology, and telecommunication investment. This new level of partnership will entail further engagement and enhance cooperation between the two countries. Both sides reaffirmed their shared desire to maintain close high-level contacts, deepen friendly exchanges of visits and cooperation in all fields, as well as, to actively promote Pakistan-Malaysia relations.

In a landmark cooperation in the automotive industry between Pakistan-Malaysia, Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and Prime Minister Imran Khan jointly officiated the Symbolic Ground-Breaking Ceremony of PROTON plant in Islamabad, Pakistan which will boost the manufacturing and services industry for both countries.

Pakistan and Malaysia reaffirmed the importance of the cooperation between the private sectors of both countries. Both Leaders witnessed the signing of Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding in the field of investment and cooperation, particularly in the telecommunication sector. They also acknowledged that this investment would serve to promote and strengthen the economic ties between both countries.

Both Leaders underpinned their shared desire to strengthen bilateral economic ties, expand trade and investment, create favourable conditions for commerce and business in both countries. Malaysia expressed hope

that Pakistan would continue to import more Malaysian palm oil and palm oil-based products, as well as, remove any non-tariff barriers on Malaysian goods and products.

Both sides reaffirmed the Malaysia-Pakistan Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (MPCEPA) signed on 8 November 2007 and welcomed the growing momentum in the bilateral economic relations. They stressed on the need to convene the next MPCEPA Joint Committee Meeting as soon as possible.

Malaysia 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 particularly in the institutions of higher learning, technical and vocational training between Malaysia and Pakistan. They agreed that close cooperation in higher education and vocational training are critical elements to the next phase of relationship.

Tourism and youth exchanges have also been identified as key drivers in promoting greater people-to-people contact and sustainable socio-economic growth, and in fostering mutual understanding between the two countries.

Both Leaders noted the growing momentum for halal products among consumers worldwide. Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad conveyed his readiness to share Malaysia's experience and expertise in the halal industry with Pakistan.

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 commitments to collaborate more closely on issues affecting the Muslim world including taking joint efforts in underscoring Muslim sensitivities that target Muslim holy personalities and religious belief. Both stressed that terrorism cannot be associated with any religion or belief.

Both Leaders exchanged views 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 Dr. 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.

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





The German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas lauded Pakistan's contribution in promoting regional peace and stability.

By Shahzada Khurram

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas called on Prime Minister Imran Khan in the Prime Minister's office Islamabad. Welcoming the German Foreign Minister, the Prime Minister said that Pakistan attaches high importance to its relations with Germany, which are characterized by shared democratic values and multifaceted cooperation. He praised the leadership of German Chancellor Angela Merkel particularly her handling of the immigration crisis. The Prime Minister apprised the German Foreign Minister on the current regional situation, including India and Afghanistan as well as the steps taken by his government towards de-escalation. He stressed upon the international community to take notice of the grave human rights violations in Indian Occupied Kashmir. On bilateral front,

the Prime Minister welcomed Germany's investment in hydroelectric power generation and automobile sectors of Pakistan. Terming Germany as an important development partner, the Prime Minister invited enhanced German technical support to Pakistan in sectors related to human development, especially education and health. The German Foreign Minister welcomed Pakistan's efforts towards peace and stability in the region. He appreciated Prime Minister's responsible handling of the situation, particularly the decision of releasing the Indian pilot, which has been noted positively by the international community. Foreign Minister Maas underscored Pakistan's key role towards peaceful settlement in Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister reiterated German Chancellor Angela Merkel's invitation to the Prime Minister to visit Germany.

**Germany is
the sixth
largest
importer of
Pakistan
goods.**



Pakistan & Bahrain enjoy extremely strong and cordial relations.

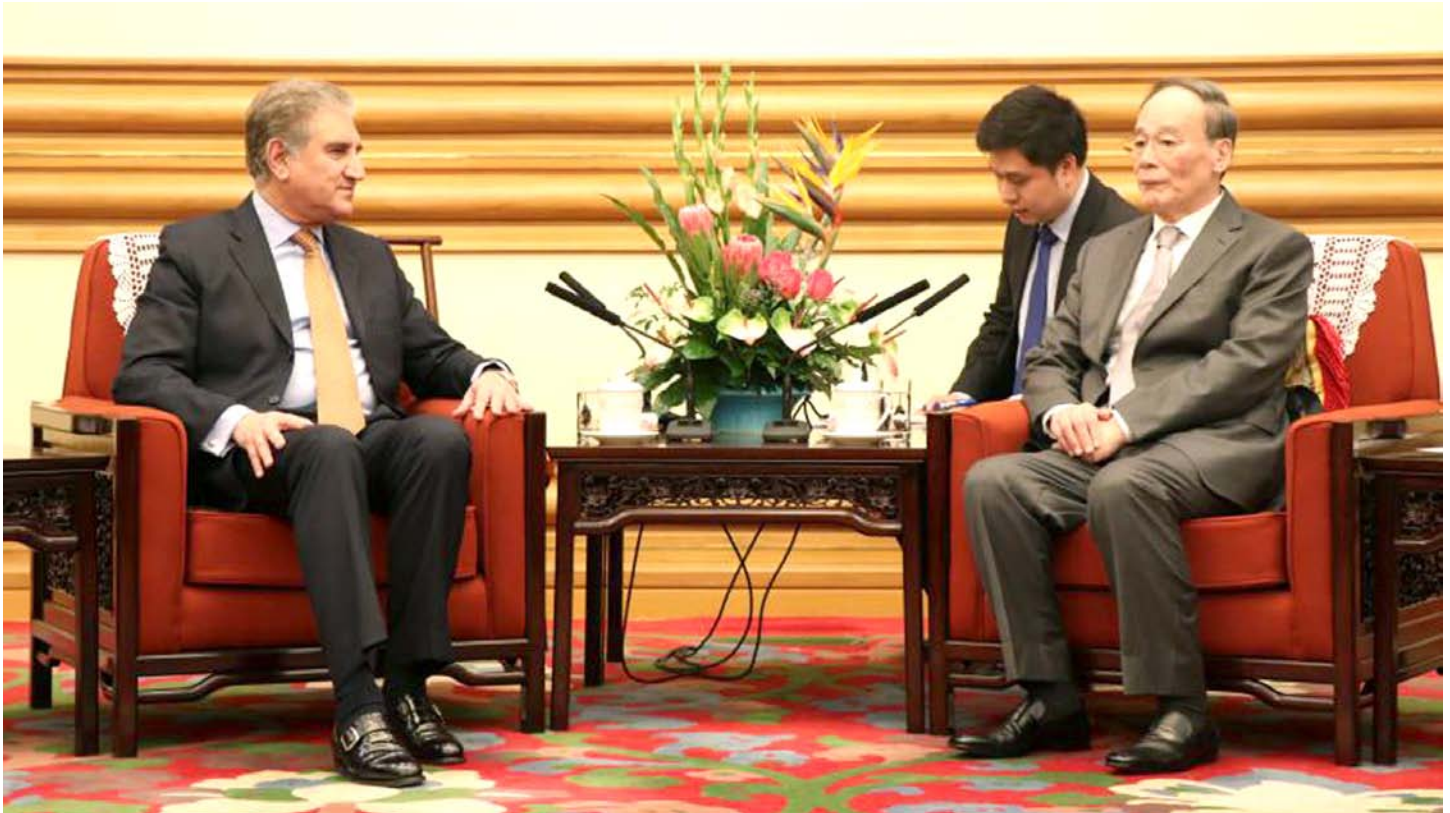
Both countries share common faiths, cultures and values which further strengthen the bond between the two countries.

By Bilal Zafar

Commander of the National Guard of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Lieutenant-General Sheikh Mohammed bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Imran Khan. Issues of mutual interest including regional situation were discussed.

The Prime Minister said that Pakistan values its fraternal ties with Bahrain and has an abiding interest in further augmenting these ties in all spheres. He also expressed satisfaction on the existing level of bilateral cooperation, particularly in the field of defence. Lt. General Al Khalifa extended invitation on

behalf of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.R.H. Prince Khalifa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, to the Prime Minister of Pakistan to visit Bahrain. The Prime Minister accepted the invitation and reciprocated by extending invitation to the Prime Minister of Bahrain to visit Pakistan.



Time-tested and all weather strategic cooperative partnership between **Pakistan & China**

By M. Bilal Zafar

The Foreign Minister visited China for the inaugural round of Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi called on Vice President Wang Qishan in Beijing. The Foreign Minister conveyed greetings of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Vice President Wang Qishan. He said Prime Minister of Pakistan is looking forward to visit them next month to attend the 2nd Belt and Road Forum. Reaffirming the time-tested and all weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China, Vice President expressed satisfaction at the upward trajectory of bilateral ties since the visit of the Prime Minister to China in November 2018. Vice President assured Foreign Minister Qureshi of China's unwavering support for Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and for its socio-economic development. The Foreign Minister thanked the Vice President for China's steadfast support to Pakistan. He briefed Vice President on the recent developments in the region and thanked China for playing an important role in easing of tensions. The Foreign Minister briefed Vice President on progress in development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Both sides agreed that smooth implementation of CPEC will greatly contribute to socio-economic development of Pakistan. The Foreign Minister

is on a visit to China for the inaugural round of Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi met Mr. Yang Jiechi, Member of Politburo and Director of the Central Foreign Affairs Commission Office of the Communist Party of China in Beijing. They had an in-depth exchange

of views on bilateral relations and regional and global issues. Mr. Yang Jiechi appreciated Pakistan's role in combating terrorism and its efforts for regional peace, especially in South Asia. He also appreciated Pakistan's support for reconciliation efforts in Afghanistan.

The Foreign Minister expressed satisfaction



over the deliberations in the first Strategic Dialogue between Pakistan and China, reflecting complete convergence of views on issues of mutual interest. He appreciated Chinese consistent support for Pakistan's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. He expressed Pakistan's commitment to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor which was contributing to Pakistan's economic development and prosperity.

Mr. Yang Jiechi stated that Pakistan-China relationship was time-tested and an example in inter-state relations. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has injected a fresh impetus to bilateral economic cooperation. He assured the Foreign Minister of his full support in building closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the new era.

First Meeting of the Political Parties Forum on CPEC was held in Beijing. The meeting was organised by the International Department of the CPC Central Committee at Diaoyutai State Guest House in Beijing. H.E. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, along with H.E. Mr. Song Tao, Minister International Department of the CPC Central Committee, co-chaired the forum. The Foreign Minister and the Minister IDCPC also delivered their keynote speeches.

Addressing the Forum Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Qureshi said that the Forum would further enhance mutual understanding and reinforce our collective commitment to create a favourable environment for CPEC. He added that the platform would further strengthen the consensus between our two countries and reinforce our time-tested bilateral relations.

Welcoming the Foreign Minister Mr. Song Tao said that CPEC is the flagship project of BRI and the Forum would enhance people-to-



people contacts and apprehend new trends for people-centric development in the region. Deputy Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Muhammad Qasim Khan Suri, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, and Chairman Senate CPEC Committee Senator Sherry Rahman led delegations of PTI, PML-N, and PPP respectively. Governor Balochistan Province Amanullah Khan led a combined delegation of political parties from Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including representatives of ANP, NP, JUI-F, BAP, BNP, PPP, PTI and PkMAP. Representatives from IDCPC, NDRC, EXIM Bank, SOEs, think tanks and media also attended the forum from Chinese side.

During the forum, stakeholders from both sides exchanged in-depth views on the development of CPEC and its future trajectory. Deputy Speaker National Assembly Muhammad Qasim Khan Suri, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Senator Sherry Rehman, Governor Balochistan

Ammanullah Khan, Jan Mohammad, Province Omar Ahmadzai, Shagufta Malik, Mohammad Akbar, Nasrullah Khan Barach, and Mahmood Ahmad shared views from Pakistan side.

Participants of the Forum expressed fullest support to the upcoming Second Forum of the Belt and Road Initiative that will be held in Beijing next month. At the end of the forum, all stakeholders unanimously adopted 'Beijing Declaration'. The participants reiterated their unwavering commitment to CPEC. They agreed to further enhance intra-party exchanges, discussions and cooperation. They rejected negative propaganda against CPEC, which is an inclusive project of win-win cooperation, mutual development and prosperity. The next meeting of the Forum would be held in Pakistan.





NPC&CPPCC Annual Sessions 2019

Xi stresses perseverance in fight against poverty

By Agency

Chinese President Xi Jinping called for perseverance in the fight against poverty as there are only two years left for the country to meet its goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2020.

"There should be no retreat until a complete victory is won," said Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission.

He made the remarks when deliberating with deputies from Gansu Province at the second session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's national legislature.

Decisive progress has been achieved in the country's tough fight against poverty over the past years, marking a new chapter in the poverty reduction history of mankind, said Xi, stressing that the goal to eradicate extreme poverty must be achieved on time.

He warned that the tasks ahead remain arduous and hard as those still in poverty are the worst stricken.

Explaining the criteria of lifting people out of poverty, Xi said they should no longer need to worry about food and clothing while enjoying access to compulsory education, basic medical care and safe housing.

The practices of formalities for formalities' sake and bureaucratism hamper the effective advancement of poverty reduction, he said, stressing a firm hand in rectifying malpractices in poverty relief.

Xi asked Party committees and governments at all levels to shoulder their responsibilities in the critical battle against poverty.

He ordered efforts to redress undesirable conduct of officials in a timely manner, as well as special campaigns to target corruption and bad conduct in poverty reduction.

Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji and Han Zheng -- members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee -- also separately joined deliberation with NPC deputies.

Premier Li Keqiang spoke of the need to replace old growth drivers with new ones and improve people's wellbeing to advance high-quality development.

NPC Standing Committee Chairman Li Zhanshu called for efforts to adhere to green, high-quality development and link poverty alleviation with rural vitalization strategy.

Wang Yang, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, urged high-quality poverty alleviation work to make sure that

nobody is left behind in the course of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. Wang Huning, a member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, said he expects Shanghai to continue to lead the reform and opening-up and to elevate the coordinated development of the Yangtze River Delta to a higher level.

Zhao Leji, secretary of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, spoke of the need for Tianjin to take advantage of the period of strategic opportunity, enhance the capacity of innovation, and focus on developing real economy.

Vice Premier Han Zheng stressed the full implementation of the national strategy of the coordinated development of the Yangtze River Delta.

"There should be no retreat until a complete victory is won," said Xi



Turkmen-Pakistani

Political Consultations Held In Islamabad

By Mian Fazal Elahi

On March 12, 2019, a delegation of Turkmenistan headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The Turkmen delegation was received by President of Pakistan Mr. Arif Alvi. During the meeting, a high level of cooperation between the two states in the political-diplomatic, trade-economic, cultural-humanitarian spheres was noted. The President of Pakistan emphasized the importance of a neutral foreign policy pursued by President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. In this context, the Parties noted the close cooperation of Turkmenistan and Pakistan within the framework of international organizations, primarily in the United Nations.

Special attention was paid to expanding the Turkmen-Pakistan economic partnership. The implementation of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline (TAPI) construction projects, power lines and fiber-optic communications along the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan route, the creation of new transport corridors is a clear indication of the effective joint activities of the two countries aimed at strengthening regional and international economic relationship.

The parties also noted the need for further development of bilateral relations in the field of science and education.

During the meeting with the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Imran Khan, a thorough exchange of views took place on the current state and

prospects for the development of Turkmen-Pakistani cooperation.

The gas and transport and communication sectors were mentioned as priority areas for trade and economic partnership. At the same time, the Head of the Government of Pakistan expressed strong support for the TAPI project, the construction of the TAP transmission line, and the creation of a new transport and transit corridor from the seaports of Pakistan to the international seaport of Turkmenbashi.

The parties agreed that scientific, educational, cultural and humanitarian ties are a traditional area of cooperation between Turkmenistan and Pakistan, and noted the need for their further expansion.

On the same day, consultations were held between the foreign ministries of the two countries at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr. Makhdum Shah Mehmood Qureshi expressed his gratitude to the Turkmen side for supporting Pakistan's candidacy in elections to reputable international organizations. At the same time, the Pakistani Minister assured that Pakistan will continue to actively participate in the promotion of initiatives and proposals put forward by Turkmenistan in the international arena. The sides exchanged views on a wide range of issues related to the further strengthening of multi-faceted Turkmen-Pakistani relations.

On the same day, the Turkmen delegation met with Mr. Omar Ayub Khan the Minister for Power, Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Khan the Minister for

Petroleum and Mr. Asad Umar the Minister for Finance of Pakistan. The delegation also held meetings with Mr. Tariq Bajwa the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, and Mr. Haroon Sharif the Chairman of the Board of Investment of Pakistan.

The following documents were signed during the visit:

Protocol on Amendments to the Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan;

The Program of cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for 2019-2024;

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan and the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Pakistan on the establishment of the Turkmen-Pakistan Joint Business Council;

Memorandum of Understanding between the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Academy of Diplomatic Services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan;

The main conditions of the Agreement with the Government of the host country of the project of construction of the gas pipeline "Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India".

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



President Dr. Arif Alvi talking to Ambassador of Uzbekistan Furkat Sidikov, who called on him in Islamabad on March 04, 2019.



Ambassador of Kazakhstan Mr. Barlybay Sadykov called on Speaker National Assembly Mr. Asad Qaiser at Parliament House on 26.03.2019.



Turkmenistan Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Atadjan Movlamov in a meeting with Minister for Power, Omar Ayub Khan in Islamabad on March 5, 2019.



Federal Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination Dr. Fehmida Mirza in a meeting with Ambassador of China Mr. Yao Jing in Islamabad on March 5, 2019.



Finance Minister Asad Umar in a meeting with Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan, in Islamabad on 5th March 2019.



Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan, H.E. Ahmed Fadel Yacoub on Chairman Board of Investment, Haroon Sharif in Islamabad on March 8, 2019.



H.E. Pornpop Uampidhaya, Ambassador Kingdom of Thailand to Pakistan called on Haroon Sharif, Mos/Chairman Board of Investment at BoI Islamabad on March 12, 2019.



Ambassador of UAE to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim al Zaabi along with the President of Emirates Policy Center, Dr. ebtasam al Ketbi called on Federal Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination, Dr. Fehmida Mirza in Islamabad on February 27, 2019.



Italian Ambassador to Pakistan Stefano Pontecarvo called on the Federal Minister for Aviation and Privatization Muhammad Mian Soomro in Islamabad on 27-02-2019



Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Nicolae Gola called on Federal Minister for Education And Professional Training, Shafqat Mahmood in Islamabad on February 28, 2019.



Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, H.E. Mehdi Honardoost called on Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Sahibzada Muhammad Mehboob Sultan in Islamabad on February 28, 2019.



Ambassador of Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ali alizada called on Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Sahibzada Muhammad Mehboob Sultan in Islamabad on February 26, 2019.



Islamabad: February 27, 2019: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistan & Human Resource Development, Syed Zulfiqar Bukhari in a meeting With Korean Ambassador to Pakistan KWAK Sung-KYU.



Ambassador of Hungary to Pakistan, Mr. Istvan Szab made a Courtesy call to the Federal Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination Dr. Fehmida Mirza in Islamabad on March 12, 2019.



Ambassador of France to Pakistan, H.E. March Barety called on Secretary Defence, Lt. General (RETD) Ikram Ul Haq at Ministry of Defence in Rawalpindi on March 15, 2019

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Federal Minister for Defence, Mr. Pervaiz Khattak, presenting a Shield to Mr. Stephen Lovegrove CB, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Defence of UK, in Ministry of Rawalpindi on 12-03-2019.



Washington DC: Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, Dr. Asad Majeed Khan Met Republican Senator James Inhofe, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Briefed him on Bilateral Relations and Regional Issues of Mutual Interest.



Chairman Board of Investment, Haroon Sharif in a meeting With Ambassador of USA to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Paul W. Jones in Islamabad on March 18, 2019.



Human Rights Minister Dr. Shireen M Mazari in meeting with Dutch Ambassador to Pakistan, Ms. Ardi Stioos-Braken who called on her in Islamabad on March 18, 2019.



Washington: USA 19-3-2019: Deputy assistant secretary of State Henry Ensher called on Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Ali Haider Zaidi to discuss various options of how US companies can get involved in helping Pakistan address the growing challenges of energy.



Federal Minister for Human Rights Dr. Shireen M Mazari in a meeting with the Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan Mr. Nicolae Goia in Islamabad on 20-03-2019.



Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Rolf Michael hay Pereira Holmoe called on Advisor to PM on Commerce, Textile, Industry & Production and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood in Islamabad on March 7, 2019.



Washington DC: Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, Dr. Asad Majeed Khan met Senator Todd Young and discussed many ways in which Pakistan and us can work together in various sectors including textiles, energy and agribusiness to mutual benefit.



Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan H.E. Ali Alizade called on the Federal Minister for Defence, Pervaz Khattak in Islamabad on 13-03-2019.



Federal Minister for Power, Omar Ayub Khan in a meeting with Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan H.E. Jean Francois Cautain in Islamabad on 13-03-2019.



Mr. Stephen Lovegrove CB, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Defence UK, presenting a shield to Secretary Defence, Lt Gen (Retd) Ikram ul Haq at Ministry of Defence Rawalpindi 12-3-2019.



Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Nicolae Gola called on Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Shafqat Mahmood in Islamabad on February 28, 2019.



Mr. Helmut von struve, Md, Siemens (Pakistan) along with H.E. Mr. Martin Kobler, Ambassador of Germany to Pakistan called on Haroon Sharif, chairman board of investment in Islamabad on March 13, 2019.



Ambassador of netherlands to Pakistan, H.E. Mrs ardi stioos-braken called on Federal Minister for Defence production, Ms Zubaida Jalal in Rawalpindi on March 24, 2019.



Ambassador of China to Pakistan, H.E. Yao Jing called on advisor to the PM on commerce, textile, industries & production and investments, Abdul Razak Dawood in Islamabad on March 28, 2019.

RCCI 11th All Pakistan Chambers Presidents Conference

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Prime Minister Imran Khan assuring business community of government's commitment towards reforming the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) urged them to play their role as his team in promoting tax-culture in the country, and pulling it out of poverty through enhanced tax collection. He told traders, businessmen and entrepreneurs gathered at the 11th All Pakistan Chambers Presidents Conference, organized by Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) at Serena hotel, Islamabad.

The Prime Minister referred to the quotes of a book "Confessions of an Economic Hitman" he received from Malaysian leader Mahathir Muhammad some 20 years back, in which it was stated that the objective of loans given by powerful countries to the poor nations was to make them their subservient.

On next day at Conference, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that the government had taken an initiative of economic diplomacy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had geared up its efforts in this regard. He encouraged diplomats of these countries to bring their tourists to Pakistan as the country had a lot to offer to tourists.







Senator Rehman Malik
Sitara -e -Shujat, Nashan-e-Imtiaz

Z.A Bhutto emerged on the political scene of Pakistan at the time when the country was fully in the grip of dictatorship. He took over the reins of the country when Pakistan was fractured and people were demoralized. He came up to heal the wounds of the nation with his great leadership and brought great confidence in the people of Pakistan.

Bilawal being grandson of this great leader does not need any certificate from any one for his patriotism.

BILAWAL represents a house, which is source of inspiration of the well-being of Pakistan and source of strength for the people. The house of Bhutto is symbol of sacrifice and unity. The graveyard of Ghari Khuda Bakhsh demonstrates love of the Shaheeds for Pakistan. Nobody in Pakistan can claim what Bilawal can claim as a patriotic leader with his unmatched legacy as he is a continued legacy of those who preferred to die while fighting against the enemies of Pakistan.

He has been groomed by his mother; a leader who inspired the masses and his grandfather refused to surrender before the anti-Pakistan foreign Mafia and continued his nuclear programme undeterred which have made us safe we all proud of his vision. His judicial murder in the hands of American agents is no more a secret.

I am touching the most tragic part of our history by exposing here today the old files, which look dead, but these stand testimony to the history and truth as to how this great lover of Pakistan was eliminated just because he was sincere to Pakistan.

It was way back in mid-1989 while sitting on the 4th floor of the FIA HQ in my office where I happened to see the murder case file where Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was implicated. I could not stop the reading of the noting portion of the said file and the relevant papers contained in the file.

Z.A.BHUTTO

& BILAWAL Z. Bhutto;

Symbols of Patriotism & Sacrifices

I will write more in detail some time later about the judicial murder of ZAB but today I will refer here the note portion of the then Director Law of FIA who had the moral courage to pen down the reality that the bullets shown to have been used in the murder of late Mr. Kasuri, in fact, did not match with the weapon in question allegedly used by FSF official who was declared as the killer. Director/Law had killed the fabricated abetment theory against ZAB by the prosecution under pressure.

The file is full of shocking criminal and intellectual dishonesties of replacement of the first 164 statement of Masood Mahmood recorded by Agha Ghaznafar was replaced with another statement of Masood Mahmood recorded by another magistrate Mr. Qureshi from Lahore falsely implicating ZAB in return of his migration to USA with enough pressure.

Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was the same PM who gave us nuclear bomb and he refused to listen to American threats including Henry Kissinger, as he did not want to betray his country by rolling back nuclear programme. The conspiracy of elimination of ZAB was passing through its pre-set stages and a great

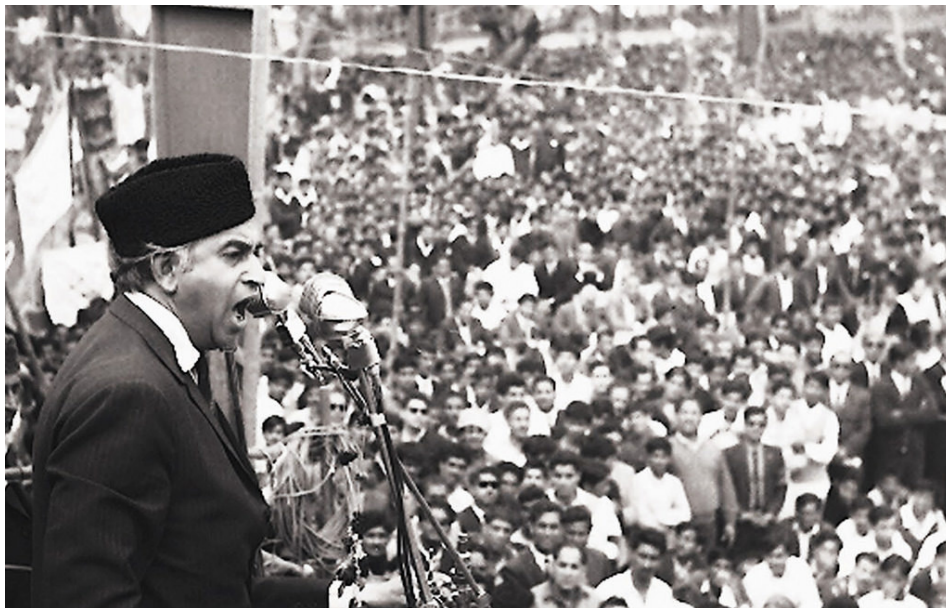
patriot ZAB was sent to gallows punishing him for giving Nuclear to his beloved country. I have narrated these facts to tell Bilawal's critics that he is the grandson of ZAB who did surrendered but fought out for his country and masses. ZAB emerged as national hero and this national hero happens to be the grandfather of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

The political opponents and some critics owe apology to Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for their hurtful and baseless allegation trying to dispute him to cover their own wrong tracks. Political opponents should not distort the history by such unwise and uncouth political baseless inimical and unethical statements.

Have a heart and how can you use such wordings for the son of SMBB and grandson ZAB. Let me take these critics through the history and I challenge these critics to have debate with me & I will prove you all wrong on the politically motivated propaganda.

Bhutto family is unarguably a paradigm of tragedies and sacrifices. They have given their lives for the restoration of democracy, starting from the youngest son of ZAB, Shah Nawaz Bhutto to his favorite daughter Benazir





Bhutto. Shaheed Shah Nawaz Bhutto being the youngest son sacrificed his life fighting the tyrannical regime of Zia against his father's incarceration and execution. He unfortunately ended up losing his life in his struggle and sacrifices for democracy. When ZAB was put under house arrest, Shah Nawaz Bhutto left for Lahore where he delivered the first ever-political speech of his life and increased the morale of party workers.

Shah Nawaz Bhutto was mysteriously killed for his untiring struggle against dictatorship leaving the lavish life style he used to follow. I along with my team investigated this murder case with the help of French police who was killed just because he opposed the then dictator and not Pakistan.

My report on this murder was submitted to the then PM in my capacity as Director FIA and it has the full back ground and the details who did it and how the war poison was used to kill him. Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto worked

tirelessly and consistently both at home as well as during her exile period for the cause of democracy in the country right from Zia's regime to Pervez Musharraf. The country cannot forget the day she was brutally killed at her homeland on 25th December 2007 while she had returned from exile for the sake of her downtrodden people. It was conspired to eliminate her from the political scene of Pakistan by the enemies of Pakistan.

If you recall Bilawal Bhutto Zardari did not become the part of that mainstream mud-slinging trend of Pakistan's politics during his campaign speeches. He rather criticized those who were following the trend in their offensiveness towards their opponents.

After entering the house of parliament, his famous first maiden speech stole the show from anyone and everyone speaking on the floor praised his wisdom and stand taken on national issues. He made it clear that his party will accept the new government's right to rule,

despite knowing that the elections were rigged, only if the new Government meets public expectations raised by its own rhetoric. He has given respect to the house of parliament more than many other senior political leaders by attending almost all sessions and participating in maximum parliamentary proceedings. He has also taken a clear stance on religious extremism despite being aware of the fact that this very religious extremism has taken the lives of his dear ones.

He is being criticized for the stand, which the government Ministers have already taken publicly vis-à-vis proscribed organizations. The Prime Minister and the ministers have already taken the similar stand both in and out of the Parliament when they promised to take action against the proscribed organization had India provided any evidence of their involvement in any alleged activities. It is a matter of record that the government has publicly stated that the government has taken members of the proscribed organizations in "protective custody" after the Pulwama incident, which clearly indicates that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has not spoken against the interests of Pakistan, as alleged by certain vested interests rather reminded the government of its responsibilities. Those who are propagating against him are actually fearful of his personality which would eventually out-smart them one day. The critics must know that he is intelligently forcing his way in politics with more political maturity as compared to them. He has picked the political momentum hence you cannot block Bilawal to lead the nation to get it out of crises. He has emerged as the voice of the masses of Pakistan.

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Senator Rehman Malik
Sitara e Shujaat, Nishan e Imtiaz

Condemnable Ruthless act of Terrorism

It was heart-breaking to see how a white Australian origin terrorist mercilessly killed the innocent and harmless Muslims at Christchurch, New Zealand who have gathered to pray before the common God of Christians and Muslims. The terrorist carried out this inhuman act of terrorism after planning of months to advance his political and social agenda i.e. to get rid of “invaders” from the Europe specifically identifying the Muslims as “invaders”. These attacks on the house of God in New Zealand was not the first or only one as there had been 25 incidents where terrorists both Muslim and non-Muslim had attacked the houses of God – Mosques, Churches and Synagogues, killing scores of innocent worshippers.

I watched few western TV channels and was taken aback to see that the Western media has been down playing the act of terrorism by identifying the killer as ‘shooter’ and not ‘terrorist’. Even none of the non-Muslim leader including President of USA and the PM of the UK have term the incident as an act of terrorism rather President Trump called it a “massacre”. The world community must realize that these sort of different categorization of acts of terrorism by a terrorist claiming to be a Muslim and the acts of terrorism by non-Muslim terrorist would further widen the gape between two major religions and would provide tools to the extremists to undertake terrorist acts by citing the stances taken by the Western world vis-à-vis terrorism, as discriminatory. The politicians, media intellectual and opinion makers must be careful while talking on any Religion OR various races as these are two sensitive issue and we all must work at all levels to advocate for Interfaith harmony & Brotherhood. Let us call wronging as wrong one and right one as right one by rising above the International geo politics of this world.

The stance taken by different world leaders vis-à-vis Christchurch incidents has compelled to wonder if these leaders have different

meanings of terrorism – different for Muslims to demonizing them and different for the non-Muslims. We have seen that an isolated act of terrorism by a “Muslim terrorist” would be used to condemn whole peaceful Muslim community but this have never been the case while any such act is carried out by a non-Muslim terrorist. Needless to say that both were shooters and terrorists who have carried out the acts of terrorisms with predetermined mind and agenda and are thus equally liable to be condemned in the same fashion.

According to our Islamic teaching no white has any superiority on Black, as we all are equal before Allah.

Ironically, The West had been protecting Non-Muslim shooters/terrorists by merely identifying them as deranged persons and mentally retarded, therefore, the Muslims at large are fearful of the fate of this Far-Right terrorist when he would also be declared at a mentally retarded person at some point of time. But the question, which the Western society and media has to answer, is as to how a mentally retarded person in his thirties could manage to buy such heavy weaponry. The picture of his car clearly show as to how modern and sophisticated arms were present in his car which he used to kill the worshippers indiscriminately. He streamed live on Facebook through out his terrorist attack, drove the car with western loud music in the background & moreover he knew that Muslims say regular prayers on Friday. He remained busy planning the attack for three months in a non-resident country. He also knew that both countries Australia and New Zealand have no death penalty and he will remain comfortable in Jail. Just pay attention to his Hollywood type entry in the Mosque and his confident act of killing indiscriminately as he went to every corner of the Mosque to kill Muslims. He remained undetected starting from his entry in New Zealand to planning, acquiring of arms and

ammunition and subsequently his terrorism inside the mosques.

However, in order to understand the difference between ‘Shooter’ and ‘Terrorist’, I referred to the Oxford dictionary. According to the dictionary, a ‘Shooter’ is “A person who uses a gun either regularly or on a particular occasion”. The dictionary defines ‘Terrorist’ as “A person who uses unlawful violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims”. The media reports as well as social media have reported that the terrorist Australian Brenton Tarrant, 28, had been planning for the attacks for months and he has posted his manifesto on Internet before the act of terrorism, of copy of which has reportedly been received in the office of the New Zealand Prime Minister, a minute before the attack. The Prime Minister Ms Ardern said “the guns used by the attacker appeared to have been modified, and that the suspect’s car was full of weapons, suggesting “his intention to continue with his attack”.

His manifesto was filled with anti-immigrant and anti-Muslims hatred. He has carried out terrorism to achieve his political goals and thus very rightly falls under the definition of ‘terrorist’ and not merely a shooter. The Western leaders and the media, therefore, need to be revisiting its approach to the incident and the perpetrator.

The irony is that the Muslims are called terrorists but one of the victims of this tragedy, a 71-year-old Afghan refugee Dawood Mohammad who escaped western designed terrorism in his own country couldn’t escape the terrorist attack in New Zealand. He was the first victim who stood at the front, opened arms to welcome his Christian Brother saying “Hello brother” but was gunned down right after. Historically speaking, none of the Muslims was the pioneer of terrorism in the world. The term terrorism was first used during the French Revolution and even the terrorism existed since 1st century when there was no Muslim on the earth, yet the Muslims were always taken as soft target to blame for any act of violence in



the world. The Muslims are being killed in Iraq by the forces of USA; Buddhists killed Muslims in Myanmar and buried in mass graves; Jews are killing us in Palestine on daily basis; we are being killed in Philippines; India initially killed us during partition of India, in Gujarat and now in Jammu & Kashmir and now a Christian Far-Right/Supremacist killed us in New Zealand. Ironically, the Muslims are still being labeled as terrorists.

Let us not turn a blind eye to the rise of Far Right or Supremacist terrorism in the world. It is as dangerous for the world peace as was the Al-Qaeda, Daesh and any other terrorist organisation. The terrorist who appeared in the court today although kept silent but made a gesture associated with white supremacist, indicating his affiliation. It is a matter of grave concern that "Islamophobia" is prevalent in Western societies and political parties and the Muslims are being targeted for prejudices and hatred in one way or the other.

It is the time that the whole world community must get together to work for the interfaith harmony to save the world peace otherwise the civilisations would be at the course of clash. As defined by the UN observers of interfaith harmony, we need to promote the common basis of "Love of God and Love of the Neighbour". The message invites everyone, excludes no one, and is purely voluntary. I think this volunteered clauses must become compulsory to be adopted as part of enactment by respective member States like the law on terrorism and money laundering.

In spite of rapidly increasing white supremacist terrorism around the world, US media and political elites spend considerable amount of time discussing alleged "Islamic terrorism" alone, which only adds fuel to the already increasing menace of terrorism. White supremacist terrorism is far more common than alleged Islamic terrorism in which the Muslims are not even spared by white supremacist kids who can openly be seen displaying hatred against Muslims and would torture them out of anger for no apparent reason where as 1.2



CHRISTCHURCH: New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern met with survivors and relative of victims of the terrorist attacks on two mosques.

billion Muslims are peaceful and contributing in building their respective countries.

In fact few mislead ones both from Muslims & Christians are playing with the fire and peace of the world and hence the entire International community has to play its role as we do not want emergence of another Al Qaeda like organisation based on WHITE SUPREMACY IDEOLOGY. This growing trend in west must be halted.

This recently created "White supremacy ideology" is a murderous ideology that comes from the idea that the Caucasian race is superior to other races especially black race. This ideology must be destroyed before it destroys the world. The global models of governance are based on the ideology of equality and nobody has the right to impose the self-created right of privilege of superiority on others.

I foresee that if the ideology of Supremacist is not adequately contained, there would be serious clashes between pseudo Muslim terrorists and White Supremacist terrorists in the future. This clash would be proved deadly resulting in the clash of civilizations igniting deadly warfare between respective countries. UNO must move its action on SOS basis to avert

this emerging clash between western white terrorists and Afro-Asian terrorists though Afro-Asian terrorists were created and launched in Afghanistan by the West during Soviet-Afghan war. I regret to say that despite maximum killings of Muslims and our huge sacrifices we are still suspected as terrorists in the eyes of the West. Are we soft target or as Muslim Ummah we have failed to build protection for ourselves and for our future generations?

I hope this dripping blood of Muslims will force the International community to give up the policies of hate and stop the use of religion for geo-politics and create a larger based international brotherhood through interfaith harmony.

In the end I appeal to the entire Muslim community not to react rather safeguard your Christian brothers & sisters and their churches. Both of us – Muslims and Christians - need to avert any such deadly conspiracy by a third party against us & against the humanity.

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Political Change in Kazakhstan



Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Kazakhstan, the largest economy in Central Asia has once again surprised the world by adopting a wise political change/move to safeguard its system and of course its continuity. Most recently, Nursultan Nazarbayev the former president who served 30 years has announced his resignation from the presidency in a televised speech and transferred his powers to Chairman of the Senate Kassym-Jomart Tokayev the new president of the country for the remaining period of presidency.

Interim President of Kazakhstan

Subsequently, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has taken oath of the President of Kazakhstan. So constitution is enacted and political transition is successfully completed without any administrative chaos, social unrest, economic uncertainty and of course constitution deadlock. It is the height of democracy which shows unmatched political stability and sustainability in Kazakhstan. Capital of Kazakhstan has been renamed from Astana to Nursultan which shows Kazakhstan's government respect and love of its people for former president Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Political Change and International Media

International media being biased as usually has labeled Kazakhstan's political change as shocking and sudden. Most of the regional as well as international experts of Central Asia have wrongly termed resignation of Nursultan Nazarbayev as replay of Putin's succession or model of Lee Kuan Yew's succession plan in Singapore.

Being prominent regional expert on Kazakhstan I, personally think it is neither shocking nor sudden rather it is well planned, gradual and smooth transition of power which is even good for the continuity of the system and will further strengthen the process of democratization and politicization in the country. Kazakhstan has its own unique political system which is functional,

effective and responsive. Nazarbayev is the father of nation who can still guide the government ensuring the stable political and economic development of Kazakhstan and the continuation of its foreign policy.

A Planned Political Change

Being prominent regional expert on Kazakhstan I analyze that recent political transition has been initiated since 2017 by introducing various constitutional reforms in the country aiming weakening the power of the president and subsequently, he surrendered some of his presidential powers to legislative branches of the country.

Meaningful Initiatives

He institutionalized law of the "Security Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan" which empowered him the status of life-long "Chairman of the Security Council which



ensures that even if he no longer holds the post of president, he can still take the lead in major issues concerning national security. Nursultan Nazarbayev is still retaining the main levers of power: the status of First President i.e. "Elbasy" (Leader of the Nation), the Chairman of the Security Council, leader of the Nur Otan Party and Chairman of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan; he also retained membership in the Constitutional Council which can authorize him to sustain his influence on Kazakhstan's future political process. Nazarbayev's eldest daughter, Dariga, has been elevated to speaker of the Senate (Upper House of Kazakhstan Parliament) after which constitutionally she is the country's second most powerful position who may be appointed in the race of next presidential election to be held in 2020.

Administrative Measures

In addition to this Nazarbayev announced

adjustments to key positions in the country, replacing key positions such as President Aide, Secretary of the Security Council, Director of the Foreign Intelligence Agency and Minister of Defense. Subsequently, he dissolved the government in February 2019 and a new prime minister was appointed.

Consultation with Constitutional Council

For easy and smooth political transition Nazarbayev thoroughly consulted the Constitutional Council on whether there are any detailed provisions in Article 3, Clause 42 of the Constitution regarding the early termination of the president's power. His early resignation elucidates the constitutional provisions for early resignation before the end of the president's term of office.

Revolutionized Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev has become larger than life character. He has successfully revolutionized his country in terms of political stability, economic sustainability and social vibrancy. He introduced many significant reforms which enabled him to achieve immense ratios of GDPs, GNPs, FDIs, and of course social development. He followed the concept of holistic approach in every sector of the economy and resultant is that Kazakhstan total economy increased by 15 times, residents' income up by 9 times and poverty rate falling by nearly 10 times. A miracle achieved.

Nazarbayev institutionalized a successful plan of economic modernization through emergence of a sizeable middle-class and a qualified bureaucracy. Price stability, curbing of inflationary pressures and the last but not the least development of SMEs and infrastructural development, especially in urban areas, remains one of the most visible legacies of his long presidential mandate. Maintaining ethnic equilibrium and diversity has transformed Kazakhstan, a heaven on earth.

Kazakhstan's Energy Resources

Kazakhstan is blessed with natural resources of oil and gas and has the world's ninth largest land area, has become one of the 50 developed countries in the world and aims to become one of the 30 most developed countries by 2050.

While addressing his nation on March 19, 2019 he reiterated his desire to work for the prosperity of his country by ensuring a new generation of leaders.

Dividends of Nazarbayev's Balanced & Pragmatic Foreign Policy

It is also true that because of Nazarbayev's balanced and pragmatic foreign policy Kazakhstan has achieved a large amount of political and economic dividends. I personally think that further consolidation and development of Sino-Kazakhstan relations is the future of this country. Kazakhstan has been one of the key actors in the Eurasian landscape through acquisition of leadership in important international organisations (OSCE, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation) and the construction of a new, futuristic capital, Astana. Moreover, being prominent regional expert I expect that principles of multi-vector approach, pragmatism and mutual benefit will be also preserved in foreign policy. It is predicted that the head of state will continue to strengthen relations and strategic cooperation with Russia and China; the partnership with the countries of Central Asia and the EAEU will remain important.

Good Relations with Power Brokers

He secured the national interests of his country while establishing good relations with all the power brokers within the region and beyond. His multiculturalism and respect of ethnic diversity policies has transformed Kazakhstan into a progressive, tolerant and peaceful country in the world.

Unprecedented Political Reforms

Nazarbayev's resignation is unprecedented in terms of the political norms of post-Soviet Central Asia, where leaders have so far refused to yield power. Here, presidential transitions, with the notable exception of Kyrgyzstan, have often been instigated with long-term leaders dying in office.

It is hoped that new interim president of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev will revitalize the domestic landscape by introducing meaningful reforms in the system of governance and delivery.

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev: An Experienced Politician

The interim President of Kazakhstan, Tokayev is a seasoned and balanced politician with rich experience as Foreign Minister, head of the government, and chairman of the Senate of the Republic of Kazakhstan. It is expected that with Tokayev's nomination, the continuity of the Nazarbayev's course will be maintained and existing initiatives and programs will continue.

Moreover, Nazarbayev's infrastructure programs and digitalisation initiatives will also be continued.

It is also expected that in the formation of the new government, a number of recent appointments suggest that at the pre-election stage, the personnel policy will not undergo fundamental changes.

Iran has expressed support for the change at top leadership in Kazakhstan, praising the outgoing president Nursultan Nazarbayev. "The current changes in the Republic of Kazakhstan and transfer of power was in the framework of



the constitution and for that reason we support it", the spokesperson of Iran's foreign ministry Bahram Ghasemi.

Political Continuity

It is expected that Tokayev will serve out the rest of Nazarbayev's term. The next presidential elections to be held in April 2020, but early elections are the norm in Kazakhstan.

Presidential polls were moved forward in 2015, 2011, 2005, and 1999, not to mention the snap parliamentary election in 2016.

In his last televised speech as president on March 19, 2019 Nazarbayev justified his economic policies by saying "we put economic development and the growth of citizens' welfare at the forefront." He argued that building a market economy had to come first.

Interim President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's First Speech

In his first speech as interim President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev praised the services of former president Nursultan Nazarbayev and termed his resignation as voluntarily relinquished of powers as the Head of State which showed his

greatness as a politician, who is recognized at the global level and on a historical scale. He also labeled his resignation as purposeful and futuristic having true concern for the future of our state.

Diversified Achievements

He summarized the diversified achievements (independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan, foundations of the new state, initialization the process of true democratization and politicization, immense socio-economic prosperity, solidarity of the state, peace and harmony) of former president of the country. He further elaborated his unforgettable services (formation of state institutions i.e. the presidency, the bicameral Parliament, the civil service, the armed forces, the diplomatic service, and civil society institutions). President Tokayev appreciated Nursultan Nazarbayev's role in promulgation of constitution which was adopted in 1995. Series of changes in the 1st Constitution transmitted this key document a democratic character.

Under the leadership of the Leader of the Nation, reforms in political arena, economic sphere, social reality aimed at the modernisation of the economy have been





systematically implemented in Kazakhstan he added. His all policies have been human centric.

Kazakhstan: A Modern & Advanced State

President Tokayev rightly highlighted the diversified reforms of former Nursultan Nazarbayev which successfully transformed Kazakhstan into a modern, advanced state, part of the group of the 50 most competitive countries in the world. Moreover, he is the true champion of human public policy which projected a unique concept of development i.e. “Kazakhstan model”. His reforms put Kazakhstan on a path to sustainable development. The Republic of Kazakhstan has become the leader of the Central Asian region in all economic indicators, and took a leading position in the post-Soviet space, he further added.

Financial Guru

President Tokayev mentioned his immaculate conception in the field of financial management which accumulated large financial resources in the National Fund, which remained instrumental to solve important socio-economic tasks in crisis situations.

Business & People Friendly Policies

President Tokayev spoke highly about his business and people friendly policies to attract more and more inflows of FDIs due to which Kazakhstan has been one of the leading countries in the entire post-socialist countries, including Central Europe, in terms of foreign direct investment per capita. Kazakhstan has attracted more than \$300 billion in foreign direct investments, thanks to visionary policies of Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Nursultan Nazarbayev also initiated various reforms for a strong state with an open-access market economy to improve the well-being of

the people. His social development policies are incomparable in the world.

Multicultural Polices & Ethnic Diversity

President Tokayev once again showcased Nursultan Nazarbayev’s multicultural polices to maintain ethnic diversity of the country which sustained spirits of tolerance, peace and harmony in the country. In this regard, the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan was created. Thanks to the historical synthesis of world religions, languages, cultures and traditions, Kazakhstan has formed a society in which peace and harmony have become an integral part of Kazakhstan political culture. The model of peace and social harmony developed by the Leader of the Nation has received international recognition as a standard of the harmonious development of society, he added.

Mangilik El

For strengthening of national unity Nursultan Nazarbayev suggested the patriotic act “Mangilik El” (Eternal Nation) which was subsequently, adopted.

Modernisation of Kazakhstan’s Identity

President Tokayev high rated youth policy of Nazarbayev which has been implemented through unique program “Ruhani Zhangyru” (Modernisation of Kazakhstan’s Identity) and the article “Seven Facets of the Great Steppe” had a positive impact on shaping the attitudes and outlook of the youth. Right to have native land has been granted.

Strategy “Kazakhstan 2050”

The strategy “Kazakhstan 2050”, the “Nurly Zhol” new economic policy, the nation’s “100 Concrete Steps” plan are aimed at modernising the country, and further strengthening the economic potential of Kazakhstan he further elaborated. Modern Kazakhstan is a country with an open market economy, and a democratic and secular state.

Development of Private Sector

President Tokayev termed development of private sector because of Nazarbayev strategic vision. Many private businesses have been created in the country, a new middle class has grown, and entrepreneurship is developing intensively. The rigorous policies of the former president in term of massive industrialization, diversification of resources/energy, banking and financial development have been instrumental to achieve high rates of GDPs, GNPs, reduction of poverty and of course generation of new jobs. “Business Roadmap”, “Agribusiness” and “Employment Program” are being implemented.

Nurly Zhol”, “Western Europe-Western China” Trans-Caspian International Transport Route

Completion of strategically important infrastructure projects i.e. “Nurly Zhol”, “Western Europe-Western China” and the Trans-Caspian international transport route have been further



strengthened Kazakhstan's pursuits of socio-economic prosperity and regional connectivity. Kazakhstan has now developed into a transport and logistics hub of global importance, which will significantly enhance our country's economic potential.

Immense Human development

Human development has been epicenter of Nazarbayev policies due to which it has been rated first in the various Human Development Index reports in terms of adult literacy. Nazarbayev University was created for the country; intellectual schools were opened in all regional centres.

Health Development

While addressing his first speech the president Tokayev pinpointed valuable contribution of the former president Nazarbayev in the field of health and medication which made Kazakhstan a healthy nation.

Madeni Mura

The "Madeni Mura" (Cultural Heritage) program, initiated by Nursultan Nazarbayev, gave new impetus to the development of Kazak culture. Moreover, the addition of the mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yassau, "Tamgaly" monuments and other historical sites to the UNESCO World Heritage List were particularly important events.

Development of Eurasian Economic Union, SCO, CIS, Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia

Former president Nazarbayev played an important role in the formation and development of the Eurasian Economic Union. He also played a contributory role in the development of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia. Astana hosted the historic OSCE summit, the Congresses of World and Traditional Religions, and many other international forums which are held on a regular basis he added.

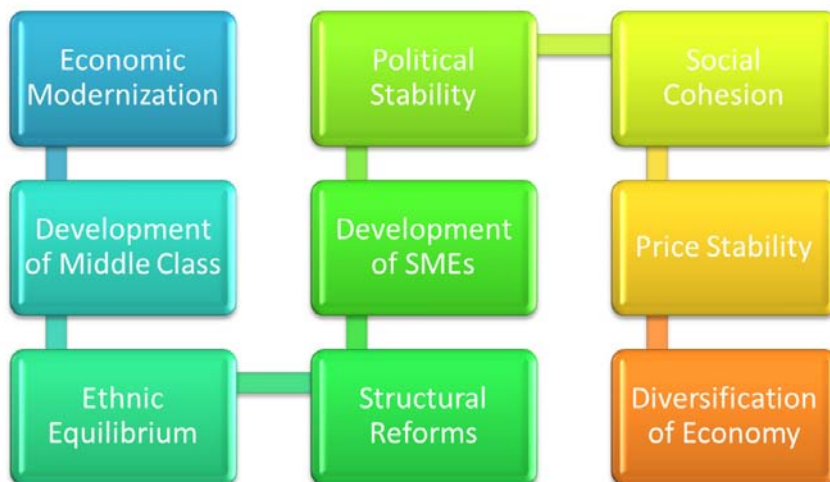
International Participation

Kazakhstan has become an authoritative and influential participant in global peace processes, the country was elected to the UN Security Council for 2017-2018, received world recognition as the leader of the global movement for nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament, as well as an impartial mediator in interfaith dialogue which shows Nazarbayev's balanced and pragmatic foreign policies since its inception.

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev outlined his goals i.e. to preserve and strengthen the independence of state, the main and historic heritage of the Leader of the Nation.

Personal Traits

Tokayev was born into an elite Soviet family his father was an eminent writer and war hero. A graduate of the prestigious Moscow State Institute



of International Relations, he started out in the 1970s in the Soviet Foreign Service. His diplomatic assignments in China and Singapore helped develop his Mandarin and English language skills. He served as Nazarbayev's foreign minister from 1994 to 1999 and 2003 to 2007. He also work as Prime Minister from 1999-2002 and Chairman of the Senate. So I think he is the best choice to lead the country.

Concluding Remarks

The Republic of Kazakhstan has once again shown the highest level of political maturity, system stability and above all constitution supremacy. Nursultan Nazarbayev the former president who served 30 years has announced his resignation which further strengthened process of democratization and politicization in the country. It is hoped that smooth and easy political transition will further strengthen its national economic, banking and financial sector and structural reforms and continuity of the system.

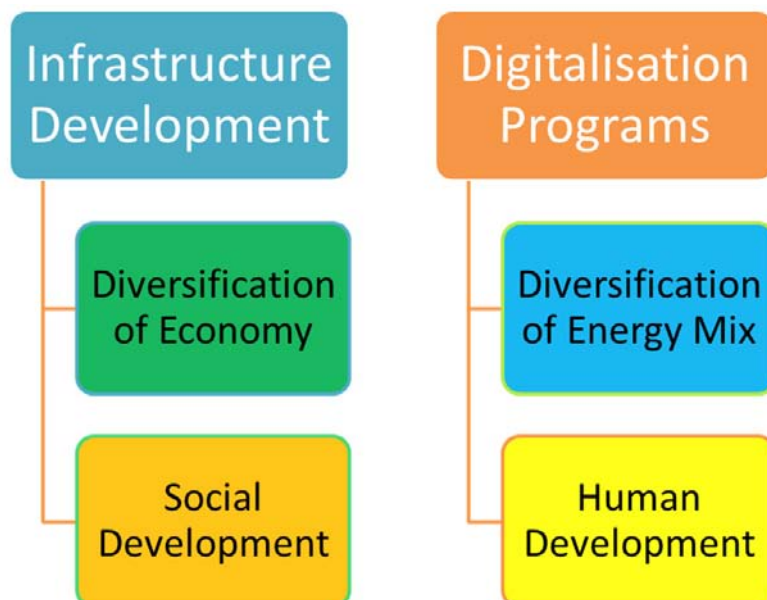
Power is worshiped and voluntarily relinquish of it is not easy, but thanks to wise decision of former President Nursultan Nazarbayev which has further strengthened spirits of statehood, and patriotism.

Political chaos, constitution deadlock and derailing

of the system are dangerous for economic stability and sustainability. Most of the African Countries and some of Latin American states have been victim of irrational political initiatives and misadventures and resultant is the melting down of economy and disintegration of social system. 2nd phase of Arab Spring is right now going on various parts (Algeria, Sudan, Egypt etc.) of Middle East region which upholds the importance of easy and smooth political transition.

On the contrary, Kazakhstan has been blessed with visionary leadership in shape of Nursultan Nazarbayev, the father of nation who successfully transformed Kazakhstan into a dynamic and diversified country which has now largest economy, energy resources, banking and financial industries and above all resourceful human capital.

Early resignation of Nursultan Nazarbayev seems to be futuristic and result oriented too. It is hoped that Kazakhstan will be further strengthened in terms of socio-economic prosperity, regional connectivity, political solidity, social cohesion, ethnic diversity and maintaining of rich multiculturalism. The interim President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev will introduce more structural reforms to make Kazakhstan a modern, dynamic and diversified country.





Dr. Mehmood UI Hassan Khan

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is the pioneer in the Gulf Corporation Council (GCC) and Middle East and North Africa (MENA) to take diversified but integrated policies to curb increasing menace of human trafficking. UAE has already promulgated various legislations to make its soil free from any kind of human trafficking which is indeed an inhumane practice. Right from the beginning, the UAE's government has been rigorously participating in the global efforts to combat human trafficking. It has been working closely with international and regional law enforcement officials/organizations to detain and punish violators of human trafficking laws. The UAE being the icon of humanity, compassion and respect of ethnic diversity is also deeply concerned about the victims of this crime and their physical and emotional well-being, and is establishing appropriate mechanisms to support and assist victims in need. The UAE has been aggressively implementing a four-part anti-trafficking plan, designed to prevent the crime, enforce the law and provide necessary support to victims.

The Mother of UAE H.H. Sheikh Fatima bint Mubarak always affirms the role of the UAE in carrying out its humanitarian responsibilities to the victims of human trafficking. The UAE have named the persons with disabilities as persons with determination. H.H. Sheikh Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union (GWU), President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation (FDF), which is the Supervisory Body of the Ewaa Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking, has donated for a number of male victims of people of determination of human trafficking, who have been accommodated in the shelters and have been authorised by the competent court to have their case heard for the possibility of them returning home after judgment. Sheikh Fatima, Mother of the Nation always supported them to lead a new life as part of her noble humanitarian role in the country and abroad. The Ewaa Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking praised the donation of Sheikh Fatima, which will have the best impact on the victims by easing their suffering and help them

UAE'S



Anti-Human Trafficking Initiatives

go back to their countries and start a better life. The shelters also stressed that this is not new to Sheikhha Fatima as she has always supported victims of human trafficking to help them overcome their situation and meet their basic requirements of life, including the ownership of small projects, which they expressed would assist them to meet the needs of their families. Most recently, (February 2019) Guy Ryder, Director-General of International Labour Organisation (ILO) has commended the UAE's efforts in fighting human trafficking. Ryder said the ILO shares the UAE successes in fighting human trafficking and regulating labour market with other countries. "The UAE is a role model for making positive efforts in this respect. If we are not regulating employment procedures effectively, these people can be vulnerable," he added. He underlined on the necessity of global cooperation in fighting human trafficking. According to latest report (2018) the UAE has taken all possible measures to eliminate trafficking. The government has demonstrated increasing efforts compared to all the regional countries. The government demonstrated increasing efforts by enacting a new domestic worker law intended to expand legal protections to this vulnerable population and opening specialized centers run by the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MOHRE) to regulate domestic worker recruitment and safeguard the terms of employment. In addition, it continued to generate anti-trafficking awareness country-wide and funded and implemented its national action plan to combat trafficking. Dr Gargash stressed the UAE will continue to prove its determination and acknowledge where it needs to improve. There has been decrease in number of human traffickers arrested in 2017, compared to 106 arrests made in 2016 in connection with 25 cases involving 34 victims.

Dr Gargash added that UAE will continue to cooperate with all appropriate regional and international law enforcement officials to apprehend, prosecute and punish those violating the UAE's human trafficking law and those attempting to use the country as a channel to violate anti-trafficking laws of other countries. He said that the UAE has launched an official campaign to contain this crime through the issuance of Federal Law No. (51) of 2006, amended in 2015 to provide greater guarantees for victims of human trafficking.

"The UAE will strive to focus its energies and potential on training its officials in the field of combating human trafficking, as well as improving partnership between the public and private sectors. It will also enhance cooperation with other international partners to improve coordination and learn from their best practices," Dr Gargash said. Dr Gargash added that UAE emphasises its commitment to combating all activities of human trafficking, given that it is a crime against humanity and because it represents a threat to the values of our and other societies. Fighting against such crime must be a common goal for all the governments of the world. Dr Gargash reiterated the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking is working hard on every element in its '5 Ps' strategy Prevention, Prosecution, Punishment, Protection and Promotion (of international cooperation). The formation of the Anti-Human Trafficking Panel, will coordinate action with authorities, care for victims and update legislation, in the the Labour of Ministry, added. On its part, the UAE government adopted a new federal law providing strict enforcement provisions and penalties for convicted traffickers in November 2006. Subsequently, the UAE National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking was formed. The committee coordinated anti-trafficking efforts at all levels in the seven Emirates of the Federation. The United Nations forum appreciated the UAE is "the first government in the Gulf to enact a comprehensive anti-trafficking law." The UAE's commitments are in accordance with the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition, the UAE ratified the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, in 2008. The UAE is taking all possible measures to increase law enforcement capacity and awareness. Steps include training and workshops for police officers and public prosecutors and developing mechanisms to monitor and track human rights abuses. In addition, the UAE has held several training sessions with various law enforcement departments and ministries, focusing on the prevention of human trafficking, security and the enforcement of laws. Moreover, the UAE

courts also accountability mechanism. There were six convictions in 2008, compared to five in 2007. In 2007, jail terms for those convictions ranged from three to 10 years, while in 2008, two people received life sentences for their crimes. Furthermore, new visa regime aimed at curbing illegal recruitment was announced in July 2008. In November 2008, Abu Dhabi Police discovered and obstructed an attempt by an international organized crime ring to traffic persons to Europe via the UAE's airports.

Police are tracking tourist companies that illegally bring women into the country. The licenses of companies caught carrying out illegal activities are being cancelled. At least two nightclubs exploiting women were shut down in 2007, and several others are under surveillance. The number of legal cases prosecuted in the UAE involving prostitution rose by 30 percent from 2006 to 2007. Recent improvements in labor standards and regulations will have a positive impact on decreasing the scale of human trafficking. Steps include electronic payments to workers, standards for housing, a standard contract for domestic workers and bilateral agreements with supplier countries.

UAE Ambassador H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al Zaabi, to Pakistan, while addressing to symposium titled "Standing together to support victims of Human Trafficking shared that Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates are discussing an agreement to combat human trafficking which will be carried forward by Pakistan's human rights ministry and UAE's official Ewaa Shelters program. The UAE is seeking to collaborate with Pakistan against human trafficking and announced its government's support for its victims. Both countries are going to ink a memorandum of understanding. There are a lot of international and human rights pressures on Pakistan as well as the UAE," Kiani said. "They have done a good job to meet those expectations. They are more focused and we have to look after our people as well." During his keynote address at the symposium, Ahmed Abdul Rahman Al Jarman, the deputy head of the UAE's national committee to combat human trafficking, said the UAE was committed to combating human trafficking. He said the country had taken strict measures toward the prevention of trade in people and to prosecute traffickers by working with international organizations and several countries. In the recent past, the UAE pledged \$100,000 financial support to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The UAE welcomed the adoption of the declaration on the implementation of the global plan of action to combat trafficking in persons, and pledged that it will continue collaborating with the international community in exchanging resources and statistics to develop best practices and expertise in this regard.

The UAE expressed its support for the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, emphasising the importance and effectiveness of the endeavour in addressing the global issue. The UAE recalled its commitments to the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime in 2007, Palermo Protocol in 2008, and the Group of Friends United against Trafficking in Persons at the United Nations. The UAE emphasized that trafficking in persons is a blatant violation of human rights, and it disregards human, religious, and cultural values. The UAE also highlighted the domestic initiatives and legal frameworks used in addressing the issue of combating trafficking in persons. As a nation which receives a significant number of temporary workers of different nationalities each year, the UAE is committed to combating this crime and countering criminal groups that perpetrate such activity. In 2006, the UAE started a comprehensive anti-trafficking campaign and issued a federal law on combating trafficking in persons, which was amended in 2015 to provide greater guarantees for victims of human trafficking in line with the Palermo Protocol. In 2008, the UAE established the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking Crimes consisting of representatives from government agencies concerned and civil society organisations to coordinate efforts to combat human trafficking crimes, strengthen strategic plans at various levels, and enable the authorities to enforce laws and implement preventive and deterrent measures. The National Committee's efforts have led to the adoption of the national strategy to counter trafficking focused on: prevention and prohibition, prosecution and punishment, protection and support of victims of human trafficking, and the promotion of international cooperation, all in line with the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. UAE started a diploma program on anti-trafficking to address the crime of human trafficking using a scientific approach, the role of national law enforcement agencies, as well as rehabilitation resources for victims of trafficking and facilitation of their residency or resettlement while ensuring their safety and security. "The UAE has become regional leader and vocal global supporter to the Global UN Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and several global initiatives to combat trafficking in persons. The UAE endeavours to strengthen its bilateral and multilateral cooperation with member states and inter-governmental organisations in dealing with human rights issues, employment, migration, crime, and drugs. UAE had also developed an understanding with nations in Asia most affected by human trafficking and could share its experience and expertise with Pakistan to help improve identification and prevention. The UAE has also developed charitable and social networks to provide support for victims

of trafficking. Dubai's Foundation for the Protection of Women and Children provides social services for victims, including counseling, in-house schooling, and recreation facilities. Between 2007 and 2008, the foundation supported 115 women and children, including 43 suspected victims of trafficking. Working with organizations such as the International Organization for Migration, some women have been repatriated to their home countries. The UAE Red Crescent Authority, the Shelter for Women and Children in Abu Dhabi was opened in 2008. The Red Crescent, part of the International Committee of the Red Cross, is supervising shelters across the UAE for women and children. The Social Support Center of the Abu Dhabi Police and the Human Rights Care Department of Dubai Police are also taking all possible steps to help the victims. For further strengthening of its persuasions against human trafficking the UAE has signed agreements with several labor-exporting countries to regulate the flow of the workforce. In order to deny unscrupulous private recruitment agencies from cheating and trafficking workers, all labor contract transactions will be processed by labor ministries or offices in the supplying countries. Since 2005, the UAE has worked closely with UNICEF on the repatriation of several hundred young children who once worked as camel jockeys in the UAE. The UAE government implemented a law banning camel jockeys under the age of 18 and authorized strict penalties of fines and up to three years in jail for breaches of the act. By September 2006 more than 1,000 underage jockeys had been successfully repatriated to their home countries, where they were provided with social services, education, health care and compensation. In December 2006 the UAE government set aside more than \$9 million for a second phase of the UNICEF program, which provided compensation for anyone who had ever worked as an underage camel jockey in the UAE. As a follow-up measure, the UAE committed \$8 million for the establishment of monitoring mechanisms to prevent children formerly involved in camel racing from re-entering hazardous or exploitative labor. UNICEF officials have publicly praised the UAE camel jockey repatriation program and held it up as a model for other countries to follow. The UAE established stringent contract standards for domestic workers, which became effective in April 2007. These standards govern working conditions, vacation, air tickets, medical care and salary, ensuring that the labor rights of domestic workers are standardized and protected across the UAE. Government agencies are required to enforce the new contract when issuing new work visas, ensuring that the standards are upheld in all individual agreements.

Book Launching Ceremony of Senator

Dr. Rehman Malik

In this background, Senator Rehman Malik's book "Modi's War Doctrine" has exposed the Indian designs against Pakistan and it is well-researched work taking readers back to Gujarat riots in which Modi orchestrated massacre of hundreds and thousands of Muslims.

President of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) Sardar Masood Khan viewed this while addressing the book launching ceremony organized at the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS). He said through his book Senator Rehman Malik has shown that sub-continent, particularly, India is hit by a storm of extremism and militancy and Prime Minister Modi's politics of hatred has further ignited that storm.

A galaxy of noted personalities including parliamentarians, members of civil society, peace activists and diplomats attended the book launch that was addressed by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Senator Azam Khan Swati, Senator Lt Gen (R) Abdul Qayyum, former president Wasim Sajjad, Lt Gen (R) Asad Durrani, DG South Asian Strategic Studies Institute (SASSI) Maria Sultan, journalist Saleem Safi.



Dean of diplomatic corps honored outgoing Envoy

Dean of diplomatic corps, Turkmenistan's Ambassador H.E. Atajan Movlamov, hosted a lunch reception to bid farewell of outgoing Ambassador of Germany H.E Martin kobler in Marriott Hotel Islamabad. The reception was attended by Dignitaries, Foreign diplomats, Businessman and Media persons.





\$5.9 trillion that Killed

500,000 people Since 9/11

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

The United States has spent nearly \$6 trillion on wars that directly contributed to the deaths of around 500,000 people since the 9/11 attacks of 2001, revealed by News Week.

Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs published its annual "Costs of War" report Wednesday, taking into consideration the Pentagon's spending and its Overseas Contingency Operations account, as well as "war-related spending by the Department of State, past and obligated spending for war veterans' care, interest on the debt incurred to pay for the wars, and the prevention of and response to terrorism by the Department of Homeland Security."

The final count revealed, "The United States has appropriated and is obligated to spend an estimated \$5.9 trillion (in current dollars) on the war on terror through Fiscal Year 2019, including direct war and war-related spending and obligations for future spending on post 9/11 war veterans."

"In sum, high costs in war and war-related spending pose a national security concern because they are unsustainable," the report concluded. "The public would be better served by increased transparency and by the development of a comprehensive strategy to end the wars and deal with other urgent national security priorities."

The U.S. embarked on a global war on terror following the 9/11 attacks that killed nearly 3,000 and were orchestrated by Islamist militant group Al-Qaeda. Weeks later, the U.S. led an invasion of Afghanistan, which at the time was controlled by Al-Qaeda ally the Taliban. In March 2003, Washington overthrew Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, accusing him of developing weapons of mass destruction and harboring U.S.-designated terrorist organizations.

Despite initial quick victories there, the U.S. military has been plagued by ongoing

insurgencies these two countries and expanded counterterrorism operations across the region, including Libya, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen. In 2014, the U.S. gathered an international coalition to face the Islamic State militant group (ISIS), which arose out of a post-invasion Sunni Muslim insurgency in Iraq and spread to neighboring Syria and beyond.

Wednesday's report found that the "US military is conducting counterterror activities in 76 countries, or about 39 percent of the world's nations, vastly expanding [its mission] across the globe." In addition, these operations "have been accompanied by violations of human rights and civil liberties, in the US and abroad." Overall, researchers estimated that "between

- Over 480,000 have died due to direct war violence, and several times as many indirectly
- Over 244,000 civilians have been killed as a result of the fighting
- 21 million — the number of war refugees and displaced persons

480,000 and 507,000 people have been killed in the United States' post-9/11 wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan." This toll "does not include the more than 500,000 deaths from the war in Syria, raging since 2011" when a West-backed rebel and jihadi uprising challenged the government, an ally of Russia and Iran. That same year, the U.S.-led NATO Western military alliance intervened in Libya and helped insurgents overthrow longtime leader Muammar el-Qaddafi, leaving the nation in an ongoing state of civil war.

The combined human cost for the U.S. throughout its actions in Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan was 6,951 troops, 21 civilians and 7,820 contractors.

"While we often know how many US soldiers die, most other numbers are to a degree uncertain. Indeed, we may never know the total

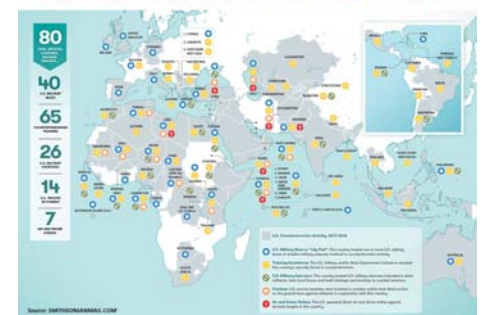
direct death toll in these wars. For example, tens of thousands of civilians may have died in retaking Mosul and other cities from ISIS but their bodies have likely not been recovered," the report noted.

"In addition, this tally does not include 'indirect deaths.' Indirect harm occurs when wars' destruction leads to long term, 'indirect,' consequences for people's health in war zones, for example because of loss of access to food, water, health facilities, electricity or other infrastructure," it added.

In February, President Donald Trump estimated that "we have spent \$7 trillion in the Middle East," saying "what a mistake" it was. Weeks later, he reportedly told his military advisers to prepare a plan to withdraw from Syria as the war against ISIS entered its final phases, though senior Washington officials have since expanded the U.S. mission— considered illegal by the Syrian government and its allies—to include countering Iran and its allies.

Courtesy: WATSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, News Week

Map Shows Where in the World the U.S. Military Is Combatting



Dinner reception hosted by H.E. Ahmed Fadel Yacoub Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Mrs. Ahmed Fadel Yacoub at their residence. H.E. Ahmed Fadel Yacoub and his wife welcomed the honorable guests which was attended by foreign diplomats, dignitaries and Media persons.





By Zahid Hussain

The latest crackdown on outlawed militant outfits and their charity wings may appear to be conducted with more seriousness of purpose than before, yet there are questions about the undefined policy of mainstreaming elements that are willing to give up militancy. Some forces contend that bringing these elements into the political process would help defuse a delicate situation. But doing so without a clear policy will open up another can of worms.

While the government claims to have devised a three-pronged — economic, political and administrative — strategy to deal with the problem of militancy that has put Pakistan once again in the eye of the storm, there is still no clear national policy to achieve those objectives. Perhaps the thorniest issue pertains to the question of dealing with the thousands of activists affiliated with extremist groups that have continued to operate despite being outlawed.

In a countrywide swoop, the authorities have reportedly taken control of scores of religious schools and arrested several activists of groups like Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Jamaatud Dawa (JuD), listed as terrorist entities by the UN Security Council. It is not the first time such actions have been taken against these groups. It has almost become a ritual to clamp down on them after each crisis and under international pressure.

Almost all previous actions against these groups had proved largely cosmetic. There was hardly any serious effort to take the campaign to its logical conclusion. As a result, these groups kept resurfacing after the pressure was over. This has been evident over the last 15 years since a decision was taken to outlaw jihadist and extremist religious groups, manifesting a nonchalant approach towards a most serious security and diplomatic challenge.

Mainstreaming of jihadists

Political expediency and the old habit of creating distinctions between ‘good’ and ‘bad’ militants made it harder to deal with the problem. There has hardly been any tangible sign of containing the activities of the groups that are now under intense international scrutiny. In fact, groups like JuD, though apparently involved in charity work, are alleged to have expanded their operations in the past, despite being put on the terror watch list. There are few who believe the argument that the group was only involved in charity work and had no connection with extremist politics.

Where the JeM is concerned, this outlawed group has been blamed for militant attacks across the LoC including the one on the Pathankot airbase three years ago. There were claims of a crackdown on the madressahs allegedly run by the group then but afterwards this action seemed to have petered out. The group has come into international focus once again in the latest Pakistan-India military stand-off.



Indisputably, there is a greater resolve now to wind up all jihadist outfits and their offshoots because of domestic and external compulsions. There is a tangible move to effectively implement the ban. Of course, the timing of the action is extremely important. Last year, the FATF, the global watchdog on money laundering, had placed Pakistan on its grey list for not doing enough to prevent terror financing and money laundering. The threat of being blacklisted will remain if Pakistan does not strictly implement the anti-terror measures required of it.

Moreover, Pakistan now faces much greater international pressure in the aftermath of the recent crisis with India. It appears almost certain that the UN Security Council sanctions committee will declare JeM leader Masood Azhar a global terrorist. In the past, China had blocked the move on technical grounds, but it would be difficult to do that now.

That would oblige Pakistan to act against Azhar. It would have been much better for Pakistan not to have tarried until now; it should have taken action against these non-state groups

much earlier because of its own security considerations. That would have also saved it from diplomatic embarrassment.

There is no room any more for any expediency and slackness in dealing with outlawed militant groups. The argument presented by some that these outfits have not targeted the Pakistani state is not acceptable because it is equally dangerous for our national security if non-state actors who are accused of using our territory to strike beyond the borders are not reined in.

There should not be any problem now in taking decisive action against the groups that Pakistan itself has banned with the civil and military leaderships standing together on the issue. There is also a consensus among all mainstream political parties on fighting militancy and violent extremism. Therefore, it is imperative for the government to draw a clear line of action.

More importantly, there is a need for greater clarity on the contentious issue of mainstreaming former jihadists. Surely it is a serious question regarding what should be done about the thousands of activists who had been allegedly involved in the past in militant activities and charity work. There is no denying that there has to be a national policy on how to allow repentant former militants to come back to society.

The biggest nightmare for the security agencies is JuD workers joining terrorist groups in fighting the state. According to one official estimate, there are thousands of well-trained former militants who are to be reintegrated in the society. There has also been some suggestion that those having renounced militancy should be accommodated in government and

private-sector jobs.

There is some weight in this argument. But there has to be a clear policy and a strict process of scrutiny before they can be reintegrated. Otherwise, the dangers of allowing unrepentant militants to operate with impunity and spread their radicalised worldview to the rest of society are only too obvious.

Any arbitrary decision about mainstreaming militancy could be extremely damaging. Allowing the banned groups to turn into political parties would be a dangerous move. There has to be a process through which the former jihadists are strictly scrutinised before being reintegrated into society. The success of the latest operation depends on whether we have learnt any lessons from our past policy failures.

The writer is an author and journalist and can be reached at hussain100@yahoo.com, Twitter: @hidhussain

Courtesy to DAWN



A flawed second referendum could break our democracy

By Lisa Nandy

The writer is Labour MP for Wigan

We've been locked in a tug-of-war for years that has effectively shut down government, and produced drift, anxiety and anger. Today a group of MPs will push for a second referendum to break the deadlock. In Westminster, their voices have dominated the Brexit debate and at times made a second vote seem inevitable. But when I go home to Wigan, for the most part it seems absurd.

I've never been a fan of binary choices. I dislike the divisive nature of our first-past-the-post electoral system and argued against a simple remain-leave referendum on the EU, which forced people to take sides on an issue that for most inspires mixed feelings. I am even less convinced by the case for a second referendum in the terms proposed.

Campaigners want to put a 585-page withdrawal agreement to the public that covers data sharing, security protocols and the Northern Ireland backstop. Unlike the Good Friday agreement, which is often used as a parallel, it tells us virtually nothing about the deep and fundamental issues at stake – the sort of jobs, wages or environment we'll have after we leave the EU – because after three years those negotiations haven't even started.

More troubling is the proposal to rig the result by posing a straight choice between Theresa May's deal and remaining in the EU, with no-deal left off the ballot. Most Labour MPs – myself included – believe no deal would be a nightmare, tearing up the Good Friday agreement, lowering rights, wages and consumer protection and likely to trigger job losses and disrupt access to medicine. But offering a "choice" between an unpopular half-formed deal and a remain option that many already rejected is disrespectful, undemocratic and dishonest.

Leaving with no deal is the single most popular option, and supported by a quarter of the public. Leaving that option off the ballot would be seen by many voters as an establishment stitch-up

and they would be right. In the referendum many leave voters repeatedly said they were prepared to put up with economic loss in return for more power, agency and control. The People's Vote campaign's slogan, "Nobody voted to make themselves poorer", indicates just how little this has been understood. As Jon Cruddas and Nick Lowles argued in the Guardian last week: "If anything would create a rightwing backlash, this specific approach to a second referendum would be it."

It is playing with fire to suggest we can settle the defining question of our age, affecting every aspect of our lives, communities and the future of the planet, through a referendum that large numbers passionately believe is illegitimate. In May there will be elections to

To suggest a course of action many voters believe is illegitimate is like walking into a room full of explosives with a lit match

a new European parliament and if we choose to pursue a referendum Britain will have to take part. The last referendum was ugly and divisive with claims on both sides that were untrue. The debate has since worsened. Cries of traitor which used to echo around far-right rallies are routinely heard in Westminster. To re-elect MEPs to a parliament we promised to leave months earlier, while also seeking a referendum in terms that are not considered legitimate by many, is like walking into a room full of explosives with a lit match. We are breaking our democracy.

People have the right to change their minds, but on both sides attitudes have hardened. In the middle are people who daily voice their frustration that this issue is unresolved because

of an inability to compromise. They see, like me, jobs disappearing because companies do not know if they can bid for contracts beyond the end of the month. One constituent has a child waiting for a potentially life-saving clinical trial that depends on a conversation with the EU that hasn't yet started. Most MPs haven't slept for months but it is nothing compared with the anxiety of people whose jobs and access to medical treatment have hung in the balance for three years and do still.

The tug-of-war is killing us. Parliament is divided because the people are divided and flipping the decision to the public does nothing to alter it. There is a better way through. Democracy is not a tug-of-war but an ongoing process of dialogue and negotiation.

Forty MPs from across the divide pressed for a citizen's assembly seeking progress through dialogue and the search for common ground. It was greeted with enthusiasm in the country while in Westminster it hit the brick wall that surrounds an institution hostile to reform and change. I have been clear with the prime minister that if she guarantees parliament a role and a vote in the next stages of the negotiations I will support this agreement and we will find a way through, but she resists because that would require compromise, which she will not consider.

Three years ago most MPs supported a referendum without thinking through the consequences or considering the detail. At every stage in the past three years it has become apparent that we are able to take a complete mess of a situation and still manage to make it worse. Why aren't we learning? Not listening to what people are trying to tell us or thinking through our choices is what got us here. It cannot provide a route out.

The drift, anxiety and anger will not be resolved without a deeper understanding of democracy and a willingness to do the messy, hard business of dialogue, compromise and hard choices. It is politics not protest that is needed. Despite all options supposedly being on the table, that is the one that still seems to be missing.

Courtesy to The Guardian

Francophonie Festival

The embassies of Argentina, Austria, Belgium, France, Switzerland and Tunisia jointly organised “Francophonie Festival” at the French cultural centre, Islamabad.





100th Anniversary of Azerbaijani diplomacy Celebrated

Cultural-musical event dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of Azerbaijan Diplomacy was organized in the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan and Azerbaijani culture, music and cuisine were presented for the spouses of heads of foreign missions based in Pakistan.





Sustaining the Planet

for our Future Generations

Don Pramudwinai

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

In the digital age and present context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), we often hear about “big data” and the “Internet of Things (IoT),” which to some, may sound highly technical and virtually digital. While Thailand is fully aware of the opportunities and challenges that come with modernity, we also seek an all-encompassing human dimension of inclusive development, particularly during our year as ASEAN Chair. This is why we came up with the theme “Advancing Partnership for Sustainability,” to promote the “Sustainability of Things (SOT),” which means sustainability in all dimensions.

Sustainable development is an overarching concept that is directly related to SOT. However, the first aspect of sustainability that usually comes to mind of the public is environmental sustainability, which is a significant component of the concept and part of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or SDGs. These 17 SDGs are simply grouped into 5Ps with the ultimate goal to save the planet, foster peace, create prosperity, enhance partnership, and nourish our people.

With regard to the ‘planet,’ fresh air and clean water are among the basic yet fundamental essentials for human beings and all other creatures that share this world with us. Sadly, Mother Earth has been harmed and taken for granted by humans more than anyone else throughout history. The fact that several SDGs give importance to the rehabilitation and conservation of our planet reflects the rising environmental concerns and the call for a more balanced development, widely known as the concept of ‘circular economy,’ which is gaining ground globally.

Thailand recognises that enhancing environmental sustainability is inextricably linked to social and economic development, and is one of the key conditions for sustainable development. We have therefore adopted measures to conserve, restore, and manage our natural resources and environment in a more sustainable manner, and included these elements in our 20-Year National Strategy Framework (2017 - 2036).

For instance, Thailand has launched the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Roadmap on Mitigation (2021 - 2030) to ensure that we meet our targets on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 20 to 25 % by

2030. Some progress has been made so far. Last year, we managed to reduce the emission of 45.72 million tonnes of carbon dioxide or 12% of the targeted 7 - 20% by 2020.

Moreover, about 24 hectares of coral reefs and 880 hectares of mangrove forest were rehabilitated, and the use of over 435 million plastic bags was reduced since 2017.

Beyond our national undertaking, Thailand has consistently advocated cooperation on environmental issues with the global community to derive the long-term benefits. An example is our firm commitment to the Paris Agreement to address climate change. At the same time, Thailand has been cooperating with all partners on the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices.

Sustainable development is a global agenda that requires concerted efforts, and Thailand is in the position to drive it forward this year. In addition to being ASEAN Chair, Thailand is also ASEAN Coordinator on Sustainable Development Cooperation, actively identifying the complementarities and promoting closer coordination between ASEAN and the United Nations.

One substantial outcome is the “Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A Framework for Action” which identifies possible synergy and means to strengthen ASEAN Community-building while attaining several SDGs simultaneously.

A recommendation from the Complementarities Report that will be realized fully this year is the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue in Thailand. The Centre will be funded by the Royal Thai Government and will help coordinate activities and projects related to the Complementarities Initiative, while linking up with similar centres in ASEAN Member States to form a network of centres in support of regional sustainable development efforts.

During its ASEAN Chairmanship, one of the sustainable development agendas that will be addressed is marine environment. Thailand is greatly concerned with the problem of marine debris and its impact on the environment. We truly believe that urgent action is needed. Researchers have found a marine debris or “garbage patch” in the middle of the Pacific Ocean with a size larger than Bangkok. This debris is eaten by fish, which is then consumed by humans, thus causing severe health problems. News reports of sea animals

like whales and turtles suffering from eating indigestible waste are only a fraction of the annual 100,000 deaths of marine animals due to this problem. In addition, marine debris affects the promotion of environmentally friendly tourism and thus affects the contribution of the tourism sector to national development.

A research by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand found that rubbish that is thrown into the sea can travel all over the world. It is therefore imperative that we have a platform for discussions and collaboration to tackle the problem. A technical working group meeting among ASEAN members was held in November 2017 while the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Marine Debris and ASEM High-level Meeting on Marine Sustainability will be held on 5 March 2019 and 7 - 8 March 2019, respectively. Thus, Thailand is advancing partnership for sustainability by starting with environmental sustainability, and will expand to other areas throughout the year. The benefits of sustainable development are countless but each country should embark on its own path and determination to achieve the goals. In Thailand’s case, the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) was adopted as its home-grown approach. This philosophy, conferred by His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, proposes a “thinking process” consisting of three parts - analysis on the cause of the problem, identification of practical solutions, and the implementation of the selected solutions.

SEP is mainstreamed in Thailand’s policy both at the national and international levels. It has been a guiding principle in Thailand’s National Economic and Social Development Plans since 2002 and its application to achieve sustainable development. Thailand has shared this philosophy with many countries as an alternative approach to achieving SDGs through the provision of training courses and the establishment of several cooperation projects in Asia and Africa.

In conclusion, Thailand’s commitment towards sustainable development is steadfast as demonstrated in our past achievements and contributions nationally and internationally. We are committed to do more. The agenda will be particularly important during our ASEAN Chairmanship and Thailand looks forward to working with colleagues in ASEAN and beyond in a global partnership as set forth in SDG Goal 17.



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23rd MARCH Celebrations in Pakistani Missions Abroad



Ambassador of Pakistan to UAE, Moazzam Ahmad Khan Cutting A Cake to Commemorate the National Day of Pakistan At the Embassy of Pakistan in Abu Dhabi on March 23, 2019.



Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey, Syrus Sajjad Qazi Cutting the Cake to Mark National Day of Pakistan At Pakistan House Ankara on 23-03-2019.



Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Masood Khalid Along with Chinese Minister of Science and Technology, H.E. Wang Zhigang Cutting Cake At National Day Reception of Pakistan at Beijing.



Deputy Head of Mission and Acting Ambassador Asif Hussain Memon Hoisting National Flag on the Eve of 79th National Pakistan Day At Embassy of Pakistan, Brussels on 23rd March, 2019.



High Commissioner Raza Bashir Tarar Hoisting Flag on the Occasion of Pakistan Day at Ottawa on 23rd March 2019.



Ambassador of Pakistan to Qatar, Syed Ahsan Raza Shah Hoisting National Flag At the Flag Hoisting Ceremony to Mark the National Day of Pakistan at the Embassy of Pakistan, Doha on March 23, 2019.



Ambassador of Pakistan to Iran Ms. Riffat Masood hoisting the national Flag of Pakistan at Pakistan National Day Ceremony in Tehran on 23rd March 2019.



Charge d' Aggaires (a.i.) Ali Anser Zaidi Hoisting National Flag at a Ceremony to Commemorate the National Day of Pakistan at Embassy of Pakistan, Tokyo (23-23-2019)



Consul General of Pakistan in Dubai, Ahmed Amjad Ali Cutting A Cake to Commemorate the National Day of Pakistan At Pakistan Consulate in Dubai on March 23, 2019.



Consul General of Pakistan, Shehryar Akbar Khan Cutting a Cake to Commemorate the National Day of Pakistan at Consulate General of Pakistan in Jeddah on March 23, 2019.



Ambassador of Pakistan to Tunisia Muhammad Hassan Cutting the Cake to Mark National Day of Pakistan at Embassy of Pakistan, Tunisia on 23-03-2019.



Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan to Singapore, Saeed UR Rahman Hoisting National Flag At the Flag Hoisting Ceremony to Mark the National Day of Pakistan in Singapore on March 23, 2019.



Pakistan's Ambassador to Russia, H.E. Mr. Qazi M. Khalilullah in his address underscored the Pakistan attaches utmost importance to Further Enhancing relations with the Russian Federation in all Fields of Mutual interest.

63rd anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Tunisia Celebrated

The ambassador of Tunisia and Mrs. Adel Elarbi hosted a reception To commemorate the 63rd anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Tunisia at the Serena Hotel. The event was attended by senior diplomats and Pakistanis from different walks of life, while the Chief Guest was Minister for Food Security and Research, Sahibzada Muhammad Mehboob Sultan.



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The High Commission of Canada has launched the 'Canvas for Change' project

By M.Saeed Yousafzai,

The High Commission of Canada has launched the 'Canvas for Change' project to encourage the use of reusable shopping bags in Pakistan while supporting the women's entrepreneurship. Ms.Zartaj Gul, Minister of State for Climate Change was the Guest of Honor. The 'Canvas for Change' project will be implemented in collaboration with 'Second Cup', a Canadian coffee chain with outlets across

Pakistan, and the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), a local NGO working for the promotion and protection of child rights.

Under it, canvas bags will be made by women entrepreneurs as part of SPARC's programmes to provide marginalised women with opportunities to learn and earn.

The Canadian High Commission will provide training to those women entrepreneurs on skill development as their new business grows.

Second Cup is supporting this project as part of its corporate social responsibility programme, which also includes other environmental initiatives such as the Rainforest Alliance Certifications and Fair Trade Coffees.

H.E. Wendy Gilmour thanked Managing Director of Second Cup Pakistan Asim Majid and SPARC Executive Director Sajjad Cheema for their support and engagement in the project.



To The Coffee Cave at Serena, Islamabad



A Dynamic exhibition of visual artist Amna Hashmi, a miniature specialist whose practice is inspired by Japanese manga style and Brazilian Luis Felipe with his software engineering background create a unique and exciting body of work. The Brazilian Ambassador H.E. Claudio Lins inaugurated the exhibition at Serena Hotel, Islamabad.



A photos exhibition on eve of 25th anniversary of diplomatic ties Between Pakistan and Belarus, at PNCA

Pakistan and Belarus celebrated the 25th anniversary of establishment of their diplomatic relations at PNCA.

The two countries have developed a strong relationship over the past 25 years based on mutual trust, respect and cooperation. Ambassador of Republic of Belarus H.E. Mr. Andrei Yermolovich, Director General of Belarusian news agency BELTA Mrs. Irina Akulovich and chairman of Belarus-Pakistan Parliamentary friendship group Mr. Yaqoob Shaikh inaugurate photos exhibition. The two sides have maintained a positive trajectory in sustaining high level interactions and cementing cooperation in diverse spheres, including political, trade, economic, agriculture, industry, health, defence, science and technology, education and culture.





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Dua for martyrs of terrorist attack in New Zealand offered at the Pakistan High Commission London

By Mian Asadullah

Dua for the martyrs of recent terrorist attack in New Zealand was offered and solidarity with the affected families was expressed at the Pakistan High Commission London.

A large number of British Pakistanis and members of the media gathered at the High Commission on the occasion. In his remarks, High Commissioner Mohammad Nafees Zakaria condemned the terrorist attack in New Zealand which resulted in the loss of 50 innocent lives. The High Commissioner, quoting the Prime Minister of Pakistan, stated, terrorists have no religion and terrorism should be viewed from that perspective. He said that the leadership of Pakistan as well as people from every segment of society condemned the terrorist attack. Mr Zakaria informed the audience about his visit to the New Zealand High Commission today where he signed the condolence book and laid wreath to honour the memory of the martyrs. He noted that people from various faiths were there to offer condolences and sympathise with the victims. He particularly appreciated the role of the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern in the aftermath of the tragedy in reaching out to the bereaved families. The High Commissioner, on behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan, expressed solidarity with the Government and people of New Zealand, as well.



IPSC 2019 National Selection Round Held in Islamabad

National Selection Round was held by The English Speaking Union of Pakistan in IMCG (PG) F-7/2, Islamabad.

The topic of the speech was “Nature Is a Common Language”. Participants hailing from different cities of Pakistan took part. Former DG FDE Mr. Hasnat Qureshi graced the occasion with his presence as The Chairman of the English Declamation Union of Pakistan. The Chief Guest was H.E. Mr. Rashid Ally Soobadar, High Commissioner of Republic of Mauritius. Mr. Aftab Hussain, Vice President the English Speaking Union of Pakistan thanked the college for the arrangements at a short notice. The first prize was bagged by Hamad Mukhtar from Habib University Karachi. Kinza Imran from Bahria University Karachi won the second prize.



National Day of Lithuania Celebrated

Counsel General of Lithuania H.E. Masud M Khan, Hosted a reception to celebrate National Day of Lithuania at the residence in Islamabad. Mr. Syed Zulfikar Bukhari, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource was as the chief guest on the occasion. Along with diplomatic community, members from all walks of life attend the event.



New Envoy of Japan hosted a reception in Islamabad

Ambassador of Japan in Pakistan H.E. Kuninori Matsuda hosted a reception at his Residence on assuming new assignment in Pakistan. Mr. Fawad Choudhry, Federal Minister of Information, Mr. Shehryar Khan Afridi Minister of State for Interior, Mr. Syed Zulfiqar Bukhari Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development and Mr. Rehman Malik Ex-Interior Minister graced the event along with members from diplomatic Community and Pakistani Community.





Gladiators clinch first PSL title

The grand finale to the sports extravaganza staged in the country after a long cricketing drought. As a packed to capacity National Stadium cheered their favourite teams, Quetta Gladiators pulled off victory to take the trophy home. It was their fourth and most important match against Peshawar Zalmi this season, and they succeeded in sealing their maiden HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) title. Gladiators stormed past Zalmi with relative ease courtesy

to an unbeaten innings of 58 not out off 51 balls from Ahmed Shehzad. Quetta Gladiators played very well throughout the tournament and made their way to the ultimate victory of the tournament. They played meritoriously throughout the tournament and showed great energy. Mohammad Hasnain of Quetta was named the Man of the Match of the Final. Shane Watson, also of Quetta, was awarded the Player of the Tournament award and the leading run scorer award with a total of 435

runs in the tournament. Hasan Ali of Peshawar was awarded the leading wicket taker award with a total of 25 wickets.

2019 Pakistan Super League (also known as PSL 4 or for sponsorship reasons HBL PSL 2019) was the fourth season of the Pakistan Super League, a franchise Twenty20 cricket league which was established by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) in 2015.





The Serena Hotel organized Nowruz Day in collaboration with the Diplomatic Missions of Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and United Nations (UN) in Islamabad.

Exotic food, music and dancing brought together from different cultures guests celebrated Nowruz, the Iranian New Year also known as Persian New Year. The celebrations were a family affair which inaugurated by President Arif Alvi. Each mission had displayed traditional and cultural artefacts, such as vases, carpets, jewellery and other decorative items, as well as photographs of famous sites and ordinary citizens.





Bulgarian National Day Celebrated

Ambassador of Bulgaria H.E. Roumen Pirontchev and his better half hosted a reception to celebrate National Day of Bulgaria at his residence in Diplomatic Enclave, Islamabad. The event was well attended with diplomats, as well as members of civil society.



To mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and Pakistan, H.E. Ms. Sewa Lamsal Ambassador of Nepal arranged a Nepalese Food Festival with Nepalese Music. Mr. Maurizio Romani warmly welcomed the guests which includes foreign diplomats, dignitaries, government officials, businessmen and media persons.



Mauritius celebrated 51st Anniversary of Independence Day

The Embassy of Mauritius hosted a reception to celebrate the 51st Mauritius Independence Day. A number of foreign diplomats, dignitaries, government officials and others graced the occasion. High Commissioner Rashidally Soobadar and his spouse welcomed the guests. Federal Minister for Water Resources Faisal Vawda was designated by the Foreign Office to act as chief guest in the reception.



Embassy of Bangladesh celebrated 48th Anniversary of Independence and National Day of Peoples Republic of Bangladesh

To celebrate the 48th anniversary of the independence of Bangladesh, High Commissioner and Mrs. Tarik Ahsan hosted a reception at a hotel. Diplomats, officers from the armed forces of the diplomatic corps as well as Pakistan attended the reception. The guest of honor was Additional Secretary Imtiaz Ahmed, while Senator Syed Mushahid Hussain and other persons, including envoys of the SAARC region were also invited to share the stage.



Serena Hotel celebrated Women Day First Lady Graced Gathering



Serena Hotel Islamabad hosted a breakfast morning to celebrate International Women's Day and to honor the women from all walks of life. The Chief Guest for the occasion was the First Lady, Madam Samina Arif Alvi. Large numbers of women from the twin cities showed up, comprising of diplomatic community, international agencies, Serena associates, Serena Business Complex partners, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and friends of Serena.



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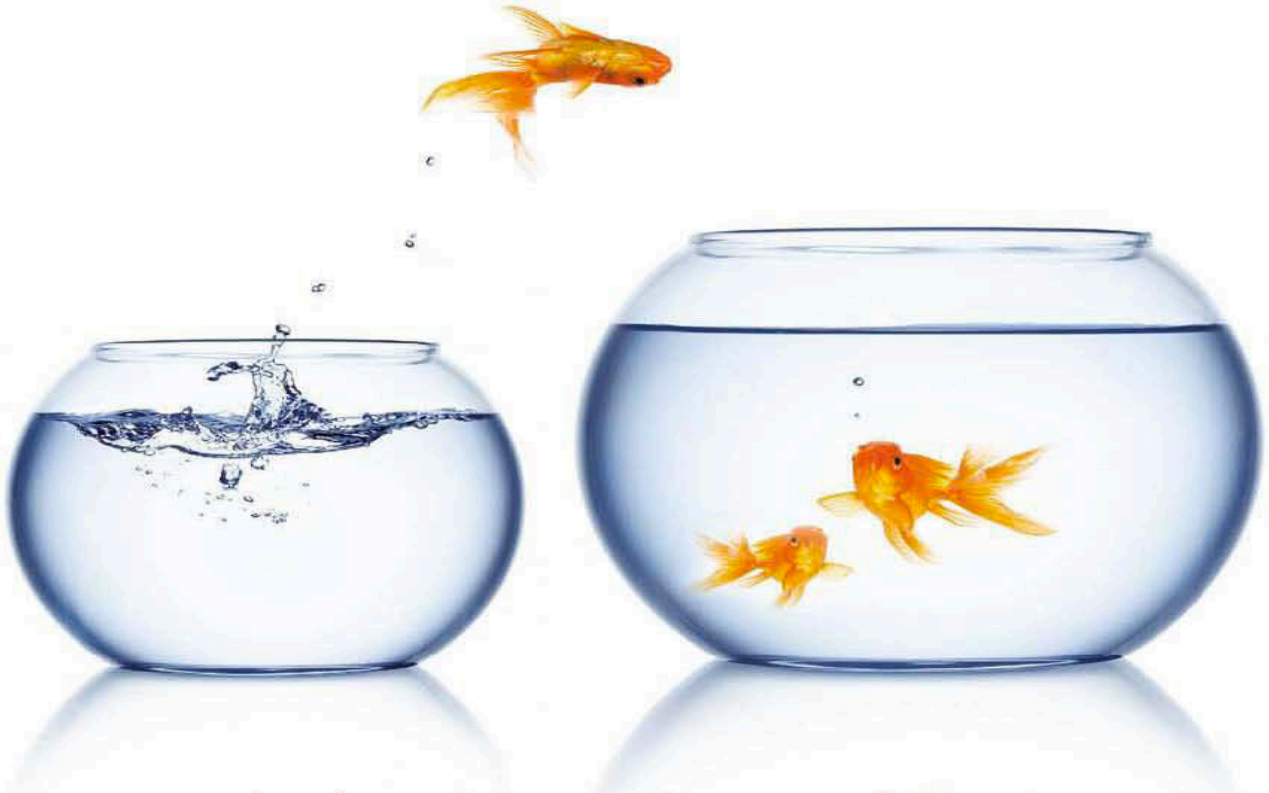


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