

Monthly Magazine on National & International Political Affairs, Diplomatic Issues |

Promoting Bilateral Relations | Current Affairs | Trade & Economic Affairs | Education | Technology | Culture & Tourism

July 2019

| Volume 10 | Issue 07

ABC Certified

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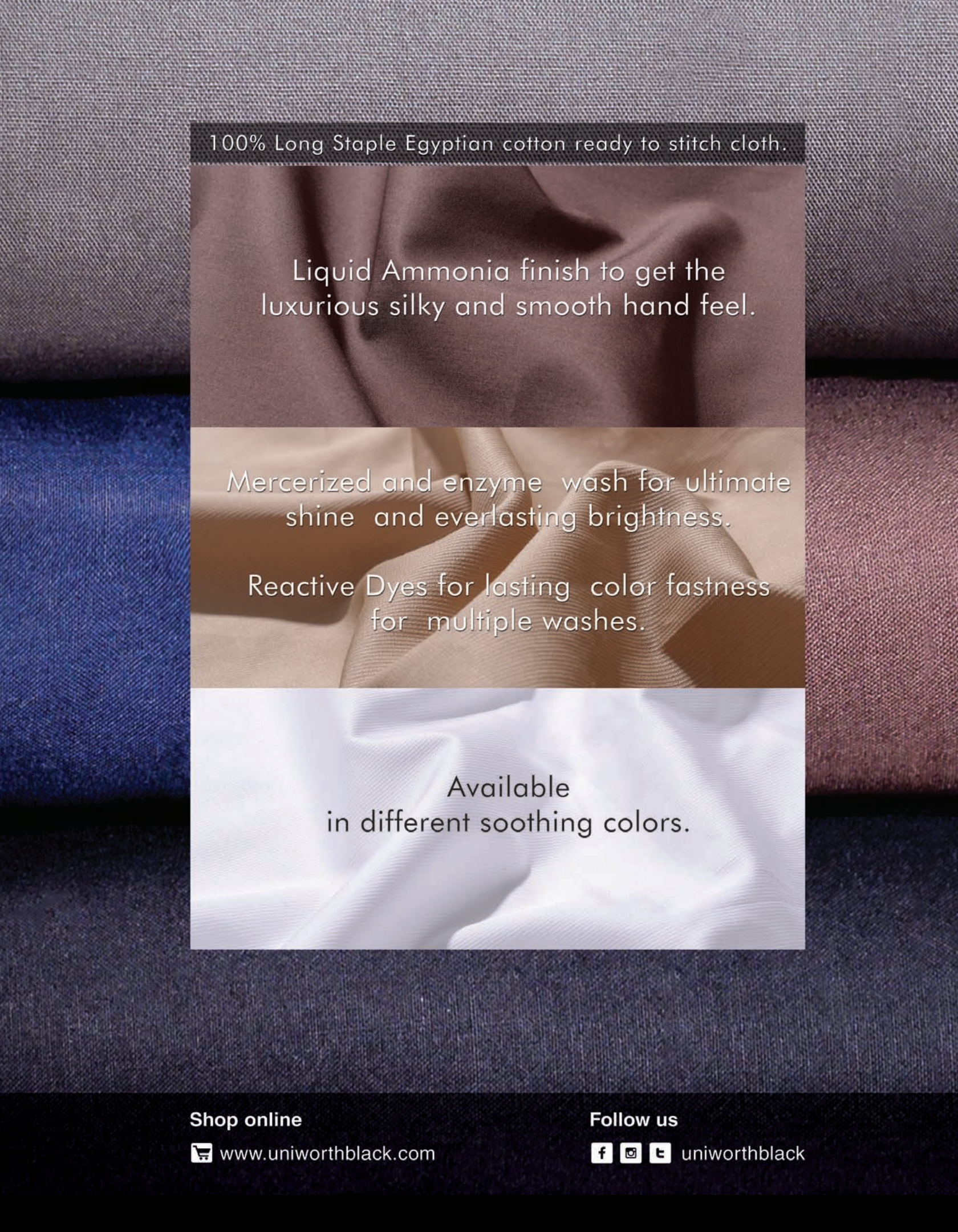
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Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Ashraf Ghani agreed to open a new chapter of friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan, based on mutual trust and harmony for the benefit of the two peoples and countries and for advancing the cause of peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

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I would like at the outset to ask God to bestow His mercy upon the souls of our martyrs who lost their lives because of the blatant aggression on Tripoli and its suburbs and pray for a speedy recovery for the wounded and the injured. We also pray to God to grant us the strength to secure the return of the displaced to their homes as soon as possible.

Pakistan and Spain enjoy extremely cordial and friendly ties.

H.E. Mr. Manuel Durán Giménez-Rico, Ambassador of Spain to Pakistan

I am impressed at how hospitable Pakistani people can be, how proud they are of their country, their culture, their history... and I love that. I love peoples who take pride in what their ancestors transmitted to them. Before coming to Pakistan I had talked a lot with my predecessor, who happens to be a good friend of mine.



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Printer

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Publisher

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Price

Pakistan	Rs.800	Middle East	37 Saudi Riyal
UK	£ 8	Schengen State	€9
Chinese Yuan:	69	Canada:	\$13
USA:	\$8		

Published from Islamabad

Our previous Issues

June 2019



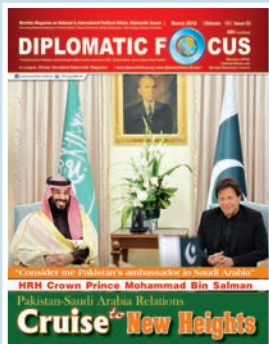
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April 2019



March 2019



Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan Qatar friendship is stronger than ever. The Emir of Qatar HRH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani visit to Pakistan is a milestone for the economy of Pakistan. Pakistan desires to have a long term economic and strategic relationship between the two brotherly nations. For this purpose Investment Board organized a successful Pakistan and Qatar Investment Forum, in March, 2019 in Doha, Qatar between the business communities of the both countries in collaboration with the Qatar government.

Qatar reveals further investment of \$3bn in Pakistan. The funding takes Qatar's total investments in Pakistan to \$9bn. The funding follows the Qatari emir's visit to Pakistan, and comes as an endorsement of Prime Minister Imran Khan's administration, said Doha's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Pakistan has received the first tranche of US \$500 million from Qatar that will help boost foreign exchange reserves of the country as committed during the Amir of Qatar Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani's recent visit to Islamabad. Pakistan and Qatar are looking for a long term partnership and not quick win. Specific projects were discussed in areas of aviation services, tourism, infrastructure development, power generation, water management, agro industries and tourism across the country. Qatari companies have immense potential to supplement the CPEC projects and stimulate industrialization in the country.

Qatar and Pakistan bilateral trade volume is set to witness a major boost in the coming days as Hamad Port has established direct shipping links to Karachi and other ports in Pakistan. The bilateral economic relations are expected to expand further as private companies from both sides are exploring trade and investment opportunities aggressively. A friend in need is a friend in deed and Pakistan always finds Qatar available for Pakistan in the hour of need. Government and the people of Pakistan highly appreciate the role of Qatar.

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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Pakistan & Qatar

vow to work for regional peace

Mian Fazal Elahi

His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar, met with President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr. The wide-ranging talks, held in a warm and cordial atmosphere, covered bilateral relations and regional issues.

The President complimented the Amir for his astute leadership, which enabled Qatar to make major strides in energy, tourism, aviation and construction sectors. The President admired Qatar's efforts to promote world sports. Taking note of 70% increase in Pakistan's exports to Qatar following direct linkage between Karachi and Hamad Ports, the President underlined the

importance of increased volume of bilateral trade and enhancing and diversifying Pakistan's exports to Qatar. He also focused on potential for enhanced Qatari investments in diverse fields and the prospects of further employment of Pakistani workers in Qatar. In the regional context, the President lauded Qatar's role in promoting efforts for peace and reconciliation in



Qatar is interested in using the services of more than 100,000 Pakistanis for FIFA World Cup 2022

Afghanistan, which was a notable contribution to regional peace.

His Highness the Amir, while thanking the Government and leadership of Pakistan for the gracious invitation and hospitality extended to him and his entourage, acknowledged the sacrifices made by Pakistan in fight against terrorism. Expressing his desire to further solidify the economic content of bilateral relations, the Amir evinced keen interest in enhanced bilateral collaboration in the energy sector as well as import of food items from Pakistan. He offered assistance in building Pakistan's tourism potential through more Qatari investments and technical support in the hospitality industry. Expressing satisfaction at the pace of recruitment of manpower from Pakistan, the Amir underlined Qatar's desire to import additional workers as well as trained security personnel from Pakistan. Taking note of the progress achieved in Afghan peace talks, the two leaders agreed to continue working closely for regional peace and stability.

In a special investiture ceremony, the President conferred upon His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the highest civil award, Nishan-e-Pakistan, for his outstanding contribution to the enhancement of Pakistan-Qatar relations. The ceremony was followed by a banquet lunch hosted by the President of Pakistan in the honour of the visiting dignitary and his entourage.

Pakistan and Qatar have agreed to take steps to enhance the bilateral cooperation in diverse areas including trade, energy, oil and gas exploration, besides tourism and defense. The

consensus to this effect was reached at the delegation level talks and one-on-one meeting between Prime Minister Imran Khan and Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in Islamabad.

Along with a high level delegation comprising key ministers and senior officials. Both the sides agreed to expand collaboration in the fields of agriculture and food, enhance cooperation in the energy sector including LNG and LPG fields and exploration and production of oil and gas. The agreement was also reached to promote Qatar's investments in energy, tourism and





The President conferred upon His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the highest civil award, Nishan-e-Pakistan

hospitality industries and increase the number of Pakistani workers employed in Qatar. The two leaderships agreed to expand cooperation in the fields of aviation, maritime affairs, higher education, and defence and defence production. Pakistan and Qatar have also agreed to take steps to significantly increase bilateral trade, expand collaboration in agriculture and food sectors.

The talks decided that the respective Ministers would hold further follow-up talks on the areas to give concrete shape to the proposals agreed between the leaders.

The two leaders reaffirmed the closeness of Pakistan-Qatar fraternal ties and reiterated the resolve to forge a robust political and economic partnership. Prime Minister Imran Khan led the Pakistani delegation while Qatari side was headed by Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. The visit of Amir of Qatar will further cement the relations between two countries and give a significant boost to bilateral cooperation in diverse fields.

Earlier, at the Prime Minister House, a smartly turned out contingent representing army, navy and air force presented Guard of Honor to the

distinguished guest. The Emir of Qatar inspected the Guard of Honor. National anthems of the two countries were also played on the occasion. Prime Minister introduced the distinguished guest with members of cabinet and the federal ministers. Prime minister Imran Khan was also introduced with members of Qatari delegation. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani planted a sapling at the lawn of Prime Minister House as per tradition. A JF-17 squadron of PAF saluted the guest in a magnificent fly past. Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani arrived at Nur Khan Airbase in Rawalpindi this afternoon on two day visit to Pakistan. The plane carrying



The President lauded Qatar's role in promoting efforts for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan, which is a notable contribution to regional peace



the Emir had flags of both Pakistan and Qatar installed on it, reflecting the importance Qatar gives to its relations with Pakistan. The distinguished guest was given a 21-gun salute. Two children presented bouquets to the guest. The route from Nur Khan Airbase to Red Zone Islamabad is adorned with portraits of visiting guest as well as the flags of both countries. Prime Minister himself drove the distinguished guest to the Prime Minister House in Islamabad. On the arrival of Emir of Qatar H.E. Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani in, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the establishment of "Pakistan-Qatar working group (JWG) on trade and investment was signed between Commerce Ministry of Pakistan and its counterpart, Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Qatar. The Prime Minister's Advisor on Commerce, Textile, Industries & production and Investment Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood inked the MoU with his Qatari counterpart. The MoU aims to devise a mechanism to improve trade and economic ties of both countries which are currently far below than it's potential. Through this MoU, now a special and dedicated Working Group will be established to expand the trade and investment cooperation, strengthen communication and enhance trust to boost economic growth by creating enabling environment. The working group will identify the bottlenecks that are holding the growth of bilateral trade and investment ties and it is mandated to take

measure to unlock the growth. The Working Group on the Pakistan side will be headed by Secretary Commerce Ministry of Commerce & Textiles (Commerce Division), Pakistan with the representatives from other relevant Ministries/ Departments including Board of Investment as its members. From Qatari side, Head of Ministry of Commerce and Industry will be leading the Working group. Previously, due to lack of an effective and mandated formal

mechanism, it was comparatively difficult to address bilateral trade issues in an efficient and mutually fruitful manner. The establishment of the working group was required to take up and resolve the bilateral issues on a dedicated and relevant forum. While signing the MoU both countries resolved to extend the cooperation in trade and investment and emphasized to discuss and consult trade, investment and their related issues i.e. summarize experience on





regular basis and discover and work in a timely manner to solve concerns and difficulties faced by Pakistani and Qatari businesses in both countries; exchange information on a regular basis about trade and investment projects and exhibitions; promote key projects of trade and economic cooperation; hold seminars on trade and investment cooperation in Islamabad and Doha; organize exchanges of trade missions and help companies seek business opportunities. Pakistan has witnessed a visible increase in its exports to Qatar in recent times. The significant increase in exports from Pakistan is attributed to the opening of the Qatari food

market, construction and FINTECH sectors as Qatar strives to be self-sufficient and seeks proactively for alternate sources of imports of goods and services to Qatar. The trend is on the rise and Pakistani companies sense a lot of opportunities in the Qatari market. Pakistan has a distinct advantage of proximity to Qatar and can easily cater for Qatar's food security needs. Consequently, Pakistan's exports to Qatar are on the rise. Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan is especially working on capitalizing on FIFA World Cup 2022, which offers huge export opportunity for Pakistani football manufacturers and exporters. Moreover, Qatar

is expecting 2.9 million fans to attend 2022 FIFA event. It shows there will be phenomenon demands of replica soccer balls that tourists may carry as gift items.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi met with Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdul Rahman al-Thani at Nur Khan Airbase in Rawalpindi. Two counterparts held the meeting before the arrival of Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hammad Al Thani. Foreign Minister welcomed his Qatari counterpart and discussed the visit of Emir of Qatar, which is his second visit to Pakistan since assuming office in 2013. Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdul Rahman Al-Thani told the Foreign Minister that Qatar is interested in investing in Pakistan. Both countries enjoy close brotherly relations and Pakistan gives special importance to her relations with Qatar, Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi told his counterpart. He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Qatar in January was meant to further strengthen relations between the two countries. More than 150,000 Pakistani are playing their part in Qatar's progress and Pakistanis based in Qatar are also playing the role of a bridge between the two countries, he said. He further said that Qatar is interested in using the services of more than 100,000 Pakistanis for FIFA World Cup 2022. Qatar is also helping Pakistan to tackle the energy crisis. Trade volume between the two countries has reached at a level of a more than 2.5 billion and there has been a gradual increase in the trade volume in recent. The Foreign Minister also said, the visit of Emir of Qatar will open new avenues for cooperation in trade and investment.





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AND MR. ABDUL RAZAK DAWOOD, ADVISOR ON COMMERCE

MOU SIGNED ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF

“PAKISTAN AND QATAR JOINT WORKING GROUP (JWG)”

ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT



OIC platform must be used to delink terrorism with Islam; Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan

H.E. Imran Khan

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Prime Minister Imran Khan delivered a keynote speech at the 14th OIC Summit in Makkah, saying "Islam has nothing to do with terrorism." In his address to the Summit in the Kingdom, PM Khan raised the issue of Islamophobia, saying: "When someone from the West blasphemed our Holy Prophet (PBUH), I always felt the response from the Muslim Ummah and OIC was lacking." "Some western countries are suffering from Islamophobia. The West should differentiate between moderate Muslim and extremist Muslim," he added. PM further said: "The international community has to respect the feelings of more than 1 billion Muslims." Imran Khan also urged the Muslim world to pay more attention to science and technology. "We must pay more attention to quality education and universities; an area in which the Muslim world lags. I fear the Muslim world may be left behind again and this is the best forum to raise this concern in." He also touched upon the plight of the people of Kashmir as well as Palestine, saying Pakistan supports the two states solution and recognising East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine. "The people of Kashmir must also have their right to self-determination; us as a body must stand against the oppression happening with the Muslim world." He reiterated the Pakistan's strong stance to resolve Kashmir dispute, saying it must be resolved as per UN resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiris, adding that

peaceful struggle of the people of Kashmir and Palestine must not label as terrorism. Prior to the summit, the premier met Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Prime Minister Imran Khan had a bilateral meeting with His Royal Highness Muhammad Bin Salman, Crown Prince of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on the sidelines of the 14th Islamic Summit in Makkah-Al-Makarramah. The Crown Prince extended a warm welcome

to Prime Minister Imran Khan on his visit to the Kingdom for the OIC Summit. The Prime Minister thanked the Crown Prince for the traditional Saudi hospitality and extended felicitations on Saudi Arabia's assumption of OIC Chair. The two leaders took stock of the current state of bilateral political, economic and trade relations. They agreed to expedite decisions taken during the visit of Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman to Pakistan in February



2019, in particular early implementation of decisions taken during the first meeting of the Supreme Coordination Council. Prime Minister Imran Khan also thanked the government of Saudi Arabia for extending oil facility to Pakistan against deferred payments. He added that the brotherly gesture of the Kingdom provided timely support to the economy of Pakistan at a crucial juncture. Prime Minister Imran Khan and Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman agreed to regularly exchange views on all issues of mutual interest. Prime Minister Imran Khan had a bilateral meeting with the President of Afghanistan, Dr. Ashraf Ghani, on the sidelines of the 14th Islamic Summit in Makkah-al-Mukarramah. During the meeting, the two leaders exchanged views on bilateral issues and the Afghan peace and reconciliation process. Prime Minister Imran Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to a peaceful and stable Afghanistan. He reiterated the belief that an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace process was indispensable for a political solution. On bilateral issues, both leaders agreed on the need to work closely for intensifying cooperation in different fields including energy, security, trade, and cultural collaboration. In the regional context, the Prime Minister outlined his vision for peace, progress and prosperity in South Asia and highlighted his initiatives in this regard. The two sides agreed that the visit of President Ashraf Ghani to Pakistan would provide the opportunity to carry forward the dialogue on bilateral and regional issues. Prime Minister Imran Khan met President of Egypt H.E. Mr. Abdul Fattah Al Sisi on the sidelines of the 14th Islamic Summit in Makkah-tul-Mukarramah. The two leaders exchanged views on the whole range of bilateral, regional and international matters. The issues being faced by Muslim Ummah also came under discussion. The two leaders agreed to comprehensively upgrade cooperation in all fields. They also agreed to increase the frequency of bilateral political contacts and exchanges.

The meeting of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), preparatory to the 14th Islamic Summit Conference, was held in Jeddah. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi led the Pakistan delegation at the meeting. The CFM deliberated on and adopted outcome documents for the forthcoming Makkah Summit. Speaking during the meeting, the Foreign Minister drew the participants' attention towards grave human rights violations taking place in the Indian occupied Kashmir. He stated, "The Kashmiris right to self-determination continues to be denied through illegal occupation and a concerted campaign of torture, humiliation, rape and violence". He also sought support of the OIC member states for constituting a Commission of Inquiry under the UN to investigate the violations and excesses in the Indian occupied Kashmir. The Foreign Minister also made a detailed reference to the



situation in Palestine, strongly condemning the continuing Israeli atrocities against innocent Palestinians. He called for consideration of measures to guarantee the safety and security of Palestinians in the occupied territories. The Foreign stated: "While reaffirming full solidarity with the Palestinian people, Pakistan renews its call for establishment of a viable, independent and contiguous state of Palestine, on the basis of internationally agreed parameters, pre-1967 borders, and with Al Quds Al-Sharif as its capital."

The Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu & Kashmir was held in Jeddah on 29th May, 2019 at the sidelines of the 14th Islamic Summit. The meeting was chaired by the OIC Secretary General and attended by the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan and Turkey,

Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan and Senior Representatives of Saudi Arabia and Niger. The True Representatives of Kashmiri people, including Mr. Masood Khan, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, also attended the meeting. The OIC Secretary General expressed deep concern over the grave situation in the Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir, called for an immediate cessation of Indian oppression and atrocities and urged the government of India for the peaceful settlement of the dispute, in accordance with wishes of Kashmiri people and the UN Security Council Resolutions. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi apprised the delegates of the continuing Indian state terrorism in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IoK), which has led to the persecution and torture of



hundreds of thousands of innocent Kashmiris. The Foreign Minister drew the attention of the participants of the Contact Group to the Reports on Jammu and Kashmir by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the UK Parliament's All Parties Parliamentary Kashmir Group (APPKG), as well as the historic Exchange of Views on the human rights situation in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir, in the European Parliament, all of which have denounced systematic torture and killings of innocent civilians in IoK. The Foreign Minister iterated that the world is finally waking up to the worst form of state terrorism in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The Foreign Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's political, moral and diplomatic support to the people of IoK in their just struggle to achieve the inalienable right to self-determination. He thanked the OIC for its unfaltering support on the Jammu & Kashmir dispute. Noting that the unresolved Jammu & Kashmir dispute was a constant threat to peace and stability in South Asia, the Foreign Minister reiterated Pakistan's determination to resolve the dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people. The Foreign Minister of Turkey expressed grave concern at the deteriorating situation in the Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He also expressed serious concern at the serious human rights violations perpetrated by India against the innocent Kashmiris. He emphasized the urgency of resolving the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, especially in the wake of the recent events. He said that the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute was important so as to bring regional peace and ensure development in South Asia. It was the major obstacle in India-Pakistan relations and its humanitarian aspect required urgent attention of the international community. The members of the OIC Contact Group expressed their complete solidarity with the valiant struggle of the Kashmiri people. They reaffirmed their resolve to remain the voice of the Kashmiris' at the international stage. The conclusions of the meeting were adopted and would be submitted for appropriate action of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC. Mr. Masood Khan, the President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir also attended the meeting of the OIC Contact Group and briefed the members on the continued oppressive policies of Indian occupation forces IoK. He commended the OIC support for the Kashmiri people and for realization of the right to self-determination. The True Representatives also presented a Memorandum to the OIC Secretary General. The OIC Contact Group on Jammu & Kashmir was formed in 1994 to coordinate the policy of the OIC on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Azerbaijan, Niger, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey are its members. The deliberations of the Contact Group reflect the solidarity of the OIC with the



Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi had a meeting with Mr. Yousef Al-Othaimeen, Secretary General of OIC, on the sidelines of the meeting of OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), in Jeddah. Foreign Minister Qureshi congratulated the Secretary General and the Secretariat on making arrangements for the 14th Islamic Summit Conference at a short notice. He reposed trust in the wise stewardship of the Secretary General in spearheading the OIC process at this important time for the Muslim Ummah. While apprising the Secretary General of the continued human rights violations of security forces in IoK, the Foreign Minister lauded OIC's unwavering support to Pakistan on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The Foreign Minister also thanked the Secretary General for appointing Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir. Foreign Minister Qureshi also apprised the Secretary General of the measures being taken by Pakistan to expand its engagement with the OIC, including the establishment of the office of Pakistan's Permanent Representative (PR) to the OIC in Jeddah. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi held a bilateral meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Ibrahim Al Assaf on the sidelines of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meeting in Jeddah. Extending a warm welcome to Foreign Minister Qureshi, the Saudi Foreign Minister described the Pakistan-Saudi relationship as both historic and strategic, built on strong foundations. Agreeing with his counterpart, Foreign Minister Qureshi underscored the importance Pakistan attaches to this traditionally close and cordial relationship marked by mutual trust, understanding and support for each other. Recalling the successful visit of Saudi Crown Prince His Royal Highness Mohammad bin Salman to Pakistan, earlier this year, the Foreign Minister termed it as a high point in bilateral relations providing strategic direction to the relationship. The two Foreign Ministers discussed a range of subjects including bilateral political exchanges, intensified economic and financial interaction,

and follow-up on the release of Pakistani prisoners. They also exchanged views on recent developments in the region. The Foreign Minister congratulated KSA on organising the OIC Summit and related meetings and wished a successful outcome. The Foreign Minister also thanked the Saudi leadership for their steadfast support to Pakistan on a range of key issues. Saudi Arabia remains an active member of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, Retno Marsudi, on the sidelines of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meeting in Jeddah. Foreign Minister Qureshi conveyed his felicitations on the re-election of President Joko Widodo. He noted that Pakistan and Indonesia enjoyed a long-standing relationship based on religious and cultural affinities, mutual trust, and commonality of views on a number of regional and international issues. The two Ministers agreed that as the largest and second largest Muslim majority states, Indonesia and Pakistan, were uniquely placed to intensify bilateral collaboration for the mutual benefit of their two peoples and for supporting initiatives for the projection of rightful image of the Muslim faith and the Ummah.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with Mr. Sameh Hassan Shoukry, Foreign Minister of Egypt, on the sidelines of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meeting, being held in Jeddah. The meeting took place in a cordial atmosphere. The Foreign Minister extended felicitations to his Egyptian counterpart on the re-election of President Abdul Fattah Al Sisi and his government. The two Ministers reviewed myriad aspects of the bilateral relationship. The two sides agreed to enhance the frequency of bilateral political exchanges. As regards economic relations, it was observed that the current level of bilateral trade had remained below potential. The Ministers agreed to actively promote trade and investment relations for the mutual benefit of both countries



Organization of Islamic Cooperation 14th Summit OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir



Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi called on H.E Dr. Ibrahim bin Abdulaziz Al-Assaf (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Saudi Arabia)



Minister of Foreign Affairs Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi meets his Egyptian counterpart, H.E. Sameh Hassan Shoukry on the sidelines of OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Saudi Arabia.



Meeting with Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), H.E. Dr. Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen on the sidelines of OIC Council of FMs in Saudi Arabia.



Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi called on Foreign Minister of Indonesia, H.E. Retno Marsudi on the sidelines of OIC Council of Foreign Ministers.



Bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister of Malaysia, H.E. Saifuddin Abdullah on the sidelines of OIC Council of Foreign Ministers.





President Dr. Arif Alvi and President Ashraf Ghani agreed to open a new chapter of friendship and cooperation between

Pakistan & Afghanistan

By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Dr. Arif Alvi, in his meeting with President Ashraf Ghani, affirmed Pakistan's resolve to forge a closer relationship with Afghanistan marked by deeper cooperation in all spheres. The two Presidents agreed that moving forward and building a relationship that served the cause of peace, security and prosperity was in the best interest of the two countries. All aspects of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations came under review during the meeting. President Alvi underlined the importance that Pakistan attached to enhanced political, trade, economic, commercial, educational and people-to-people ties with Afghanistan. Emphasizing the need for a peaceful solution of the conflict in Afghanistan, President Alvi underscored the importance of an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process in this regard. President Alvi appreciated the progress achieved by Afghanistan during the past 18 years, despite enormous challenges. He reassured that Pakistan, besides playing its role in the peace process, stood ready to help Afghan reconstruction and development efforts. The President also underlined the need for the world community's engagement with Afghanistan in the post-settlement phase. The two leaders agreed that both Afghanistan and Pakistan would gain tremendously from peace

and stability in the region. They further agreed that increased connectivity between Pakistan and Afghanistan would help accelerate the trade and energy flows and contribute to the prosperity of the two countries and the region. The role of new technologies in this context was also recognized. Following the meeting, President Alvi hosted a Banquet Dinner in

honour of President Ghani and his entourage. Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Ashraf Ghani agreed to open a new chapter of friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan, based on mutual trust and harmony for the benefit of the two peoples and countries and for advancing the cause of peace, stability and prosperity in the region. Prime Minister Khan and President Ghani had a one-on-one meeting, followed by delegation-level talks. The two leaders exchanged views on the entire gamut of bilateral relations. The Prime Minister affirmed that Pakistan remained committed to bring about a qualitative transformation in Pakistan-Afghanistan relations as part of his vision of a "peaceful neighbourhood." The two leaders agreed on the importance of crafting a forward-looking vision of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations. Prime Minister Imran Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to support the Afghan peace process as a shared responsibility. He underlined that an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process was the only viable option to end decades-long conflict in Afghanistan. In this regard, Pakistan supported a result-oriented intra-Afghan dialogue. The Prime Minister underscored Pakistan's respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and its commitment to stand by the Afghan people at this crucial juncture. Pakistan remained committed to a peaceful, stable, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan and wished to have stronger political, trade, economic, and people-to-people relations with Afghanistan, the Prime Minister added. The two leaders agreed that enduring peace in Afghanistan would bring rich economic dividends to both the countries. They reaffirmed their commitment to work together to broaden and deepen bilateral trade, streamline transit trade, and strengthen efforts for connectivity. It was recognized that early completion of





major energy connectivity projects such as Central Asia-South Asia (CASA 1000) electricity transmission line and Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline will bring long-term economic benefits to the countries involved. Further ways of strengthening trade, infrastructure and energy connectivity were explored. It was agreed to optimally utilize the existing mechanisms--including Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Coordination Authority (APTTCA) and Joint Economic Commission (JEC) -- to remove difficulties in transit and bilateral trade and to explore new possibilities of mutually-beneficial economic and commercial relations. There was also an exchange of views on regional issues. The Prime Minister shared his vision for peace, progress and prosperity in South Asia. Earlier, on arrival at Nur Khan Airbase, President Ashraf Ghani was given a 21-gun salute. There was an official Welcoming Ceremony, including Guard of Honor, at the Prime Minister's House, where Prime Minister Imran Khan warmly received President Ghani. The Prime Minister also hosted a Banquet Luncheon in honor of the visiting dignitary and his entourage.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani arrived in Lahore from Islamabad as part of his two-day visit to the country. The Afghan president was received by Punjab Chief Minister Usman Bardar upon his arrival at the Lahore Airport. On his arrival, children presented bouquets to the Afghan

president. President Ghani also held a one-on-one meeting with Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar. The Afghan president will also hold a meeting with CM Buzdar. Matters of mutual interest and cooperation for the promotion of peace were discussed during the meeting. He later offered Friday prayers at the Governor House. The Afghan president also visited the Badshahi Mosque and Shahi Qila. A day earlier, the Afghan president arrived in Islamabad on a two-day official visit on the invitation of Prime Minister Imran Khan. President Ghani held delegation-level talks with PM Imran in a meeting that Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa also attended. He also met Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and said he appreciated Pakistan's efforts for the peace process in the country. Qureshi, during the meeting, said Pakistan will continue to play its role for peace in Afghanistan with sincerity, good intentions, and an open heart.

The Afghan president also met Opposition Leader Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairperson Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in separate meetings.

A statement issued by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) about the meeting said the visiting dignitary expressed his condolences on the death of Begum Kulsoom Nawaz and wished Nawaz Sharif, the former prime minister, well. Ghani praised the role of Nawaz for

regional peace and said he maintained a cordial relation with Shehbaz Sharif since his first meeting with him in 1980, the statement said. Meanwhile, according to a statement released by the PPP, Ghani and Bilawal discussed issues of mutual interests. Bilawal expressed his wishes for the Afghan peace process.





Afghan leaders initiated peace talks in Pakistan

By Agency, Monitoring Desk

Dozens of Afghan political leaders have attended a conference in neighboring Pakistan to discuss possible ways to achieve peace in the war-torn country. In the inaugural ceremony of the Afghan peace conference titled “Lahore Process” at Bhurbhan in Murree, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said Pakistan is committed in its efforts to bring peace and stability in Afghanistan. “For far too long, the vicious circle of mistrust, often fed into by our common enemies, has affected our relationship. The blame-game has not helped either of us,” Qureshi said. “It is indispensable to move away from this negative paradigm. It is incumbent upon the leadership of the two countries to take practical steps to build mutual trust and

confidence.” The conference is to be followed by meetings and working sessions over the next two days, all of which come in the run-up to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani’s visit to Pakistan. There were no representatives of the Taliban armed group at the conference, held near the Pakistani capital, Islamabad. The meeting covered topics from trade to economy, health and repatriation of Afghan refugees. Ghani, opposition leaders and members of the Afghan civil society have been holding meetings in recent days with the United States special envoy to Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, who continues to press for talks between the Afghan government, the opposition and the Taliban. However, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who struck a peace deal with Ghani’s government and was taken off a US “terrorist” list in 2017, attended the conference. That peace deal was touted as

a blueprint for an agreement with the Taliban, although the armed group sees Hekmatyar as a spent force with no military might. Still, at the outset of the meeting, Hekmatyar urged his fellow Afghans to press for the Taliban’s demand for a quick and full withdrawal of US and NATO troops from Afghanistan. Among the figures in attendance on Saturday were the head of the Afghan government-sponsored high peace council, Mohammad Karim Khalili, as well as the leader of the powerful Jamiat-e-Islami political party, Ustad Atta Mohammad Noor, and a current presidential candidate, Haneef Atmar, who is a former national security adviser. The Afghan leaders were also scheduled to hold a meeting with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan during their visit. Separately, the United States has been holding talks with the Taliban to find a negotiated exit to its 18-year engagement in Afghanistan. Khalilzad was in Doha, Qatar, where the Taliban maintains a political office, but it still was not clear when he would meet again with the group, who

Qureshi said, “For far too long, the vicious circle of mistrust, often fed into by our common enemies, has affected our relationship. The blame-game has not helped either of us.”





It is incumbent upon the leadership of the two countries to take practical steps to build mutual trust and confidence.

control or wield significant influence in nearly half of the country. The Taliban has refused to sit with government representatives but says it will sit with any Afghan, even a government official, but as an ordinary Afghan and not as a government representative. In May, a delegation of Taliban officials led by the group's chief negotiator, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, met Afghan politicians in Russia's capital, Moscow to discuss the future of the country. Those talks marked the second time leaders from the group have met opposition leaders in Russia, following a rare gathering in February that saw the Taliban and Afghan politicians, including Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai, praying together and chatting over meals. An "intra-Afghan dialogue" that was to be held in Doha in April was cancelled over the composition of the Afghan delegation coming from Kabul, with more than 240 people on the list to attend.





Prime Minister Imran Khan emphasis to seize the opportunities for peaceful resolution of outstanding disputes and collective endeavors for regional prosperity in SCO summit

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Bishkek hosted a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Heads of State Council.

Taking part in the meeting were, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping, President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sooronbay Jeenbekov, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Imran Khan, President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Prime Minister of the Republic of India Narendra Modi. President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sooronbay Jeenbekov chaired the meeting.

SCO Secretary-General Vladimir Norov and Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) Jumakhon Giyosov also took part in the meeting.

President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Hassan Rouhani, President of Mongolia Khaltmaagiin Battulga, as well as UN Under-Secretary-General Rosemary A. DiCarlo, Executive Secretary of

the Commonwealth of Independent States Sergei Lebedev, Acting Secretary-General of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation Valery Semerikov, Chairman of the Eurasian Economic Commission Board Tigran Sargsyan and UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Partnerships with the Middle East and Central Asia Rashid Khalikov attended the event. The heads of the Member States reviewed the implementation of the results of the 2018

Qingdao Summit and the priority goals for SCO development in the context of current global political and economic processes. The parties' agreed-upon positions are reflected in the Bishkek Declaration that was adopted.

The Member States emphasised that the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is an effective and constructive mechanism for multilateral cooperation that plays an important role in maintaining regional peace



and stability and in facilitating the prosperity and development of the Member States. It was noted that the SCO had asserted itself as a solid platform for strengthening mutual understanding, trust-based dialogue and equitable partnership in the interests of building international relations of a new type, based on the generally accepted principles and standards of international law, as well as forging a common perception of the concept for creating a community of humankind's common destiny.

The Member States underscored their intention to continue to rely on the goals and objectives of the SCO Charter and to follow the Shanghai Spirit that embodies mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, mutual consultations, respect for the diversity of cultures and a striving for joint development. Efforts will be continued to promote practical cooperation in politics, security, trade and the economy, including finance, investment, transport, energy and agriculture, as well as the development of intra-SCO cultural and humanitarian ties. They will focus on deepening diverse mutually beneficial cooperation with all interested states, primarily the SCO observer states and dialogue partners. While exchanging opinions on topical international and regional matters, the Member States emphasised the need for expanding joint efforts to ensure reliable security and sustainable development in the SCO region. In this connection, they noted the importance of strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation with all interested states in line with generally accepted standards and principles of international law, above all the UN Charter.



They reaffirmed the SCO Member States' commitment to enhancing the central coordinating role of the UN and its Security Council as a body vested with the main responsibility for maintaining international peace and security under the UN Charter. In this context, they noted the intentions of the Republic of India, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Tajikistan to be elected as rotating members of the UN Security Council, as well as the intentions of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Uzbekistan to be elected to the UN Human Rights Council. Addressing the 19th Meeting of the Council of the Heads of State of SCO, the premier said the predominantly

young population of Pakistan is imbued with immense energy and creativity. "Our other endowments include a vast pool of skilled human resource, a large agrarian base, tremendous tourism potential, diverse mineral wealth, and a developed IT infrastructure." He said Pakistan builds its partnerships based on mutual respect, sovereign equality and equal benefit. Imran said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which he noted was "the flagship project of President Xi's far-sighted Belt and Road Initiative", is fast reaching fruition. "Gwadar Port, at its southern end, marks the only point of convergence of the maritime Belt and the overland Road." "In time, CPEC is destined to catalyse the creation of an integrated pan-Asian sphere of shared prosperity," he added. Prime Minister Imran





WE HAVE DEVELOPED COOPERATION WITH RUSSIA, WE HOPE TO DEEPEN OUR CONTACTS

PM IMRAN KHAN ON RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA
SPEAKING TO RUSSIA TODAY



SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

said that the world was seeing the “advent of a multi-polar global order” for the first time in ages. “Epicentres of economic power and growth momentum are shifting eastwards,” he said, adding: “Regional integration is speeding up. Disruptive technologies are maturing.” The premier said that there were threats from terrorism to climate change to narcotics to bacterial resistance. Additionally, he said there were increasing barriers to open trade and innovation as well as growing intolerance and Islamophobia, which were “threatening to accentuate religious fault-lines”. He said that Pakistan condemns terrorism in all forms including state terrorism against people under illegal occupation. “We are among the few countries to have successfully turned the tide against terrorism,” PM Imran stated, adding: “Pakistan remains ready to share its experience and expertise in counter terrorism. We will also remain actively engaged in SCO’s counter-terrorism initiatives.” While sharing that Pakistan fully supports efforts for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan through an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process, he said that there was “finally a realisation” that there was no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan. “SCO’s support for post-conflict Afghanistan will remain crucial,” he said while appreciating the contributions being made by China, Russia and Afghanistan’s immediate neighbours to the process. Prime Minister Imran noted that South Asia continued to be challenged by “common enemies” of poverty, illiteracy, disease and under-development.

“Political differences and unresolved disputes further compound the predicament,” he said. “Enduring peace and prosperity in South Asia will remain elusive until the main dynamic in South Asia is shifted from confrontation to cooperation.” “It is important to seize the opportunities for peaceful resolution of outstanding disputes and collective endeavours for regional prosperity.” The premier joined the SCO members in urging all parties in the evolving situation in the Gulf and the Middle East to “exercise restraint, take steps to de-escalate the situation and find solutions through diplomatic means”. “We believe implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action by all parties is essential for international and regional stability.”

Prime Minister Imran presented an eight-pronged course of action:

- Reinforce our vision of cooperation, that rejects confrontation, and advance the imperatives of peaceful co-existence at the regional and international levels.
- Galvanise the “Shanghai Spirit” to strengthen SCO’s core mandate of mitigating the risks of conflict, fostering confidence, and promoting stability.
- Finalise arrangements for trade in local currencies, and set up SCO Fund and SCO Development Bank to catalyse the trans-regional development agenda.
- Synergise the various region-wide connectivity initiatives, and work on



Prime Minister Imran Khan in an informal discussion with President of Russia Vladimir Putin during his visit to the Kyrgyz Republic.

complementing infrastructure connectivity with soft connectivity, including digital, cultural, touristic, and academic. “I propose setting up SCO Culture & Tourism Corridors, clustering multiple SCO destinations into a single package,” he said.

- Make SCO more relevant to the daily lives of citizens by promoting food security and enhancing cooperation in health and humanitarian sectors.
- Take the lead role in establishing a comprehensive framework for combating corruption and white-collar crime.
- Prioritise women and youth empowerment by focusing inter-alia on strengthening the Women Forum and the Youth Council and mandating them to promote gender mainstreaming, skills acquisition and jobs mobility.
- Bridge the gap between region-specific research and policy by launching feasibilities for creating SCO Centres of Excellence on poverty alleviation, de-radicalisation, connectivity, and new technologies.

Prime Minister Imran Khan meets President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko on the sidelines of the Council of Heads of State of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting in Bishkek. The entire gamut of bilateral relations was discussed. Two leaders agreed to tap full potential of ties for mutual benefit, particularly in the trade, economic, commercial and investment fields. Both sides also agreed to increase the frequency of high level political exchanges. It was agreed to hold the next session of Inter Governmental Commission in the second half of 2019.

Prime Minister Imran Khan had an extremely cordial meeting with President Xi Jinping on the

sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of State in Bishkek. The two leaders held consultations on the entire range of bilateral relations and regional issues. Both sides agreed that the visit of Vice President Wang Qishan had been a milestone. The two leaders strongly reaffirmed the Pakistan-China All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership. The Prime Minister thanked China for its steadfast support on all issues of Pakistan's core interest and expressed satisfaction at the close coordination between the two sides on multilateral issues. The Chinese side acknowledged Pakistan's efforts to promote regional peace and the measures in the fight against terrorism. Prime Minister

**Prioritize women and youth empowerment by focusing inter-alia on strengthening the Women Forum and the Youth Council and mandating them to promote gender mainstreaming, skills acquisition and jobs mobility:
PM Imran Khan**

Imran Khan reiterated Pakistan's firm support to China on all issues of its core interest. Both sides expressed their resolve to advance CPEC and build Pakistan China Community of Shared Future in the New Era. Both sides also expressed satisfaction that Pakistan and China had identical views on various international and regional issues. They agreed to closely coordinate on challenges emerging from the changing global dynamics and affirmed that the time-tested Pakistan-China relationship will continue to move from strength to strength.

Prime Minister Imran Khan had a cordial bilateral meeting with President of Kyrgyzstan Mr. Sooronbay Jeenbekov on the sidelines of the Council of Heads of State of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting in Bishkek. Kyrgyzstan is the current chair of SCO. The two leaders exchanged views on the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Both leaders agreed to increase mutual trade and comprehensively upgrade bilateral cooperation in all fields. It was also decided to enhance land and air connectivity. The Prime Minister emphasized the salience of CPEC in the context of connectivity as well as regional prosperity. The two countries also agreed to enhance people-to-people contacts and cooperation in the tourism sector. The Prime Minister invited the Kyrgyz President to visit Pakistan at his earliest convenience. The Kyrgyz President accepted the invitation.





President Dr. Arif Alvi conferred Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon General Han Weiguo Commander of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Ground Force of China

President Dr. Arif Alvi has conferred Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon General Han Weiguo Commander of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Ground Force of China, in a special investiture ceremony at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad on Tuesday. Later General Han Weiguo also called on the President. On the occasion, the President Dr. Arif Alvi congratulated General Han Weiguo and reiterated Pakistan strong resolve to take the bilateral relations between the two countries to new heights in all fields. He said that Pakistan and China enjoyed a unique all-weather and time-tested friendship and Pakistan considered China as its "Iron Brother". While highlighting Pakistan-China friendship, an important cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy, the President stated that Defence and economic relations between the two countries were vital for maintaining peace and stability in region. He highlighted the importance of digital economy and cyber security in today's world and underscored the need for close cooperation between the two brotherly countries to ward off challenges emerging in cyber space. The President further said that Defence and strategic cooperation was the backbone of strategic cooperative partnership and defence authorities of the both countries had maintained close coordination. Frequent high-level exchange of military delegations is a key aspect of our cooperation in this regard, he added. He also underlined the need to further enhance counter-terrorism cooperation between the two countries. Pakistan and China are joined together in a broad-based, long-term

"All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership". Pakistan-China Treaty for Friendship and Cooperation and Good Neighborly Relations has further contributed to the deepening of this

relationship. The two sides have a multi-faceted bi-lateral cooperation in diverse fields such as economic, political, strategic and cultural areas and often share similar views on global





issues. The President also said that Pakistan deeply values China's support on issues of its national security and territorial integrity including Kashmir. He re-assured that Pakistan strongly adheres to the "One China Policy". He expressed satisfaction over progress of all ongoing projects initiated under CPEC. With the completion of early harvest projects, CPEC has entered its second phase, in which focus is on socio-economic cooperation, agriculture development, poverty alleviation and industrial cooperation, he added. He underscored that the safety and security of Chinese nationals is Pakistan's top priority. He highlighted that Government of Pakistan has instituted multi-layer security arrangements with civil and military security agencies and involvement of provincial and federal governments for the safety of Chinese nationals. General Han Weiguo Commander of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Ground Force of China thanked the President upon awarding him the Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military).

General Han Weiguo, Commander, People's Liberation Army (PLA) Ground Forces, China, called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. The Prime Minister congratulated General Han Weiguo on the conferment of the Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military). The Prime Minister underlined the importance of mutual support by China and Pakistan to each other on their respective issues of core interest. He also underlined that close Pakistan-China cooperation was a factor of peace and stability in the region and expressed appreciation for China's support for Pakistan's role on international and regional issues. The Prime Minister recalled his wide-ranging exchange of views with President Xi Jinping in their two recent meetings in Beijing in April 2019 and Bishkek in June 2019. The Prime Minister underscored that CPEC was a

flagship project of President Xi's visionary Belt and Road Initiative and added that Pakistan looked forward to also deepening cooperation in socio-economic development between the two countries in Phase-II of CPEC. General Han Weiguo thanked the Prime Minister for receiving him and stated that the conferment of the award was an honour for him. He lauded Pakistan's successful efforts against terrorism

and steps to promote regional peace and stability. General Han also underscored the importance of the time-tested Pakistan-China All Weather Strategic Cooperation Partnership and reaffirmed China's resolve to deepen bilateral cooperation in all fields and further fortify the China-Pakistan relationship.





Media can bring real social change in country: President Arif Alvi

By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Dr. Arif Alvi has said that his office will continue to play its constitutional role for bringing social change in the country. The President expressed his strong resolve to continue his efforts to create awareness on the most vital social issues such as malnutrition, infant mortality, population growth, and women's right to inheritance and he has taken all concerned stakeholders on board in this regard, he added. The President said this while talking to a delegation of CPNE Standing Committee who called on him at Aiwan-i-Sadr, Islamabad. SAPM on Information and Broadcasting Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan was also present on the occasion. The President stated that media has a very important role to play in bringing about social change in any society. Appreciating the role of the media in general and print media in particular, he warned that all the media stakeholders should be extra careful while confronting with the challenges of fake news, which, he added, was

an old phenomenon, but could have disastrous consequences. He further said that in recent years, the fake news milling has gained momentum and blurred the accuracy of news space. The President said that unless a nation was equipped with modern concepts and technologies including the emerging concept of artificial intelligence, dream of becoming a progressive and developed country would remain a far dream. He thanked media for their support on his initiative on artificial intelligence which, he added had gained a big success in Karachi and now has been recently launched in Islamabad and Faisalabad. The President said that Pakistan would fully support peace process in Afghanistan and actively contribute for its rebuilding. Earlier SAPM on Information and Broadcasting Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan said that the guidance and the patronage of the President Dr. Arif Alvi has always been very encouraging for the development of media in Pakistan. She also assured the media community of support from the Government for responsible journalism in the country. President CPNE,

Arif Nizami, expressed the gratitude of media community to President Dr. Arif Alvi for his constant support to the media community in the country. He further said that it was the responsibility of the media community to fact-check news for accuracy before disseminating it to curb the trend of fake news.

The President expressed his strong resolve to continue his efforts to create awareness on the most vital social issues such as malnutrition, infant mortality, population growth, and women's right to inheritance





Diplomats celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr with traditional zeal

Eidul Fitr is being celebrated across Pakistan on Wednesday with traditional zeal and fervor. Congregational prayers were held across the country to mark the end of the holy month of Ramazan.

President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday felicitated the nation and Muslims across the globe in separate messages.

President Alvi urged Pakistanis to adopt “fraternity and compassion in their ranks and work for the progress and prosperity of the country by rising above personal, regional and sectarian biases.”

PM Imran urged the countrymen to show compassion and share with deserving people. “The government has embarked upon the journey to put the country on the track of progress and prosperity,” he wrote. “The State of Madinah had become a model in human history that had won laurels for contributing to human welfare.”





British Airways is resuming its flight operation to Pakistan after gap of eighteen years

By M. Bilal Zafar

British Airways is resuming its flight operation to Pakistan after gap of eighteen years. First flight of British Airways (BA- 261) is arriving at Islamabad International Airport (IIAP) on 3rd June, 2019 (Monday) at 9:25 A.M from Heathrow (London) where 240 passengers will arrive by the Boeing 787 Dreamliner with Pakistani and British flags in their hands. In line with the spirit of this joyous occasion, Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Minister for Aviation, Mr. Abdur Razak Dawood, Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, Industry and Production, Mr. Zulfiqar Hussain Bukhari, Special Assistant on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development along with Mr. Shahrukh Nusrat, Secretary Aviation, senior officials of Aviation Division, and the British High Commission will welcome the passengers at Islamabad International Airport. The same aircraft, as flight BA- 260, will depart for Heathrow at 11:10 A.M with passengers on board from Islamabad. Later in the day, Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Minister for Aviation, Mr. Abdur Razak Dawood, Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, Industry and Production, and Ms. Firdous Ashiq Awan along with Mr. Thomas Drew, the British Higher Commission, Andrew Brem chief commercial

officer British Airways and Shshrukh Nusrat Secretary Aviation / DG CAA will hold a joint Press Conference. As per the flight programme during the summer season, the British Airways will fly thrice a week between London Heathrow and Islamabad. Considering presence of large Pakistani diaspora in the United Kingdom, the BA flights will provide a convenient connection between the two countries. Apart from the diaspora, the flight link will promote cultural values, tourism and business opportunities between the United Kingdom and Pakistan. As a new hub for air travel, Islamabad International Airport will provide easy and convenient access to all parts of Pakistan. Several other major air operators have shown keen interest in initiating operations to Islamabad. It is expected that with the growth of number of passengers and cargo traffic, the initiatives will provide impetus to the growth of the aviation sector in line with the National Aviation Policy, 2019. The Aviation Division stands committed to provide world-class passenger experience at Pakistan's airports with its state-of-the-art facilities and technological excellence. Statement of Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Federal Minister for Aviation. The resumption of British Airways' flight operation will be counted as a major milestone in the aviation history of Pakistan. The London

Islamabad route will provide direct connection and ease of transport for our diaspora based in UK.



Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood and Special Assistant on Overseas Pakistanis Zulfiqar Hussain Bukhari welcome Passengers at the airport.



Speaker Asad Qaiser invited Czech investors to take benefit of economic opportunities in Pakistan

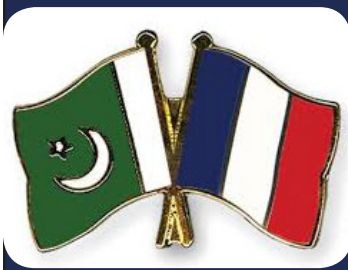
By M. Bilal Zafar

A five-member Czech Parliamentary delegation led by Mr. Daniel Pawlas, Member of Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic and Chairman of the Czech-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group met Speaker National Assembly Mr. Asad Qaiser in Parliament House. Talking to the Czech Parliamentarians, the Speaker Asad Qaiser said that Pakistan attaches immense importance to its old relations with Czech Republic and desires their further consolidation through enhancing people to people and parliamentary contacts. The Speaker was convinced that the instant visit of the Czech Parliamentarians would prove instrumental in fostering coordination and understanding between the legislative bodies of the two countries. Appraising the delegation about immense economic opportunities arising out of the economic reforms introduced by the government and the CPEC, the Speaker said that Czech investors must seize those opportunities for mutual benefit of both the countries. He suggested for Czech participation in the energy, infrastructure, manufacturing and agriculture sectors for which Pakistan and Czech Diplomatic Missions in Prague and Islamabad, respectively could play a proactive role. He further informed that reforms in economy also aimed at sustainable economic growth and social sector development. The Speaker suggested for

formation of a joint working group comprising Members of Parliamentary Friendship Group on both sides to discuss, identify and formulate recommendation for future cooperation between both the countries. Mr. Daniel Pawlas, MP thanked the Speaker for kind hospitality extended to him and his delegation in Islamabad. He profoundly recalled his country's relations with Pakistan and expressed desire to further cement them through enhanced cooperation in parliamentary as well as diverse sectors of economy. He informed that a delegation comprising array of entrepreneurs and potential investors have also arrived in Islamabad, yesterday that would meet representatives of Chambers of Commerce and Trade in Islamabad and Lahore to discuss prospects of future economic cooperation between Czech Republic and Pakistan. Mr. Daniel was optimistic that the Pakistan Government's endeavors would help improve the socio-economic conditions in the country and extended his country's all-out support in that regard. He also expressed his deep appreciation and acknowledgment for Pakistan's contribution in its peace initiatives. He informed that due to higher standard and affordability of education in the Republic, students world-wide were opting to study in Czech Universities. He also expressed the need to explore prospects in fields of education and healthcare. The members of the Czech parliamentary delegation Mr. Michal

Ratiborskey, Mr. Peter Sadovsky, Mr. Antonin Kubos and Mr. Jaroslav Roman, MNAs Ms. Aliya Hamza Malik, Ms. Andleeb Abass, Secretary National Assembly and the officials of Czech Embassy were present during the call on. Later the delegation will meet Chairman Senate, Foreign Minister, Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce and Textile and Industry and Production besides holding dialogue with their counterparts in Pakistan Parliament.





Pakistan & France Cooperation in Higher Education is Benefiting Pakistani Students

By M Bilal Zafar

Pakistan-France cooperation in higher education sector is expanding with more and more Pakistani students choosing French Universities of higher learning to pursue their Masters and PhD degrees, says a press release received here today from Paris. This was stated by the Ambassador of Pakistan to France Mr. Moin ul Haque while addressing the opening ceremony of Presentation of final PhD thesis by five Pakistani students held in Campus France, Paris, today. The opening ceremony

was attended by the senior officials of Campus France, faculty members, French government officials, students and media persons. In his opening address, the Ambassador congratulated the Pakistani students on successfully completing their PhD studies. He expressed his satisfaction on the ongoing cooperation between the higher education and research institutes of Pakistan and France. He said that the recent frequent exchanges of educational delegations under the auspices of Campus France and Higher

Education Commission of Pakistan have laid a sound foundation for bilateral cooperation in the field of higher studies. Currently more than 800 Pakistani students are pursuing Masters and PhD degrees in different universities of France in diverse disciplines under special scholarship schemes being offered by government of Pakistan and France. Campus France, a French equivalent of Higher Education Commission of Pakistan was created in 2010 with the aim of promoting the French higher education and vocational training system abroad.



H.E. M. Nafees Zakaria High Commissioner of Pakistan presents his Credentials to Her Majesty The Queen

By Mian Fazal Elahi

High Commissioner for Pakistan to the UK, Mohammad Nafees Zakaria presented his Credentials to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, at a formal ceremony held at Buckingham Palace.

The High Commissioner and his Spouse were escorted in a state carriage by the Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps from the Pakistan High Commission, London.

During the audience, the High Commissioner presented his Letters of Credence to The Queen, who accredited him as the High Commissioner for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The High Commissioner, on behalf of the President, the Prime Minister and the people of Pakistan, conveyed best wishes to the Queen, the Royal family, the government and people of the United Kingdom.

He mentioned that Her Majesty's message of goodwill given during her visits to Pakistan still resonates well with the people of Pakistan, who hold her in very high esteem. Mr Zakaria also expressed his resolve to work for further strengthening of the relations between the two countries.

Her Majesty warmly welcomed the High Commissioner and his Spouse to the Buckingham Palace. Appreciating friendly relations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom, Her Majesty The Queen extended warm wishes to the Government, people and the Leadership of Pakistan.

The High Commissioner recollected the cherished memories of Her Majesty's two landmark visits to Pakistan in 1961 and 1997. He presented an album containing memories of Her Majesty's visits. The Leadership and the people of Pakistan are keen to welcome

more Royal visits to Pakistan, added the High Commissioner.

In keeping with the tradition, the High Commissioner presented to Her Majesty the world renowned handcrafted goods and delicious mangoes of Pakistan. Her Majesty appreciated the High Commissioner's gesture. After the audience with the Queen, the High Commissioner and his Spouse returned to the High Commission by the state carriage.

On this occasion, a Reception was held at the High Commission, which was attended by Diplomatic fraternity, Parliamentarians, Host Government's high representatives, members of the Pakistani community from various walks of life and media representatives.





Ceremonial parade mark official celebration of Queen Elizabeth's **93rd** birthday

By Mian AsadUllah

Queen Elizabeth II marked her official birthday with the annual trooping the Colour parade, a traditional display of British pageantry at its very best. The parade has marked the official birthday of the reigning British monarch for more than 260 years, and this year featured more than 1,400 soldiers, nearly 300 horses and 400 musicians in a ceremony on Horse Guards Parade in Westminster.

The display closed with a fly-past by Britain's Royal Air Force. Royals taking part included Prince Charles, Prince William and his wife Kate, and Prince Harry and his wife Meghan who appeared in her first public outing since giving birth to their son, Archie, to watch the birthday fly-past of military aircraft. Baby Archie did not appear, but another young royal almost stole the queen's limelight when he made his debut on Buckingham Palace's balcony. One-year-old Prince Louis, the youngest child of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, waved frantically at the first of the helicopters in the show. The queen marks her birthday twice a year as an official ceremony is always held in June, in hopes of holding the parade in good weather. Her actual birthday, on April 21, is usually celebrated with close family only. Thousands of spectators lined the parade ground and gathered in nearby St James's park to watch the spectacle in sparkling sunshine. They then walked down the road leading to Buckingham Palace, gathering at the gates to honor the monarch ahead of the fly-past, the punctuation mark of the annual event. It's been a big week for the monarch. Demonstrating the close link between the monarchy and the armed forces, she was the centre of ceremonies marking the



75th anniversary of the D-Day landings, the invasion of France that marked the beginning of the end of the Nazis. But if the 93-year-old sovereign was tired, it didn't show. She waved and smiled as she emerged on the balcony and the crowd roared. The ceremony originated from traditional preparations for battle. The colors or flags were "trooped," or carried down the lines of soldiers, so they could be seen and recognised in battle. The regimental flag being paraded this year is from the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards.





Pakistan & UK boosted strategic dialogue

By Mian AsadUllah

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi and British Foreign Secretary Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt held 4th review of Pakistan-UK Enhanced Strategic Dialogue (ESD) at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, today. The Dialogue is an institutional mechanism between the two countries to further deepen bilateral relations in the areas of trade and investment, security, education and cultural cooperation, says a press release received from London here today. The two leaders reaffirmed their respective country's commitment to take this relationship forward and work for shared prosperity reinforced by the strong Pakistani Diaspora and friendship between the two nations. They reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and agreed to continue building upon the cooperation within the framework of ESD to take this partnership forward. Matters related to regional tensions, Pakistan's progress on FATF and climate change were also discussed during the meeting. The two leaders noted with satisfaction convergence of interest and Foreign Minister Qureshi appreciated the UK's understanding and support to Pakistan in these areas. Trade and Investment both sides agreed to strengthen relations through enhanced bilateral trade links and investment ventures between the two countries. For enhancing this partnership, the two countries will work together to facilitate business to business contacts, explore niche areas for investment such as tourism, infrastructure development, education and



Foreign Minister, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi Shaking hand With the UK Home Secretary Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid at his office in the House of Commons in London on 17-6-2019



Foreign Minister, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi Shaking hand With UK's DFID Secretary Rt. Hon. Rory Stewart at the DFID Headquarters in London on 19-6-2019.

agriculture, improve the business climate and raise awareness about market opportunities in Pakistan. Secretary Hunt announced the UK Department for International Trade's decision to double the available support for exports to Pakistan from up to £400 million to £1 billion as part of the growing cooperation in economic terms between the two countries. Development Cooperation Foreign Minister Qureshi highlighted the productive discussions he had earlier in the day with the Secretary of State for International Development Rory Stewart and pledged to continue to build upon those interactions for poverty alleviation and capacity building. Security Pakistan and the UK reaffirmed their continuing cooperation in security and counter terrorism measures in accordance with the National Action Plan. They agreed to enhance capacity building and information sharing as part of their commitment to achieve greater success in the global fight against terrorism and terror financing, organised crime, money laundering and illegal migration. Both sides pledged to move forward with an early conclusion of the extradition treaty and readmission agreement. Culture and Education both sides agreed to carry forward the institutional framework of ESD in the areas of culture and education forward to build upon the people to people links and the extraordinary personal connections between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with the UK's DFID Secretary Rt. Hon. Rory Stewart at the DFID Headquarters in London today. The two Ministers reviewed UK's development assistance to Pakistan in health, education and capacity building in other areas of priority under the institutional framework of Enhanced Strategic Dialogue (ESD), says a press release received from London here today. Pakistan and the UK committed to closely cooperate towards ongoing DFID projects. They also agreed to monitor closely and cooperate on matters relating to institutional capacity building of the various government institutions towards effective public service delivery and

skills development. Minister Qureshi and the Secretary International Development undertook to further explore and identify new areas that could help in poverty alleviation and uplifting of low-income groups. To that end, tourism was noted as one area with economic benefits for the common people. Foreign Minister Qureshi briefed Secretary Stewart on the Prime Minister of Pakistan's people welfare and socioeconomic program Ehsaas that was launched earlier this year. Both sides agreed to closely collaborate in the field of development cooperation for the realisation of shared goals to achieve prosperity at grassroots level through social sector development, capacity building and security assistance. Mr. Qureshi thanked the UK Government for their support to Pakistan through their overseas development assistance program which reflected the strong bonds that exist between the two countries. Foreign Minister Qureshi was visiting the UK at his British counterpart's invitation for the 4th review of Pakistan-UK Enhanced Strategic Dialogue (ESD)



Foreign Minister, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi British Foreign Secretary Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt Shaking hand before the 4th review of Pakistan-UK Enhanced Strategic Dialogue (ESD) at the Commonwealth office on 19-06-2019.



Foreign Minister, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi Shaking Hand With the Leader of Liberal Democrats, Sir Vince Cable MP at the House of Commons in London.



Foreign Minister of Pakistan Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi meeting with British Pakistani Parliamentarians at the Pakistan High Commission London on 17-6-2019.



Foreign Minister of Pakistan Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi meeting with business persons and entrepreneurs at the Pakistan High Commission London on 17-6-2019.

A portrait of H.E. Mr. Manuel Durán Giménez-Rico, Ambassador of Spain to Pakistan. He is a middle-aged man with a bald head and a grey beard, smiling at the camera. He is wearing a dark blue suit, a white shirt, and a red patterned tie. His arms are crossed. In the background, there are three flags: the Pakistani flag on the left, the Spanish flag in the center, and the European Union flag on the right. The setting appears to be an official building with large windows showing greenery outside.

Pakistan and Spain enjoy extremely cordial and friendly ties.

**H.E. Mr. Manuel Durán Giménez-Rico,
Ambassador of Spain to Pakistan**

Your Excellency! First of all, I, on behalf of 'Diplomatic Focus' appreciate your efforts for enhancing the bilateral relations and praise your role as an Ambassador of Spain in Pakistan. I am also thankful to you for giving us time out of your busy schedule.

DF: Your Excellency Pakistani people are not familiar about your past life so I would like to know about your childhood memories, family background, education and how you started your diplomatic career?

I belong to a big family. My parents had 10 children and I am the fourth of the lot. I had a happy childhood; I went to catholic school in Madrid just like the rest of my siblings. My parents were obsessed with our education, especially with the fact that English had to be our priority. In those days, English was taught at schools, but the level was not too high. So we were all sent to summer schools in Ireland to better our level of English. I was delighted with these wonderful summers abroad and

I am impressed at how hospitable Pakistani people can be, how proud they are of their country, their culture, their history... and I love that. I love peoples who take pride in what their ancestors transmitted to them

I decided that I also wanted to perfect my French, so basically I spent all my summer holidays between Ireland and France.

My father was a medical Doctor but he had some diplomat friends. One summer I was invited by the Spanish Ambassador to China, my father's best friend, to spend a summer with his family in Beijing, and that was it... I decided I wanted to become a diplomat.

DF: Your Excellency! You are appointed as an ambassador in Pakistan. How do you find people conduct in Pakistan and what was your opinion about Pakistan before moving here? In addition to this question can you please tell me what would be your main focal point to improve further relationship between Pakistan and Spain?

I am impressed at how hospitable Pakistani people can be, how proud they are of their country, their culture, their history... and I love that. I love peoples who take pride in what their ancestors transmitted to them. Before



coming to Pakistan I had talked a lot with my predecessor, who happens to be a good friend of mine. He loved this country and his words of love and respect for Pakistan made me come here with a very positive predisposition. I was not disappointed. His friends became instantly my friends. I landed on a country that welcomed me.

I want to help improve the relationship between Pakistan and Spain by encouraging Spanish companies to invest in this country, by promoting Spanish culture in Pakistan, by convincing the Pakistani youth that learning the Spanish language will allow them to dive into a new world of music, cinema, literature... and also will immediately create a bond between them and more than 400 million Spanish speaking people all around the globe. I want the Pakistanis living in Spain, more than 100,000, to feel at home in my country, and I think they can convey their love for Spain to their fellow

citizens thus becoming great Ambassadors of Spain here too.

DF: Excellency! You have been serving here for the last several months as ambassador here in Pakistan, My question is how would you like to rank Pakistan in terms of tourism, trade and development and also bilateral relations with Spain?

Pakistan is becoming a very attractive tourist destination for many Spaniards. Especially nature lovers, hikers and young, and not so young, people willing to discover the wonders of the northern areas of Pakistan. This is also a very attractive market for Spanish investors and exporters. 200 hundred million people are a huge market full of potential for Spanish business people. Spain has reached a peak in terms of tourists visiting our country, approximately 75.6 million tourists visited in 2018. We have learned a lot about hosting millions of visitors every year. Our hospitality





Pakistan is becoming a very attractive tourist destination for many Spaniards.

Especially nature lovers, hikers and young, and not so young, people willing to discover the wonders of the northern areas of Pakistan

industries have reached a high degree of sophistication. We have a lot to share with the Pakistani emerging tourist business and also with the new schools and universities that are including hospitality in their curricula. Bilateral relations Spain-Pakistan are going in the right direction. We only need to increase the level of trade and to encourage both parties to get to know each other better in order to explore new ways of cooperating

DF: Your Excellency! Business and trade has become vital for countries these days. What do you think how much is the opportunity for business here in Pakistan for investors of Spain and what is opportunities for Pakistani businessmen there in Spain?

Pakistan is opening itself to foreign investors. Now is the time to encourage potential Spanish investors to establish themselves here. Things are already happening. The Embassy has a commercial section which is actively helping

different Spanish companies which have shown their interest in the Pakistani market. There are many fields that would benefit from the Spanish expertise: railways (the Spanish high speed train that links Mecca and Medina has shown the world how professionally Spanish companies perform), tourism, alternative energies, technological support to local companies.

DF: Your Excellency! Pakistan is keen to increase its volume of exports? Are Spanish companies interested for any joint ventures with Pakistani Companies?

Absolutely, not only in the textile field, but also in the development of a modern railway network and possibly in the hotel industry. Pakistan exports more to Spain than what you import from us. But I am sure that both countries will increase their levels of bilateral trade as soon as they start knowing each other better. And that is what we are trying to achieve

by helping many Pakistani entrepreneurs visit our fairs in Spain and also by inviting Spanish business people to Pakistan to explore the possibilities this country has to offer.

DF: Your Excellency! Spain educational system is considered one of the finest education systems. I would like to know how many Pakistani students are enrolled in the universities of Spain. Would you further increasing the number of students under scholarship programs?

Unfortunately figures are not very high if one excludes the children of the Pakistani citizens who live in Spain. Many of these students were born in Spain and therefore they are not Pakistani students benefitting from scholarship programs for foreign students. But I am confident that these figures will increase in the

I think that Pakistan has managed to show the world that things have changed in a very positive way. It is rather obvious that the security situation has improved in Pakistan. This is slowly but surely turning Pakistan into a tourist destination for the foreign traveler.



future because I have noticed that there is a growing interest in the learning of Spanish here in Pakistan, and that automatically translates into more students wanting to do courses in Spain. Scholarship programs highly depend on the agreements that the Spanish Universities might reach with Pakistani ones. And we are encouraging this kind of exchanges by trying to put in contact universities from both countries.

DF: Your Excellency! What is your point of view about Islamophobia? If I relate New Zealand mosque attacked incident with this question?

I cannot relate to any kind of phobia. Hatred is never the answer. What happened in New Zealand should never happen again. The best way to combat Islamophobia, or any kind of phobia, is through education. We must educate our children so that they become tolerant human beings. Open-minded, men and women ready to co-exist with people who are different from them.

Phobias are destructive; they never bring prosperity or bounty. Education, education, education.

I encourage the readers of Diplomatic Focus to travel to Spain, to become interested in our language, our culture and our cuisine. You will not be disappointed.

DF: Your Excellency! The perception of foreigners is not good about the security and law and order situation but during the period of 2013 to 2018 the law and order situation of Pakistan is really improved. Is perception about Pakistan is change regarding the security situation?

Absolutely, I think that Pakistan has managed to show the world that things have changed in a very positive way. It is rather obvious that the security situation has improved in Pakistan. This is slowly but surely turning Pakistan into a tourist destination for the foreign traveler. Especially for those who want to discover lavish trails and a culture they are not familiar with. And let's not forget the gastronomic side of the tourist industry. Pakistan has a lot to offer. Diversity is a word that defines this country and tourists know that. They know that each corner of the country offers a new surprise.

DF: Your Excellency! Pakistan tourism summit 2019 highlighted the undiscovered potential the country possesses. Are people of Spain willing to come in Pakistan and visit the most



beautiful natural tourist places of the world?

They are. Firstly, because for many, Pakistan represents the unknown and that is always very attractive. Secondly because the word is spreading that here one can enjoy unspoiled wonders of nature and visit amazing historical sites and excavations about cultures that are unknown to them. Last but not least, because the hospitality of the Pakistani people goes very well with the Spanish mentality, also family-oriented like the Pakistani one, and much focused on gatherings around delicious food and friendly faces.

DF: Your Excellency! People to people contact are very necessary to further deep rooting the bilateral relations between the two countries? My question is how many people of Spain visited Pakistan for tourism in the last year 2018 and how many Pakistani people went to Spain in 2018?

Approximately 10,000 tourists visas were issued to Pakistanis in 2018.

DF: Would you like to give any message for the people of Pakistan and the readers of Diplomatic focus magazine?

I would like to thank my Pakistani friends for warmly welcoming me in their country, for making me feel at home from day one and for sharing with me their traditions, their thoughts on many issues and of course for opening their houses to me. I encourage the readers of Diplomatic Focus to travel to Spain, to become interested in our language, our culture and our cuisine. You will not be disappointed.

At the end I am thankful to you and give my finest regards and best wishes to the people of Spain. May God bless Spain with progress and prosperity!



Maritime Cooperative Continuum: Pakistan Navy's Evolving Maritime Security Concept

Sohail Azmie

Maritime scene in the Indian Ocean remains in a state of flux due to occasional tensions among the regional states. Conspicuous naval activity is indicative of the Ocean's primacy among the other oceans of the world. "Strategic maneuvering" of the great powers, as claimed by the Hague Centre for Strategic Studies in its report 'Maritime Future of the Indian Ocean (2010)', coupled with rising maritime crimes, as reported by UNODC, in the Indian Ocean makes it the geostrategic centre of gravity. Pakistan has taken a full stock of the emerging maritime milieu and launched an initiative of 'Regional Maritime Security Patrols', better known as RMSP, in 2018. Main purpose of RMSP, as the sources suggest, would be to ensure safety and security of sea lanes from where majority of Pakistan

and regional countries' commerce passes through. RMSP, as the name suggests, could extend maritime security to other countries of the region.

Cognizant of the fluidity in its seas, Pakistan Navy, reportedly, deployed two ships, under its banner of RMSP, whilst leading the multinational task force CTF-150, to expand what may be termed as 'maritime cooperative continuum'. At one end of the continuum is unilaterally independent deployment; while at the other is a principled multilateral engagement seeking maritime security for the Indian Ocean Region. Devoting more ships for RMSP is reflective of Pakistan navy's seriousness and operational focus that governs its strategic choices in a region in need of a player on whose agenda tops the freedom of the seas. Despite the recent post-Pulwama crises, Pakistan navy remained undeviating in pursuance of its principal objective of preserving security in its immediate and extended maritime neighborhoods. This article argues that the 'maritime security continuum' - embracing both CTF and RMSP - as appeared to have been adopted by Pakistan Navy is a concept that could be well suited to the regional setting's juxtaposed threats that the Indian Ocean Region faces. There are three key reasons that make the continuum concept a consistent and enduring one: 1) recourse to region-centric mechanisms, 2) working with but reducing dependence on extra-regional players and 3) need for smaller navies to cooperate.

RMSP is a region-centric initiative that must aim to embrace the other regional maritime states under its flag. Angela Floristella notes in her work 'The ASEAN Regional Security Partnership (2015)' that "regional initiatives have come to be seen as catalysts of change and stability in terms of peace, security and order". Floristella opines that regional architectures are the

best to resolve conflicts and strengthen security because of the comprehension of complexities that the region might have, as outsiders cannot read the regional environment fully thereby failing to array the security priorities that a region might require.

Regional cooperation, especially in the maritime domain, has not been a non-causal phenomenon. Emergence of several types of transnational threats compelled maritime nations to incentivize cooperation at sea, which led to creation of several multilateral cooperative maritime security constructs, e.g., US-led CMF, NATO-led 'Sea Guardian', Indian Ocean Rim Association etc. Geoffrey Till, in his book 'The Changing Maritime Scene in Asia (2015)', believes that Asia would see encouraging rise in naval and coast guard cooperation to improve maritime security in the region as he contends

Pakistan Navy Preserving Freedom of the Seas', published in the Maritime Study Forum on 4 February 2019, that maritime complexity necessitates cooperation rather than competition' among the littoral states

Pakistan Navy, through the adoption of maritime cooperative continuum concept, is sending a message that it is both willing to participate in multinational maritime task forces and able to begin its own initiatives to pursue what it calls 'preserving freedom of the seas'

that “maritime Asia appears to be the scene of both continuity and substantial change”. One may rightly regard RMSP as a reflection of that change. As I noted in my piece ‘Regional Maritime Security Patrols: Pakistan Navy Preserving Freedom of the Seas’, published in the Maritime Study Forum on 4 February 2019, that maritime complexity necessitates ‘cooperation rather than competition’ among the littoral states. I argued there that the initiatives like RMSP must be calibrated to maintain, regionally, a threat-free environment so that economic, scientific and social activities at sea could continue unhindered. It may be termed as ‘extension of security’ from one’s own space to another across

There is a greater likelihood that the interventions by extra-regional forces would not be welcome by the Asian maritime nations in future as these get stronger to assume broader charge of their security affairs by themselves

the Indian Ocean Region.

Until recently, outsiders, mostly the US and the Europeans, maintained a maritime order in seas that washed the shores of most of the Asian nations, especially, the South Asian ones. Toshi Yoshihara observes, in ‘Asia Looks Seaward: Power and Maritime Strategy (2008)’, pronounced focus towards maritime power, among the Asian nations, and he posits that “clustered fleets of navies are growing at fairly rapid rates”, and could unsettle the outsiders and assume larger role of maritime security at the regional level themselves. This could mean a higher probability of conflict but could also open significant prospects of cooperation whilst operating

in proximity of the naval forces with extra-regional maritime powers. There is a greater likelihood that the interventions by extra-regional forces would not be welcome by the Asian maritime nations in future as these get stronger to assume broader charge of their security affairs by themselves. China, for instance, uses the term ‘counter intervention operations’ for its navy, to keep the intruding powers at bay.

Nonetheless, the Pakistan Navy pursues the continuum concept and shows its eagerness to be a member of the US-initiated maritime security architectures of CTF-150 and CTF-151. These task forces have been highly successful in countering drug trafficking, human smuggling and gun running. Such constructive outcomes, which Pakistan always welcome and, therefore, vowed to remain part of the task forces despite strategic strain in relations with the US. At the same time, the country does not espouse the idea of complete outsourcing of security to these combined tasks forces, hence the RMSP. RMSP and CTF could work at the same time with overlapping areas of responsibility but with a clear command and state-dictated articulation of charter. RMSP means to radiate the message of regional maritime cooperation signifying that dependence on external forces needs to be reduced in the future.

Nature and spectrum of transnational threats, however, would keep the regional maritime forces glued to cooperation so that the rise and expansion of these threats can be credibly checked. Regional navies like the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, South Korea, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are developing modern naval capabilities to ensure that the sea becomes a cornerstone in their security priorities. Nevertheless, since developing a navy is an expensive proposition, as Michael McDevitt points out in ‘Small Navies (2014)’, therefore cooperation at sea would be seen an ‘operationally attractive’ scheme. Pakistan Navy’s continuum concept, wherein region-centric RMSP is the critical component; and in the same vein Pakistani policymakers should afford regional navies to become part of the initiative. Mechanics of integration into RMSP could then be worked out, which could be: 1) these navies may allocate ships for RMSP on ‘plug and play’ basis

as Robert Kaplan refers to in his article ‘Center Stage for the 21st Century: Power Plays in the Indian Ocean’, published in Foreign Affairs magazine in 2009; 2) or the ships of the regional navies may integrate for Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) through mutually agreed terms, which could ensure operationally consistent use of resources to maintain a redoubtable poise against the perpetrators of maritime crime.

Pakistan Navy, through the adoption of maritime cooperative continuum concept, is sending a message that it is both willing to participate in multinational maritime task forces and able to begin its own initiatives to pursue what it calls

The Pakistan Navy pursues the continuum concept and shows its eagerness to be a member of the US-initiated maritime security architectures of CTF-150 and CTF-151. These task forces have been highly successful in countering drug trafficking, human smuggling and gun running.

‘preserving freedom of the seas’. Coming of age, Pakistan Navy looks set on its course of cooperation as it braces itself to ensure a threat free environment for maritime commerce, exploration and other activities to proceed, uninterrupted. Initiation of RMSP and continued participation in CMF express Pakistan’s keenness to assume greater responsibility for ensuing security of the maritime commons in the Indian Ocean. RMSP, in its own characteristics, is a relevant and time-critical initiative, which should be extended to regional navies so that it can become an enduring partnership for preserving security at sea.



Message for Great Libyan People by
H.E. Mr. Fayez Mustafa Alsarraj,
President of the Presidential Council
State of Libya

An Initiative to Resolve the Libyan Crisis

I would like at the outset to ask God to bestow His mercy upon the souls of our martyrs who lost their lives because of the blatant aggression on Tripoli and its suburbs and pray for a speedy recovery for the wounded and the injured. We also pray to God to grant us the strength to secure the return of the displaced to their homes as soon as possible.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Since the beginning of its work and despite all the challenges and difficult circumstances, the Government of National Accord (GNA) has always firmly believed that there could be no solution in Libya except through dialogue between Libyans. Dialogue is, in fact, the only means to overcome the crisis. Therefore, we exerted continuous efforts in this direction, held meetings with the

Since the beginning of its work and despite all the challenges and difficult circumstances, the Government of National Accord (GNA) has always firmly believed that there could be no solution in Libya except through dialogue between Libyans

various segments and strata of society, and encouraged meetings between Libyans.

We are advocates of peace and accord. However, when the aggression took place, we did not hesitate to confront it with force, in defense of our people and our capital, as well as in defense of the civil state aspired to by all Libyans, the principles of which were established by the Seventeenth of February revolution. We firmly believe that our forces can vanquish the aggression and compel the aggressors to return to where they came from. This aggression aims to erode the democratic process and reverse it.

Also aspires to impose domination and totalitarian government, embodied in autocratic and family rule. We, therefore, took all the necessary measures to mobilize our national army and brave soldiers, and achieved victory, with the help of God.

We proved to the whole world that the operation entitled “Volcano of Anger” can dispel all the illusions that the aggressor had. Repeatedly, we have stressed that there is no military solution to the conflict in Libya. Despite the clarity of this fact to all, the aggressor insisted to continue the war, misleading those siding with him that they were engaged in glorious “Jihad”, and great “conquest”.

All parties attest to the fact that we have achieved positive results, both locally and internationally, in various fields. The security arrangements made in Tripoli and other cities contributed considerably to the spread of security, and the absorption of armed groups into the police, military and civil institutions of the state. We have, furthermore, defeated ISIS in Sirt and other areas, thanks to the sacrifices made by our heroes, the strategic cooperation with friendly countries, and the International Alliance against Terrorism. This cooperation continues until the present time. We shall spare no effort to eliminate this scourge despite all challenges. As for the economic domain, the recovery process has stated through reform programmes which depend on integration and harmony of monetary, fiscal and trade policies, as well as rationalization of expenditure, support of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), and raising production to optimum levels.

Ladies and Gentlemen

We all know that we were close to holding the Comprehensive National Conference, but the aggressor, in a stark defiance to all, made a failed attempt to impose a new reality and undermine the will of Libyans. However, thanks to our brave soldiers in the army and the supporting forces, the aggressor and his militias were taught lessons in heroism and fighting. The myth that the aggressor had a professional army and his boasting that entering Tripoli was a “picnic” which would last two days, were proven false. Today, the aggressor has been conquered and humiliated with defeat.

In this context, I would like to say to our people in our beloved East that your history has always shown your rejection of oppression and tyranny, and your refusal to be instruments of division between Libyans. This is, in fact, precisely what this adventurer is seeking, but you are innocent from that. The mongers of discord endeavor to portray what we are witnessing these days as a

confrontation between East and West, or a war against terrorism and extremism. This is pure nonsense. The time has come for the silent majority to speak up: Enough killing of our youths, enough mourning for the dead. The war will undoubtedly end, and those who provoked it will reap nothing but repentance. However, I do salute those who went out in defiance of this blatant aggression and raised the voice of truth against it, despite all threats.

Out of my sense of national responsibility and despite the blatant aggression on us, which we will use all our resources to defeat, I would like to present our political initiative to circumvent the crisis. I call upon the Libyan people to rally to its support in order to complete our national struggle and our march towards the building of the democratic state.

We will endeavor to raise the level of competence and performance of the Government so that it can cope with the nature of the ensuing national entitlements, especially in the services, economic and security sectors

The initiative is summarized in the following points:

First: Convening a Libyan Forum, in coordination with the UNSMIL, which will represent all the National Forces and components of the Libyan people, from all regions, who have political and social influence, and who advocate a peaceful and democratic solution, and who call for the rights of citizenship and the building of a civil state: The state of Law and Institutions.

Second: In the said Forum, agreement should be reached on a road map for the upcoming period and the establishment of the proper constitutional basis for holding Presidential and Parliamentary elections simultaneously before the end of 2019. A competent legal committee will be nominated by the forum to formulate the

I would like to say to our people in our beloved East that your history has always shown your rejection of oppression and tyranny, and your refusal to be instruments of division between Libyans.

specific laws for the entitlements agreed upon.

Third: The Forum shall approve the laws related to the constitutional process and to the electoral process, submitted by the legal committee, which will specify the dates for the elections and other commitments, to be forwarded thereafter to the High National Electoral Commission.

Fourth: The Forum will call upon Security Council and the International Community to support this Agreement. its outputs will be binding to all. The United Nations will undertake the preparation and the organization for the electoral process. The Forum will call upon the African Union and the European Union to provide the necessary support for the success of all the entitlements.

Fifth: Committees will be established, under the supervision of the United Nations, composed from the current executive and security bodies in all regions, to secure the

An international investigation should be opened into the crimes of war and crimes against humanity committed during the attack on the capital and other Libyan cities.

availability of all the necessary capabilities and resources for the entitlements related to the elections, including the necessary arrangements for their successful implementation.

Sixth: Agreement should be reached, through the Forum, upon the necessary mechanisms for the activation of decentralized management, optimum, use of financial resources, just and comprehensive development for all regions of Libya, with securing transparency and good governance.

Seventh: The Forum should lead to the formation of a High Commission for National Reconciliation which will monitor and supervise upon the National Reconciliation process. The Commission will also be responsible for the enactment of the Transitional Justice Law, the General Amnesty Law and reparation law, except for those who committed war crimes, or crimes against humanity.

Ladies and Gentlemen

During this remaining period, we will endeavor to raise the level of competence and performance of the Government so that it can cope with the nature of the ensuing national entitlements, especially in the services, economic and security sectors. We will also complete our review of the revenues and expenditure of the Central Bank in Tripoli and AlBaida, agreed upon with UNSMIL. We will also continue making security arrangements and work on project aiming at the establishment of

a military and security institution based on professional criteria and foundations. The task of the said establishment is to protect the country and safeguard its sovereignty. Our brave soldiers and revolutionaries will be integrated into this establishment from all over Libya.

In this respect, we call upon the International Community to lend its support to this initiative. We call upon it also to show more resolve and determination with the aggressor. An international investigation should be opened into the crimes of war and crimes against humanity committed during the attack on the capital and other Libyan cities.

In conclusion

I wish to convey a salute of great respect and gratitude to our armed forces, composed of army personnel, supporting forces and brave revolutionaries in all battle lines. indeed they wrote great epics of heroism. I vow that the blood shed by our martyrs will not be in vain. The battle continues. Although I am a man of peace, I will never allow the aspirations and hopes of Libyans to be stolen. I will continue to lead this battle against tyranny and domination. No one can deter us from continuing our struggle to defeat the aggressor, turn him back, and put an end to his dictatorial ambitions.

The oppressor shall reap the harvest of his oppression.



Statement issued by Foreign Ministry of Libyan Government of National Accord

Regarding targeting Tajura Centre Shelter for illegal Immigrants

First, May Allah have mercy on those who lost their lives in this aggression and intentional airstrike by Hafter Forces on the Centre Shelter for illegal immigrants {in Municipality of Tajura more than 70 innocent victims have fallen, whom were seeking better life and peace.

The Foreign Ministry of the National Accord Government condemns with strongest terms this terrible massacre and intentional airstrike, demands the whole international Community and particularly The African Union to take immediate action and investigate to identify the jet related to Hafter Forces aggressors on the capital Tripoli.

The Foreign Ministry denounces this horrible crime and welcomes the African Union to investigate independently and transparently to hold account on those who are responsible in this crime.

The Foreign Ministry of the National Accord Government strongly requests to document this crime which violates the international laws 'and norms and to be condemn by international human rights organizations and to bring those responsible to justice.

The Foreign Ministry before demanded the Security Council to hold emergency session about Libya and to discuss the aggression on the capital Tripoli and to over through the legal government by force. we demand the Security Council and the great nations to take full responsibility towards the crimes which levels war crimes and crimes against humanity according to the international laws, agreements and protocols including targeting civil airports.

The Foreign Ministry affirms that the National Accord Government has taken its responsibility to secure illegal immigrants in the Centre Shelter which have the

attention and constantly visited by high government officials at all levels visiting the Centre Shelter.

In this regard the Foreign Ministry addresses the international Community, international Organizations, International

immigration Organization, international Criminal Court, human rights and headed by the international Security Council to open investigation and document this crime.



The migrant centre hit is located next to a military camp in the eastern suburb of Tajoura



Wounded migrants and refugees were taken to hospitals following the attack



By Mian Fazal Elahi

The UN Security Council has failed to condemn the recent deadly air raid on a migrant detention centre in the Libyan capital Tripoli amid global outrage over the attack that killed 71 people and wounded 130 others. Since the beginning of the first elected Government in Libya "Government of National Accord" (GNA) start its work has always give preference

**In west Libya
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Democracy is the only option left in Libya

to negotiation, in fact which is the only means to overcome the crisis. General Khalifa Haftar's forces desire to take over the Libyan capital Tripoli has now turned into a battle of attrition. This is only become possible due to the efforts of brave Libyan people who sacrifice their lives to prevail democracy in the country.

There is need to stop violence in Libya for the sake of Libyan people who are suffering their lives. In west Libya over 700 people have been killed, more than 4,000 injured and some 70,000 displaced from their homes that belongs from 18,000 families. Thousands of residential buildings have been damaged or destroyed due to the indiscriminate shelling and 41 innocent people have been died due to bomb blasts. Nearly three million people remain besieged in the capital, forced to spend the holy month of Ramadan in fear and shortages of basic goods.

So far there has been no clear winner. Forces with the Government of National Accord (GNA) have managed to stop the advance of Haftar's forces and killed his hopes of victory in Tripoli. In my opinion, the indications are that Haftar has now lost the element of surprise and miscalculated the

level of military resistance that he would face. The supply lines for his troops are difficult to maintain and Haftar's forces are failed in taking control of Libya's capital Tripoli.

A defeat would mean the end of Haftar's ambitions of securing total military and political control of Libya and the end of his perceived legitimacy to be part of any further political process. He would have to be left out of any further efforts to achieve reconciliation and

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political accord. However combat scenario would be devastating for the country, causing a large-scale humanitarian crisis and widespread damage to civilian infrastructure and housing, and continuous bloodshed throughout the country.

The United Nation and international

The proposal by President of the presidential council Fayeز Mustafa Al Sarraj about re-election must be acceptable for every militant group and international community should play its role in building a strong foundation of democracy in Libya.

community specially the Security Council support the process of dialogue and halt non state actors for producing insurgencies in the country, pressurize them to take them on the negotiation table which would be according to the United Nation ruling which is

strictly applied on every group. Over the past four years, the UN has put a lot of effort in trying to bring the ongoing civil war in Libya to a peaceful resolution. Even as Haftar moved his forces towards Tripoli, UN representatives still insisted that a political solution must be pursued.

President of the presidential council Fayeز Mustafa Al Sarraj calls for elections in 2019 to end war. Head of United Nation supported government proposes presidential and parliamentary elections to end Libya's long-running conflict. Speaking at a news conference, President of the presidential council Fayeز al-Sarraj said he is proposing a "Libyan congress" aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the conflict. He further said. "I present a political initiative for a way out of crisis. First, an all-inclusive Libyan congress to be convened, with the coordination of the international players ... whereby we pave the way for building the state on the rule of law and democracy,"

Economy of the country is entirely on the way to destruction. Peace and stability is the early requirement for the growth of economy. Economy will only flourish as soon as peace treaty signed. The problem with "waiting" for a military solution to the conflict in Libya is that it will cost the country and its civilian population dearly. As UN special envoy Ghassan Salame pointed out recently, the fighting around Tripoli is "just the start of a long and bloody war". If the war will prolonged the economical stability is impossible. The death and suffering of Libyan civilians is very much preventable, if only the international community would find the political determination to act.

The proposal by President of the presidential council Fayeز Mustafa Al Sarraj about re-election must be acceptable for all and international community should play its role in building a strong foundation of democracy in Libya. When a country is divided, national elections can

When a country is divided, national elections can often facilitate a peaceful transition of power. Election is the only solution for bringing genuine peace and stability in the country by the Government which is elected by the people of Libya.

often facilitate a peaceful transition of power. Election is the only solution for bringing genuine peace and stability in the country by the Government which is elected by the people of Libya.



Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi Editor/Publisher CEO and country head DC hosted dinner reception in the honor of nominated Ambassador's of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Japan H.E. Imtiaz Ahmad, to Belgium H.E. Zaheer Aslam Janjua, to Portugal H.E. Mr Javed Jalil Khattak, to Kenya H.E. Mrs. Saqlain syeda, to Singapore H.E. Mrs. Rukhsana Afzaal, to Algeria H.E. Mr. Ata-ul-Munim Shahid, to Czech Republic H.E. Mr. khalid Jamali, to Saudia Arabia H.E. Mr. Khalid Majeed. Government officials, Diplomats, High dignitaries, business community also graced the occasion.





An interesting and friendly “Ambassadors Golf Tournament” dedicated to the National Salvation Day of Azerbaijan and 100th Anniversary of Azerbaijan Diplomacy. The winner is the representative of Pakistan Aziz Boolani, 1st runner up High Commisioner of India Ajay Bisaria, 2nd runner up Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Kwak Sungkyu. Congratulations to winners and thanks to all colleagues and friends who have joined us: H.E. Ali Alizada



Sweden Pakistan celebrated 70 years of its Friendship

Midsummer evening full of happiness and laughter celebrated the Sweden Day 2019 with all partners. The Swedish Business Council in Pakistan and Swedish companies who co- hosted the evening and showcased their diverse work and products make this evening more graceful by their presence. Honorable Minister of State (SAFRON), Shehryar Khan Afridi attended the event as Chief Guest, he took a detailed tour of the companies' stalls and appreciated the strong and broad Swedish business presence in Pakistan. Diplomats, Government officials, High dignitaries and media persons also present on the occasion.



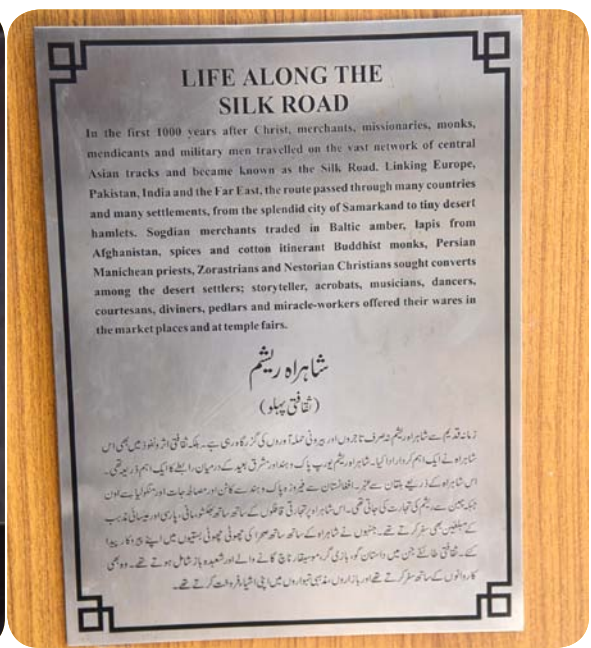
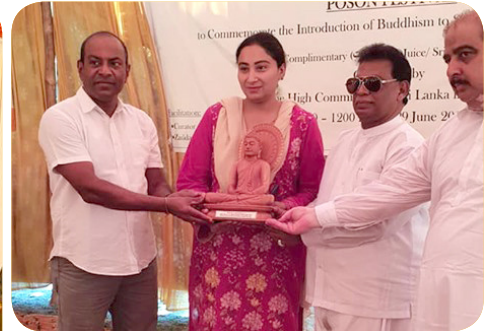
National Day of Italian Republic celebrated

To celebrate the National Day of Italy, Ambassador Stefano Pontecarvo and Lidia Ravera Pontecarvo hosted a reception at the Serena Hotel Islamabad. As has been the case since the Pontecarvo's arrived in Islamabad, Italian culture and promotional events are showcased in such a manner that it's enjoyable for the guests. They get to learn something about the country, which whets their curiosity to visit Italy and experience what it has to offer tourists. Apart from the diplomatic guests, the reception was very well attended by Pakistanis including political entities, Diplomats, High Dignitaries, Government office. Minister for Power and Petroleum Division, Omar Ayub Khan was chief guest on the occasion.





The High Commissioner of Sri Lanka H.E. Noordeen Mohamed Shaheed organized Poson festival to commemorate the introduction of Buddhism to Sri Lanka in 3rd century BC. Many people attended the festival to get familiar with ancient civilization.



Photos by Ramzan Mughal

Eid Milan reception was hosted by FPCCI in Serena Hotels Islamabad. Hon'ble M. Sadiq Sanjrani Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Abdul Razak advisory to PM for commerce, Textile Industry and production and investment, Omar Ayub Khan Federal Minister for energy, H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov Ambassador of Turkmenistan and Dean of Diplomatic corps President of Engr. Daroo Khan Achakzai were the chief guest on the occasion. Diplomats, high Dignitaries, Government officials and Media persons also graced the occasion.



The lucky draw for the Honda BRV was held in Shamadan Lawn in the evening with the management of Honda and Islamabad Serena Hotel present. Honorable chief guests Ex-president Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and chairman AW group of industries Mr. Amir Waheed, General Manager Islamabad Serena Hotel Mr. Michel A. Galopin and Mr. Fahad Bin Saeed CEO Honda Avenue drew the winning coupon from the ballot box and announced the fortunate recipient who enjoyed a Zamana iftar and won a Honda BRV in return. The call to the delighted winner was recorded. Mr. Ehyab Burki from Islamabad was overwhelmed by the unexpected news, and expressed his immense gratitude to Serena Hotels and Honda for their innovative collaboration.



Serena Hotels join hands with International Finance Corporation to further women employment



Famed hospitality company Serena Hotels is all set to become the first company in Pakistan to collaborate with International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, and work for the worldwide Economic Dividends for Gender Equality (EDGE) certificate, in line with its commitments and actions to support women's participation in the private sector. Serena Hotels reaffirms its commitment to gender equality by providing the opportunity to women to work, including in leadership that which will further drive economic growth in the country. To promote women's private sector work-force participation in Pakistan, Serena Hotels promote women as employees demonstrating commitment towards workplace gender equality. "As a leading hotel chain, Serena Hotels makes every effort to encourage women for their professional development for assuming higher positions including the leadership role," said Aziz Boolani, Serena Hotels' Chief Executive Officer. "At Serena Hotels, our women make up 12% of overall workforce despite many social and cultural changes. Applying for EDGE gender certification is a next step for us towards identifying how we can further improve and position ourselves as a 'Women's 'Employer of Choice'. "There's no doubt that companies can deliver greater business impact and be more competitive by fostering an equitable and inclusive workplace for women and men," said Nadeem Siddiqui, IFC's Senior Country Manager in Pakistan. "We hope more companies in Pakistan will discover the strength of the business case for greater gender equality in the workplace." Serena Hotels as a responsible corporate body continuously work towards empowering women through various initiatives, including capacity building and employment of high potential women. Among others, Serena Hotels' "Karighar" a Corporate Social Responsibility program has been making a significant contribution to provide entrepreneurship training to various segment of women for a sustainable growth and quality of life. EDGE is the leading global assessment methodology and business certification standard for gender equality. Launched at the World Economic Forum, EDGE Certification was designed to help companies not only create an optimal workplace for women and men, but also benefit from it. EDGE Certification has received the endorsement of business, government, and academic leaders from around the world.



H.E. Mrs. Ghada Ahmad Spouse of Egyptian Ambassador and President of the heads of Missions' spouses Group hosted dinner at her residence in the honor of H.E. Mrs. Rukhsana Afzal Heads of the Middle East department in Pakistani Foreign Ministry on occasion of her approaching departure. Diplomats, Government officials and High dignitaries grace the occasion.



Egyptian Ambassador H.E. Ahmed Fadel Yacoub hosts a dinner reception in the honor of Ambassadors/High Commissioners of African countries at his residence. Ambassadors/ High Commissioners of South Africa, Tunis, Kenya, Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, Morocco, Nigeria, Mauritius and Libya graced the dinner reception.





Industrial and regional cooperation to be promoted under CPEC framework free excess granted on exports:



khusru bakhtyar



By M. Bilal Zafar

Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar has said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project is now entering into the second phase wherein bilateral cooperation in agriculture and industrial sectors will be enhanced. He stated that cooperation in industrial sector will further strengthen bilateral partnership between the two countries. The Minister said this while addressing a CPEC Forum on “Regional Cooperation and Industrial development through B2B Cooperation”. Deputy Chairman Senate Saleem Mandvi wala, Chinese ambassador Yao Jing, Project Director

CPEC Hassan Dawood and representatives from different private sectors and seniors government officials were also attended the seminar. The Minister said partnership between Pakistan and China is decades old and CPEC is an important project of Belt & Road Initiative (BRI). He said that incumbent government, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, is introducing reforms in various sectors. The Minister said that China will provide \$1 Billion for socio-economic development projects in Pakistan, including education, health, and water and poverty alleviation. Khusru Bakhtyar underlined the need to increase tax-to-GDP ratio for achieving sustained economic development.

He highlighted that the government is taking various measures to enhance exports adding that China has granted free excess on export of 313 items. The consolidation of second phase of China Pakistan Free Trade agreement will increase Pakistan’s exports by tapping the potential in agriculture, textile, food, minerals, engineering and other sectors. The Minister said that the incumbent government wants to promote B2B cooperation under CPEC framework and in this regard Pak-China Business forum is being established. He said that in the second phase of CPEC industrialist and business community will have to come forward and play their due role in development of the country.



Ambassador of the People's Republic of China H.E. Yao Jing addressed at Book launching Ceremony title "Road to Leadership" on President Xi Jinping at PIPS. President of Azad Kashmir H.E. Masood Khan, Chairman Pakistan-China Institute Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Director Pakistan Centre Tsinghua University Beijing, China Professor Li Xiguang and writer Sultan M. Hali also sitting on the stage. Government officials, High Dignitaries and media persons also graced the occasion.



Independence Day of the Republic of Belarus

H.E. Andrei G. Ermolovich ambassador of Belarus hosted a dinner reception on the occasion of Independence Day of the Republic of Belarus (Republic Day) and the 25th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between Belarus and Pakistan at Marriott Hotel. Diplomats, High dignitaries, Business community, Government officials graced the occasion. Muhammad Hammad Azhar Minister of State for Revenue was the chief guest on the occasion.



Azerbaijan celebrates 100th anniversary of Diplomatic Service



SERENA HOTELS

A reception hosted by Ambassador of Azerbaijan Ali Alizade marking 100th anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations of his country. A large number of guests including parliamentarians, members of the diplomatic corps, civil society and religious scholars attended the reception. A cake was also cut on the occasion marking 100th anniversary of diplomatic service of Azerbaijan. Sheikh Rashid was the chief guest, in his brief address also hoped direct flights between Baku and Islamabad to facilitate more tourists exchange from the two countries. Federal Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said Pakistan and Azerbaijan were enjoying exemplary relations which will grow further in trade, tourism, energy, health and education.



Dean of Diplomatic Corps honored outgoing Envoys

Ambassador of Turkmenistan and Dean of Diplomatic Corps H.E. Atadjan Movlamov hosted farewell dinner reception in honor of outgoing diplomats. H.E. Ardi Stoios-Braken Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherland. H.E. Mr. Ivan Ivanissevich Ambassador of the Argentine Republic. H.E. Mr. Frederic Verheyden Ambassador of Belgium and Ambassador of European Union H.E. Jean-Francois Cautain organized by Turkmenistan Embassy at Marriott Hotel Islamabad. Diplomats, Government official, High dignitaries and media persons graced the occasion.





The Dean of the African Group & Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Adel Elarbi Celebrated African Day Festival



SERENA HOTELS

Dean of African Group and Ambassador of Tunisia Adel Elarbi on behalf of all African colleagues' celebrated African Day festival organized by the African countries in Pakistan provided a real enjoyment to people of Islamabad. A large number of guests appeared from numerous walks of life attended the occasion. Federal Minister for Food Security Sahibzada Mahboob Sultan was the chief guest. All African countries represented in Pakistan established their stalls. Embassy of Palestine also set up stall where considerable Palestinian traditional stuffs were displayed. The Federal Minister went to each and every stall where he was briefed about different items displayed at the respective stall. Ambassador Adel said they were celebrating this evening the 56th Anniversary of the Africa day and wanted it as a festival to show the colors and diversity of our dear continent Africa.



Photos by Ramzan Mughal

The Embassy of Federation of Russia observed “Day of Russia” in Islamabad

Newly appointed Russian Ambassador Danila V. hosted a reception which was attended by top civil and military personalities, senior bureaucrats, senior journalists and intellectuals of capital city of Islamabad. Federal Minister for Power Omar Ayub Khan was guest of honor while Muhammad Arsallah Khan Honorary Consul Russian Federation in Peshawar and Honorary Consul General of Russian Federation in Lahore Habib Rafiq were also present to grace the occasion.



65th anniversary of the Japan Self-Defense Forces Day

Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Kuninori Matsuda and Naoko Matsuda hosted a reception to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the Japan Self-Defense Forces Day. Lt General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, HI(M), Adjutant General, General Headquarters, was the chief guest on the occasion. Colonel Mamoru Nanjo, Defense Attaché, Embassy of Japan, represented the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF). The reception was attended by the parliamentarians, senior civilian and military officials of the Government of Pakistan, members of the diplomatic community and other dignitaries from the public and private sectors.



Dean of Diplomatic Corps Honored Outgoing Envoy

Ambassador of Turkmenistan and Dean of Diplomatic Corps H.E. Atadjan Movlamov hosted farewell dinner reception in honor of outgoing Ambassador of Kazakhstan H.E. Barlybay Sadykov at Marriott Hotel Islamabad.

Diplomats, Government official, high dignitaries and media persons graced the occasion.



Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



President Dr. Arif Alvi talking to the outgoing High Commissioner of Australia, Ms. Margaret Adamson who paid a Farewell call on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr on June 17, 2019



President Dr. Arif Alvi talking to the outgoing Ambassador of Argentina, Mr. Ivan Ivanissevich, who paid a farewell call on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr on June 17, 2019.



Xiong Qunli Chairman of CETC group called on Federal Minister for Defence Production, Ms Zubeida Jalal in Islamabad on June 17, 2019.



Lieutenant General (STAFF) Pilot Muhammad Salim Al Araj, Iraq's Acting Secretary Defence (Administration) and Chief of Logistic Staff Called on Ms. Zobeida Jalal, Federal Minister for Defence Production in Islamabad on June 20, 2019.



The Ambassador of Nepal H.E. Ms. Sewa Lamsal called on Federal Minister for inter Provincial Coordinator Dr. Fehmida Mirza on 21.06.19.



Ambassador of China to Pakistan, H.E. Yao Jing Called on Special Assistant to Prime Minister on National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination, Dr. Zafar Mirza in Islamabad on June 26, 2019.



H.E. Mr. Kuninori Matsuda, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan in a meeting with Federal Minister for Power and Petroleum, Mr. Omar Ayub Khan in Islamabad on June 11, 2019.



Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Kuninori Marsuda in a Meeting with Federal Minister for water Resources, Muhammad Faisal Vawda in Islamabad on June 12, 2019.



Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Muhammad Afzal in a meeting with Australian High Commissioner, Ms. Margaret Adamson in Islamabad on June 3, 2019.



Acting High Commissioner of South Africa, H.E. Mr. Janse Van Noordwyk Called on Federal Minister for Defence Production, Ms. Zobeida Jalal in Islamabad on June 14, 2019.



Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform Makhdum Khusrul Bakht talking to Ambassador of China, Mr. Yao Jing, who called on him in Islamabad on June 17, 2019.



High Commissioner of Pakistan to the UK, Mohammad Nafees Zakaria With Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistan and Human Resource Development, Syed Zulfikar Bukhari on Open House at their Official Residence, "Pakistan House" in London.



Lt Gen (Staff) Pilot Ali Muhammad Salim Al Araj, Acting Secretary Defence (Adm) and Deputy Chief of Log Staff, Iraqi Ministry of Defence, Called on Secretary Defence, Lt Gen (Retd) Ikram-ul-Haq in Ministry of Defence, Rawalpindi, on 18-06-2019.



Adviser to Prime Minister on Establishment Mohammad Shehzad Arbad in a meeting with Mr. Kuninori Matsuda, Ambassador of Japan at the Prime Minister's Office, Islamabad on June 10, 2019.

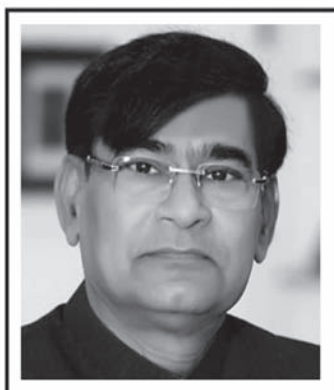


Mian Fazal Elahi expressed his
profound **condolences** on the sad
and sudden demise of **Mr. Rehmat Ali Raazi**
Chief Editor of Daily Taqat/Weekly Azm.

Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi Editor, CEO & publisher of "Diplomatic Focus" and Entire team condole the sad demise of Mr. Rehmat Ali Raazi Chief Editor of Daily Taqat/Weekly Azm.

Mr. Elahi Expressed his profound condolences on the sad and sudden demise of Mr. Rehmat Ali Raazi and prayed that Almighty Allah may rest the departed soul in eternal peace and give courage and patience to the bereaved family to bear the loss.

— CONDOLENCE —



Mr. Rehmat Ali Raazi

Chief Editor of

Daily Taqat / Weekly Azm.

May Allah the Almighty rest his soul in eternal p
and grant courage to the family to bear the lo

APNS expresses profound grief over the sad
demise of



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