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10 Time for a different relationship with United States Prime Minister Imran Khan

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20 The Leaders of the G20 met to make united efforts to address major global economic challenges

Leaders of the G20, met in Osaka, Japan to make united efforts to address major global economic challenges. G20 leadership will work together to foster global economic growth, while harnessing the power of technological innovation, in particular digitalization, and its application for the benefit of all.

34 Prime Minister Imran Khan emphasis Pakistan and Iraq enjoys close fraternal relations

President Dr. Arif Alvi appreciated the Government of Iraq for its staunch support of the right to self-determination of the people of Kashmir, while talking to Head of the Political Party, Islamic Supreme Council in Iraq, Shaikh Dr. Hamam Hamoudi, who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

36 Commonwealth summit Qureshi shares government vision for Pakistan's uplift

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi led the Pakistan delegation to the Extraordinary Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers' Meeting (CFAMM), held in London. The meeting was convened to mark the 70th anniversary of the London Declaration, which marked the creation of the Commonwealth of Nations.

Mr. Maurizio Romani
General Manager Marriott Hotel Islamabad

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Mian Fazal Elahi

PM Imran Khan visited U.S. President Donald Trump in the White House. Both sides agreed to change the relationship between the two countries. President Trump lauded Pakistan's efforts to end the war in Afghanistan due to Pakistan's participation in the Afghan peace process, and Imran Khan said there is no military solution in Afghanistan. USA wants to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan and for this purpose USA needs Pakistan's support to give USA safe exit from Afghanistan. If we go in the past history of America and Pakistan relations we shall come to know that America come closer to Pakistan when there is no other way except to gain support from Pakistan and the attitude of America would be remarkable in the hour of need and once the need is fulfilled the attitude again switch into worse.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has expressed his desire to have a proper relationship with the United States parallel to Islamabad's ties with Beijing rather than the one where Pakistan is treated like a "hired gun". Our relationship with China is not one-dimensional. It's a trade relationship between two countries.

Afghanistan has suffered a lot and so has our relationship with this brotherly country. It is imperative that Imran Khan's government ensures that this very important relationship now heals. Repairing this damaged relationship can go a long way in winning over the hearts and minds of the Afghan people who have suffered a lot in the unending violence that has been continuing for a very long time. The Afghan horror must end and Pakistan, more than taking the credit for this ending, must extend all possible facilitation that it can offer. We must rebuild our relationship with Afghanistan, and I hope that remains a top priority for the government.

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.

Important Announcement

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



Mian Assad Ullah

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H.E. Imtiaz Ahmed Ambassador designated of Pakistan to Japan called on H.E. Dr. Arif Alvi President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan

By M. Bilal Zafar

Pakistan regards Japan as its close friend and a key economic partner and would like to facilitate Japanese investors in every possible way to invest in all sectors of its economy, President Dr. Arif Alvi said, while talking to Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Japan Imtiaz Ahmed, who called on him at

Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. Congratulating the Ambassador-designate on his new assignment, the President urged that the relations between two countries were on an upward trajectory, but still need extra efforts to realize the true potential. He advised the ambassador-designate to make fresh endeavours to further strengthen the existing relations to the mutual benefit of

the people of both countries. Furthermore, he emphasized the need to explore possibilities in Japan for Pakistani skilled and semi-skilled manpower. President wished Ambassador-designate a successful stay in Japan and hoped that his tenure will bring more vigor and energy to the bilateral relationship between the two countries.



H.E. Mr. Ata-ul-Munim Shahid Ambassador designated of Pakistan to Algeria called on H.E. Dr. Arif Alvi President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan

By M. Bilal Zafar

President Dr. Arif Alvi said that proactive measures needed to be taken to enhance the quantum of trade between Pakistan and Algeria, as the current volume of bilateral trade was not commensurate to the true potential. The President said this while talking to the Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Algeria, Mr. Ata-ul-Munim Shahid, who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. Given the high importance Pakistan attached to its relations with Algeria, the President urged the ambassador-designate to make efforts to further strengthen bilateral relations in all areas of mutual interest. Underscoring the focus of the Pakistani Government on bolstering its exports through mutually beneficial economic collaboration, the President directed the ambassador-designate to offer Algeria our manpower, experience, expertise, machinery and other related equipment. President wished Ambassador-designate a successful stay in Algeria and hoped that his tenure will bring more vigour and energy to the bilateral relationship between the two countries.



cooperation between the two countries to bring peace, stability and economic prosperity in South Asia.

The two leaders reviewed progress of the Afghan peace and reconciliation process. President Trump appreciated Pakistan's contribution. Prime Minister Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to continue to support the process in good faith. He added that pursuing the process was a shared responsibility.

The two leaders affirmed their resolve to work together across a broad range of areas. Both leaders acknowledged the immense opportunity and potential for mutually beneficial collaboration in diverse fields such as trade, investment, energy, economic connectivity, and defense and security cooperation. Prime Minister Khan invited the U.S. corporate sector to invest in Pakistan.

It was decided to establish a mechanism to follow-up on the understandings reached.

Prime Minister Khan briefed President Trump about his vision of socio-economic development of Pakistan. He said that "peaceful neighborhood" was a priority of Pakistan's foreign policy. He added that peace and stability in the region would allow Pakistan to harness its rich human resource potential to generate growth and spur regional connectivity.

President Trump appreciated Prime Minister Khan's vision for peace in South Asia. The Prime Minister said Pakistan was convinced that normalization of relations with India would be mutually beneficial for the two countries. He underlined that Pakistan would continue to pursue dialogue and diplomacy to resolve longstanding disputes, including

Time for a different relationship United States *with* Prime Minister Imran Khan

By Mian Fazal Elahi

P rime Minister Imran Khan met President Donald Trump at the White House. This was the first summit-level engagement between Pakistan and the United States since 2015.

President Trump welcomed the Prime Minister at the entrance of the White House. The two leaders first jointly addressed the press and later had one-on-one meeting, which was followed by delegation level talks between the two sides. President Trump hosted a luncheon in the Prime Minister's honor. On arrival, the Prime Minister signed the White House Visitors' Book. The two leaders held comprehensive discussions with a focus on building a broad-based and enduring partnership between Pakistan and the United States and strengthening



the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir. President Trump expressed his readiness to play a facilitating role in resolution of the Kashmir dispute. Following the conclusion of official talks, President Trump took Prime Minister Khan and members of the delegation on a tour of the White House. Pakistan's delegation included the Foreign Minister, Chief of Army Staff, DG (ISI), Advisors on Finance and Commerce, Special Assistant on Overseas Pakistanis, Foreign Secretary, Ambassador-at-Large on Investment and Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States. Prime Minister Khan extended a cordial invitation to President Trump for a visit

Prime Minister Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to continue to support the process in good faith. He added that pursuing the process was a shared responsibility.

to Pakistan. The President accepted the invitation. Prime Minister Imran Khan attended a reception at Capitol Hill hosted by the Congressional Pakistan Caucus. The Prime Minister was greeted by Caucus Chair Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. Honorable Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Ms. Nancy Pelosi and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy also joined the event. Senior Senators including Sen. Gary Peters, Sen. Sherrod Brown and Sen. Chris Van Hollen and several members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee also attended the meeting on special invitation extended by the Caucus Chair.



Prime Minister Imran Khan with US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump at White House on 22nd July, 2019.



US President Donald J. Trump gives Prime Minister Imran Khan and the Pakistani delegation tour of the White House on 22nd July, 2019.



US President Donald J. Trump gives Prime Minister Imran Khan and the Pakistani delegation tour of the White House on 22nd July, 2019.



US President Donald J. Trump presents a Cricket Bat to Prime Minister Imran Khan along with a picture of President Eisenhower who is the only US President who witnessed Test Match in Pakistan. The Bat was presented during Prime Minister's Visit to White House on 22nd July, 2019.



Prime Minister Imran Khan and US President Donald J. Trump in discussion at White House on 22nd July, 2019.



Prime Minister Imran Khan leading delegation level talks with US President Donald Trump at White House on 22nd July, 2019.

The Prime Minister was introduced to members of the Caucus including Republican Co-Chair Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN) and Democratic Co-Chair Rep. Thomas Suozzi. Speaking at the reception, the Prime Minister thanked for the warm welcome at the Capitol Hill.

He said that his government was committed to rebuild the relationship on the basis of mutual trust and mutual respect.

The Prime Minister said that Pakistan had facilitated the Afghan peace and reconciliation process as peace and stability in Afghanistan was vital for Pakistan. While cautioning about the complicated nature of the process and possible challenges, he said that Pakistan will continue to extend all possible facilitation in the process. Speaking at the reception, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said that Pakistan attached great importance to its outreach at

President
Trump
appreciated
Prime Minister
Khan's vision
for peace in
South Asia.

the Capitol Hill. He thanked the Congressmen and Senators for sparing time to attend the reception as it would help to have a better understanding of Pakistan.

Congresswoman Jackson Lee thanked the Prime Minister for visiting the Congress and expressed hope that relations between the two countries could be deepened by enhancing exchanges between the parliamentary representatives of both sides. They were of the view that Prime Minister Khan's visit to the Capitol will help generate greater interest and foster better understanding of Pakistan in the U.S. Congress. The members of Congress also appreciated Pakistan's invaluable contribution in the Afghan peace and reconciliation process. They appreciated the role of the Pakistani American community in

the U.S.

They presented the Prime Minister copy of the special resolution, which had been introduced in the Congress to welcome the Prime Minister's inaugural visit to the U.S. and to reaffirm the continuing support and commitment to the long and enduring friendship between Pakistan and the U.S. A number of Pakistani American community from different constituencies of Congressmen and Senators was also present at the reception. The Prime Minister also thanked them for playing active role in the creation of Pakistan Caucus and holding a successful event at the Hill.

A group of investors from the fields of Food and Health called on Prime Minister Imran

Both leaders
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diverse fields

Khan at Embassy of Pakistan in Washington DC. The investors included Mr. Aslam Khan, Mr. Mobashir Chaudhuri (from Texas), Dr. Basit Javed, Dr. Abid Sheikh and Dr. Mobashir Chaudhary. Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Ali Haider Zaidi, Adviser to PM on Commerce Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood, Adviser to PM on Finance Dr. Abdul Hafeez Sheikh, SAPM on Overseas Pakistanis and HRD Syed Zulfiqar Abbas Bukhari were present during the meeting. The investors expressed their interest in the Food sector and improvement of health facilities in Pakistan. They shared ideas on upscaling of medical facilities in Pakistan, especially medical coverage in rural areas and specialized fields. Ideas



US Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Pakistan House in Washington DC on 23rd July, 2019.



Senator Lindsay Graham, Senator from the Republican Party and Head of Senate Judiciary Committee, called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Pakistan House in Washington DC on 23rd July, 2019.





Prime Minister Imran Khan addressing at US Institute of Peace in Washington on 23rd July, 2019.

were also exchanged on how Pakistani origin Physicians in the US could help give back to the communities in Pakistan. Prime Minister Imran Khan welcomed the proposed ideas and initiatives in the Health sector and highlighted Government's efforts in creating a conducive environment for foreign investors in the wake of economic and business potential of Pakistan. The Prime Minister appreciated the role of Pakistani origin physicians, and their commitment to Pakistan's socioeconomic development. The Prime Minister assured fullest facilitation in this regard. A group of Venture Capitalists and Fund Managers called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Embassy of Pakistan in Washington DC. The group included Mr. Shoaib Kithawala, Mr. Saleem Ahmad, Mr. Sohail Khan, Mr. Saleem Iqbal and Mr. Riaz Siddiqui. Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Ali Haider Zaidi, Adviser to PM on Commerce Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood, Adviser to PM on Finance Dr. Abdul Hafeez Sheikh, SAPM on Overseas Pakistanis and HRD Syed Zulfiqar Abbas Bukhari were present during the meeting.

All Star Group" comprising leading IT professionals called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Embassy of Pakistan in Washington DC. The group included Mr. Imran ul Haq Khan, Mr. Hashmat Malik, Mr. Hassan Ahmad, Mr. Dilawar Syed, Mr. Rehan Jalil, Mr. Salman Akhter and Mr. Mansoor Khan. The group exchanged views on strengthening academic institutions, Research and Development, development of standards institutions including in technology field, training for IT Technicians and Engineers and Vocational training in IT field. The Prime Minister informed that development of IT is amongst highest priorities of the Government. This sector entails huge job opportunities for the youth, added the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister pledged all possible support by Government institutions for developing a robust IT sector.

A delegation of senior American business executives from Bower Group Asia called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Embassy of Pakistan in Washington DC to discuss the investments opportunities in Pakistan. Mr. Ernie Bower, CEO of the Bower Group Asia led the delegation that included executives from Cargill, Oracle, CHUBB, Cheniere, Western Union, Visa and Microsoft. The Prime Minister informed the group of the tremendous potential for US businesses in Naya Pakistan and offered assistance in supporting US investors. He highlighted

measures being taken to improve the ease of doing business in Pakistan. The delegation thanked the Prime Minister for the opportunity to discuss the business and investment climate and informed about their companies' business plans for Pakistan.

Mr. David Malpass, President of the World Bank, called on Prime Minister Imran Khan on 21st July 2019 at the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington. The Prime Minister was assisted by Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister, Dr. Hafeez Shaikh, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance, Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce, Mr. Sohail Mahmood, Foreign Secretary and Ambassador Asad Majeed. The Prime Minister congratulated Mr. Malpass on his assumption of the important responsibility of World Bank President. The Prime Minister appreciated the tremendous support extended by the Bank in different sectors of the Pakistan's economy over the years. He reiterated his government's people-centric development agenda focused on increased spending on health, education and youth of Pakistan. While highlighting government's reform priorities including improving the ease-of-doing business, the Prime Minister expressed satisfaction with assistance and stewardship being provided by the World Bank. He hoped that the Bank would roll forward the pipeline projects and assured the Bank's President of his government's support in this regard. Appreciating Prime Minister's development agenda, Mr. David Malpass observed that Pakistan was an important country in the region with a large portfolio of World Bank projects. He hoped that Pakistan's entry into a new IMF program should go a long way in ensuring macroeconomic stability and rejuvenating confidence of foreign investors in Pakistan. He also appreciated the social protection programs of the government including skill development of the youth – preparing them for the job market. Mr. Malpass assured the Prime Minister of World Bank's steady and prompt support in implementing Prime Minister's vision of economic development.

The U.S. Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Pakistan House in Washington. Expressing satisfaction at his wide-ranging talks with President Trump at the White House yesterday, the Prime Minister said that convergence on promoting a political solution in Afghanistan had created the opportunity for regional peace and stability. He added

that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan was vital for Pakistan. He emphasized the importance of close collaboration between Pakistan and U.S. to advance that objective. The Prime Minister said that a strong Pakistan-U.S. partnership remained vital to the promotion of the mutual interests of the two countries as well as broader regional peace, stability and prosperity. Reiterating his government's support to a broad-based and enduring Pakistan-U.S. relationship, the Prime Minister emphasized the need to

Prime Minister Khan briefed President Trump about his vision of socio-economic development of Pakistan. He said that “peaceful neighborhood” was a priority of Pakistan's foreign policy

further enhance and diversify the bilateral content of the relationship in a wide range of areas. The Prime Minister also spoke about his government's successes in countering the scourge of terrorism and his initiatives to build peace in the region. He noted that the Government of Pakistan had taken myriad administrative and legal measures to mainstream madrasahs. As part of his policy of “peaceful neighbourhood”, the Prime Minister highlighted Pakistan's desire for peaceful and cooperative relations with

all neighbours. He underscored the various initiatives taken to advance this objective with regard to India. The Prime Minister underlined that the peace dividend for both countries would be enormous with peaceful resolution of all outstanding disputes and would usher in an eras of peace, progress and prosperity in South Asia. Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood, Ambassador Asad M. Khan and Aftab A. Khokher Additional Secretary (Americas) joined the meeting. Secretary Pompeo was accompanied by Under-Secretary for Political Affairs David Hale, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Alice Wells and Paul W. Jones U.S. Charge d' Affaires in Islamabad.

Leading Republican Senator Lindsey Graham called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Pakistan House. Senator Graham chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee and is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The Prime Minister and Senator Graham discussed bilateral relations and the regional situation. The Prime Minister appreciated Senator Graham's efforts and support for strengthening Pakistan-U.S. relations. Prime Minister Khan apprised the Senator of his Government's development and economic priorities. He said Pakistan desired a broad based relationship with the United States that safeguarded the two countries' interests and promoted win-win cooperation in areas ranging from the economy to trade and investment to energy and education. The Prime Minister said Pakistan had paid a high price because of instability in Afghanistan. Pakistan desired peace in Afghanistan and was fully committed to working with the United States in achieving a political settlement in Afghanistan. Senator Graham agreed with the Prime Minister that sustained and high-level engagement between Pakistan and the United States were to the two countries' mutual advantage. He appreciated Pakistan's support for the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. The Senator said the marked improvement in Pakistan's security environment was a result of its successful counterterrorism operations and efforts to secure the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood, and Ambassador Asad M. Khan were also present in the meeting.



Road to Makkah project inaugurated for Pakistani pilgrims

Almost 200,000 Pakistani pilgrims will perform Haj this year for which the government has arranged excellent transportation, food and accommodation, said Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Pir Noor-ul-Haq Qadri. At least 123,316 pilgrims would perform Haj under the government scheme. PIA will operate 294 flights in the first phase to facilitate nearly 78,258 pilgrims. The pre-departure immigration facility under the Road to Makkah Project will be inaugurated at the Islamabad International Airport easing procedures for pilgrims before landing in Saudi Arabia.

The spokesman of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony said in a statement that under the first phase of the project, the customs and immigration process of Pakistani pilgrims would be completed at the Islamabad Airport thus saving them the 10 to 12-hour process at the Jeddah Airport.

A team of 51 Saudi officials would conduct the immigration process for Pakistani pilgrims, for whom special counters will be established at the Islamabad Airport he added.

He said the facility would be gradually extended to all cities of Pakistan. In the second phase, Jinnah International Airport in Karachi would be included.

Under the project, the pilgrims' luggage will be delivered directly at their residences in Saudi Arabia, the spokesman added.

The month long pre-Hajj flight operation will continue until August 5. Pakistan International Airline (PIA), Air Blue and Saudi Airline will carry pilgrims from Islamabad,

Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta airports.

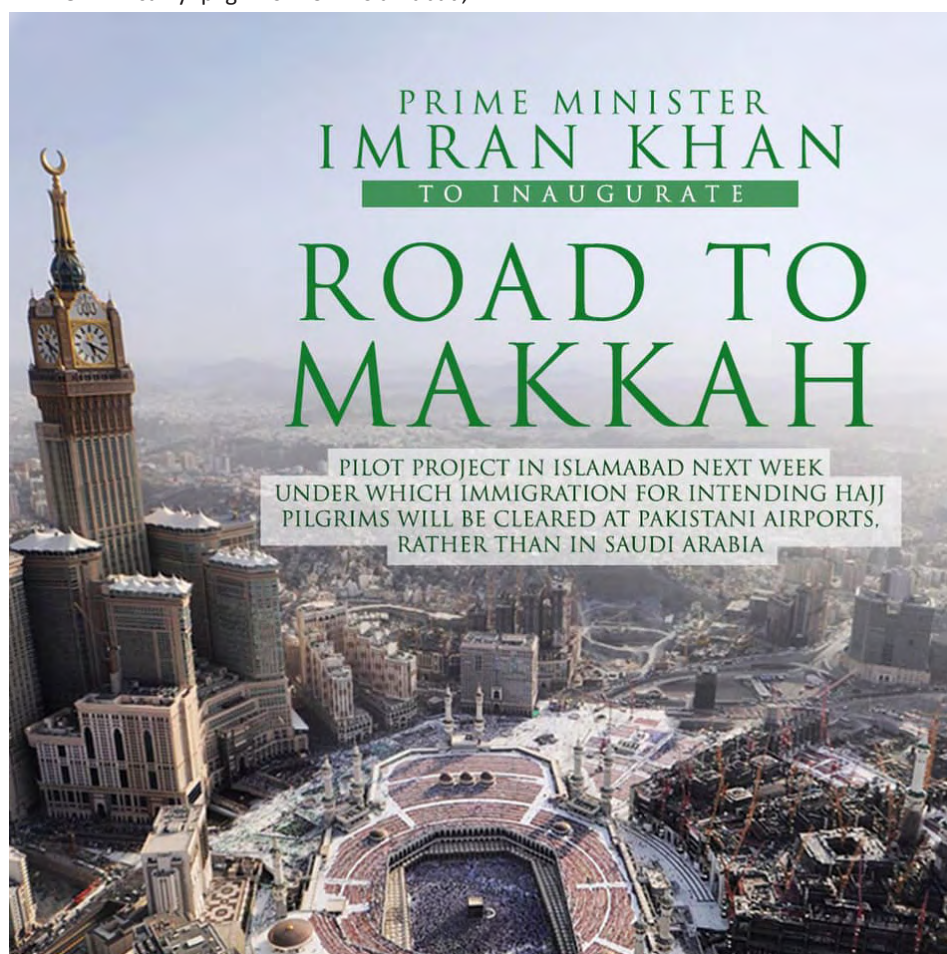
The spokesman said the pilgrims had already been informed about their flights through SMS and letters. The Hajj flight schedule had also been uploaded on the ministry's website.

Ten Hajj camps are already activated across the country, he added. The spokesman said pilgrims would be provided passports, tickets, lockets and stickers before their flights. The pilgrims were asked to report to their nearest Hajj camp two days before their flights to get their tickets and seal their medicines. They will be vaccinated 10 days before their flights.

The Aviation Division provided Aab-e-Zam storage facility at Islamabad, Quetta, Faisalabad, Sukkur and Rahim Yar Khan airports, which would be distributed among the pilgrims on their return, he added.

The PIA will start its pre-Hajj flights on July 4, operating over 350 special flights to Jeddah and Madina.

A total of 78,000 pilgrims will travel this year with 50,000 availing the Government Hajj package and the rest being accommodated by private operators.





On his way back to Pakistan after successful visit to the United States of America, Prime Minister Imran Khan stopped over at Doha. He was welcomed by H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, Prime Minister of State of Qatar and Ambassador of Pakistan Syed Ahsan Raza Shah.

The two Prime Ministers held a wide-ranging meeting during which matters pertaining to bilateral ties were discussed. Prime Minister of Pakistan recalled the recent visit of the Amir of Qatar to Pakistan and thanked Qatar for its economic support. The two sides reaffirmed the resolve to comprehensively upgrade bilateral relations in all fields including trade, investment, energy, aviation, agricultural, tourism, manpower and people to people contacts. The positive contribution of Pakistani community in Qatar was also lauded.

Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood, Advisor to PM on Commerce, Syed Zulfikar Abbas Bukhari, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis & HRD, Foreign Secretary Mr. Sohail Mahmood and Ambassador of Pakistan Syed Ahsan Raza Shah were present during meeting.

Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani hosted a banquet dinner in honor of Prime Minister of Pakistan and his delegation. Later, Prime Minister Imran Khan left Doha for Islamabad.

Pakistan & Qatar

friendship is stronger than ever





Tunisians bid farewell to late President Beji Caid Essebsi

By Agency

Several foreign leaders attend state funeral as thousands gather in the streets of the capital, Tunis.

Thousands of people have gathered in the streets of Tunisia's capital, Tunis, to bid farewell to their first democratically elected president, Beji Caid Essebsi, at a state funeral that will be attended by foreign leaders.

Essebsi, who helped guide the North African country's transition to democracy after the 2011 revolution, died aged 92. The state funeral attended by international dignitaries, including Algeria's interim President Abdelkader Bensalah, Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, French President Emmanuel Macron and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. Many roads were closed and security forces deployed in most areas of the capital and near the Al Jallaz cemetery. Following Essebsi's death, Prime Minister Youssef Chahed declared a seven-day mourning period and ordered flags at state institutions to be lowered to half-mast. Meanwhile, parliament Speaker Mohamed Ennaceur was sworn in as interim president in line with the constitution, while the electoral commission announced a presidential election for September 15, two months earlier than scheduled. A parliamentary vote is set for October 6.

Reporting from Tunis, Al Jazeera's David Chater said: "Everyone will be talking about the way the constitution has already managed to ensure a stable transfer of power." Within hours of

Essebsi's death, the parliament speaker sworn in as interim president. That is his legacy." Tarik Kahlawi, political analyst, said that while the country faced major challenges including economic problems and security threats, Tunisians were proud of their country and former president.

"Many Tunisians are worried about the economic situation but this is also a proud moment. Tunisians are proud to be living in a democracy that has a smooth political transition and fair elections." He was seen as a unifying figure. Essebsi had recently announced he would not run in the election scheduled for November, saying a younger person should lead the country.



Tunisian late President Beji Caid Essebsi.



Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Muhammad Azam Khan Swati in a meeting with Ambassador of Morocco to Pakistan, Muhammad Karmon in Islamabad on July 3, 2019.



A delegation of Oman Trading International called on Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Petroleum, Nadeem Babar in Islamabad on July 03, 2019.



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, Industries & Production and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood in a meeting with Iranian Commerce Minister in Islamabad on July 04, 2019.



Dr. Fehmida Mirza Federal Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination in a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Mr Yao Jing in Islamabad on July 8, 2019.



Ambassador of Republic of Belarus to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Andrei Ermolovich called on Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Sahibzada Mehboob Sultan in Islamabad on July 8, 2019.



Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Aon Abbas Buppi Talking to Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. NAWAF Bin Said Al-Malki in Islamabad on July 16, 2019.



Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s Country Director for Pakistan, Ms. Xiaohong Yang, Called on Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr. Muhammad Hammad Azhar at Islamabad on July 18, 2019.



Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Kuninori Matsuda called on Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr. Muhammad Hammad Azhar at Islamabad on July 18, 2019.



Ambassador of China to Pakistan, H.E. Yao Jing called on Chairman Board of Investment, Zubair Gilani in Islamabad on July 23, 2019.



Paris: July 25, 2019: Mr. Jean-Bernard Sempastous, President, France-Pakistan Friendship Group in the French National Assembly and Mr. Moin Ul Haque, Ambassador of Pakistan to France Inaugurated a Dedicated, Custom Designed and Fully Equipped Tourism Facilitation Section at the Embassy of Pakistan in Paris to Promote Pakistan as a Preferred Tourism Destination for the French and the European Tourists.



Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Sahibzada Mehboob Sultan in a thanking ceremony to FAO for Edouard Saouma Award in Islamabad on July 2, 2019



Islamabad: July 26, 2019: Secretary, EAD, Mr. Noor Ahmed and Charge D'Affaires of the German Embassy in Islamabad, Dr. Jens Jokisch, Shake Hands As they Exchange Documents After Signing an Agreement for Financial Assistance Worth Euro 22.4 Million to Pakistan-Germany Development Programme. Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Muhammad Hammad Azhar, is Also Seen.



The Leaders of the G20 met to MAKE UNITED EFFORTS TO ADDRESS MAJOR GLOBAL ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

Mian Fazal Elahi

Leaders of the G20, met in Osaka, Japan to make united efforts to address major global economic challenges. G20 leadership will work together to foster global economic growth, while harnessing the power of technological innovation, in particular digitalization, and its application for the benefit of all. Building on work done by previous presidencies, we will strive to create a virtuous cycle of growth by addressing inequalities and realize a society where all individuals can make use of their full potential. In the declaration of G20 summit leadership show determination that we are resolved to build a society capable of seizing opportunities, and tackling economic, social and environmental challenges, presented today and in the future, including those of demographic change.

We will further lead efforts to foster development and address other global challenges to pave the way toward an inclusive and sustainable world, as envisioned in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

GLOBAL ECONOMY

Global growth appears to be stabilizing, and is generally projected to pick up moderately later this year and into 2020. This recovery is supported by the continuation

of accommodative financial conditions and stimulus measures taking effect in some countries. However, growth remains low and risks remain tilted to the downside. Most importantly, trade and geopolitical tensions



have intensified. We will continue to address these risks, and stand ready to take further action.

We reaffirm our commitment to use all policy tools to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, and safeguard against downside risks, by stepping up our dialogue and actions to enhance confidence. Fiscal policy should be flexible and growth-friendly while rebuilding buffers where needed and ensuring debt as a share of GDP is on a sustainable path. Monetary policy will continue to support economic activity and ensure price stability, consistent with central banks' mandates. Central bank decisions need to remain well communicated. Continued implementation of structural reforms will enhance our growth potential. We also reaffirm the exchange rate commitments made by our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in March 2018.

Global current account imbalances have narrowed in the aftermath of the global financial crisis, notably in emerging and developing economies and they have become increasingly concentrated in advanced economies. However, they remain large and persistent, and stock positions continue to diverge. In assessing external balances, we note the importance of monitoring all components of the current account, including services trade and income balances. In the spirit of enhancing cooperation, we affirm that carefully calibrated macroeconomic and structural policies tailored to country-specific circumstances are necessary to address excessive imbalances and mitigate the risks to achieving the G20 goal of strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

Demographic changes, including population aging, pose challenges and opportunities for all G20 members and these changes will require policy actions that span fiscal, monetary, financial, labour market and other structural policies. To strengthen financial inclusion in the aging society, we endorse the G20 Fukuoka Policy Priorities on Aging and Financial Inclusion.

GLOBAL FINANCE

We reaffirm our commitment to further strengthening the global financial safety net with a strong, quota-based, and adequately resourced International Monetary Fund (IMF) at its center. We remain committed to concluding the 15th General Review of Quotas no later than the 2019 Annual Meetings, and call on the IMF to expedite its work on IMF resources and governance reform as a matter of the highest priority. We support the progress made on work to follow up the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) proposals, including on country platforms, and efforts by the World Bank Group (WBG) to enhance risk insurance in development finance. We welcome the work undertaken by the international organizations on capital flows. The OECD has completed a review of its Code



of Liberalization of Capital Movements. We will continue our work on the EPG's proposals, recognizing their multi-year nature.

Labour and Employment Population ageing is progressing in G20 members at different rates. Taking into account the commonalities and differences among G20 demographics, we recognize the importance of promoting an healthy and active ageing society that enables workers to participate in the labour market at older ages, while continuing to increase participation of youth, women and persons with disabilities in economic activities. We will boost job creation and flexible work arrangements, seek to raise quality of employment and enhance employability of workers through lifelong learning as working lives are expected to be longer, and strive towards improving the working conditions for all including, long-term care workers in accordance with national circumstances. We will also continue to promote employment opportunities for and employability of the young population. We ask Ministers of Labour

and Employment to identify possible policy priorities for adapting to demographic trends when they meet in Matsuyama in September. We recognize that emerging new forms of work, particularly those driven by technological innovation can be a source of job opportunities but may also pose challenges for decent work and social protection systems. We encourage Labour and Employment Ministers to further exchange experiences and good practices as we endeavor to develop adequate policy responses to these new forms of work, taking into account the view of the private sector. We remain committed to promote decent work and reaffirm our commitment to take actions to eradicate child labour, forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery in the world of work, including through fostering sustainable global supply chains.

Women's Empowerment

Gender equality and women's empowerment are essential for achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth. We reconfirm their importance in all aspects of our policies and





as a cross-cutting issue at upcoming Summits. We note that further progress has been made towards the Brisbane Goal, to reduce the gap in labour force participation between men and women by 25 per cent by 2025. We take note of the progress report *Women at Work in G20 Countries* prepared by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and OECD, and acknowledge the need to accelerate our efforts. Building on the continued efforts by Labour and Employment Ministers, we will exchange our respective progress and actions taken in the G20 towards the Brisbane Goal, including the quality of women's employment, on the basis of the annual report. We will also address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women's participation in the labour market. We commit to take further action to improve the quality of women's employment, reduce gender pay gaps, and end all forms of discrimination against women and

combat stereotypes and to recognize women as agents of peace, and in the prevention and resolution of conflict.

Tourism accounts for a significant share of the world's GDP and is expected to continue to be an important driver of global economic growth. We will work to maximize the sector's contribution to the creation of quality jobs and entrepreneurship, especially for women and youth and in the creative industry; economic resilience and recovery; the preservation of natural resources through sustainable tourism planning and management; and the achievement of inclusive and sustainable development.

Agriculture

In order to achieve food security and improve nutrition for the growing world population, agricultural productivity needs to increase and distribution needs to be more efficient, including by reducing food loss and waste, in a way more

compatible with the sustainable management of natural resources. To this end, we highlight the importance of access to and utilization of existing, new and advanced technologies, such as Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics among others, and encourage cross-sectoral collaboration among stakeholders. We also encourage innovation, skills training and lifelong education for all, in attracting new entrants and empowering youth and women in the agro-food sector. We recognize the importance of developing sustainable, science-based and resilient agro-food value chains, in an inclusive and equitable manner, including family farming and small scale farmers, which will also contribute to revitalizing rural areas. We emphasize the need for continued and enhanced information sharing and research collaboration to respond to existing and emerging animal and plant health issues. We will further encourage voluntary exchange of good practices and knowledge towards more sustainable agro-food sector.

Global Health

Health is a prerequisite for sustainable and inclusive economic growth. We recall our commitment to moving towards achieving universal health coverage according to national contexts and priorities. We look forward to the United Nations General Assembly High Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Primary health care including access to medicines, vaccination, nutrition, water and sanitation, health promotion and disease prevention is a cornerstone for advancing health and inclusion. We will strengthen health systems with a focus on quality including through enhancing health workforce and human resources for policy development and promoting public and private sector innovation, such as cost-effective and appropriate digital and other innovative technologies. Recognizing the importance of sustainable financing for health, we will call for greater collaboration between health and finance authorities in accordance with the G20 Shared Understanding on the Importance of UHC Financing in Developing Countries, to which our commitment was affirmed by our Finance and Health Ministers at their Joint Session. We encourage international organizations and all stakeholders to collaborate effectively and we look forward to the upcoming presentation of the global action plan for healthy lives and well-being for all.

Global Environmental Issues and Challenges

Noting the important work of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Intergovernmental Science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and in the light of recent extreme weather events and disasters, we recognize the urgent need for addressing complex and pressing global issues





and challenges, including climate change, resource efficiency, air, land, fresh water and marine pollution, including marine plastic litter, biodiversity loss, sustainable consumption and production, urban environmental quality and other environmental issues, and for promoting and leading energy transitions, with the best available science, while promoting sustainable growth. A paradigm shift is needed where the virtuous cycle of environment and growth is accelerated through innovations, and with business communities playing an important role, in synergy with the public sector. To this end we stress the importance of accelerating the virtuous cycle and leading transformations to a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future. We emphasize the importance of taking concrete and practical actions and collecting international best practices and wisdom from around the world, mobilizing public and private finance, technology and investment and improving business environments.

To this end, we strive to foster inclusive finance for sustainable development, including public and private financing mobilization and alignment between them, as well as innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development. Climate actions at all levels with broad participation, including by non-state actors, will be the key to realizing such a paradigm shift. In further enhancing this effort, as appropriate to each country's circumstances, we will look into a wide range of clean technologies and approaches, including smart cities, ecosystem and community based approaches, nature based solutions and traditional and indigenous knowledge. We need to enhance efforts to support actions and cooperation in adaptation and disaster risk reduction, in particular, for the most vulnerable communities, and to elaborate further and foster coherence between mitigation action, adaptation measures, environmental protection, and resilient infrastructure. We note the successful adoption of the implementation guidelines for the Paris Agreement and the completion of the stocktaking of the Talanoa Dialogue at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties (UNFCCC COP) 24 and the outcomes of the meeting of G20 energy and environment ministers in Karuizawa, subsequent to the

successful G20 Buenos Aires Summit. We are determined to make best use of this momentum, and thus look forward to a successful Climate Action Summit of the UN Secretary-General and concrete outcomes at UNFCCC COP 25 in Santiago, Chile. Signatories to the Paris Agreement who confirmed at Buenos Aires its irreversibility and are determined to implement it, reaffirm their commitment to its full implementation, reflecting common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances. By 2020 we aim to communicate, update or maintain our NDCs, taking into account that further global efforts are needed. We emphasize the importance of providing financial resources to assist developing countries with respect to both mitigation and adaptation in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

Energy

We acknowledge the importance of energy transitions that realize the "3E+S" (Energy Security, Economic Efficiency, and Environment + Safety) in order to transform our energy systems into affordable, reliable, sustainable and low GHG emissions systems as soon as possible, recognizing that there are different possible national paths to achieve this goal. Recalling the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth Communiqué, we

acknowledge the role of all energy sources and technologies in the energy mix and different possible national paths to achieve cleaner energy systems. We also recognize opportunities offered by further development of innovative, clean and efficient technologies for energy transitions, including hydrogen as well as, depending on national circumstances, the Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) taking note of work on "Carbon Recycling" and "Emissions to Value". We acknowledge the G20 Japanese Presidency's initiative called Research and Development 20 for clean energy technologies ("RD20"). In light of recent events highlighting concern about safe flow of energy, we acknowledge the importance of global energy security as one of the guiding principles for the transformation of energy systems, including resilience, safety and development of infrastructure and uninterrupted flow of energy from various sources, suppliers, and routes. We recognize the value of international cooperation on a wide range of energy-related issues including energy access, affordability and energy efficiency, and energy storage. We reaffirm our joint commitment on medium term rationalization and phasing-out of Inefficient Fossil Fuel Subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, while providing targeted support for the poorest.





US leadership acknowledged contributions of Pakistan Army in Afghan peace process

By M. Bilal Zafar

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) spokesperson Maj Gen Asif Ghafoor, in a series of tweets gave an update on the military chief's engagements in the US. Apart from Pompeo, the chief of army staff met Acting Defense Secretary Richard Spencer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Gen Joseph F. Dunford and Joint Chief of Staff Gen Mark Milley. He was also part of the delegation that accompanied the prime minister on his visit to the White House.

Gen Bajwa was received at Pentagon by Gen Dunford and was presented a 21 gun salute. Regional security situation and bilateral military cooperation between Pakistan and US dominated the discussions between Gen Bajwa



and US military leadership.

“US leadership acknowledged contributions of Pakistan Army in the war against terrorism and its role towards the Afghan peace process.”

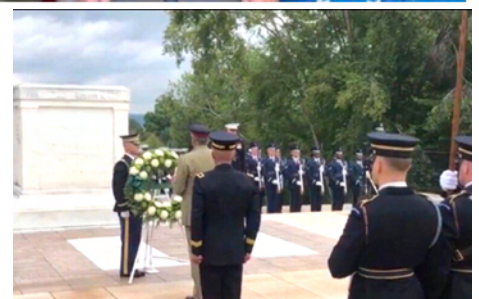
COAS interacted with US Military leadership at Pentagon. Regional security situation and bilateral military cooperation discussed. US leadership acknowledged contributions of Pakistan Army in war against terrorism and role towards Afghan peace process. The ongoing Afghan peace process remained a major point of discussion during Gen Bajwa's meeting with US Secretary of State Pompeo. The two

US leadership acknowledged contributions of Pakistan Army in war against terrorism and role towards Afghan peace process.

also talked about the importance of bilateral relations between the two countries. Pakistan attaches great importance to restoring a robust bilateral relationship based on mutual respect, trust and shared values.

COAS visited US State Department and called on US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. The two discussed regional security issues especially focusing on Afghan peace process, noting the importance of an Afghan led and Afghan controlled solution.

In a meeting with US Senator Lindsay Graham



and retired US Gen Jack Keane, the army chief said that healthy relations between both countries were important for regional stability. “Bilateral relationship holds potential for both countries and would also assist in regional stability,” Gen Bajwa was quoted as saying.

COAS apprised them of the improved security situation in Pakistan and the resulting opportunities for foreign businesses to invest in Pakistan. “Bilateral relationship holds potential

for both countries and would also assist in regional stability”, COAS

He briefed Graham and Keane on the improved security situation of Pakistan and also highlighted the “resulting opportunities” for foreign investors. Gen Bajwa also paid homage to US national heroes at the Arlington National Cemetery, where a special ceremony was held during which the national anthems of both countries were played.





The 6th Round of Pakistan & France Joint Security Commission

By M. Bilal Zafar

The Joint Security Commission meets regularly since 2011 in order to maintain high-level exchanges between France and Pakistan in field of security cooperation and fight against terrorism. The 6th Round of Pakistan-France Joint Security Commission talks were held in the Ministry of Defence, Rawalpindi on 1st July 2019. Lt Gen (Retd) Ikram-ul-Haq, Secretary Defence led Pakistan delegation while French delegation was led by Mrs Claire Landais, Secretary General

for Defence and National Security. Prior to plenary session, Mrs Landais called on Lt Gen (Retd) Ikram-ul-Haq in his office during which issues relating to bilateral relations including security cooperation and counter terrorism were discussed. Both sides reviewed the present status of their bilateral relations and expressed their resolve to further enhance and diversify their cooperation in counter terrorism domain within the framework of the Bilateral Declaration on cooperation adopted in 2011 and the Convention signed between the two

sides in 2016. During the plenary session, both sides held a comprehensive review of the progress made on the issues discussed during the last Security Commission Talks held in France in 2017. Views were also exchanged on the prevailing security environment and strategies to mitigate the threats emanating from the existing challenges particularly terrorism. Both sides held in depth discussions recognizing the relevance of the work achieved so far and the importance of continuing our cooperation in the field of security. They also



noted with satisfaction the signing of Academic Cooperation Agreement between National Defence University (Pakistan) and the Institute for Higher National Defence Studies (France). In the end, it was agreed that next session of Joint Security Commission will be convened in Paris on mutually agreed dates.

Pakistan & France reviewed the present status of their bilateral relations and expressed their resolve to further enhance and diversify their cooperation in counter terrorism.



Mrs Claire Landais, Secretary General for Defence and National Security of France presenting a gift to Secretary Defence, Lt. Gen (Retd) Ikram-ul-Haq, at Ministry of Defence, Rawalpindi on 01-07-2019.



The 6th Round of Pakistan-France Joint Security Commission Talks held in the Ministry of Defence, Rawalpindi on 1st July 2019. Lt Gen (Retd) Ikram-Ul-Haq, Secretary Defence led Pakistan delegation while French delegation was led by Mrs Claire Landais, Secretary General for Defence and National Security.



Army General Oleg Salyukov, Commander in Chief Russian Ground Forces called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa COAS

By M. Bilal Zafar

Army General Oleg Salyukov, Commander in Chief Russian Ground Forces called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ.

During the meeting matters related to enhanced security / training cooperation and measures to further expand joint military ties between the two armies were discussed. COAS said that cooperation between both countries will not only help in improving peace and stability in the region, but will also usher economic prosperity. Pakistan does not believe in zero sum games but rather, integration and cooperation. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan Army's professionalism and achievements in war against terrorism. He said that the world should appreciate more what

Pakistan has achieved. He also expressed the Russian desire to forge strong and broad based relations with Pakistan.

Earlier, on arrival at GHQ, Commander in Chief

Russian Ground Forces laid floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada. A contingent of Pakistan Army presented the guard of honour to the visiting dignitary.



Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



President Dr. Arif Alvi talking to High Commissioner-designate of Pakistan to Bosnia & Herzegovina, Major General (Retd) Muhammad Khalid Rao, who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad on July 26, 2019.



outgoing Ambassador of European Union to Pakistan, Jean Francois Cautain paying farewell call on President Dr. Arif Alvi at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad on July 16, 2019.



Ambassador of China to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Yao Jing called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at PM office Islamabad on July 12, 2019.



Three Member Delegation of World Economic Forum Led By President of World Economic Forum Mr. Broge Brende Calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan at PM office Islamabad on 11th July, 2019.



British High Commissioner to Pakistan Mr. Thomas Daryo called on Foreign Affairs Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi in Multan on July 4, 2019.



Ambassador of China Mr. Yao Jing called on Speaker National Assembly Mr. Asad Qaiser at Parliament House on 23.07.2019.



Chairperson of CPA Executive Committee and Deputy Speaker Parliament of Cameroon Ms. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka called on Speaker National Assembly Mr. Asad Qaiser at Parliament House on 29.07.2019.



Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Shafqat Mahmood in a meeting with the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, KWAK Sung- KYU in Islamabad on July 12, 2019.



Mr. Tajudeen Oyewale, New Deputy Representative UNICEF Pakistan, Ms. Urmila Sarkar UNICEF South Asian Regional Education Adviser along with Ellen Van Kalmthout Chief of Education UNICEF Pakistan called on the Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood in Islamabad on 3rd July, 2019.



Federal Minister For Human Rights, Dr. Shireen M Mazari Talking to Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Jean-Francois Cautain who Called on HER in Islamabad on July 11, 2019.



H.E. Mr. Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, called on General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, Chairman JCS Committee at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi.



Adviser to Prime Minister of Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh receiving Ambassador-at-Large for Foreign Investment, Mr. Ali Jahangir Siddiqui at Finance Ministry on July 03, 2019.



H.E Mr Lwan Suyudhie, Ambassador of Indonesia called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ.



Mrs. Claire Landais, Secretary General of Defence and National Security of France, call on Secretary Defence, Lt. General (Retd) Ikram ul Haq, in Ministry of Defence, Rawalpindi, on 01-07-2019.



Speaker National Assembly Mr. Asad Qaiser addressing the second international Forum on development of Parliamentarian in Moscow

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Speaker National Assembly Mr. Asad Qaiser has proposed establishment of a Joint Parliamentary Commission for discussing and suggesting way forward for promotion of bilateral economic and investment relations between Pakistan and Russian Federation. The Speaker opined that structural changes in the economy and pro-investment policies of the government have resulted in creation of immense economic potential. He also suggested for Russian participation in CPEC projects. Speaker, National Assembly Asad Qaiser met Mr. Volodin Viacheslav Viktorovich, Chairman Russian State Duma in Moscow, Russia, on sidelines of the Conference on Development of Parliamentarianism, according to a message received from Moscow.

Matters relating to enhancing bilateral relations and economic cooperation were discussed between both the Presiding Officers. The proposal was well received by the Russian State Duma Chairman and proposed for meetings to finalize the proposal. He said that it was heartening to note that Pak-Russia relations were in phase of progression and would attain strength with continued interaction and cooperation. Mr. Volodin Viacheslav Viktorovich suggested that such parliamentary moots should be held regular basis in order to discuss issues confronting regional and global peace, socio-economic growth and development of human potential.



Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Mr. Asad Qaiser Shaking hand with Chairman of the State Dume of the Russian Federation Mr. Viacheslav Volodin at Moscow, Russia.



Group Photo of Pakistan Parliamentary delegation led by Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Mr. Asad Qaiser with Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Mr. Viacheslav Volodin at Moscow Russia.

While talking to his Russian counterpart, the Speaker Asad Qaiser said that Pakistan attached immense importance to its relation with Russia. Recalling the Russian assistance in Industrial Sector, the Speaker said that establishment of Steel Mill played an important role in development of Pakistan. The Speaker suggested for cooperation in trade, investment, space security, defence, nuclear energy for peace purposes, culture and education between Pakistan and Russia. He expressed satisfaction on pace of strategic dialogue between both the countries on consultation of regional issues that include cooperation addressing the menace of terrorism and extremism, human and drug trafficking and other diverse sectors.

The Speaker expressing his satisfaction on the quantum of trade between Pakistan and Russia, he said that mutual trade had increased up to \$ 314 million which needs to be enhanced in view of trade potential on both sides.

Speaking about the parliamentary relations between National Assembly of Pakistan and Russian State Duma, Mr. Asad Qaiser said that cordial relation exist between both the parliaments and friendship groups have been established on both sides which have been actively interacting and sharing experiences. He conveyed his appreciation for successful holding of Conference on "Development of Parliamentarism" by the Chairman State Duma.

Chairman State Duma Mr. Volodin Viacheslav Viktorovich conveyed his profound sentiments to his Pakistani counterpart saying that Russia values its relations with Pakistan and wants to further cement them through economic and parliamentary cooperation. He agreed that establishment of Joint Parliamentary Commission comprising members of the parliament from both sides having expertise in economic trade, agriculture and development sectors could be a giant leap in cementing Russia-Pak relations. He agreed for enhancing trade between Pakistan-Russia which should commensurate with existing trade potential on either side.



Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Mr. Asad Qaiser in a bilateral meeting with Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Mr. Viacheslav Volodin at Moscow, Russia.



Pakistan Attaches Immense Importance To Its Friendly Relation With Korea

By M. Bilal zafar

Speaker National Assembly said that Pakistan gives immense importance to its friendly relations with Korea and want to further expand the bilateral relations through enhanced corporation in trade and investment sectors. He said that there were vast opportunities of investment in agriculture and tourism sectors in Pakistan and Korean investors can take benefit from these opportunities. He expressed these views while talking to convener of Korea-Pak friendship group Ms. Cho Bae-sook member of Korean Parliament who called on him along with parliamentary delegation at Parliament House on Monday. The matter pertaining to bilateral relations and mutual interest were discussed in the meeting.

The Speaker said that people to people contacts can bring both nations more closer. He was of the view that regular exchange of parliamentary delegations will promote mutual harmony and cooperation. He said that present government was paying special attention on development of agriculture sector and to promote economy of the country. He said that Pakistan and Korea can be benefited from each other experiences in agriculture sector and Pakistan

wanted to enhance corporation with Korea for development of this sector. He said that both the countries can bring positive changes in agriculture sector through modern technology. The Speaker stressed the need for providing every possible facility to Pakistani workers working in Korea. He said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a game changer project which will create job opportunities in the region and new era of development and prosperity will usher in the region with the completion of this project. He invited the Korean investors to invest in CPEC project

Ms. Cho Bae-sook, while thanking the Speaker for his kind remarks said that Korea highly values its cordial relations with Pakistan. She said that Korea desired to enhanced cooperation with Pakistan and tourism and other social and economic sectors. She said that Pakistan can be benefited by promoting religious tourism. She was of the view that by rehabilitation of site of Gandhara civilization can boost the tourism in Pakistan. She appreciated the role of Pakistani immigrants in progress and development of Korea.



Speaker National Assembly Mr. Asad Qaiser in a meeting with Korean Parliamentary delegation led by Ms. Cho Bae-sook, MP and President of Korea-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group at Parliament House on 22.07.2019.



The International Court of Justice announced its verdict on the Kulbhushan Jadhav case

By M. Bial Zafar (Monitoring Desk)

The ICJ, rejected remedies sought by India, which included the annulment of the military court decision convicting Jadhav, restricting Pakistan from executing the sentence, securing Jadhav's release and ordering his return to India. "The Court notes that Pakistan acknowledges that the appropriate remedy in the present case would be effective review and reconsideration of the conviction and sentence," it observed. To this end, Pakistan was directed to immediately inform Jadhav of his rights under Article 36, grant India consular access, and then review the case while considering, under the laws of Pakistan. "The Court considers that the violation of the rights set forth in Article 36, paragraph 1, of the Vienna Convention, and its implications for the principles of a fair trial, should be fully examined and properly addressed during the review and reconsideration process," the court directed. "The Court notes that the obligation to provide effective review and reconsideration can be carried out in various ways. The choice of means is left to Pakistan," it added. However, it stressed that, "Pakistan shall take all measures to provide for effective review and reconsideration, including, if necessary, by enacting appropriate legislation."

While that matter is decided, Pakistan has been directed to suspend the execution of the death penalty awarded to Jadhav. "Pakistan, as a responsible member of the international community, upheld its commitment from the very beginning of the case by appearing

before the honourable court for the provisional measures hearing despite a very short notice. Having heard the judgment, Pakistan will now proceed as per law," the Foreign Office said in a press release shortly after the verdict was announced. "It is reiterated that Indian Naval Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav entered Pakistan without a visa on authentic Indian Passport with a fake alias, Hussain Mubarak Patel," it continued. "Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav is responsible for acts of sabotage, espionage and multiple terrorist incidents in which scores of innocent Pakistani citizens were killed, resulting into umpteen women being widowed and numerous children becoming orphans. Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav has confessed to all these acts during his trial in Pakistani court in front of a judicial magistrate. This is a clear case of Indian state terrorism." Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi noted in a press briefing that "Kulbhushan Jadhav will remain in Pakistan. He shall be treated in accordance with the laws of Pakistan." Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Asif Ghafoor, while speaking to private news channel following the verdict, congratulated the nation on "the success achieved" and lauded the efforts made by the legal team and the FO which represented Pakistan. "For the verdict to be upheld by an international court where there is no concept of capital punishment is a big victory for Pakistan. "And for them to say that the review and reconsideration can be done by means of our own choosing is great validation for our judicial system," he said. "Pakistan will follow the law,"

he said, reiterating FM Qureshi's statement on the way forward in the case. "It's another Feb 27 for India; they have been surprised again. They thought that the kind of political capital they have, they can manipulate justice too but that did not happen," said Maj Gen Ghafoor. He went on to say that India's "false narratives continue" and that "after this verdict they are practically certified to have undertaken state-sponsored terrorism and the world has seen what their role in Pakistan has been."

During the hearing of the case in the international court, India denied Jadhav was a spy and had asked the ICJ to order his release because he was denied consular access and not allowed to choose his own defence lawyer. Attorney General of Pakistan Anwar Mansoor Khan had in turn argued that Jadhav was an Indian spy sent to Balochistan to destabilize the country and therefore not entitled to consular access. He had said that "India's claim for relief must be dismissed." Khan had told the court that Jadhav ran a network "to carry out despicable terrorism and suicide bombing, targeted killing, kidnapping for ransom and targeted operations to create unrest and instability in the country". "His unlawful activities were directed at creating anarchy in Pakistan and particularly targeted the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor," Khan had told the 15-judge bench. India's lawyers told the court in February that it was a "farfetched case" based on "malicious propaganda", while Pakistan's lawyers hit back by accusing Jadhav of "terrorism". The last hearing coincided with a sharp spike in tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbours after a suicide bombing in occupied Kashmir's Pulwama, although relations have since improved. India also accused Pakistan of harassing Jadhav's family in 2017 during a meeting that it said was held in an "atmosphere of coercion". It said Jadhav's conversation with his mother and wife was "tutored and designed to perpetuate the false narrative of his alleged activities in Pakistan". Jadhav, on the other hand, said he "saw fear" in the eyes of his mother and wife when he met them in Islamabad on December 25, 2017, adding that an Indian diplomat accompanying them was "yelling at them".



wife Chetankul Jadhav and mother of Indian spy met Kulbhushan Jadhav in Pakistan's detention



Pakistan and Iraq enjoys close fraternal relations

By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Dr. Arif Alvi appreciated the Government of Iraq for its staunch support of the right to self-determination of the people of Kashmir, while talking to Head of the Political Party, Islamic Supreme Council in Iraq, Shaikh Dr. Hamam Hamoudi, who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad today. The President said that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute was on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the current situation in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK) emanated from Indian denial of the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people through a free and fair plebiscite, as per UNSC Resolutions. He compared the Kashmir dispute to Palestine, which witnessed human rights violations at the hands of Israeli forces. He said that the valiant people of IOK had rendered unmatched sacrifices in their struggle against illegal Indian occupation, which had made the IOK one of the most militarized zones in the world. He highlighted that 2018 proved to be one of the deadliest years in the history of IOK, in which Indian occupation forces killed over 500 innocent Kashmiris. He emphasized that



the Government of Pakistan condemned in the strongest terms the violation of fundamental human rights in IOK and would continue to extend political, diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmiri people in their just struggle. Shaikh Dr. Hamam Hamoudi said that Kashmir issue was a human tragedy and human voices could not be suppressed by force for long. Therefore, he added that amicable resolution of this dispute was imperative for peace and stability in the region.

Shaikh Dr. Hamam Hamoudi has been vociferously advocating for the right to self-determination of the people of IOK. He travelled to AJK and Chikoti at the LoC and met Kashmiri refugees from IOK. This visit provided him a useful opportunity to witness the contrast between the human rights situation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Indian Occupied Kashmir. The President said that Pakistan and Iraq enjoyed close fraternal relations based on shared faith, culture, and heritage, however, economic engagement between the two was not commensurate to the true potential. He also offered Pakistani services in the ongoing reconstruction process in Iraq. Furthermore, he highlighted the need for boosting tourism between the two brotherly countries and enhancing people-to-people contact. Student exchange could be a major impetus in this regard, he added.

Agreeing with the President on the need for enhanced bilateral engagement, Shaikh Dr. Hamam Hamoudi also invited the President to visit Iraq.

Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser has said that peace in the region was imperative for regional progress and prosperity and all conflicts are resolved through diplomatic engagement. Referring to the issue of Kashmir, the Speaker said that it was flashpoint and a detrimental to the regional peace and Pakistan advocates resolution of this issue in accordance with UN Resolution and aspiration of people of Kashmir. The Speaker was talking to Shaikh Dr. Hamam Hamoudi, Head of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq accompanied by a 5-Members Parliamentary delegation comprising Members



Speaker National Assembly Mr. Asad Qaiser in a group photo with Iraqi Parliamentary delegation led by Head of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq Shaikh Dr. Hamam Hamoudi at Parliament House on 25.07.2019.

of Iraqi Parliament in Parliament House, Islamabad this morning.

The Speaker said that Kashmir was a longstanding unresolved issue which had become a human catastrophe with the passing time. He said that concerted diplomatic efforts by the international community were required to address resolution of this issue. He stressed for resolution of issues of Kashmir and Palestine according to UN resolutions and aspiration of Kashmiri and Palestinian people. The Speaker referring to Pakistan's relations with Iraq said that these time immemorial relations had always witnessed positive progression. He said that both the countries were intertwined in history, religion and culture. The Speaker said that the existing relations between Pakistan and Iraq needed to be diversified and translated into economic cooperation for mutual good.

The Speaker said that Pak-Iraq Parliamentary friendship Group in national Assembly had been activated and members of the PFG were enthusiastic to interact with the Iraqi counterparts. The Speaker suggested that regular exchange of delegations may be made a regular feature so that the Members of the Parliament from either side could view and share experiences. He also suggested for

formation of a Joint Parliamentary Committee to discuss and suggest ways and means for further enhancing economic cooperation. Shaikh Dr. Hamam Hamoudi, Head of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq thanked Speaker for his kind remarks and agreed that Iraq and Pakistan were tied in eternal bonds of religion and brotherhood. He said that Iraq terms Kashmir issue a human tragedy and would extend diplomatic support to Pakistan at all regional and international forums till its amicable solution. He also agreed for further intensifying people to people and economic contacts. Dr. Hamam Hamoudi said that vast trade potential exists between both the countries which need to be enhanced. He said that he was accompanied by Mr. Sami Araj, Chairman Investment Commission of Iraq who had interacted with Pakistani business people and explored avenues of possible cooperation. He said that Iraq was going through reconstruction and rehabilitation phase and required Pakistani companies to invest in infrastructure development. He also suggested for grant of educational scholarships in Pakistani universities. He expressed desire for acquiring services of Pakistani doctors and engineers by his government.





Commonwealth summit Qureshi shares government vision for Pakistan's uplift

By Mian Asadullah

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi led the Pakistan delegation to the Extraordinary Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers' Meeting (CFAMM), held in London. The meeting was convened to mark the 70th anniversary of the London Declaration, which marked the creation of the Commonwealth of Nations. The Meeting was chaired by the UK in its capacity as the current Chair-in-Office, says a press release received from London. The Foreign Ministers of the member states discussed matters of collective interest and deliberated upon the role of Commonwealth in economic development, governance and social development to realize the shared vision of a fairer, a more prosperous, a more sustainable and a more secure future. Expressing Pakistan's commitment to deliver on the vision of the Commonwealth, Foreign Minister Qureshi briefed the meeting on steps taken towards building sustainable institutions and inclusive society, internalizing good governance and mainstreaming gender parity. He stated that rule of law, eradication of corruption; economic development and social justice are key priorities of the government for

long term and sustainable growth. Speaking on gender equality, the Foreign Minister shared that there is an ever-growing number of Pakistani women entering our work force and government has introduced legislation to protect the rights of women and their economic

and social empowerment. Pakistan is cognizant of its human rights obligations and takes its commitment to the minorities very seriously, added the Foreign Minister. Giving an overview of economic reforms of the government, Foreign Minister Qureshi stated that Pakistan





believes in people-centric development. The Foreign Minister also highlighted the special focus of Prime Minister Imran Khan on youth and the various programmes that have been started for economic uplift. On China Pakistan Economic Corridor, the Foreign Minister said the project is fast reaching fruition and will make Pakistan a regional hub for economic activity. He further apprised the Commonwealth Ministers on Pakistan's National Development Strategy -Vision 2025 - remains fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. Prime Minister Imran Khan's Government has recently launched a comprehensive program

for poverty alleviation called Ehsaas that would focus on areas hit by the Afghan war, the Foreign Minister said. Mr. Qureshi briefed the delegates on Pakistan's successful fight against extremism and terrorism and the measures taken by the government against hate speech, violent extremism, money laundering and terror financing. To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Commonwealth, the Foreign Minister also announced issuance of a commemorative postage stamp by Pakistan as an expression of solidarity with the Organization. Pakistan stood out as the only member state to have launched this

initiative, which was highly appreciated by all the delegates. The Foreign Minister also interacted with the Foreign Ministers of other Commonwealth countries. Pakistan is one of the founding members of the Commonwealth. The Annual Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Meeting (CFAMM) mechanism was established to provide political oversight and guidance for implementation of mandates agreed by leaders in the period between Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGMs). Its meetings are held annually.





By Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan and United States relations refer to the bilateral relationship between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the United States of America. On 20 October 1947, two months and six days after Pakistan's independence, the United States established relations with Pakistan, making it amongst the first nations to establish relations with the new state. Pakistan allied itself with the U.S. during the Cold war era against the Soviet Union, and was an integral player in the CENTO and SEATO. Worsening of relations following the election of the left-oriented Pakistan People's Party under Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, relations quickly improved and deepened during Operation Cyclone in the 1980s, which was directed against Soviet expansion in Central Asia and South Asia, by funding and training Muslim mujahideen in Afghanistan to combat the Soviet Union. Relations once again soured after the collapse of the Soviet Union, when the United States approved sanctions against Pakistan by passing the amendment, which was enacted against Pakistan for its nuclear weapons program, which was initiated after the war with India in 1971 and accelerated after India detonated a nuclear bomb in 1974. Pakistan once again assumed an important role in American geopolitical interests in the region following the September 11 attacks, and the subsequent War on Terror. Relations were strengthened as the United States named Pakistan a major non-NATO ally in 2002.

Relations began to strain as both sides began to criticize one another's strategy in the War on Terror, with the United States

U.S. Pakistan Ties Ready for a Reset

government frequently accusing Pakistan of harboring members of the Afghan Taliban and Quetta Shura, while Pakistan had alleged that the United States had done little to control security in eastern Afghanistan, where Pakistan's most-wanted terrorist, Mullah Fazlullah was believed to be hiding. Furthermore, as a result of the Raymond Allen Davis incident in Lahore, the secret U.S. operation in Abbottabad which resulted in the death of Osama bin Laden, followed by the Salala incident, relations between the two countries became increasingly strained in recent years with high levels of mistrust. PM Imran Khan visited U.S. President Donald Trump in the White House. Both sides agreed to change the relationship between the two countries. President Trump lauded Pakistan's efforts to end the war in Afghanistan due to Pakistan's participation in the Afghan peace process, and Imran Khan said there is no military solution in Afghanistan. USA wants to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan and for this purpose USA needs Pakistan's support to give USA safe exit from Afghanistan. If we go in the past history of America and Pakistan relations we shall come to know that America came nearer to Pakistan when there is no other way except to gain support from Pakistan and the attitude of America would be remarkable in the hour of need and once the need is fulfilled the attitude again switch into worse.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has expressed his desire to have a proper relationship with the United States parallel to Islamabad's ties with Beijing rather than the one where Pakistan is treated like a "hired gun". Our relationship with China is not one-dimensional. It's a trade relationship between two countries. We want a similar relationship with the US." The prime minister, in his first interview to The Washington Post after assuming office, said: "I would never want to have a relationship where Pakistan is treated

like a hired gun — given money to fight someone else's war. It not only cost us human lives, devastation of our tribal areas, but it also cost us our dignity." Referring to President Trump's South Asia policy, Mr Khan reiterated his stance of having dialogue to achieve peace in war-torn Afghanistan. He had been insisting that the Afghan conflict did not have a military solution, he said, adding that he had been labelled as "Taliban Khan" for many years for having this stance. "Now I'm happy that everyone realises there is only a political solution. From Pakistan's point of view, we do not want the Americans to leave Afghanistan in a hurry like they did in 1989." PM Khan dismissed the accusation that past Pakistani governments had "lied" to the US, adding that the American administration had been "misinformed". "Is it possible that the greatest military machine in the history of mankind 150,000 Nato troops with the best equipment and over \$1 trillion are they saying that just a few thousand Pakistani insurgents are the reason they didn't win in Afghanistan?" he asked. He said: "The United States expected Pakistan to take on the Afghan Taliban. But the Afghan Taliban were not hitting Pakistan. Tehreek-i-Taliban and Al Qaeda were hitting us."

Afghanistan has suffered a lot and so has our relationship with this brotherly country. It is imperative that Imran Khan's government ensures that this very important relationship now heals. Repairing this damaged relationship can go a long way in winning over the hearts and minds of the Afghan people who have suffered a lot in the unending violence that has been continuing for a very long time. The Afghan horror must end and Pakistan, more than taking the credit for this ending, must extend all possible facilitation that it can offer. We must rebuild our relationship with Afghanistan, and I hope that remains a top priority for the government.



Moeed Yusuf

HE came, he saw, he conquered," wrote US-based South Asia expert Michael Kugleman in his recent Dawn article on Prime Minister Imran Khan's Washington sojourn. Perfectly put! One can have Democrat or Republican leanings in the US, PTI, PML-N, PPP or whatever in Pakistan, but if you are a champion of the Pakistan-US relationship in either country, you've got to admit that Khan's trip was special.

In my last article before his visit, I had suggested that the Trump-Khan meeting will be the make or break. The relationship begged a shakeup and the two gents needed to click. And they did. Interacting with both sides before the trip, I sensed nervousness. The Pakistani side knew the importance of the one-on-one between the leaders and had worked overtime to decipher President Donald Trump's likes and dislikes. Still, they weren't willing to wager any bets. The US system, on the other hand, was concerned about Trump going overboard in rolling out the red carpet for Khan, thereby sending, from the bureaucracy's perspective, a terrible signal: bygones are bygones and the US is ready to mend fences because Pakistan matters.

The Pakistani side was all smiles after the White House interaction, but Khan's visit has left Washington divided. Trump took the charm offensive route, creating a dilemma for his bureaucracy. The view within the system remains that Pakistan needs to be pressured to force greater cooperation on Afghanistan. The divide

Divisions persist

throws up a couple of serious challenges.

First, the natural inclination of those favouring persistent pressure on Pakistan will be to try and walk back some of Trump's conciliatory signalling. We've already seen statements from Washington indicating a more sceptical take on the trip than Trump's overtures suggested. On the Pakistani side, this reality will likely lead to attempts to bypass the system and work directly with the US president and the pro-Pakistan voices who convinced him to invite Khan.

Neither will benefit the relationship. Too sceptical an approach by the US

TRUMP WANTS PAKISTAN TO GET HIM A PEACE DEAL.

bureaucracy will deflate Pakistan's incentive to push harder on Afghanistan to satisfy Trump, something I sense Pakistan is now keen to do. On the other hand, while what a US president wants matters, Washington ultimately derives its strength from its institutions. One can't ignore the institutional processes; any such effort on Pakistan's part will result in rearguard action by the bureaucracy that'll stall the momentum this trip initiated.

Second, even if we begin to move in a positive direction, the long-standing disconnect between what the US wants from Pakistan and what Pakistan is willing to do has still to be worked out.

On this count, we may be worse off now than we were before the trip, since Trump's understanding of the quid pro quo from Pakistan in return for his positive outreach is probably less nuanced than the US bureaucracy's. His desire to get an agreement between the Afghan powerbrokers and the Afghan Taliban in time for his November 2020 re-election bid is well known. Everything he did last week

tells me he feels Pakistan is his answer. He doesn't want Pakistan to merely get the Taliban talking with President Ashraf Ghani, he wants Pakistan to get him a peace deal.

The problem is that Pakistan doesn't have that kind of clout. But if it is unable to either manage or fulfil Trump's expectations, he will begin to revert to his system's sceptical view of Pakistan's utility. We'd be back to square one.

So, it is crucial for Pakistan to try as hard as it can in Afghanistan: to help the US secure a satisfactory outcome, while simultaneously seeking the US system's support to manage Trump's expectations.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that this trip wasn't only about the Trump-Khan meeting after all. It also touched thousands of Pakistani diaspora in a special way. With nearly 20,000 Pakistani Americans packed in Washington's Capital One Arena to hear Khan and Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, this community event managed to give a true sense of belonging to our otherwise disparate and disjointed diaspora community.

Among the crowd were second-generation Pakistanis who have grown up shying away from owning up to their identity rather than cherishing their heritage. Such has been the negativity around Pakistan's image in popular American imagination. Nonetheless, this generation has an essential role as ambassadors of the US-Pakistan relationship and both Washington and Islamabad must harness their potential. Khan has got the ball rolling in spectacular fashion. In fact, this may well have been his visit's most lasting contribution.

For those of us who see the merits of a strong US-Pakistan relationship, Prime Minister Khan's visit was a welcome development. It's now time to build on the reset the Trump-Khan duo has achieved.

The writer is the author of *Brokering Peace in Nuclear Environments: US Crisis Management in South Asia*. (Courtesy of Dawn)



UAE to open Asia's biggest visa centre in Karachi

By M. Bilal Zafar

Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Hamad Obaid Alzaabi said his country would be opening a visa centre in Karachi in September which would be the biggest such facility in Asia.

During his visit to the office of the Karachi

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), the UAE ambassador said another facility centre would start functioning in Islamabad in the first week of October, offering all facilities in Pakistan.

"Everything will be here, including medical insurance, check-ups and contracts etc, to

facilitate visa issuance from the visa centre in Karachi which will be the biggest visa centre of Asia while the entire team for this Visa Centre at Khayaban-i-Shamsheer in Karachi will come from the UAE," said a statement issued by the KCCI after the visit of Mr Alzaabi, who was accompanied by UAE Deputy Consul General Bakheet Ateeq Alremeithi.

The UAE officials attended a meeting at the KCCI office in which chairman of Businessmen Group and former president of KCCI Siraj Kassam Teli, KCCI president Junaid Esmail Makda, senior vice president Khurram Shahzad, vice president Asif Sheikh Javaid and managing committee members were present.

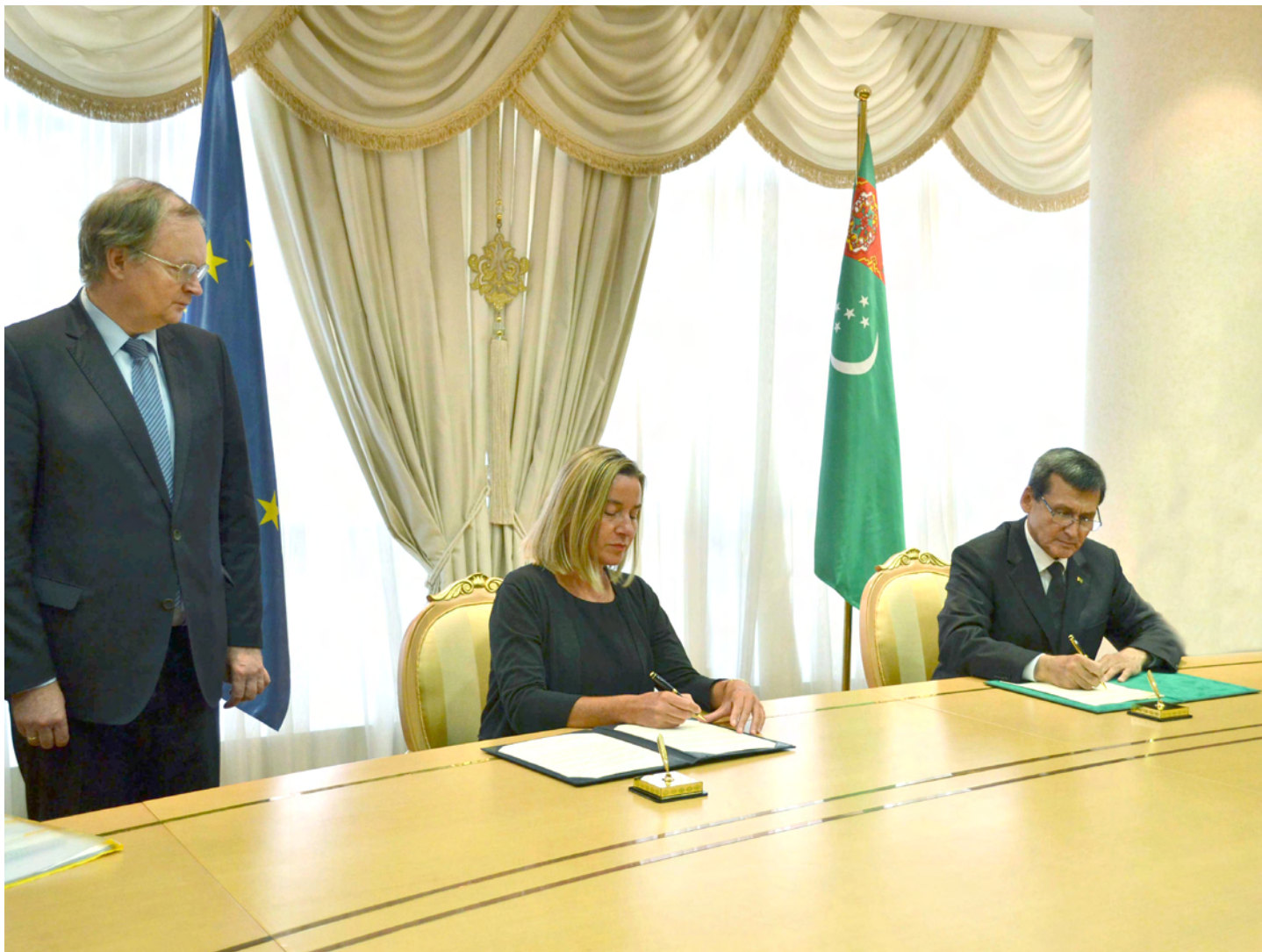
While expressing gratitude to KCCI members for their warm hospitality on his visit, the statement said, the UAE ambassador said that he had visited many areas of Pakistan, including Faisalabad, Sialkot, Lahore, Peshawar, South Waziristan and Quetta, but Karachi was one of the most important cities of the country where social life, atmosphere, culture and people were very different as compared to other areas, including Islamabad.

"We are trying to find new areas of cooperation where we could work together and also examining the challenging areas so that these could be addressed by the authorities in the UAE. Insha Allah, we will put our hands together to move forward in future," the statement quoted the UAE ambassador as saying.

He further said that the UAE was now offering Silver Investment Visa for five years and Golden Investment Visa for 10 years which were being issued under a specific criterion and depend on the size of a company and also the amount being invested.



Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shah Farman inauguration Health Project, funded by U.A.E Government at Institute of Kidney Diseases, Hayatabad, Peshawar on July 4, 2019.



Multilateral cooperation between Turkmenistan and European Union

By Agency

A meeting was held in Ashgabat between the high representative of the European Union for foreign affairs and security policy / vice President of the Commission Ms. Federica Mogherini and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov.

During the meeting, the parties discussed the intensification of the multilateral cooperation between the European Union and Turkmenistan. The achievements gained in the bilateral political dialogue, economic and regional integration, as well as the effective promotion of cultural and humanitarian ties had been noted. The

parties discussed the key vectors of new EU Strategy for Central Asia where the vital role of regional cooperation, social and economic development, energy security, creation of pleasant investment climate and joint resolution of ecological problems is stated. The parties also discussed important projects in the field of developing transport systems and regional energy infrastructure, including the construction of the gas pipeline Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India and stressed their commitment to the implementation of joint strategic goals. After the talks, the parties signed the Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the European Union and

the European Atomic Energy Community on the Establishment and the Privileges and Immunities of the Delegation of the European Union in Turkmenistan that became a meaningful event in the process of developing multilateral between Turkmenistan and the European Union. Then, the heads of the external policy agencies of EU and Turkmenistan spoke at the briefing on the outcomes of the meeting, which was attended by the heads of the diplomatic missions and international organizations in Turkmenistan and local mass media. First half of the day, Ms. Federica Mogherini was also received by the Chairwoman of the Parliament (Mejlis) of Turkmenistan.



High Commissioner addressed at London Sukuk and Fintech Summit 2019

By Mian Asadullah

High Commissioner Mr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria attended Some of the main speakers at the summit included, Mr. John Glen MP, UK Economic Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. Oussama A. Kaissi (CEO, Islamic Corporation for insurance and investment and Export Credit), Dato Badlisyah Abdul Ghani (Chairman and ECO, Pay Halal), Charles Haresnape (CEO, GateHouse Bank), Abradat Kamalpour (Global Head of Islamic Finance and Fintech partner, Ashurst LLC), Dr. Mohamed Damak (Director, Global Head of Islamic Finance, and a number of others, who were to share their thoughts and experience.

High Commissioner spoke about the Pakistan Sukuk and the country's contribution to the global and domestic Sukuk. He said that the Sukuk Market has been consistently gaining ground in Pakistan's growing Islamic finance industry. There has been a concerted push by regulatory authorities in Pakistan to promote the Islamic finance industry on a sustainable basis. Regular Sukuk issuance has been a key element of this strategy.

He also briefed the participants about the various investment opportunities that were available in Pakistan. Mr. Zakaria highlighted that the changing global environment was shifting the global economic gravity to the Asian continent.

In this backdrop of the emerging trends, the High Commissioner gave an overview of regional economic developments, Pakistan's strategically important location at the centre of the region to play the role as regional economic hub and energy corridor, China's Belt and Road initiative, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and economic opportunities offered by developmental needs of the countries in that

region and half of the world's population there as a consumer market.

The High Commissioner remarked that CPEC was the manifestation of Pakistan's geo-strategic importance and location as a key trade route that connects landlocked Central Asia and Afghanistan, Western China and South Asia with West Asia and beyond through Arabian Sea.

Interms of investment opportunities, Mr. Zakaria identified priority areas of the Government of Pakistan. In this regard, he talked about Special Economic Zones (SEZs), tourism infrastructure development, energy sector, higher education, agriculture, pharmaceutical and IT sectors.

The High Commissioner also offered his good offices for facilitating potential investors who intended to seek guidance and assistance.

The London Sukuk Summit is the world's

premier Sukuk and Islamic capital Markets gathering that took place from 02-03 July 2019.

The Sukuk Summit attracts finance, business and industry leaders from around the world to discuss economic opportunities that were available in the Islamic financing.





FRENCH GOVERNMENT REPATRIATED SMUGGLED ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS OF PAKISTAN

By M. Bilal Zafar

A large number of smuggled archaeological artefacts of Balochistan, Pakistan, which were seized by the French Customs at the Paris Airport during the years 2006-2007, came to closure with their formal handing over to Pakistan. Mr. Rodolphe GINTZ, Director General of Customs and Indirect Rights, Ministry of Action and Public Accounts of France handed over these rare and precious artefacts, from Balochistan civilization to the Deputy Head of Mission and Charge d'Affaires. Mr. Muhammad Amjad Aziz Qazi in a simple restitution ceremony held at the Embassy of Pakistan to France, in Paris. Present on the occasion were the Director of Culture, Education, Research and Network at the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, and the Head of the Department of International Affairs of the Ministry of Culture and media person. Mr. Amjad Aziz Qazi in his remarks thanked the Government of France and the French Custom Department for their support and concerted efforts for pursuing the repatriation case in the French courts and in completing the tedious and complicated legal formalities required for repatriation of these artefacts. Mr. Rodolphe GINTZ, Director General of French Customs while speaking at the ceremony gave a background of the case noting that the

artefacts were seized by the French Customs in pursuance of French obligations arising from UNESCO Convention of 1970 on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and transport of Ownership of Cultural property, to which both Pakistan and France are

signatories. Later, the Director General Customs formally handed over the Pakistani artifacts to the Deputy Head of Mission and Charge d'Affaires Embassy of Pakistan to France.



Paris, Deputy Head of Mission and Charge de 'affaires (Cd'A) Mr. Muhammad Amjad Aziz Qazi Speaking at the repatriation ceremony of precious and rare archeological artefacts by the French government to Pakistan held at the Embassy of Pakistan to France, in Paris, 2nd July, 2019.

Exclusive Interview

Mr. Maurizio Romani

General Manager Marriott Hotel Islamabad

Prior to his new post, Maurizio was the GM of Pearl-Continental (PC) Hotel, Bhurban. Prior to joining the Hashoo Group, Maurizio worked for the finest hotels in countries such as Germany, England, Italy, Portugal and Brazil, having worked for international networks such as Forte Hotels (Grosvenor House Hotel, London), Sheraton (Hotel Danieli in Venice), Le Meridien (Forte

Marriott
Islamabad is a
renewed brand
with 1700
hotels around the
world. We have
286 rooms and
several facilities
like 8 restaurants,
Banquets hall up
to 750 persons,
Gym, swimming
pool, Spa, shops,
and more than
500 staff to
delight our
clients.

Village Resort, Sardinia), Posadas Group in Brazil (Caesar Park Rio de Janeiro).

With his 33-year career in the hospitality industry, Maurizio's rich knowledge gained in some of the finest hotels in the world and his passion for guests and colleagues alike will ensure the continuation of offering guests services at the highest standard -the traditions of which the Islamabad Marriott Hotel is so proud of, while striving to further enhance





service quality and brand value in the future.

DF: Mr. Maurizio Romani! First of all thanks for your time from your busy schedule for our readers. Can you tell us a bit about Marriott hotel?

Marriott Islamabad is a renewed brand with 1700 hotels around the world. We have 286 rooms and several facilities like 8 restaurants, Banquets hall up to 750 persons, Gym, swimming pool, Spa, shops, and more than 500 staff to delight our clients.

DF: Where did you really think you were going to go in this career? What was your first job for the startup of your career?

I started from the bottom, with my family business, this was very important for me to

understand how this job works. There is still a lot to learn and understand in this business and is never ending.

DF: What are the most important trend(s) that you have identified in hospitality today?

The social networks and in particular Trip Advisor have a profound impact on customers. This social has led to more transparency and improved quality of the services provided by hospitality industry.

And customers are becoming increasingly sensitive to environmental and social issues.

DF: What kind of advice do you give people in regards to finding their passion in a career? What do you believe the customer experience is for the future?



This is a Job that you must love it, and doing with passion, there is no festivity, hours, you are available all the time and you are working, when the other are enjoying their day off. Experience is a future of customer involvement, Clients want to have difference experience that are having at home.

DF: What's harder about being a leader? Establishing a vision or getting people to follow you?

This is a process by which a person influences other to accomplish objectives and drive the organization in a way that makes it more coherent and cohesive.

A good leader is one who is always looking after the associates before himself.

DF: Do you think hotels are moving with the trends and in-line with the customer needs?

Yes I strongly believe that the hotels are moving on the same direction of customer needs

DF: What are the main changes you have seen within the industry during your career? What are the plans for the year ahead and beyond for further improvement in hotel industry?

Technology and customer driven are the main changes during these years. Everyday there is news ideas in the hotels industry to help GM and Associates to make the best for the clients.

DF: How do you keep your passion and energy for the hotel industry? What is your favorite part of this job?

I'm born inside the hotel, my family owned 2 hotels in Italy and always they transmit the passion for this work. I'm doing this job because I love it

DF: There are many areas of the business, corporate, meetings, leisure travelers, spa and events and weddings. How do you manage each of the areas?

Each one of the above areas are different and need to be treated in different way, but there is one point in common, all are use by clients that the expectation is all the time high.

DF: The hotel receives many positive reviews for its outstanding customer service and welcoming atmosphere, how do you motivate your team to deliver this professional yet personal service?

We have several internal trainings where we transmit all the time all the customer's review, we forward though our internal email all the customer comments, positive and negative, we can learn a lot from the suggestion we receive from the clients

DF: Would you recommend hospitality as a career and what advice would you give to those starting out in the industry?

Yes I really recommend the hospitality job, if you have passions and heart, but I suggest starting from the bottom in order to understand the mechanism behind this job

Thanks Mr. Maurizio Romani for your time.

Dean of Diplomatic Corps Honored Outgoing Envoy

Ambassador of Turkmenistan and Dean of Diplomatic corps H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov hosted farewell dinner reception in the honor of outgoing Ambassador of Tunisia H.E. Adel Elarbi and H.E. Mr. Neil Buhne UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan at Marriott Hotel Islamabad. Diplomats, Government officials, High dignitaries and media persons also graced the occasion.



Reception in the honor of outgoing Ambassador H.E. Mr. Jean Francois Cautain

A reception hosted in the honor of outgoing Ambassador of European union to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Jean Francois Cautain in Marriott Hotel Islamabad. This dinner reception is hosted to celebrate his successful tenure in Pakistan. Special Assistant to Prime Minister on information and broadcasting Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan was the chief guest on the occasion. Diplomats, High dignitaries, Business community, Government officials also graced the occasion.





Diplomatic Focus hosted Dinner Reception

Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi Editor/Publisher CEO of Diplomatic Focus and country head DC hosted dinner reception in the honor of bid farewell to H.E. Mr. Adel Elarbi Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to Pakistan and to warm welcome to H.E. Paulo Neves Pocinho Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan at Marriott Hotel Islamabad. Dean of Diplomatic Corps H.E. Atadjan Movlamov Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan was the chief guest on the occasion. Diplomats, High dignitaries, Government officials, and media persons graced the occasion.





Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt celebrated its National Day

Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt H.E. Mr. Ahmed Fadel Yacoub and Mrs. Ghada Yacoub hosted dinner reception on the occasion of National Day of Egypt at Serena Hotel Islamabad. H.E. Mr. & Mrs. Ahmed Fadel Yacoub Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt welcomed the guests. A large number of guests including parliamentarians, members of diplomatic community civil society, Government officials, and high dignitaries also graced the occasion.





92nd Anniversary of the Founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Celebrated



The reception was hosted by H.E. Mr. Yao Jing Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan. It was largely attended by the high-ranking officers of the Pakistan Army, Air Force and Navy as well as representatives of the civil society. Federal Minister for Railways Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad was also present on the occasion. Speaking at a reception held at a local hotel on the occasion of 92th anniversary of founding of the PLA, General Zubair Mahmood Hayat said the Chinese army under the leadership of President Xi Jinping was playing an important role in the country's defence and the socioeconomic development. Major General Chen Wenrong, the Defence Attache, gave a brief introduction of the development of Chinese military in the new era, elaborated on the deepening of reforms by PLA as well as enhancement of foreign exchanges and cooperation, and its outstanding contribution in maintaining world peace





Reception hosted in the honor of H.E. Mr. Danila Ganich Ambassador of Russian federation

Mr. Habib Ahmed honorary consul of Russian federation and Managing Director of Habib Rafiq (pvt.) Ltd. hosted a dinner reception in the honor of newly appointed Ambassador of Russian federation to Pakistan. H.E Mr. Danila Ganich at serena Hotel Islamabad. Diplomats, Government Officials, High dignitaries, Business community also grace the occasion.

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Photos by sheikh Arif

Farewell dinner reception hosted by H.E. Jean François Cautain

Farewell dinner reception hosted by H.E. Jean-François Cautain Ambassador of the European Union to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan at European Union Residence in Islamabad. H.E. Mr. & Mrs. Jean Francois Cautain welcomed the honorable guests at his dinner reception. Four years of his stay in Pakistan sadly come to its end. While giving remarks about his stay in Pakistan he said “I loved every minute of staying in Pakistan. We shared so many moments with all of you. Thank you for supporting us all along the way. Dean of Diplomatic Corps, Ambassadors, High Dignitaries, Government officials and media persons graced the occasion.



Embassy of France hosted a reception on the occasion of its National day



H.E. Mr. Marc Bar  ty, Ambassador of France to Pakistan hosted a dinner reception on National Day of France. On the event he said celebration of National Day has been a cheerful moment of exchanges of friendship between France and Pakistan and it is honored to commemorate National Day with H.E. Minister Khusro Bakhtyar to celebrate the common bonds we share between France and Pakistan. Diplomats, High Dignitaries, Business community, Government officials also joined the event.



Photos by Ramzan Mughal

FPCCI Honored Outgoing Envoy

Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and industry (FPCCI) hosted an impressive reception to bid farewell to the outgoing Ambassador of Tunisia H.E. Adel Elarbi to Pakistan at serena hotel Islamabad. Members of business community, diplomatic corps and civil society attended the reception in large numbers. The outgoing ambassador of Tunisia Adel Elarbi thanked the business community for giving him a warm bid farewell. He said during his tenure in Pakistan he tried his best to cultivate friendly relations with the business community with a view to further strengthening bilateral relations, especially in the field of trade and economy.



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“Daesh-ISIS; Rising Monster” book published by Senator Rehman Malik

A book titled *Daesh-ISIS; Rising Monster Worldwide* written by former interior minister and Senate Standing Committee on Interior chairman A Rehman Malik has been launched in the auditorium of Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS) Islamabad. Sardar Masood Khan has written the foreword of the book. The book *Daesh-ISIS; Rising Monster Worldwide* is a very comprehensive book in term of knowledge and facts, which contains fourteen chapters and 149 pages. The book was launched in a simple but highly remarkable ceremony which was presided over by President of AJ&K Sardar Masood Khan and was attended by local and international dignitaries and a number of foreign diplomats and senior journalists and people from different walk of life. Bosnia Herzegovinian Ambassador Sakib Foric, Sri Lankan Ambassador Muhammad Noorudin Shahid, former ambassador of Pakistan to Iran Asif Durrani, former federal secretary for interior . Kamal Shah and others were also among the participants.



Congratulations to Islamabad Serena Hotel

Congratulations to Islamabad Serena Hotel on winning the world luxury spa award 2019 for Maisha spa, best regional winner and best Hotel of South West Asia. Serena Hotels Islamabad also won the world luxury Restaurant Awards 2019 for dawat and best global Pakistani cuisine award.



High Commissioner of Kenya H.E. Mr. Julius Kibet Bitok hosted dinner reception

High Commissioner of Kenya H.E. Mr. Julius Kibet Bitok to Islamic Republic of Pakistan hosted by dinner reception at his residence. H.E. Mr. Julius Kibet Bitok welcomes the guests. Diplomats, High Dignitaries, members from business community also graced the occasion.



Photos by Ramzan Mughal

54th Independence Day celebrated by Embassy of Republic of Maldives

Embassy of Republic of Maldives hosted a dinner reception on the occasion of 54th Independence Day. H.E. Mr. Ahmed Saleem Ambassador of Republic of Maldives welcomed the guest at Serena Hotels Islamabad. Fawad Ahmed Chaudhry, Federal Minister for Science and Technology was the chief guest on the occasion. Diplomats, High Dignitaries, Government officials, members from business community and media persons also graced the occasion.



EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO CELEBRATED 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Embassy of The kingdom of Morocco celebrated 20th anniversary of the Accession to the throne of the His Majesty King Mohammad VI. H.E. Mr. Mohamed Karmoune Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco and Mrs. Mohamed Karmoune hosted the reception of 20th anniversary at Serena Hotels Islamabad. Fawad Ahmed Chaudhry Federal Minister for Science and Technology was the chief guest on the occasion. Diplomats of various embassies, High dignitaries, Government officials, media persons also graced the occasion.

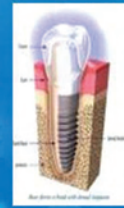




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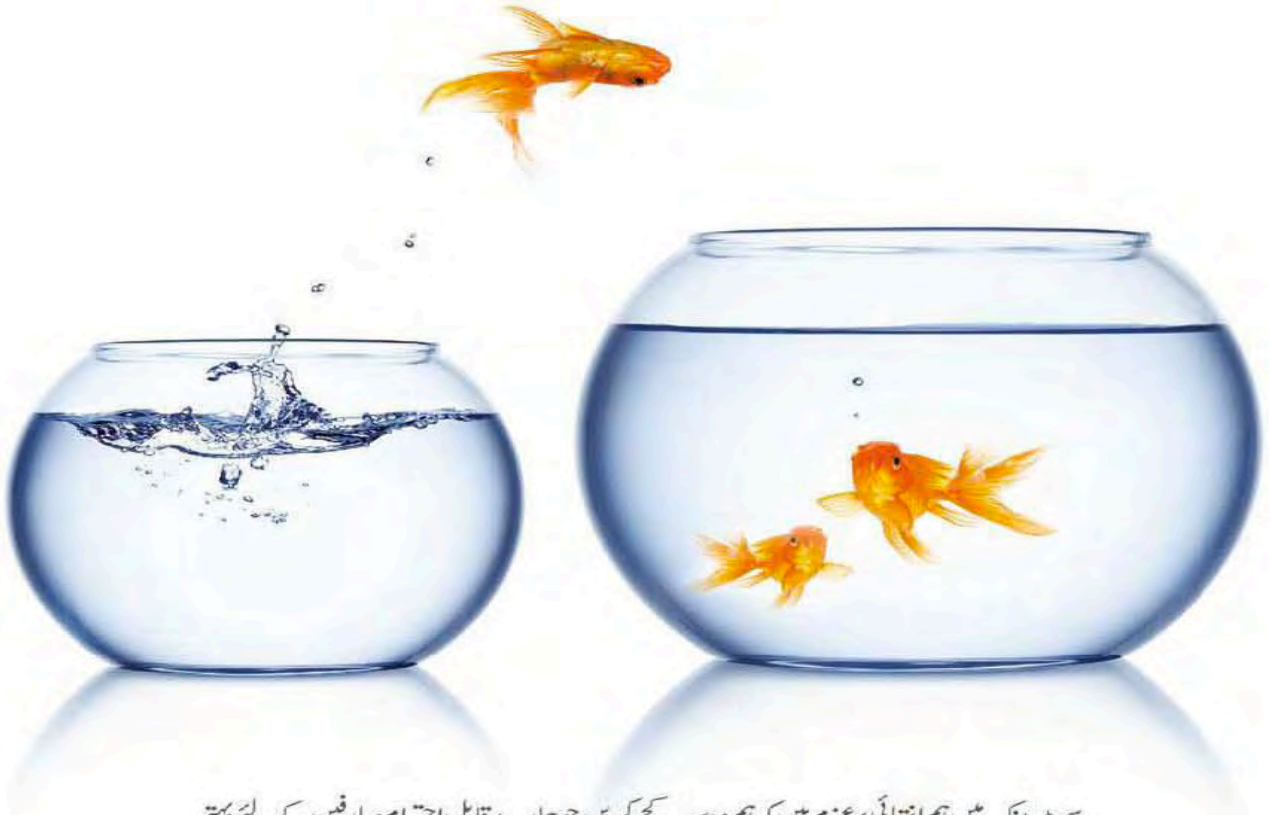
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