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Prime Minister IMRAN KHAN with President DONALD J. TRUMP



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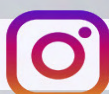


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President Dr. Arif Alvi, while talking to the Chairman of Majles A'Shura of the Sultanate of Oman and Head of Delegation Mr. Sheikh Khalid bin Hilal Al Maawali, who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad said Indian fascist regime, previously involved in the Gujarat Massacre, had now endangered the regional and international peace because of its access to the nuclear button.

- 12 Pakistan PM Imran Khan addresses United Nations General Assembly**

The premier began his wide-ranging, at times apparently extemporaneous speech by saying he feels honoured to represent Pakistan at the world forum. He said he would not have come to the UN if he did not feel that some "urgent issues" needed to be addressed.

- 22 Speaker of the House Of Representatives of the Parliament of Malaysia, Tan Sri Dato' Mohamad Ariff Bin Md Yusof visited Pakistan**

President Dr. Arif Alvi said that India's illegal and unilateral alteration of the disputed status of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IoJ&K) and its demographic structure contravenes numerous UNSC resolutions, international law and India's own prior commitments.

- 29 Pakistan-Saudi ties reaffirmed; Prime Minister lays strong emphasis on Kashmir solution**

Extending a warm welcome to the Prime Minister, the Saudi leadership underscored that the relationship between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan is based on "real brotherhood".

China's National Day parade, as it happened

The People's Republic of China celebrated its 70th anniversary with a massive military parade in Tiananmen Square. In all, 15,000 troops, more than 160 aircraft and 580 active weapon systems will be on show in an event designed to showcase the country's cutting-edge defence technology.



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Mian Fazal Elahi

P RIME Minister Imran Khan delivered an emphatic address to the United Nations General Assembly on Sept 27 that made the world sit up and think. The focus of his speech was on Islamophobia and the occupation of Kashmir and he spoke with such conviction that the audience applauded him a number of times during his speech. All the talk about radical Islam in the Western world was brilliantly shot down by PM Imran, saying that there was only one true Islam. The Pakistani prime minister systematically exposed the Indian mindset on Kashmir. He told the world Narendra Modi is a lifetime member of the fascist RSS, an extremist Hindu organisation that was behind the murder of Mahatma Gandhi in 1948. It was this ideology that drove Narendra Modi to massacre around 2,000 Muslims in Gujarat in 2002. Now it is the same ideology that is behind the Indian government's lockdown in Kashmir. IMRAN Khan's speech in the UN proves that he is a strong, selfless and fearless leader of not just Pakistan, but all Muslims. That is not all; he made a strong case that the Muslims are one of the biggest supporters of human values. THE Prime Minister's speech can be rated as one of the best given at the UN. He has turned the table on India. His speech not only stunned the Indian representatives sitting in the hall but electrified the international community sitting in that august world forum. The impressive part about this speech is that he spoke extempore for 50 minutes without a single fumble. He had full command over language as well as substance and exhibited unflinching sincerity and conviction about what he was saying. Prime Minister Imran Khan warned India that if a war was forced upon Pakistan, Pakistanis would fight to the bitter end. He drew the world's attention to issues like climate change, money laundering, terrorism and Islamophobia and then spoke about the Indian brutality in occupied Kashmir. His speech tells the world that when one is honest and determined it inspires others to be more committed and passionate. After his speech the world community must now act

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



Mian Assad Ullah

Important Announcement

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

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Ambassadors/High Commissioners designate of New Zealand, Cyprus, Venezuela, Croatia and Ghana presented their Credentials to President Dr. Arif Alvi

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Non-Resident Ambassadors/High Commissioners-designate of New Zealand, Cyprus, Venezuela, Croatia and Ghana presented their Credentials to President Dr. Arif Alvi in a credentials ceremony at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

The President felicitated the newly appointed Non-Resident Ambassadors/High Commissioners-designate to Pakistan

and hoped that they would work for further strengthening the existing ties of their respective countries with Pakistan.

Among them were Mr. Hamish Craig MacMaster (New Zealand), Mr. Petros T. Nacouzis (Cyprus), Mr. Carlos Alcalá Cordones (Venezuela), Dr. Drago Stambuk (Croatia) and Mr. Mohammad Sayuti Yahaya Iddi (Ghana)

Later, the Ambassadors/High Commissioners separately called on the President. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that

Pakistan was desirous of cordial relations with all friendly countries. He stressed that it was incumbent upon the international community to work for the alleviation of the misery that the people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir were suffering at the hands of the Indian fascist regime. He added that the world peace had been endangered by the reckless and provocative approach adopted by this regime.



Chairman of Majles A'Shura of the Sultanate of Oman and Head of Delegation Mr. Sheikh Khalid bin Hilal Al Maawali calls on President Dr. Arif Alvi

By M. Bilal Zafar

President Dr. Arif Alvi, while talking to the Chairman of Majles A'Shura of the Sultanate of Oman and Head of Delegation Mr. Sheikh Khalid bin Hilal Al Maawali, who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad said Indian fascist regime, previously involved in the Gujarat Massacre, had now endangered the regional and international peace because of its access to the nuclear button. Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser was also present on the occasion. The President highlighted that Pakistan strongly rejected the illegal Indian actions of August 5, whereby it unilaterally



tried to alter the disputed status of the IOJ&K, which was a breach of the Resolutions of the UNSC. He emphasized that India's assertion of Jammu and Kashmir being an internal matter was not true, as testified by the recent meeting of the UNSC. Every Muslim must feel the pain of the innocent Kashmiris, who were subjected to blatant human rights violation by Indian Forces through ghastly clampdown, involving a month long curfew and suspension of basic amenities of life to the people, he added. The President said that Pakistan sought support of Oman along with the international community to urge India to respect the UNSC Resolutions, which give an inalienable right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir. As a member of the OIC, Oman must make efforts to solidify OIC's support for the people of Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, he added. Highlighting the close interaction between the two parliaments and formation of Friendship groups in the upper houses of both countries, the President said that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Oman and was keen to further enhance these brotherly relations in all spheres. In this regard, the creation of Pak-Oman Friendship group in Majlis A' Shura of Oman would further connect the two countries. He emphasized that regular high-level interactions through established mechanisms of Bilateral Political Consultations and Joint Commission would promote and expand bilateral ties in diverse fields. He underscored that the current level of bilateral trade was not commensurate with excellent political ties and highlighted the need to diversify bilateral trade by taking advantage of geographical proximity, the investment-friendly policies of Pakistan, and Pakistan's potential of exporting food items, construction materials, leather and surgical goods to Oman. Furthermore, he said that Pakistani community had been making valuable contribution to the development of Oman and pointed out the need to increase the opportunities in employment of Pakistani workers in banking, health, education, petroleum and food sectors.

Pakistan was a peaceful nation and desired peace in the region, said the President. He underlined that peace in Afghanistan was pivotal for sustainable regional peace and Pakistan was dedicated to the ongoing reconciliation process in Afghanistan. Mr. Sheikh Khalid bin Hilal Al Maawali appreciated the excellent bilateral relations, and said that the formation of Friendship groups in the upper houses of both countries would go a long way in further bolstering the bilateral relations. He said that Pakistani Diaspora in Oman was playing an invaluable role in the progress and prosperity of Oman. He agreed that the trade relations between the two countries needed further boost. In the end, the President extended invitation to the Sultan of Oman to visit Pakistan



A-Ten Member Omani Parliamentary Delegation led by Mr. Khalid bin Hilal Nasser Al Maawali, Chairman of the Majles A'Shura of Sultanate of Oman visited Pakistan. The delegation is visiting Pakistan on the invitation of Speaker, National Assembly Asad Qaiser. The delegation also attended interactive sessions with members of Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir and Pakistan-Oman Parliamentary Friendship Group. The instant visit of Omani Parliamentary delegation not only served as a tool in promoting cooperation between two countries but will also supplement government's efforts to broaden and deepen people-to-people contacts and bilateral economic ties. The delegation also have an opportunity to get an insight of the Kashmir issue and plight of Kashmiri people in wake of illegal annexation of Kashmir with India and atrocities by Indian forces. The delegation comprises of Members of Omani Majles A'Shura Mr. Mohammed Ali Amer Baqi, Mr. Mohammed Khamis Abdullah Al Badi, Mr. Mohammed Ramadhan Qasim

Al Balushi, Mr. Yoonis Yaqoob Issa Al Siyabi, Mr. Salim Hamed Saed Al Mufarraj and Parliamentary support staff of Omani Majles A'Shura.

Prime Minister Imran Khan received Parliamentary delegation of Oman at PM Office. The delegation headed by Chairman Majles Al'Shura Mr. Sheikh Khalid Bin Hilal Al Maawali, comprised of Mr. Mohammed Ali Amer Baqi, Mr. Mohameed Khamis Abdullah Al Badi, Mr. Mohameed Ramadhan Qasim Al Balushi, Mr. Yoonis Yaqoob Issa Al Siyabi, Mr. Murad Ali Yousaf, Mr. Salim Hamad Saed Al Mufarraj and Ambassador Mr. Al Sheikh Omar Al Marhoon. Speaker National Assembly Mr. Asad Qaiser was also present during the meeting. The Prime Minister appraised the visiting delegation about the plight of Kashmiris in IoJ&K and the atrocities being committed against the innocent Kashmiri Muslims by the Indian forces. The two sides reiterated the need to further enhance bilateral trade ties and to strengthen mutual cooperation in various areas.





Pakistan PM Imran Khan

addresses United Nations General Assembly

By Mian Fazal Elahi, M. Bilal Zafar
Monitoring Desk

The premier began his wide-ranging, at times apparently extemporaneous speech by saying he feels honoured to represent Pakistan at the world forum. He said he would not have come to the UN if he did not feel that some “urgent issues” needed to be addressed.

Kashmir oppression

The issue which the prime minister talked in most detail about was the oppression of the people of occupied Kashmir. “When we came to power, we swore that we would try to bring peace.

“We went to fight the war on terror and we faced losses of [thousands of people]. I opposed the war because in the 1980s we joined the struggle against the Soviets funded by western countries.

“The mujahideen were trained by the Pakistan Army and they waged the freedom struggle. The Soviets called them terrorists and we called them freedom fighters. In 1989

Soviets retreated; the Americans packed up and left. Here we had indoctrinated them in jihad against foreign occupation and now that the US had taken over, we were supposed to tell them it’s no longer jihad.

“And so the US turned against us and it was a nightmare. Taliban were in Afghanistan, Al Qaeda was there; what did Pakistan have to do with it? When we came to power we decided we would dismantle what was left. I know India keeps alleging that these groups are there. I welcome UN observers, see for yourself. We now have a relationship with Afghanistan, Russia and then we wanted to mend fences with India. I have friends in India and I love going to India. So when my party came to power, we reached out to India and (said) let’s resolve differences through trade. “(Indian Prime Minister Narendra) Modi said there were terrorist attacks from Pakistan. We said well we have attacks in Balochistan from your end. Unfortunately we didn’t make any headway. Our foreign minister was at the UNGA but they cancelled the meeting. Meanwhile a 20-year-old Kashmiri

boy blew himself up at the Indian convoy. And India blamed us. I spoke to the Indian public on television. I said if you give us any iota of proof, we will immediately take action, because we have clamped down on these groups. They bombed us (instead), and we retaliated. We immediately returned the [captured Indian] pilot, saying that we do not want an escalation. Rather than taking that as a peace gesture, [Modi claimed that] he had taught Pakistan a lesson; that their jets had killed 350 terrorists. Complete lies. They just killed 10 trees of ours which was quite painful given that we are growing all these trees.”

The prime minister pointed out that Modi’s entire election campaign revolved around an anti-Pakistan narrative. In his election campaign, Mr Modi used words like ‘This is just a trailer. The movie is about to start’ and ‘I went into Pakistan and taught them a lesson.’

He said that at the time, Pakistan chalked it up to just “politicians making statements” and that they would get back to the normal

relationship with India post-elections. The premier said that India did not respond to Pakistan's overtures following Modi's re-election as prime minister and soon it was discovered that India was trying to push Pakistan into the blacklist of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to bankrupt the country.

"That's when we realized that there was an agenda and that agenda became obvious on the 5th of August when India went against 11 United Nations Security Council resolutions which say that Kashmir is a disputed territory and the people of Kashmir have the right of self-determination," he said. "They went against the Simla Accord — which is about sorting out our differences through bilateral means." They actually went against the Indian Constitution. Illegally, they revoked Article 370 which gave Kashmir the special status and [stationed] an extra 180,000 troops there," said Prime Minister Imran, providing the backdrop to India's actions in Kashmir. He said that the total number of security forces in Kashmir are 900,000 and they put eight million people of occupied Kashmir under curfew.

He said that the answer to how anyone can do something like this lies in the RSS ideology followed by Modi. "Now I must explain what RSS is. Modi is a life member (of RSS). "It is an organisation inspired by Hitler and Mussolini. They believe in racial purity and superiority. They believe they are an Aryan race. "They believe in the ethnic cleansing of Muslims. They believe a golden age of Hindu rule was stopped by Muslims and then the British occupation. "What kind of people bring in 900,000 troops for eight million people? These are human beings," said Prime Minister Imran to applause from the audience. "What comes with Aryan superiority is arrogance

and it makes people commit mistakes and do stupid, cruel things like what Modi has done. "It is arrogance that has blinded Modi. Has he thought about what will happen after the curfew in Kashmir is lifted?

"What will he do? Does he think the people of Kashmir will quietly accept the status quo?" "(Nearly) 100,000 Kashmiris have died in the past 30 years because they were denied their right of self-determination. Eleven thousand women were raped.

"The world hasn't done anything. "What is going to happen will be a blood bath. The people will come out. "Has he thought it through what happens then? Has anyone thought what happens when there is a bloodbath? "What do you think they (Kashmiris) will think of the way they have been boxed in?" He noted that even pro-India local leaders were taken out of Kashmir as part of the crackdown and 13,000 boys were picked up and taken to unknown locations. "What will the people do then? [They will] take to the streets. The soldiers will then shoot them. They have already used pellet guns. "And so Kashmiris will be further radicalised. There will be another Pulwama. And they (India) will blame us. "They are already blaming us. They said we have 500 terrorists lined up to go in. "Why would we send 500 terrorists when there are 900,000 troops? "There will only be further cruelty on Kashmiris. It will give them the excuse to chant on the mantra of Islamic terrorism. "The whole world then turns away. "How do we (Pakistan) benefit from further increasing cruelty on the people of Kashmir?" Prime Minister Imran said there is no other narrative left for India. "Whatever happens we will be blamed. "What does Modi think the 180 million Muslims of India are thinking? Aren't they watching these Kashmiris stuck in?

"Don't you think they too will be radicalised? Then there will be blame on us again. "What about the 1.3bn Muslims watching this who know this is only happening because they are Muslims? What do you think they would think? "What would the Jews of Europe think if 8,000 Jews were stuck. Are we children of a lesser God? "Among the 1.3bn (Muslims) someone will pick up arms," he said, citing the analogy of a Hollywood film.

"Muslims will become radicals because of this, not because of Islam. Because they see no justice. "I have pictured myself locked up for 55 days. There are rapes, soldiers going into rooms. "Would I want to let this humiliation continue? I would pick up a gun." "You are forcing people into radicalisation," he said, addressing the Indian leadership. "This is one of the most critical times. There will be a reaction to this and Pakistan will be blamed. "Two nuclear countries will come face to face. "Before we head there the UN has a responsibility; this is why the UN came into being in 1945. You were supposed to stop this from happening. "I feel like we are back in 1939 [when] Czechoslovakia was annexed." Is the international community going to appease or stand up for justice or humanity. "If a conventional war starts between the two countries, supposing a country seven times smaller is faced with a choice to surrender or fight to the end. "When a nuclear country fights till the end it has consequences far beyond the borders. "This is a test of the UN. You are the one who guaranteed the Kashmiris the right (of self-determination). "This is the time not to appease but to take action."

He said the very first action that India needs to take is to lift the curfew in occupied Kashmir and then release all detained prisoners. "And then the world community must give the



Kashmiris the right of self-determination,” the prime minister stressed.

‘Humans facing huge catastrophe’ The first issue addressed by Prime Minister Imran in his speech was climate change. “So many leaders spoke about climate change but I feel there is a lack of seriousness (to tackle the issue). “Perhaps some of the leaders who can do a lot do not realise the seriousness of the situation. There are a lot of ideas but they are nothing without funding,” said the premier. He noted that Pakistan is in the top ten list of countries who are most affected by climate change. “We depend on our rivers and 80 per cent of our water comes from glaciers. The glaciers are also in India in the Himalayas, Karakorum and the Hindu Kush. “If nothing is done, we are scared humans are facing a huge catastrophe. “In my country where I

came into power in KP we planted one billion trees and plan to plant 10bn to counter global warming effects. “One country cannot do anything; it has to be a combined effort of the world.” He said the countries contributing to greenhouse gas emissions must be pushed and the UN must take initiative. Money laundering ‘devastating developing world’ Prime Minister Imran said the second issue he was speaking about is even more critical — that of illicit financial flows. “Every year billions of dollars leave the poorer countries and go towards rich countries, siphoned off by the ruling elites of the western world. “This is devastating the developing world. It is impoverishing them. The rich-poor gap is growing because of them.” He regretted that the seriousness with which money from drugs or terror financing is treated is not accorded to money laundered from

poor countries. “In my country, when I took charge of our government a year back, our total debt went up four times in the ten years preceding that. “As a result, the total revenue we collected in one year, half of it went into debt servicing. How are we going to spend money on our human beings — 200 million people — if half the money is going into debt servicing? “Our country was plundered by the ruling elite. And they could easily get their money out. And when we locate properties in western capitals bought by this money through corruption and money laundering by these corrupt leaders, we find it so difficult to retrieve it.”

He said that if the money was retrieved it could be spent on human development.

“But it is so difficult [owing to] the laws protecting these criminals. We do not have the sort of money to have expensive lawyers



and spend millions and millions of dollars. We need help from the rich countries. "It is critical. The rich countries must show political will. They cannot allow this to happen. "How can the poor countries spend money on human development when this money can easily leave our countries?" Unless the rich countries intend to build walls to stop economic refugees [from] coming as we see right now, they must take action. They must take action now. "Corrupt elites must not be allowed to park their money (abroad). Why do we have these tax havens? "Why shouldn't rich people pay taxes? Why are they legal, these secret accounts? "Sooner or later there will be a crisis if the rich keep getting richer and the poor poorer. "I hope the UN takes a lead on this. The IMF and ADB must find a way."

'Islamophobia is creating divisions'

Addressing the prevalence of Islamophobia, Prime Minister Imran said it has grown at an alarming pace.

"Islamophobia is creating divisions, hijab is becoming a weapon; a woman can take off clothes but she can't put on more clothes. "It started after 9/11 and it started because certain western leaders equated Islam with terrorism. He questioned the use of the term 'radical Islamic terrorism' saying: "There is only one Islam. "What message does this (the term) send? How is a person in New York going to distinguish between moderate Muslims and radical Muslims? "This radical Islamic terrorism used by leaders has caused Islamophobia and has caused pain for Muslims." In European countries it is marginalising Muslims, and this leads to radicalisation. "Some of the terrorists were from marginalised Muslim communities.

We Muslim leaders have not addressed this issue. "The basis of all religions is compassion and justice which differentiates us from the animal kingdom." He said religion was viewed differently in the west, which was why the reaction in the Muslim world to content maligning Islamic personalities was not understood. "I hear such strange things that Islam is against women and minorities. "In the first state of Islam, Madina, the state took responsibility of the weak, taxed the rich, spent money on the poor [and] announced that all human beings come from Adam hence they were equal.

"The Prophet (Muhammad PBUH) lives in our hearts. The holocaust is treated with sensitivity because it gives them (Jews) pain. "That's all we ask. Don't use freedom of speech to cause us pain," he concluded.



Prime Minister Imran Khan Meetings with State Premiers during UNGA 74th Session

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Prime Minister Imran Khan met President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York on 24th September 2019. The two leaders reaffirmed their resolve to build a broad-based and mutually-beneficial partnership between Pakistan and the United States. Prime Minister Khan appreciated President Trump's continued offers of assistance in mediating the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Describing India's draconian lockdown in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir as a dire humanitarian crisis with implications for regional security, the Prime Minister highlighted the importance of immediate lifting of the curfew and other restrictions and resolving the Kashmir dispute for durable peace and stability in South Asia. The two leaders also reviewed the evolving regional peace and security scenario. They reiterated their shared interest in a peaceful and stable Afghanistan. Prime Minister Khan hoped for an early resumption of the Afghan peace and reconciliation process while underlining that there was no military solution to the Afghan conflict. Building on the Prime Minister's successful visit to Washington in July 2019, the two leaders expressed the resolve to expedite progress in the mutually prioritized areas of trade, investment and energy cooperation.

Prime Minister Imran Khan met President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the sidelines of 74th session of the UN General Assembly in New York on 23rd September 2019. Recalling his visit to Turkey in January 2019, the Prime Minister expressed satisfaction that Pakistan-Turkey bilateral relations had transformed into a mutually beneficial strategic partnership. Prime Minister Imran Khan thanked President Erdogan for Turkey's consistent support to Pakistan on issues of core national interest, and reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast support to Turkey on issues of its national interest. The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of



Prime Minister Imran Khan and US President Donald J. Trump hold Joint Press Talk on the sidelines of UNGA Session in New York on September 23, 2019.

further strengthening the bilateral economic partnership and expressed the hope that the recently finalized Strategic Economic Framework (SEF) would play an instrumental role in this regard. The Prime Minister added that he looked forward to President Erdogan's visit to Pakistan for the next round of Pakistan-Turkey High Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSSC). The Prime Minister briefed the Turkish President on the latest situation since India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5th August to alter the disputed status of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that India's efforts to change IOJ&K's demographic structure contravened numerous UNSC resolutions, international law as well as India's own prior commitments. The Prime Minister emphasized that the dire human rights and humanitarian situation in IOJ&K posed grave risks for peace and security in the region. In this context, he called for the immediate

lifting of curfew and other restrictions in IOJ&K; end to gross violations of human rights; and allowing the Kashmiris their inalienable right to self-determination as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. During the meeting the leaders recalled the historic fraternal ties between the two nations and reiterated their strong resolve to continue standing by each other in the face of all challenges

Prime Minister Imran Khan met Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Boris Johnson on the sidelines of 74th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The two leaders discussed a wide range of bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. Prime Minister Imran Khan apprised Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the latest situation in IOJ&K and underlined the need for the international community to play its role in helping address the dire human rights and humanitarian situation and its

attendant consequences. Specifically, the Prime Minister underscored the importance for urgent lifting of the curfew and other restrictions, averting any dangers to peace and security, and facilitating peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Prime Minister Boris Johnson conveyed that the UK remained cognisant of the situation and would continue to be engaged. The leaders agreed to remain in close contact. The two Prime Ministers exchanged views on other regional developments including Afghan peace and reconciliation process. On bilateral relations, both Prime Ministers agreed to enhance cooperation in diverse areas, including political, trade and economic fields.

Vice President of Indonesia Muhammad Jusuf Kalla met with Prime Minister Imran Khan on the sidelines of 74th session of the UNGA in New York. Recalling Indonesian President Joko Widodo's visit to Pakistan last year, Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed satisfaction over the growth of fraternal ties and substantive collaboration between the two countries in diverse fields. Prime Minister Imran Khan apprised Vice President Muhammad Jusuf Kalla of the dire human rights and humanitarian situation in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir that posed a serious risks to lives of over 8 million Kashmiris and to regional peace and security. The Prime Minister emphasized that the international community must urge India to lift the curfew and other restrictions that had been imposed on the Kashmiri population for over 53 days. India's baseless allegations and belligerent rhetoric were reflective of its irresponsible approach and any ill-advised action could further imperil peace and security in the region. Recalling the UNSC meeting on the situation in IOJ & K last month, the Prime Minister appreciated the decision of members of the Security Council, including Indonesia as a non-permanent member, to prioritize Kashmir on UNSC agenda in view of Indian illegal and unilateral actions. The Prime Minister and the Vice President also exchanged views on matters related to peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan and underlined the importance of successful culmination of the process. The two sides also agreed to further strengthen bilateral trade ties and take steps to deepen mutual economic engagement.

Prime Minister Imran Khan met Prime Minister of Malaysia Tun Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad on the sidelines of 74th Session of UN General Assembly in New York. Recalling Prime Minister Mahathir Muhammad's visit to Pakistan in March 2019, Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed the desire to deepen bilateral ties through



Prime Minister Imran Khan meets UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres at UN Headquarters in New York on September 22, 2019.

enhanced economic engagement and further strengthen cooperation in a range of areas including tourism, defence, people to people exchanges. It was agreed to intensify mutual collaboration in the fields of trade, electronics, engineering, IT, oil and gas, higher education and science & technology. It was decided to have a high level group follow up on enhanced cooperation in these areas. The two leaders also agreed to pool resources to strengthen the intellectual and scientific capacity, with such efforts

especially focused on the youth. Earlier, the exchange of views included the Prime Minister apprising of the situation in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir since India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August. It may be recalled that Prime Minister Mahathir had issued a statement supporting a just and durable solution of the Kashmir dispute through relevant UNSC resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir

Prime Minister Imran Khan met Prime Minister Erna Solberg of Norway on the



Prime Minister Imran Khan Shaking hands with President of Turkey H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the Sidelines of 74th UNGA Session at New York on September 23, 2019.



Mr. Wang Yi, Foreign Minister of China Called on Prime Minister Imran Khan on the Sidelines of UNGA Session in New York on September 23, 2019.

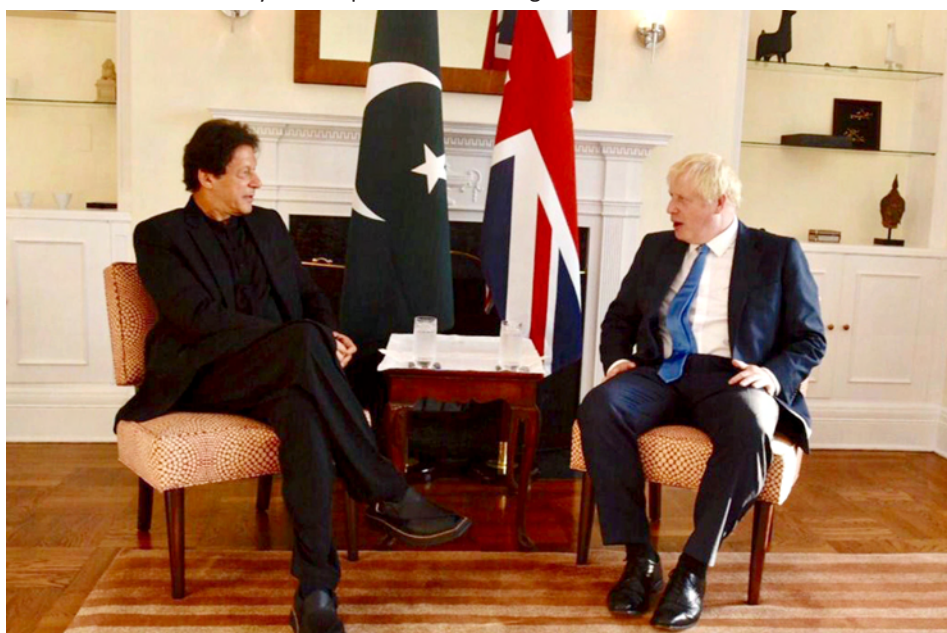
sidelines of 74th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The two leaders discussed a wide range of bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. Prime Minister Imran Khan briefed the Norwegian Prime Minister on the current situation in the Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir entailing grave risks for peace and security. The Prime Minister also highlighted belligerent statements by Indian political and military figure as well as their allegations of “terrorists” seeking to cross over and stressed that these were meant to stage some false flag operation and further escalate the tensions. The Prime Minister underscored the need for urgent steps by the international community to help alleviate

the sufferings of the Kashmiri people subjected to inhuman lockdown for 7 weeks. He stressed that it was equally important to ward off threats to peace and security and to facilitate a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute. In the regional context, the two leaders exchanged views on the Afghanistan issue and underscored the importance of successful conclusion of the peace and reconciliation process. The Prime Minister expressed the desire to further deepen bilateral trade and investment ties. The two Prime Ministers also agreed that a vibrant Pakistani diaspora in Norway was a source of strength for the bilateral relationship.

Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Mr. Sergei Lavrov called on Prime Minister Imran

Khan on the sidelines of the 74th Session of the UNGA. The Prime Minister stressed the importance attached in Pakistan’s foreign policy to a qualitatively new relationship with the Russian Federation. He expressed satisfaction at the steady growth of bilateral cooperation in diverse areas including political, trade, energy, investment, security and defence fields. The Prime Minister recalled his interaction with President Putin on the sidelines of SCO Council of Heads of State in Bishkek on 13 June 2019 and extensive exchange of views on bilateral as well as regional and international issues. He reiterated his invitation for President Putin to visit Pakistan. The Prime Minister noted that Pakistan and Russia had maintained close contact following the unilateral and illegal Indian actions of 5 August in Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. He underscored that these actions and India’s belligerent rhetoric and aggressive posture continued to pose a grave risk to regional peace and security which the international community must take serious cognizance of. The Prime Minister emphasized that the Kashmiri population under Indian occupation had been locked down for over 53 days and international community must urge India to lift curfew and other restrictions and also play its role in the just resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Russia, it may be noted, is the President of UN Security Council for the current month. Views were also exchanged on the Afghan peace process. Prime Minister Imran Khan reiterated that there was no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan. He emphasized that the stalled peace process must be resumed at the earliest to advance the objectives of peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan. The Prime Minister underscored the importance of both sides consulting each other on all issues of common interest

Prime Minister Imran Khan met Prime Minister of New Zealand, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, on the sidelines of 74th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The Prime Minister appreciated the swift measures taken by New Zealand in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in Christchurch in March 2019. The Prime Minister apprised the New Zealand Prime Minister of the developments since India’s unilateral and illegal action to alter the internationally recognized status of the Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir and change its demographic structure. He highlighted the dire human rights and humanitarian crisis, which has continued unabated. The Prime Minister underscored the urgent need to lift the curfew and other restrictions in place for over 50 days, ensure respect for the rights and freedoms



Prime Minister Imran Khan meets British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on the Sidelines of 74th UNGA Session in New York on September 23, 2019.

of Kashmiri people, avert risks to peace and security in the region, and facilitate a solution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people and the UN Security Council resolutions. Bilaterally, the two Prime Ministers agreed to deepen Pakistan-New Zealand ties in diverse areas and enhance bilateral economic engagement. The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction that a vibrant Pakistani diaspora was contributing positively to the social and economic fabric of New Zealand society.

Prime Minister Imran Khan had a bilateral meeting with the President of Egypt, H.E. Mr. Abdul Fattah Al Sisi, on the sidelines of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly. Recalling their meeting earlier this year on the sidelines of the OIC Summit in Makkah, both leaders reaffirmed their common desire to further strengthen bilateral cooperation across the range of areas. It was also agreed to sustain the momentum through regular high level exchanges between the two countries. Prime Minister Imran Khan apprised President Sisi of the aftermath of India's unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August that posed grave risk to regional peace and security. Referring to on-going human rights abuses in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJ &K), the Prime Minister emphasized the urgent need for lifting curfew and other restrictions placed on the Kashmiri population for over 50 days. The Prime Minister further stressed the need for the international community to play its role in facilitating a just and durable solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Both leaders also exchanged views on the regional situation. In this context, the Prime Minister underscored the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in the interest of peace and security.

Prime Minister Imran Khan met President of Ethiopia Sahle-Work Zewde on the sidelines of 74th session of the UNGA session. The Prime Minister recalled his meeting with Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on the margins of the Belt and Road Forum (BRF) in Beijing in April 2019 and the subsequent high level contacts between the two countries. The Prime Minister also highlighted Pakistan's "Engage Africa" policy and the resolve to deepen cooperation in all fields. The Prime Minister shared Pakistan's concerns over the situation in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJK) and emphasized that the international community must strongly urge for the lifting of curfew and other restrictions that had been imposed on the civilian population for over 50 days. He underscored that India's unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August and the grave humanitarian situation



Prime Minister Imran Khan meets President of Iran H.E. Hassan Rouhani on the Sidelines of 74th UNGA Session at New York on September 23, 2019.

posed a serious risk to regional peace and security. Besides addressing the dire human rights and humanitarian situation, it was imperative to take steps to ensure respect for the rights and freedom of the Kashmiri people and facilitate a just and durable solution of the Kashmir dispute. In the bilateral context, the two sides discussed ways to strengthen existing friendly ties by deepening bilateral economic engagement. The Prime Minister

underlined Pakistan's desire to expand trade and economic outreach to Africa and in this regard highlighted the importance of stronger Pakistan-Ethiopia relations. Prime Minister Imran Khan met Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte of Italy on the sidelines of 74th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The two leaders discussed a wide range of bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.



Prime Minister Imran Khan Shaking hands with his Italian Counterpart Mr. Giuseppe Conte on the Sidelines of 74th UNGA Session in New York on September 23, 2019.



Prime Minister Imran Khan meets with Prime Minister of New Zealand Rt. Hon. Jacinda Ardern on the Sidelines of UNGA 74th Session at New York on September 24, 2019.



Prime Minister Imran Khan meeting with President of Ethiopia H.E. Mrs. Sahle-Work Zewde on the Sedelines of 74th UNGA Session in New York on September 24, 2019.



Prime Minister Imran Khan met with President of Egypt Mr. Abdel Fattah el-Sisi on the Sidelines of 74th UNGA Session in New York on September 24, 2019.

Prime Minister Imran Khan briefed the Italian Prime Minister on the legal, humanitarian and peace and security dimensions of the situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He called for the immediate lifting of all restrictions including the curfew, release of all prisoners, stop in the use of pellet guns, and respect for the human rights of Kashmiri people. He also underlined the importance of the international community acting urgently to ward off threats to peace and security and facilitate peaceful resolution of the dispute in Jammu and Kashmir. In the bilateral context the two sides agreed to enhance mutual cooperation in the political, trade and economic, defence production, cultural and educational domains.

Prime Minister Imran Khan met Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on the sidelines of 74th session of the UN General Assembly on 23 September. Both sides reviewed their bilateral relations and discussed regional developments. The Prime Minister underscored Pakistan's desire to further strengthen good neighbourly relations with Iran and build mutually beneficial cooperation in diverse areas. The Prime Minister thanked the Iranian leadership especially Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei for expressing unequivocal support for the Kashmiri people and their legitimate rights. The Prime Minister also discussed the current situation in Indian occupied Jammu & Kashmir created by India's unilateral and illegal actions that pose a grave risk to regional peace and security. Speaking on the gross human rights violations in IOJ&K, the Prime Minister emphasised the urgent need to lift curfew and other restrictions imposed on Kashmiri population for 50 days. Both sides agreed to fast track implementation of the bilateral agreements concluded during the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Iran earlier this year.

Prime Minister Imran Khan met President Ueli Maurer of the Swiss Confederation on the sidelines of 74th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The two leaders discussed bilateral, regional and multilateral issues. Prime Minister Imran Khan apprised the Swiss President of the current situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, especially the dire human rights and humanitarian situation. The Prime Minister emphasized the need to urgently lift the curfew and other restrictions that had continued for 50 days in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. He underscored the importance of resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute for safeguarding peace and security in the region. The two sides agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in diverse areas, including political, trade and economic

relations.

U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad called on Prime Minister Imran Khan in New York. They discussed Afghanistan and Pakistan-U.S. joint efforts for peace in Afghanistan. The Prime Minister appreciated Amb. Khalilzad's efforts for promoting a peaceful, political settlement in Afghanistan. He recalled that Pakistan had always held that there was no military solution to the Afghan conflict. Pakistan would, therefore, continue to support all initiatives towards achieving a sustainable peace in Afghanistan and hoped for an early resumption of the peace process. Condemning the recent surge of violence in Afghanistan, the Prime Minister said that peace in Afghanistan was vital to advancing his Government's vision for a peaceful neighborhood and for economic development and regional stability. All parties must play their role in strengthening peace and promoting reconciliation as a shared responsibility. Amb. Khalilzad appreciated the Prime Minister's support for the Afghan peace and reconciliation process, and said he looked forward to continue working with Pakistan for peace and stability in Afghanistan.

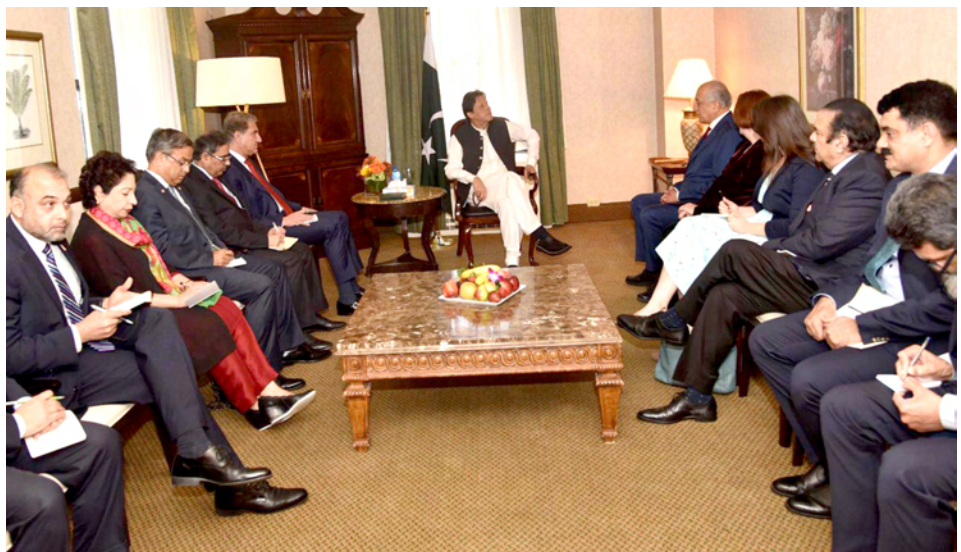
The Prime Minister met the UN Secretary General in New York. Commending the Secretary General for his clear articulation of the UN position on Kashmir dispute, the Prime Minister briefed him on the 54-days long siege of over 8 million Kashmiris amidst communications blackout. Such draconian lock-down had no parallel in recent history, and the need for its immediate lifting could not be stressed enough. The Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's rejection of Indian illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August as these were in clear violation of UN Security Council resolutions. Noting that the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights had comprehensively documented the previous gross human rights violations by India in Kashmir, the Prime Minister underlined that India's recent actions represented a new chapter of intensified human rights abuses. The Prime Minister highlighted the risks to regional peace and security that arose from India's illegal and irresponsible actions, underscoring the responsibility of the UN and international community to take urgent steps to save lives and help resolve the long-standing Jammu & Kashmir dispute. The Secretary General reiterated his deep concern over the human rights and humanitarian situation in Indian occupied Jammu & Kashmir, reaffirmed that he would remain engaged on the issue and conveyed that his offer to help facilitate a peaceful solution continued to stand.



Us Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at New York on September 22, 2019.



Prime Minister Imran Khan meets Vice President of Indonesia Muhammad Jusuf Kalla on the Sidelines of 74th Session of the UNGA in New York on September 26, 2019.



US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at New York on September 22, 2019.



Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Malaysia, Tan Sri Dato' Mohamad Ariff Bin Md Yusof visited Pakistan

By Ahsan Maroof

President Dr. Arif Alvi said that India's illegal and unilateral alteration of the disputed status of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IoJ&K) and its demographic structure contravenes numerous UNSC resolutions, international law and India's own prior commitments. Jammu and Kashmir was not an internal matter of India, rather it was a longstanding internationally recognized dispute on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council, he added. The President said this while talking to a delegation of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Malaysia, led by the Speaker, Sri Dato' Mohamad Ariff Bin Md Yusof, who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. Speaker, National Assembly, Asad Qaiser was also present on the occasion. The President informed the delegation that India had deployed 900,000 troops in (IoJ&K) and there had been a clampdown in (IoJ&K), with continued curfew, communications blockade and a severe shortage of food and medicines since 05th August 2019. This serious human rights and humanitarian situation was accompanied by grave risks to peace and security, he added. He said that Indian fascist regime was alienating the minorities through its fascist policies and had given the RSS extremists a license to kill. He further said that there was possibility of false flag operations by India, imperiling peace in the region. He hoped that Malaysia would play its rightful role in highlighting the issue at all international fora to help prevent threats to peace and security and facilitate a peaceful resolution of Jammu & Kashmir dispute. The President also appreciated the leadership of Turkey, Malaysia, and Pakistan for establishing an English news channel to effectively highlight the message of Islam and combat Islamophobia. He also appreciated Malaysia for its support to Pakistan on Kashmir at UNGA, on FATF and ASEAN. President Dr. Arif Alvi said that Pakistan and

Malaysia enjoyed friendly and cordial relations, which had been further cemented by the recent high level visits from both sides. Both countries had a convergence of views on world affairs that translated into cooperation and support for each other at various international fora, he added. He further said that the existing friendly ties would be further strengthened to the mutual benefit of the people of our two countries in the years ahead.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malaysia Tan Sri Dato Mohamad Ariff Bin Md Yusuf, presently on a visit to Pakistan, called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. The Prime Minister appreciated Prime Minister Mahathir's statements supporting just and durable solution of the Kashmir dispute in

accordance with the UN charter and relevant UNSC resolutions. He said that Prime Minister Mahatir was a source of inspiration for all developing countries and the Muslim world. Prime Minister expressed the desire to further deepen ties between the two countries. He said that there was an immense potential to increase trade and investment between the two countries in particular for promotion and development of tourism in Pakistan. The Prime Minister briefed the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malaysia on the recent developments in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJ&K). He highlighted the dire humanitarian crisis and worsening regional peace and security situation due to India's illegal actions. India was acting in complete disregard





of international law and in violation of UNSC resolutions. India had deployed 900,000 troops in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir to suppress the Kashmiri people. Since 05 August, an indefensible lockdown had continued with curfew, communications blockade, and severe shortage of food and medicines. The Prime Minister stressed the imperative of immediate lifting of the curfew and other restrictions and the international community playing its role in facilitating a just and durable solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has said that Malaysian Businessmen and investors should benefit from potential and conducive environment for investment in Pakistan, whereas we can learn from the Malaysian expertise in the promotion of tourism in the country. He expressed these views while talking to a Malaysian Parliamentary delegation headed by Tan Sri Dato' Mohamad Arif Bin MD. Yusof, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Malaysia, who called on him here at Parliament House on Wednesday. Chairman Senate was accompanied by Senators Kuhda Babar, Muhammad Ayub Afridi, Muhammad Akram, John Kenneth William and Secretary Senate Muhammad Anwar.

Chairman Senate said that Pakistan and Malaysia enjoy friendly and cordial relations and Prime Minister Mahathir's visit to Pakistan early this year have further boosted these ties. He said both countries have a convergence of views on world affairs that translate into cooperation and support for each other at various international fora. Pakistan looks forward to continued support from Malaysia for its bid to become full dialogue partner of ASEAN.

Sanjrani said that Pakistan – Malaysia – Turkey trilateral would provide an important venue for strengthening cooperation. He said that Pakistan and Malaysia have a comprehensive economic partnership agreement for the promotion of trade between the two countries which will be instrumental in promoting trade between the two countries. The two countries have a business forum which must act as a catalyst to bring the trading communities of the





two countries closer to each other and help in removing obstacles on ground to promote trade between Pakistan and Malaysia, he maintained. He suggested that both the countries can further deepen relations in tourism, telecommunication, vocational training, aviation and financial services sectors by creating more opportunities for people to people contact. He appreciated that educational linkages are gradually growing and both sides should take positive steps to attract each other's student community to deepen cooperation in education and research sphere.

He said that Pakistan appreciates Prime Minister Mahathir statement for supporting just and durable solution of the Kashmir issue through relevant UNSC resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir. He said that Indian illegal and unilateral actions to alter the dispute status of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir and to change its demographic structure contravene numerous UNSC resolution, international law and India's own prior commitments. Jammu and Kashmir is not an internal affair of India's. It is an internationally recognized dispute pending on the agenda of the UNSC for 70 years. India had deployed nine lakhs troops in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Since 5 August, there has been a lockdown with continued curfew, communications blocked and a severe shortage of food and medicines. The dire human rights and humanitarian situation is accompanied by grave risks to peace and security. The possibility of false flag operation remains distinct. He expressed the hope that Malaysia will play its rightful role in helping alleviate the suffering of the Kashmiri people subjected to inhuman lockdown, preventing threats to peace and security in the region and facilitating a peaceful resolution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Later, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani hosted a lunch in honor of the visiting delegation. The lunch was attended by Leader of the House in Senate Senator Shibli Faraz, Leader of the Opposition in Senate Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar ul Haq, Parliamentary leaders of the political parties in Senate and members of the Parliament.



Outgoing Ambassador of Iraq pays farewell call on President Dr. Arif Alvi

By M. Bilal Zafar

Appreciating the principled position of Iraq on the human rights violations in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJ&K) at the hands of fascist Indian regime, Pakistan expected Iraq's consistent support at all international fora for its bid to amicably resolve Kashmir dispute in accordance with Security Council resolutions, said President Dr. Arif Alvi, while talking to the Outgoing Ambassador of Iraq Dr. Ali Yasin Al-Rahmani, who paid farewell call on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad today. In this regard, he appreciated the recent visit by the head of Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, Shaikh Hammoudi, to Kashmir in July 2019. The President

said that Pakistan and Iraq enjoyed close and cordial fraternal relations based on the solid foundations of a shared faith, culture and historical affinities. He added that Pakistan strongly supported the sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity of Iraq. He underscored that Pakistan condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and vehemently opposed atrocities and destruction carried out by the terrorist organizations like Daesh and its militants in Iraq. He highlighted that Pakistan stood by the government and people of Iraq in their efforts for lasting peace and tranquillity and offered to send its financial managers, engineers, IT professionals, doctors and paramedic staff, and skilled and semi-skilled workers to Iraq

to participate in the reconstruction activities, he added. Hoping that the Ambassador had a pleasant stay in Pakistan, the President congratulated him on successful completion of his tenure in Pakistan and appreciated his efforts for enhancing the bilateral relations between the two countries and his principled support to the oppressed people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The Ambassador thanked the Government and people of Pakistan for their hospitality and making his stay in Pakistan pleasant. In the end, the President wished him success in his future endeavors.



Statement by H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Abbas President of the State of Palestine AT United Nations General Assembly 74th Session

By Mian Fazal Elahi

In the name of God, the most Merciful and Beneficent

Excellency, Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the United Nations General Assembly, Excellency, Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ladies and Gentlemen, Heads and Members of Distinguished Delegations Peace, Mercy and Blessings of God be upon you.

A week before the recent Israeli elections, Israel's Prime Minister, Netanyahu, came out to arrogantly announce that should he prevail in the election, he would annex and apply Israeli sovereignty to the Jordan Valley, northern Dead Sea, and Israel's colonial settlements despite the fact that all these areas are occupied Palestinian territory. We reject entirely and completely this illegal plan. Our response, if any Israeli Government is to proceed with this plan, all signed agreements with the government of the occupation and any obligations therein will be terminated, in line with the previous decisions we have taken in this regard. And, it is our right to defend our rights by all possible means, regardless of consequences, while

remaining committed to international law and combating terrorism, and our hands will remain extended for peace.

In this regard, I thank all leaders, countries, and international organizations that condemned and rejected this declaration and Israel's illegal settlement activities as a whole, which constitute serious violations of UN resolutions and grave breaches of international law. Moreover, all have reaffirmed that the Palestine question remains a central question for the international community.

I ask you, ladies and gentlemen: what would you do if someone tried take the land of your country and tried to erase your presence in it? It is time for the international community to uphold its responsibilities to bring an end to this Israeli aggression and arrogance.

I had hoped to come to you this year to proclaim together the end of this occupation, the Israeli occupation of my homeland, Palestine. But, regrettably, I stand before you today bearing the same miseries and pain that has been endured for so long by my people, who, despite all that they have suffered of injustice, oppression and occupation - still hold on to the hope of achieving their freedom and independence, as

all other nations of the world.

I ask you once again: hasn't the time come for the emancipation of the Palestinian people and their freedom from this injustice, oppression and occupation?

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your august Assembly granted the State of Palestine observer State status in the United Nations in 2012. We are grateful for this legal and moral stance, and we thank you for your principled position in support of our collective, just demands to end the Israeli occupation of the land of the State of Palestine and to actualize its full and complete independence on the 4 June 1967 borders, along with a just and lasting solution to the question of the Palestine refugees, whose plight has been tragically prolonged, in conformity with the relevant UN resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative, which affirmed the two-State solution: the State of Palestine and the State of Israel.

We also convey our deep appreciation to all countries and peoples that continue to provide support and solidarity to our people and our country, politically and economically, aimed at ending the occupation and

building our national institutions, in addition to their continued support to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), pending a just and comprehensive solution to the plight of our refugees in line with international law.

We are proud that the State of Palestine, despite the obstacles and policies imposed by the Israeli occupation and those behind it, has become a full member in, and a State party to, over 110 international instruments and organizations. It has received the recognition of 140 States from around the world, and is chairing the Group of 77 and China this year. It continues to competently assume its responsibilities at the regional and international levels, as a resilient and constructive member of the international family, and deserves to be a full member of the United Nations and all of its bodies and agencies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We accepted international legitimacy and international law as the framework and judgement to resolve our cause, and we have strived for and continue to seek a just and comprehensive peace. But, the international law that we have accepted and held firm to and the peace that we strive for are now severely endangered as a result of the policies and practices of Israel in our occupied land and its reneging on signed agreements since the Oslo accords in 1993 to the present. The

responsibility for defending and preserving international law and peace is incumbent upon you.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In East Jerusalem, the occupying Power is waging a reckless, racist war against everything Palestinian, from the confiscation and demolition of homes, to assaults on clergy, to the eviction of our citizens from their homes, to attempts to violate the sanctity of the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque and Church of the Holy Sepulchre, to the legislation of racist laws, to the denial of access by worshippers to the holy places.

I caution against these policies and reckless measures, which will lead to dangerous consequences with unfathomable implications. Who can accept the continuation of such daily aggressions against our people or accept the continuation of such grave violations of international law?

We are confident that the international community will not accept Israel's arbitrary decision to withhold our revenues, and to confiscate a part of it, which is deepening the suffering of our people and preventing us from fulfilling our financial obligations towards them and also exacerbate the economic crisis our country is enduring due to a lack of resources and the decision by some parties and countries to suspend their commitments towards us.

Yet, the Palestinian people will not surrender to the Israeli occupation regardless of the circumstances, and no matter the pain, and will remain steadfast on their land, resisting occupation by all available means, foremost peaceful popular resistance. This is our legitimate right and our national and moral obligation. Let everyone know that occupation cannot bring peace or security or stability for anyone.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

What is unfortunate and shocking is that the US administration – a permanent member of the Security Council that is responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security and uphold UN resolutions – is supporting the Israeli aggression against us, reneging on its international political, legal and moral obligations. The US administration has undertaken extremely aggressive and unlawful measures, declaring Jerusalem as the so-called “capital of Israel” and moving its embassy there, and in blatant provocation to the sensitivities of hundreds of millions of Muslims and Christians, for whom Jerusalem is a central part of their religious faith.

Jerusalem will remain the eternal capital of Palestine regardless of any such schemes or

actions.

The US administration did not stop there, but also decided to close the representation of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Washington, and some its officials have claimed that the Israeli settlements on our occupied territory are “legitimate”. Moreover, it immorally and inhumanely terminated all of its contributions to UNRWA.

Then, it somehow speaks of the so-called “Deal of the century”, and peddles deceptive and illusive economic “solutions”, after it destroyed by its policies and measures all possibilities to achieve peace.

This US policy has emboldened the government of the Israeli occupation to renege all signed agreements with us and its commitments towards peace, depriving the peace process of any credibility, pushing large segments of the Palestinian people to lose hope in the possibility of long-awaited peace, and jeopardizing the two-State solution.

This has led many to seriously question: if the two-State solution has become impossible because of Israel's policies, then why don't we pursue a one-state solution where all citizens can be fairly treated and are equal in rights and duties?

Here, I must ask you: How can I answer these questions raised by the people? How can one fulfill reciprocal commitments that the other side is not abiding by? And despite all of this, I remain committed to the two-State solution.

From our side, we have never missed an opportunity to hold serious negotiations with the Israeli side. We have constructively engaged with all initiatives proposed and based on UN resolutions and international law. However, regrettably, we have not found an Israeli partner, and found instead obstacles and challenges imposed by the Israeli government that continues to refuse to come to the negotiating table.

Despite all this, ladies and gentlemen, I renew the call for the convening of an international peace conference in line with the initiative I presented before the Security Council in February 2018. This peace conference should include permanent members of the Security Council, the members of the Quartet as well as relevant Arab and international stakeholders, to adopt a plan based on the international consensus, UN resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative, within a defined timeframe, to end the occupation, achieve the independence of our State and end the conflict. We cannot accept that the shepherding of peace be monopolized by one country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

From the outset, we have believed in democracy as a foundation for the building of our State and society. We have enshrined this in our constitution and exercised this on the ground. We conducted general elections in 1996, 2005 and 2006, in addition to regular local elections. However, this democratic process was paralyzed by the coup by Hamas in 2007, which is an unbearable situation. Therefore, I have decided, upon my return from this international gathering, to announce a date for the holding of general elections in Palestine – in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. I call on the UN and the relevant international organizations to monitor these elections, and I will attribute full responsibility to those who may attempt to prevent it from happening on the date determined.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We once again reaffirm our condemnation of terrorism in its all forms and sources. In this context, we strongly condemn the terror attacks against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Arab States, particularly the recent attacks against oil facilities in the Kingdom. We reaffirm our unwavering support to our brothers.

In conclusion, I salute all our Palestinian people in Palestine, in the refugee camps and diaspora and across the world and express our pride in them. I tell them: we are confident that this occupation, like all occupation that preceded it, will inevitably end; that the dawn of freedom and independence is coming; and that the oppression and aggression they have endured for so long will not last. A right is never lost as long as someone strives to claim it.

We salute our honorable martyrs, courageous prisoners and wounded heroes, and salute their resilient families who we will not give up on their rights. We salute to those remaining steadfast in our beloved homeland. The date of our freedom and the independence of State with its eternal capital Al-Quds is soon approaching.

I thank you, Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen



Pakistan Keen to diversify ties with Czech Republic

By Ahsan Maroof

President Dr Arif Alvi said Pakistan greatly valued its relations with Czech Republic and invited its investors to benefit from investment-friendly policies of Pakistan in the areas of mining, renewable energy, joint ventures in textiles, manufacturing of vehicles and power generation. In this regard, he also emphasized the need for further enhancing transfer of technology. Talking to Ambassador-designate to Czech Republic Muhammad Khalid Jamali at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the president stressed the need to bolster high level contacts in this regard.

President Alvi said the Pak-Czech trade was not commensurate with its true potential as immense scope existed between the two countries. He underscoring the focus of the Pakistani Government on bolstering its exports through value-added products like designer goods and directed the ambassador-designate to work for further expansion of economic cooperation.

The President reiterated that Pakistan will always condemn the blatant human rights violation in Indian-Occupied Kashmir and will always stand by its Kashmiri brothers. He underscored that all High Commissioners/Ambassadors must

highlight the true perspective on Kashmir issue and Indian oppression there. The President underscored the need to strengthen cultural linkages, through exchange of musicians, artists, and cultural troupes, joint ventures on preservation and restoration of national heritage, and greater people-to-people contacts. He directed the ambassador-designate to work for promotion of tourism, given Pakistan's huge potential in this sector. He wished Ambassador-designate a successful stay in Czech and hoped that his tenure will bring more vigor and energy to the bilateral relations.



Pakistan-Saudi

ties reaffirmed; Prime Minister lays strong emphasis on Kashmir solution

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Prime Minister Imran Khan, during his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, held wide-ranging talks with the Saudi leadership. The Prime Minister held separate meetings with His Royal Highness Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Mohamed Bin Salman and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud. The Prime Minister was accompanied by a high-level delegation including Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance Dr. Abdul Hafeez Sheikh, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis Sayed Zulfikar Abbas Bukhari and other senior officials.

Extending a warm welcome to the Prime Minister, the Saudi leadership underscored that the relationship between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan is based on "real brotherhood". The two sides underlined the deep and multi-faceted quality of the relationship and reaffirmed the resolve to enrich it further in myriad dimensions.

The Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's strong condemnation of the recent attacks on oil installations in Abqaiq and Khurais and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to Saudi Arabia against any threat to its security and territorial integrity. Prime Minister Imran Khan underscored, in detail, the dire human rights and humanitarian situation in the Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir and the grave risks posed to peace and security in the aftermath of India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August and its irresponsible and belligerent rhetoric and actions. Noting that the indefensible lockdown of over 8 million Kashmiris had continued for 46 days, the Prime Minister stressed the imperative of urgent lifting of the curfew and restrictions, respect for the rights and freedoms of the Kashmiris, and resolution

of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions. The Prime Minister also highlighted the pivotal role that OIC's consistent support for the Kashmir cause has played.

The Saudi leadership expressed concern over the situation and reiterated its steadfast support and solidarity for the Kashmir cause. It was agreed to continue to work together for peace, security and a peaceful resolution.

On the bilateral plane, the Prime Minister recalled the historic visit of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman to Pakistan in February 2019 and noted that it had imparted a strong momentum to the growth trajectory of the relationship. The two sides reiterated the resolve to further intensify bilateral trade, energy, investment and people-to-people contacts. The Prime Minister conveyed sincere gratitude for Pakistan's inclusion in the Road-To-Makkah Project and hoped for its extension to other major cities in Pakistan.

This is Prime Minister Imran Khan's fourth visit to Saudi Arabia since assuming office in August 2018. His last visit was in May 2019 to attend the 14th Session of the OIC Islamic Summit in Makkah.

The long-standing Pakistan-Saudi fraternal ties are marked by trust, understanding, mutual support and standing by each other. Saudi Arabia hosts the largest number of Pakistani diaspora anywhere in the world. Saudi Arabia is among the founding members of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu & Kashmir. The two countries have established the Saudi-Pak Supreme Coordination Council (SPSCC), co-chaired by the Prime Minister and the Crown Prince. Its next session is due to be held in February 2020.

Saudi National Day and kingdom's 'giant renaissance' celebrated in grand ceremony

The diplomatic mission headed by the Saudi envoy to Pakistan hosted a grand ceremony at a luxury hotel in the capital, Islamabad, to commemorate Saudi national day on Tuesday evening, and called it a celebration of Saudi Arabia's "giant renaissance" under the guidance of the kingdom's leadership.

Natively called Youm Al-Watani, the national day is celebrated annually on September 23 to commemorate the establishment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1932 by its founder, King Abdulaziz bin Saud. A large number of foreign diplomats, Pakistani officials, dignitaries, parliamentarians, journalists, and senior military officials were in attendance.

Saudi envoy Nawaf Saeed Al-Malkiy, said the relationship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had been further strengthened in the last year, and that the visit of Saudi crown prince Mohammed bin Salman to Pakistan in February, had "enhanced the strength of the relationship between the two brotherly countries.





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

In view of the recent developments in New York wherein the international community almost ignored the Kashmir Issue and despite all efforts Pakistan could not file a request to table a resolution in United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) on Kashmir. Similarly Pakistan has not yet moved any resolution to UN for time line for plebiscite.

Now having lost chance to go to UNHRC because of the lacking of required 16 votes despite the fact that we failed to win support of 15 members of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) who are the permanent members of the IHRC. It seems that effective diplomatic home work was not strategized to formulate the multiple diplomatic options to pursue the Kashmir issue in United Nations prior to the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to the USA for attending the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Pakistan not only lost the chance to table Kashmir Issue in UNGA but also failed to convince UNO to implement its own passed resolutions on Kashmir for self-determination or to even announce any deadline for plebiscite.

Pakistan should have convinced the member states to manage the required number of votes for tabling the Resolution in UNHRC and the United Nations to refer the matter to ICJ against Indian government for the crimes against humanity being committed by Indian Army troops under direct command of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

It is unfortunate to note that the time when Pakistan is supposed to exercise all options available to ensure that [the] HRC takes meaningful actions on the ground situation in Kashmir, we just failed to submit a draft resolution over Kashmir issue at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) before the scheduled deadline which was due on Sept 19th. In order to bewail our incompetency, I have written an open letter to the Prime Minister Imran Khan asking him to deal with the situation tactfully as only the frenzy emotions or aggressive postures are not going to help here. The human Butcher namely Modi needs to be dragged directly into the International Criminal Court under Rome Statute where war criminals like him are tried without impunity.

I feel that as a last resort, this option is still left with Pakistan to drag PM Modi in International Criminal Court under Rome Convention and in this regard I have written this open letter to Prime Minister Imran Khan with the Request to avail the third and the only option left with Pakistan, which is reproduced here for the information of a common man.

Dear Prime Minister Imran Khan,

I would like to point out that it is widely known

OPEN LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER IMRAN KHAN - TO DRAG MODI IN ICC UNDER ROME STATUTE

that country is passing through the testing times after the 5th August, 2019 when Indian Government illegally and contrary to International Laws and UN resolutions revoked Article 370 and 35A setting aside the United Nations Security Councils resolutions and simultaneously curfew was imposed in Indian Occupied Kashmir which is continued till the date and it is the 54th of caging the oppressed Kashmiri and the voice of Kashmiri is still unheard as rightly started by the PM Imran Khan in one of his pressers.

The special status of Kashmir has already been scraped by India which has empowered India to make demographic changes through ethnic cleansing.

There is no doubt that the conspiracy engineered by India through blame game ultimately resulted in placement of Pakistan in FATF's grey list that is one of the component of hybrid war being backed by India. The placement of Pakistan in FATF grey list has affected the inflow of foreign Investment in Pakistan and the International Financial Institutions like International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, Asian Bank etc. have made the terms and conditions more complicated to avoid Loans to Pakistan.

Without going into the blame game, I would like to state that over the last few decades Pakistan has been pushed into isolation by well-planned Indian lobbying at diplomatic front. That is why Pakistan could not secure even 16 votes by member states to file a request for a resolution on Kashmiris at the United Nations Human Rights Council Geneva. Evidently we missed the opportunity to drag India and expose the brutalities of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kashmir through IHRC.

Mr. Prime Minister! You have expressed in one of your pressers at New York that "To be absolutely frank, I am a bit disappointed by the international community. There is no pressure on Narendra Modi to lift the siege".

This statement of yours is enough to prove the intentional silence of International Community over the sufferings of oppressed Kashmiris in Indian Occupied Kashmir.

Mr. Prime Minister, Your speech today in United Nations without having a resolution either for the demand for a specific date of plebiscite or to table the resolution in UNHRC will not yield any specific relief for Kashmiris. I propose you to please appeal to the entire International community to force PM Modi to give commitment here to lift the curfew within 48 hours now that the second chance to bring India in ICJ has been lost and Modi managed his way out as a Chief of RSS.

Now I would like to invite your attention to the only option left for Pakistan and Kashmir to move the matter to the International Criminal Court under the Rome Statute where in the oppressed Kashmiri victims through the representatives in Azad Kashmir and other parts of the world would come forward to file this petition in ICC to drag PM Modi as War criminal and you have very rightly stated that PM Modi is a war criminal. I have already advocated my point of view in Senate Standing Committee for foreign Affairs in the presence of our Foreign Minister and meeting with Foreign Secretary Foreign Affairs.

I had even handed over the procedure of filing petition to him in the presence of prominent

Kashmiri leaders. The procedure for referring the case to the ICC under Rome statute is as under:-

"Preliminary examinations

Any individual, group or State can send information to the OTP regarding alleged crimes falling under the jurisdiction of the Court. To date, the OTP has received more than 12,000 of such communications, which can form the initial basis of the Office's preliminary examinations.

The OTP conducts a preliminary examination to decide whether there is a reasonable basis to initiate an investigation". (Extracted from the "Office of the Prosecutor" ICC)

In view of above, I as Former Interior Minister and as a responsible citizen of Pakistan recommend your good office to immediately direct the Law Ministry to make the necessary legal formalities and move the matter in support of a petition from Kashmiris to International Criminal Court immediately.

Mr. Prime Minister we have lost already two opportunities for his unprecedented brutalities against the Innocent Kashmiris in terms of mass murders, mass blinding, enforced disappearances, torture, rape, political repression and suppression of freedom of speech and long sieged of the whole valley making it the world largest cage since August 5, 2019. We need to drag PM Modi as war criminal and for that I am at the disposal of the Law Ministry, MOFA and Kashmir Committee to assist in getting the petition materialized in shortest possible time. The charge sheet is already available in the form of International Human rights report 2018 on IHK

I am writing this letter purely in the national interest and to pullout the Kashmiri Brothers and Sisters from the cage in Kashmir where PM Modi is doing ethnic cleansing and demographic changes without any fear through Indian Army and inhabiting the terrorists of RSS and fanatics of Hindutva. Let's bring Prime Minister Narendra Modi to justice before he changes the demography of Kashmir through RSS, RAW and Indian Army.

I offer my assistance to the Law ministry in the task of completing the formalities and provide the requisite substantive evidence against PM Modi.

I hope and wish that the international community answers your call positively in favor of oppressed Kashmiri women and children under curfew suffering without medical care & food.

With best wishes

Yours Sincerely

Sd/-

Senator A Rehman Malik

Chairman Standing Committee on Interior & Former Interior Minister

I am sure that there will be no room for authorities in Rome Statute to deny the above petition, if my suggestion is taken well in time and the government of Pakistan files the petition without apprehensions at the earliest.

The writer is Former Interior Minister of Pakistan, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Interior and Chairman of Think Tank "Global Eye".

He can be reached at: rmalik1212@gmail.com , Twitter @Senrehmanmalik



China, Pakistan vow to deepen cooperation in various fields

By Mian Fazal Elahi

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 8 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani President Arif Alvi met with visiting Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi here on Sunday, and they pledged to deepen cooperation in various fields between both countries.

Pakistan views China as its most trustworthy "iron friend," President Alvi said, expressing gratitude for China's long-term and unselfish support and assistance for his country.

Any attempt to isolate China and impede its development will meet opposition from Pakistan and will be doomed to failure, he said. While congratulating China on its remarkable achievements made over the past 70 years, Alvi noted that Pakistan stands ready to learn from China's successful development experience and speed up its own development through joint construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He also said that Pakistan is willing to work with China to deepen anti-terrorism cooperation, to combat terrorism including the East Turkistan Islamic Movement and protect the safety of Chinese nationals and projects in Pakistan.

The Pakistani president also expressed gratitude for China's understanding of and support for Pakistan in the international arena, saying Pakistan stands ready to strengthen strategic communication and notes-comparing on regional and international affairs with China. Wang Yi, for his part, said the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, under the guidance of the leaders of the two countries, has enjoyed strong momentum of development.

He called on the two sides to work together to forge a closer China-Pakistan community with

a shared future in the new era and to deepen across-the-board cooperation, and build the CPEC into a model for high-quality development projects.

China will continuously advance the construction of the CPEC in the direction of industrial cooperation, improvement of people's livelihood and development of the western and other parts of Pakistan so as to upgrade the project and bring more benefits to local people, Wang said.

Facing regional and international circumstances fraught with uncertainties, the senior Chinese official said it is more significant for China and Pakistan to enhance strategic communication. China is grateful to Pakistan for its firm support

on issues concerning China's core interests, Wang said, adding that China will also continue to staunchly support Pakistan in its efforts to safeguard national sovereignty, dignity and territorial integrity as well as its legitimate rights and interests.

Also on Sunday, Wang met with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff Qamar Javed Bajwa.

Wang said China will firmly support Pakistan in safeguarding sovereignty, dignity and territorial integrity and the government to achieve national stability, development and prosperity. China will also firmly support Pakistan in playing a more constructive role in regional and international affairs.

The CPEC is related to Pakistan's long-term development. China highly appreciates the unrelenting efforts made by the Pakistani military in the development of the project, especially in terms of security, said Wang.

China welcomes and supports Pakistan's efforts to improve relations with Afghanistan and actively promote peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan, he added.

For his part, Bajwa said Pakistan is committed to advancing the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership with China and will continue to support China on the issues concerning China's core interests.

Pakistan will strive to improve its relations with Afghanistan and work for peace and stability in Afghanistan, he said, adding he hopes China will continue to play an important role in this regard.

During his trip to Pakistan, Wang Yi also met separately with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan and Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, and attended the 3rd China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue.





70th anniversary

of the People's Republic of China was organized by Pak China Institute

By Ahsan Maroof

The event held to observe the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic of China was organised by Pak China Institute at a local hotel. Speakers at an event here said Pakistan and China would stand shoulder to shoulder during every internal and external challenge. They praised the role of China over the issue of Kashmir and thanked it for the continuous support to the people of Kashmir who have been facing atrocities in the hands of Indian forces. Speaking on the occasion, Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing said China was also celebrating the seven decades of friendship with Pakistan. He said China would continue supporting Pakistan for getting justice for the people of Kashmir. "Pakistan is most sustained friend of China and it supported us over every issue. In 1960s, Karachi was the must stop for us while going to Europe. In 1980s when China opened up we came to Islamabad to learn your economic model. Both countries have always supported each other and the China Pakistan

Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the most recent development of relations," he said. Islamabad and Beijing would stand shoulder to shoulder during any challenge, speakers say "We have to make ourselves strong enough to deal with challenges and have to build strong economic relations and people to people links," he said. Mr Jing said all political parties in Pakistan had very good relations with the Communist Party of China. Deputy Speaker National Assembly Qasim Suri said China had always supported Pakistan and even condemned the atrocities of Indian forces in Kashmir. He said the current government was sincere to build good relations with the neighbouring countries. "China has pulled 800 million people out of poverty during the last 20 years which is an example for the world." Leader of the house in Senate Shibli Faraz said both countries had very good and strong relations. "Relations among countries face issues but Pakistan and China have never faced any issue. People of both the countries also love and respect each other. The Chinese

ambassador has played the role of a bridge between the two countries and has become very famous in Pakistan," he said. Chairman Kashmir Committee Fakhar Imam said both countries had great relations and during the next five years China would become the biggest economy of the world. Former interior minister Rehman Malik said those who forgot their forefathers cannot progress. "We should remember that it was Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who built relations with China and then it was Asif Ali Zardari who made efforts to take the relations to a peak. I suggest that we should talk for development of the country. China has supported us and always stood along with us over the issue of Kashmir," he said. Head of Pak China Institute Mushahid Hussain Syed said both the countries had very close relations and always supported each other. "We are not only neighbours but our hearts also beat together. I suggest that there should be continuity of policies because that is how China has progressed," he said.



China's National Day parade, as it happened

By Mian Fazal Elahi

The People's Republic of China celebrated its 70th anniversary with a massive military parade in Tiananmen Square.

In all, 15,000 troops, more than 160 aircraft and 580 active weapon systems will be on show in an event designed to showcase the country's cutting-edge defence technology. But the parade will be about more than projecting China's military might – it will promote an image of national unity and President Xi Jinping's achievements in modernising the People's Liberation Army. The event is expected to begin with Xi delivering a speech to the nation before inspecting the troops. The last parade float features a flower basket emblazoned with the words "Long live the motherland". On the float are the members of the World Cup-winning Chinese women's volleyball team. Hundreds of pigeons and balloons are released, bringing the parade to an end.

Congratulating China on its anniversary, North





Korean leader Kim Jong-un said his country would “stand by” its neighbour.

“Our party, government and people fully support the Chinese [Communist] Party, government and people in their struggle to defend the stability and the core interests of the country and achieve sustained development,” Kim was quoted by state-run Korean Central News Agency as saying. “We will always stand by them on the path of defending and glorifying socialism.” This year also marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two neighbours. Leaders from Vietnam, including President Nguyen Phú Trọng, have congratulated China on its 70th anniversary, adding that they hope the two countries will resolve their tensions.

Vietnam said it hoped the two countries would “control and satisfactorily settle existing issues on the basis of respect for each other’s legitimate interests and in line with international law”. A series of colourful parade floats feature each of China’s provinces and regions, beginning with the capital Beijing. Northern province Hebei prominently featured Xiongan New Area, which was established by Xi to help integrate Beijing, Tianjin, and Hebei. The float for Liaoning, in China’s northeast, was particularly eye-catching with a winged metallic robot at its helm.

Sichuan, in the country’s southwestern region, naturally featured giant pandas.

The “one country, two systems” contingent is also appearing for the first time in a National





Day parade.

Marchers carried placards forming the words: "Hong Kong's tomorrow will be better".

Parade pays tribute to the late revolutionaries of the Communist Party. It includes one contingent with a giant portrait of Mao Zedong followed by another with a portrait of Deng Xiaoping. Independent political scientist Chen Daoyin says Xi's speech this morning was concise and comprehensive. The tone was less confrontational, especially compared to his speech in early September where he emphasised the need for "struggle". Chen says this is mainly because the parade is considered an event for celebration and Xi is trying to send a message of unity. The J-20A also featured in the military fly-past. This is the PLA Air Force's first stealth fighter jet to rival the United States' F-22. Military insiders say China's aircraft engineers have been developing



a shorter version of the J-20 for use on aircraft carriers, replacing the J-15. The military parade - the biggest since the founding of the People's Republic - has just ended after about 80 minutes. It will be followed by a 100,000-strong civilian parade, featuring 70 floats.

The procession will be divided into three parts representing three eras in the history of the People's Republic: the nation's founding under late chairman Mao Zedong, the reform and opening up under late paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, and the "great rejuvenation" under Xi Jinping. China's heavyweight H-6 bombers make their fly-past, with the H-6K, H-6N and the HU-6 refuelling aircraft all on show. The H-6 was designed as a medium-range bomber, but in the latest incarnation - the H-6K - the bomb bay was removed to allow for greater fuel storage and a longer range. Instead, the bomber carries cruise missiles, each with a range of more than 2,000km, under its wings. The parade is the first time the public has seen various DF series missiles, including the DF-17, DF-100 and DF-41.

The DF-17 missiles have the capacity to strike the US mainland. Defence ministry spokesman Senior Colonel Wu Qian said ahead of the parade that the grand show of military troops and weaponry was not intended as a show of muscle.



The 70th Anniversary of the Founding Republic of China

By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Dr Arif Alvi said with China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) entering its second phase, the historic friendship between the two countries was rapidly gaining strength through increased cooperation in diverse areas.

He was addressing a reception hosted by Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing held here at the Chinese Embassy to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China [October 1, 1949]. The reception was attended among others by Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani, federal ministers, members of the parliament, diplomats, and senior civil and military officials. Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan also attended the reception.

The president lauded the latest Chinese support for Pakistan on the issue of Kashmir, including at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), and said China, which was a true and trusted friend of Pakistan, always stood with the country in hard times.

He said the description that "Pak-China friendship is deeper than oceans and higher than mountains" was also felt by him whenever he talked to common people in Pakistan and

China.

The president was highly appreciative of the socio-economic development achieved by China, including the lifting of 700 million people from poverty over the last 30 years through its prudent political and economic policies, a fact also highlighted by Prime Minister Imran Khan in the United States.

He said the world including Pakistan should learn from the Chinese experience of socio-economic development and poverty alleviation.

Referring to the situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJ&K), the president urged the world to help address issue through the implementation of 11 resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council.

He said Pakistan desired peaceful relations with its neighbours to achieve socio-economic development, and that was why Prime Minister Imran Khan soon after coming to power approached the Indian leadership and asked for focusing on the challenges faced by region including poverty.

The president, however, regretted that India, which intended to have its hegemony, was not interested in improving the lot of poor in the region.

Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing, in his welcome

remarks, spoke high of Sino-Pak friendship spanned over the last seven decades and said Pakistan was the first country which established diplomatic relations with China.

He said with Pakistan being a best friend of China, the two countries stood together in economic development, promotion of peace and stability in the region and the eradication of poverty.

The Chinese ambassador while lauding the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, said he (Imran Khan) was leading Pakistan to a prosperous future.

He said since China Pakistan Economic Corridor had entered its second stage, the focus was on enhanced cooperation in the areas of industrial and agricultural development.

Ambassador Yao also spoke on the socio-economic achievements made by China over the last 70 years specially under the leadership of President Xi Jinping. He said China having a GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of around 14 trillion dollars at present was the second largest economy in the world.

President Arif Alvi along with the Senate chairman, Chief of the Air Staff, Ambassador Yao Jing and others also cut a cake to mark celebrations of 70th anniversary of the founding of China.







China, Pakistan

hold 1st strategic dialogue between foreign ministers

By Bilal Zafar

On March 19, 2019, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi of Pakistan held the first China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue and jointly met the press in Beijing.

Wang Yi firstly strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in New Zealand, and extended his condolences to the unfortunate Pakistani victims in the incidents. Wang Yi expressed that the incidents showed again that terrorism is the common enemy of mankind. To fight against terrorism, we should neither apply double standards nor associate terrorism with any particular religion or country. In face of common threats, countries with different religions and cultures should join hands to combat terrorism in all forms.

Wang Yi pointed out that it is an important consensus reached by leaders of the two countries during Pakistani Prime Minister's visit to China last November to establish China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue. It dovetails with the realistic needs of the development of China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and is of great significance, and we have reached extensive consensus.

We agreed that the friendship between China and Pakistan has withstood the tests of transformations of international situations, stood rock-firm and maintained vigorous vitality. The two countries have strengthened

strategic communication, deepened mutually beneficial cooperation, and forged a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, which not only conforms to the common interests of the two countries and the two peoples, but is also conducive to regional peace, stability and prosperity.

We agreed that the two sides should continue firmly sticking to mutual support on issues concerning each other's core interests and major concerns. No matter how the international and regional situation might evolve, the Chinese side will unswervingly support the Pakistani side in safeguarding its national sovereignty and national dignity, steadfastly support the Pakistani side in independently choosing a development path that is suitable to its national conditions, firmly support the Pakistani side in achieving its national stability, development and prosperity, and sturdily support the Pakistani side in playing a more constructive role in regional and international affairs.

We agreed to maintain the momentum of high-level exchanges. The Chinese side warmly welcomes Prime Minister Imran Khan to attend the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and the International Horticultural Exhibition in China. The two sides will well plan other high-level exchanges to provide sustained impetus for the development of bilateral relations.

We agreed to actively advance the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The two sides will jointly ensure the

sustainable operation of the established projects of the CPEC to provide strong support for the economic take-off of Pakistan. Both sides will well plan and implement industrial parks and new projects in social livelihood to create a new engine for the sustainable development of Pakistan. The two sides will take forceful measures to well safeguard the safe environment for the construction of the CPEC.

We agreed to enhance counter-terrorism and security cooperation. The Chinese side appreciates the strong counter-terrorism measures Pakistan has recently taken within the country, and fully supports the Pakistani side in following through on its commitment to counter-terrorism actions. The international community should treat Pakistan's long-term commitment to and effort in combating terrorism in an impartial manner.

We agreed that a peaceful and stable South Asia conforms to the common interests of all regional countries, and is also the common expectation of the international community. The Chinese side appreciates the constructive efforts made by the Pakistani side to ease the situation, and calls upon Pakistan and India to exercise restraint and resolve differences through dialogue and peaceful means. The Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law should be earnestly observed. We agreed to support the inclusive reconciliation process of "Afghan-owned and Afghan-led", and encourage the Afghan Taliban to join Afghanistan's peace and reconciliation negotiation at an early date. The Chinese side appreciates the important role played by the Pakistani side in this regard. The Chinese side and the Pakistani side will strengthen the China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue mechanism, further give play to the potential of this mechanism, and carry out more communication and cooperation with the Afghan side.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi totally agreed with Wang Yi, and congratulated on the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. He believed that China will make greater development achievements in the future. Shah Mahmood Qureshi expressed that Pakistan and China are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. All Pakistani people are committed to promoting the construction of the CPEC, and expanding bilateral cooperation in various fields. Prime Minister Imran Khan looks forward to attending the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in China to push Pakistan-China relations for more positive outcomes.



China's Wang Yi meets Pakistani, Afghan foreign ministers, vowing to maintain regional stability

By Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 8 (Xinhua) -- Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi here on Saturday met separately with Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Afghan Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani, as all sides committed efforts to maintain regional peace and stability.

Wang, on the sidelines of the 3rd China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue, held the two bilateral meetings with the two foreign ministers.

Wang, during the meeting, told Qureshi that the China-Pakistan relations will further be strengthened in spite of the complex and changing regional and international situation.

He said that China will continue to staunchly support Pakistan in its efforts to safeguard sovereignty and territorial integrity, to maintain domestic stability in a bid to boost economic development and to play a bigger constructive role in international affairs.

Wang also said China is willing to enhance strategic communication with Pakistan at all levels to boost cooperation in every sector, in particular, to fasten the construction of the

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said the two sides need to promote coordination and cooperation in international and regional affairs in order to protect their mutual interests.

The Chinese state councilor pointed out that the two countries should deepen the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future and to make new contribution to regional peace, stability and development.

Qureshi, during the meeting, expressed congratulations on the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

He said the two countries are "closest friends" and their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership an "anchor" of regional stability. The Pakistani foreign minister said his country supports the construction of the CPEC, highly appreciating the huge benefits brought by the project.

Pakistan is keen to boost construction of other crucial projects including the Gwadar Port, he said.

Pakistan welcomes more investment of Chinese enterprises and will take effective

measures to help Chinese companies tackle difficulties and safeguard their security, said the Pakistani official.

He said Pakistan welcomes China to play a constructive role in maintaining peace and stability in South Asia, will strengthen coordination and cooperation with China in regional and international affairs and will continue to firmly support China in safeguarding its core interest.

The two officials, during their meeting, also exchanged views on Kashmir situation.

Qureshi elaborated Pakistan's stance on Kashmir. Wang also reiterated China's consistent position on the issue, saying China attaches great importance to Pakistan's legitimate and reasonable concerns.

Wang, during his meeting with Rabbani, said China appreciates Afghanistan's firm support in issues concerning China's core interest and its efforts to battle East Turkestan Islamic Movement in the country.

China supports the Afghan government in safeguarding the country's sovereignty, independence and dignity, and is willing to implement the consensus reached between the two leaders to boost the building of the Belt and Road Initiative, to continue help in the development of Afghanistan's economy and society and the improvement of people's livelihood, Wang said.

China respects Afghanistan's sovereignty and the will of the Afghan people, and firmly supports the Afghan reconciliation and peaceful reconstruction process featuring the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned characteristics, the Chinese state councilor said.

For his part, Rabbani congratulated the People's Republic of China on its 70th anniversary of the founding, expressing gratitude for China's bolster for his country in various fields, and appreciated China's unremitting efforts and important role in advancing reconciliation and peace in Afghanistan and safeguarding peace and stability in the region.

Speaking highly of China's pushing forward of the China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue, he said Afghanistan is willing to enhance mutual political trust among the three sides and deepen practical cooperation and anti-terrorism cooperation.



CPEC Shelved?

Publish in THE News

The \$50 billion worth China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects launched amidst lot of fan fare by the PML-N government and they soon became so expedient that practically all political parties lined to take its credit.

Some analysts laid credit of the CPEC projects with the former dictator Gen (ret'd) Pervez Musharraf and the military leadership. It became so sacrosanct afterwards that mere objecting to the project would invite the label of treachery against the country. But then the pendulum swung the other way. After the inauguration of the PTI's government into the office, the projects first came under scathing criticism of Minister for Trade Razzaq Daud and then Minister for Communication Murad Saeed who accused PML-N's Ahsan Iqbal of involvement in misappropriations in some CPEC projects and then all of them came to a seemingly grinding halt.

Now it has become a forgone conclusion that the CPEC projects have been shelved

for all practical purposes. The former spokesman of Balochistan government's Jan Muhammad Buledi told Deutsche Welle the incumbent government does not accord any priority to CPEC. Buledi said no progress was witnessed on the CPEC projects for Balochistan in the last one year adding the projects have seemingly been frozen. No development has been undertaken on the land acquired for Gwadar Airport, he said and added same goes with the 300MW electricity generation plant in Gwadar that was to be built by China for which land was also acquired but the development work is yet to start. Gwadar Port remains similarly frozen.

Various circles feel the Chinese leadership is upset with the corruption allegations of the incumbent government. One of the government officials on condition of anonymity told Deutsche Welle (DW) the Chinese have practically stopped funding for the project, especially after Ministers Razak Dawood and Murad Saeed leveled charges of corruption. He said previously

the Chinese used to release loans first and later would ask for procurements, but now they first demand procurement and there is no certainty if any funding would be released for it. And how could the government undertake procurement when they do not have funds. This shows that the CPEC projects are practically over and if at all there is any forward movement worth the name it will be extremely slow.

Some politicians believe that while the allegations of corruption did frustrate the Chinese but some of them believe that certain external powers want the CPEC projects to be slowed or altogether scrapped. PPP's leader and Deputy Chairman Senate Saleem Mandviwala said when the PPP started these projects they faced immense international pressure against launching them but it did not abandon them. Mandviwala said the former president Asif Ali Zardari visited China on 13 occasions and developed trust and confidence with the leadership. He said the incumbent government is trying to keep both US and China happy which

is impossible. The incompetency of the PTI government has given China more reason to be dismayed and in this situation the remaining projects would continue to remain on the back burner.

Many analysts also similarly believe the external pressures are playing a major role in Pakistan back pedaling over the CPEC projects. Suhail Chaudhry, a columnist from Lahore, thinks the CPEC projects would miss deadlines primarily due to to stern conditionalities of the IMF, World Bank and the US. America and the other western powers do not want Pakistan to complete the CPEC projects. Pakistan's plight is compounded by the financial crunch and the IMF package. If Islamabad

is unable to achieve the revenue targets the IMF would not release its next tranche sending Pakistan to desperately seek the US help for the IMF funding. At this stage Washington would invoke the CPEC conditions forcing Pakistan with no other option but to slow down the projects, but Pakistan cannot afford to scrap these projects, he said.

An source in the Ministry of Communications confided to DW that several important projects have been put on hold. Development work has stopped on the Karachi-Sukkur motorway. Similarly the Dera Ismail Khan to Balochistan Western Route has also been abandoned. Work on several critical motorway projects including

the Orange Lines and Green Lines project has also been stopped, causing Pakistan to miss its chance of major development, China in the situation is not overly hurt, he said.

Another prevailing popular perception is that the PTI has sacrificed CPEC at the altar of the US regional policies to cultivate Washington on its side. Senior PTI leader Ishaq Khakwani rejected the perception and cited the example of Malaysia. He said negotiations do take place following change of governments on the format of payments and other relevant areas but it is unthinkable that the PTI government would drop the CPEC projects altogether.

CPEC projects picking up pace: Ministry

September 20, 2019

Apropos news item titled "CPEC Shelved?" published in The News in its edition of September 19, 2019 wherein it has been erroneously reported that the work on China-Pakistan...

ISLAMABAD: Apropos news item titled "CPEC Shelved?" published in The News in its edition of September 19, 2019 wherein it has been erroneously reported that the work on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project is being scrapped or frozen. Rather than being shelved, the pace of the flagship project between the two friendly countries has picked up after the incumbent government came into power.

The Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform in a statement clarified that:- CPEC was planned to be completed in three phases. The first phase of CPEC was to remove key economic bottlenecks namely energy and infrastructure. The current phase is about industrialization, socio-economic and agricultural cooperation and promoting business and consolidating developments.

In the first stage substantial work has been done. For instance, in the road category, a total of 1544 km have been constructed and 1456 km are under construction. In the energy sector, 5320MW of electricity has been added to the national grid while work on 7 projects with 4170MW power

projects is nearing completion. Additional projects of 2844MW are planned. Also, cross border optical fiber project which stretches over 820 km linking Khunjrabad to Rawalpindi has already been completed.

Regarding development in Gwadar, 10 projects in infrastructure and social sector development have either been completed or under construction. Among the completed projects, Gwadar port is functional. Most importantly, the Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan for the integrated development of the city has been approved on 23 August, 2019 and ready for implementation. Moreover, tax concessions and investment incentives issue which was lingering since 2016 has been resolved which will enhance economic activity in Gwadar. The country's largest airport, the New Gwadar International Airport groundbreaking was held on March 29, 2019 by the Prime Minister.

Currently the focus is on industrialization, socio-economic development, agriculture modernization, blue economy and tourism promotion. Framework Agreements on Industrial cooperation, Agriculture and socio-economic development have been signed in November 2018. Development of three special SEZs is on the priority namely; Rashakai, M3 Faisalabad and Dhabeji Thatta. Concession Agreement with CRBC for the Rashakai SEZ was signed

in April 2019 and its groundbreaking of the zone is expected in early October. As the major obstacle in the establishment of these SEZs was to provide utilities to the Zone, the current government has agreed to provide the utilities at zero point through its own resources.

In the social sector development, 27 projects in the area of education, health, agriculture, poverty alleviation, agriculture and water supply have been identified of which 17 are on priority list and will be completed in this phase. For the MLI project, financing committee has been constituted to expedite work on the ML1 Project. Negotiations for petro chemical plant, refinery and gas pipeline are also ongoing.

It is evident that CPEC is on track and enjoying the full backing of the two countries. The roll back or slowing down of this flagship initiative is mere propaganda which is not based on ground reality and facts.

Therefore, the news item is not based on facts and lacks veracity. Further, such baseless news also carries the risk of creating ambiguities and confusion regarding this all important framework between the two friendly countries



6 Reasons To Visit Guangzhou Right Now

By Kate Springer

One of China's most ancient cities, Guangzhou has long been connected to the West — first as a thriving trade port and, more recently, as a manufacturing and garment hub. But the country's third-largest metropolis is quickly shedding its skin and evolving into a fashionable getaway thanks to an influx of new restaurants, hotels and cultural experiences.

On the west side of the city, get lost in what feels like a time capsule of old Canton, with two-story Chinese shophouses and enormous public parks. On the east side, navigate through ultra-modern skyscrapers, museums and restaurants in Zhujiang New Town, the Central Business District of Tianhe. And in the middle? Leafy streets and residential pockets are quickly turning into hotbeds of trendy restaurants and wine bars.

Whether you have a 24-hour layover or a week to spare, Guangzhou is well worth a visit. Here's five reasons you'll want to explore the capital of Guangdong right now.

Luxe Hotels

The city's reputation as an important international travel destination was solidified when Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star The Ritz-Carlton, Guangzhou opened its doors in 2008. But it wasn't until Five-Star Four Seasons Hotel Guangzhou debuted in 2012 that the city's modern landscape began to emerge. The ambitious property set a new tone, crowning the International Finance Centre with

panoramic views, an impressive atrium and contemporary rooms.

Mandarin Oriental, Guangzhou came onto the scene in 2013 to complete the Five-Star trifecta with the city's largest standard rooms, an enticing Five-Star spa and Four-Star Ebony grill, which holds China's first gin bar.

Since then, a slew of high-end hotels have followed suit, including Conrad Guangzhou, which just opened in 2017. Located in the middle of the CBD (Central Business District), the Conrad is a haven for design lovers, featuring

a specially commissioned Czech crystal light installation in the lobby, traditional Chinese architectural references and a collection of restaurants designed by Hong Kong-based creative Andre Fu.

Amazing Cantonese Cuisine...

This is the birthplace of Cantonese cooking, and there's no shortage of fantastic dim sum spots, high-end venues and casual snack stalls around town to satiate your craving. For an ultra-luxurious experience, we'd suggest booking a table at Lai Heen, the signature fine-dining restaurant of The Ritz-Carlton, Guangzhou. It's a sanctuary of calm, serving exquisite dishes such as poached sunflower chicken, braised shrimp and delicate crab — complete with wine pairings from the sommelier.

Looking for something a little more low-key? Wait in line for famous black char siu (barbecued pork) and silky tofu braised in spring water at Bingsheng. Conveniently enough, there's a location in Zhujiang New Town, across the street from the beautiful Five-Star Mandarin Oriental, Guangzhou.

...And Other Trendy Restaurants

Cantonese cuisine aside, Guangzhou has welcomed a stream of new eateries with influences from all over the globe. Atlas Kitchen prepares fresh salads and Sichuan-inspired sandwiches in a rustic-chic co-working space in the Tianhe District.

Meanwhile, Cocina promises Spanish flavors from a lofty, stylish perch on the trendy Zhujiang Party Pier — a collection of restaurants, bars and event venues along the Pearl River.

But Social & Co. is the place to go for excellent wining and dining. Here, you'll find a friendly atmosphere, antipodean wines, homestyle New Zealand cuisine and pared-back interiors along



a leafy residential street in the aforementioned Tianhe District.

Heritage Buildings

As one of China's oldest cities, Guangzhou offers a diverse architectural landscape. One of the best places to experience it is on Shamian Island, formerly a French and British concession in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Resembling a tiny European town, the pedestrian-only island was an important trade port along the Pearl River. Today, it's still peppered with grand mansions, churches, government buildings and banyan trees. Among the roughly 150 buildings, the architecture varies from Gothic to Neoclassical to Baroque, and each has a plaque to explain its original purpose.

Modern Architecture

The heritage architecture provides a peek into Guangzhou's past, while modern construction establishes the city as the powerhouse it is today. A walk along the Tianhe promenade — a pedestrian area just north of the Pearl River in the Central Business District — connects you with many of the city's contemporary architectural highlights.

Head to Huacheng Square to take in the Zaha Hadid Architects-designed Guangzhou Library, the funky Guangdong Museum, the towering International Finance Centre and, across the river, the twisting Canton Tower — home to the world's third-highest observation center and tallest Ferris wheel. It's a little bit touristy, but the transparent cabins tracing the roof's periphery provide soaring views over the city.

Buzzing Markets

You can't go to Guangzhou without checking out the thriving shopping scene. From dried foods (used in traditional Chinese medicine) in the Qingping Medicine Market to fashionable finds at Lihua wholesale market, Guangzhou is a shopper's paradise.

To get a taste of the local style, explore a main retail district like Shangxiajiu Pedestrian Street or Beijing Road Pedestrian Street in the evening, where you'll encounter street food hawkers, fast fashion and outposts from big-name international brands like Nike.

The Huangsha seafood market is also worth a visit — either to ogle the exotic abalone, geoduck, horn snails, cockles, cuttlefish and jumbo prawns, or sit down for a no-frills meal. There are several restaurants here where you can choose your dinner, then watch it cooked up fresh. Just be sure to come prepared with a few key Mandarin phrases, if you don't speak the language.



KASHMIR

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

and Power Politics

Kashmir has been under Indian military siege for the last one month and so called western civilized world is still silent. Police or military barriers abound in both urban and rural areas, and intimidation is a rather common occurrence at these checkpoints in occupied Kashmir. The occupied Kashmir seethes with a repressed anger generated by the humiliating brutality inflicted by Indian troops. The conscious policy of the Prime Minister Modi and his cohort to revoke autonomy, downgrade the State and democratic institutions in J & K has further alienated the people of Kashmir.

Humanity is badly suffering and Kashmiris are dying because of hunger, thirst and medicine too. It has been constant denial of even basic necessities of life to common people. Curfew is still there to add miseries of common people.

Means of communications have not yet been restored and Kashmiris are still at the mercy of Indian brutal military and paramilitary power and propaganda too. Unfortunately, Kashmir, the heaven on earth has been easy prey of regional and global power politics. The elite global movers & shakers have now decided to transform Kashmir into profitable real estate project and hub of tourism. Era of proxies is over and Kashmir has been entered into a profitable proposition for the international investors especially from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Arab world. Moreover, revoking of special status (Article of 370 & 35(A) of occupied Kashmir has some serious international political repercussions. It has jolted even regional power equation. China has severely rejected division of occupied Kashmir into parts especially Ladakh.

Thousands of security forces patrol the streets at checkpoints, and many high-profile political leaders in Kashmir continue to remain in detention. The Indian government has said that things remain calm in Kashmir. But videos, as well as media and eyewitness reports, dispute that claims.

Pakistan has been raising the issue on several international platforms, including approaching the UN and OIC. Prime Minister Imran Khan has also spoken to multiple world leaders and briefed them on the situation in Kashmir. While speaking to Islamic Society South America, he showcased the real face of the RSS and termed it a potential danger to South Asia. RSS inspired from the fascist regime of German Nazis which should be taken seriously by the world powers, he added. He feared that RSS doctrine may start a potential nuclear war in the region.

The government of Pakistan is now striving hard to get vital support from the so called

Islamic world especially from the Arab world but unfortunately, goals for diplomatic support have not yet been secured due to many complicated and complex regional socio-economic, geo-political and geo-strategic emerging trends wherein, economics acts like a decisive variable/parameter.

The most recent visit of foreign ministers of the UAE and Saudi Arabia to Islamabad astonishingly demoralized diplomatic efforts of Pakistan by saying that Kashmir is not the issue of Muslim World. It is irony of international politics that human pains, prosecutions and perpetual denial of basic human rights do not have any sway and only profits, befitting propositions and vested interest dominate. Genocide of Bosnia in the heart of so called civilized Europe, Nagorno-Karabakh in the heart of South Caucasus, and Northern Republic of Turkish Cyprus in the heart of Mediterranean Basin speaks itself that in the wild chase of dirty power politics, religion, ethnicity, faith, caste, color and culture are secondary commodities. And now somehow, Kashmir has become a prime example of invisible regional hegemonic bargaining and international power politics. Kashmir the heaven on earth has become a “bleeding paradise” unfortunately.

Even OIC did not stand with the stance of Pakistan on Kashmir. Is it now a “reality check” on Kashmir? Does it an operationalized failure to foreign ministry of Pakistan? Only time will tell/determine. Notwithstanding it a wake-up call for the government of Pakistan and of course the establishment.

But still there is a light of hope in the end of tunnel. The European Parliament’s Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) demanded the Indian government to immediately lift the curfew in occupied Kashmir that has created humanitarian crisis in the valley. It expressed serious concern over the continued lockdown, suspension of all communication means and media blackout in the occupied Kashmir. It strongly criticised India and condemned the Modi led government for its brutal action that has brought life to standstill in the valley.

Members of the European Parliament’s Committee on Foreign Affairs raised their voice for the oppressed Kashmiris, and demanded India to begin dialogue with Pakistan, adding that the European Union (EU) and the European Parliament should issue a reactionary statement on the situation in occupied Kashmir as soon as possible. The EU meeting took place despite Indian efforts to get it canceled. The European Parliament has passed resolutions in support of the Kashmiris. It also sent a delegation to the IOK, which gave an eye opening report.

The delegates termed the IOK as “the most beautiful prison of the world”.

Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited Brussels and met with High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini. According to reports, the Indian minister tried to scuttle efforts to raise the issue of Kashmir in the European Parliament but failed.

Moreover, the US Congress’ Foreign Relations Committee House Subcommittee on Asia met and discussed human rights violations in Kashmir. Both committees discussed the ongoing curfew in Indian held Kashmir and situation in the valley. Reports coming out of the valley accuse the Indian government of mass imprisonments and human rights violations. India, however, claims everything is returning to normal.

The human rights violations perpetrated by the Indian security forces in the Indian occupied Kashmir (IOK) have evoked a worldwide condemnation. World leaders, governments, organizations, intellectuals, civil society have condemned this state terrorism in the IOK. Most recently, the Amnesty International India has launched a global campaign “Let Kashmir Speak” to highlight the draconian communication blackout in Indian Held Kashmir, terming it an “outrageous protracted assault on the civil liberties of the people”.

The blackout has now been a month old and cannot be prolonged any further by the Indian Government as it has grossly impacted the daily lives of Kashmiri people, their emotional and mental well-being, medical care and access to emergency services,” said Aakar Patel, head of Amnesty International India in a statement.

The Amnesty International’s head said depriving a population of eight million of its right to freedom of expression, opinion and movement for an indefinite period is akin to taking the region back to the dark ages. The country is yet to hear from Kashmir after a month of being repeatedly been told by the Indian government that all is normal.

He said the current shutdown was against the Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which India was a party. He mentioned that sketchy reports coming out of the region had highlighted unattended medical emergencies, mass arrests and detentions, children and youth being picked up in the middle of the night, torture of civilians, indiscriminate use of tear gas, rubber bullets and pellet guns at protesters.

The government’s attempts to create a public opinion of ‘normalcy’ in Kashmir while curbing the freedom of independent press have

usurped the voice of the people.

Kashmir Campaign Global has launched “Free Kashmir” campaign on a section of London transport network ahead of India’s Republic Day today, which is observed as “Black Day” by Kashmiris and Sikhs all over the world.

Chairman of Kashmir Campaign Global who hails from Indian-occupied Kashmir (IoK) but lives permanently in London in exile, told this scribe that a series of campaigns will be launched across UK and other parts of the world throughout the year to create awareness about the Kashmir issue.

At least seven vans were seen driving around the British Parliament carrying signboards titled “Free Kashmir” in reference to the occupation of a large part of Kashmir valley by Indian forces. India occupied this part at the time of partition and has so far killed over a 100,000 Kashmiris for demanding their right to freedom.

The digital vans went across dozens of important central London locations and then made their way to the Indian High Commission where Sikhs and Kashmiris came together for a large and noisy protest against the Indian regime.

Vans with banners in favour of an independent homeland for Sikhs carried slogans “Khalistan Zindabad!” and “Raj Karega Khalsa”, sponsored by the Council of Khalistan, were also seen in London.

“It has been 70 years since India, Pakistan, and international world promised a free and impartial referendum in occupied Jammu & Kashmir. During the last 30 years alone, India has been ruling and subjugating the rightful aspirations of the people, as promised by the international community through 17 UNSC resolutions, by using the draconian laws such as AFSPA (Armed Forces Special Powers Act) and PSA (Public Safety Act).”

These black laws have given immunity to Indian security forces and agencies since 1990 and as a result, over 95,000 people have been killed, 10,000 are missing and thousands of unidentified graves are littering across the border of occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

The “bleeding paradise” campaign will help raise awareness of the mass human rights violations taking place in Indian-held Kashmir and ensure the masses are educated about their role in creating a peaceful world. He said that Indian government has already shut down social media platforms linked to his own organisation.

The vans carrying pictures of Kashmiri children and women called on Indian occupation forces to leave Kashmir and let the Kashmiris decide their fate. The campaign against Indian brutalities has been supported by a group called “British Friends of Kashmir.

The vans were seen passing from outside 10 Downing Street, Trafalgar Square, Westminster Abbey and Waterloo Bridge. A source told Geo

News that the vans will run in London’s various parts for a month and then the campaign will be initiated in Birmingham, Bradford, Glasgow and Manchester.

The United Kingdom says any allegations of human rights violations in Occupied Kashmir since India revoked the special status of the territory must be thoroughly, promptly and transparently investigated.

The British Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, addressing in the House of Commons, the lower house of the Parliament, said all and any allegations of human rights violations are deeply concerning.

Dominic Raab told Members of Parliament in the House of Commons in the first parliamentary session that he raised the concerns with the Indian External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar, during a conversation on August 7 and that the UK will carefully monitor the situation in Kashmir.

The British Foreign Secretary stressed that the human rights concerns made Kashmir an international issue. “The issue of human

rights is not just a bilateral issue for India or Pakistan or a domestic issue. He said it is an international issue we expect internationally recognized human rights to be complied with and respected.

MPs from different sides of the Commons raised a series of questions over the Kashmir issue, including demanding an end to the blockade in occupied Kashmir as well as independent observers to be deployed to the territory.

The Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government announced major changes in Article 370 of the Indian Constitution that granted “special status” to the state of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), including the Ladakh region. Revoking this special status to fully integrate J&K into India has been a longstanding politico-ideological demand of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)—the BJP’s 2019 Lok Sabha Election manifesto clearly mentions the party’s historical position on the “abrogation” of Article 370 and the annulment of Article 35A, which allowed the J&K legislature to define permanent residents of the state.

Before	Now
Special powers exercised by J & K.	No special powers now
Dual Citizenship.	Single Citizenship
Separate flag for J & K.	Tricolour will be the only flag
Article 360 (financial emergency) not applicable	Article 360 will be applicable
No reservations for minorities such as Hindus and Sikhs.	Minorities will be eligible for 16 percent reservation
Indian citizen from other states cannot buy land or property in J & K.	People from other states will now buy land or property in J & K.
RTI not applicable.	RTI will be applicable

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act 2019 proposes to bifurcate J&K into two Union territories (UTs): Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The decision to immediately propose reorganization after the abrogation of J&K’s special status was possibly taken in anticipation of violent civilian unrest in the Kashmir Valley. The change to Union Territory status will likely give New Delhi more control over local

administrative and legislative powers in J&K, in addition to direct control over the police and protection and maintenance of public order. However, Indian Home Minister Amit Shah assured the parliament that when the situation returns to normalcy and “the right time comes,” the central government will once again grant full “state” status to the union territory of J&K.



There are two possible implications of the ruling BJP’s decision to abrogate Article 370: first, the BJP may gain political mileage from the move, both in J&K and the rest of India. Secondly, New Delhi may now be able to further emphasize the Kashmir issue as an “internal” matter of India in response to attempts at third-party mediation.

Even though India may face challenges in

stabilizing the law and order situation in the Kashmir Valley after this revocation decision, the BJP’s choice to abrogate Article 370 may possibly give it long-term political mileage across India and a real shot at reshaping the political status quo in J&K. On the contrary, the Indian National Congress (INC) and the Communist parties among others opposed it.

After scrapping J&K's special status, the BJP sees an opportunity to form government in the newly-declared Union Territory of J&K. The government intends to undertake delimitation of the J&K legislative assembly constituencies in order to conduct local elections once the law and order situation normalizes in the Kashmir Valley. The proposed delimitation will redraw the scope and size of constituencies and determine the total number of seats to be reserved for the Scheduled Castes, those who belong at the bottom of the Indian caste system, in J&K. The new constituencies map in J&K may give some electoral advantage to the ruling BJP as it is possible that its stronghold Jammu may obtain more seats after the delimitation process is complete. If that happens, the BJP will have a realistic chance to form the new government in J&K and appoint its own chief minister (CM).

It is feared that the decision to revoke Article 370 will give more political mileage to the ruling BJP across India. Popular support from various constituencies will also make it an electoral talking point for upcoming state elections and the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. However, an

unsuccessful integration process might have long-term political implications for the BJP since opposition parties may see it as a reason to unite against the ruling party in future state and parliamentary elections.

India's decision to revoke J&K's special status has also regional implications. It has further complicated India-Pakistan bilateral relations. Recent geopolitical developments such as the anticipated withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan, the possible return of an emboldened Taliban in Kabul, and U.S. President Donald Trump's comments regarding mediation of the Kashmir issue may have spillover implications for India too.

Suggestions

- Kashmir has now become war of media and diplomatic maneuvering which needs a comprehensive plan to project the ongoing human violations in the occupied Kashmir and to gain sustainable diplomatic support from the world. In this connection, there should be series of programs in electronic and print media. Social media has become effective tool for disseminating the message

which should also be utilized to show the dark side of so called shining India.

- Azerbaijan's model of media may also be thoroughly studied and implemented in which any single border violation, killing, firing and defiance of human rights from Armenia gets immediate reporting.
- Role of Kashmiris diaspora can play a vital role. Let-Speak Kashmir, the bleeding paradise mass media campaigns would bring decisive support from the world especially from the EU wherein a substantial population of Kashmiris exists.
- There should be a genuine group of international experts of international law, marketing and media to counter the ongoing Indian propaganda at any forum.
- The foreign ministry should contact to International Red Crescent for massive human right violations and request for intervene.
- The government of Pakistan should reach out the world for gaining more and more support.



Nagorno-Karabakh & Kashmir

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

The Nagorno-Karabakh and Kashmir are the human tragedies of modern times. Both are looming threats to South Caucasus and South East Asia and beyond. Successive leaders and people of brotherly countries have

been striving hard to resolve Nagorno-Karabakh and Kashmir conflicts with Armenia and India but still a substantial resolution is a far cry. Rise of complicated regional proxies and dirty global power politics has worsened human survival in both the illegally occupied areas.

Azerbaijan and Pakistan has had been trying their best to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh and Kashmir conflicts within the true spirits of international law, resolutions of the UN, rule of sovereignty, respect of human rights and the last but not the least, mutual respect, showing

their strong political commitments to do something meaningful for the suffering people of occupied areas under Armenia and Indian illegal occupation for so many years.

Right from the beginning, the governments of Azerbaijan and Pakistan took principle stances that "Nagorno-Karabakh and Kashmir are integral part of them. Khojaly genocide was the byproduct/strategic extension of Armenia's aggression, brutality and state sponsored terrorism against innocent and helpless people of Azerbaijan. On February 26, 1992, Armenia committed a war crime, killing more than 613 peaceful residents of Khojaly, among them 106 women and 63 children.

Most recently, India's government scarping of article 370 & 35(A) has completely changed status of occupied Kashmir. Daily lives of people have been ruined because of continued curfew for the last 45 days. Access to information, internet and other world has been denied in the valley of beauty. Even schools, colleges, universities and hospitals have been shut down for the last 45 days. People have been living a cage. Amnesty Watch (2019) has issued warning of an imminent "human genocide" in occupied Kashmir. Latest debate in European Parliament has shared that more than 100,000 people have been killed by Indian forces for the last 70 years.

The Khojaly massacre is one of the most heinous and bloodiest events of the 20th century. It is still a black spot on the collective human conscious of the region and the globe as well. It is an act of barbarism and discrimination. The town of Khojaly came under intensive fire from the town of Khankendi and Askeran already occupied by Armenian armed forces February 25, 1992. According to an official report, 613 civilians were killed, including 106 women, 70 elderly and 83 children, and a total of 1,000 civilians were disabled. Moreover, 1,275 innocent people were taken hostage. In case of occupied Kashmir severe ethnic cleansing is going on and so called civilized world is still docile and dormant.

Right of Azerbaijan on Nagorno-Karabakh territories is even recognized by the United Nations Security Council which adopted four resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 condemning the use of force against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories in 1993. It reaffirmed respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, reconfirmed that the Nagorno-Karabakh region is an integral part of Azerbaijan and demanded the immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all the occupied territories.

On the other hand various resolutions of the UN stand for bilateral negotiations and amicable resolutions between India and Pakistan but Indian recent unilateral act has bulldozed basic essence of international law. UN Resolution No.

47 of 1948 provided that the "United Nations would conduct a free and impartial plebiscite" in the disputed territory. Most recent India's action in altering the status quo of Jammu & Kashmir has implications which go beyond the illegal brutality of the act itself. It is a unilateral abrogation of the Shimla Agreement of 1972 and the Lahore Declaration of 1999.

The government of Azerbaijan demands withdrawal of the occupying forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan has still not been implemented, and the mediation efforts conducted for the last 20 years within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have also yet not yield results. The OIC recognizes Nagorno-Karabakh as integral part of Azerbaijan. NAM respects Azerbaijan's non-violence persuasion to liberate Nagorno-Karabakh. OSCE confirms Azerbaijan's principal stance on Nagorno-Karabakh. National Assembly as well as Senate of Pakistan unanimously condemns Armenia policy of occupation.

The government of Pakistan has been raising the issue on several international platforms. Prime Minister Imran Khan has been very vocal about the situation in Kashmir. He briefed many world leaders and showcased the real face of the RSS and termed it a potential danger to South Asia. RSS inspired from the fascist regime of German Nazis which should be taken seriously by the world powers, he added. He feared that RSS doctrine may start a potential nuclear war in the region.

Armenia violates not only the principles of territorial integrity of another state, but also a number of conventions and resolutions, which prohibit the destruction of movable and immovable property of the occupied lands. Since the beginning of the Armenia's occupational policy against Azerbaijan, 20% of the territory of Azerbaijan, including the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding regions, are under the control of the Armenian armed forces.

The richest minerals of Azerbaijan, including five gold deposits, remained in the occupied territories. For example, in the Kelbajar region of Azerbaijan, there is an exploited gold deposit, which is currently used by Armenians as a source of profit. There is an illegal looting of minerals, deposits of precious stones, which are then transferred to Armenia.

In recent years, environmental indicators in the occupied areas and in the front-line villages have significantly worsened, if not exacerbated. Constant shelling of nearby villages, arson of the fields and blockage of water supply from the Sarsang water reservoir located on the Terter River in the north part of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, provoked an ecological catastrophe, the scale of which only increases day by day. Life has become a dragon in the near-by villages on the Line of Control in

Kashmir because of heavy shelling of the Indian troops.

Governments of Armenia and India have been holding so called elections or referendum in the occupied areas of Karabakh and Kashmir in the past but majority of the people have strongly rejected it. Most recently, Armenian government for the first time allocated funds to foreign NGOs to monitor the elections in unrecognized Karabakh. According to their results, the entire international community invariably declares its principled position regarding support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, non-recognition of the illegal regime, as well as any "elections" held by it.

Kashmir the paradise on earth has been changed into hell by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led government by scarping article 370 and 35 (A). Now special status of Kashmir has been bulldozed through a presidential act endorsed by both the houses of Indian parliament.

According to original 370 & 35 (A) any change in its utility, nature, composition, definition and execution, the Union Government of India (UGI) will have to consult with state government which has now been violated and BJP government has now put RSS stamp even in Kashmir. The article allowed the state a certain amount of autonomy i.e. its own constitution, a separate flag and freedom to make laws. Foreign affairs, defence and communications will be remained the preserve of the central government.

Furthermore, Jammu and Kashmir could now make its own rules relating to permanent residency, ownership of property and fundamental rights. Kashmir will no longer have a separate constitution but will have to abide by the Indian constitution much like any other state. All Indian laws will be automatically applicable to Kashmiris, and people from outside the state will be able to buy property there.

Abrogation of the article 370 & 35(A) has opened the gates of hell to indigenous Kashmiris in terms of ownership, geography, demography, political, economic, civil and last but not the least, social association. On its part Armenia has been trying to settle migrated Armenian from Syria and other parts into illegally occupied territories of Nagorno-Karabakh which is against true spirits of international law.

Azerbaijan and Pakistan are brotherly countries which are now knotted even with grief, anger and purpose of recognition. Both countries should initiate joint efforts to liberate illegally occupied territories in the days to come.



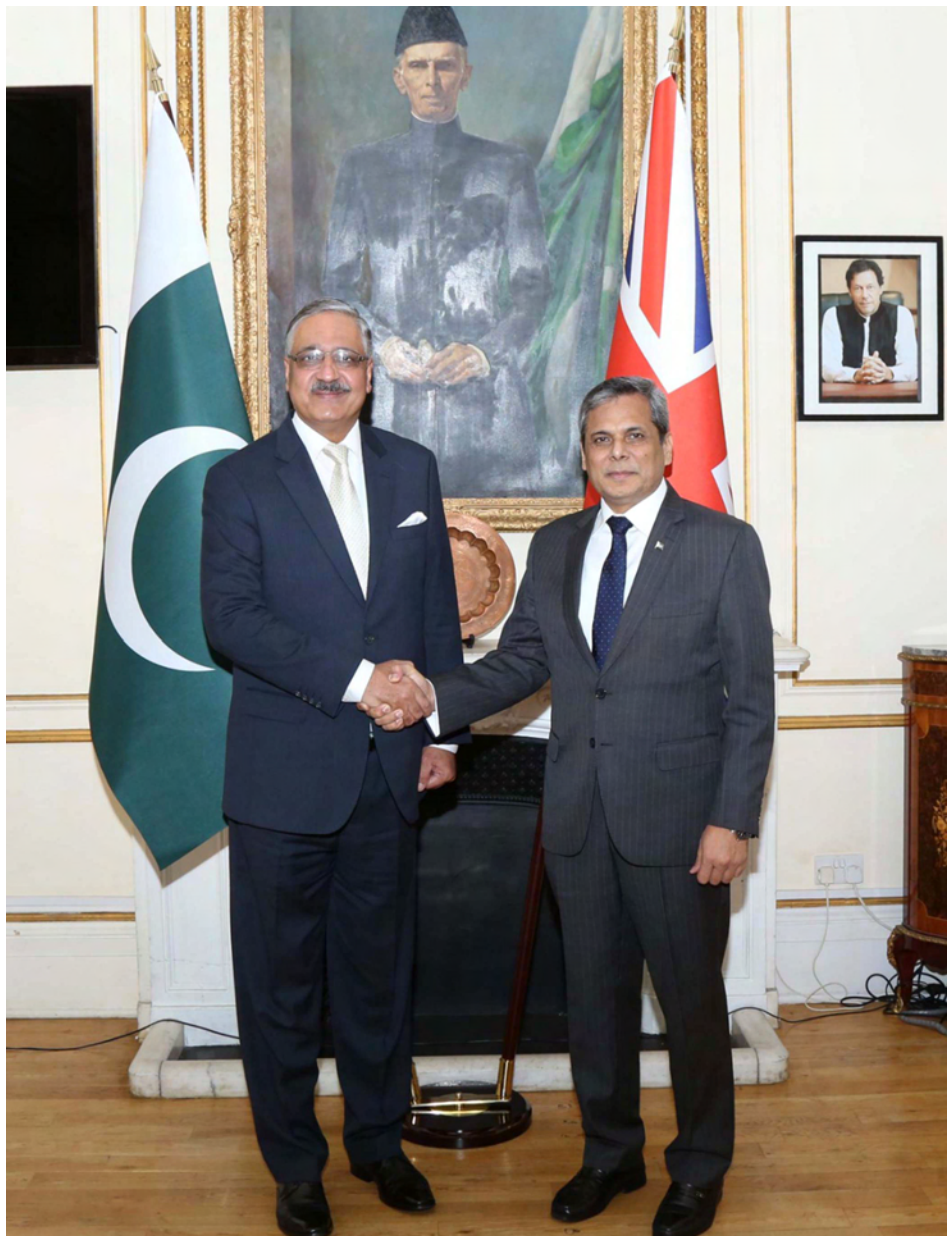
Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi represented Pakistan at the 42nd session of UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

By Ahsan Maroof

The minister was received by Special Representative of Prime Minister on diplomatic Outreach Tehmina Janjua and other high officials. During his stay, Qureshi also met representatives of the international human rights organizations and discuss the grave human rights violations in the IOJ&K. The Foreign Minister held meetings with leaders of OIC and WHO in Geneva. The foreign minister also interacted with the local and international media representatives and present Pakistan's point of view on various regional and international issues. Foreign Minister said he will use his stay in Geneva to apprise the international community of the critical situation in Occupied Kashmir. Shah Mahmood Qureshi will raise the Indian unilateral and illegal actions

in occupied Kashmir and will highlight threat posed to the region as a result of these actions. The Foreign Minister said for the last thirty six days, Indian Occupied Kashmir is under complete military lockdown and blackout, complete denial of human rights, including restrictions on communications, mobility, peaceful assembly as well as the detention of local political leaders and activists. In his video message, he said the session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva discussed the security clampdown, restoration of basic rights and lifting the curfew in the Occupied Kashmir and it also demanded to terminate communications blackout there. The Foreign Minister also welcomed the statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with regard to Occupied Kashmir saying it is very encouraging.





High Commissioner Mohammad Nafees Zakaria Shaking hand with General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, NI, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) at the Pakistan High Commission, London on 11 September 2019.

We are proud of our Community Pakistan High Commissioner

The High Commissioner, Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, praised the Pakistani Community as a strong pillar in bilateral relations, for their contributions to the British economy and society and to the socio-

economic development of Pakistan. He said it at a Reception which he hosted in honour of Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), General Zubair Mahmood Hayat (NI) and Defence Delegation, visiting the UK to

participate at Defence & Security Equipment International (DSEI), Conference.

British Parliamentarians and senior government officials, Ambassadors and Diplomats of friendly countries and members of the Pakistani Diaspora attended the Reception.

Welcoming the Guests, the High Commissioner reflected on the state of bilateral relations which are characterised by traditional warmth, historical linkages and strong political goodwill at all levels. Mr. Zakaria congratulated Mr. Zameer Choudrey (SI), CEO, Bestway Group, on his appointment as Member of House of Lords. We take pride in our Community's achievements in this great country, UK, where we have significant number of Parliamentarians, prospering businessmen and professionals as Doctors, Engineers and Technologists, he said. The High Commissioner underlined that the developments in the regions of the two countries' location hold immense economic opportunities in trade & investment while urging to exploit the potential to the mutual benefit of both sides.

Speaking on the occasion, General Zubair Hayat gave an overview of the regional security environment, Kashmir situation and Afghan peace process. He also shared with the attendees Pakistan's stance on recent developments in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK). The CJCSC reiterated commitment of the Government of Pakistan and its people to the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people.

General Zubair Hayat apprised the guests of the ongoing defence cooperation between Pakistan and the UK and termed it very productive. He said Pakistan and the UK are partners in peace and would continue their collaborations for the shared objective of global peace and security.





Pakistan High Commission in Canada pays tribute to martyrs on Defence Day

By Bilal Zafar

OTTAWA, Canada: A ceremony was held in Ottawa at the Pakistan High Commission for Canada to pay homage to our brave and valiant armed forces and to express solidarity with our Kashmiri brothers. While addressing the ceremony, the High Commissioner Raza Bashir Tarar said that courage, bravery and sacrifices rendered by our armed forces for the defence of our homeland is second to none. He said that our armed forces

have offered ultimate sacrifices to ensure the safety and security of the people of Pakistan and for sovereign in While referring to the current human rights situation in Indian Occupied Kashmir, the High Commissioner reiterated solidarity with the Kashmiri brethren and renewed the resolve of continuing to support the right to self-determination of Kashmiris. Raza Bashir Tarar added that while we are committed for peaceful and negotiated settlement of Kashmir issue, we will always be

ready to give every sacrifice for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We want to send a message to the Kashmiri people that they are not alone, Pakistan is observing this day as Kashmir Solidarity Day, he concluded.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER READ OUT THE DEFENCE and Martyr's Day messages of the President Dr Arif Alvi, Prime Minister Imran Khan and Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. A special message from Major Aziz Bhatti Shaheed's son was also read out.



Defence and Kashmir Solidarity Day observed at Pakistan Embassy Tokyo

The Defence Day was observed at the Embassy to commemorate the 54th anniversary of the 1965 war. The event was attended by senior military officers of Japan, government officials and Defence Attaché of other countries. Addressing on the occasion, Ambassador Imtiaz Ahmad highlighted the sacrifices and valor rendered by the Armed Forces in defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan against aggression by a much bigger neighbor in 1965. He added that all must understand that solution to today's conflicts lies in peace not war as it is key to growth and success of any country or region. He emphasized that Pakistan firmly believes in the philosophy of peaceful neighborhood striving to maintain good relations with all other nations on the basis of respect & equality. The Ambassador pointed out to the remarkable contribution made by Pakistan in war against terror since 2002 by conducting numerous operations against terrorists in the aftermath of 9/11. More than 6000 officers and soldiers of law enforcement agencies laid down their lives to defeat these elements and make Pakistan, region and the world a safer place. The Ambassador also appreciated the cooperation of the Japanese Self Defence Forces with Pakistan Armed Forces particularly in the realm of training and capacity building support and

hoped that both the countries would continue to enjoy the mutually beneficial relationship for the sake of world peace. The Ambassador underscored the significance of this year's Defence Day commemoration as the same is also being observed as Kashmir Solidarity Day. He emphasized that despite being an unresolved agenda of the United Nations Security Council, the Indian government arbitrarily revoked article 370 and 35-A which gave the Indian Occupied Kashmir a special constitutional status. He also referred to the deployment of over 800,000 troops in the Indian Occupied Kashmir and subsequent horrendous human rights violations besides

imposition of blanket curfew and complete shutdown of all communication platforms. The Ambassador reaffirmed Pakistan's unabated moral, political and diplomatic support to the inalienable and just cause of the Kashmiri people enabling them to achieve their right of self-determination. Ambassador Ahmad reasserted Pakistan's strong commitment to raise the Kashmir issue at all forums with full zeal and impressed upon the International Community to contribute towards resolution of the matter in accordance with the United Nations Security Council Resolutions.





Pakistan community of France observed Defence Day in solidarity with Kashmiris

By Staff Reporter

The embassy of Pakistan in France hosted ceremony to observe the Defense and Martyrs Day to pay tribute to the martyrs and expressed solidarity with the oppressed people of the Indian occupied Kashmir (IoK). Started with the recitation of verses from Holy Quran, the ceremonies marked the playing of the national anthems of Pakistan and Kashmir besides the messages of the prime minister and president read out by the respective

envoys. The ceremonies were attended by the members of the Pakistani community, prominent local figures and officials of the Pakistani embassies. Addressing the ceremony held in Pakistan embassy in Paris, Ambassador of Pakistan to France Moin ul Haque paid tribute to the valiant armed forces of Pakistan who had guarded the national frontiers and never hesitated to sacrifice their lives in defence of their motherland. Expressing Pakistan's unflinching and unwavering support

to the people of Kashmir for their just struggle in the exercise of their right to self-determination, the ambassador called upon the international community and the international humanitarian organizations to pay heed to the plight of the sufferings of the people of Jammu and Kashmir who have been locked down under a curfew and denied access to food and medicines for over a month now.



By Mian Fazal Elahi

His Excellency Mr. Usman Buzdar, Chief Minister of Punjab met with His Excellency Mr. Saqr Bin Mubarak Al Mansouri, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. During the meeting, matters of mutual interests, promotion of bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation in various fields were discussed and the Qatari Ambassador expressed the interest of the State of Qatar in investing in agriculture, livestock and housing sectors. Punjab Chief Minister assured that the Province

is Ideal for investment and that foreign investors are being given special incentives to invest in the province. He also mentioned the special economic zones that are being set up there and assured that Qatar's investors can use investment facilities provided there.

He added that Punjab is an agricultural province and there are innumerable investment opportunities in agriculture, livestock and housing sectors and that Punjab's doors are open to Qatari investors and all facilities will be provided to them under one roof.

For his part, Ambassador of the State of Qatar said that his country is looking forward to invest

in agriculture, livestock and housing sectors in Punjab and will try to benefit from the investment opportunities available there. The State of Qatar will also continue to contribute to the betterment of the social sector of Punjab. At the end of the meeting His Excellency Ambassador of the State of Qatar extended an invitation to the Punjab Chief Minister to visit the State of Qatar.

Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, Chief Executive Officer Punjab Investment Board and concerned officials were also present on the occasion.



"Say No to Plastic Waste" Consortium launched at Islamabad Marriott Hotel

Members sign pledge to reduce plastic usage and eliminate plastic waste

A 'Say No to Plastic Waste' consortium was launched at Islamabad Marriott Hotel, in collaboration with Miracles Trust, on 24th September 2019.

The chief guest on the occasion was State Minister of Climate Change Mrs. Zartaj Gul. She was accompanied by Senior Joint Secretary of Climate Change Mr. Hammad Shamimi, Chief

Commissioner of Islamabad Mr. Amer Ahmad Ali and Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad Mr. Hamza Shafqaat and high ranking officials from the government. Many ambassadors and high-ranking members of the diplomatic community, the heads of agencies in the UN Group, World Bank, and the corporate sector also attended the event.

The consortium laid out a broad-based vision to commit to a Plastic-Waste Free Pakistan

and announced a series of actionable steps to achieve this goal. Furthermore, the founding members signed a pledge aimed at providing the best solutions to single-plastic use, recycling of plastics and addressing plastic waste.

Islamabad Marriott Hotel General Manager (GM) Mr. Maurizio Romani said: "We are committed to working on a plan to reduce plastic bag usage and we have already taken an initiative to reduce 70% of plastic consumption in the hotel."

The GM further said: "This step was taken as soon as the ban on plastic bags was announced by the Federal Capital Territory on 14th August this year. Our management and colleagues are excited to lead the way and to make a difference."

The Founder of Plastic Miracles, Elli Takagaki, said "Today's launch symbolizes the commitment of the various partners to work towards the reduction of plastic waste."

At the event, a website was launched which will serve as a central portal for partners to access, share experiences and best practices, and showcase ideas and resources.

The Founder of Miracles Trust, Imran Shauket, said "Pakistan is a very large country, and as such, the enormity of plastic usage and corresponding waste has numerous dimensions and related solutions. The consortium will provide a unified platform for all stakeholders to work towards elimination of plastic waste in Pakistan."



Italian 'Compagnia SoleLuna' performs in Pakistan Capital

By Staff Reporter

The Embassy of the Republic of Italy in Pakistan and Serena Hotels collaborated to host a fundraising gala dinner, Rhythms & Passion of Southern Italy, on September 20, 2019 at the Sheesh Mahal, Islamabad Serena Hotel.

The Gala event featured a performance by an internationally acclaimed Italian Folk Rock Ensemble "Compagnia SoleLuna." The famed Neapolitan Folk Rock Group has an extensive repertoire of Southern Italian popular music and dance, centered on the "Pizzica", the "Taranta" and the Neapolitan "Tammurriata" that epitomize the fire, the rhythms and contemporary vision.

Serena Hotels and the Italian Embassy were able to raise Eight Million, Ten Thousand Rupees from the proceedings of the black-tie event,

which went towards Shifa Foundation that is creating awareness for the early detection of an autistic child, their proper handling, care and cure. The event was graced by the presence of a well-known Italian specialist in Autism, Prof. Filippo Muratori. He is currently the Professor of Child and Adolescent Neuropsychiatry at the University of Pisa.

A live auction was also held during the event where 3 paintings were displayed which were made by autistic children from Oasis School, Lahore. Guests made generous bids and all three paintings were sold within a few minutes. A lottery draw was held after the auction which gave away authentic Italian made gift items, a return air ticket from Islamabad to Rome and various other gift vouchers.

Aziz Boolani, CEO of Serena Hotels, said, "We are delighted to welcome the Italian performers

to Pakistan. Serena Hotels is privileged to be able to host events that strengthen the cultural exchange between Pakistan and Italy while at the same time supporting a cause dear to our hearts – providing support for autism."

He added that Serena is a platform that provides the space and opportunity for cultural exchanges by bringing unique and unusual talent to Islamabad and will continue to do so in the future.

Ambassador of Italy in Pakistan, H.E Stefano Pontecarvo thanked all the guests for their contribution towards generating funds towards the cause and added, "Autism in children coming from under-privileged families often goes undetected. These donations will ensure the correct steps are taken to raise awareness about the condition and to encourage behavioral therapy in those affected."

Embassy of Ukrainian celebrated 28th Independence Day

An impressive gathering was invited by the Ambassador of Ukraine in Pakistan H.E. Lakomov Vladimir Ivanovich. Addressing the reception, Ambassador Lakomov said that Pakistan is one of the most trustworthy reliable friends of Ukraine and both the countries have unique and exemplary relationship. In his brief address, he also highlighted sphere of bilateral cooperation of Pakistan and Ukraine in several fields. He emphasized that relations between both countries are enhancing by every passing day. The reception (event) was attended by a large number of civil and military officials, diplomats, politicians, parliamentarians and journalists.



70th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China celebrated by Diplomatic Focus

By M. Bilal zafar

Diplomatic Focus has become one of the most consistent magazine in last ten years. Recently Editor /Publisher/ CEO of Diplomatic Focus Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China and 68th years of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the People's Republic of China and Islamic Republic of Pakistan along with success

journey of one decade of Diplomatic Focus in Marriott Hotel Islamabad. H. E. Mr. Yoa Jing Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan was the chief guest on the occasion. There is a long list of special guests who was invited as speakers in that evening which included Lt Gen (Rtd) Talat Masood, Ambassador Retd. Tariq Osman hyder , H.E. Senator Mr. Mushahid Husain Sayed, Ambassador (Retired) Syed Hasan Javed, Pakistan Former Ambassador Masood Khalid, Senator Rehman Malik Sitara-i-Shujaat

(Gallantry), Nishan-i-Imtiaz, Former Federal Minister for Interior. PNC artist perform special performance for the amusement of the audience on the National songs. Team Organizers of Diplomatic Focus decorated special photo gallery which carries historical photos of China and Pakistan diplomatic relationship. Awards are also distributed in recognition of the commendable services with matchless and limitless efforts for the country.





Embassy of Brazil celebrated of its 197th National Day

Embassy of Brazil in Islamabad celebrated of its 197th national day in the federal capital on Tuesday September 17th, 2019. The national day was held as the Brazilian mission in Islamabad also launched a three-day Soul Food and Music festival. The Marque Hall of a Marriott hotel was decorated to give guests a feel for the rich culture and history of Brazil. Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood was the chief guest on the occasion. He also praised the role played by Brazil Ambassador Claudio Lins for promoting bilateral ties between the two countries. Dean of Diplomatic Corps, Diplomates, High Dignitaries, Government officials, members from business community and media persons also graced the occasion.



The 71st anniversary of the founding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

On the auspicious occasion of the 71st anniversary of the founding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the ambassador Mr & Mrs .Kim Thae Sop hosted a grand reception at a local hotel in Islamabad. Fawad Ahmed Chaudhry, Federal Minister for Science and Technology, graced the occasion as chief guest , Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Turkmenistan Atadjan Movlamov & Zafar Bukhatwari former President ICCI also attend the occasion. The event had good representation of people from all walks of life including diplomats, various ambassadors, politicians, businessman and civilians.



100th National day of Afghanistan Celebrated

Embassy of Republic of Afghanistan hosted dinner reception on the occasion of 100th National day of Afghanistan. H.E. Mr. Shahrukh Mashal Ambassador of Afghanistan to Pakistan welcomed the guest at Serena Hotel Islamabad. Minister of communication of Pakistan, Mr. Murad Saeed and a number of senior Pakistani officials, Dean of Diplomatic Corps, Diplomates, politicians, High Dignitaries, members from business community also graced the occasion.



Embassy of Nepal hosted its National Day

Her Excellency Ms. Sewa Lamsal, Ambassador of Nepal to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan hosted a reception to observe a constitution Day and National Day of Nepal on Friday, 20 September 2019 at Islamabad Marriott Hotel. Her Excellency Ms Zartaj Gul Wazir, Minister of State for Climatic Change of the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Diplomats, High commissioners, business community, Government officials, High dignitaries and people from different walks of life graced the occasion.



Pic21-008



28th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The Ambassador of Uzbekistan H.E. Mr. Furqat Sidiqov and Mrs. Gulchekhra Sidiqova hosted dinner reception on the occasion of the 28th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Omar Ayub Khan Federal Minister for Petroleum was the chief guest while a large number of guests hailing from various walks of life attended the reception. The embassy also established special kiosks where various Uzbek products were exhibited. A kiosk displaying fruits from Uzbekistan got special attention of the guests. Even the chief guest could not resist the temptation and went straight to the fruit stall after national anthems and cake cutting ceremony. The Uzbek ambassador gave a guided tour to the minister and briefed him about various Uzbek delicacies.



The Anniversary of the Sacred Defence Week of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan H.E Mehdi Honardoost and Iran's Military Attaché Brigadier Mohsen Riazat warmly welcomed the guests. Military attaché of the Embassy of Iran, Brigadier General Mohsen Riazat while expressing his views on the occasion said those 39 years ago on 22 September 1980, former dictator of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, benefiting from the full-fledged support of 16 countries, imposed an all-out war against Iran and occupied a part of our territory. Lieutenant General Moazzam Ejaz of Pakistan Army was the chief guest on the occasion. Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan, former National Security Adviser Lieutenant General (R) Nasser Khan Janjua, Chairman Kashmir Committee, Syed Fakhar Imam, Chairman of Pakistan's Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Former Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, foreign ambassadors, senior diplomats, military personnel, politicians, retired generals, senior journalists and analysts were also present on the event.





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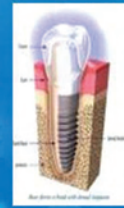


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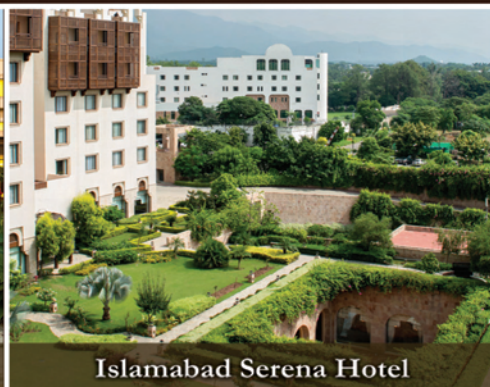
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