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59th Anniversary of the Independence of The Federal Republic of Nigeria

H.E. Maj Gen (rtd) Ashimiyu Adebayo Olaniyi OON, mni
High Commissioner of Nigeria to Pakistan



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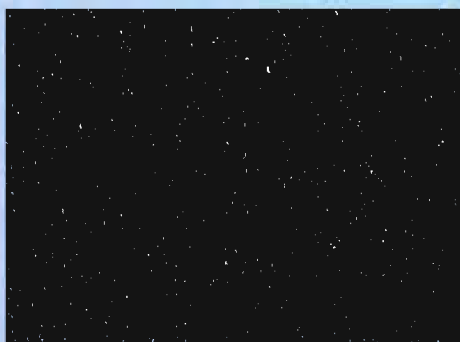
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| 10 | ZafarDuke and Duchess of Cambridge visited Pakistan to strengthen the historical relationship between Pakistan & UK | The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge called on the President at the Aiwan-e-Sadr Islamabad. The Royal couple was accompanied by Mr. Thomas Drew, British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Mr. Simon Case, Principal Private Secretary to the Duke and Mr. Christian Jones, Communications Secretary to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. The President of Pakistan and the First Lady welcomed |
| 14 | RelationsPresident Dr. Arif Alvi participated in 18th Summit of Non-Aligned Movement | President Dr. Arif Alvi attended the Inaugural Ceremony of the 18th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit on October 25, 2019. More than 100 Heads of State and Government attended the Session. President Dr. Arif Alvi will be meeting several heads of states on the sidelines during his visit, including President of Azerbaijan, President of Afghanistan, Prime Minister of Malaysia, President of Ghana, Prime Minister of Nepal, President of Sri Lanka, and President of |
| 40 | Pakistan Austria are working together for promoting traditional close friendly relations H.E. Nicolaus Keller Ambassador of Austria to Pakistan | I want to highlight that the last two pieces have both been composed in Austria approximately 200 years ago. At this time Vienna was what we later called the "capital of classical" music. The Music of our National Anthem is attributed to Mozart – but like often in Austria we are not 100% sure about that – but what is sure, you can find his Bust behind me, inside the Saloon, near the Piano and it provides you with a nice setting for Austria related Photos |
| 54 | H.E. Muhammadu Buhari GCFR President of Federal Republic of Nigeria speech at 74th Session of UN General Assembly | President Muhammadu Buhari on the podium speaking to the UN General Assembly in New York on Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019. President Muhammadu Buhari addressed world leaders at the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. He assured that Nigeria will live to expectations in its leadership. The Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the UN, Amb. Tijani |

Special Supplement on
Independence of Republic of
Nigeria
59th
Anniversary



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Our previous Issues



Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan arranged a visit of foreign diplomats in Islamabad by helicopter to the site of recent Indian ceasefire violations in Kashmir, in which five civilians were killed and six others injured on the Pakistani side.

According to the foreign office, "after the statement of the Indian Army Chief alleging that recent Indian ceasefire violations were targeting 'launch pads/terrorist camps' on the Pakistani side of the Line of Control (LoC), Pakistan requested the Indian High Commission in Islamabad to share details, including longitudes and latitudes of the alleged location to back the Indian allegations. No response has been received so far from India."

The diplomats that included the Chinese ambassador, were taken to the LoC, including Jura to see what had happened there. They witnessed the destruction of life and property resulting from the recent ceasefire violations by the Indian side, including the use of heavy artillery. They also visited the injured in the hospital in Muzaffarabad.

The Indian High Commission officials in Islamabad were also invited but they did not show up at the visit. Pakistani observers held the visit has further exposed the Indian falsehood on the incident and their desperate attempts to divert international attention from the humanitarian crisis in Indian administered Jammu and Kashmir.

The Pakistani office also stated that "Pakistan does not harbor any aggressive designs but our armed forces and people remain ready to defend the country against any acts of aggression."

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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DAILY PAKISTAN JOURNAL



Justin Trudeau wins second term in hard-fought **Canada** election

By News Agency / Furqan Akhtar

Justin Trudeau was on course to win a second term as Canada's prime minister in an election seen as a referendum on the Liberal leader and his four-year-old government.

"You did it, my friends. Congratulations," Trudeau, 47, told supporters in Montreal. "From coast to coast to coast, tonight Canadians rejected division and negativity. They rejected cuts and austerity, and they voted in favour of a progressive agenda and strong action on

climate change."

As of 11:30pm EST on Monday (03:30 GMT Tuesday), 22 October 2019 the Liberals had won 158 seats, significantly fewer than the 184 seats the party secured in 2015.

Canada's parliament has 338 seats, and the party that wins the majority of those seats - 170

or more - automatically forms the government and can easily pass legislation. If no party wins a majority, the parties must team up.

It is unclear which party the Liberals would join forces with to govern, with negotiations set to take place over the coming days.



Imran Khan 
@ImranKhanPTI

Congratulations to Justin Trudeau for winning the elections in Canada. I look forward to working with him.





Duke and Duchess of Cambridge visited Pakistan to strengthen the historical relationship between Pakistan & UK

By Mian Fazal Elahi / M. Bilal Zafar

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge called on the President at the Aiwan-e-Sadr Islamabad. The Royal couple was accompanied by Mr. Thomas Drew, British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Mr. Simon Case, Principal Private Secretary to the Duke and Mr. Christian Jones, Communications Secretary to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. The President of Pakistan and the First Lady welcomed the Royal couple. The President commended the visiting dignitaries for their endeavors to raise awareness about mental

health, climate change, and poverty alleviation. The Duke of Cambridge thanked the President for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and his entourage. The Royal couple appreciated the initiatives undertaken by the Government of Pakistan to combat climate change and to alleviate poverty.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge called on the Prime Minister. The Royal Couple was accompanied by Mr. Simon Case, Private Secretary of the Duke, and Mr. Thomas Drew, British High Commissioner to Pakistan.

The Meeting was held in a warm and cordial

atmosphere. While welcoming the Royal couple, Prime Minister Imran Khan recalled the love and affection among the people of Pakistan for Princess Diana, because of her compassion as well as commitment to support charitable causes.

Prime Minister Imran Khan commended the visiting dignitaries for raising awareness of the issues being faced by the modern world like climate change, inequality, and education. The Prime Minister also lauded the Royal couple for promoting positive activities in Pakistan and their interaction with young Pakistanis.



President Dr. Arif Alvi and First Lady Mrs. Samina Alvi talking to Prince William and Princess Catherine Middleton at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

The Prime Minister apprised the Royal couple of domestic priorities and Pakistan's perspective on external environment, including relations with India post 5 August and support for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan.

The Duke of Cambridge stated that Pakistan is a very important country for the UK. He thanked the government of Pakistan for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to them and their entourage. The Prime Minister later hosted luncheon for the visiting dignitaries.

The duke and duchess arrived in Pakistan on Monday night on their maiden visit. Their second day was a busy one, which started with a visit to a girl's college in the capital and then Margalla Hills, where they attended an event regarding environmental protection.

In the evening, they attended a glitzy reception, hosted by British High Commissioner to Pakistan Thomas Drew, at the National Monument where William, in his first official address, paid tribute to all the people who "endured sacrifice and helped build Pakistan to the country it is today".

Duke and Duchess of Cambridge Prince William and Kate Middleton arrived in Chitral as part of their visit to explore Pakistan and meet the people of the country.

The couple was gifted traditional hats and a book of photos commemorating the trip of Princess Diana, who visited the valley in 1991, upon arrival in a helicopter. "Fantastic," the prince remarked as he sifted through the pages of the book. The residents also gifted an embroidered coat to Prince William and a shawl to Middleton. On the third day of their





five-day visit, the duke and duchess are visiting the foothills of the Hindu Kush mountain range to witness the devastating effects of climate change, which is one of the key areas of focus of their visit. During their time in Chitral, they will visit a site affected by a devastating flood in 2015. They will also visit Broghil and Bombaret village and are also expected to stop by a settlement of the Kalash people to “learn about their community, heritage and traditions”.

Duke and Duchess of Cambridge Prince William and Kate Middleton, on the third day of their five-day trip to Pakistan, visited the foothills of the Hindu Kush mountain range to witness the effects of climate change — one of the key areas of focus of their visit.

After visiting Broghil, they travelled to Bombaret village in Kalash valley.

In Kalash valley, the royal couple met locals and spent time with children. They also enjoyed performances of traditional dances and music by the local people

A cap traditionally worn by Kalasha women was gifted to the duchess.

A large number of locals including women had welcomed the royal couple upon reaching the valley. Elaborate security arrangements were made for the visit.

They were very happy, meeting and shaking hands with everyone,” a district administration official said of William and Kate, adding that



the couple also took keen interest in the Kalash culture.

Duke and Duchess of Cambridge visited Lahore. They began their day by visiting the SOS Children's Village, a charitable organisation at the heart of Lahore that provides a home and family structure to over 150 young children. The Duke and Duchess then joined a birthday party for one of the children, which games, music and traditional Pakistani food.

TRH then visited the National Cricket Academy in Lahore. To enjoy Pakistan's most popular sport they participated in a match with children from the British Council's DOSTI programme. DOSTI promotes sport as an integral part of children's development and encourages social integration, increased self-esteem and the development of important life skills. The Duke and Duchess also had the opportunity of meeting Pakistani cricketing icons Waqar Younis, Hasan Ali, Sana Mir and others at this event.

In the afternoon TRH visited the iconic Badshahi Mosque for a tour and a discussion with faith leaders to better understand how they are promoting interfaith harmony within their communities.

Finally, the Duke and Duchess visited to start-of-the-art Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre. This was visited previously by the late Princess of Wales. The Duke and Duchess took time to visit the children's ward, talking to patients undergoing treatment at the hospital and some of their families.

Taking to Twitter earlier in the day, British High Commissioner Thomas Drew said it will be a "very exciting programme".

"It will of course pay respect to the historical relationship between Britain and Pakistan. But it will focus largely on showcasing Pakistan as it is today: a dynamic, aspirational and forward-looking nation," he said.

He added that the royal couple was looking forward to meeting as many Pakistanis as possible and building a lasting friendship with the people of Pakistan.

During their time in Pakistan, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge will visit Islamabad, Lahore, Gilgit-Baltistan and rugged border regions to the west, an official handout from Kensington Palace had stated. The visit will span over 1,000 kilometres, and will take in Pakistan's rich culture, its diverse communities, and its beautiful landscapes, the handout said.

"Access to quality education, particularly to girls and young women is one of the UK's top priorities in Pakistan," it added. William and Kate flew back to Islamabad after completing their visit to the region.





President Dr. Arif Alvi participated in 18th Summit of Non-Aligned Movement

President Dr. Arif Alvi attended the Inaugural Ceremony of the 18th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit on October 25, 2019. More than 100 Heads of State and Government attended the Session. President Dr. Arif Alvi will be meeting several heads of states on the sidelines during his visit, including President of Azerbaijan, President of Afghanistan, Prime Minister of Malaysia, President of Ghana, Prime Minister of Nepal, President of Sri Lanka, and President of Turkmenistan. NAM was established in 1961 in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. It is a forum of 120 developing world states that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc. After the United Nations, it is the largest grouping of states worldwide.

The President of Pakistan, Arif Alvi, held a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tun Dr. Mahathir on the sidelines of the 18th Summit of NAM on 25th October 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan. President appreciated Prime Minister Mahathir's statement for supporting a just and durable solution of the Kashmir issue through relevant UNSC resolutions in his speech to the UNGA. Both leaders expressed the desire to further deepen ties through consistent engagements and by adding substance to them through increased trade and investment. The President highlighted the dangerous precedent

set by India in its illegal and unilateral action in Kashmir in utter disregard of international law and norms. He briefed the Malaysian Prime Minister about India's malicious designs to alter the internationally recognized status of the Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir and change the demographic structure of the disputed territory. Both leaders reiterated their commitment to further expanding bilateral relations for mutual benefit.

President Dr. Arif Alvi, met with President Ashraf Ghani on the sidelines of Non-Aligned Movement Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan. The two leaders exchanged views on various issues of mutual interest including peace and security in the region, and cooperation in development and connectivity projects. President Arif Alvi recalled the historic fraternal ties existing between the two countries and said that Pakistan wished to see a stable and prosperous Afghanistan. The President expressed the hope that bilateral relations would further gain momentum in the coming years. President Alvi referred to the economic assistance provided by the Government of Pakistan in various sectors and reiterated that Pakistan will continue its efforts in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. On the Afghan refugees in Pakistan, President Alvi said that Pakistan has been hosting more than 4 million Afghan refugees over the last

four decades. Pakistan has always emphasized for their return in a dignified and honorable manner.

The President said that Pakistan considers Iran as an important country as both countries share more than 900 km border. A strong people-to-people contact has further strengthened the bond of friendship between the two countries. President Alvi said that both the countries need to fully utilize the trade potential to further enhance bilateral economic relations. President Alvi briefed the Iranian President on the continuous lockdown and the human rights violations in the Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJK). The President thanked the Iranian leadership for its continued commitment and support towards oppressed people of IOJK.

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is the biggest forum for political coordination and consultation after and within the United Nations, composed by 120 Member States from the developing world. There are also 17 countries and 10 International Organizations that hold an Observer status.

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) works from a unique, non-hierarchical, rotating and participatory standpoint, with the intention of enabling every single Member State, without



President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with world leaders at 18th Non-Aligned Movement Summit in Baku.

differentiation or discrimination of any kind, to involve itself in the decision making of global and political processes. The Movement is led by a Chair that rotates every three years, currently Venezuela, who is assisted and/or advised by the former and upcoming Chair of the Movement; that is, Iran and Azerbaijan, respectively. The Troika represents the past, present and future of the Movement.

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was officially established in 1961, at the Belgrade Summit, hosted by President Josip Broz Tito, following the discussions that were triggered during the Afro-Asian Conference of 1955, hosted by President Sukarno, and which resulted in the adoption of the Bandung Principles that up to date still serve as the purposes and objectives of the policy of non-alignment, and which have governed relations between big and small nations. The following are considered to be the founding fathers and historic leaders of the Movement: Joseph Broz Tito (President of Yugoslavia), Gamal Abdel Nasser (President of Egypt), Jawaharlal Nehru (Prime Minister of India), Sukarno (President of Indonesia), and Kwame Nkrumah (President of Ghana), who decided to declare it as a Movement, with a view to avoid the bureaucratic implications of an International Organization.

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was established in the midst of the collapse of the colonial system and the emancipatory struggle of the oppressed peoples of Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and other regions of the world, and at the heights of the Cold War. At the beginning of the Movement, its actions and endeavors constituted a key factor in the processes of decolonization, which then led to the achievement of the freedom and independence of many countries and peoples, and to the formation of new States, which then





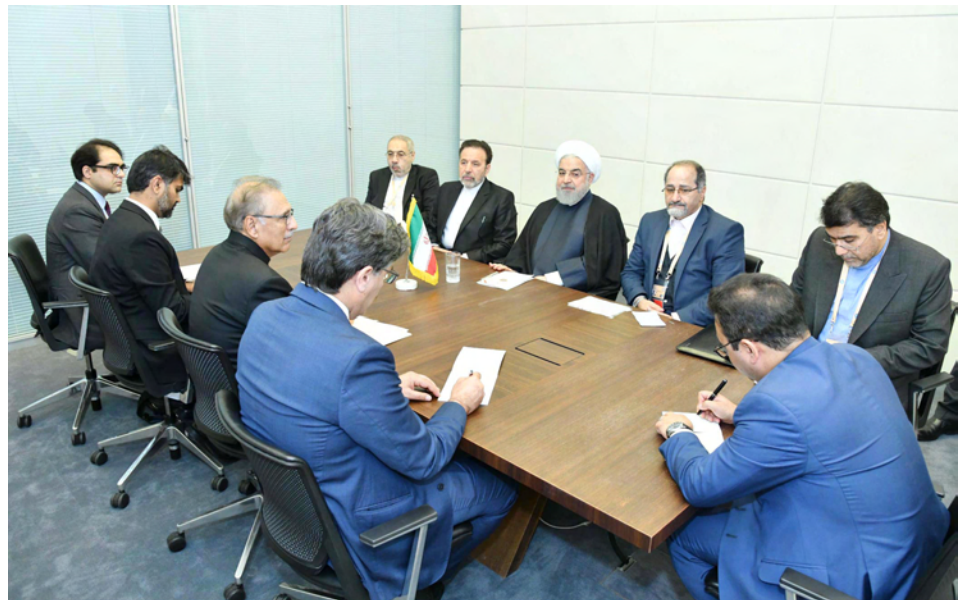
became part of it. In addition, throughout its almost 60 years of existence, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has played an important role in the strengthening of international peace and security, within the framework of its permanent quest for establishing a more peaceful and prosperous world.

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) coordinates and articulates its work, activities, positions and endeavors through a political body: its Coordinating Bureau, composed of the 120 Member States of the Movement and chaired by the seating Chair of the Movement, which is based at the headquarters of the United Nations, in New York, and that is entrusted also with the assessment of the work of the different Working Groups and Committees of the Movement.

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) takes its decisions by consensus, which enhances the unity and solidarity among the Member States of the Movement. Such practice presupposes the understanding of and the respect for different points of view, including disagreement and implies mutual accommodation on

the basis of which agreement can emerge by a sincere process of adjustment among member nations in the true spirit of non-alignment. Historically, the Member States of the Movement have shown their ability

to overcome their differences and found a common ground for action that leads to mutual cooperation and the upholding of their shared values.





PM Imran Khan meets H.E. Sheikh Ali Bin Abdullah

By Mian Fazal Elahi

His Excellency Mr. Imran Khan, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, received His Excellency Sheikh Ali Bin Abdullah Bin Thani Al Thani, Chief Executive Officer of the International Islamic Bank and Chairman of Pak Qatar Takaful Insurance Company.

The meeting was also attended by His Excellency Mr. Saqr Bin Mubarak Al Mansouri, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. During the meeting, they discussed issues of common interest and ways to enhance them.

Chief Executive of the International Islamic Bank and Chairman of Pak-Qatar Takaful Insurance

Sheikh Ali bin Abdullah Thani Al Thani called on Prime Minister Imran Khan and shared his future business and investment plans in Pakistan. Sheikh Ali bin Abdullah informed the prime minister that he intended to invest in hospitality industry and the planning was in an advanced stage.

He said his group, Pak-Qatar Takaful, had over 70 branches in Pakistan and was now interested in investing in real estate, housing and hospitality sectors. Sheikh Ali greatly appreciated prime minister's efforts of promoting peace and security in the region and wished well for his visit to Saudi Arabia aimed in this direction. The prime minister reaffirmed the importance Pakistan attached to its strong fraternal ties with Qatar and close cooperation between the two countries. He expressed satisfaction over the positive trajectory of the relationship between Pakistan and Qatar, especially after the visit of Amir of Qatar to Pakistan in June.





Prime Minister Imran Khan's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Prime Minister Imran Khan held a meeting with President Xi Jinping in Beijing. The meeting was followed by a luncheon banquet hosted by President Xi Jinping in honour of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Foreign Minister, Minister of Planning, Development and Reform, Minister of Railways, Adviser on Commerce, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Energy and Chairman BOI. Chief of Army Staff, DG ISI and other senior officials were also present during meeting.

The two leaders exchanged views on a wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. Prime Minister Imran Khan underscored that China was Pakistan's steadfast ally, staunch partner and iron brother. The Prime Minister maintained that China had firmly stood by Pakistan in supporting Pakistan's core national interests and played a major role in advancing Pakistan's economic as well as national development goals. The Prime Minister affirmed that speedy completion of CPEC projects was number one priority of his government and that CPEC, an

integral part of President Xi's visionary Belt and Road Initiative, would play a transformational role in accelerating Pakistan's economic development and promoting regional connectivity and prosperity. The Prime Minister also reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast support to China on all issues of its core interest.

Highlighting the situation in IoJK, Prime Minister Imran Khan underscored that the continued lockdown of millions of Kashmiris for over two months had created a dire humanitarian situation in IoJK. The Prime Minister stressed the urgency to immediately lift curfew in IoJK to



alleviate the sufferings of the Kashmiris to avert risks to peace and security in the region.

President Xi Jinping reaffirmed China's unwavering support to Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as on all issues of Pakistan's core national interest. He appreciated government's agenda for socio-economic development and people-centered progress. He underscored that China's relationship with Pakistan was rock-solid and unbreakable and that strong vibrance between the two countries would deepen and broaden

in future. President Xi Jinping lauded Pakistan's efforts to expeditiously execute CPEC projects and stressed that it would help national and regional economic development process.

President Xi Jinping lauded Pakistan's efforts in combatting terrorism and maintained that Pakistan through institutional and economic reforms was resolutely and promisingly on the way to substantial economic development.

Both leaders agreed that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan would promote economic development and connectivity in the region

and expressed the resolve to continue to support peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the close cooperation between the two countries at multilateral fora and resolved to further deepen strategic communication and coordination at all levels to strengthen Pakistan-China All Weather Strategic Co-operation. They also agreed to keep the momentum of high-level exchanges between the two countries.

By Mian Fazal Elahi



At the invitation of H.E. Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Imran Khan, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, visited China from October 8-9, 2019. During the visit, Prime Minister Imran Khan called on H.E. Xi Jinping, President of China, held a meeting with Premier Li Keqiang and met with H.E. Li Zhanshu, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. Prime Minister also met Chinese entrepreneurs and businessmen.

Leaders of the two countries had in-depth exchange of views on a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. Meetings were marked by traditional warmth, mutual understanding and strategic trust. Prime Minister Imran Khan also attended the Closing Ceremony of the Beijing Horticulture Expo 2019 as a chief guest. Prime Minister Imran Khan congratulated the Chinese leadership and people on the 70th Anniversary of founding of the People's Republic of China. He felicitated China for its remarkable growth and underscored that the reform and opening up process of China was a model for

Deep rooted friendship and strategic partnership between
PAKISTAN-CHINA



Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang reviews Guard of honor upon arrival at Great Hall of the people in Beijing on 8th October, 2019.



Prime Minister Imran Khan leads delegation level talks with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at Beijing on 8th October, 2019.



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang receives Prime Minister Imran Khan at the International Horticulture Exhibition in Beijing on 9th October, 2019.

developing countries. He maintained that the steady march of the Chinese nation under its visionary leadership towards national rejuvenation was becoming a reality.

Recalling the Joint Statement of November 4, 2018, which outlined the important bilateral consensus between Pakistan and China, the two sides reaffirmed their firm resolve to further strengthening Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership aimed at building a Community of Shared Future in the New Era.

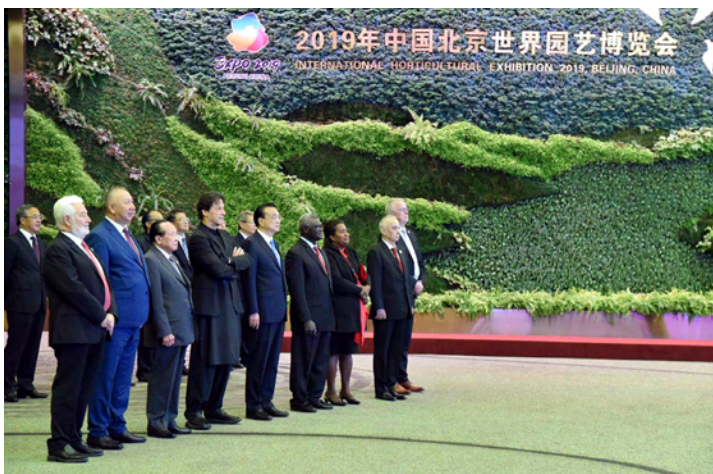
Stressing that the close ties, deep-rooted friendship and strategic partnership between Pakistan and China served the fundamental interests of the two countries and peoples, and contributed to peace, stability and development in the region, the two sides reaffirmed their support on issues concerning each other's core interests. Chinese leaders reiterated solidarity with Pakistan in safeguarding its territorial sovereignty, independence and security. The Pakistan side reaffirmed its commitment to the One China Policy. Supporting One Country Two Systems, Pakistan reiterated that affairs of Hong Kong were China's internal matter and all countries should uphold international law and basic norms of non-interference in internal affairs of other countries.

The Pakistan side briefed the Chinese side on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, including its concerns, position, and current urgent issues. The Chinese side responded that it was paying close attention to the current situation in Jammu & Kashmir and reiterated that the Kashmir issue is a dispute left from history, and should be properly and peacefully resolved based on the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements. China opposes any unilateral actions that complicate the situation. The two sides underlined that a peaceful, stable, cooperative and prosperous South Asia was in common interest of all parties. Parties need to settle disputes and issues in the region through dialogue on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

Pakistan side underscored that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a transformational project. A CPEC Authority was established to oversee the expeditious implementation of CPEC projects. Both sides maintained that the second phase of CPEC will promote industrial and socio-economic development in Pakistan. Pakistan side also underlined that the Gwadar Port has been granted various facilities enabling it to become a trade and logistical hub for the region. The two sides expressed determination to speedily execute CPEC so that its growth potential can be fully realized



Ms. Gao Yan, Chairperson of the Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) meets Prime Minister Imran Khan at Beijing on 8th October, 2019.



Prime Minister Imran Khan with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at the International Horticulture Exhibition in Beijing on 9th October, 2019.

making it a high-quality demonstration project for BRI.

The two sides maintained that the ninth session of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) to be held in November in Islamabad would further fast-track implementation of the ongoing projects and explore new avenues of cooperation, including ML-1. The two sides underlined that Chinese investment in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and collaboration in SME sector would further expand Pakistan's industrial base and diversify its export base.

Both sides agreed to jointly study identified projects by the Pakistan side in power, petroleum, gas, agriculture, industrial and infrastructure sectors. Those projects were entrusted to the concerned Joint Working Groups (JWGs) for deliberation and subsequent consideration by the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC).

The two sides held in-depth exchange of views on deepening bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, investment, finance, defence and security, education, agriculture, social sector, people-to-people contacts and cultural linkages. Both sides renewed their commitment to reinforce sister-city ties and were happy to note that a major event was being organized in Islamabad in November 2019 to deepen cultural cooperation and people-to-people ties between the two countries.

Both sides underlined that educational links between the two countries were becoming stronger. Prime Minister Imran Khan thanked Chinese leadership for providing opportunities to Pakistani students to study in China. He hoped that those students will play an important role in further deepening historic and deep-rooted ties between the two iron brothers.

Prime Minister Imran Khan thanked the Chinese leadership for China's consistent support for Pakistan's economic

development. The two sides agreed that early implementation of the Second Phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement would contribute to increase in bilateral trade. Both sides agreed to take full advantage of the China-Pakistan Joint Economic and Trade Commission to achieve balanced and sustainable development of bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

The leaders reviewed the excellent bilateral defence cooperation and agreed to further strength this cooperation in the areas of military exercises, training cooperation, personnel exchanges, and equipment and technology cooperation.

Reaffirming that there was no military solution in Afghanistan, the two sides agreed that peace and stability in Afghanistan was vital for regional security and expressed satisfaction at the important outcomes of the Third China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Minister's Dialogue held in Islamabad on 7 September 2019. The Chinese side appreciated Pakistan's efforts in promoting peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. Both sides maintained that an inclusive, and Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process would be key to bring peace and stability in the country.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and called on all countries to strengthen international cooperation on counter-terrorism. China appreciated Pakistan's unrelenting efforts and tremendous sacrifices in countering terrorism. It supported Pakistan in implementing its National Action Plan and called on the international community to objectively recognize Pakistan's contributions to regional peace and security through its success in fight against terrorism.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the close cooperation between the two countries at multilateral fora and resolved to deepen



Prime Minister Imran Khan leading delegation level talks in a meeting with Chairman National People's Congress (NPC), Mr. Li Zhanshu at Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 9th October, 2019.



Beijing on 9th October, 2019. Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmed Shaking hand with Chinese Premier Mr. Li Keqiang during visit of the Prime Minister Imran Khan to China.

strategic coordination and consultation. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and support for multilateralism and win-win cooperation.

During the visit, Premier Li Keqiang and Prime Minister Imran Khan witnessed the signing of the various Agreements/MoUs. Prime Minister Imran Khan thanked the leadership and people of China for their warm hospitality, and invited the Chinese leadership to visit Pakistan at a mutually convenient time.



Imran Khan visited Saudi Arabia to defuse tensions in the gulf

By Mian Fazal Elahi

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia met the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan.

During the meeting, they discussed close relations between the two fraternal countries, aspects of bilateral co-operation, as well as the latest developments at the regional and international arenas and efforts exerted towards them. Imran Khan stressed on “avoiding of military conflict and pursuing constructive engagement of all parties” as he concluded his talks with the leadership of Saudi Arabia on current Gulf situation, according to a





statement issued by the PM house.

The statement issued on the conclusion of the prime minister's visit to Saudi Arabia said, "the Prime Minister conveyed Pakistan's readiness to facilitate efforts for de-escalation of tensions and resolution of differences and disputes through peaceful means."

H.E. Imran Khan during his day-long visit held separate meetings with the Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman. The visit was part of the prime minister's initiative for peace and security in the region. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation including Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis Syed Zulfiqar Abbas Bukhari and senior officials. The Saudi leadership appreciated the serious efforts of Khan towards promoting peace and stability in the region and the impact of this initiative on deescalation of tensions. "The exchange of views in this regard was comprehensive and constructive. Noting the complexity of the issues and recognising the challenges involved, the two sides agreed to remain engaged and consult closely to take the process forward," the statement mentioned. During the meetings, the PM underscored that multi-faceted and deep-rooted relationship between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan could be further in fields of bilateral trade, energy, investment and people-to-people contacts. Khan once again apprised the Saudi leadership of the humanitarian crisis in Jammu and Kashmir, including the continuous lockdown, curfew and other communication restrictions for 70 days that had severely impacted the lives of over eight million Kashmiris and seriously imperiled peace and security in the region. The PM reaffirmed that Pakistan would always be shoulder-to-shoulder with Saudi Arabia.

It is feared that military confrontation between the two arch-rivals in the Gulf could have grave consequences for the neighbourhood and the region at large. It is in this context that efforts are being made by several countries, including Pakistan, to contain the crisis.

Prime Minister Khan first spoke about his initiative on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session last month. He had then said that President Trump had asked him to help in defusing tensions in the region. Mr Khan had also discussed the issue with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in their meeting in New York. Besides King Salman, Mr Khan along with his delegation also met Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman during his stay in Riyadh. PM Khan exchanged views with the crown prince on the security situation in the region and efforts for peace. He reiterated Pakistan's 'unwavering'

support and commitment to the security of the two Holy Mosques.





Prime Minister Imran Khan

Initiative to promote peace and security in the Gulf

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring Desk

Prime Minister Imran Khan visited Tehran as part of his initiative to promote peace and security in the Gulf. The Prime Minister was accompanied by a high-level delegation including Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, SAPM Syed Zulfiqar Abbas Bukhari and senior officials. During his meeting with President Hassan Rouhani, Prime Minister Imran Khan highlighted the historic ties and the tradition of close cooperation between the two countries. The Prime Minister reiterated his commitment to further strengthen bilateral relations in diverse areas, with a particular focus on enhanced trade and economic cooperation. Close cooperative ties with Iran have always been a priority for Pakistan, the Prime Minister stressed. The Prime Minister also expressed



gratitude over Iran's support on the Kashmir issue as the lockdown of over 8 million people in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir continues for 68 days. The Prime Minister apprised President Rouhani of the dire human rights and humanitarian situation created since India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August and the serious risk posed to peace and security in the region. In the regional context, the Prime Minister underlined that the current situation in the Gulf requires avoidance of military conflict and constructive engagement of all parties. The Prime Minister conveyed Pakistan's readiness to extend full facilitation of efforts for de-escalation of tensions and resolution of differences and disputes through political and diplomatic means. Prime Minister Imran Khan also called on Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. The Prime Minister conveyed that the people of Pakistan deeply valued the personal commitment of the Supreme Leader to the cause of Kashmir. The Prime Minister reaffirmed his resolve to comprehensively upgrade Pakistan- Iran relations. He also apprised the Supreme Leader of his initiative for regional peace and security. The Prime Minister's wide-ranging talks with the Iranian leadership were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and understanding, with the Iranian side appreciating Pakistan's sincere efforts for the preservation of peace and security in the region. The overall exchange of views was constructive and encouraging. Both sides agreed to stay engaged and consult closely to take the process forward.

"President Hassan Rouhan told Prime Minister Imran we welcome any gesture by Pakistan for peace in the region and appreciate his visit to our country," at a joint press conference with the premier. Rouhani said that the two leaders had discussed, among other things, the war in Yemen and the sanctions by the United States on Iran. Regional issues have to be resolved through regional means and dialogue. We also emphasised that any goodwill gesture will be responded with a goodwill gesture and good words," said the Iranian president. "We also discussed how the nuclear deal could be restored," added Rouhani. Prime Minister Imran thanked Rouhani for speaking up for the people of occupied Kashmir at the UN General Assembly in New York, where the two leaders also held a meeting on the sidelines. "Mr President, the main reason I came here with my delegation is that we don't want conflict in the region. Pakistan suffered 70,000 casualties in the last 15 years in the 'war on terror', Afghanistan is still suffering, [there is] terrible devastation in Syria — we don't want another conflict in this part of the world," said Imran.

"Mr President, we have Iran as a neighbour, our ties with Iran go way back. Saudi Arabia has been one of our closest friends. Saudi Arabia has helped us when we have needed, when we have been in need and so the reason for this



trip was that we don't want a conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran. "We recognise that it is a complex issue but we feel that it can be resolved through dialogue. What should never happen is a war between Saudi Arabia and Iran because this will not just affect this whole region two brotherly countries will be affected, this will cause poverty in the world. Oil prices will go up." There is vested interest behind this conflict," added the premier. Speaking about his visit to Iran and upcoming trip to Saudi Arabia, he said it was Pakistan's own initiative,

saying he felt encouraged after his meeting with Rouhani. "I will go to Saudi Arabia with a positive mind. We would like to play the role of a facilitator and not mediator. We want to facilitate two brotherly Islamic countries. "It is a complex situation but it can be resolved. "We also discussed how the nuclear deal could be restored. When we were in New York, US President Donald Trump asked us to facilitate some sort of dialogue with Iran and the US," said the prime minister, adding that Pakistan was aware of the difficulties.





Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser

succeeded in electing Raza Rabbani member of IPU executive committee

By M. Bilal Zafar

Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser attends the 141st Assembly of the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU). The IPU Assembly took place in Belgrade, the capital city of Serbia, on 13-17 October 2019. The Speaker and the Pakistan Parliamentary delegation participated in the meetings of the Governing Council, Standing Committees, Committees of Parliamentarians on the Human Rights as well as the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Forum of Young MPs on that occasion. Speaker Asad Qaiser drew attention of the IPU Fraternity towards heinous crimes against humanity in Indian Occupied Kashmir and to help the innocent people of the State in achieving their due right to self-determination, as pledged to them by the United Nations Security Council Resolutions. The Speaker also took up the follow up of his letters written to Speakers/Presiding Officers of the IPU Member Parliaments in his meetings on sidelines of the IPU Assembly. He formally met Secretary General IPU for follow up of his demand conveyed vide his letter demanding dispatch of fact-finding mission to IOK comprising of IPU Member parliaments to report on the grave situation in the occupied valley. Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser had written letters to the Speakers and Presiding Officers of Inter-Parliamentary Union Member Parliaments drawing their



Speaker National Asad Qaiser Shaking hand with President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the occasion of 3rd Conference of Speakers of Parliaments at Istanbul, Turkey.

attention towards the historic fraud, committed against the beleaguered people of the Indian Occupied State of Jammu and Kashmir (IOK) by the Indian Government. The Speaker during his stay in Istanbul attended the 3rd Conference of the Speakers of Parliaments. He had an informal meeting with President of Turkey Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan and apprised him about the worsening situation in IOK. They also discussed the security threats faced by the region and the growing Islamophobia in the west. They agreed for enhancing connectivity and forging common strategy to address these issues. The 3rd Conference of Speakers was called for parliamentary discourse on Countering Terrorism and strengthening regional Connectivity within the region and was attended by the Speakers of National Peoples' Congress of China, Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Speaker Wolesi Jirga of Afghanistan, State Duma of Russia and Majlis-e-Shoora Islami of Iran. In a major development, Senator Raza Rabbani emerged victorious after India withdrew the candidature of Shashi Tharoor, a seasoned diplomat and noted writer, for a slot in the prestigious executive committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), a global inter-parliamentary forum aimed at political multilateral negotiations.

The IPU is holding its 141st general assembly in the Serbian capital. It opened with a meeting of the IPU's Asia Pacific Group to decide about its joint nominee for a slot in the executive committee. Of the 34 members of the executive committee, Asia has three seats and two of them are already held by China and Thailand. The election to the third seat was to be held on Sunday. The term of the executive committee's member is three years.

According to the National Assembly Secretariat, Pakistan fielded former Senate chairman Mian Raza Rabbani for the coveted slot and his candidature was being vigorously pursued by



Pakistan's parliamentary delegation led by NA Speaker Asad Qaiser. It may be noted that Speaker Qaiser is chairman of the Asia Pacific Group for the current year. As the meeting opened, the Indian delegation, led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, in a surprise move, forwarded the candidature of noted writer and Congress member of the Lok Sabha, Shashi Tharoor. However, sensing a better position of Rabbani, the Indian delegation made an attempt to gain more time for canvassing and demanded a deferment of the vote. They also attempted to refer the matter to the main general assembly. However, this was thwarted by the Pakistani delegation, which sought the group chairman's ruling on the issue and urged him to follow the tradition of Asia Pacific fraternity of deciding the matters internally and not by the IPU's general assembly. Pakistan's appeal was seconded by China, Canada, and the Philippines, a senior official of the NA Secretariat, who was attending

the event, told a private media outlet. The Canadian delegate drew the house's attention to the previous case when a similar situation was tackled by voting within the group. The Indian delegation tried to delay the election till the last day of the IPU's general assembly, which will conclude on Oct 17, but failed to get support from countries attending the session. Consequently, finding no buyers of India's point of view and sensing an imminent defeat in the ballot, Tharoor withdrew his candidature. Thus, Pakistan's Raza Rabbani won the seat. To add to Pakistan's jubilation, Asia Pacific Group unanimously elected Senator Sherry Rehman to the prestigious bureau of the IPU's Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Trade and Finance. Senator Javaid Abbasi was also elected to the IPU's Drafting Committee. With these elections, Pakistan's parliament has got the prestigious presence of its seven members in different committees of the IPU.





9th Chief of the Naval Staff Amateur Golf Championship 2019

By Staff Reporter

On behalf of Pakistan Navy, being a Tournament organizer I welcome you all at the press conference regarding 9th CNS Amateur Golf Championship 2019 which will tee off from 25 - 27 October at Defence Raya Golf & Country Club Lahore.

This Championship represents a continuity of effort and devotion by Pakistan Navy to the cause of promoting Golf in the country. It has now acquired the status of a premier event and is eagerly sought by champions of our golf arena as well as other upcoming and talented golfers who seek elevation of their ranking in the national golf circuit of Pakistan. From the moment the schedule of the CNS Golf Championship is announced, there is a craze amongst the golfing community for getting registered as competitors and participants but then only the skilled ones are eligible and an amateur golfer has to be in the handicap 12 and below to get accepted as a participant in the actual championship.

The Patron is extremely delighted that this event has become an essential part of the National Golf events since its inception 8 years back in 2011. In this event, the golf players seek

participation joy and glory will come forward and demonstrate their playing skill and ability in the premier activity. Moreover, through continuity, this championship has attained an admirable status and is regarded as eminent championship of the national golf calendar.

Before I move forward first let me acknowledge the services of the Defence Raya Golf & Country Club management and staff for providing full support in organizing these events and have prepared the Golf Course in a way that the participants will be much comfortable. I understand that fairways are in great shape and accurate hitting will be a pleasure, for the participants.

Pakistan Navy wishes to enhance its association with sports promotion and development. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mehmood Abbasi NI(M) is a sports lover and wholeheartedly subscribes to the holding of this national golf event and wishes the best to all participants.

Eligibility criteria for the main event for amateurs will be contested over three rounds with 18 holes to be played each day making it a total of 54 holes. Winner in this category will be awarded the title and the trophy and the

victorious one will be the competitor with the best gross score. The seniors will compete over a total of 18 holes on 25 October. Those eligible to participate must be above 55 years and have a handicap of 14 and below. Ladies contest will be over 18 holes on 25 October and criteria for handicap is 30 and below. The participating ladies are spirited about the Championship and are optimistic about their chances. But then there are some very determined ones who have all the urge to appear as the challengers.

I must admire that, my entire team have vigorously pursued the arrangements to ensure that excellence remains the hallmark of the event. As for the playing arena, Defence Raya Golf Course has a standing amongst the golf courses of Asia and will be a challenge to the competing golfers, especially those coming from other stations.

In the end I take this opportunity to extend my heartiest appreciation to the management of Defence Raya Golf & Country Club and all sponsors who have ensured their all out support to the team of Station Headquarter Navy in organizing this Mega event. Without their support this championship of such a magnitude is very difficult to be organized.

Pakistan Navy joins Trans Regional Maritime Network, Italy for ensuring safe Maritime Traffic



Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi signing the “Note of Accession” for joining of Trans Regional Maritime Network at Naval Headquarter Islamabad.

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan Navy joined 32-member Trans Regional Maritime Network (T-RMN), based in Italy. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi formally signed the ‘Note of Accession’ for joining the organization at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. Ambassador of the Italian Republic H.E. Mr. Stefano Pontecorvo was also present at the occasion.

Trans Regional Maritime Network (T-RMN) was

established in 2008 to facilitate exchange of maritime information at Trans Regional level amongst the participating nations. By joining T-RMN community, Pakistan Navy will have access to maritime related information which will augment the comprehensive maritime picture already being maintained at Joint Maritime Information Coordination Center (JIMCC) of Pakistan Navy at Karachi. JIMCC is rapidly evolving as the hub of maritime related information in the region since its inception in 2013. Presently, the center is integrated with various regional and trans regional stakeholders

to strengthen maritime security in the region.

Integration of Pakistan Navy in T-RMN is an important step towards the Pakistan Navy’s vision of ensuring safety and security at high seas through a collaborative approach. Such multilateral arrangements play a vital role in exchange of information among member nations on maritime traffic plying across the world.

Director General Public Relations (Navy)

Chief of The Naval Staff Visits Headquarters Maritime Security Agency and Naval Dockyard at Karachi



Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi visited Headquarters Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) and Pakistan Navy Dockyard at Karachi.

Upon arrival at Agency's Headquarters at Karachi, the Admiral was presented Guard of Honour. Thereafter, Chief of the Naval Staff laid wreath at Shuhada's monument and was given a briefing in Agency's Maritime Operations Centre. Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi also visited PMSA's newly established state of the art Training Centre for imparting training to personnel to handle contemporary challenges in maritime domain. The Admiral appreciated the standard of training being conducted in the centre.

The Naval Chief expressed satisfaction over operational undertakings of the Agency in carrying out assigned tasks and expressed his



confidence that PMSA would continue to play its vital role in safeguarding maritime and economic interests of the country.

Later, Chief of the Naval Staff visited Pakistan

Navy Dockyard at Karachi where the Admiral was given briefings on structural reorganization of Dockyard and operational aspects of the Fleet Units.



Back to Afghan peace talks?



By Zahid Hussain

They had come close to a deal last month but a tweet from US President Donald Trump abruptly halted the process. A reported meeting between the Afghan Taliban leadership and the chief US negotiator Zalmay Khalilzad in Islamabad earlier this month has, however, raised hopes of the resumption of peace talks. Both sides appeared willing to pick up where they left off.

Yet it will not be easy to remove the stumbling blocks on the way to reviving the stalled process. President Trump's tweet calling off the talks was not just on a whim; it reflected the strong reservation of his administration against the content of the proposed agreement that was seen as more favourable to the Taliban. On again, off again: Erratic history of talks with the Taliban. A major objection was that there was no assurance from the Taliban to adhere to a permanent ceasefire. Then there was also no firm commitment from the insurgents to open direct talks with the Kabul government. So any resumption of negotiations is predicated on the Taliban's softening their position on those two issues.

Meanwhile, some other recent developments in Afghanistan may also cast a shadow over any move to renew the peace process. There has been a marked escalation in violence in Afghanistan over a number of weeks following the breakdown of talks. With no cessation in the Taliban offensive, there has been an escalation in air strikes by American forces, which has increased civilian casualties. Although the result of the presidential election in Afghanistan is still awaited, it is not likely to produce political stability in the country.

The threat of violence had led to a very low turnout of voters. The two main candidates — Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah — have

both claimed victory.

Pakistan should avoid giving the impression that it can deliver the Taliban to the negotiating table. Whatever the result, it is likely to be controversial and may intensify political polarisation in the country, making the prospect of a political solution to the Afghan crisis more complex. Both the presidential candidates are sceptical of the US directly talking to the Taliban. Unsurprisingly, they have welcomed the breakdown of the US-Taliban negotiations. Irrespective of whoever is elected, there is not going to be any change in the stance that the Taliban should directly talk to the Kabul government. And there is no indication that the insurgents will talk to the Kabul administration before any deal is reached with the US.

Undoubtedly, the recent Islamabad meeting between the Taliban delegation and Pakistani officials was highly significant. It was the first high-profile interaction between them to put the Doha process back on track.

Pakistani officials have reportedly exhorted the insurgents to agree to a ceasefire. But there seems to be no indication of the Taliban changing their stance. Some observers believe that given that they have the upper hand on the battlefield, there is no incentive for the Taliban to accept a ceasefire without a deal in place. That makes the resumption of the peace process more difficult.

The presence in Islamabad of Khalilzad during the Taliban visit was no coincidence. Prime Minister Imran Khan had assured American officials during his meetings on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session that he would help the resumption of the Afghan peace process. That may also be the reason for the US administration to not object to Pakistan's giving state protocol to the insurgent group. The strong reaction from President Ashraf Ghani to the Taliban visit was, however, predictable.

The reception given to the insurgent group raised many eyebrows. Even the agenda at the Foreign Office meeting in Islamabad reinforced the impression that the Taliban were being treated as a de facto government. The Americans didn't seem to have any problem with that.

It marked a complete turnaround from Washington's past policy of threatening Pakistan over its links with the Taliban. Despite its abrupt action, the Trump administration still seems keen to reach a political settlement in Afghanistan.

Although there has not been any official acknowledgement of the meeting between the US envoy and Mullah Baradar, the head of the Taliban delegation, the resumption of contacts between the two sides has helped break the ice. But there is still no word on the recommencement of peace talks. Surely Islamabad still exercises influence over the Taliban leadership, many of whose members have their families living in Pakistan. But it is questionable whether it can get the Taliban to agree to a ceasefire and talk to Kabul.

Nevertheless, the Islamabad meeting has produced some positive results. While improving the possibility of the resumption of peace talks, it has forced the US and the Taliban to consider significant confidence-building measures including a reduction in violence and the exchange of prisoners.

The US has already released 11 Taliban detainees from Bagram prison in exchange for three Indian engineers. According to some reports, negotiations are also being held to secure the release of two American and Australian nationals in exchange for some other Taliban prisoners including a brother of Sirajuddin Haqqani who is in a prison death cell in Kabul. The Afghan government, however, is reluctant to release the Taliban prisoners.

Notwithstanding some positive signals, there are still some roadblocks to navigate before any substantive talks between the US and the Taliban can resume. The reduction in violence and the exchange of prisoners can help build confidence and pave the way for moving forward. The most important thing is to include the Kabul government in any future talks. The onus is on the Taliban.

Pakistan has played a constructive role in facilitating meetings between the US and the Taliban. But it should not try to encourage the impression that it can deliver the Taliban to the negotiating table. It must keep its role limited to being a facilitator and not a deal-maker.

For Afghan peace, it is important for other regional and surrounding countries to play their role too. The Trump administration too must show more seriousness in talking peace.

Calling off a process via a tweet is not what is expected from a responsible country. (Courtesy to Dawn)

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Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



President Dr. Arif Alvi talking to Ambassador to Japan Kuninori Matsuda, who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad



US Senator Ms. Maggie Hassan and Senator Mr. Chris Van Hollen call on Prime Minister Imran Khan at PM Office in Islamabad.



Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan, Mr. Paulo Neves Pocinho called on Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser in Parliament House, Islamabad.



Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Mr. Kuninori Matsuda called on Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser in Parliament House, Islamabad



Ambassador of South Korea to Pakistan, Kwak Sung-Kyu called on Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Senator Muhammad Azam Khan Swati in Islamabad.



Special Assistant to the PM on Information and Broadcasting Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan in a meeting with H.E. Mr. Paulo Neves Pocinho, Ambassador of Portugal in Islamabad



MOS/Chairman BOI, Zubair Gilani in a meeting with H.E. Guido Crosetto, Chairman of the Italian Defence Industrial Association at BOI, Islamabad.



Ambassador of Republic of South Korea H.E. Mr. Kwak Sung-Kyu called on Ms. Zobiaida Jalal Federal Minister of Defence Production at Rawalpindi.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi exchanging views with Chairman of the Italian Industries Association for Air Space, Defence & Security and member of the Italian Parliament Mr Guido Croscto at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad.



Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi exchanging views with Secretary General of Defence & National Armaments Director, Republic of Italy, Lt General Nicolo Falsaperna, at Naval Headquarters Islamabad.



Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi presenting souvenir to Secretary General of Defence & National Armaments Director, Republic of Italy, Lt General Nicolo Faisaperna during his visit to Naval Headquarters, Islamabad.



Mr. Noor Ahmed Secretary Economic Affairs Division and H.E Mr. Bemhard Stephan the Ambassador of Germany to Pakistan signed an agreement for technical assistance under the Pakistan-Germany Development Programme



Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan H.E Ali Alizada called on Federal Minister for Energy Omar Ayub Khan in Islamabad.



German Ambassador H.E Bernhard Schlagheck called on Abdul Razak Dawood, Advisor to the PM on Commerce, Textile, Industries and Production and Investment in Islamabad



Ambassador of China to Pakistan, H.E Yao Jing called on Secretary Planning, Development & Reform, Zafar Hasan to discuss preparation for upcoming 9th joint cooperation committee meeting in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Interior Brig (R) Ijaz Ahmad Shah meets French Ambassador H.E Marc Brey at Ministry of Interior, Islamabad.



Turkish Minister for Education Presenting a memento to Federal Minister for Education & Professional Training, Shafqat Mahmood in Ankara on 7th October 2019.

Turkey assists Pakistan in Educational Reforms

By M Bilal Zafar

Federal Minister for Education, Professional Training & National Heritage Mr. Shafqat Mahmood, leading a 5-member delegation visited AK Party Headquarters in Ankara and met with Mr. Cevdet Yilmaz, Chairman of AK Party Foreign Affairs. Both sides discussed promoting brotherly ties between Pakistan and Turkey. Minister Shafqat Mahmood said Pakistan-Turkey relationship is deepening with each passing day under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. "The entire world witnessed this friendship and brotherhood during United Nations General Assembly session where Turkey stood by Pakistan like a rock after India's illegal annexation of its occupied Jammu & Kashmir," said Shafqat Mahmood. He briefed the Turkish dignitary about reform programme of the present Government and said that efforts were underway to make Pakistan's



Federal Minister for Education & Professional Training, Shafqat Mahmood in a group Photo along with Pakistan delegation at Ataturk Mausoleum Ankara on 7th October 2019.

education system responsive and relevant to market needs. Mr. Cevdet Yilmaz showed satisfaction at the growing collaboration with Pakistan. He thanked Pakistan for its support during the failed 15 July 2016 coup attempt and subsequent steps taken by Pakistan in support of Turkey. He showed concern at the regional situation after India's illegal and unilateral actions and expressed support to Pakistan on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan delegation today also visited various institutions in Ankara to observe technical education and vocational training facilities in Turkey and to share experience and expertise. The delegation visited Directorate General of Technical Education, followed by a visit to Altindag Iskitler Technical High School and Altindag Ataturk Technical High School Ankara. Minister Shafqat Mahmood was accompanied by Ms. Wajiha Akram, Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of Federal Education, Syed Javed Hassan, Chairman, National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), Dr. Nasir Khan, Executive Director NAVTTTC and Mr. Naeem Siddiqui, Director General, NAVTTTC.



Federal Minister for Education & Professional Training, Shafqat Mahmood in a meeting with Turkish Delegations led by respective Ministers for Education in Ankara on 7th October 2019.



Ambassador of Netherlands to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Wouter Plomp Called on Federal Minister For National Food Security and Research, Sahibzada Muhammad Mehboob Sultan in Islamabad on October 02, 2019.

Nine Dutch Companies showed interest for investment in Pakistan

By Ahsan Maroof

Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research met the Dutch Ambassador H.E. Mr. Wouter Plomp in Islamabad. Federal Secretary Dr. Hashim Popalzai and other senior officials of the ministry were also present. In the meeting matters relating to agricultural cooperation between the two countries were discussed. Pakistan – Netherlands bilateral relations have good future prospects not only to bilateral trade but getting benefits from each other's expertise in agricultural research and development. Pakistan is exporting rice, mango, sesame seeds, and spices etc. to Netherlands, whereas our imports from Netherlands are flower bulbs, potato seeds, vegetable seeds and cocoa powder etc. However, the trade between both the countries can be further enhanced by negotiating SPS requirements for the agricultural goods. Pakistan has been importing most of the potatoes seeds and other seeds from Netherlands. Federal Minister Mehboob Sultan said that we have set an ambitious target of processing

30% of milk in next 5 years, which currently is only 5%. He added many Dutch dairy companies are already collaborating in the field, there is a great potential in the field and exchange of technology and expertise from Dutch companies is welcome. Dutch Ambassador, Wouter Plomp said that that 9 Dutch companies have shown interest for investment in Pakistan's poultry and livestock sector and two out of these deal with pharmaceutical companies (Poultry & livestock vaccine) , and we are looking forward to materialize those objectives of investment in agro sector here in Pakistan. Federal Minister Mehboob Sultan said that Business to Business liaison between the exporters/ importers of agro-commodities is imperative to further enhance bilateral trade activities between both the countries. He added that Pakistan is already importing Seed Potatoes from Holland but the current quantity is way less than the demand hence we would welcome Dutch companies to capture the potential market . He added that Pakistan has bumper potato crop last year, we would welcome

joint venture for potato value addition in Pakistan. Dutch Ambassador told that agricultural cooperation is our top priority and exchange of research and technology would further bring benefits to both the countries. He also informed the Federal Minister that Dutch Agriculture Mission is planning a seminar in November, 2019 which would be a great opportunity for potential investors and experts and exchange of tangible proposals for cooperation in various sector including, dairy, poultry, horticulture etc. Federal Minister also suggested that since current government has prioritized the agriculture sector hence it is resorting to all possible measures to benefit farmers and uplift the sector. Holland Ambassador extended informal invitation to Federal Minister for participation in the seminar by Holland Agro-mission next month, and also assured that he would be working hard to take agricultural cooperation between the two countries to the next level.



H.E. Raza Bashir Tarar High Commissioner of Pakistan to Canada addressed

Annual Fundraising Dinner organized by Development in Literacy (DIL) at Ottawa.

By M. Bilal Zafar

While we strive to impart quality education to our children, let us not forget the children in Indian Occupied Kashmir, who are incarcerated in what India has turned into the largest concentration camp in the world” said Raza Bashir Tarar, High Commissioner of Pakistan to Canada, while addressing Annual Fundraising Dinner organized by Development in Literacy (DIL) at Ottawa.

High Commissioner Tarar urged Canadians to raise their voice, at every forum, for the hapless Kashmiris and call upon the international community to push for lifting of curfew and restrictions in IOK and realization of their inalienable right to self-determination of the Kashmiris. He underlined that, despite paucity of resources, the public sector in Pakistan is making efforts to improve the standard of education in government-run schools as well as synergising efforts with the private sector.

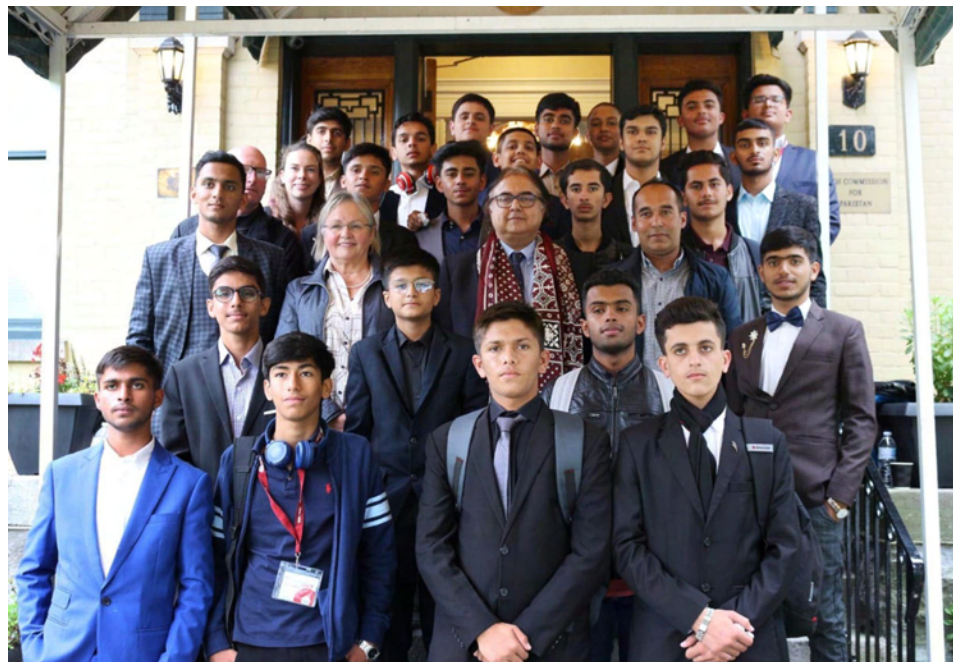
“It is edifying to know that DIL operates and manages 124 child-

friendly school campuses across three provinces of Pakistan, providing education for students from Nursery to matriculation”, he added.

He appreciated that efforts of international NGOs to promote quality education in Pakistan, and said that entities like DIL play a very important role in reaching out to underprivileged

children to realize their full potential for socio-economic betterment of their communities.

Javed Sumra, President DIL Ottawa, presented an overview of performance of the schools being operated by the organization.



High Commissioner of Pakistan to Canada, Raza Bashir Tarar Received a Group of 24 Students from Petaro Cader College, Pakistan, Visiting Canada on a Language and Cultural Programme, At Pakistan High Commission in Canada.



Gwadar to be Biggest GDP contributor in next Seven Years will create 47,000 jobs for locals: Chairman COPHC

By Monitoring Desk

The Chinese operators of Gwadar Port and its free zone have vowed to make the coastal city the single largest contributor to Pakistan's national economic output in seven years, saying 47,000 jobs will be created for locals with new investments worth billions of dollars. China Overseas Ports Holding Company Gwadar (COPHC) Chairman Zhang Baozhong shared his plans after the government finally stamped 23-year income tax holiday and exemptions of sales tax and customs duties for the Gwadar Port and businesses to be set up at Gwadar Free Zone. "It [issuing of ordinance] is a turning point for Pakistan's economy and now billions of dollars will be invested in Gwadar," said the chairman while talking to the media persons. Baozhong was accompanied by Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Zaidi and Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Hammad Azhar. Azhar did not speak at the press conference. The COPHC and its four subsidiaries are responsible for operating the seaport and its economic zones for a period of 23 years. The concessions had been guaranteed in the Gwadar Port Concession Agreement but the successive governments were not notifying them. However, President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday promulgated two ordinances to set up China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority and Tax Laws Amendment Ordinance 2019. "I believe Gwadar will be the largest contributor to the gross domestic product (GDP) growth in seven years," said the chairman, adding that 95% of the production in the Gwadar Free Zone would be exported. Currently, Karachi remained

the single largest contributor to the national economic output. "We have completed the master plan of the Gwadar Free Zone that will be built in four phases over a period of seven years," said Baozhong. "Once the zone is fully developed in seven years, 47,000 jobs will be created for the locals, and its annual sales will be \$1 billion." On the troubles faced in reaching this point, the COPHC chairman said, "Today is a big day and I had to struggle for seven years to secure these tax concessions, which had been promised in the Gwadar Port Concession Agreement. I had been running up and down for seven years and everybody made promises with me but nobody helped." Baozhong's company was lucky to get the support of the National Development Council - a joint civilian and military body - upon whose directions the obstacles were removed in obtaining these concessions. Baozhong praised the PTI government for its seriousness in honouring its promises and economic development of Pakistan, especially Gwadar. He also thanked the military and media for their support to get these concessions notified. "So far, 41 investors have come forward to invest about \$500 million in Gwadar Free Zone in the first phase," said the port operator. "These industries are being set up in sectors of logistics, edible oil, piping, and halal food." He said the \$500 million investment would create 5,000 jobs for the locals in phase one alone, adding that the free zone developer had made it binding for the investors to complete the physical infrastructure in six months and start production within one year. The port operator said that in order to promote advanced technology-based industries in the

Gwadar Free Zone, the developer might offer free plots, cheap financing, and free housing facilities to such investors. The maritime affairs minister said the required infrastructure, including the provision of electricity, water, approval of Gwadar Master Plan and other facilities needed to make the port and free zone operational, had been provided. To a question of whether another push was needed from somewhere to approve Special Economic Zones' incentive package, Zaidi said the push came from him and the government to approve the Gwadar tax concessions. Zaidi vowed that the SEZs' incentive package would be finalised soon, which remained pending for the last four years to the irritation of Chinese investors. In May 2017, Pakistan's federal cabinet approved the Special Incentive Package for the Relocation of Industries from China for bringing Chinese investment in nine SEZs to be set up under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The package had been developed on the demand of China that it made at the sixth meeting of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) held in Beijing in December 2016. The package was primarily aimed at those Chinese industrial units which were declared sunset industries by Beijing and had chances of being relocated to Pakistan, which might create hundreds of thousands of jobs. In the sixth JCC meeting, the two countries approved nine SEZs, which would be established in Pakistan's four provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and Islamabad Capital Territory. However, these incentives could not be notified due to differences over who would bear the cost - the federal or the provincial governments.



King's College London confers Honorary Degree on Dr Sania Nishtar

King's College, London conferred the prestigious Doctor of Science Honoris Causa on Dr. Sania Nishtar on 16 October, 2019. Dr. Sania Nishtar is a King's alumna, and already has a Ph.D. from King's College.

The ceremony took place at the historical University Chapel and was attended by a select gathering of academia, research scholars and administration of the College.

Dr. Nishtar received her degree in person in London. Talking to the press she said "she is deeply humbled".

According to the Rt. Hon Lord Geidt, Chairman of Kings College, London "honorary

Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK, Mohammad Nafees Zakaria congratulated Dr Nishtar on prestigious award and said the conferment of honorary degree by a leading university of the UK is an acknowledgement of her contributions to public health, social protection and poverty alleviation. He said: "The award is a matter of pride for all of us."

degrees are conferred by King's on persons of conspicuous merit and the highest distinction.

Honorary Graduands have no formal duties as such, but may of course contribute to the life of the University by sharing experiences and expertise or engaging socially."

King's College is one of the UK's leading universities with an international reputation in the humanities, law, health and sciences.

It has a long tradition of excellence and a truly global perspective, dedicated to finding solutions to the world's most pressing challenges and to developing its future leaders.



Pakistan, India sign agreement on Kartarpur Corridor

By Monitoring Desk

Pakistan and India signed the agreement on Kartarpur Corridor on paving the way for its inauguration next month ahead of the 550th birth anniversary of the founder of Sikhism Guru Nanak Dev. Dr Mohammad Faisal, director general (South Asia and Saarc) at the Foreign Office, and Indian Ministry of Home Affairs Joint Secretary S.C.L. Das signed the agreement at the Pakistan-India border in Narowal. After the signing ceremony, Foreign Office spokesman Dr Faisal said that as per the initiative of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the agreement has been signed while a formal inauguration of the project will be held on November 9. "[They] were very difficult and tough negotiations," he said while talking about the several rounds of dialogues between the two sides over the project. "Under the agreement, the corridor will remain open seven days a week from dawn to dusk," he said, adding that the pilgrims [through the corridor] would arrive in the day and leave by evening. The FO spokesperson said that the project will facilitate 5,000 pilgrims a day. "It is the biggest gurdwara in the world. This is how we treat minorities in the country; this is our approach towards minorities. It is in line with the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH)," he said. He said that the first group of pilgrims will come on November 9. Sharing further details of the agreement, he said the pilgrims who come through the corridor will not require a visa. They will have to carry their passports which will be scanned but not stamped, he said. Dr Faisal said that under the agreement, the Indian authorities

will provide a list of pilgrims 10 days ahead of their visit.

While responding to a question, he said that local Sikh pilgrims will also be allowed to visit the sacred place and a pass will be issued to them. "There is no change in the country's position on India-occupied Kashmir," he said while responding to another question. The agreement was finalised after three rounds of negotiations. The negotiations were protracted because of deep differences on various provisions of the agreement, the Pulwama stand-off, Indian

reservations over the composition of the committee set up to look after the affairs of the corridor, and elections in India. The last sticking point was the \$20 service fee that Pakistan would charge from every pilgrim for a single trip. However, India reluctantly agreed to it. Pakistan is currently working out the mechanism for charging the \$20 fee from the pilgrims. Following the inauguration of the corridor, a visa free link between Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur and Dera Baba Nanak shrine in India's Punjab will open for the pilgrims. (Courtesy to Dawn)



Dr. Muhammad Faisal Foreign Office Spokeperson from Pakistan side and SCL Das Joint Secretary Ministry of Home Affairs, India signing historic Kartarpur Corridor Agreement at Zero Point Kartarpur



Pakistan Austria are working together for promoting traditional close friendly relations
H.E. Nicolaus Keller Ambassador of Austria to Pakistan

Speech of Ambassador of Austria H.E. Nicolaus Keller on the occasion of National Day of Republic of Austria

Dear colleagues, distinguished guests,

Assalam u aleikoum, good evening,

We just listened to beautiful Music

I want to highlight that the last two pieces have both been composed in Austria approximately 200 years ago. At this time Vienna was what we later called the “capital of classical” music.

The Music of our National Anthem is attributed to Mozart – but like often in Austria we are not 100% sure about that – but what is sure, you can find his Bust behind me, inside the Saloon, near the Piano and it provides you with a nice setting for Austria related Photos and there you can enjoy some Mozartkugeln as well.

The Anthem of Europe – which was actually sung in a Latin version - was composed as you know by the German composer Beethoven, but again he composed it in Austria; since he lived most of his creative life and till his death in Vienna and surroundings. This is actually the very region where I was born.

So Art & Culture is AT’s most well-known legacy and export good. But More about this later.

Let me first say some words about our National Day

The Austrian National Day is celebrated on October 26 and relates to political developments after WW II when Austria was occupied by the four Allied forces. Although the Austrian parliament was democratically elected, every decision required consent by the Allied forces.

Only after 10 years Austria got a State Treaty and the Allied forces left.

On the 26 of October 1955, the day after the last foreign soldier left AT, our ND is celebrated.

But Now to the Diplomatic relations between AT & PK

This year we have several reasons to celebrate:

We have 65 years of Austria diplomatic representation in Pakistan

We have 60 years of opening an Austria Embassy in Pakistan (1959)

But relations between our countries go back much further, to the very beginning let’s say birth of Pakistan.

I want to tell you the story of Muhammad Asad,

born Leopold Weiss in Lemberg in 1900 in than Austria-Hungary. He became a world-renowned Muslim journalist, traveler, writer, linguist, political theorist, diplomat and Islamic scholar.

Asad was not only one of the most influential European Muslims of the 20th century. He also became friends with Muslim poet-philosopher Muhammad Iqbal and later with Muhammad Ali Jinnah and supported the idea of a separate Muslim state.

On 14 August 1947, Asad received the Pakistani citizenship to thank him for his merits for Pakistan’s independence and was issued the first PK passport produced with the serial number 1. Muhammad Asad, the former Austrian Leopold Weiss was therefore the first officially documented Pakistani.

We have 65 years of Austria diplomatic representation in Pakistan & we have 60 years of opening an Austrian Embassy in Pakistan (1959)

He later served at several administrative and diplomatic positions and as Pakistan’s Envoy to the United Nations.

That leads to the next celebrations; 40 years United Nations Headquarters in Vienna / Austria (1979)

And now imagine, the square in front of the the UN Headquarters in Vienna is named after the before mentioned “Muhammad Asad Platz” in commemoration of his work as “religious bridge-builder” and “Mediator between Islam and the West”.

The fact that Muhammad Asad who contributed in such fundamental way to this country, was born as Leopold Weiss in Austria makes me as a person feel proud and honoured.

Another Austrian I want to speak about is this year’s nobel prize laureate for Literature Peter Handke. I had the privilege to arrange a lecture for him during my posting in Belgrade. At the time we all thought he deserves the Prize, but will never get it.

So, I am happy that we were all proven wrong and are thankful for this Austrian Novelist

One of his earlier works was “Die Angst des Tormanns beim Elfmeter” what translate into “The Goalie’s Anxiety at the Penalty Kick”. Hopefully this hilarious title makes some of you curious to also read this book.

So just some things I wanted to point out before we can start with the less formal and more relaxed part of the evening:

This National Day we have for the first time a Defense Attaché in Charge for PK; Colonel Bauer whom you met at the entry and who is supporting our effort to deepen our bilateral relations.

Secondly, I want mention Austrian Companies present tonight with their products available in PK. So, there is Rauch-HAPPY DAY fruit Juices right here; Red Bull-energy/STIMULANT DRINK in the back and Woerle HAPPY-COW cheese over there.

Thirdly I want to say DANKE, THANK YOU, SHUKRIYA to all of my staff at the Embassy and Residence.

That tonight could happen like this, is thanks to their efforts.

And also MERCI to my Wife Ursula, who actually masterminded and coordinated most of today’s effort.

Austria is not only famous for its Music and its Poets, but also for its food and its chefs.

That’s why we decided to serve you mainly Austrian specialties tonight.

For them to be authentic in taste, they have been cooked by the Austrian Wolfgang Goedl who is Chef at the AVARI in Lahore.

I would really like to thank HIM for cooking himself since yesterday, so we are able to present tonight a Buffet full of Austrian delights.

You can find him THERE at the dessert Table; next to the EXTRA LONG Apfelstrudel, I recommend as dessert.

So thank you for joining and celebrating together our National Day

Hoch lebe Österreich!

Pakistan zindabad!

Vive l’Europe!

National Day of Austria celebrated in Pakistan

By Staff Reporter

Ambassador Nicolaus Keller and Mrs. Ursula Keller hosted a glittering reception at their residence to mark national day celebration of their country. Quite a large number of guests, most being diplomats stationed in Pakistan graced the reception. Among the guests were serving and former officials and prominent people from various segments of the society. Syed Fakhr Imam, Chairman Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir was the chief guest.

In his address, the chief guest was happy to note that Pakistan and Austria enjoyed cordial and cooperative ties. The Austrian ambassador

expressed the same view. They both stressed the need for increasing bilateral trade and boosting cooperation in various fields.

Important feature of the reception was melodies of classical Austrian music that warmed up the aura of the reception. Two pieces of music were composed in Austria approximately 200 years ago. At this time Vienna was called the "capital of classical" music. The Music of Austrian National Anthem is attributed to Mozart. The Anthem of Europe – which was actually sung in a Latin version – was composed by the German composer Beethoven, but again he composed it in Austria. Art and Culture is most well-known Austrian legacy.

The Austrian National Day is celebrated on October 26 and relates to political developments after WW II when Austria was occupied by the four Allied forces. Although the Austrian parliament was democratically elected, every decision required consent by the Allied forces.

Only after 10 years Austria got a State Treaty and the Allied forces left.

On 26 October 1955, the day after the last foreign soldier left Austria, the national day is celebrated.

The ambassador said, this year we have several reasons to celebrate, we have 65 years of



Austrian diplomatic representation in Pakistan. We have 60 years of opening of our embassy in Pakistan (1959). The ambassador said, relations between our countries go back much further, to the very beginning let's say birth of Pakistan. He went on to tell the story of Muhammad Asad, born Leopold Weiss in Lemberg in 1900 in than Austria-Hungary. He became a world-renowned Muslim journalist, traveler, writer, linguist, political theorist, diplomat and Islamic scholar.

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Rediscover Italian Cuisine in Marriott Hotel Islamabad

By Staff Reporter

Rediscover Italy at Zigolini's with an all-new menu! From creamy pastas to piping hot authentic Italian pizzas,

Zigolini's is the place to be. H.E. Stefano Pontecorvo Ambassador of Italy in Pakistan inaugurated the restaurant. Diplomates, High

Dignitaries, Government official's members from business community and media persons also present on the inauguration ceremony.





28th Anniversary of the Independence of Turkmenistan

Ambassador Atadjan Movlamov and his spouse Mrs. Gazel Movlamova hosted a reception in the federal capital to mark national day celebration of their country. A large number of guests, diplomats, officials and prominent people from various segments of the Pakistani society graced the event. Federal ministers Noor-ul-Haque Qadri and Gulam Sarwar Khan were guests of honour at the reception who joined the hosts in cutting the ceremonial cake.

Cordial ambience climaxed when the national anthems of the two friendly countries were

played and ceremonial cake was cut.

Pakistan and Turkmenistan have been enjoying friendly relations ever since Turkmenistan declared its independence from the erstwhile Soviet Union twenty eight years ago. The two countries are cooperating in various fields to their common benefit and are desirous of expanding the sphere of bilateral cooperation to other fields. Currently the most important project being undertaken by Pakistan and Turkmenistan is a gas pipeline project titled as TAPI.

Turkmenistan has huge gas reserves which are being marketed in the region as part of energy corridors being developed by Turkmenistan. The mega TAPI gas pipeline project will greatly help Pakistan in overcoming its energy troubles. Turkmenistan has emerged as a prosperous country by pursuing prudent economic and social policies over the years. It has been utilising its financial wealth for socio-economic uplift of the people. Turkmenistan's world view is based on its being a recognised neutral country. This country actively promotes regional harmony and inter state cooperation.





National Day of Spain celebrated in Islamabad

The National Day of Spain was celebrated in a grand manner at the residence of the ambassador, Manuel Duran Gimenez Rico, who was a gracious host and mingled with the guests. The guest of honour was Minister for Defense Production, Zubaida Jalal but other ministers were also present and the event was attended by a large number of invitees both from the diplomatic corps as well as people of different walks of life from Rawalpindi and Islamabad. *Staff Reporter*





National Day of Hungary celebrated in Pakistan

By Staff Reporter

On the occasion the National Day of Hungary commemorating the 63rd anniversary of the 1956 Revolution and Freedom fight, the ambassador of Hungary, Istvan Szabo and spouse Amelia hosted a reception to celebrate the day along with friends and colleagues. The event was held at the Serena Hotel and featured a concert by Ruby Lakatos and his ensemble. The guest of honour was Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Mohammed Azam Khan Swati who congratulated the government and people of Hungary on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan and spoke of the good bilateral relations between the two countries.

After an interval of 'meet and greet' the program began with the playing of the national anthems of Hungary and Pakistan by the featured musicians and it was nice to hear the national anthem of Pakistan played in a different tempo. Welcoming the gathering, ambassador Szabo said, "We are celebrating 30 years living in Freedom. The markers of the past three decades were our membership in NATO in 1999 and in EU in 2004. These are historical dates and determined the course of my country's political, social and economic development for the long term."

"Here in Pakistan we also have good reason

to celebrate. Twenty years ago, the Hungarian Oil and Gas Company, MOL began operation in the exploration and production sector. It has been the flagship project of our bilateral cooperation," he said. "If we consider the geographical distance between Hungary and Pakistan, our countries are far away. In size and population, we are incomparable. In culture we are very different, nevertheless Hungarian-Pakistani relations are excellent, cordial and friendly." Adding that Pakistan is not only their important partner in South-Asia but also a target country for the Hungarian scholarship program, he said the Hungarian government offers 200 scholarships/per year for Pakistani students in Hungarian higher educational institutions free of charge with full accommodation.

"Culture is another outstanding area of our bilateral relations" he said. "Considering the untapped potentials business and trade cooperation could be much better than it is at present. Recently we are witnessing an increased interest of Pakistani businessmen towards investing in Hungary." He concluded by thanking of MOL; the Cultural Department of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Hotel Serena for their generous sponsorship - and last but not least his appreciation of all his embassy colleagues who worked hard to realise the unique program.

Amelia Szabo then introduced the musicians. She took a brief onstage interview of Roby Lakatos to get his opinion on his visit to Pakistan and speak about his music. She also announced the online competition that has been launched by the Roby Lakatos Foundation titled 'The First International Roby Lakatos Violin Improvisation Competition.' It is addressed to 'fellow artists' and details can be found on the Facebook page of the foundation.

Although it was expected that the concert would be a classical one - not everyone's cup of tea - it was not! It was a delightful mix of different genres, very enjoyable, with toe tapping and hand clapping numbers, to which the audience responded by doing just that!

The brief 'duo' performances with Roby and each musician were super and the applause and verbal appreciation they received after each number indicated that everyone was having a marvelous time.

The concert will go down in memory as one of the best in recent years. Encores follow great performances and this evening it was no exception.

Dinner was served with Hungarian specialties. As one gentleman remarked when guests were leaving, this was one of the best receptions in quite a while.





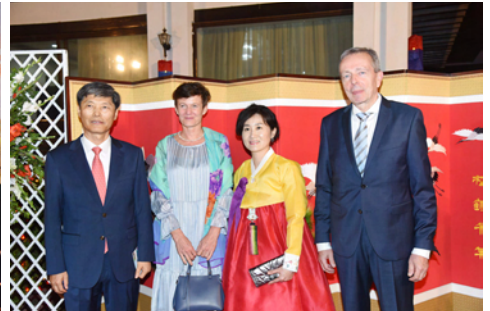
National day of South Korea celebrated

By M. Bilal Zafar

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Kwak Sung-Kyu hosted his country's national day, known as the National Foundation Day, at the ambassador's residence. It was a

large event with cultural dancers and a music performance. In his speech, Ambassador Kwak underlined the close and growing cooperation between Korea and Pakistan, drawing attention to important cooperation in business, trade, and cultural fields.

Senator Mohammad Azam Khan Swati was the chief guest on the occasion. Diplomates, High dignitaries, Government official, members from business community and media persons, also graced the occasion.



Korean Cultural Festival celebrated in Rawalpindi Art Council

By Monitoring Desk

A traditional Korean performing arts troupe mesmerized the audience at a cultural show in Rawalpindi. The performance was organised by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea and the Rawalpindi Arts Council (RAC) to strengthen cultural links between the people of Korea and Pakistan.

Minister of State for Climate Change Zartaj Gul was invited as the chief guest. Also in attendance were Ambassador Kwak Sung Kyun, Punjab Council of the Arts Executive

Director Saman Rai, Jeollabuk-do Provincial Institute for Korean Traditional Performing Arts Director Lee Tae-Geun and RAC Director Waqar Ahmed. The troupe of 15 artists participated in six performances that included traditional Korean folk music and Pakistani music, Korean traditional chamber music, a film music medley and more. They received a standing ovation at the end of the show.

Ms Gul said the event was a blessing for the cultural exchange programme between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea. "Pakistan

and South Korea have strong bilateral diplomatic relationships and cultural ties. We must continue to work hard to promote cooperation and strengthen cultural ties between Korea and Pakistan in the future," she said. Ambassador Kwak Sung Kyu said he hoped to see an increasing number of cultural exchanges and events in the days to come. "I wish today's performance would be instrumental in bonding two peoples and enhancing the understanding of each other," he said.





H.E. Muhammadu Buhari GCFR

President of Federal Republic of Nigeria speech at

74th Session of UN General Assembly

President Muhammadu Buhari on the podium speaking to the UN General Assembly in New York on Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019.

President Muhammadu Buhari addressed world leaders at the 74th Session of the United

Nations General Assembly. He assured that Nigeria will live to expectations in its leadership. The Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the UN, Amb. Tijani Muhammad-Bande, took office as President of the 74th session of the GA on Sept. 17.

In his address, the President called for strong action against xenophobia, racism, and abject poverty and also expressed concern about climate change which forced thousands to protest across the world, as well as terrorism and other forms of threat to life.



President Buhari was the fifth leader to speak after the Presidents of Brazil, United Nations, Egypt and Turkey.

President Buhari's full speech at the meeting below:

Firstly I wish to thank the General Assembly for the honour bestowed on the Government and people of Nigeria by electing our national, His Excellency, Tijjani Muhammad-Bande to the Presidency of the 74th Session of this august body.

2. This is indeed a great honour!

3. Nigerians are truly grateful and shall endeavour to live up to the expectations and responsibilities thrust upon us.

4. Ambassador Muhammad-Bande is an experienced and seasoned diplomat and I am confident that he will prove to the International Community his suitability for this most demanding assignment.

5. Let me also offer my sincere thanks to the outgoing President, Her Excellency Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés for her skill, resourcefulness and endless reservoir of patience in piloting the 73rd General Assembly.

6. In the same vein, may I commend the Secretary General, His Excellency Antonio Guterres for his tremendous energy, his genuine international outlook exhibited by his leadership of the United Nations.

Your Excellencies, Delegates,

7. The theme of the current General Assembly is: "Galvanising multilateral efforts for poverty eradication, quality education, climate action and inclusion"

8. These are the prime areas calling for collective action which will benefit national and global interests.

9. Today the world is at a critical juncture. This year marks the first anniversary of the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace. This year also marks the 100 years of the founding of the League of Nations, leading eventually to the establishment of the United Nations as part of the post-World War II international order.

10. Article 1 (4) of the UN Charter called for "harmonising the actions of nations in the attainment of common ends". These common ends include:

- International peace and security;
- Prosperity and social justice;
- Respect for human dignity; and
- Protection of the environment.

11. Multilateralism symbolised by the UN system has brought immense benefits to the people of the world. It has saved lives, prevented wars, restored peace and stability as well as generated economic and social progress in many countries.



Mr President, Your Excellencies,

12. We must admit that as the world grows richer, there are regrettable signals in the World Economic and Political Order. Millions in Africa and around the world remain in abject poverty. Furthermore, we are witnessing a backlash against multilateralism in the shape of rising tide of racism, xenophobia, resurgent nationalism, populism and tendencies towards protectionism and unilateralism. The pristine principles of the United Nations appear threatened.

13. On cessation of hostilities after World War II, the United States in one of the greatest

selfless undertakings in history decided to revive Europe through the Marshall Plan and uplift and restore Japan economically. This generous policy catalysed a great economic revival globally.

14. This action of the United States not only benefited Europe and Japan but the United States as well through vastly improved trade and cross investments.

15. The United States and Europe have become friends and allies since the end of the war. The United States and Japan have also become friends and allies since the end of the war. This example can be replicated with



- respect to Africa.
- 16.A developed Africa will not be antagonistic to industrialised countries but will become friends and partners in prosperity, security and development. A prosperous Africa will mean greater prosperity for the rest of the world. A poor Africa will be a drag on the rest of the world. Is this what the international community wants?
- 17.A coordinated multilateral effort should be set in motion to utilise and maximise use of the enormous resources on the African continent for the benefit of all nations. Investing partners will be able to recoup their investments manifold over time.
- 18.Current attempts to help develop Africa by industrial countries are un-coordinated and plainly incremental. We have the skills, the manpower and the natural resources, but in many instances, we lack the capital – hence my plea for industrial countries to take a long-term view of Africa, come and partner with us to develop the continent for the benefit of all.
- 19.Africa charges you with the singular task of initiating the effort we are calling for. The United Nations has in place processes for promoting collective action to combat global threats. No threat is more potent than poverty and exclusion.
- 20.They are the foul source from which common criminality, insurgency, cross-border crimes, human trafficking and its terrible consequences draw their inspiration.
- 21.Poverty in all its manifestations remains one of the greatest challenges facing our world. Its eradication is an indispensable requirement for achieving sustainable development. In this regard, Nigeria has developed a National Social Investment Programme – a pro-poor scheme that targets the poorest and most vulnerable households in the country.
- 22.Under this initiative easy access to financial services is facilitated to our traders, artisans, market women and co-operative societies. This type of initiative can help lessen and eventually eliminate mass poverty in Africa.
- 23.At the core of our efforts to build an inclusive society, our programmes are focused on youth and women empowerment. These programmes aim at ensuring women and youth participation in governance, industry, climate action and agriculture.
- 24.On the international scene, Mr President, the United Nations has new opportunities to take the lead on issues that continue to cloud the prospects for international peace and prosperity, namely;
- a.The rights of the Palestinian people to have their own country free of occupation. Mr President, the international community has spoken from Resolution 242 of 1967 to the present day on the rights of the Palestinian

- people to have and live in peace in their own land;
- b. The risks associated with nuclear proliferation;
- c. Unfair and unjust trading practices notwithstanding the World Trade Organisation Rules and Precepts;
- d. The looming danger of climate change
- 25.On climate change Nigeria stands resolutely with the international community in observing agreed carbon emission targets which I signed in 2015. We have since issued two sovereign Green Bonds and have added an additional 1 million hectares of forested land taking our total forest coverage to 6.7% through collective national effort.
- 26.As we advocate and strive for inclusion within our societies, we must also ensure inclusion prevails in our collective action as members of International Community. That is why we support the expansion of the Security Council to reflect the diversity and dynamics of the 21st Century.

Mr President, Your Excellencies,

- 27.From Asia to the Middle East, Africa to South America, violence and the threat of conflict continue to blight the lives of too many people.
- 28.Our own country is no exception. Nigeria is a nation of nearly 200 million people of diverse groups. Our diversity is our source of strength which is why in elections this year, our people backed the politics of tolerance, inclusion and community over the politics of protest and division.
- 29.Our election promises emphasised political stability, freedom and prosperity, tackling poverty, schooling our young and providing them with the tools to build better lives. We are placing special emphasis on the role of women in our female gender advancement programmes.
- 30.Our progress and delivery are deliberate, purposeful and measured. We clearly appreciate there are no quick fixes to complex challenges.
- 31.In particular, the challenge of education in Africa is enormous. On December 3rd 2018, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 73/25 that proclaimed 24 January of every year as International Day of Education. The Resolution which was spearheaded by Nigeria and co-sponsored by 58 other member states marked a watershed in the recognition of the fundamental role of education in building modern societies.
- 32.To ensure access to education for all, our Government has introduced the Home Grown School Feeding Programme to address the challenge of out-of-school and forced-out-of-school children.
- 33.This social intervention programme, Mr

President, is aimed at encouraging increased school enrolment through provision of free school meals. The benefits extend beyond the school environment. In addition, we have introduced mainstreaming and implementation of Safe Schools Declaration laws and policies across all educational institutions in Nigeria.

Mr President, Your Excellencies,

- 34.The world was shocked and startled by the massacre in New Zealand by a lone gunman taking the lives of 50 worshippers. This and similar crimes which have been fuelled by social media networks risk seeping into the fabric of an emerging digital culture.
- 35.Major tech companies must be alive to their responsibilities. They cannot be allowed to continue to facilitate the spread of religious, racist, xenophobic and false messages capable of inciting whole communities against each other, leading to loss of many lives. This could tear some countries apart.
- 36.Organised criminal networks, often acting with impunity across international borders present new challenges where only collective action can deliver genuine results.
- 37.This is true in the battle against violent extremism, against trafficking in people and drugs and against corruption and money laundering. The present Nigerian government is facing the challenges of corruption head-on. We are giving notice to international criminal groups by the vigorous prosecution of the P&ID scam attempting to cheat Nigeria of billions of dollars.
- 38.As a young man, as a soldier, I witnessed at first hand the terrible legacy of destruction and broken lives that conflict leaves in its wake.
- 39.As the 75th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War approaches, I wish to pay tribute to the sacrifice made by so many millions across the globe in defence of freedom, tolerance and the rule of law.
- 40.In Nigeria, we have made significant strides to put our own house in order. We will work tirelessly to uphold due process. The rule of law remains the permanent, unchanging foundation of the world order.
- 41.Freedom, tolerance and the rule of law are universal values and underline the best that this General Assembly represents. And that binds us all.
- 42.Mr. President, I will conclude my remarks by reaffirming Nigeria's commitment to promoting international peace and security and sustainable development. We are also committed to strengthening partnerships and cooperation with international and regional organisations for the benefit of humanity.
- 43.Thank you very much.

A portrait of a man in a dark pinstripe suit, white shirt, and blue tie with yellow dots. He is wearing a Nigerian flag pin on his lapel. The background is a solid brown color.

Relations between Nigeria and Pakistan are friendly, affable and strong

**H.E. Maj Gen (rtd) Ashimiyu Adebayo Olaniyi OON, mni
High Commissioner of Nigeria to Pakistan**



Nigerian embassy hosts reception to celebrate 59th anniversary of Independence

Nigeria and Pakistan share many commonalities such as population, culture, economic growth, membership of international organizations, development of infrastructure including roads, railways and powers, etc.

These similar features of their culture, geography and economies have contributed to establishment of strong bilateral relations between Pakistan and Nigeria and the two countries are engaged in a number of areas including military, trade and agriculture cooperation.

High Commissioner of Nigeria Maj Gen (R) Ashimiyu Adebayo Olaniyi viewed this while addressing a reception hosted to mark 59th Anniversary of the Independence of Federal Republic of Nigeria at Serena Hotel in Islamabad.

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Azam Khan Swati was the chief guest on the occasion.

The reception was attended by a good number of diplomats, parliamentarians, members of civil society in-service and retired personnel of the armed forces of Pakistan, scholars and intellectuals.

Ambassadors and diplomats of the African countries along with Palestinian envoy were seated on the stage with the chief guest and the Nigerian high commissioner. Nigerian nationals along with their families also attended the independence anniversary reception. In his speech Nigerian ambassador spoke on a wide range of subjects including military

cooperation, trade relations, both countries' counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency operations etc.

October 1 is the date when in 1960 Nigeria proclaimed independence from the British rule. In Nigerian envoy's words, two years after Nigeria's independence, Pakistan recognized the country and Nigeria became the 47th country to establish bilateral ties with Pakistan.

"This Figure '47' is very important for Pakistan as in 1947 Pakistan came into being by getting independence from the British," said Maj Gen (R) Ashimiyu Adebayo Olaniyi. Diplomatic relations between the two countries have been that of friendship, brotherhood and mutual trust, said the high commissioner.

Bilateral trade between Pakistan and Nigeria 'stood at US\$500 million, nevertheless there has been an improved level of engagement with government functionaries and business community of both countries especially members of various chambers of commerce & industry," said the high commissioner of Nigeria.

He termed Nigerian Rural Development & Agriculture Ministry's engagement with Millat Tractors and University of Agriculture Faisalabad a giant leap in bilateral cooperation.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan have the similar vision of corruption free society, fight against terrorism and

improving the economy of their countries, he said adding it will definitely enhance trade initiatives. In 2016, though Nigerian economy experienced recession but later experienced a steady growth and its External Foreign Reserves grew from US\$ 23 billion in 2016 to US\$42.5 billion in 2018, the high commissioner noted with joy.

Additionally, signing of Africa Continental Free Trade Area agreement by African leaders and the full implementation of the Engage Africa Policy Initiative of Pakistan government are positive signs for a joint venture between businessmen of both countries, the high commissioner concluded. Minister Azam Swati in his brief remarks said Pakistan looked forward to increasing engagement with Nigeria in order to have access to other African countries through Nigeria.

Nigeria, he said was a country of multi-ethnic and multi-lingual population and its diversity is its real strength. Both Pakistan and Nigeria have the potential to move forward from industrial growth to Science & Technology and there is a need to further bilateral relations in textile, agriculture and other areas. At the end, a cake was also cut on the occasion and national anthems of both the countries were played. The guests were treated with traditional Nigerian food. A documentary on Nigeria was also screened on the occasion.



SPEECH DELIVERED BY

THE NIGERIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN H.E MAJ GEN (RTD) ASHIMIYU ADEBAYO OLANIYI OON, mni ON THE OCCASION OF THE 59th INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ON TUESDAY 1st OCTOBER 2019

I sincerely welcome our Chief Guest, the Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs H.E Mr. Muhammad Azam Khan Swati and other guests who had found time to felicitate with us on the occasion of our 59th Independence Anniversary. 1st October 1960 will continue to remain relevant in the political history of Nigeria as it symbolizes the birth of our great country as a sovereign nation. Let me congratulate all Nigerians leaving in Pakistan as we mark another year of Independence.

Nigeria established Diplomatic Relations with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 57 years ago, and became the 47th country to establish such relationship with Pakistan. Interestingly, the figure "47" is also very significant to Pakistan as 1947 was the year Pakistan became an Independent country, under the dynamic and able leadership of the founder of Pakistan; Muhammad Ali Jinnah. These years of Diplomatic Relations between the 2 countries





have been that of friendship and brotherhood. It has also witnessed a lot of collaboration at International fora; the recent being Pakistan's support to Nigeria's candidature for the Presidency of the 74th United Nations General Assembly this year, which led to the Nigerian Permanent Representative to the United Nations H.E Professor Muhammad Tijani Bande emerging as 74th President of the United Nations General Assembly.

Excellencies, Distinguished guests.

The military cooperation and collaboration between the two brotherly countries have remain excellent and will be sustained. This collaboration, no doubt has led to the consistent training of personnel in counter terrorism and counter insurgency operations, joint exercises, exchange of other training programs in our military institutions, in addition to procurement of military hardware from the Pakistan military. In the last one year, there have been numerous exchange of visits between the highest military hierarchies of the 2 countries' Armed Forces, aimed at strengthening the relationship.

On trade investment, though, the trade

volume between Pakistan and Nigeria stood at USD\$500m, nevertheless, there has been an improved level of engagements with government functionaries and businessmen of both countries, and especially with members of the various chambers of commerce and Industries who are here tonight to celebrate with us. I salute your commitments and level of entrepreneurship. Similarly, the engagements of Nigeria Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development with the Millat Tractors, Lahore and University of Agriculture Faisalabad in August this year is a giant step at strengthening the trade and investment opportunities between Pakistan and Nigeria, realizing that agricultural sectors contribute tremendously to the overall GDP of the two economies.

The African roundtable dialogue organized by the Foreign Ministry in collaboration with Institute of Strategic Studies in July this year to mark the African Day celebrations, has added impetus to these assertions, thus laying a solid and robust foundation for economic and trade prosperity between Pakistan and African countries; specifically Nigeria being the largest





economy in the continent.

Nigeria and Pakistan share many commonalities, such as population, culture, economic growth, membership of International Organizations, development of infrastructural facilities including roads, railways and power which are aimed at attracting Foreign Direct Investments to both countries. Besides, the agenda of the current leadership of the 2 great countries viz; H.E Prime Minister Imran Khan and H.E President Muhammadu Buhari, which is anchored on security, fighting corruption and improving the economy of their various countries will definitely enhance these trade initiatives. It is gladdening to note that the Nigeria economy had improved having exited recession experienced in 2016 with her External Foreign reserves grown from US\$23.00bn in 2016 to US\$42.5bn in 2018, an indication of economic growth which is a factor at attracting foreign investors.

Additionally, the signing of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area agreement by African leaders and the full implementation of the engage Africa Policy initiative of Pakistan government, are positive signs for a joint venture between businessmen of both countries for improving the trade volume. As Nigeria is putting finishing

touches to the launching of its national carrier, it is hoped that the Pakistan International Airline (PIA) would consider extending its route to Nigeria in order to enhance the people-people contact and by extension, increasing the trade volume between the 2 countries. As a way of confirming that Nigeria and Pakistan are on the right path for increasing their trade investments opportunities, the World Bank on Friday 27th September 2019 listed both Pakistan and Nigeria amongst the top 20 reformers in ease of doing business in the world, having met the six areas measured of doing business.

Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

Let me seize this opportunity to appreciate the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for their warm reception and hospitality at hosting the participants of the 2 highest strategic institutions in Nigeria; National Defence College (NDC) and National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) in the months of May and June this year. Permit me to appreciate the Pakistan military for the strong synergy that exists between Nigerian and Pakistani Armed Forces. Let me also appreciate the Chief of the Air Staff of the





Pakistan Air force; Air Chief Marshall Mujahid Anwar Khan for inviting a Nigeria National Ms Adedayo Akinbode to participate in the just concluded Highest Altitude Road Marathon Khunjrab Pakistan 2019, the highest road race ever undertaken by any Air Force in the world. This is one of the many ways the bond of friendship between Pakistan and Nigeria would continue to be strengthened through sporting activities. We are indeed very grateful.

Before I conclude, I wish to thank our Chief Guest; the Hon Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs H.E Muhammad Azam Khan Swati and all excellencies, diplomats and distinguished guests for finding time to be with us tonight, despite your busy schedule. Let me equally appreciate the staff of my embassy for their efforts at ensuring the success of this event. Our appreciation also goes to the management and staff of Serena hotels for their support. Let me affirm that Nigeria will remain a true friend and partner of Pakistan. I thank you all for sharing the celebration of Nigeria's Independence Anniversary and the long lasting friendship between our countries.

Zindabad the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!!

Zindabad the Islamic Republic of Pakistan!!!



High Commissioner of Nigeria to Pakistan

Major General (R) Ashimiyu Adebayo Olaniyi, OON, mni

Meetings with High Dignitaries



High Commissioner of Nigeria to Pakistan Major General (R) Ashimiyu Adebayo Olaniyi, OON, mni called on Federal Minister of National Food Security and Research H.E. Sahibzada Muhammad Mehboob Sultan.



High Commissioner of Nigeria to Pakistan Major General (R) Ashimiyu Adebayo Olaniyi, OON, mni called on Minister of Defence Production Mrs. Zubaida Jalal.



High Commissioner of Nigeria to Pakistan Major General (R) Ashimiyu Adebayo Olaniyi, OON, mni called on Mayor of Islamabad H.E. Sheikh Ansar Aziz.



Gujranwala: Nigerian High Commissioner Group photo at the visit of Executive FBCCI Mian Umar Saleem factory.



Nigerian Air Chief lauds glorious history of Pakistan Air Force

Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan met the Nigerian military command during his visit to Nigeria.

On arrival at Nigerian Air Force Headquarters, he was received by Chief of Air Staff Nigerian Air Force Air Marshal SB Abubakar. He was presented Guard of Honour by a smartly turned out contingent of the Nigerian Air Force.

Later, the Air Chief called on his counterpart in his office. During the meeting, the Air Chief said that the excellent mutual cooperation has always been a matter of pride for both countries.

The Nigerian Air Chief lauded the glorious history of Pakistan Air Force and also acknowledged the endeavors made by PAF in modernization and indigenization of its fleet in recent years. Both the dignitaries discussed ways and means to further enhance and continue exemplary mutual cooperation between the two air forces.

Later in the day, the Air Chief met Minister of Defence Major General (Retd) Bashir Salihi Magashi and Commander National Air Defence Corps Air Commodore BR Mamman.

Various matters of bilateral cooperation were discussed during these meetings.



PAF CAS and his Nigerian counterpart exchange gifts during the reception at NAF Headquarters.



PAF CAS being presented with a souvenir by the Nigerian Minister of Defence, Maj Gen Bashir Magashi (rtd) during a courtesy visit.



Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Khan, PAF CAS laid a wreath at the NAF Memorial of officers and men who died during operations.



Air Chief Marshal Mujahid arrives the NAF Headquarters and inspects a Quarter Guard mounted in his honour.



The PAF CAS interacts with Nigerian media during his visit.



The Pakistani delegation receiving a briefing at NAF Strategic Operations Room during the visit.



PAF CAS and his Nigerian counterpart exchange gifts during the reception at NAF Headquarters.

CHIEF OF THE NAVAL STAFF

ADMIRAL ZAFAR MAHMOOD ABBASI MEETS

NIGERIA'S CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF, NAVAL CHIEF

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi is on an official visit to Nigeria. During the visit, the Naval Chief called on Nigeria's Chief of Defence Staff, Chief of Naval Staff and also visited various Nigerian Naval facilities including training units.

Upon his arrival at Naval Headquarters in Abuja, the Admiral was received by Chief of the Naval Staff Nigerian Navy, Vice Admiral Ibok-Ete Ekwe Ibas. A ceremonial Guard of Honour was also presented to the Naval Chief at the occasion. During the meeting, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi dilated upon matters of mutual interest and bilateral naval collaboration. The Naval Chief highlighted Pakistan Navy's efforts for ensuring maritime security and peace in the region through Regional Maritime Security Patrols and participation in combined maritime forces (CMF). Naval Chief also thanked Vice Admiral Ibok-Ete Ekwe Ibas for participation of Nigerian Navy Delegation/ Special Forces Team in recently conducted Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN-19 at Karachi. He also underscored the importance of further enhancing the interaction between both the navies through port calls, bilateral naval exercises and training exchange programmes.

Chief of the Nigerian Navy acknowledged the significance of strong bilateral naval association in diverse realms between both the navies. He also highly appreciated and acknowledged Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitment in

support of collaborative maritime security and successful conduct of Exercise AMAN-19.

Earlier, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi also called on Nigeria's Chief of Defence Staff, General Abayomi Gabriel Olonisakin. During the meeting, professional matters of mutual interest and bilateral defence ties were pondered upon. General Abayomi acknowledged and highly appreciated the role and contributions of Pakistan in spearheading various initiatives for maintaining peace and stability in the region. Both the dignitaries agreed on further enhancing the collaboration between both the countries in the fields of training and other defence matters.

The Naval Chief also visited Nigerian Navy's Western Naval Command (WNC) and Nigerian Navy Ship QUORRA where the Naval Chief was given a ceremonial Guard of Honour upon his arrival. He also witnessed the maritime surveillance system. Later, the Admiral also visited Naval Dockyard where he was given detailed briefings on various aspects of the operational activities of the command.

It is expected that the recent visit of the Naval Chief will further augment and expand defence ties between the two countries in general and Armed Forces in particular.

Director General Public Relations (Navy)



Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi alongwith Nigerian Chief of Defence Staff, General Abayomi Gabriel Olonisakin, and Chief of the Naval Staff Nigerian Navy, Vice Admiral Ibok-Ete Ekwe Ibas, during his official visit at Nigeria



Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi being received by Chief of the Naval Staff Nigerian Navy, Vice Admiral Ibok-Ete Ekwe Ibas, on his arrival at Nigerian Naval Headquarters at Abuja



Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi inspecting Guard of Honour on his arrival at Nigerian Naval Headquarters at Abuja.



Nigeria at 59

Since its independence on October 1st 1960, Nigeria has established meaningful niche within the region of West Africa and the continent of Africa at large. Even with its own political issues, Nigeria has never retreated from demonstrating its political, diplomatic, strategic and economic clouts. The country has long been regarded as the giant of Africa, a recognition that remains factual.

Since independence, Nigeria has experimented with different forms of government. It is one of those nations that experienced a protracted military rule. Following decades of military rule, Nigerians embraced the return of democracy in 1999 with an unblemished enthusiasm and expectations. The ripple effects of the new political dawn transcended the shore of Nigeria. The country did not simply re-established democratic norms and structures domestically, it has equally regained her political position within the comity of democratic states. Since



1999, the Nigerian polity has proven beyond reasonable doubt that democracy has come to stay and its root can be effectively entrenched. Over the last two decades, Nigeria's democratic dispensation has recorded relative transition of power from one democratic government to another. The current administration of President Muhammadu Buhari underscores the smooth and democratic transition of power in Nigeria.

Amidst all odds, the dividends of democracy are being enjoyed by the Nigerian citizenry in different forms. Being a multicultural society, the polity politically embraces and celebrates democratic pluralism. With her multiple party system, sizable number of the populace have confidently expressed in the past and still expressing their political freedom as characterised by (representative, participatory, and deliberative) models of democratic pluralism. The country does not pretend its democracy is flawless or pristine; like every other democracy, there are things to fixed and rectified.

Nigeria recently held its national elections in 2019, for the sixth consecutive time since its return to democracy in 1999. The incumbent president, Muhammadu Buhari won the elections and has been sworn for the second term. He has identified fighting corruption, increasing security, tackling unemployment, diversifying the economy, enhancing climate resilience, and boosting the living standards of Nigerians as main policy priorities his government seeks to continue to pursue in his second term up till 2023. Nigeria's federated structure gives significant autonomy to states.

As a key regional player in West Africa, with a population of approximately 197 million, Nigeria accounts for about 47% of West Africa's population, and has one of the largest populations of youth in the world. A federation that consists of 36 autonomous states, Nigeria is a multi-ethnic and culturally diverse society. With an abundance of resources, it is Africa's biggest oil exporter, and also has the largest natural gas reserves on the continent.

Economy achievements

Since independence, the bulk of Nigeria economy relied heavily on the oil sector, even though, Nigeria as a country is agriculturally endowed with arable lands, productive enough to becoming the food basket of the entire Africa continent. Over the period of time, the country has made significant, laudable, and remarkable achievements. It surpassed South Africa has the largest economy in Africa, by an estimate of \$510 Billion (GDP) as far back as 2013, it was \$568 in 2014 and owing to a brief economic recession, it now stands at 397.30 billion US dollars in 2018. It is important to note that through a well calibrated financial strategy, Nigeria made a quick transition out of the recession. The economy continued to show





signs of recovery from the 2016 recession. GDP growth was estimated at 0.8% in 2017, up from -1.5% in 2016. The outlook beyond is positive, with growth projected at 2.1% in 2018 and 2.5% in 2019.

Nigeria like many on the bracket of the global South, is a middle-income, mixed economy and emerging market, with expanding manufacturing, financial, service, communications, technology and entertainment sectors. Between 2006 and 2016, Nigeria's gross domestic product (GDP) grew at an average rate of 5.7% per year, as volatile oil prices drove growth to a high of 8% in 2006 and to a low of -1.5% in 2016. While Nigeria's economy has performed much better in recent years than it did during previous boom-bust oil-price cycles, such as in the late 1970s or mid-1980s, oil prices continue to dominate the country's growth pattern. Moreover, the volatility of Nigeria's growth continues to impose substantial welfare costs on Nigerian households. The onset of the oil price shock in mid-2014 confronted the government with the pivotal challenge of building an institutional and policy framework capable of managing the volatility of the oil sector and supporting the sustained growth of the non-oil economy.

Nigeria emerged from recession in 2017, with a growth rate of 0.8%, driven mainly by the oil sector. Growth was higher in 2018 (at 1.9%) and more broad-based; however, it still fell below the population growth rate, government projections and pre-recession levels. The oil and gas sector reverted to contraction from the second quarter of the year and the non-oil economy was thus the main driver of growth in 2018. While agriculture slowed down significantly due to conflict and weather events, non-oil, non-agricultural growth, which remained negative up to the third quarter of 2017 strengthened through 2018 - but remained weak - with services (primarily information and communications technology) resuming as the key driver.

Despite the huge focus on the oil sector, non-oil sector like the agricultural sector remains an important economic driving force. Beyond fighting the menace of corruption, the incumbent president, Muhammadu Buhari has dedicated considerable energy towards revamping the once glorified Nigerian agricultural sector. Agricultural sector remains a defining and important source of revenue for Nigeria. The Nigerian Bureau of Statistics reports that agriculture in Nigeria contributes 19.11% to the nominal GDP during the quarter of 2019, roughly 23% of the entire revenue. It is almost similar for Pakistan; as same sector contributes 24% of the GDP. While Nigeria is rich and ranked amongst the top five producers of highly demanded cash crops, which includes cassava, cashew nuts, sesame seed, palm oil and cocoa, whilst, Pakistan is ranked as the

11th rice producer and standing amongst the world's top eight producers of wheat, cotton, sugarcane, mangoes and kinnow oranges. Such outstanding agricultural feats is commendable for the two nations, despite being bracketed as part of the global south. The Muhammadu Buhari administration has garnered and demonstrated serious effort to making Nigeria a rice self-producing country, saving lot of foreign exchange.

While there is no denying that pragmatic economic policy defines a country, over the years, the Muhammadu Buhari administration has demonstrated the capacity for such pragmatism. Swift focus on macroeconomic and structural reform priorities articulated in the country's Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP 2017-2020) by the renewed government administration and acceleration of their implementation could and will immediately promote needed economic resilience and can be expected to strengthen growth further than current projections.

Areas of further Cooperation in Nigeria-Pakistan relations Nigeria-Pakistan relations is as old as the Nigeria. Relations between the two countries are multifaceted and broad in spectrum. Over the last many years, the two countries have indisputable and significant defense and strategic cooperation. However, cooperation in the realm of trade and commercial remain relatively untapped and far below the market capacity of the two countries. This is also true for joint research tailored at navigating and launching their economies into the creative and knowledge based economy.

First, the Nigerian economy is an important gateway to African economies. The investment friendly policy of the previous and incumbent Nigerian administrations must be tapped by any investor, who knows the worth of investing in a rich and endowed country like Nigeria. The Nigerian government warmly and generally welcomes global investors and particularly Pakistani investors to invest and benefit from Nigeria's competitive and rich cash crops, namely cassava, cashew nuts, sesame seed, palm oil and cocoa respectively. Mutual cooperation between Nigeria and Pakistan in the field of agriculture should not simply generate economic and financial dividends, it will instrumentally contribute to fighting the menace of hunger, an important aspect of the SDGs.

Second, while the world is striving to secure alternative energy source, renewable energy; petroleum by and large remains the most important energy, for both domestic and industrial use. Nigeria is an oil giant, not just in Africa, but the world over. The Nigerian government is happily ready to supply Pakistan her petroleum on mutual convenient and affordable price. While Nigeria supports Pakistan with petroleum supply, Pakistan on

the other end, can share her professional skill in LNG distribution with Nigeria. This will help the latter in appropriating better utility of her LNG, through her technology.

Interestingly, the two countries share almost similar population size, while Pakistan's population is approximated around 220 million. The Nigerian Bureau of Statistics 2016 report, estimates the Nigerian population to 194 million. The figure is both significant for African market and for any nation seeking market opportunity in Nigeria. Nigeria is one of the largest users of the GSM technology in Africa and having the largest internet users, which is estimated to more than 111.6 million by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC). Nigeria presents foreign investors, especially Pakistani investors, desirous to harness the Nigerian booming ICT sector.

Fourth, Nigeria-Pakistan chambers of commerce and industries are not simply encouraged to organise joint commercial fairs, but should also create the platform, through which the business communities of the two countries can further understand their respective business ethics and culture, and could mutually find ways in surmounting both administrative and commercial bottlenecks imperilling deeper trade and commerce between the two.

Both Nigeria and Pakistan share commonality in terms of large population, with that, the health concerns in both countries cannot be understated. It is imperative for both countries to move their trading relations in pharmaceutical products to the next level. Through the chambers of commerce and industries, the pharmaceutical companies of both countries should hold pharmaceutical fairs, such platform will create more connection, expose the pharmaceutical business communities to each other and conditioned the possibility on how best to craft a mutually benefiting relations.

Fifth, the two countries have the potential to further consolidate and cement their relations in the area of education. History remains indelible of the educational connection between the two, in terms of students and faculty development. If the future of the increasing globalised world rests on what is generally dubbed as knowledge and creative economy, there is no harm for the two countries to further strengthen ties in the regard. Faculty exchange and joint research will be useful and meaningful exercise that will not only pull together the human and intellectual ability of the two nations, it will also create a bilateral, if not cross-continental pool of idea and knowledge.

Najimdeen Bakare

Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS)

National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) Islamabad

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Dinner reception hosted by Ambassador of Republic of Egypt

Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt H.E. Mr. Ahmed Fadel Yacoub and Mrs. Ghada Yacoub hosted dinner Reception at their residence. H.E. Mr. & Mrs. welcomed the guest. The event was graced by members of Diplomatic Community, Civil society, Government officials, high dignitaries and media persons also graced the occasion.





“Our vision is: A place for everyone to suit their budget and lifestyle in any vicinity of their choice.”

Exclusive Interview by Mian Fazal Elahi

Interview of Mr. S. A. Waheed CEO of Saeed Property Centre (Pvt.) Ltd

Photo by Ramzan Mughal

How long have you been in the Real Estate Business?

M/s Saeed Property Centre (Pvt.) Ltd previously. (operated in the name of Saeed Property Centre) is operating in the real estate sector since 1973. The business was envisioned and formed under the leadership and guidance of its Pioneer Sheikh Muhammad Saeed (Late) in 1973, and has been since engaged in selling, renting, leasing, renovation, constructing and management of properties and other buildings along with provision of marketing services, in Islamabad. After the death of Sheikh Muhammad Saeed, 1990 his worthy son Sheikh Abdul Waheed (S.A. Waheed) took over the business and continued the legacy of his father.

Mr. Sheikh Abdul Waheed
CEO Saeed Property Center (PVT.) Limited



What are the vision and mission of

Saeed Property Centre (Pvt.) Ltd?

"Our vision is: A place for everyone to suit their budget and lifestyle in any vicinity of their choice."

Our mission ahead is to provide esteemed services in the field of Real Estate Business to our honorable clients based on honest dealings of our business. Provide guidance and consultations to our clients to acquire best results to satisfy their needs pertaining to Tenancy, Purchase, Sale of Residential and Commercial Properties. Put in sincere efforts, for providing affordable hiring and transfer of residential and commercial spaces, in the vicinity of their choice.

What are the main services you provide to your clients?

Saeed Property Centre (Pvt.) Limited offers its clients either tenants and landlords or buyer and purchaser a personalized service to meet their individual requirements. Our Sales Division aims to make the buying and selling of properties as simple and as effortless as possible. Our Consultants utilizing our large database of available properties and with their combined experience assist the first time buyer and investor alike, to find the ideal property. We have developed a fully comprehensive database for 'freehold' properties in the Pakistan.

What are the major steps you have taken to convert Real estate business into corporate entity?

I contributed to the Real Estate Business with great zeal and zoom and in 2005 converted the business into a Corporate Entity. The Company, since its inception is being run by the second generation of the family, from its Registered Office situated at Super Market, F-6 Markaz, and Islamabad. The Company has four directors who manage the operations and state of affairs of the Company.

The Company is composed of highly educated, professionally sound and sincere staff. The company has not only extended its loyal services to its local clients, but also welcomed and accommodated Honorable guests of Diplomatic Missions, Consulates and Foreign Embassies into the list of its prestigious clients and have duly provided supreme services to them in the real estate sector.

What are the major projects running under the umbrella of Saeed Property Centre (Pvt.) Ltd in which areas of Islamabad?

By the grace of Almighty Allah, under the dynamic leadership and experienced umbrella of Mr. S. A. Waheed Chief Executive, M/s Saeed Property Centre (Pvt.) Ltd, has extended and opened a new Branch Office in Markaz G-15, to facilitate the public and Business community in the field of Real Estate, particularly covering G-15, F-15, F-16 and G-16 Sectors of Islamabad

Capital Territory, where purchasing of plots is most affordable for common public in comparison to other Sectors of Islamabad.

It is a matter of great pride for the Chief Executive that presently the THIRD GENERATION of the family has also joined in the family business, working in the footsteps of their fore-fathers.

What are the major achievements as a CEO of Saeed Property Centre (Pvt.) Ltd?

I am thankful to my God who is blessing me and my company with great successes in my life. I became Vice President Islamabad Chamber Of Commerce & Industry for the year 2015-2016. Received the 4th FPCCI Achievement Award & Medal on the outstanding performance in the field of Real Estate Business from Honorable President of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Mamnoon Hussain in the year 2015. Best Real Estate-man Award Winner for 1994 given by Federal Minister of Pakistan Mr. Iqbal Haider. Executive Member of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry for 2014-2016. Best Real Estate Award for 2000 Given by Finance Minister of Pakistan Mr. Shoukat Aziz. Member of General Body in the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry for 2001-2002. Member of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry Standing Committee on Diplomatic Affairs for 2001-2002. Vice Chairman Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry Diplomatic Standing Committee for 2002-2004 and many more.

Saeed Property Centre (Pvt.) Ltd consider one of the oldest name in real estate sector and uniqueness is that your three generations are involve in it how you see the future after the participation of young blood in your company?

Mr. Tayyab Saeed, Grand-son of the Founder Sheikh Muhammad Saeed (Late), has joined the Real Estate Business after completing his education in Commerce and is performing as Incharge of New Set-up of Saeed Property Centre (Pvt.) Ltd, established in G-15 Markaz, in addition Mr. Waleed Saeed, is the younger grand-son of the Founder Sheikh Muhammad Saeed (Late), he had joined the Real Estate Business while continuing his studies in the discipline of law. He had performing his duties

as director administration and looked over the Head Office of Saeed Property Centre (Pvt.) Ltd.

They are well educated and loyal to work in the field of Real Estate Business. The Management and Board of Directors of Saeed Property Centre (Pvt.) Ltd Islamabad are happy to see that Mr. Tayyab Saeed and Mr. Waleed Saeed has fulfilled the expectation of the management and are moving in the right direction to achieve self-actualization.

How do you see the future of Real Estate business?

The future of a Real estate is as bright as any other business or may be even more. There are a few setbacks currently but the future is bright. The new era of colonization has began and recent decisions by the authorities and courts have favored such i-e the construction of multistorie buildings and the most recently, Pakistan being placed amongst the Ten most easiest places to start business and how can anyone forger CPEC. So as the Capital of Pakistan Islamabad is ever changing in infrastructure. That being the reason. I see the great future for real estate in Islamabad.

What are the top three things that separate you from your Competitors?

The three things that makes us separate are our.

1. Vast Experience. From 1973, we are in this business and still is going
2. Quality Assurance Services. We never compromise and provide the best services.
3. After Services. Our relation doesn't end only after our service has been fulfilled. We are in contact with our clients throughout and provide services such as being a bridge in relations, extension of period of lease and others etc.

What advise you would like to give to those who are new in real estate business?

"If you're early, you're on time. If you're on time, you're late. Timing is everything in today's market to be successful. Hence punctuality is the virtue of a successful man."



Egypt embassy celebrates 46th anniversary of Great October War Victory Defence Day

Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt on Monday hosted a reception to mark 46th anniversary of the historic October 6, 1973 war— Great October War Victory— when combined Egyptian military forces launched a surprise attack on Israel and crossed into the Sinai Peninsula and regained much of their land lost in 1967 war.

Every year, the anniversary is celebrated with pride, jubilation and sense of fulfillment as the great October war restored Egyptian people's trust in their armed forces. Ambassador of Egypt Ahmed Fadel Yacoub and the Egyptian defence attaché Col Adham Elhosary received the guests of the Armed Forces Day reception. Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff was the chief guest while foreign defence attaches, ambassadors and high commissioners and DCMs of various missions attended the reception in good number. Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan while congratulating the Egyptian ambassador, the defence attaché and

the Egyptian nationals on the historic occasion said Pakistan-Egypt relations traced their origin back to the days when Founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah visited Egypt in 1946 prior to establishment of Pakistan and met Grand Mufti of Al-Azhar Mosque.

Egypt was among the first countries that recognized Pakistan in 1948, he said adding "Egypt is a major power of Africa and has great potential in tourism, trade and military-to-military cooperation with Pakistan." Pakistan and Egypt he said had always supported each other and believe in peace, progress and prosperity. The two countries stand by each other in difficult times and bilateral relations between the two countries are based on mutual trust, said the air chief. While thanking the guests Defence Attaché Col Adham Elhosary said both Pakistan and Egypt possessed professional armed forces that are characterized by their high discipline and professional performance. He said military cooperation between the two countries had the

highest degree based on established principles of diligent care and full transparency. While speaking on the Great October War Victory of 1973, the defence attaché said it demonstrated exceptional planning, preparation and the strategic deception operation.

"Crossing the Suez Canal and storming into the impenetrable Bar-Lev line were indeed a military miracle by all accounts, which are presently taught in the best military institutes," said he.

He emphasized that the October war was fought for ensuring peace. It was a crossing from despair to hope and from setback to victory. Throughout history, the Egyptian armed forces have been an invincible fortress that made Egypt a graveyard for invader, said Col Adham. A documentary on Great October War Victory was also screened on the occasion displaying Egyptian forces' skills, alertness and dedication and cake was also cut to mark the event. National anthems of both the countries were also played on the occasion.





Defence Day of Romania Celebrated in Islamabad

Ambassador of Romania in Pakistan H.E. Mr. Nicolae Goia and Defence Attaché of Romania Col. Leonard Veza celebrated Romanian Armed Forces Day at Marriott Hotel Islamabad. Special Assistant to Prime Minister Sayed Zulfikar Bukhari was the chief guest on the occasion. Members from diplomatic community, High dignitaries, Government officials and media persons also graced the occasion.



A Dynamic Exhibition

Satrang Gallery is honored to open a unique solo exhibition , “Scapes From Far and Beyond” by the Internationally acclaimed artist ,Bashir Makhoul. Makhoul is a Palestinian artist born in Galilee. He has been based in the United Kingdom for the past thirty years. His body of work is built on repeated motifs, which are rooted in war, nationalism, economics, and torture. Once immersed in these paintings, the viewers can witness something that is far more complicated than beautifully painted motifs.



Climate Diplomacy Day to be marked in Islamabad

By Staff Reporter

The European Union Delegation to Pakistan and World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan will jointly mark the Climate Diplomacy Day here today (Sunday) to highlight the adverse impacts of climate change and seek positive actions. Meant to encourage informed debate on climate change, the event will bring together people from diverse backgrounds to become part of the exchanges taking place worldwide. It will also encourage reflection on curtailing greenhouse emissions and promote a transition to low carbon economies while ensuring equitable access to sustainable development.

At the event, ambassador-designate of the European Union to Pakistan Androulla Kaminara, advisor to the prime minister on climate change Malik Amin Aslam and senior director (programmes) at WWF-Pakistan Rab Nawaz will talk about global climate change challenges, especially in the perspective of Pakistan. More than 250 cyclists will participate in the event that will kick off with cycling from the Pakistan National Council of the Arts on a designated route. The symbolic gesture will raise awareness about the need to curtail the growth of greenhouse emissions by promoting eco-friendly modes of transportation.

To discuss the impacts of climate change

and bring forth practical solutions, a speech competition will also be held on the theme 'Youth for Climate Action' amongst students. Each year, the European Union around the world celebrates Climate Diplomacy Day with events held globally to highlight climate action in the EU and beyond.

Conferences, citizens' debates, exhibitions, films, and social media activities aim to encourage informed debate and a joint response to the climate challenge. These events build on the momentum of the Paris Agreement - the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal agreed in Paris in December 2015.



62nd National Day of Malaysia celebrated in Islamabad

High Commissioner of Malaysia Ikram Muhammad Ibrahim hosted a reception to celebrate 62nd National Day of Malaysia. Federal Minister for Planning Khusr

Bakhtiar was the chief guest while ambassadors of ASEAN countries and members of diplomatic corps attended the reception. A large number of Pakistanis including members of civil society

and business community also remained conspicuous with their presence.



Ambassador Zaheer A. Janjua presents Credential to President of the European Council



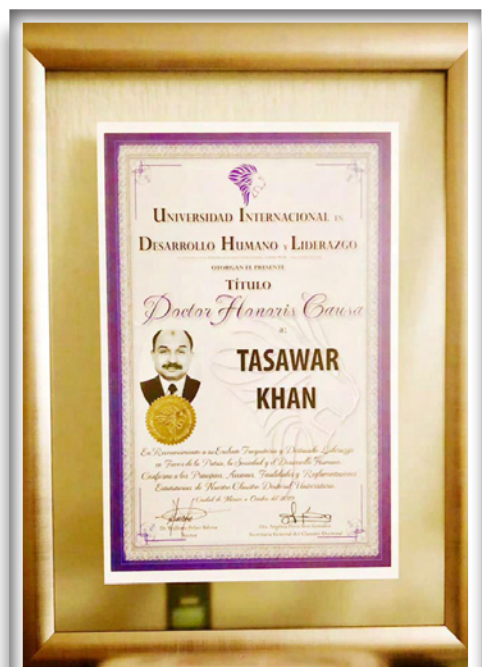
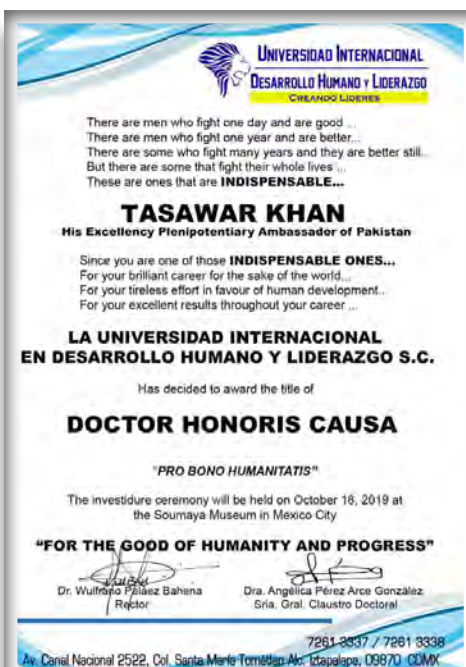
By M. Muzamil Mann

Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union Zaheer A. Janjua presented credentials for the European Union and European Atomic Energy Community, to the President of European Council Mr. Donald Tusk in Brussels. Ambassador Janjua conveyed greetings and best wishes from the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan. President Tusk reciprocated and extended best wishes for the welfare and prosperity of the people of Pakistan. During his separate meeting with President Tusk, Ambassador Janjua stated that "Pakistan highly values its relationship with the European Union and considered it a strategic partner". He added that relationship between the two sides will further strengthen under the framework of all-encompassing Pakistan-EU Strategic Engagement Plan. The Ambassador also briefed President Tusk on the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJ&K). He urged the EU to take a strong position and impress upon Indian to improve the situation in IOJ&K. The threats to regional peace and stability posed by Indian actions were also highlighted. Developments related to the Afghan Peace Process were also discussed.





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H.E. Ambassador Tasawar Khan



Turkey's Republic Day celebrated in Pakistan

The Turkish embassy in Islamabad hosted a reception Tuesday evening marking the 96th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Turkey.

Pakistan's Minister for Power and Petroleum Omar Ayub Khan was the chief guest at the occasion along with diplomats, parliamentarians, civil and military officials, businesspeople and religious scholars.

The national anthems of Turkey and Pakistan were played and a cake was also served for the occasion.

"On behalf of the people and government of Pakistan, I congratulate the Turkish people and government on this historic day," Khan said.

"Turkey and its great people will always carry a special place in our hearts as we share a common religion, heritage and culture, and our hearts and emotions are one.

"What Turkey has achieved, we Pakistanis are proud of it," he added.

Turkey's Ambassador to Pakistan Mustafa Yurdakul welcomed and thanked the guests.

He also read out a message from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan calling the day a significant milestone in the glorious history of the Turkish nation.

"Today, we are proud and happy to commemorate the proclamation of our Republic

and pay tribute to the architects of modern Turkey, notably Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founder of the Republic of Turkey. Our unwavering commitment to maintain a democratic, secular and prosperous country goes on unabated," Yurdakul said while addressing the gathering.

"Pakistan holds a special place for Turkey and Turkish diplomacy. Throughout history, our nations have always been with each other through thick and thin and have never denied their mutual support," he added. The Turkish ambassador assured that Turkey will continue to stand side by side with the people of Pakistan in any time of need in the future as well.





Satrang Gallery is delighted to showcase “Hidden In Plain Sight”

Satrang Gallery is delighted to showcase “Hidden In Plain Sight”, a beautiful new exhibition of works by Aliya Husain Ahmad and Mohsin Shaikh.

“Hidden In Plain Sight” showcases Mohsin’s heavily detailed, large scale paintings juxtaposed with Aliya’s small scale yet vibrant ceramics. Regardless of the conventional mediums both artists have executed their

ideas in a personal yet unorthodox manner.

Mohsin’s intricate paintings create the illusion of a chalkboard and brick walls. This nostalgic and familiar imagery is embellished with different motifs and animal figures representing important moments in his life. His strength lies in providing an experience where the work is far more than what it appears to be.

Aliya’s style revolves around storytelling and high spirited visuals. The sculptural aspect of the forms opens up to endless possibility of creativity hence each work narrates a different story. Her fanciful imagination, visualized through ceramics, provides an immersive experience for the viewers. Aliya also addresses the importance of functionality balanced alongside aesthetics by using glazes which are edible.





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Founder
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