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**"Deep concerned" at heightened tensions between India and Pakistan over the disputed region of Indian Occupied Kashmir: UNSG Antonio Guterres**

**H.E. Antonio Guterres**

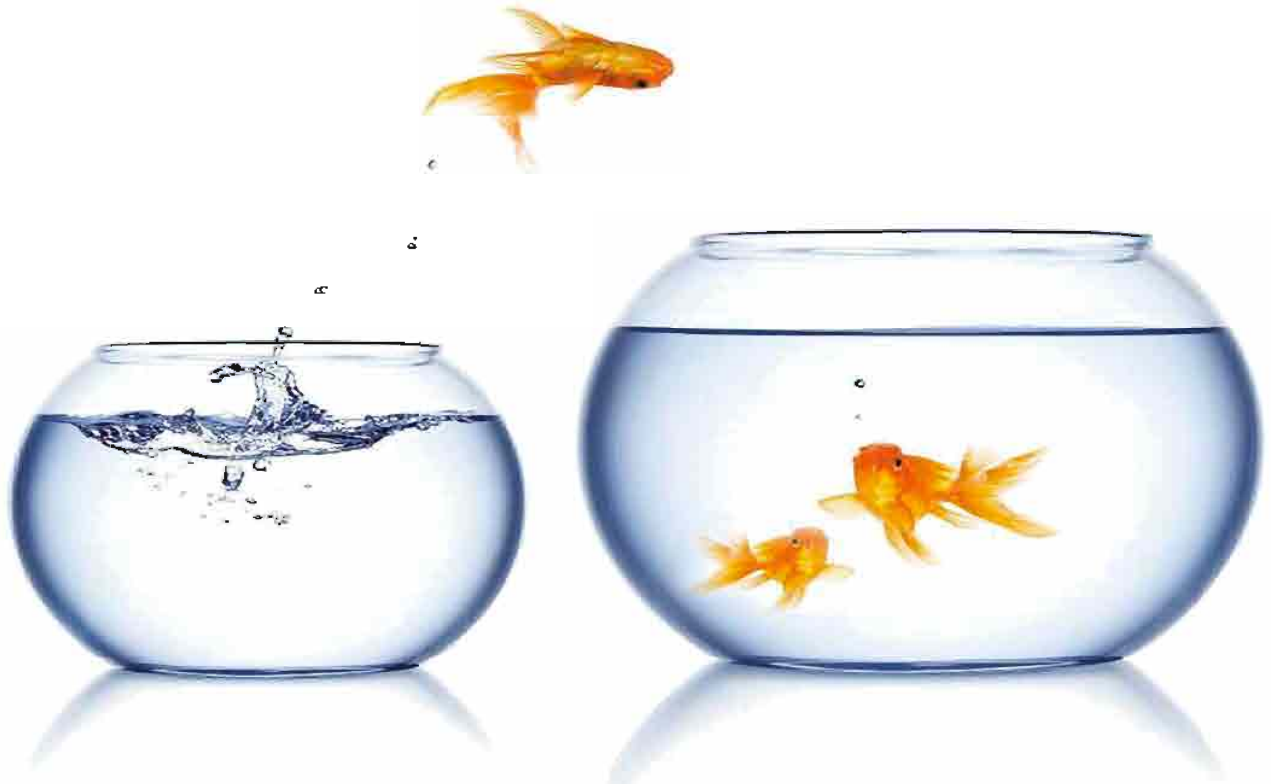
United Nations Secretary General

with

**H.E. Shah Mahmood Qureshi**

Foreign Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan

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سمٹ بینک میں ہم انتہائی پر عزم ہیں کہ ہم وہ سب کچھ کریں جو ہمارے قابل احترام صارفین کے لئے بہتر ہے۔ ہمارے بنیادی فلسفہ خدمت، سچائی، اعتماد اور استحکام کے ساتھ ہم نے انتہائی قلیل وقت میں دو علیحدہ علیحدہ بینکوں کو ایک کاروبار میں تبدیل کر دیا ہے۔ مائی بینک کا انضمام ایک حقیقت کاروبار و حمار چکا ہے اور اب ہم یکم جولائی 2011ء سے ایک بینک ہیں کیونکہ ہم نے کیا ہے آپ سے عہد جدت طراز پراڈکٹس اور سروسز کا جو آپ حاصل کر سکتے ہیں ہماری 165 شاخوں کے وسیع تر ملک گیر نیٹ ورک کے ذریعے۔

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| 10 | <b>President Dr. Arif Alvi and Turkish President H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan reaffirm historic Pakistan-Turkey relationship</b> | President of Turkey, H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, met with President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi at the Presidency. President Erdogan is visiting Pakistan for the 6th Session of High Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC). The President of Pakistan, extending a warm welcome to President Erdogan, expressed gratification over the level of enhanced and multifaceted engagement between the two countries.                                     |
| 18 | <b>Prime Minister Imran Khan appreciated Japan's role as an important development partner</b>                                 | The President of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Mr. Shinichi Kitaoka, called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. The President of JICA briefed the Prime Minister on JICA's economic and technical assistance to Pakistan. He highlighted JICA's particular focus on health and education sectors.  |
| 26 | <b>World should 'look at Pakistan through a wider frame': UN's Guterres</b>   | The United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres called on the President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi, at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. The President commended his dynamic leadership and passionate advocacy for refugees worldwide and hoped that his participation in the International Afghan Refugee Conference in Islamabad would help in renewed focus on this important matter.   |
| 34 | <b>Launching event of a book "Culinary Diplomacy, Sharing Recipes &amp; Building Bridges"</b>                                 | The wives of 50 foreign envoys in Islamabad launched a joint cookbook in which they share recipes for both good food and well-cooked international relations. Titled "Culinary Diplomacy: Sharing Recipes, Building Bridges," the book "is hard work of almost two years, in which 144 recipes were put together from 50 different countries of six continents," said Ghada Ahmed, wife of the Egyptian ambassador and president of the spouses' group. |
| 37 | <b>The pivotal role played by Pakistan for US-Taliban deal: Qureshi</b>   | Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi highlighted the pivotal role played by Pakistan in hammering out a peace deal between the United States and the Afghan Taliban scheduled to be signed on Feb 29.  |

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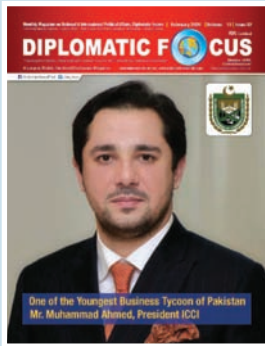
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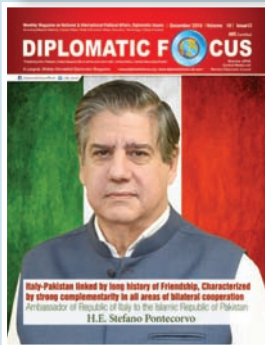
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Mian Fazal Elahi

Riot police patrolled the streets of India's capital and the city's leader called for a curfew following battles between Hindus and Muslims that claimed at least 20 lives. The two days of unrest which has seen clashes between mobs armed with swords and guns - is the worst sectarian violence seen in Delhi in decades. The clashes come amid worsening religious tensions following a citizenship law that critics say is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist agenda. Delhi's chief minister, Arvind Kejriwal, called for the army to be deployed and for a curfew to be imposed over flashpoint northeastern districts. "Police, despite all its efforts, (are) unable to control situation and instil confidence," Kejriwal tweeted. "Army (should) be called in and curfew imposed." The clashes began between people supporting and opposing the citizenship law, and then descended into pitched battles between the mobs. Twenty people died and nearly 200 others were wounded in the first two days of violence, the director of the hospital where people were taken told. Security personnel patrol on street following clashes in New Delhi. Sixty people had suffered gunshot wounds, according to the director, Sunil Kumar. Media reported people cleaning out the blackened and trashed interior of a mosque in the Ashok Nagar area burned out during the violence. A video circulated on social media verified showed men ripping off the muezzin's loudspeaker on top of the mosque's minaret and placing a Hindu religious flag and an Indian flag. The new citizenship law has raised worries abroad that Modi wants to remould secular India into a Hindu nation while marginalizing the country's 200 million Muslims. The law expedites the citizenship applications for persecuted minorities from India's three Muslim-majority neighboring countries, but not if they are Muslim. The flare-up in violence occurred as US President Donald Trump visited India and held talks with Modi in Delhi .

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

### Important Announcement



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

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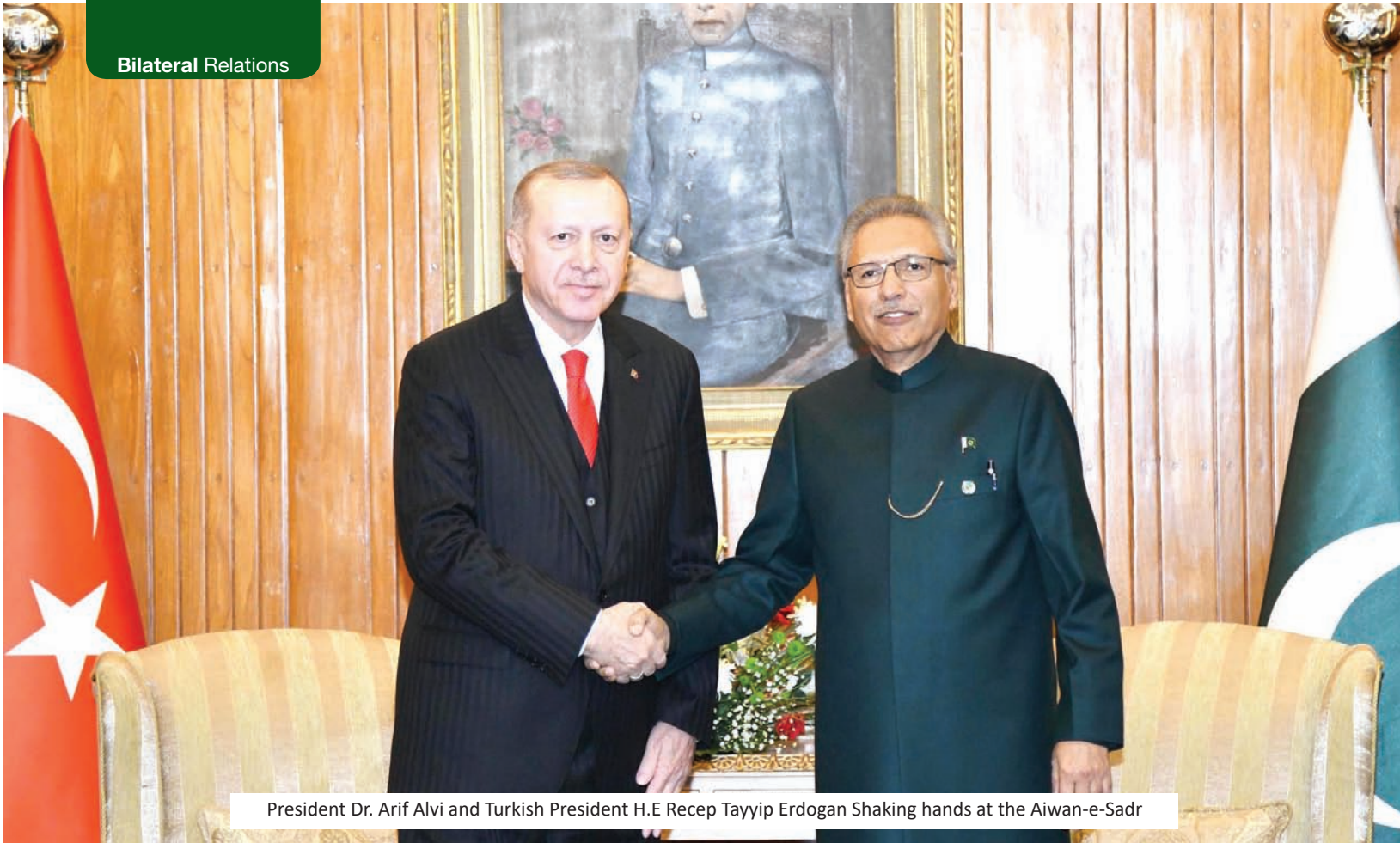
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President Dr. Arif Alvi and Turkish President H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan Shaking hands at the Aiwan-e-Sadr

## President Dr. Arif Alvi and Turkish President H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan reaffirm historic Pakistan-Turkey relationship

**By Mian Fazal Elahi/Monitoring Desk**

President of Turkey, H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, met with President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi at the Presidency. President Erdogan is visiting Pakistan for the 6th Session of High Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC). The President of Pakistan, extending a warm welcome to President Erdogan, expressed gratification over the level of enhanced and multifaceted engagement between the two countries. He added that the 6th Session of High Level Strategic Cooperation Council will further strengthen and broaden the fraternal relations between Pakistan and Turkey. Both leaders underlined the special significance of the historic bilateral relationship between the two countries in diverse areas including political, economic, cultural, defence and people-to-people contacts.

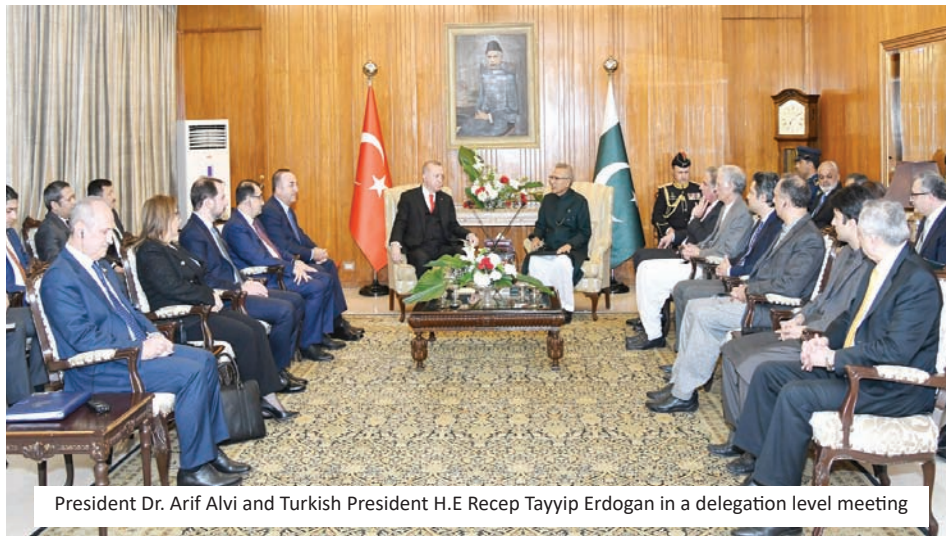
President Alvi apprised President Erdogan of the worsening human rights situation in the Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir and took the opportunity to thank the President Erdogan for his principled stand on Kashmir. The two leaders also exchanged views on regional and international issues. President Alvi highlighted Pakistan's efforts

for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan and stressed that the world community should extend its help in Afghanistan's post-conflict reconstruction.

The two Presidents also agreed that Pakistan and Turkey must continue to work closely to counter challenges facing the Ummah, including Islamophobia. The two leaders affirmed that both countries would continue to extend mutual support on issues of each other's core national interest.

They also underscored the importance of fully realizing the immense potential of relationship between Pakistan and Turkey and transforming it into a strong and dynamic trade and economic partnership. The President and First Lady later hosted a banquet in honour of President and Mrs. Erdogan and the entourage accompanying them.

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President Dr. Arif Alvi and Turkish President H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan in a delegation level meeting





President of Turkey H.E Recep Tayyip Erdogan is addressing the Joint Session of Parliament while Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser is presiding the Session in Parliament House

## Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan addresses the Parliament of Pakistan

**T**urkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan promised to proceed with his courageous help for Islamabad's position on Kashmir, contrasting it with Turkey's own noteworthy 1915 Gallipoli campaign and going the extent that expression that the predicament of the individuals of the Indian-occupied region implied as a lot to his nation as it did to Pakistan as the two nations marked a series of settlements to reinforce ties in different fields.

Tending to a joint session of the Pakistani parliament for a record fourth time, the Turkish head of state likewise promised to assist Islamabad with remaining off the boycott of the worldwide budgetary guard dog, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), at its gathering in Paris one week from now.

How might we overlook those [Pakistanis] who pray to God for Turkey? Our companionship depends on adoration and not personal stakes. Like previously, we will keep on supporting Pakistan later on, Erdogan said.

"Pakistan and Turkey's relations are outstanding for other people. The much-begrudged Turkey-Pakistan fellowship today, is a genuine fraternity, fortified by history and strengthened by authentic occasions," he included. "Transient interests, every day retributions can't frustrate our everlasting and endless fellowship." He reviewed that

Pakistan had constantly bolstered Turkey during troublesome occasions. "We can always remember this."

He brought up how the Muslims of the Subcontinent had supported Turkey during the Gallipoli crusade, otherwise called the Battle of Canakkale, in 1915 during World War I, bringing up a meeting held in Lahore drove by Allama Iqbal.

### Today, Kashmir for Turkey is Similar as it is for Pakistan

Citing a sonnet by Iqbal, which he said the incredible writer had recited so anyone can hear at the Lahore rally, The Turkish president stated: Like the artist of Lahore [Iqbal], the individuals [at the rally] were suffocating in these feelings. The individuals of Pakistan have consistently stood side by side with the individuals of Turkey," he noted.

Expounding on the episode, Erdogan said while Turkish warriors were shielding the Dardanelles Strait with a heavenly opposition in 1915, an assembly occurred in Lahore 6,000 kilometers from the front and

it was "recorded on the exceptional pages of history".

"The subject of this verifiable assembly in Lahore Square was Canakkale. On that day, Lahore Square was jam-stuffed with Muslims as we were attempting to endure and our siblings and sisters here [Subcontinent] were likewise under tension of the colonialists. Notwithstanding difficulties and dangers, they raised a gigantic foundation for Canakkale through the displays in the square." The Turkish president further said the occasions that occurred in Canakkale a hundred years back were being rehashed in Indian Occupied Kashmir and Turkey would keep on raising its voice against New Delhi's abuse.

"We can always remember the help of the Muslims of the Subcontinent during those occasions," he included. The Turkish president saw that the Kashmir issue couldn't be settled through clash yet through equity and reasonableness. "Such an answer will be in light of a legitimate concern for all gatherings. Turkey will keep on remaining by equity, harmony and discourse," he said.

"Our Kashmiri siblings and sisters have languished over decades and the offenses have gotten graver. We by and by showed our nation's affectability right now safeguarding Kashmir at the 74th United Nations General Assembly." Erdogan additionally expressed gratitude toward Pakistan for the benefit of the Turkish individuals for the help it had





President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan with Prime Minister Imran Khan, Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser and Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani

broadened when there were seismic tremors in his nation. Talking on reinforcing exchange ties with Pakistan, the Turkish president said the 'Vital Economic Framework' and 'Activity Plan' reports that Ankara was marking with Islamabad would cover a wide scope of businesses from exchange to foundation and from venture to the travel industry.

"[They] will comprise a guide for the two nations," he included.

"I have accompanied a designation of Turkish businesspeople. After supplications, they will have business conversations with Pakistani partners." The Turkish president noticed that Islamabad was confronting political weight from its faultfinders at the up and coming FATF meeting. "I likewise need to underscore that we will offer help to Pakistan [at the FATF meeting]," he included. "Pakistan is headed to harmony and strength; harmony and solidness don't arrive in a couple of days, it requires work."

He complimented Pakistan's battle against psychological warfare, saying that the nation had been influenced by strict obsession. "The nation has made colossal penances." Swearing his proceeded with help to Pakistan on counter-fear based oppression, the Turkish head of state said the two nations were the most influenced by psychological oppression "because of their geographic areas".

"Nobody can break the obligation of the Muslim fraternity in any capacity. Everybody should remain with each other."

"I express gratitude toward God for giving

me this chance. I am grateful to every one of you separately for permitting me to address this joint session of parliament. I might want to pass on the welcome of 83 million siblings and sisters in Turkey," Erdogan said toward the beginning of his location. The Turkish president said thanks to the individuals of Pakistan for the warm invite he had gotten on his appearance.

"Here, in Pakistan, we never view ourselves as outsiders. We feel comfortable, in one of the most significant gathering focuses in Asia, in the rich geology of the Islamic world," he included.

Alluding to other clash zones, the Turkish president said it was their duty to give help to Muslims, regardless of where they were. "Turkey has assumed the main job in Libya, Yemen, Syria, and Palestine. We have been on the bleeding edges of the fight to free blameless Muslims over the area."

"With this understanding, Turkey attempts to wipe out the contrasts between the Ummah, to discover an answer for the debates and to guarantee our honest motivations, particularly Palestine, Cyprus and Kashmir."

"We have been effectively occupied with all issues concerning the Muslim Ummah particularly during our administration of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation."

"We took a respectable and decided position against the assaults of Israel on our first Qibla, Al-Quds Al-Sharif. We proclaimed to the entire world that we would not leave Haram Al-Sharif helpless before the involving Israeli organization by saying," Erdogan explained.

The Turkish president finished his discourse by discussing a couple of refrains of the Pakistani national hymn and supplications for the two nations and the Muslim world.

The session began with a presentation from the Holy Quran followed by an initial location by Speaker Asad Qaiser, who paid a tribute to the Turkish president and invited the pioneer to the Parliament. "It is a respect for me to have the option to respect the Turkish president, a companion to Pakistan, and one of the most powerful Muslim pioneers on the planet.

Pakistan and Turkey have solid authentic and passionate ties," said the speaker. Prior to his appearance in the parliament, the Turkish president was gotten by Prime Minister Imran Khan, National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser and Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani.

Director Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Nadeem Raza, Naval Chief Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi and Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan were likewise present at the Parliament House.

Senior government and restriction individuals likewise landed at the Parliament in front of the joint session. Khyber-Pakhtunkwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan, Sindh Governor Imran Ismail, Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Information Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan were likewise in participation.

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## Turkey in 'deep solidarity' with IOK citizens: H.E. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

By Mian Fazal Elahi / M. Bilal Zafar

Monitoring Desk

Prime Minister Imran Khan and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan tended to a joint question and answer session in Islamabad after the two nations marked various updates of comprehension (MoUs) for collaboration in different areas of bilateral relation.

In his discourse, Prime Minister Imran said individuals had significantly preferred President Erdogan's discourse before today during a joint session of the parliament. He repeated that if the Turkish head fought election from Pakistan, he would do a "decisive

victory".

He expressed gratitude toward Erdogan, who was on a two-day visit to Pakistan, on the nation's benefit for opposing Indian abominations in occupied Kashmir. He noticed that at any rate 8,000,000 Kashmiris have been under Indian siege for more than a half year, while Kashmiri pioneers have been placed in prison. "They have no rights ... they are living in dread," he included.

The head emphasized that Kashmir is a contested domain as indicated by United Nations goals.

He said the Pakistan-Turkey exchange relationship will see another time with the present marking of MoUs for vital financial

participation. Through timetables, the collaboration being completed among Pakistan and Turkey will profit both the nations, he included.

Head administrator Imran said Pakistan backs Turkey in regards to its issues with fear based oppression radiating from the Syria outskirts. He noticed that other than Kashmir, Turkey had upheld Pakistan on the issue of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) also, including that the two nations "stand together" with regards to vital worldwide issues.

"Our participation separated from legislative issues and economy [...] is vital in light of the fact that they (Turkey) have a propelled film industry. We need to create content with them to address Islamophobia so we can stand firm





Prime Minister Imran Khan & President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan during one-on-one meeting

of visiting Pakistan following three years once more. He said he considered the to be as “our subsequent home”.

He expressed gratitude toward Prime Minister Imran and the experts for the “prevalent friendliness” stretched out to the Turkish assignment.

He said holding another gathering of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council, which was set up in 2009, was one of the most significant images of the Pak-Turk companionship.

“The simple certainty that we have consented to 13 arrangements between the two nations is the most significant pointer of how significant relations between [the two countries] are,” Erdogan said.

“In the last gathering in Ankara, we had consented to bring the degree of our outside exchange volume to \$5 billion by 2023. The vital monetary structure and its next activity plan is practically prepared [...] It is the guide for how we can develop our economic relations,” he included.

Erdogan said Turkey was prepared to give all the help that it can in the fields of transportation, vitality, the travel industry, human services, instruction, and law requirement — zones which he noted will help in the social and financial improvement of Pakistan.

“I am additionally sure that the leader won’t



Prime Minister Imran Khan & President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan Shaking Hands at the start of one-on-one meeting

extra any endeavors so as to improve the business atmosphere in Pakistan,” he stated, including that Turkey is remaining alongside Pakistan today, as it did previously and will do later on.

He said the help messages and sympathies passed on by Pakistanis, from the president to the common individuals in the road, in the repercussions of the seismic tremor in Elazig city of Turkey is “a model that shows the friendship between the individuals of the two nations”.

He said Turkey has gotten “solid help” from the Pakistani state and individuals with respect to its military tasks that it directed in October in northern Syria.

“Our collaborations inside the field of military and safeguard are the most unique fields of our two-sided relations. I might want everybody to realize that we are prepared to contribute in any capacity so as to improve relations with Pakistan and Afghanistan which are both selfless countries to us,” the president focused.

Erdogan said Turkey remains in “profound solidarity” with the individuals of involved Kashmir, who he said have languished persecution and awful outcomes over quite a while. “We are extremely heartbroken and upset to see that the circumstance right now falling apart due to one-sided steps taken by one gathering,” he included.

“Turkey is agreeable to finding a tranquil answer for the Kashmir issue through exchange among Pakistan and India, under the premise [of] UN choices and thinking about the desires for our Kashmiri siblings and sisters,” he told the presser. He emphasized that Turkey extraordinarily values Pakistan’s battle against psychological warfare and its endeavors towards setting up provincial dependability.

Reacting to his discourse, Prime Minister Imran expressed gratitude toward Erdogan, saying the Pakistani individuals were cheerful at his visit since Turkey has had an uncommon association with Pakistan and the area since the Khilafat Movement. He said the two nations’ relations have additionally reinforced since Erdogan turned into Turkey’s CEO and Pakistan currently needs to gain from the improvement did in Turkey under Erdogan’s supervision.

“The territories wherein Pakistan will explicitly profit [from the cooperation] are the travel industry and [...] development,” the chief stated, including that Turkey has just chipped away at making moderate lodging which the PTI government needs to imitate. “The manner by which he elevated the economy ... the nation had roundabout obligation and had taken IMF advances. It is significant for us to gain from this,” he commented. Executive Imran said the most significant assignment for Pakistan is to give work to its young populace which will occur through industrialisation.

Prior, Prime Minister Imran and President Erdogan saw the marking of 13 MoUs by authorities speaking to both the nations. The function came after the finish of the entire session of the sixth round of Pakistan-Turkey High Level Strategic Cooperation Council in Islamabad. As indicated by state telecaster PTV, the MoUs marked between the two nations concern collaboration in the fields of the travel industry and culture, nourishment security, postal administrations, railroads, military preparing, exchange, transport and foundation, data innovation, and so on.

An understanding was additionally marked for participation between the state-possessed Turkish Radio and Television company (TRT) and PTV and Radio Pakistan. President Erdogan and Prime Minister Imran then marked two reports — the revelation of vital monetary system and the joint declaration.

The joint question and answer session was trailed by a supper facilitated by Prime Minister Imran out of appreciation for the Turkish president. Prior in the day, President Erdogan and Prime Minister Imran had held a one-on-one gathering at Prime Minister House during which respective relations were talked about.

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# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



British High Commissioner to Pakistan Dr. Christian Turner calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan



Federal Minister for Interior, Brig (R) Ijaz Ahmad Shah presenting souvenir to Ambassador of UAE H.E Hamad Obaid Alzaabi at the Ministry of Interior



Federal Minister for Interior, Brig (R) Ijaz Ahmad Shah met with Ambassador of France H.E. Dr. Marc Barety at the Ministry of Interior



AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE TO PAKISTAN, H.E. DR. MARC BARETY CALLED ON SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, SYED ZULFIQAR ABBAS BUKHARI



CALL ON ADVISER TO THE PM ON FINANCE AND REVENUE, DR. ABDUL HAFEEZ SHAIKH BY AMBASSADOR OF UAE TO PAKISTAN, H.E. MR. HAMAD OBIAD IBRAHIM SALIM AL ZAABI



British High Commissioner Christian Tuner called on Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi



Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance & Revenue Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh Shaking hand with Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini who called on the Adviser at the Finance Division



Federal Minister for Power and Petroleum, Omar Ayub Khan in a meeting with Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan HE. Ms. Wendy Gilmour



# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



FEDERAL MINISTER FOR STATES AND FRONTIER REGIONS, SAHIBZADA MUHAMMAD MEHBOOB SULTAN IN A MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR OF GERMANY TO PAKISTAN, H.E. MR. BERNHARD STEPHAN SCHLAGHECK



IRANIA AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN, SYED MOHAMMAD ALI HOSSEINI CALLED ON ADVISOR TO PM ON COMMERCE, TEXTILE, INDUSTRY & PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT, ABDUL RAZAQ DAWOOD



Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran H.E Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini, called on Federal Minister for Defence Production, Zobiaida Jalal.



Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting, Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan in a meeting with H.E Mr Ahmed Jawad, the Ambassador of Palestine.



SECRETARY COMMERCE, SARDAR AHMAD NAWAZ SUKHERA IN A MEETING WITH RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN, H.E. MR. DANILA GANICH.



AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN TO JAPAN, IMTIAZ AHMAD ADDRESSING KASHMIR SOLIDARY DAY CEREMONY HELD AT EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN IN TOKYO



FEDERAL MINISTER FOR POWER AND PETROLEUM, OMAR AYUB KHAN IN A MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR OF DENMARK TO PAKISTAN, H.E MR. ROLF MICHAEL HAY PEREIRA HOLEMBOE AND VESTAS DELEGATION



Rector Virtual University Naeem Tariq and KAMK University of Applied Sciences Finland President Matti Saren signing agreement. Federal Minister Asad Umar and Ex. Federal Minister Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui are also present during signing agreement





President of Japan International Cooperation Agency Mr. Shinichi Kitaoka called Prime Minister Imran Khan

## Prime Minister Imran Khan appreciated Japan's role as an important development partner

By Mian Fazal Elahi

The President of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Mr. Shinichi Kitaoka, called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. The President of JICA briefed the Prime Minister on JICA's economic and technical assistance to Pakistan. He highlighted JICA's particular focus on health and education sectors. The Prime Minister appreciated Japan's role as an important development partner, with its work in line with the government's priorities. He highlighted new opportunities and incentives available in Pakistan for Japanese investors as well as the Government's success in stabilizing the economy and creating an enabling environment for business. The Prime

Minister underscored the existing goodwill and historic relations between Pakistan and Japan and said he was looking forward to welcoming Prime Minister Abe in Pakistan at the earliest opportunity. It was agreed to enhance mutual collaboration in myriad fields including infrastructure development, higher education, and cultural and academic exchanges.

The President of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Mr. Shinichi Kitaoka called on the Foreign Minister. He briefed the Foreign Minister on JICA's economic and technical assistance to Pakistan in important areas such as health, education, disaster management and promotion of agriculture and rural development.

While acknowledging Japan's role as an important development partner, the Foreign Minister highlighted new opportunities available in Pakistan for deepening trade and investment ties in the wake of growing investors' confidence. He briefed the JICA President on the Government's focus on socio-economic development and recent success in stabilization of the economy. He welcomed JICA's focus on social issues, particularly water and sanitation.

The Foreign Minister also appreciated signing of Memoranda of Cooperation (MoC) on Technical Intern Training Programme and Specified Skilled Workers Program between the two countries in 2019. The Foreign Minister said that this would be a mutually beneficial project in view of Japan's aging population and Pakistan's talented youth bulge.

The President of JICA emphasized that High Level Economic Policy Dialogue, which resumed recently, offers new avenues of bilateral cooperation for the two countries.

Both sides expressed firm resolve to further enhance economic cooperation between the two countries.

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## EU delegation meets COAS, discussed Afghan LoC & IOK issues



A European Union delegation led by Her Excellency Androulla Kaminara, Ambassador of European Union met Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa. According to the ISPR press release, matters of mutual interest, regional security including Afghan reconciliation process, situation at LoC and IOJ&K were discussed.

Ambassadors of different countries including Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Deputy Head of Missions of France & Hungary, Charge of Affaires of Greece, Attaché (Pol Affaires) of Austria and Senior Technical Advisor MOFA of Denmark were also part of delegation. Visiting dignitaries appreciated Pakistan's role for peace and stability in the region.

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## Delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry visits Naval Headquarters

A delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICC&I) comprising of premier heads and President ICC&I Mr. Muhammad Ahmed visited Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. President ICC&I also called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi in his office.

During the brief, the Naval Chief welcomed the delegation & highlighted meaningful involvement of private sector in Pakistan Navy's developmental projects and maritime sector to promote self-reliance and contribution towards national exchequer.

The Admiral also underscored the need to further expand indigenization through shared collaboration, joint ventures and integrated defense production efforts in mutual areas of interest.

Besides a presentation was given to the delegation highlighting various projects encompassing involvement of private sector. Mechanism and process for developmental projects of Pakistan Navy was also briefed to the delegation.

Later, President ICC&I Mr. Muhammad Ahmed on behalf of business community ensured full cooperation, healthy support and lauded efforts of Pakistan Navy in defending sea frontiers and creating awareness on blue economic potential of Pakistan.

He further said that establishment of Pakistan Navy Research & Development Centre will promote industrial growth in general and defense production in particular.

During interactions at Chamber of Commerce (Karachi), Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) and Korangi Association of Trade & Industry (KATI) in 2018, Naval Chief also stressed on requisite participation of business community in

developing military capacity and enhancing maritime sector potential. Recent interaction with ICC&I is a continuation of the efforts towards indigenization and self-reliance.

The meeting is expected to explore further avenues and pave way for self-reliance through exploring indigenous potentials by fully immersing private sector in defense production

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Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi in a group photo along with delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICC&I) visit of Naval Headquarters.





Commander Karachi Rear Admiral Zahid Ilyas in a group Photo with participating team of 3rd Pakistan Navy international Nautical Competition

## CLOSING CEREMONY OF 3rd PAKISTAN NAVY INTERNATIONAL NAUTICAL COMPETITION

The 3rd Pakistan Navy International Nautical Competition was held at Pakistan Naval Academy, Karachi. International teams from Germany, Indonesia, Oman, Qatar, Sri Lanka and Turkey participated in the week long nautical events of the competition. Commander Karachi, Rear Admiral Zahid Ilyas graced the closing ceremony as Chief Guest.

During the PN International Nautical Competition, six International teams besides Pakistan Naval Academy & Pakistan Marine Academy participated in various activities comprising of Sailing, Swimming, Lifesaving, Seamanship & Physical Fitness contests, held at Karachi harbour and PN Sports Complex.

While addressing the ceremony, the Chief Guest expressed satisfaction over immaculate conduct of events and congratulated the winners for their success in various sports activities.

Later, the Chief Guest gave away prizes to the winning team for displaying outstanding performance during the event.

Team of Turkish Naval academy won the competition with 05 Gold medals while Team of Pakistan Naval Academy was declared Runner up.

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Commander Karachi Rear Admiral Zahid Ilyas awarding shield to winning team of Turkish Naval Academy at the closing ceremony of 3rd Pakistan Navy International Nautical Competition 2020





Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi Addressing inauguration reconstructed building of DMC Primary School & KB Ghulam Nabi Secondary School adopted and run by Navy League

## CHIEF OF THE NAVAL STAFF INAUGURATES RECONSTRUCTED BUILDING OF NAVY LEAGUE HELD SCHOOL AT BABA ISLAND

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi inaugurated the reconstructed building of District Municipal Corporation Primary School and Khan Bahadur Ghulam Nabi Secondary School at Baba Island, Karachi. The school is adopted and run under social work initiatives undertaken by Navy League. Commander Karachi, Vice Admiral Zahid Ilyas was also present at the occasion.

Navy League was structured in 2001 with an ambition to look after welfare fundamentals of retired naval personnel and to engage in various social & community work projects. In this preview, Navy League through Sindh Education Foundation adopted the only established school at Baba Island in 2004. Since the adoption under banner of Navy League, the strength of students and teaching staff has increased manifold along with improvement of learning facilities at the institute. The enrollment started with meager number of 150 students and 10 teachers, now bears more than 800 pupils and 31 instructors at the school. Besides, the teaching faculty based on local residents is also afforded with ample opportunities of cross training at various prominent NGOs & institutes including Sindh Education Foundation, Teachers Resource Training Center, Bahria University, Pakistan Navy, INFAQ Foundation and Literate Pakistan.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by a large number of serving and retired Naval officers and Secretary Education Sindh.

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Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi Addressing audience after inauguration of DMC Primary School & KB Ghulam Nabi Secondary School building Adopted and run by Navy League



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi Awarding certificate to the principle after inauguration of DMC Primary School & KB Ghulam Nabi Secondary School building Adopted and run by Navy League



# Naval Diplomacy







## Ambassadors designated of Pakistan to different countries calls on President Dr. Arif Alvi

By Mian Fazal Elahi

People of Pakistan stand by their oppressed Kashmiri brethren and condemn the fascist Indian Government for its inhuman treatment of its minorities, as manifested in the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2019 passed by Indian Lok Sabha, said President Dr. Arif Alvi, while talking designated Ambassador of Pakistan to Iran H.E. Rahim Hayat Qureshi, H.E. Mr. Dr. Ali Ahmed Arain Ambassador designated of Pakistan to Senegal, H.E. M Nadeed Khan, designated Ambassador of Pakistan to Greece who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. He underscored that all High Commissioners/Ambassadors must highlight the true perspective on Kashmir issue and Indian oppression there.

The President said that Pakistan attached great importance to its fraternal relations with these countries, based on trust and mutual understanding. He added that the warmth of bilateral relationship was reflected in the exchanges at the leadership level. However, the current volume of bilateral trade between these countries was not commensurate to the true potential, he added. There was a need to re-invigorate our efforts to realize the goal of enhancing bilateral trade, he said.

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President Dr. Arif Alvi talking to Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Iran, Rahim Hayat Qureshi, who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.



Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Senegal, Dr. Ali Ahmed Arain, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.





## Ambassador designate of Pakistan to South Korea called on President Dr. Arif Alvi

Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to South Korea, Ms. Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, here today. Talking to Ambassador designate, the President said that Pakistan and South Korea enjoyed excellent relations in various fields which needed to be further expanded, particularly in the areas of trade and economy. The President said that current volume of bilateral trade between the two countries was not commensurate to the true potential and stressed the need for pro-active measures to increase its quantum. The President directed the ambassador-designate to apprise Korean companies and entrepreneurs, regarding the investment friendly policies of Pakistan, and encourage them to invest in various sectors like mining, agro-industry and in the industrial and IT sectors, etc. He also welcomed the increasing investment by the Korean companies in various sectors of Pakistan's economy. He also directed the ambassador-designate to work for promotion of tourism, given Pakistan's huge potential in this sector. He wished Ambassador-designate a successful stay in South Korea and hoped that her tenure would further promote bilateral relations between the two countries.

Pakistan's ambassador designate to South Korea Ms. Mumtaz Zahra Baloch called on to the Federal Minister of IPC, Dr Fehmida Mirza today at her office in Islamabad. "Our female players of Balochistan have shown tremendous performances not only in SAF games but also in Taekwondo championships. I am endeavoring towards providing them with international exposure and coaches as this will uplift their confidence to yet another level" said the minister. Dr Fehmida congratulated the ambassador designate for her new assignment to South Korea. She said that Islamabad and Seoul have been enjoying cordial relations for the last several decades. Therefore, expressed that Pakistan gives immense importance to its friendly relations with

South Korea and wants to expand it even further in all the fields particularly in sports and tourism. While appreciating the role Pakistani females are playing, in all the fields, she said "it is very encouraging to see our women excelling in all spheres. Females have always proven themselves to be very efficient diplomats. They work with great zeal and create a difference when given such assignments." Dr Fehmida lamented that sports and tourism have never been given much attention, although they can prove to be very effective in enhancing our relations with other countries. She stressed that this is a low hanging fruit and by putting a little bit of effort in this domain could yield numerous benefits for our country. Minister asserted that the ambassador can assist and venture towards signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Seoul and Islamabad pertaining to mutual cooperation in sports and tourism. Such an agreement would include providing training to our coaches and athletes and visits of South Korean players to Pakistan. Dr Fehmida underscored

that our female athletes from Balochistan have shown exceptional performances in SAF Games and Taekwondo championship. Hence these trainings will not only motivate them but will also provide them with international exposure, which in turn would help to boost their confidence level. Moreover, it would project a soft image of Pakistan vis a vis' sports diplomacy Besides this, she emphasized that Pakistan's youth has immense potential in sports and efforts should be made to reap the benefits out of this. She also proposed that ambassador can seek the help of Seoul towards sports infrastructure development particularly in Balochistan like football grounds, sports academies etc. While concluding the meeting, minister wished the ambassador good luck for all future assignments, meanwhile ambassador also assured her that she would strive to bolster our cordial relations with South Korea.

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Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to South Korea Ms. Mumtaz Zahra Baloch called on Federal Minister for inter-Provincial Coordination, Dr Fehmida Mirza





## World should 'look at Pakistan through a wider frame': UN's Guterres

By Monitoring Desk, Mian Fazal Elahi/M. Bilal Zafar

**T**he United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres called on the President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi, at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. The President commended his dynamic leadership and passionate advocacy for refugees worldwide and hoped that his participation in the International Afghan Refugee Conference

in Islamabad would help in renewed focus on this important matter. The President highlighted the immense contributions made by Pakistan over the 40 years in hosting Afghan refugees and providing them economic and political security. The President also highlighted Pakistan's efforts in combating climate change and achieving sustainable development. The President shared concerns over India's

illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJ&K), the grave human rights and humanitarian situation there, and the threat posed to regional peace and security by India's belligerent rhetoric and aggressive measures including intensified ceasefire violations on the Line of Control. The President underlined the fundamental obligation of the United







Nations to implement relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir, pledging the right to self-determination to the Kashmiri people. The President further underscored Pakistan's strong support for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. The President further highlighted Pakistan's long-standing contributions to UN Peacekeeping operations. He stressed that Pakistan would continue its efforts for upholding the ideals and objectives of the UN Charter. Secretary General Guterres appreciated Pakistan's contribution while hosting Afghan Refugees for four decades. He said that the generosity and hospitality shown by Pakistan towards Afghan refugees was a remarkable story of solidarity. He also lauded Pakistan's efforts in decisively defeating terrorism, saying the International Community should recognize Pakistan's contribution in this regard. Secretary General Guterres joined the President for a dinner which the President hosted in honour of the delegates attending the International Conference on 40 years of hosting Afghan refugees in Pakistan.







Dignitaries from different walks of life including senior Ministers, diplomatic corps and representatives of UN and other international organizations attended the dinner.

The UN Secretary General, Mr. Antonio Guterres called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. The Secretary General is visiting to attend the International Conference on 40 years of hosting Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The Prime Minister highlighted Pakistan's generosity in hosting millions of Afghan refugees for the last four decades. He also noted that the people of Pakistan drew inspiration to host refugees from the teachings of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.). The Prime Minister underscored that there was no military solution to the





Afghan conflict. He reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast support for efforts for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. He stressed that the establishment of sustainable peace in Afghanistan and creation of conducive environment and "pull factors" which would facilitate the return of Afghan refugees to their homeland in dignity and honour. The Prime Minister highlighted the dire human rights and humanitarian situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, as a result of India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019. He added that India's belligerent rhetoric, intensified ceasefire violations on the LoC, and other aggressive actions were imperiling peace and security in the region. The Prime Minister also highlighted the possibility of false flag operation by India to divert global attention from its unacceptable actions in IOJ&K. The Prime Minister underscored that the Kashmiri people continued to look to the United Nations to honour its commitments for the realization of their right to self-determination, as enshrined in numerous UN Security Council resolutions. The Prime Minister stressed that Climate Change posed an existential threat to mankind. He assured the Secretary General that Pakistan would work hand in hand with the global community to pursue swift implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement. The Prime Minister also highlighted the landmark 10 Billion Tree Tsunami.







Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi received the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres at the Foreign Office. This is Secretary General Guterres' first visit to Pakistan since assuming office in 2016. The meeting provided an opportunity to renew Pakistan's commitment to work with the United Nations in the realms of international peace and security; climate change; and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Foreign Minister also reaffirmed Pakistan's abiding commitment to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter. Recalling the Government's people-centered agenda, the Foreign Minister highlighted the need for support from the United Nations in implementing the Ehasas and Kamyab Jawan programmes. The Secretary General applauded Pakistan's generosity in hosting more than three million Afghan refugees over the course of last four decades, which deserve the support of the international community. The Foreign Minister underscored that the international community must develop a

gradual, time-bound, well-resourced and mutually-agreed road map for the return of the Afghan refugees, which must be vital component of peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's continued support for an Afghan-led and Afghan owned peace and reconciliation process. The Foreign Minister and Secretary General exchanged views on the serious human rights situation in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJ&K). Foreign Minister Qureshi conveyed Pakistan's deep concern over continuing lockdown and communications blockade in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir since India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019. India's belligerent posture and ceasefire violations along the Line of Control threaten both regional and the international peace and security. He referred to the possibility of false flag operation by India to divert global attention from the situation in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The Secretary General reiterated that the position of the United Nations on Jammu

and Kashmir was governed by the Charter of the United Nations, including provisions on the peaceful settlement of disputes, and applicable Security Council resolutions. While reiterating that Jammu & Kashmir is one of the oldest disputes that remain on the agenda of the UN Security Council, the Foreign Minister urged the Secretary General to use his good offices to mediate and enable the Kashmiris to realize their right to self-determination, as enshrined in numerous UN Security Council resolutions and the UN Charter. The Foreign Minister underscored the importance of UNMOGIP to monitor the situation along the Line of Control and impressed upon the Secretary General to strengthen it.

Highlighting Pakistan's contributions, the Foreign Minister lauded the role of Pakistani valiant men and women peacekeepers, as one of the largest troops contributing countries to the UN Peacekeeping Missions around the world. He paid tribute to the sacrifices made by 157 peacekeepers in the line of duty.





Recognizing the threat posed by climate change, the Foreign Minister stressed the importance of collective action by the international community to counter this threat and underscored Pakistan's readiness to work with him and support his efforts. Secretary General Guterres also planted a tree at the Foreign Office to commemorate Prime Minister Imran Khan's 10 Billion Tree Tsunami Initiative. The Foreign Minister hosted a dinner in honour of the Secretary General

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# Launching ceremony of a premium hospitality executive education programme in Islamabad

By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Dr. Arif Alvi has rightly pointed out that Pakistan is one of the most beautiful countries in the world and our hospitality industry needs to showcase this diversity and rich cultural heritage. Speaking at the launching ceremony of a premium hospitality executive education programme in Islamabad he said data shows tourism in places like the beautiful northern areas has swelled into millions in the past few years due to efforts of the Government and improvement in the security situation.

The Serena Hotels have partnered with one of the world's leading hospitality management schools, Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL) Switzerland aimed at capacity-building of senior to mid-level executives of Pakistan's tourism and services sector. Chief Executive of Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani, while giving an insight into the programme, said its versatility and timely implementation will expose managerial and executive professionals to world-class standards, so they can lead Pakistan's traditional hospitality with a detailed and courteous approach required to promote Government's vision. It is a matter of satisfaction that Serena Hotels, which is a big name in the

hospitality sector of the country, has, with the passage of time become a model in promoting activities that fall within the framework of, what is known as, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), a concept under which companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and interaction with their stakeholders. Serena, under the dynamic leadership of Aziz Boolani, has consistently been implementing a fairly comprehensive programme to augment efforts of the Government in promoting causes of the country and addressing crucial concerns of the people. Under the auspices of its Cultural Diplomacy programme, Serena sponsors annual craft festival aimed at economic empowerment of craftsmen. It has also become the first company in Pakistan to have entered into collaboration with International Finance Corporation (IFC) to work for the worldwide Economic Dividends for Gender Equality (EDGE) certificate, and according to its CEO the company is committed to encourage women for their professional development for assuming higher positions including the leadership role. Among others, Serena Hotels' "Karighar" a Corporate Social Responsibility program has been making a significant contribution to provide entrepreneurship training to various segments of women for

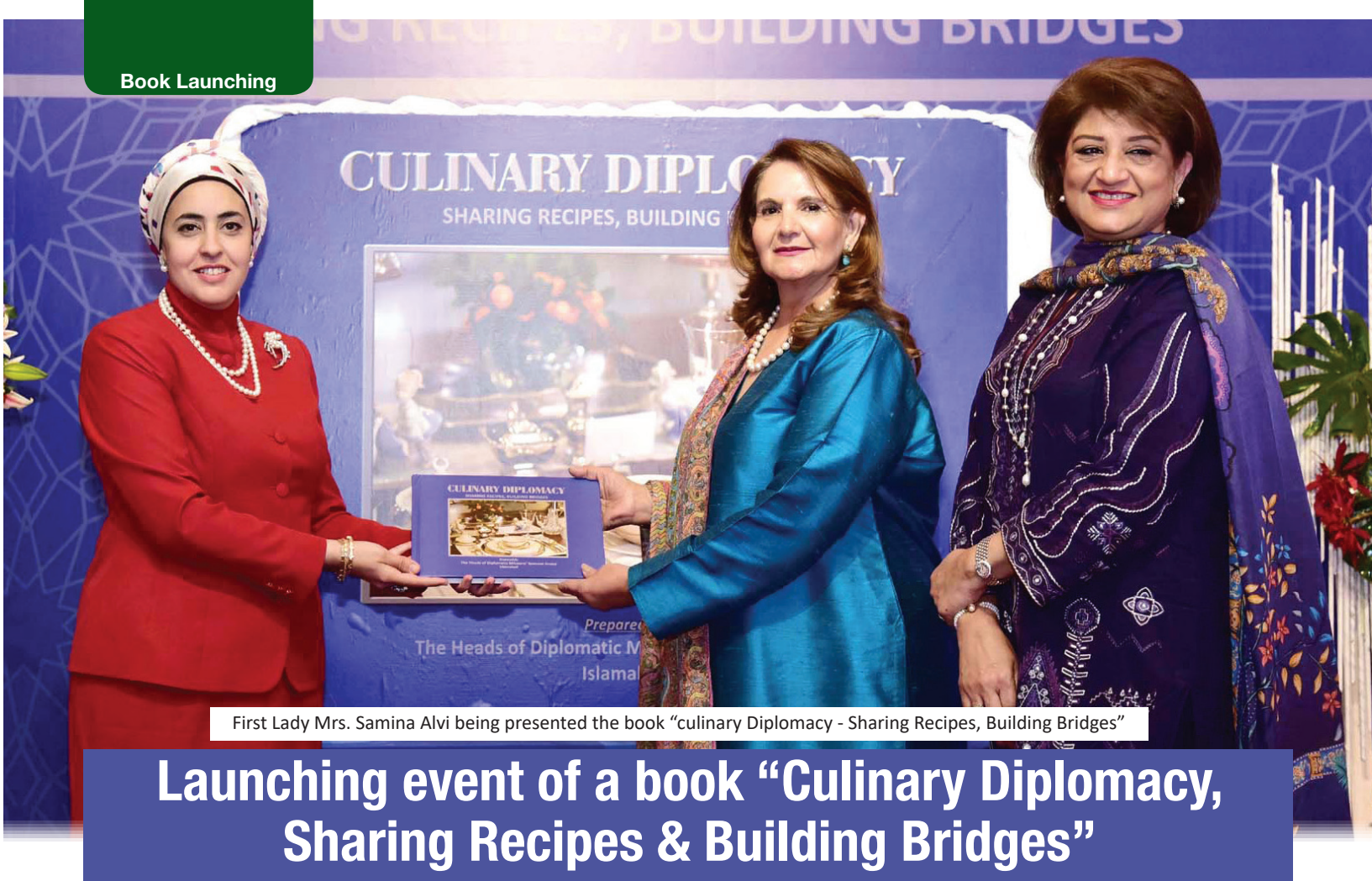
a sustainable growth and quality of life. The famed hospitality company is also known for widely sponsoring sport events in line with its policy of promoting different games and projecting soft image of Pakistan. Sometime back, Serena Hotels signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Development Programme in Pakistan (UNDP) to establish a strategic collaboration to achieve Sustainable Development Goals, which has become a priority with the Government of Pakistan. This collaboration is designed to help build and share solutions towards sustainable tourism, biodiversity protection and wildlife conservation and promoting responsible management of natural resources and ensuring sustainable livelihood. The company also helps promote healthy pursuits under its Adventure Diplomacy, encourages diverse groups to participate in sports under Sports Diplomacy, awareness about balanced diet through holding of food festivals and creating awareness about different aspects of health care and prevention of diseases especially cancer. The model of CSR set by Serena Hotels is worth-emulating and there are reasons to believe that economic and social landscape of Pakistan can change for the better if other companies too discharge their corporate social responsibility with the same zeal as is being done by Serena.











First Lady Mrs. Samina Alvi being presented the book “culinary Diplomacy - Sharing Recipes, Building Bridges”

## Launching event of a book “Culinary Diplomacy, Sharing Recipes & Building Bridges”

By M. Bilal Zafar

**T**he wives of 50 foreign envoys in Islamabad launched a joint cookbook in which they share recipes for both good food and well-cooked international relations.

Titled “Culinary Diplomacy: Sharing Recipes, Building Bridges,” the book “is hard work of almost two years, in which 144 recipes were put together from 50 different countries of six continents,” said Ghada Ahmed, wife of the Egyptian ambassador and president of the spouses’ group.

The group, formed in March 2018, has as its members the spouses of foreign ambassadors and high commissioners to Pakistan. Ahmed told the aim of the book was to introduce Pakistanis to different nations and cultures.

“I wanted to promote Arabic and Egyptian culture by introducing our cuisines and the stories lie behind the dishes we prepare. It is also a noble cause as all the revenue from the book will go

to one or more Pakistani government recognized charity,” Ahmed said, adding that anyone who is interested in food, history and culture will enjoy going through the book.

“This is an excellent initiative to introduce culture through cuisines,” said Samina Alvi, the first lady of Pakistan, adding that revenue from the book’s sales will go to the government’s poverty alleviation Ehsaas program. The first lady said she would ask Ehsaas to finance from the book’s sales vocational training for women with disabilities.

Five books signed by the first lady were auctioned during the event. Jordanian Ambassador Ibrahim Yala Al-Madani, who bought one of them by offering Rs100,000 and Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi CEO of Diplomatic Focus won a book in auction of Rs.50,000 most important aspect of this joint project was that it would help those in need.

Mrs. Ghada Ahmed, President of Heads of Diplomatic Missions Spouses Group on the occasion of launching event of a book “Culinary

Diplomacy, Sharing Recipes & Building Bridges” in her speech she said special thanks to Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi for taking interest in the project from the beginning. His Magazine Diplomatic Focus was the first platform on which I announced the project. He supported us once and again with advice as a brother and without any return. He is a true professional. So thank you.

“This book reflects the harmony between the spouses of members of the diplomatic community and their effort to promote respective cultures in Pakistani. It will help in bridging the gap between nations and people. The diplomatic missions have this duty to promote people-to-people relations,” the ambassador said.

Aziz Boolani, chief executive of Serena Hotel, where the book launch was held, told “will not only introduce cuisines of different countries to Pakistani homes but also promote diverse cultures” and achieve harmony between them.











## Xi sends congratulatory message to 33rd AU summit

**C**hinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday warmly congratulated African countries and their people on the holding of the 33rd African Union (AU) summit in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa.

In his congratulatory message to the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the AU, Xi pointed out that since last year, under the guidance of the AU, African countries have actively explored development paths suited to their own conditions and adhered to dealing with African affairs in African ways.

Noting the official launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area, Xi said

that Africa has made solid progress in its unity and self-improvement and its global influence has increasingly grown.

Xi noted that the China-Africa relationship is currently at its best in history, adding the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) led to a new wave in developing the China-Africa friendship, with the implementation of its results injecting new vigor into their practical cooperation in various fields.

As the world is encountering profound changes unseen in a century, jointly building an even closer China-Africa community with a shared future is in

the common interests of the Chinese and African peoples, the Chinese president said.

Xi said China will continue adhering to the principles of sincerity, real results, affinity and good faith and the right approach to justice and interests, push for a comprehensive implementation of the results of the FOCAC Beijing Summit, and accelerate the two sides' joint efforts to build the Belt and Road, so as to enable greater contribution to Africa's development and to the benefit of both peoples.

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Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi

## The pivotal role played by Pakistan for US-Taliban deal: Qureshi

By Monitoring Desk

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi highlighted the pivotal role played by Pakistan in hammering out a peace deal between the United States and the Afghan Taliban scheduled to be signed on Feb 29.

"We constructed a roadmap to peace," he said a day after 18 months of gruelling talks between the American and Taliban negotiators finally paid off and the two sides confirmed they would be signing the historic agreement later this month. In a statement issued by the Foreign Office, Qureshi noted that the "historic breakthrough" could not have been achieved without Islamabad's efforts and the deal would be signed in the presence of Pakistani representatives.

"It was not easy to bring the Taliban to the table for negotiations, which is why the entire world, including the US, is appreciating Pakistan's role in the Afghan peace process," he added.

"The world knows that the two sides have been fighting for over 19 years. After US President Donald Trump cancelled the peace process in a single tweet following a death [of a US soldier], it was Pakistan who convinced the US to restart negotiations."

Qureshi pointed out that when Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had arrived in Islamabad for his maiden visit last year, ties between the two countries were at their lowest ebb.

"Pompeo told me that the pathway to fixing relations between Pakistan and the US came through Kabul. Now, I would like to remind him that we have fulfilled all our promises. Not only did we build a peace team but we also played our role in ensuring that the negotiations were successful."

**"I also told Khalilzad that the US and its allies around the region must remain wary of certain elements who benefit from continued fighting [in Afghanistan]. I warned him that these elements are bent on destroying the progress of our peace efforts."**

The minister also said that US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad had held a meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan and himself on the peace process during his recent visit to Islamabad.

Qureshi reiterated that the Afghan peace process was a complex one and that there was no military solution to the conflict. "The world must understand that the solution to the Afghan conflict will only come through

a political settlement based on diplomatic negotiations." The minister advised the Afghan government to think about the future of its country and double its efforts to restore peace, besides shunning partisan domestic politics to ensure lasting peace.

"After February, we will try to build a delegation to promote intra-Afghan peace process and we have also decided when and how those talks will take place. Pakistan has played its role in the peace process with wholeheartedness and honesty and it is now incumbent upon the Afghan government to do the same."

Qureshi said peace in Afghanistan would benefit the entire region, including Pakistan, and promote bilateral trade between the two countries. Pakistan's role in the Afghan peace process was lauded by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres during his recent trip to Islamabad. China, Russia, Japan and several other countries have also appreciated Pakistan's efforts to restore peace in its war-torn neighbouring country.

Meanwhile, the Afghans woke up to a week-long partial truce on Saturday after the Taliban, the US and local forces all agreed to a lull that could be a major turning point in the long conflict. If the so-called "reduction in violence" holds, it will be a major step towards withdrawing US troops after more than 18 years.

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## H.E. Mr. Andreas Ferrarese designated Ambassador of Italy to Islamic Republic of Pakistan



Andreas Ferrarese was born in Tübingen (Germany) on January 17th, 1968 and graduated in Oriental Languages and Literatures at the “Cà Foscari” University of Venice in 1992.

### Diplomatic Career

He entered in the diplomatic career in 1994, and began his professional journey at the Directorate General for Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, where he dealt with the commercial relations of Italy with Asia.

In 1996 he started his service abroad, serving at the Italian Embassy in Manila and then, from 2001, in Tel Aviv.

He returned to the Headquarter in Rome in 2004, serving as Deputy Head of the Crisis Unit.

In 2008 he went abroad again, as First Counselor at the Embassy of Italy in Beirut, then in Brasilia in 2011, serving in both Embassies as Deputy Head of Mission.

In 2013 he was appointed Ambassador of Italy to Pristina, in Kosovo.

In 2016 he returned to Rome, where he served in the Prime Minister’s Office.

Since 10 February 2020 he is Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan.

In 2016 he was awarded Official Knight of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic.

He is married and has three daughters. He is fluent in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic and Georgian.

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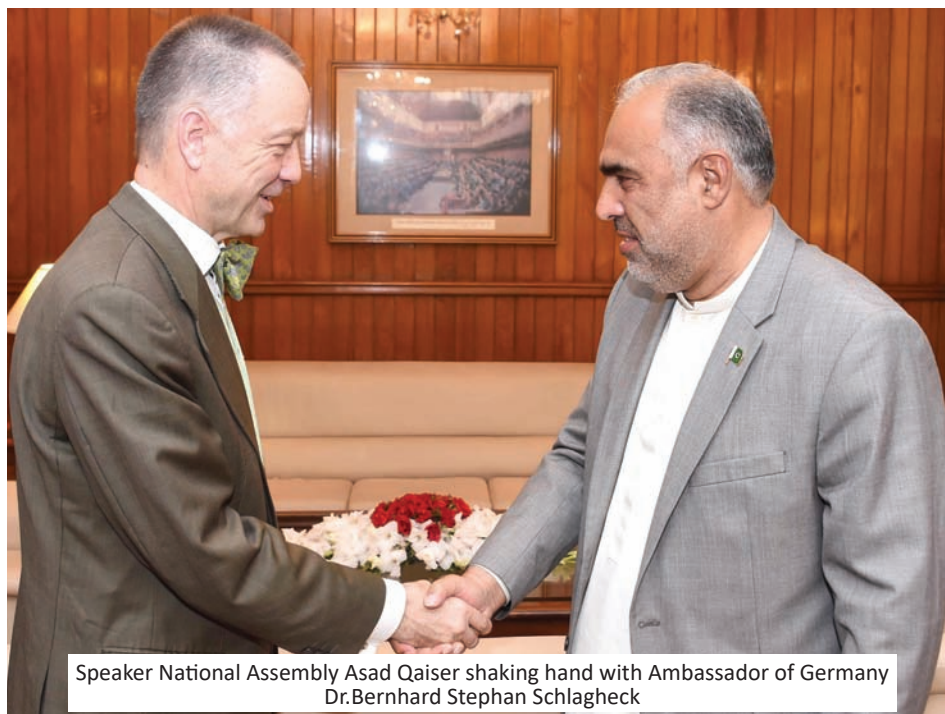


# PARLIAMENTARY INTERACTION AND EXCHANGES AN APPROPRIATE WAY TO BUILD CLOSE RELATIONS: NA SPEAKER

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser has said that relations between Pakistan and Germany were characterized by shared democratic values and multifaceted cooperation. He said that Parliamentary cooperation and interaction between National Assembly and German Parliament Bundestag could deepen the existing bonds. He said this while taking to Dr. Bernhard Stephan Schlagheck, Ambassador of Germany, who called on Speaker National Assembly in Parliament House this afternoon.

Speaker Asad Qaiser appreciated the pace of bilateral cooperation between both the countries, however suggested for its further intensification through collaboration in trade, cooperation in agriculture, energy and other sectors. He also suggested for strategizing cooperation in technical fields like sectors relating to human development, education and health. While referring to the Pak-German Parliamentary Friendship Group in National Assembly, the Speaker said that it was heartening to note the keen interest of Members to be part of the group. He termed Parliamentary interaction and exchanges an apt way to build close relations. He also suggested for cooperation in establishment of center of excellence for exchange of knowledge and human development. The Speaker also reiterated invitation to his German Counterpart to visit Pakistan. He also asked for German support for EU market



Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser shaking hand with Ambassador of Germany Dr. Bernhard Stephan Schlagheck

access under GSP plus facility.

Ambassador of Germany Dr. Bernhard Stephan Schlagheck appreciated the remarks of the Speaker and said that Germany also considered Pakistan, as one of its close friend and a partner in development and trade. He agreed for strengthen of bilateral relation through exchange of Parliamentary and trade delegations. The Ambassador apprised the Speaker that German developmental agency was activity engaged in Pakistan in Education

and vocational training sectors. He informed that Germany along with European Union Development agency has chalked out a comprehensive plan be executed for vocational and technical training in collaboration with Higher Education commission of Pakistan. He further informed that Germany would certainly look into the suggestion for establishing a center of excellence and capacity building.

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Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser addressing Seminar on “Six Years of BRI and CPEC” organized by Islamabad Stock Exchange and SDPI.

## Six Years of BRI and CPEC

By M Bilal Zafar

Speaker of the National Assembly Asad Qaiser said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was the foundation of the Pakistani economy in the midst of the basic monetary difficulties of the nation.

Naming CPEC a fortune change of the nation, Asad Qaiser said through information sharing and innovation move, we are cheerful that Pakistan would before long escape the current financial mess.

He said this during a unique Workshop titled ‘Six Years of BRI and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)’ sorted out by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in a joint effort with Islamabad Stock Exchange (ISE) here at Islamabad.

Asad said that it is encouraging to take note of that CPEC in its subsequent stage has now incorporated the horticulture and social area, which will assist Pakistan with addressing the difficulties of farming and social part.

On Coronavirus flare-up in China, Asad said that through all thick and dainty China consistently help Pakistan and right now Coronavirus, despites concerns, the government and individuals of Pakistan will be remaining with China and will offer full scale help in their troublesome occasions.

Asad expressed the need for creating and converting the CPEC committee into a think tank and asked SDPI’s support in this regard. He additionally welcomed the business network and research organizations for financial strategy inputs.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Yao Jing said that following 6 years effective usage of CPEC venture added to the umbrella of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), it is currently settled that CPEC under BRI are undertakings of global collaboration, where 126 nations joined these tasks. He said BRI gave sound and substantial advantages to the recipient’s nations and CPEC

is one of the effective models. We are formally against the unilateralism and those against the BRI are against global participation, he included.

I am glancing CPEC with regards to notable China and Pakistan relations, where CPEC gave new spotlight and new open doors on monetary front”, said Yao including that CPEC under increasingly clear and predictable approaches combined with set bearing will help Pakistan in the long way.

On Coronavirus pandemic, Yao said that this fiasco would not stop the monetary collaboration among China and Pakistan, and we are grateful to the Pakistani government and individuals for demonstrating solidarity in our troublesome time, which give us quality and more certainty.

Official Executive, SDPI, Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri said that six years back when CPEC began, In Pakistan, the force framework was injured, as there was normal example of 2 hours power blackout and now one can see the distinction just due to CPEC interest in vitality area. He said there are a few fantasies that are related with

CPEC, for example, China’s CPEC model is new expansionism and Pakistan will be brimming with Chinese specialists and predominance, another fantasy is that Pakistan would fall under water trap Gwadar is a vital task and not a business venture. Presently following 6 years every one of these legends have no premise by any means, he included.

Dr Abid said CPEC isn’t answer for every one of our ills, however an instrument to use best to unravel our issues. He said to accomplish the potential advantages related with CPEC and BRI, Pakistan needs to take care of its own business and to make the nation ideal for the ventures and organizations.

Shakeel Ahmed Ramay, Head China Study Center SDPI said that in excess of 600 million individuals despite everything live in extraordinary neediness on the planet, around 2 billion individuals need safe drinking water, 1.1 billion individuals need power and 263 million youngsters are still out of school.

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Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser in a group photo with participants of Seminar on “Six Years of BRI and CPEC” organized by Islamabad Stock Exchange and SDPI.



# Adviser to PM on Finance Thanks China on Support in FATF

BY M. Bilal Zafar

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue met Mr. Yao Jing, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China here at the Finance Division to review the preparations of the upcoming visit of the Chinese President Xi Jinping. The meeting took place on the instructions of the Prime Minister as the government has attached significant importance to this meeting. The Adviser and the Ambassador shared the details of progress of preparation of the upcoming visit of President



Adviser to PM on Finance and Revenue, Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh in a meeting with Ambassador of the People's Republic of China H.E Mr. Yao Jing.

Xi Jinping. The Adviser said that Pakistan values the relations with China highly and would welcome the President with highest respect and regards. He also thanked the Chinese Government on their massive support in the FATF meetings. The Adviser said that China and other brotherly countries have supported Pakistan throughout the Process in terms of guiding the country to improve its frameworks. The Adviser condoled with the Ambassador on account of the Virus outbreak. The Ambassador said that it is a difficult time for the people of

China but we are dealing patiently with the calamity and hoping to overcome it very soon. The Ambassador thanked Pakistan on the support in this difficult time. They also discussed progress on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and measures to enhance the bilateral trade between the two countries stating that it was progressing smoothly. Matters of bilateral interest were discussed and both sides agreed to enhance economic cooperation in future.



Ambassador of China H.E. Mr. Yao Jing called on Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar

Ambassador of China H.E. Mr. Yao Jing called on Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar in Islamabad. Honorable Minister apprised the Ambassador about the requirement of pesticides and aerial support to control the locust in Pakistan particularly Sindh and Balochistan. Federal Minister informed about the current situation of affected areas and how the locust is spreading there. Federal Minister also underlined the importance of the measures taken by neighboring countries to

control locust as these insects keep on moving on vast areas. Khusro Bakhtiar informed the ambassador about the requirement of aerial support from China to curtail the production of locust in venerable areas. He underscored the urgent need of aerial support with pesticide for aerial spray to contain the locust in the desert area. The Ambassador assured to consider supply of pesticides and spraying equipment to Pakistan as an emergency project. He further informed that the Chinese side will send a delegation of technical experts during next

## China to Help Pakistan in Combating Locust

week to Pakistan to further deliberate on aerial management of locust. The delegation will also visit the locust affected areas. Chinese Ambassador said China is also interested to increase import of Agricultural Products from Pakistan including onion, potato and meat. The Ambassador informed that China wants to ease out the export of these products before the high level visit expected in May, 2020. Federal Minister welcomed the Chinese interest in the import of agricultural products. Mr. Bakhtiar acknowledged the proactiveness of China to support Pakistan for locust issue and said it shows the strength of Pak - China relationship. Chairman National Disaster Management Authority, Lt. Gen. Muhammad Afzal, Secretary NFS&R Dr. Hashim Popalzai, Food Security Commissioner Dr. Syed Waseem ul Hasssan and Animal Husbandry Commissioner Dr. Khurshid Ahmed were also present in the meeting

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# Afghanistan presidential election: Ashraf Ghani re-elected



Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani has been re-elected

By Zanib Arshad

Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani has been declared the winner of last September's election following delays due to allegations of vote-rigging. Mr Ghani was re-elected with 50.64% of the vote, officials said. But his main rival Abdullah Abdullah, who came second with 39.52%, contested the result, declared victory, and vowed to form his own parallel government.

Opponents of Mr Ghani said the 28 September vote was marred by massive fraud and technical problems. Only a small proportion of the country voted in the election. Election commission chief Hawa Alam Nuristani announced the result during a press conference in Kabul. She said 137,000 votes classed as suspicious and 12,012 votes cast outside polling hours had been found to be valid during a special audit.

She said: "May God help him in serving the people of Afghanistan... I also pray that peace comes to our country." Mr Abdullah, however, rejected the results and proclaimed victory.

"Our team, based on clean and biometric votes, is the victor and we declare our victory. The fraudsters are the shame of history and we announce our inclusive government," he told a press conference in Kabul. Turnout was

also the lowest since the Taliban were ousted in 2001, with just 1.82m votes counted. Nearly one million votes were discarded due to irregularities.

Afghanistan's total population stands at about 37 million, with 9.6 million registered voters. The low turnout was in part attributed to widespread safety concerns as the Taliban had threatened to attack polling stations and targeted election rallies before polling day. But there was also a perceived lack of enthusiasm ahead of the vote - not helped by the fact the same two men who had fought for months over the top job in 2014 were the front-runners once again. Both have been accused of corruption while in office. The announcement comes as the US seeks to sign a deal with the Taliban who refuse to negotiate directly with the Afghan government, saying it



Runnerup Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah

is illegitimate. They say they will only talk to Afghan authorities after a deal with the US is agreed.

Mr Ghani, 70, has insisted on taking part in any future negotiations with the Taliban. He has vowed to fight them "for generations" if such talks fail.

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By Muhammad Amir Rana

# Afghan reconciliation

THE results of the 2019 Afghan presidential elections have further complicated the prospects for achieving intra-Afghan political reconciliation. They have pushed down the hope that the newly elected regime would be able to form an inclusive team to talk to the Afghan Taliban. While the election authorities have declared the incumbent president Ashraf Ghani as the winner, runner-up Dr Abdullah Abdullah has not only rejected the results but also announced he will form his own parallel government.

The persisting political turmoil in Kabul has increased just a week before the announcement of a deal is expected between the US negotiation team and the Taliban. Many anticipate that the much-awaited deal will bring to the fore the crucial process of nation-building in a war-torn country, where all Afghan stakeholders will not only have to build consensus on a permanent, comprehensive ceasefire, but also reconstruct a new social contract for their country. However, the deepening political crisis in Afghanistan can slacken the peace process, causing a delay in the announcement of the deal. It will increase frustration among the external stakeholders and facilitators (mainly the US) who want to end the decades-old conflict, which is consuming their financial resources and political capital.

The Afghan Taliban deputy and Haqqani Network chief Sirajuddin Haqqani hinted at the Taliban's internal difference over the peace process in an opinion piece published in The New York Times. However, their differences are not as severe as the trust deficit among their opponents including Afghan and international stakeholders. Political chaos in Kabul is an advantage for the Taliban, which they will use to bolster their bargaining position while dealing with the US and fellow Afghan stakeholders. It is not yet certain how Washington will respond to the simmering controversy over election results.

For Pakistan, this is a delicate situation as it has played a critical role in facilitating US-Taliban talks, hoping that the process would help reduce pressure from its western border. Facilitating the peace process was also essential for Pakistan to put its economy back on the road including through earning the confidence of Washington and European capitals. However,

protracted political turmoil in Afghanistan could shatter many of Pakistan's hopes.

In the current environment, what are the options left for Pakistan?

Even if US intervention resolves election-related controversies, building consensus for a broad-based negotiation team will be an uphill task. The formation phase of the negotiation team may take longer than expected, as it is also not clear whether or not it will be conditioned on the US troops' withdrawal. However, a prolonged process could increase internal pressure on the Taliban leadership to adopt an alternative approach and declare their parallel government, or emirate, which is already functioning in the peripheries and rural areas of the country. In such a situation, much of the pressure will be put on Pakistan both by the international community and the factionalised political Afghan elite.

A couple of years earlier, a scenario-building exercise was carried out to get a picture of Pak-Afghan bilateral ties in 2030. One scenario was that if foreign troops left Afghanistan without accomplishing their mission, the Afghan power elites and Taliban would not be able to bring stability to the country. In that case, Afghanistan's immediate neighbours would have little leverage over Afghan stakeholders to force them to build consensus.

Bilateral relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan would further deteriorate, thus increasing the animosity between the two nations to India's advantage. It would be a nightmare for Pakistan as it would increase border tensions and insecurity, and negatively impact trade and people-to-people contact between the two nations. The nightmare for the international community mainly the US, China and Russia would be that the Taliban's power would grow and international terrorist groups become influential. In such a scenario, China and Russia would prefer to put their weight behind the most definite contender(s) of power.

That was a pessimistic scenario and indicated that the political compulsions had become so strong that imagining a scenario where the Afghans as a state and society could overcome their differences was difficult.

In the current environment, what are the options left for Pakistan? Complete detachment from the emerging situation in Afghanistan is one option. This can be interpreted as maintaining a neutral position before and during the complicated process of intra-Afghan talks. This would be an ideal but awkward position because of complications that could emerge during the withdrawal of foreign forces and the dialogue process. The US would have to rely on Pakistan to use its influence over the Taliban and a few other political actors in Afghanistan.

Secondly, there is no guarantee that Russia, Iran, and particularly India, would maintain a neutral position. India and Iran have their proxies and favourites in Afghanistan, whom they will not abandon. Pakistan will be an easy target of such 'favourites' if the dialogue is deadlocked. Pakistan will have to maintain and further diversify its relations with Afghan stakeholders other than the Taliban.

If the exit process is caught in complications, the US can review its approach. But for the global community, the most critical aspect would be long-term economic assistance pledges to help Afghan power elites develop viable economic growth structures. This factor will also dominate the intra-Afghan dialogue. It remains to be seen how Afghan stakeholders, who have divergent interests, will deal with this challenge. It is expected they will build pressure on Pakistan regarding the transit trade agreement and could demand easy access to ports. If Pakistan-India relations remain tense, it would not be easy for Pakistan to make any concession.

The processes of withdrawal and dialogue will be lengthy with all their complexities, but their completion will see the real test for Pak-Afghan ties. Pakistan should have a blueprint for the future and prepare the ground for a long-term strategic and economic cooperation treaty with Afghanistan. This is important in order for both countries to emerge from the Indian-centric strategic hangover and develop their independent bilateral relationship.

(Courtesy to Dawn) The writer is a security analyst.

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## Establishment of the office of the UN Counter-Terrorism Program in Doha

The State of Qatar, represented by the Shura Council, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations, represented by the Office of Counter-Terrorism, aiming at providing a framework for cooperation to enhance the role of parliaments in countering terrorism and the conditions related to this phenomenon, and to facilitate cooperation between the two sides in areas of mutual interest. The MoU states that the Shura Council and the UN enter into direct arrangements to establish the Office of the UN Counter-Terrorism Program, which will be concerned with the parliamentary participation in preventing and combating terrorism. The office's headquarters will be in the State of Qatar and its activities will cover the parliaments of world countries.

The MoU was signed by Speaker of the Shura Council HE Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud and

Under-Secretary-General of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism Vladimir Voronkov.

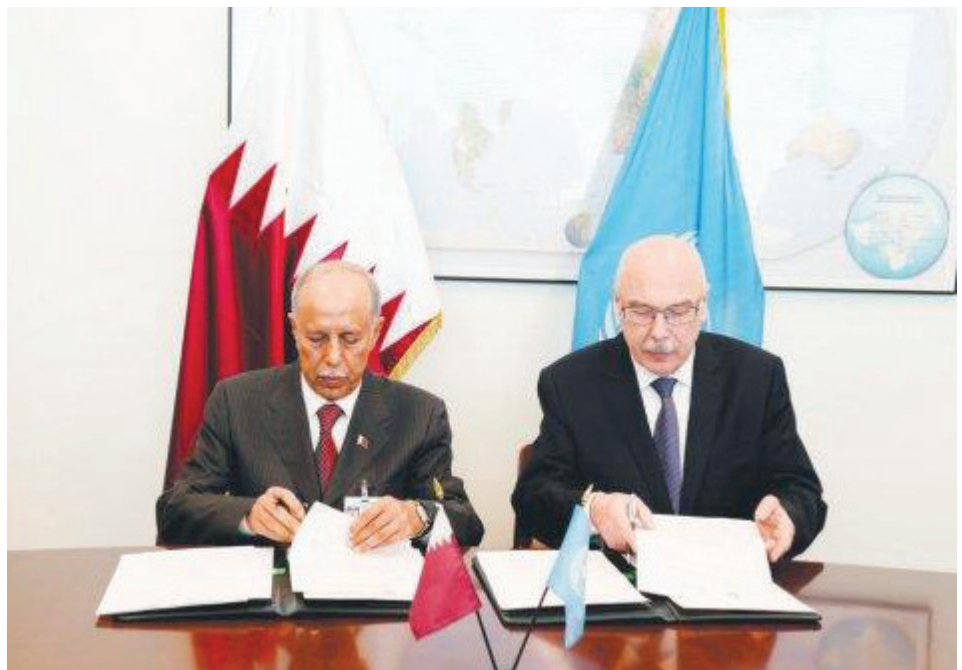
Speaker of the Shura Council HE Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud underlined the role of the State of Qatar in countering terrorism, noting that the establishment of the UN office in Doha affirms the confidence of the international community in the efforts exerted by the State of Qatar under the

leadership of Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to counter terrorism and address its roots and causes, highlighting the essential role of parliaments in preventing and combating terrorism in light of their basic functions in enacting legislation, setting policies, allocating budgets, monitoring government actions, and ensuring the implementation of international pledges

related to terrorism.

The Doha-based Office of the UN Counter-Terrorism Program will provide technical assistance and training to world parliaments in order to build capacity of parliamentarians to better understand and respond to terrorism-related issues.

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# ‘Government committed to providing national cohesion on language’

Without language, identity of the people is incomplete, said Federal Minister for National History and Literary Heritage Shafqat Mahmood at closing ceremony of three-day Pakistan Mother Languages Festival arranged by Indus Cultural Forum and Pakistan National Council of the Arts. At an event held to celebrate diversity, the minister said that government was committed to provide a national cohesion when it comes to language adding he said that there must be a uniformed syllabus for all the students in every institution either private or public.

“A national conference of languages would soon be arranged on the lines of literary festival of mother languages,” he said. Mahmood reminded the audience that though they were talking about educating children in their mother languages, and thinking about linguistic diversity, “our focus is on adopting one syllabus for educating all children of Pakistan.” Today every institution has its own curriculum, which has divided the nation, the minister said. He said a unified national curriculum is being prepared and would likely be implemented from the next academic year at primary level.

The minister appreciated the efforts of ICF and PNCA for arranging the festival in which writers from all over Pakistan gathered and deliberated on promotion of mother languages. PNCA DG Dr Fouzia Saeed in her thanking note offered PNCA premises and services for the promotion of art and artist.





# President, ICCI meets Pakistan's Ambassador designated to Romania

**M**uhammad Ahmed Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry exchanging views with H.E. Mr. Zafar Iqbal, Pakistan Ambassador-designated to Romania about further improving Pak-Romania bilateral trade on his visit to ICCI. Members





# President ICCI meets Dr. Muhammad Faisal, Pakistan's Ambassador-designated to Germany

**M**uhammad Ahmed Waheed, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry along with businessmen with Dr. Muhammad Faisal, Pakistan's Ambassador-designated to Germany on his visit to ICCI. Increase the Trade export to European countries was the point of discussion during the meeting. Trade and Foreign Direct Investment play an important large role in the economic growth of developing countries. Increased exports and foreign investment creates wealth which drives economic growth and hence creates jobs in an economy Muhammad Ahmed Waheed said. Trade and Investment sector occupies the foremost important place and is among the core priority areas. High level fora (including Ministerial Meetings on Commerce and Foreign Trade, Ministerial Meetings on Finance and Economy, the Meetings of Heads of Tax Administration, Heads of Central Banks, Heads of Customs Administrations, Heads of Trade Promotion Organizations) make decisions on trade related matters. These decisions determine the direction and scope cooperation in the areas of trade and investment European Countries.





# Dean of Diplomatic Corps H.E. Atadjan Movlamov honored outgoing Envoy



**A**mbassador of Turkmenistan and Dean of Diplomatic Corps H.E. Atadjan Movlamov hosted farewell dinner reception in the honor of outgoing diplomat. The bid farewell is given to Mr. & Mrs. H.E. Ahmed Fadel Yacoub, Ambassador of Arab Republic of Egypt to Pakistan at Marriott Hotel Islamabad. Member of Diplomatic Community, Government Officials, High dignitaries and media persons also graced the occasion.







# Dean of Diplomatic Corps honored outgoing Envoy

**A**mbassador of Turkmenistan and Dean of Diplomatic Corps H.E. Atadjan Movlamov hosted farewell dinner reception in the honor of outgoing diplomat. The bid farewell is given to H.E. Mr. and Mrs. Noordeen Mohamed Shaheid, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka at Marriott Hotel Islamabad. Member of Diplomatic Community, Government Officials, High dignitaries and media persons also graced the occasion.







## Pakistan Condemns Attacks in Germany

**T**he Government of Pakistan strongly condemns the heinous attacks in Hanau, Germany, which resulted in the loss of a number of innocent lives, as well as injuries to many others.

In this hour of grief, Pakistan stands in solidarity with the Government and people of Germany. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims. We also express our

deep condolences to the Turkish Government over the loss of innocent Turkish lives in the shootings. We wish the injured speedy recovery.

Pakistan remains deeply concerned at the rising tide of Islamophobia, xenophobia and racial hatred sweeping across many parts of the world. The attacks once more underscore that violent extremism knows no race, religion or nationality. We reiterate our call for concerted

efforts to root out ideologies of hate, as well as address the underlying causes of hate crimes.

Pakistan stands ready to partner with Germany and all like-minded States in efforts to confront and counter Islamophobia, and to promote greater inter-religious and inter-civilizational harmony, amity and understanding.

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# 60th birthday of Japanese emperor celebrated

To celebrate the 60th birthday of His Majesty the Emperor, the ambassador of Japan and Mrs Matsuda Kuninori hosted a reception at the Serena Hotel, which as usual, had Japanese companies showcasing their products in the lobby and inside the hall, screenings of Japanese events, where guests were surprised to learn that Japan had a cricket team!

The event was attended by diplomats of different cadres; entities from across the political divide and guests from different walks of life including members of Pakistan's civil society. The guest of honor was Minister, Power Division, Omar Ayub Khan and the ceremonial cake was cut after the national anthems of both countries had been played. Here it is pertinent to mention that the national anthem of Pakistan was played in an upbeat tempo, which sounded different but enjoyable, inviting a few favorable comments!

Welcoming his guests and thanking them for attending this auspicious event - first in Urdu and then in English - Ambassador Kuninori said this year's reception was very special because this is the first birthday reception after the new Emperor ascended the throne and the new Imperial Reign, named 'Reiwa', began.





# 59th Anniversary of the National Day & 29th Anniversary of the Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait

The Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Pakistan Nassar Abdulrahman J. Al-Mutairi on Monday hosted a delightful ceremony to celebrate Kuwait's 59th National Day and 29th Liberation Day. In his message on the occasion he said, "Since independence, Kuwait device the path of a balanced national and foreign policies aimed at achieving welfare and development to the Kuwaiti people and also bolstering cooperation with neighbors in the region as well as friends around the world." "While Kuwait continues to play a pivotal role regionally and internationally, the people of the country rely wholesomely on the guidelines and wise policies set by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah," he pointed out. The ambassador highlighted His Highness the Amir's economic development vision aimed at transforming Kuwait into a regional and international center for finance and business.

The chief guest of the ceremony, Federal Minister for Privatization Muhammad Mian Soomro said, "I feel honored to be invited as the chief guest in this beautiful ceremony. Kuwait and Pakistan enjoy strong, historic relations and we pray that people of Kuwait could see more happiness and such days in future. We import refined petroleum products from Kuwait and export textile, food items to Kuwait making the bond stronger." The minister expressed hope that the trade and bilateral ties will improve between the two countries in the coming future.







# Nepal Army Day Celebrated in Islamabad

**M**s Sewa Lamsal Adhikari, Ambassador of Nepal welcomed a large number of guests to mark the Nepal Army Day at a reception in Islamabad Serena Hotel this week. Pakistan and Nepal have had diplomatic relations since 1960s, with the exchange of ambassadors in 1963. There is close cooperation between the two countries in trade, Defence, higher education, tourism, and other fields. "It is always a pleasure to attend Nepalese events," said a Pakistani woman. "I find the national dresses that are worn special and beautiful, with an ethnic touch to them." Another woman said, "The Nepalese cuisine has special flavours, a bit different from other delicacies of the sub-continent. Besides, the Nepalese hospitality and friendliness are unsurpassed." Member of Diplomatic community, Government Official, High Dignitaries, Business Community and Media persons also grace the occasion.





# 41st anniversary of Islamic Revolution victory of Iran celebrated in Islamabad



Iran's ambassador to Islamabad Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini pointed to the great achievements of Iran and said that the achievements are due to the Islamic Revolution. Commemorating Lt. Gen. Qasem Soleimani, Hosseini added that supporting the oppressed nations of the world, including the Palestinian people, is one of the main goals of Iran's foreign policy. Pakistan's Minister of Maritime Affairs Syed Ali Haider Zaidi who talked on behalf of the country's president and prime minister congratulated the 41st anniversary of the Islamic Revolution victory, noting: "Sanctions have made Iran a strong nation, so the resistance of the Iranian people is a unique model for other countries."









# A contest “Uzbekistan through the eyes of Pakistani children” takes place in Pakistan

**E**mbassy of Uzbekistan in Islamabad has announced the results of a drawing competition on the theme “Uzbekistan through the eyes of Pakistani children,” Dunyo news agency reported. The main purpose of the event was to popularize among the children and Pakistani youth the historical and cultural heritage of great Uzbek thinkers, including representatives of the Baburid dynasty, as well as promoting the tourism potential of Uzbekistan.

More than 100 children’s drawings were submitted to the court of visitors to the Internet resources of our diplomatic mission, for which more than 10 thousand people voted. The main prize of the competition was awarded to Yekartirina Davarzani (8 years old), Aribakh Basit (12 years old) and Amal Beshinbaeva (13 years old) took second and third places respectively.

According to the vice president of the Association of Private Artists Robia Zakir, such cultural events can become a driver of deepening Pakistani-Uzbek relations, primarily in the field of cultural and humanitarian sphere. The competition awakens a keen interest in Uzbekistan among Pakistani youth. Participants of the event noted that the competition held by the Uzbek diplomatic mission in Islamabad not only allowed Pakistanis to get acquainted with the unique history, culture and architecture of the republic, but also motivated many, especially young people, to start studying modern Uzbekistan, the country’s socio-political and socio-economic reforms.







## Islamabad Serena Hotel Brings Turkish Cuisine and Culture to the Capital

The Islamabad Serena Hotel, in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey will Inaugurate a 10 day long Culinary Art Turkish Food Festival at the grand Zamana Restaurant starting from 21st of February to the 1st of March in Islamabad.

This time the Food festival will also be held in our sister property Faisalabad Serena Hotel from the 2nd of March to the 3rd of March 2020.

The visitors will be transported to the magical metropolis of Istanbul as accomplished Turkish Chefs from the enchanting Ciragan Palace in Istanbul will prepare the best of the Turkish Cuisine.

We at the Islamabad Serena Hotel are delighted to welcome Sous-Chef Serdar Ongel, Chef de Partie. Davut Kutlugun and Pastry chef

and chocolatier extraordinaire Servet Kanat, who are responsible for many of the superb meals at the Ciragan Palace Kempinski hotel in Istanbul, the only 17th century Ottoman imperial palace turned hotel in Turkey.

Turkish Cuisine is on the center stage with a wide variety of soups, mezze and kebabs which will be featured on the daily menu along with desserts and assortments. The sea food is also featured along with a live counter serving made to order shawarmas. The chefs will use premium quality ingredients and delicate techniques, giving the diner an extraordinary experience. Turkish musicians will add magic to the event, playing mystical music with folk instruments such as the divan saz and cello.

Mr. Michel A. Galopin, General Manager of the Islamabad Serena Hotel, said, "We are thrilled to be able to bring international flavors and gastronomical delights to Pakistan. Familiarity

with other cultures and cuisines is a way to experience the world and we are proud to partner with Embassy of the Republic of Turkey, Turkish Airlines, Ciragan Palace Kempinski Hotel Istanbul and Gateways International for our Turkish Food Festival."

His Excellency, Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul, ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Pakistan said, "We are honored to bring the original taste and tradition of Turkey to Pakistan. Such activities bridge cultural gaps between the two nations and incite more friendship."

The Turkish Food Festival is part of The Serena Hotel's Cultural Diplomacy Initiative. It is expected that the unique festival will bedazzle our guests.

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# Wedding Ceremony D/o Mirza Ikhtiar Baig

**C**ongratulations on your wedding. Wishing both of you a world of happiness and joy on your wedding day. Congratulations to the perfect couple! The wedding of Haya with Khurram D/o Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig on Sunday 16th February 2020 at BAIGS attended by family members, friends, dignitaries, diplomats, Government officials, media persons, Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad Sarwar, Governor Sindh Imran Ismail, Governor SBP Reza Baqir, Kashmiri leader Mishal Malik, Chief Secretary Sind Mumtaz Ali Shah, DG Rangers Maj Gen. Omar Bokhari, IG Sind Police Kaleem Imam, Ambassador of Morocco Mohammad Karmoune, Mirza Ishtiaq Baig, Consul Generals of Japan, Thailand, Oman, Indonesia, Qatar, Senator Shahzad, Salman Farooqui, Brig Abuzar, Nisar Khoro, Saeed Ghani, Nasir Hussain Shah, Commissioner Karachi Iftikhar Shallwani, Waqar Mehdi, Brig Mansoor Janjua DG ANF, former President Mamnoon Hussain, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, former Governor Sindh Muhammad Zubair, Sajjad Barki, Mohd Ali Tabba, Fawad Anwar, Rana Mashhood, Asif Riaz Tata, Khalid Majeed, Shaheen Merchant, Saqib Bilwani, Dr. Farhan Essa & guests from abroad.











## The Embassy of the State of Qatar in Islamabad celebrates Qatar's National Sports Day

By Aneeq Ahmed Khawaja

The Embassy of the State of Qatar in Islamabad celebrated Qatar's National Sports Day. Members of diplomatic mission and embassy staff actively participated in the sports activities held at the embassy, which included jogging, walking, football, cricket and different other sport competitions.

Qatar's National Sports day is held annually on the second Tuesday of February, with the main objective of promoting awareness about sports.

The State of Qatar has spared no effort to



support sports at all levels in the belief that sport educates young people and generations and build a healthy and vibrant society.

Celebrating Sports Day is considered a great idea that highlights the interest of the state and its investment in its people who represent the basis of development and progress.

Promoting sports is one of the most important pillars of Qatar's National Vision 2030, and in this regard, Qatar's preparations to host the 2022 World Cup are in full swing, which will be a global event for peace bringing different cultures close together.

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