

# DIPLOMATIC FOCUS

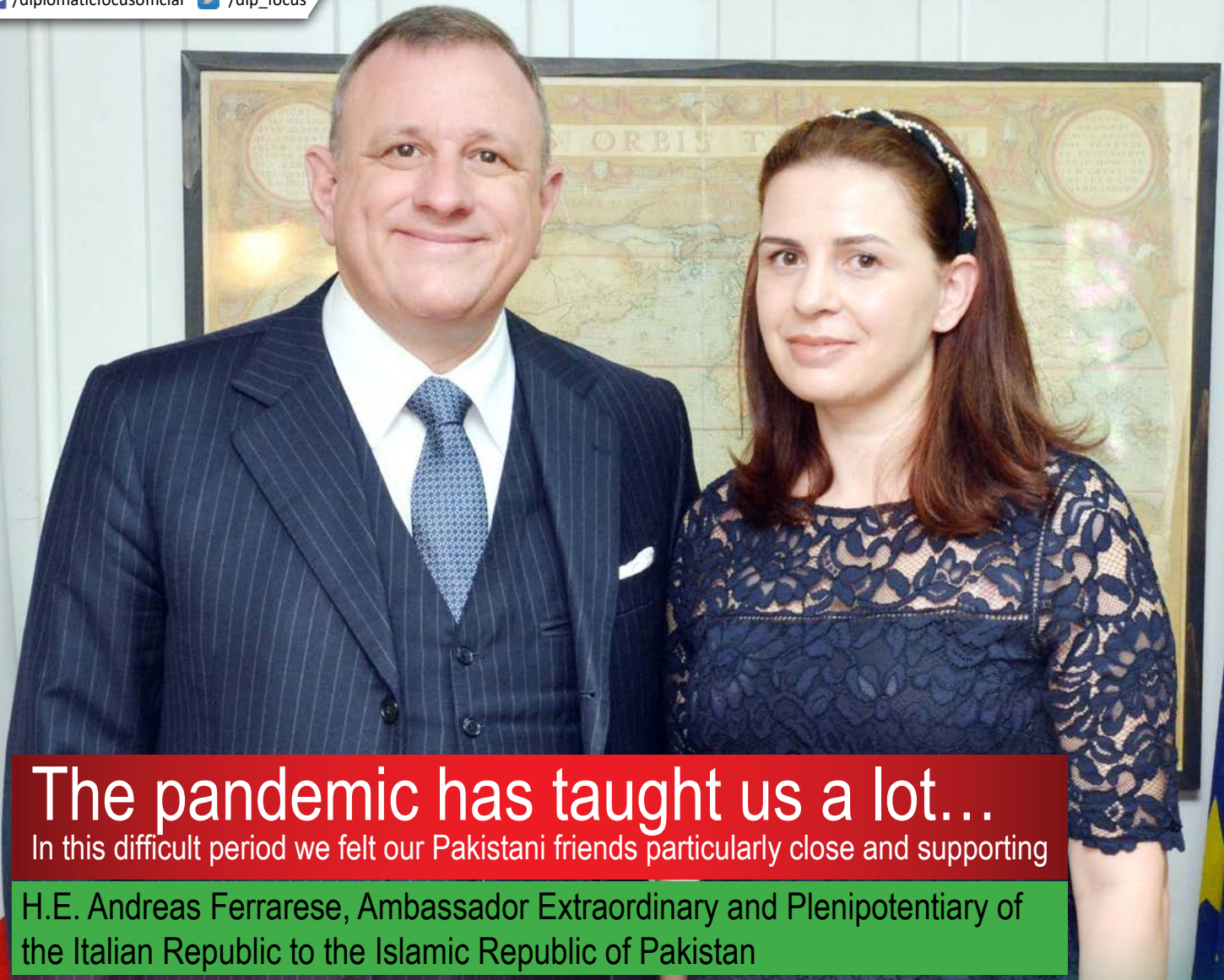
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## The pandemic has taught us a lot...

In this difficult period we felt our Pakistani friends particularly close and supporting

H.E. Andreas Ferrarese, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Italian Republic to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan



Japan is partner for peace & development in region  
H.E. Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad, Pakistan's Ambassador to Japan



Every challenge has an opportunity  
H.E. Dr. Mohammad Faisal, Pakistan's Ambassador to Germany



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## Great Model of Friendship

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## The pandemic has taught us a lot... H.E. Andreas Ferrarese, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Italian Republic to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

our Excellency! First of all, I, on behalf of 'Diplomatic Focus' appreciate your efforts for enhancing the bilateral relations and praise your role as the Ambassador of Republic of Italy to Pakistan. I am also thankful to you for giving us time out of your busy schedule. DF: Your Excellency! How has the pandemic treated you? What was your routine and how has your The pandemic has taught us a lot. Our vulnerabilities and limitations...

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## Japan is a partner for peace and development in our region

Question: The spread of coronavirus is moderate in Japan as compared to many other countries despite being in close proximity with China. What has been the line of action of the Japanese Government in this regard? Fortunately, from the beginning, the number of Covid-19 cases has been limited in Japan if we compare it to Europe or the United States. This is interesting...

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Interview by Mian Fazal Elahi Your Excellency! First of all, I, on behalf of 'Diplomatic Focus' appreciate your efforts for enhancing the bilateral relations and praise your role as an Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Germany. I am also thankful to you for giving us time out of your busy schedule. Question: Your Excellency! What have you learned about...



**SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT ON  
Celebrating 70th Anniversary of  
Pakistan-China Diplomatic Relations**



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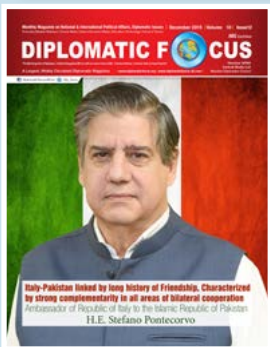
February 2020



January 2020



December 2019



Mian Fazal Elahi

As the number of coronavirus cases increase dramatically, the government does not seem to have any intention of increasing lockdown severity. The number of coronavirus cases continue to rise and so do the deaths, yet the government of Pakistan still seems to be satisfied regarding the current situation, informing that they have no plans to strict the lockdown further. Prime Minister Imran Khan recently chaired a meeting to take an overview of the current situation in the country in context of novel coronavirus outbreak and locust attack. The information minister, Shibli Faraz informed that though the number of cases in the big metropolitan cities like Karachi and Lahore were high and so was the load on the hospitals, but overall the situation in the hospitals was not worrisome. The teams working on the coronavirus management were fully updated with the facts and figures of the effected population of patients as well as the country's state of fighting the battle just in case the condition gets worse. The load on certain hospitals however, was maximal because majority of the people wish to go to some specific hospitals of the city for example Aga Khan University Hospital, South City, Civil Hospital. Therefore, some of these hospitals might have a lesser accommodation available now. The government however appears to be more concerned regarding the public's careless attitude and violation of SOPs but still there was no need to impose stricter lockdown measures across the nation. Prime Minister was satisfied with the decision of easing the lockdown since it could be very detrimental for the economy of our third world country of 150 million people. Our Prime Minister Imran Khan intends to strike a balance between fighting the virus and preventing the economy from slumping. If the lockdown is further intensified, thousands of daily wagers, and small scale businesses will lose their work and means of earning. The only option left for now is to strictly follow the Standard Operating Procedures. It is in the hands of public to help combat the disease and prevent its spread. Citizens are requested to maintain social distancing, wear masks, avoid public gatherings, and don't leave home until need be.

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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President Dr. Arif Alvi chairing the 2nd meeting of Committee on Emerging Technologies at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

## ICTs Played significant role as these technologies accelerated the digitalization of many businesses and services

By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Dr. Arif Alvi asked the Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication (IT & Telecom) to improve accessibility of internet facility in the rural areas as well as build innovative IT-based solutions and skills so as to meet the economic and technological challenges. He stated this while chairing the second meeting of the Committee on Emerging Technologies, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Highlighting the significance of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), the President said that this sector had enormous potential to play vital role in improving economy, commerce, exports, education, health, governance, construction industry, agriculture and other important sectors of the country. He stated that the ICTs played significant role during the current Covid-19 crises as these technologies accelerated the digitalization of many businesses and services, including online working and video conferencing

President directed Ministry of IT & Telecom to initiate measures to enhance the coverage of Internet facility in rural areas so as the students could have uninterrupted access to online education

systems in and out of the work place, access to healthcare, education and other essential goods and services. The President emphasized the need for reinvigorating this vital sector by engaging foreign-based Pakistani IT experts to play their role in the technological development of the country. In order to improve internet coverage in rural areas, the President directed Ministry of IT & Telecom to initiate measures to enhance the coverage of Internet facility in rural areas so as the students could have uninterrupted access to online education. The meeting was attended by the Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Mr. Syed Aminul Haque, Secretary IT & Telecom, Mr. Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Digital Pakistan, Ms. Tania Aidrus, and representatives of provincial governments, including Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan, and other IT experts through video conference.





Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to Pakistan Ms. ANDroulla Kaminara called on Prime Minister Imran Khan in Islamabad.

## EU & Pakistan, Side by Side: 26 billion PKR from EU to face COVID-19

Report by Mian Fazal Elahi

most vulnerable.

**A**mbassador of the European Union to Pakistan, HE Androulla Kaminara met with Prime Minister Imran Khan today to reiterate the EU's commitment to support Pakistan during and beyond the Covid-19 crisis. She presented the 26 billion PKR Covid19 package that the EU has put together in support to Pakistan. Ambassador Kaminara and the Prime Minister also discussed how Pakistan and the EU can further benefit from a stronger political partnership in light of the political, economic and security developments.

Earlier the Ambassador of European Union H.E. Androulla Kaminara along with Ambassador of Netherlands H.E. Wouter Plomp and Czech Republic's Ambassador H.E. Tomas Smentanka met with Federal Minister for Interior Brig(R) Ijaz Ahmad Shah at the Ministry of Interior.

Ambassador Androulla Kaminara said: "A longstanding friend and partner of Pakistan, the European Union stands side by side with Pakistan as the country faces the extraordinary challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic. The EU is convinced that the global pandemic requires global solidarity and cooperation. I very much appreciate the constructive discussion with Prime Minister Imran Khan and I am looking forward to continued collaboration during and beyond the current crisis."

The Prime Minister briefed the Ambassador on the government's vision and action to fight Covid19. Ambassador Kaminara lauded the governments' efforts, including the scale-up of the Ehsaas programme for the most vulnerable and poor. She pointed out the opportunities of the partnership with the EU as major trade partner and key donor in Pakistan.

The European Union is directing €150 million (26 billion PKR; 163 MUSD) towards the short and medium term response in the emerging health crisis in Pakistan and into strengthening the preparedness of Pakistan's people for its social and economic impact, with a specific focus on the

The package and the EU's overall long-standing support to Pakistan are to be seen in addition to EU Member States' generous co-funding of the lending and operational capacity of multilateral institutions currently assisting Pakistan and numerous other countries around the world in addressing the crisis.

Milko van Gool, Head of Cooperation at the Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan explained: "The EU and its 27 Member States, as #TeamEurope, are collaborating on a comprehensive response to help Pakistan address the challenges related to Covid19. We are working closely with the Pakistani government and our partners to make sure our assistance intervenes where it is most needed and where it can make the biggest difference to help the Pakistani people in this crisis."

The package covers a wide range of measures for the short and medium term:

### Humanitarian support of approximately €49 million:

- o Projects worth approximately € 11 million have been launched to provide emergency health support for the most vulnerable population across Pakistan.
- o Another € 27.9 million could be released shortly to scale-up this assistance.
- o € 10 million will help mitigate the impact of

the Covid-19 crisis on Afghan refugees and their host communities in Pakistan.

**Existing and upcoming development** programmes in several sectors and across Pakistan will be partially adjusted to tackle challenges arising from Covid-19. Activities worth approximately € 64 million will focus on:

- o mass awareness raising among the population to reduce infection risk;
- o strengthening diagnostic capacities;
- o purchasing of protective gear and sanitary materials for the rural poor, for medical officers as well as for law enforcement staff;
- o maintaining a helpline to ensure women's safety during the crisis;
- o helping people to generate income in order to avoid or address poverty due to the crisis;
- o supporting vulnerable Small and Medium Enterprises (SME);
- o ensuring education for children; and
- o Supporting Covid-19-related policymaking.

**Payments worth over € 31 million to directly support the government budget are accelerated to provide the provincial governments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh with the means to fund Covid-19 crisis responses.**

**Civil society organisations across Pakistan were invited through a €6.65 million call for proposals to address the social and economic impact of the crisis, while particularly involving young people.**





## PM Imran Khan warns the world against threat to peace from India

Monitoring Desk

**P**rime Minister Imran Khan alerts the world as Indian reckless government poses a threat to peace across the neighboring or regional countries along with Pakistan itself.

Imran Khan discussed the issue on Twitter to seek world's attention in this regard while the foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi conveyed its message via state run PTV channel.

The dominant and racist Indian Prime Minister Modi's government is increasingly becoming a threat to India's neighbors due to its evil expansive plans. Bangladesh via Citizenship Act, border disputes with China and Nepal, and Pakistan is threatened with false flag operation.

Peace between the two countries is in jeopardy since India forcefully captured occupied Jammu Kashmir nearly a year ago. Recently, India's act to alter the domicile law for Kashmir, its irrelevant blames against Pakistan, threats and high level of violation of ceasefire at the Line Of Control have enhanced the resentment between the two neighbors. All of the accusations have come from the top most authorities in India including the military leadership.

Since 1947, India only had bitter terms with Pakistan but the current situation seems to have arisen from its discriminatory mindset which is

effecting the other regional countries as well. Imran Khan, cautioned the world of India's threatening behavior towards harmony in his second tweet. Illegal annexation of Occupied JK is a war crime according to Fourth Geneva Convention, claiming it as its own. Modi's selfish government is also a threat to the minorities living in India downgrading them to second class citizens along with being a threat to regional peace.

Foreign minister on PTV, insisted the world to take an action against India's threatening attitude and also approved of the China's action in Ladakh.

The China-India conflict started off as India began to construct a road and built defensive equipment in the disputed region of Ladakh, which was also a battleground for a month long war between India and China back in 1962. Since then there have been four rounds of unarmed conflicts between the soldiers of two countries and the military leaders warn that the clash might as well just escalate.

Chinese president Xi, has ordered to maintain a high level of vigilance in the disputed region where as the Indian government has increased border deployment. The illegal construction of airstrips and other infrastructure could pose a serious threat to peace, Mr Qureshi warned. E

highlighted that China did not intend to confront India and resolve the issue via dialogues but China could not continue to do so because of illegal acts of India. He also mentioned that India always had problems with Nepal and never missed a chance to halt the Afghan peace process. Nepal issued a map after India constructed an illegal road along its border, emphasizing its control over the disputed part. The incident led to a serious exchange of argument between the countries. Mr Mehmood mentioned that the entire world is aware of wicked games of India in the area of occupied JK and it intends to change its demographic composition. He also said that India attempted to use the land of Afghanistan against Pakistan to destabilize Balochistan.

Keeping the current situation under observation, the human rights wing of Islamic Cooperation, the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission, said that the incidents of Islamophobia violate the human rights law, undermine multiculturalism, and are a threat to international peace and prosperity. This statement came after reports that Maldives restricted Pakistan from discriminating India on Islamophobia and the citing procedural issues refrained Pakistani bid to form a group of delegates on Islamophobia at the UN.





## PAKISTAN GREETED RUSSIA ON VICTORY DAY

APP

Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan sent a message of greeting on the occasion of Russian Victory Day celebration; "Pakistan extends warm felicitations to the Government and people of the Russian Federation on Russia Day. Russia is Pakistan's important partner. We continue to work for forging a long-term and multidimensional partnership."

The annual Parade, which commemorates the end of World War II in Europe, is usually held on May 9 every year. Due to Pandemic, this year, the event was delayed until June 24. However, it has another significance as after winning the war and having its own Victory Day on May 9, Stalin wanted to commemorate the victory with a military parade. On June 22, 1945, he ordered: "In commemoration of the victory over Germany in the Great Patriotic War, I appoint to hold the parade of the regular Army, Navy and the Moscow garrison — Victory Parade June 24, 1945, in Moscow's Red Square." President Putin had originally planned a major celebration, inviting world leaders from all over the world, such as French President Emmanuel Macron, Chinese President Xi Jinping. Pakistan's President Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan have been invited for 75th Victory Day

celebrations. However, due to the Pandemic, the event was reduced, and most of the world leaders could not attend the event. However,

leaders of several former Soviet states were in attendance, including Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.





# Great Model of Friendship



By Mian Fazal Elahi

**T**he diplomatic ties between Pakistan and China were established on 21st May 1951; with every passing year, the strength of this relationship has improved, and the governments of both the countries are determined to take this bond forward. Many milestones have been achieved during these 69 years from 1951 to 2020 as discussed in this article.

After the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1951, the Vice President of China, Madam Song Ching Ling, visited Pakistan in 1955. This was an important event as it marked the first high-level visit from the Chinese side. In the following year 1956, Pakistan's Prime Minister H.S. Suhrawardy visited China, marking the first authoritative visit

from Pakistan's side. Moving forward, the year 1963 is known for a historic visit by the foreign minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to China. It was at this time when a boundary agreement was signed between the two republics after peaceful negotiations, and it is believed that Pakistan has been the only friendly neighborhood country

Pakistan and China signed the landmark memorandum of understanding the importance of cooperation for the long-term planning of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This project was a step forward in mega-investment in Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

which did not have a border dispute with China.

In 1964, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) started its flights to Beijing, being the first non-communist airline to fly to China. This established an interactive linkage between the two countries and provided Pakistan a platform to secure connections with the rest of the world. In 1965, an agreement on Cultural Cooperation was signed between Pakistan and China promoting peace and harmony. 1970 was a crucial year as Pakistan facilitated the visit of the U.S. President Nixon to China which led to the signing of the first official contract between the two countries, and served to develop the Chinese-U.S. relationship. In 1976, an agreement on Scientific and Cultural Cooperation was signed between Pakistan and China providing numerous opportunities for Pakistan's scientists and students to learn and explore. In more than 30 years, about 475 projects have been carried out, under the agreement with a mutual understanding between the two countries, in the fields of agriculture, forestry, electric power, aerospace engineering, biotechnology, and so on.

Moreover, in 1978, the construction of the Karakoram Highway got completed, linking the mountains of Northern Pakistan with Western



China, and also China with the Arabic Ocean. In 1983, Pakistan and China signed an MoU on Educational Exchanges which has led to many Pakistani students studying in China today, and in 1989, an agreement on Reciprocal Encouragement and Protection of Investments was signed and China has been one of the largest investors in Pakistan. In 1995, an agreement for Traffic in Transit was signed amongst Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, opening new locations for transit trade with other central Asian states and entire Eurasia. Also in 1995, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto visited China to attend the fourth Women's conference in Beijing; this gesture aimed to bring the women of the two countries closer. In 1999, a contract was agreed upon to collectively develop and produce JF-17, marking an important event for Pakistan's defense industry. In 2001, 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries were completed, and Premier Zhu Rongji visited Pakistan, and in the same year, an agreement on Tourism Cooperation was signed, paving way for the progression of the Tourism Industry.

The year 2003 was significant as a Preferential Trade Agreement was signed between Pakistan and China, providing Pakistan with opportunities to tap into new markets for its exports and promote value addition in its industries. 2005 marked an end of a bilateral MoU on Cooperation in Information Technology. China spearheaded this and Pakistan had an opportunity to learn from China's achievements. Also in the same year, Chinese Premier, Wen Jiabao, visited Pakistan, and a treaty of "Friendship, Cooperation, and Good Neighborly Relations" was signed between the two countries which further deteriorated their bond. In 2006, the Chinese President, Hu Jintao, visited Pakistan, and in the same year, both the countries signed a free trade agreement to increase Pakistan's exports to China. In 2008, Pakistan welcomed the Chinese Olympic Torch in Islamabad, and two years later, in 2010, the Chinese Premier, Wen Jiabao, toured Pakistan again. In the same year, the JF-17 was introduced in the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), enhancing the standard of Pakistan's arsenal.

In 2013, many important events took place. Firstly, Chinese Premier, Li Keqiang, visited Pakistan and both the countries decided to deepen the Comprehensive Strategic Cooperation to lay the foundation of CPEC. In the same year, Pakistan and China signed the landmark memorandum of understanding the importance of cooperation for the long-term planning of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This project was a step forward in mega-investment in Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a global development technique used by the Chinese government to develop infrastructure in about 70 countries and international organizations. With this project, Pakistan awarded China with the construction and

operation of Gwadar Port. The completion of the port is due by 2030 after which it is going to become an economic hub for world trade and economic activities. In the same year, Prime Minister, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, visited China and both sides agreed to the idea of deepening the China-Pakistan Strategic Cooperative Partnership in the modern time. Also, both the countries understood the significance of CPEC as a driving force behind Pakistan's economic development and Chinese

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PM Imran Khan,  
visited China and  
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to strengthen  
the All-Weather  
Strategic Cooperative  
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collectively put efforts  
to bring the China-  
Pakistan community  
closer to improve the  
welfare of both the  
nations in the  
modern era

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inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the country.

In 2014, the governments of both the countries agreed on the construction and operation of a 27km Orange Line Metro train in Punjab. The year 2015 was termed as the year of "Friendly Exchanges 2015" since the trade between the two countries touched US\$16 billion, and the Chinese President, Xi Jinping visited Pakistan after which both the economies signed over 50 documents including the CPEC projects worth US\$ 46 billion. By that time, investment had already increased to US\$ 62 billion. In 2016, Pakistan and China celebrated the 65th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations, and the countries revealed plans for the future of CPEC to secure peace, cooperation, and collaboration during the activities of the project. Also, as a goodwill gesture, Prime Minister, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, attended the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing.

In 2018, many events were organized and

steps taken by both the economies to foster their relationship. For example, Prime Minister, Imran Khan, visited China and both sides agreed to strengthen the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and collectively put efforts to bring the China-Pakistan community closer to improve the welfare of both the nations in the modern era. Also, CPEC moved into its second stage, the social-economic development of Pakistan. During this time, the second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement was signed, improving Pakistan's exports. Imran Khan attended the first China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai. The CIIE was an attempt by China to open its markets for Pakistan's products. The Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) was also set up, and Pakistan launched its first Remote Sensing Satellite-1 (PRSS-1) from China's Jiuquan Satellite Center, allowing Pakistan to obtain membership of the renowned space club.

The first event that shed light on the brotherly ties between Pakistan and China was the groundbreaking the Allama Iqbal Industrial City (M3)- an SEZ in Faisalabad. Later in the year, Imran Khan visited China to attend the second edition of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. Also, the Joint Working Group (JWG) on International Coordination and Cooperation was initiated. In May 2019, the Chinese Vice President visited Pakistan, and both the countries celebrated 2019 as the year of sister-city or province since Pakistan and China share several MoUs signed as sister cities or provinces. In the same year, a third China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Trilateral Foreign Ministers Dialogue was organized in Islamabad to resolve the Afghan crisis. After Imran Khan visited China in October, a CPEC authority was set up to supervise and coordinate the responsibilities under the project, and a CPEC Cell was also established in the Prime Minister's office. In the current year 2020, the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA)-II started from 1st January. Amidst the coronavirus crisis, there has been a great deal of bilateral coordination between the two countries, and China has been the major contributor of financial assistance to Pakistan to help it fight against the virus outbreak. Lastly, the president of Pakistan, Mr. Arif Alvi, visited China in March 2020 and signed MoUs including the MoU to establish JWGs on Science & Technology and Agricultural Cooperation.

To conclude the above discussion, it can be safely said that Pakistan and China have been on close terms since their diplomatic relations were established in 1951. Both the countries have helped each other during difficult times, and it has to be accepted by every nation across the globe why China calls Pakistan its "Iron Brother" and why the two economies have become the closest partners in light of the entire timeline mentioned in this article.

# High Level Exchanges



**Special Feature Report by Mian Fazal Elahi  
on the occasion of Celebrating 70th Anniversary  
of Pakistan-China Diplomatic Relations**

**D**uring the mid of March, Pakistani President Dr. Arif Alvi paid his first state visit of China. Given the intensity of the strength of Pakistan and China relationship and their finest tradition of standing by each other through thick and thin, especially during tough times, President Dr. Arif Alvi's first visit to Beijing was clearly an example of Pakistan's solidarity with its "iron brother".

The visit was undertaken at the time when China was trapped in a grievous crisis of battling with COVID-19. During this visit, Dr. Arif Alvi met with the China's President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang and Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, Li Zhanshu. The two sides agreed to further strengthen China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership aimed at building a Community of Shared Future in the New Era. Both sides reaffirmed their support on problems concerning each other's core national interests. A joint statement was issued post visit. Both Presidents signed multiple agreements/MoUs,

including the one on the establishment of working groups of science and technology, agriculture under the CPEC framework. Since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, President Xi had a telephonic conversation with the PM Imran Khan on February 20th to discuss about the bilateral cooperation to uniformly address

the challenge of the epidemic. State Council and the Foreign Minister Wang Yi called the Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on April 15th. Both Foreign Ministers attended a video conference of foreign ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on May 13th.

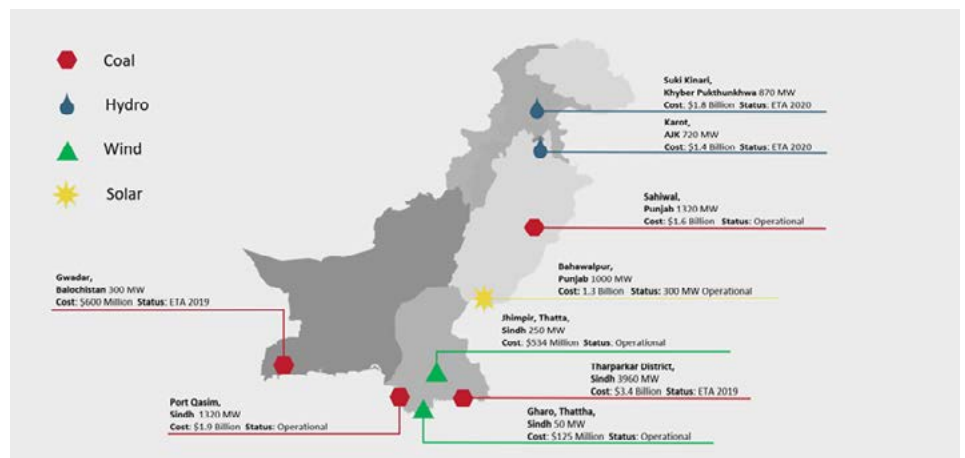






# Promoting High-Quality Development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

The CPEC is a major project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It has succeeded in the development of Gwadar Port, energy sector, infrastructure, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) over the past six years. Since the beginning of this year, both of the countries have worked hand in hand to combat the challenge of the COVID-19 for the sustainable development of the CPEC. There is ZERO infection in CPEC projects due to strict measures taken by both of the sides. Joint working groups on energy, agriculture, social and economic cooperation, science and technology, have each progressed via video conferencing to review the progress. Phase 2 of Karakorum Highway is almost ready to allow the traffic surge. The integrated test and commissioning inspection for Lahore Orange Line Project have been successfully completed and passed. The construction of a new airport in Gwadar approaches Phase 2 as well. The construction of Karot Hydra power station is readily under progress. The two countries continued to have a discussion on ML-1. Pakistan government has allow permitted transit trade of bulk Afghan cargo which includes wheat, sugar, and fertilizer via Gwadar Port. The construction and operation of CPEC projects will give a fresh start to Pakistan's economy and help to stabilize Pakistan's economy amid the COVID-19 outbreak.



# China-Pakistan (1950-2020)

## A journey of friendship

By Zamir Ahmed Awan

Pakistan and China established diplomatic relations on May 21, 1951. The first high-level official delegation visited China just after three months of liberation, on January 4, 1950. But the bonds of friendship have gone back to centuries-old trade relations, when Chinese traders travel through Pakistan on their business trips to the Middle-East, Europe, and the rest of the world through ancient Silk Route. Over 2,000 years ago famous figures such as the monks Fa Xian and Xuan Zang traveled through areas which are today known as Pakistan.

This relationship was built on the strength of successive achievements and becomes formidable with each passing day and year. The leadership of both countries is committed to taking this relationship forward.

To understand the depth of this unique relationship, here is a glimpse of the milestones reached over the years:

- 1950 - Pakistan becomes the third non-communist country, and the first Muslim one, to recognize the People's Republic of China and dispatched a high level delegation to China on January 4, 1950.
- 1951 The two countries established formal diplomatic relations on May 21, 1951.
- 1955 Visit of Vice President Madam Song Ching Ling to Pakistan marked the first high level visit from Chinese side.
- 1956 Visit of Prime Minister H.S. Suhrawardy to China, was the first high level visit from Pakistan.
- 1963 Historic Visit of Foreign Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto to China
- 1963 Pakistan and China conclude boundary agreement through peaceful negotiations. Pakistan is the only and most friendly country in the neighborhood who has never had any difference of opinion or border dispute with China.
- 1964 Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) started its flights to Beijing, becoming the first non-communist country airline to fly from Beijing, entering into a new era of linkages between the two countries. Pakistan was the window for China to interact

with the rest of world.

- 1965 Agreement on Cultural Cooperation signed, promoting understanding and harmony.
- 1970 Pakistan facilitates first visit by US President Nixon to China, paving way for the first-ever US-China official contact, leading toward the normalization of Sino-American relations.
- 1976 Agreement on Scientific and Cultural Cooperation signed, opening huge opportunities for Pakistani scientists and students.
- 1978 The Karakoram Highway, a construction miracle, linking mountainous Northern Pakistan with Western China officially opened, linking China to the Arabian Ocean.
- 1983 Pakistan and China sign MoU on Educational Exchanges, which led 32,000 Pakistani student studying in China today.
- 1989 The two countries sign an agreement on Reciprocal Encouragement and Protection of Investments. China is the largest investor in Pakistan.
- 1995 Agreement for Traffic in Transit is signed between the Governments of Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, opening avenues of transit trade with other central Asian states and whole of Eurasia.
- 1995 Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto visits China as a special guest to attend the 4th Women's Conference in Beijing, bring the women of the two friendly nations close to each other.
- 1999 The contract to jointly develop and produce the JF-17 was signed, a landmark event for Pakistan's defense Industry.
- 2001 Premier Zhu Rongji visits Pakistan on the occasion of 50 years of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations.
- 2001 China and Pakistan sign agreement on Tourism Cooperation, opening unlimited opportunities in the development of the tourism industry.
- 2003 Preferential Trade Agreement



is signed between the two countries, providing market access to Pakistani exports.

- 2005 Bilateral MoU on Cooperation in Information Technology is concluded, with China leading and providing Pakistan with a huge opportunity to learn from Chinese achievements.
- 2005 Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visits Pakistan.
- 2005 "Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Good Neighborly Relations" is signed between the two countries, further cementing ties of friendship.
- 2006 Chinese President Hu Jintao pays an official visit to Pakistan.
- 2006 China and Pakistan sign Free Trade Agreement, leading toward enhanced exports to China.
- 2008 Pakistan welcomes the Chinese Olympic Torch in Islamabad
- 2010 Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visits Pakistan.
- 2010 JF-17 inducted in Pakistan Air Force as backbone of our Air Force and already exporting to other countries.
- 2013 Premier Li Keqiang visits



Pakistan in May and both sides issue a Joint Statement on Deepening Comprehensive Strategic Cooperation, which became the basis of CPEC.

- 2013 Pakistan and China sign the landmark Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation for the Long-term Plan on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a flagship project of Chinese mega initiative in the BRI.
- 2013 Pakistan awards a contract for the construction and operation of the Gwadar Port to China. Gwadar will become the economic hub of world trade and economic activities after its completion in 2030.
- 2013 Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif visits China and both sides agree to the Common Vision for Deepening China-Pakistan Strategic Cooperative Partnership in the New Era
- 2013 Both countries sign Memorandum of Understanding on the Cooperation of Developing China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Long-term Plan and Actions, opening the flow of Chinese FDI and investment into Pakistan.
- 2014 The governments of Pakistan and China agree on the construction of the 27 km Orange Line metro train project in Punjab.
- 2015 The two countries celebrate 2015 as the Year of Friendly Exchanges 2015 - Trade between the two countries reaches US \$16 billion.
- 2015 Chinese President Xi Jinping undertakes a landmark visit to Pakistan, both countries signed over 50 documents including the agreement on CPEC outlining projects worth USD 46 billion. The pledged investment already raised USD 62 billion.
- 2016 The two countries celebrate the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.
- 2016 China-Pakistan unveils the Long-term Plan of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), paving the ways for further cooperation and collaboration.
- 2017 Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif attends the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing.
- 2018 Prime Minister Imran Khan pays a historic visit to China and both sides agree to further strengthen the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and jointly build Closer China-Pakistan Community of a Shared Future in the New Era.



- 2018 CPEC enters in its Second Phase, focused on social-economic development of Pakistan on a faster pace.
- 2018 Phase-II of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement was signed, facilitating Pakistani exports.
- 2018 Prime Minister Imran Khan attends the First China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai. A leading initiative of China for opening its markets to Pakistani products.
- 2018 Groundbreaking of Rashakai Special Economic Zone.
- 2018 Pakistan launches Remote Sensing Satellite-1 (PRSS-1) from China's Jiuquan Satellite Centre, enabling Pakistan to the membership of prestigious Space Club.
- 2019 Groundbreaking of Allama Iqbal Industrial City (M3), Faisalabad Special Economic Zone.
- 2019 Prime Minister Imran Khan visits China to attend the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.
- 2019 JWG Joint Working Group on International Coordination and Cooperation launched.
- 2019 Visit of Chinese Vice President to Pakistan in May.
- 2019 The two sides celebrate 2019 as the year of sister-city / province, China-Pakistan shares several MoUs signed as sister cities or provinces.
- 2019 Pakistan hosts the Third China-

Afghanistan-Pakistan Trilateral Foreign Ministers Dialogue in Islamabad, a breakthrough in diplomacy toward resolving the Afghan crisis.

- 2019 Visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China in October.
- 2019 CPEC Authority has been set-up to coordinate and monitor progress on CPEC Projects
- 2019 A CPEC Cell was also established in the Prime Minister's Office.
- 2019 9th JCC took place in Islamabad in November.
- 2020 CPFTA-II became operational from 1st January, whereas Pakistan may enjoy better access to the Chinese market.
- 2020 Extensive bilateral coordination in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic; China is the major contributor who extended the largest amount of assistance to Pakistan in fighting the outbreak.
- 2020 Visit of the President Alvi to China in March 2020. MOUs signed including MOU to establish JWG on Science & Technology and Agricultural Cooperation

Pakistan and China have enjoyed close and friendly relations since the establishment of diplomatic relations on May 21, 1951. Over the years, the relationship has blossomed into an "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership", with the CPEC at its core. Pakistan considers China as one of its closest friends and partners and China considers Pakistan as its "Iron Brother".



## China is expected to achieve positive economic growth this year

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang meets the press after the closing of the third session of the 13th National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, May 28, 2020. Li took questions from Chinese and foreign reporters via video link. (Xinhua/Ding Haitao)

Premier Li Keqiang said Thursday China is expected to achieve positive economic growth this year if security in six key areas is ensured.

The six areas refer to job security, basic living needs, operations of market entities, food and energy security, stable industrial and supply chains, and the normal functioning of primary-level governments.

Li highlighted efforts to maintain security in the first three areas when addressing a news conference after the conclusion of the annual national legislative session.

China has set no specific target for economic growth this year due to great uncertainties. Instead, it has made practical plans to ensure more than 9 million new urban jobs, give full play to over 100 million market entities, and



improve people's livelihoods.

### VITALITY AND WELLBEING

Not setting a specific GDP growth target does not mean that economic development is not important, Li said. "Our decision is designed for the economic development to deliver more real gains to our people and we want to promote

higher quality development."

The policies and measures are designed to provide vital relief to businesses and revitalize the markets, with a particular focus on keeping jobs and protecting people's livelihoods instead of undertaking large infrastructure construction projects, he said.





"This is because big change has taken place in China's economic structure where consumption is now the primary engine driving growth, and micro, small and medium-sized companies now provide over 90 percent of all jobs in China today," said the premier.

Li said money invested in the people will be able to generate new wealth, help protect and preserve tax sources, and make public finance more sustainable.

"We will do our utmost to keep China's economic growth stable, and at the same time we must ensure that all measures taken are well calibrated," he said.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang meets the press after the closing of the third session of the 13th National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, May 28, 2020. Li took questions from Chinese and foreign reporters via video link. (Xinhua/Yao Dawei)

### OUTMANEUVERING DIFFICULTIES

COVID-19 has taken a heavy toll on the global economy in a way rarely seen before, Li said. "As China's economy has become deeply integrated into the global economy, it is simply impossible for it to stay immune to the impact."

China will take targeted measures instead of massive stimulus to boost economic growth, Li said. "We have repeatedly said that we will not flush the Chinese economy with liquidity. We didn't do it and we will not do it now."

"Just as water is important to fish farming, sufficient liquidity is important to economic development," Li said. "But excessive liquidity will induce froth in the marketplace where some people may attempt to muddy the waters and fish for arbitrage."

The country reserves policy space on the fiscal, financial, social security and other fronts, and is in a strong position to quickly introduce new measures should the situation call for it without any hesitation, Li said.

China will be able to fulfill the tasks and goals for the whole year and complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, he said.

Journalists attend a press conference given by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in Beijing, capital of China, May 28, 2020. Li took questions from Chinese and foreign reporters via video link during the press conference after the closing of the third session of the 13th National People's Congress in Beijing. (Xinhua/Liu Jinhai)

### BIG OPEN MARKET

Keeping China's economic fundamentals stable will contribute to the whole world, and the country will remain a positive force driving global economic recovery and growth, Li said.

It is impossible for any country to achieve further development with its door closed and China will keep to its opening-up policy and will not waver in this commitment, he said.

China, a huge market for the world, is prepared to boost imports, Li said, noting that measures to provide relief and revitalize the market are expected to further spur consumption.

To facilitate foreign investment, China will further implement the foreign investment law, shorten the negative list for foreign investment, further open up the service sector, and improve the business environment.

"We hope that people will stay optimistic about coming to invest in this big market of China," he said.

# Impact of COVID-19 on BRI cooperation temporary and limited: Chinese FM



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi attends a press conference on China's foreign policy and foreign relations via video link on the sidelines of the third session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, May 24, 2020. (Xinhua/Li He)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday assured the international community that the impact of COVID-19 on the Belt and Road (BRI) is temporary and limited. He noted that the pandemic will only strengthen and re-energize BRI cooperation and open up new possibilities.

"BRI cooperation is build on its real benefits to the people in partner countries. It is driven by a strong and shared commitment to common development, the future of the BRI lies in expanding cooperation to new eras," said Wang.

According to the minister, China will continue to follow the principle of consultation and cooperation for shared benefits, and support open, green and clean development. He added that by aiming for high-standard, people-centered and sustainable progress, China will make the BRI a model of development, cooperation and health for all involved.



## A strong and visionary man behind Pakistan-China friendship

Pakistan and China are the closest of friends. They are strategic partners, in war and peace alike. Sino-Pakistan friendship is globally seen as a role model for nations to learn from. China and Pakistan are now involved in the construction of a multi-billion dollar project known as the “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor” (CPEC). The aim is to harmonize the development and further strengthen the existing ties. This story of robust cooperation and trust however goes back to the 1950s. It is widely observed Sino-Pakistan relationships owns to men and women in both countries, who worked selflessly to nurture this relationship. Some of them will always remain unknown while a few can be identified easily. Among these great personalities, General Geng Biao is a record of history.

Geng Biao the fiery general from the army was summoned by Chairman Mao. He was asked to relinquish his diplomatic assignment at Sweden and reach Pakistan as new Chinese ambassador

to Pakistan. He although very unfamiliar with his new appointment readily accepted and promised to fulfill his new tasks in his new capacity as a challenge.

Geng Biao is the chief architect of Pakistan-China relations. He was born on August 26,

1909 in Liling a small county in Hunan Province. He started from very humble beginnings, he used to work in a lead-zinc mine in Shuishikou, and later on he joined the Communist Party of China (CPC). Before being posted to Pakistan in 1956, he served as the Chinese ambassador to





Sweden. But the visionary decision of Chairman Mao to assign him to Pakistan proved right and just in-time when General Ayub Khan was ruling Pakistan. Geng Biao was indeed the right choice to be posted to Pakistan. He had a long military career, a trait very well respected among Pakistan's military leaders and due to this and his new found diplomatic skills, and he got a very close working relation with President Ayub Khan and the Pakistan Army. This served well as the basis of relationship between the two countries and continues till date. Both armies developed soon a strategic understanding and frequent exchanges at various levels further cemented the two nations closer.

CPEC is not a newly conceived idea, but it is the cultivation of a thought process which Chairman Mao and General Geng Biao had. After only 6 months of holding office in Pakistan, Geng Biao returned to China to attend a high-level meeting. After the meeting Chairman Mao asked Ambassador Geng to stay and discussed about a possibility of opening a new route to from Chinese western borders into Pakistan. He told Geng "This is your new task". The Idea was very well perceived in Pakistan and eventually led to the construction of the Karakoram Highway (KKH).

We can say that CPEC is a modern day re-incarnation of the decades old idea. Chinese President Xi Jinping was the staff-officer of Geng Biao. While on his first trip to Pakistan, President Xi said: "Although this is my first trip to Pakistan but I already know a lot about Pakistan from my former boss-mentor Geng Biao." So it is very likely that Geng Biao's work regarding opening up road linkages between the two countries had also influenced President Xi's One Belt, One Road policy.

While President Xi was staff officer to General Geng, he learned a lot about Pakistan and developed his vision about the strategic importance of Pakistan-China friendship. He was very good officer and excellent student and learner too. He was also looked after the Mrs Geng Biao and enjoyed a family like working environment. He was emotionally attached to General Geng and his family. At the death time of General Geng, President Xi was serving in Fujian province as governor. He was shocked with this news and travelled to Beijing to complete all rituals of his funeral.

Ambassador Geng Biao after returning from his diplomatic duties abroad, was made in charge of the CPC's Central Foreign Communication Department. Geng Biao with his exceptional talents and vast experience in military and diplomatic affairs proved to be a man of great promise in Beijing. In 1978, he was appointed as vice-premier of the State Council, in charge of foreign relations, military industry, civil airlines and tourism. In January 1979, he became the Secretary-general and member of



Standing Committee of CPC's Central Military Commission. In 1981, he became the Minister of National Defence, and became State Councilor the following year. In 1983, he became Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and Chairman of Foreign Relation Committee in PNC.

Geng Biao was a military genius, a great diplomat, a strategist and above all a kind father too. He left two sons and two daughters. Unfortunately one of his son died and the other one is doing business now a days. His eldest daughter Geng Ying is heading an NGO and actively working in Pak-China Friendship Association, while the younger one Geng Yan is a prominent researcher and head of "The Silk Route Fund". She has keen interest in the well-being of Pakistan and pro-actively supports CPEC.

In 1950s, the US and allies imposed sanctions on China and placed economic blockade on China. Pakistan was only country providing linkage between China and rest of the world. Pakistan was termed "Window" for China to interact with

the rest of world. It was the vision of Chairman Mao and General Geng Biao to connect China with Pakistan with Karakorum Highway to access the Arabian Ocean, as alternative route for China in case of tension in Pacific Ocean. The US is maintain several military basis in Pacific Ocean and countries in Pacific Ocean are pro-US. The US was always maintaining hegemony in the Pacific Ocean, which is a permanent threat for China. CPEC is an alternate to Pacific Ocean in case of emergencies. It is time to speed up CPEC and full-fill the dream of great leader Chairman Mao and General Geng.

Today, when we see tension in Pacific Ocean, we concludes, his visionary approach was absolutely right. Long Lives China-Pakistan Friendship.

The author is Prof. Engr. Zamir Ahmed Awan, Sinologist (ex-Diplomat), Editor, Analyst, Non-Resident Fellow of CCG (Center for China and Globalization), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad, Pakistan.

# From Khunjerab to Gwadar 69 years of concord cooperation and connectivity

**R**eflecting on the monumental journey traversed by Pakistan and China over the past seven decades calls to mind the Chinese proverb: “Finding a soulmate who knows one’s heart is far harder than striking gold.” On the international stage, where ceaseless change is the only certainty along the long road to harmonious interdependence, I marvel at the wisdom of successive generations of our two nations for forging a bond stronger than steel, and bequeathing this invaluable legacy for those to follow. Our forebears have done well by us.

In 1950, Pakistan became the first Muslim and third non-Communist country to recognise the People’s Republic of China. The establishment of diplomatic ties – of which we mark the 69th anniversary today – followed a short year later, and under personal handwritten instructions from Chairman Mao Zedong to the Chinese Foreign Ministry. The first high-level contact between Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Bogra and Premier Zhou Enlai on the sidelines of the Bandung Conference in 1955 initiated a tradition of frequent exchanges that endures to this day.

Premier Zhou visited Pakistan a record four times – a feat of bilateral relations reflected in the name of the main avenue running through Islamabad’s diplomatic enclave. In Beijing, then Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was the last visiting foreign leader received by Chairman Mao despite his frail health at the time. In contemporary times, Pakistan was the first overseas destination for Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in May 2013 following the CPC’s historic 18th National Congress that ushered in a new era for China. In April 2015, President Xi Jinping paid a historic state visit to Pakistan, elevating the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and giving further impetus to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as the flagship project of his visionary Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Prime Minister Imran Khan has paid three visits to China within the span of a year after taking office, each time taking Pakistan and China further along the road to a closer community of shared future in the new era and adding further substance to the depth and breadth of cooperation.

High-level contact between Pakistan and China goes far beyond symbolism or rhetoric. It underlines the unshakable trust and understanding that is the hallmark of our

relationship, and the consensus of our leaders provides essential guidance for continuing along our shared path towards the common goals of peace and prosperity. Perhaps uniquely amongst international relations in this day and age, the Pakistan-China friendship marks a departure from conventional theories about realpolitik and zero-sum games. This relationship is based on mutual respect, enabling it to withstand the vicissitudes of history and grow continually irrespective of international, regional and even domestic developments. The seeds sown and tended to by successive generations of Pakistanis and Chinese have thus bloomed into an All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership that we have today, enjoying broad-based support from all segments of society.

At a time of a profound transformation in the international system and unprecedented challenges for humanity, the continuing vitality of the Pakistan-China relations is a stabilising influence in the region and beyond. Pakistan shares the joy over China’s re-emergence on the world stage: the jubilant celebrations of New China’s 70th anniversary last October were followed with admiration and cheer in Pakistan. Following decades of economic revitalisation and guided by her longstanding principles of mutual respect, equality and win-win cooperation, Pakistan sees a stronger China as a force of good in the world. China, in turn, sees a strong, safe and prosperous Pakistan as a source of strength and stability.

As the world is braced for the Covid-19 outbreak, China bought precious time through the unprecedented lockdown of Hubei and Wuhan. While others withdrew their citizens from the affected areas – ignoring the scientific evidence and perhaps contributing to the global pandemic we face today – local Pakistanis stayed put. In fact, Pakistan was the only country to send its diplomats to Hubei during the lockdown with a mission to facilitate our citizens and reinforce the local authorities’ efforts to look after them as their own. We have thus chronicled firsthand the heroism of the Chinese nation, and especially of people in Wuhan and Hubei, and are proud to have stood shoulder to shoulder with them during this difficult time.

At the height of the Covid-19 pandemic in March this year, President Arif Alvi arrived in Beijing with the singular purpose of expressing solidarity with China in its people’s war against the disease. Speaking of Pakistan’s assistance for



By Naghmana A Hashmi

China when the outbreak was first discovered, President Alvi noted that Pakistan did not need a back-up plan for its friendship with China. Reciprocating that sentiment, President Xi recalled the Chinese proverb that fire is the test of gold. Throughout the global ordeal, Pakistan and China have withstood all trials, reinforced the mutual confidence of both peoples, and provided an example for the rest of the world.

With the virus finding its way eventually to my country, and despite the residual risks of an imported second wave of infections, China’s assistance for Pakistan has been both timely and generous. From medical teams to ventilators to PPEs, a sustained air bridge between our two countries has ensured that supplies reach those who need it on the frontlines.

These flight operations are living up to our forebears’ legacy: Pakistan’s national airline was the first outside the Soviet Bloc to fly to China at the height of the Cold War. During the SARS outbreak of 2002-03, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) continued to fly to Beijing even as others cancelled. And none may forget that detail in the saga of the United States’ long-awaited course correction in the 1970s: It was Pakistani diplomats and aircraft that ferried Henry Kissinger to Beijing for that fateful meeting. The lesson from history is clear: Pakistan would never let China face difficulties on its own.

Faced with the Covid-19 pandemic that respects no borders and makes no distinctions between nations, Pakistan deplores efforts to politicise the issue and stigmatise China. Short-sighted and fruitless as such attempts will undoubtedly prove to be, it is the world’s collective misfortune that there are those for whom even a global public health emergency is nothing more than a political soapbox. Rather than a witch-hunt, Pakistan wishes we would rather seize the opportunity for forging stronger mechanisms for cooperation. Such calamities will recur in the globalised world and we have a shared responsibility to ensure we are prepared.

As the world recovers and we set about restoring normalcy to billions – protecting both lives and livelihoods – China’s principled approach and dignity in the face of antagonism will serve as a stark contrast to the behaviour of other parties.

Amid shrill warnings of de-globalisation, trade



conflicts and “decoupling”, China’s experience in fostering greater cooperation and connectivity promises a far more attractive alternative for the world. Seven years after its unveiling, the BRI has made considerable progress towards our shared vision of the future, free from divisions and uneven development that have haunted the world like a spectre in the past.

In Pakistan, the BRI’s signature project of CPEC has steadily delivered tangible results and directly benefited the local people. The 3,000km-long corridor starts from the city of Kashgar in southwest China and terminates at Gwadar in southwest Pakistan, thereby connecting the overland Silk Road Economic Belt with the overseas 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

Prior to the economic headwinds precipitated by the pandemic, CPEC and the broader Pakistan-China economic partnership had infused renewed vitality into our socioeconomic development in the short span of a few years. The focus of CPEC’s early-harvest phase on energy and transportation infrastructure has set the stage for Pakistan’s economic revitalisation through efficiency of communications, removal of bottlenecks and creating a conducive business environment through the development of industrial parks and special economic zones. This industrialisation drive will not neglect traditional mainstays of our economy, such as agriculture and textiles, and it will give full play to investors and businessmen from Pakistan and elsewhere.

As we look beyond the storm of the global pandemic, CPEC’s next phase of even higher quality development will encompass new areas such as science and technology and agriculture. Meanwhile, 27 socioeconomic development projects across all parts of the country would create necessary conditions for enabling the multiplier effects of the large-scale investments, ensuring that no-one would be left behind.

As Imran Khan noted in his first speech as Prime Minister, China’s success in rescuing 700 million people out of the clutches of poverty is a miracle worth emulating. China, for its part, has readily shared its experience and best practices for Pakistan’s benefit. China has stepped forward to assist Pakistan in harnessing the potential of our dynamic population, and thus realising the fruits of our demographic dividend. Both sides are stepping up efforts to ensure that the results of our economic engagement are in keeping with the needs of our people and the development path chosen by Pakistan.

In the town of Gwadar, the port and Free Zone have already become operational, creating opportunities for employment, investment and commerce. At another level, Gwadar will complement our other ports and make Pakistan an increasingly efficient and attractive trans-

## Chinese spacecraft carrying Pakistan’s national flag returns from its space journey



In another significant milestone of Pakistan-China bilateral space cooperation, a national flag of Pakistan, sent to outer space onboard ‘Tian’he’ on May 5, returned back on Friday.

A ceremony was held today at the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST) for the

shipment hub between and among China, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa. The emergence of Gwadar as a hub of regional commerce and logistics will multiply economic opportunities for the broader region. Our concerted efforts have ensured the smooth implementation of CPEC projects despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Thanks to the special measures taken, there is some comfort in knowing that there were no cases of imported infection, and all Chinese in Pakistan are safe. Just as we cut through the mountains of the Himalayas to build the Friendship Highway in the 1960s and 1970s, Pakistan and China are writing a new chapter in the storied history of our friendship through CPEC, the common struggle against Covid-19, and in myriad other arenas. Looking back at the past 69 years of shared weal and woe, Pakistan’s confidence in this partnership has been well placed and well earned, reminding me of Chairman Mao’s lines: “Idle boast the strong pass is a wall of iron, With firm strides we are crossing its summit.”

Looking forward to the milestone 70th anniversary in a year’s time, there may be many uncertainties in the world, but the Pakistan-China

“hatch opening” of Tian’he spacecraft module, which re-entered Earth on May 8, 2020.

“The Embassy of Pakistan in China had handed over the national flag of Pakistan for the space voyage to CMSA in Beijing on 11 February 2020. In this ceremony, Mr Hao Chun, Director General CMSA, handed back the flag to Ambassador Naghmana A. Hashmi, Ambassador of Pakistan to China,” read the official communique.

In line with China’s endeavors to develop a new generation space station by China Manned Space Agency (CMSA), the space module was launched into outer space by a Long March 5B rocket.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Naghmana A. Hashmi congratulated CMSA, CAST and other Chinese research institutions for the successful mission of Tian’he.

Recalling excellent bilateral cooperation between the two countries in outer space ventures, Ambassador Hashmi, while referring to launching of PRSS-1 and PakTES-1 satellites in July 2018, said: “The two sides are engaged in regular technology transfer, and exchange of experts and delegations.”

Hoping that Beijing and Islamabad would further build on their cooperation in space exploration, leading to the travel of first Pakistani astronaut to space in 2022, Hashmi maintained that for this purpose, Pakistan and China signed an Agreement for Cooperation in Human Space Flight Activities in April, 2019.



# Hand in Hand For a Better Future

**T**oday is the 69th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. On behalf of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, I would like to express my warm congratulations to this moment and sincere appreciation to friends from the Pakistani Government and all walks of life for your commitment and support to our bilateral relations.

Since 21 May 1951, China-Pakistan relations have grown from strength to strength, withstanding the test of changes in international arena and domestic situation of the two countries. The two countries have trusted each other, supported each other on issues concerning each other's core interests. We have been devoted friends through both good and hard times.

We will never forget that Pakistan was the first Islamic country to enter into diplomatic relations with China. At the critical times when New China endeavored to break the blockade,

resume its lawful seat at the United Nations and explore ways to carry out our reform and opening-up, Pakistan always came forward with selflessness and valuable assistance. In 2008, when the devastating earthquake struck China, Pakistan immediately sent all its transport aircraft to ship its entire reserve of tents to China. In return, China strongly supported Pakistan whenever there is a need. When Pakistan was hit by a severe flood in 2010, China dispatched the largest ever medical team for relief work. Besides that, there are also well-known stories of our two countries conquering the natural challenge to build KKH highway, jointly manufacturing JF-17, and helping each other for evacuation mission from Yemen. From time to time, these touching stories helped to shape our relations and consolidated our deep rooted friendship.

In recent years, China-Pakistan relations have maintained a steady and rapid development at

a high level. President Xi Jinping paid a historic visit to Pakistan in 2015, and China-Pakistan relations have been upgraded to an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. Since taking office, Prime Minister Imran Khan has visited China 3 times and met with President Xi Jinping 4 times. Political mutual trust has been continuously consolidated.

With the strong support of the two governments, the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has achieved a lot of "early harvest". 16 projects have been completed and 16 projects are under construction. The CPEC has become a model for high-quality development of "Belt and Road" Initiative. China has become Pakistan's largest trading partner and important source of investment for many years, with bilateral trade value amounted US \$ 20 billion. There are nearly 200,000 people exchanges between the two countries each year. 14 pairs of friendly



provinces and cities have been established, and the friendship between China and Pakistan has been deeply rooted in the hearts of the people. "Higher than the mountain, deeper than the ocean, harder than steel, sweeter than honey" has become a vivid portrayal of China-Pakistan friendship.

At the beginning of 2020, a ruthless COVID-19 epidemic swept the world, threatening human health and world public health security seriously. In this special war without smoke, China and Pakistan have been standing together and supporting each other. Our cooperation and mutual support have vividly illustrated the connotation of the China-Pakistan community of shared destiny, as President Xi Jinping said our two countries are "true friends and brothers sharing weal and woe".

When COVID-19 attacked China, Pakistani President Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan sent letters to President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang respectively, expressing their condolences. President Alvi's visit to China in March showed the firm support of Pakistan for China's fight against the epidemic. The National Assembly and Senate of Pakistan passed resolutions expressing solidarity with China and firmly opposed the stigmatization of China. The Government of Pakistan, the military and the people from all walks of life donated face masks and other epidemic prevention materials to China. On the phone call with President Xi Jinping, Prime Minister Imran Khan said the whole world thanks and appreciates China's efforts and achievements in dealing with the epidemic, and no country can do better than China. Trust and encouragement from the old friend boost our confidence in overcoming the epidemic.

The grace of dripping water should be reciprocated by a gushing spring dripping. The Chinese people care about the situation in Pakistan and is ready to provide full support and assistance. China has sent medical teams to Pakistan, shared its experience in epidemic prevention through video conferences and other ways. China has donated many medical goods to Pakistan, including more than 300,000 test kits, 7 million masks, more than 400,000 sets of medical protective clothing and over 500 ventilators, and assisted in the construction of quarantine hospitals. The assistance came not only from the Chinese government, military, but also from the Chinese enterprises working in Pakistan, overseas Chinese and students in Pakistan, and ordinary Chinese citizens.

So far, the CPEC projects are proud of zero infections, no layoff of local staff, no withdrawal of Chinese engineers. The projects have been in operation to give support to Pakistani economy and people's livelihood. The energy projects guaranteed 1/3 of the electrical supply in Pakistan during the pandemic and provided

reliable energy for the continuous operation of hospitals. The Gwadar port and infrastructure projects ensured the normal supply of living materials for the people of Pakistan. China will continue to promote the construction of the CPEC together with Pakistan on the premise of preventing and controlling the epidemic and ensuring the safety of personnel, so as to provide motivation for Pakistan to overcome the epidemic and develop the economy.

Few days ago, 52 Pakistani students from the University of Science and Technology Beijing wrote a letter to President Xi Jinping, illustrating their life in China during the outbreak of Covid-19. They appreciated the care and help extended to them by the university authority and expressed their wish that upon graduation they would like to engage themselves in the Belt and Road Initiative and contribute to enhancing China-Pakistan friendship. President Xi Jinping

wrote back to them, encouraging the students to learn more knowledge, communicate more with their Chinese peers and join hands with youth from all countries to contribute to promoting people-to-people connectivity and building a community with a shared future for mankind. I am glad to see the torch of China-Pakistan friendship has been passed on to the young generation.

I firmly believe that in forging a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era, our bilateral friendship will become stronger and our cooperation will become extraordinary. The Chinese people and Pakistani people will surely conquer various difficulties and challenges and jointly paint a more beautiful future.

Chin-Pak Dosti Zindabad!

## 50% work on Suki Kinari Hydel Power Project is completed: Chairman CPEC Authority

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting General (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa said work on the Suki Kinari hydal power project was in full swing as progress on the project remained unaffected due to COVID-19. In a tweet, Asim Bajwa who is also Chairman, China Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority (CPECA) said, 19.5 percent work on the 874MW power project had been completed. He said the project was being established at Kunhar River with an investment of \$1.963b under the umbrella of China Pakistan Economic Corridor. He informed that the project had so far created 4,250 job opportunities and after completion it would help reducing cost of electricity. "Bringing cost of electricity down is top priority of the government," he added.



# CPEC & Alice Wells

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has once again in the line of fire and international forces are now trying their best to spoil and defame Sino-Pakistan relations. US diplomat Alice Wells repeated her criticism of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC during an online media briefing and had urged Beijing to relieve the countries involved in these undertakings of its predatory loans. On the contrary, latest reports of the World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) termed Chinese investment "participatory" and "productive" for the national economies of its partners and Pakistan is not any exception.

During her media briefing the US diplomat called on "China to offer transparent relief from the BRI's predatory loans that countries are suffering from, emerge on stable footing. Many international reports and research studies have already negated her baseless tall claims because many countries in the BRI have their own macro-economic imperfections, inflexibilities having imbalanced fiscal and monetary policies and Chinese investments are rather value-addition to their economic development.

Wells had reiterated that the US was concerned about CPEC projects because of a lack of transparency, and the unfair rates of profits that are guaranteed to Chinese firms involved in their execution. It is again out of the context and unsubstantiated.

The Chinese embassy of Pakistan called her speech totally baseless and just a repetition of her same old tune. According to its statement, China always treated Pakistan as an equal partner and continued support its own domestic model of development and never intervened in its national affairs. Furthermore, it highlighted Pakistan's responsible role in regional affairs and never exert pressure.

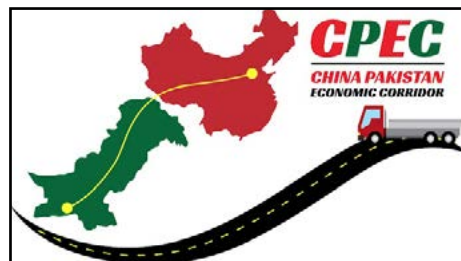
Furthermore, the Chinese statement upheld CPEC as an important cooperation project between the governments of China and Pakistan which has been carried out on the principles of mutual benefit, win-win cooperation, openness and transparency.

It negated statement of the US diplomat Alice on the issues of planning and implementation of the CPEC projects and termed it "open" and "transparent" carried out by the two sides through thorough consultations based on "equality" and "scientific" study. The said statement rightly highlighted the leading role of the Chinese companies in the CPEC projects operated in full compliance with local laws and regulations.

According to the statement, CPEC has so far brought \$25 million in direct investment and created more than 75,000 jobs in Pakistan. Right from the beginning, China has been the major source for foreign direct investment (FDIs) for Pakistan in the past five consecutive years. Whereas, according to the Board of Investment (BoI) Pakistan only received over \$1 billion between 2012 and 2019 from the US which showed its huge disparity with Chinese FDIs in the country.

In the next stage of the project, the two sides will strength cooperation on healthcare, industrial development, agriculture and education. CPEC will give a new impetus to Pakistan's economic revival even in the post-Covid-19 period.

The statement calcified that China will never



force Pakistan to pay back "debts" and that "China's loans have no strings attached as projected by Alice, the US diplomat. This is not the first time Wells has criticized CPEC. In November 2019, Wells had said that the multibillion-dollar project would take a toll on Pakistan's economy at the time of repayments and dividends in the coming years. She had stated that the project was a form of financing that guarantees profit for Chinese state-owned enterprises, with little benefits for Islamabad.

Being strategic partner of Pakistan the Chinese companies did not suspend construction and laid-off a single local staff. The CPEC projects secured local employment and kept contributing to Pakistan's economy. The energy projects are generating 1/3 of the electricity for Pakistan now. The Phase-II of KKH is almost ready for traffic. The integrated test and commissioning for the Lahore Orange Line have been successfully completed. The construction of the new airport in Gwadar entered into the second phase. All Chinese companies working for the CPEC have generously donated medical assistance to Pakistan in the current difficult situation.

According to latest reports of the State Bank of Pakistan, its debt from multilateral institutions



Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

amounts to about 47% of its total external debt, while loans from the CPEC is only \$5.8 billion, 5.22 percent of the Pakistan's total debt. Contrary to criticism of Wells, China supported Pakistan's inclusion in the G-20 members "Debt Service Suspension Initiative" for the Poorest Countries.

Even international media, the puppets of international forces have once again become active to tarnish Sino-Pak relations by hitting utility, transparency and productivity of the CPEC projects which is indeed a "game" and "fate" changer for Pakistan and rest of the region too. Most recently, a article titled "Pakistan Discovers the High Cost of Chinese Investment" published in the "Diplomat" authored by Hussain Haqqani, former Ambassador of Pakistan to the US, intentionally raised some questions about CPEC's transparency and utility and termed it inflated with high set-up costs. It is totally groundless accusation which has no relevancy.

Politicization of CPEC is on the rise which has no substance. On the contrary, most of the power projects under the umbrella of CPEC are "cost, time and energy efficient". CPEC energy projects instrumented to lessen "siege of darkness in Pakistan". There was doom and gloom in the country and national energy emergency compelled the government of Pakistan to take extra-ordinary steps to eradicate energy deficiency. There was no concert evidence of high set-up costs in power projects of the CPEC as mentioned by Hussain Haqqani in his article.

Despite hue and cry in the international circles and media, CPEC is heading towards its 2nd phase in the country wherein social development will be emphasized. Deputy Speaker National Assembly Qasim Khan Suri has informed about the progress of Kuchlak-Zhob road under CPEC. The road, part of CPEC western route, would reduce the distance between Quetta and Dera Ismail Khan by eight hours. It would not only connect areas in Balochistan but also Dera Ismail Khan, {erstwhile} FATA and other districts. It would help set up new industrial zones to accelerate the socio-economic development of Pakistan.





# Kyrgyzstan Shows Interest in CPEC

**K**yrgyzstan is willing to promote its bilateral relations with Pakistan. Kyrgyz Ambassador Erik Beishembiev has shown interest to join CPEC for the development of short transportation links through its territory between Central Asia, China, and Pakistan. Ambassador further invited the Pakistani business community to explore the potential bilateral trade opportunities. It is important to note that the CPEC route provides immense opportunities to the Central Asian states.

Kyrgyzstan has offered its market of over 180 million people to Pakistani merchandise, saying that Pakistani businesspeople should come forward and avail the opportunity.

Kyrgyz Ambassador Erik Beishembiev made the offer in a meeting with business community here at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) on Saturday. LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Senior Vice President Ali Hussam Asghar and Vice President Mian Zahid Jawaaid Ahmad also spoke on the occasion, while LCCI Executive Committee Members Haji Asif Sehar, Shahzad Aslam, Haris Attiq and Malik Muhammad Khalid were also present.

The ambassador said that his country greatly valued relations with Pakistan, and that was why it sought further diversification and strengthening of the relations. He said that Kyrgyz-Pakistani historical relations could be traced back centuries ago. "Our peoples have long-time and close cultural and spiritual ties. Today our countries enjoy excellent political relations and regularly exchange visits on the

highest levels," he added.

He said that both countries were rich in mineral resources, have high skilled human resources, excellent opportunities for developing industry and agriculture, attracting foreign investments for joint production and supply of goods, including for export.

Ambassador Erik said that Kyrgyzstan was interested in development of short transportation links through its territory between Central Asia and China and Pakistan with access to the Gwadar and Karachi ports,



using railway and automobile roads, which are being constructed in the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Shortest automobile roads are connecting China to Kyrgyzstan through two border mountain passes in Kyrgyzstan – Torugart in the North and – Erkeshtam in the South, located

only about 200-km from Chinese city of Kashgar. The road through Kyrgyz border post Irkestan is the shortest way from Fergana valley, which is shared between Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, to China.

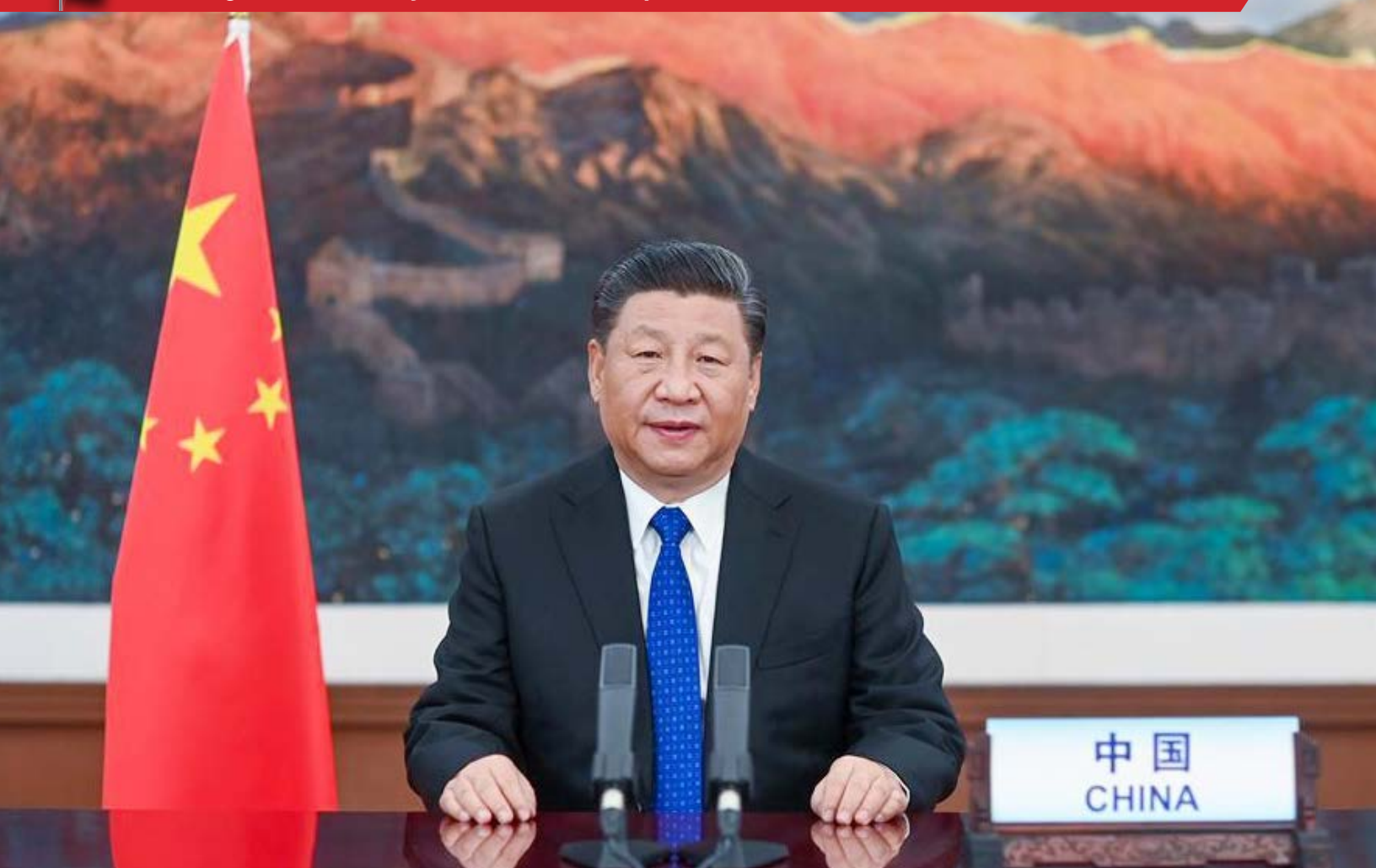
LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh said that Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan enjoy friendly and cordial relations. The meager trade values verify that our business and economic relations have not been adequately developed.

He said that very few items are being traded as only pharmaceutical products are mainly exported from Pakistan whereas trailers and semi-trailers are imported from Kyrgyzstan.

"We have been talking about exploiting the untapped potential of trade in Central Asian Republics but no significant results have been ever produced", the LCCI president said and added that the main reasons are least knowledge about each other's markets and lack of regular bank to bank channels.

LCCI Senior Vice President Ali Hussam Asghar and Vice President Mian Zahid Jawaaid Ahmad said that organizing single country exhibitions on reciprocal basis, exchange of trade delegations and arranging country weeks can prove vital tools for introduction and marketing of products in each other's countries.

At the end of the meeting, the Ambassador along with LCCI office-bearers took a round of the various LCCI departments and appreciated its working. He particularly appreciated one window operation for LCCI members.



# Speech by President Xi Jinping at opening of 73rd World Health Assembly

## Fighting COVID-19 Through Solidarity and Cooperation Building a Global Community of Health for All

Beijing, 18 May 2020

President of the World Health Assembly,

Director General of the World Health Organization,

Dear Delegates,

To begin with, I wish to say that it is of significant importance for this World Health Assembly to be held at such a critical moment as the human race battles this novel coronavirus.

What we are facing is the most serious global public health emergency since the end of World War II. Catching the world by surprise, COVID-19 has hit over 210 countries and regions, affected

China will provide US\$2 billion over two years to help with COVID-19 response and with economic and social development in affected countries, especially developing countries

more than seven billion people around the world and claimed over 300,000 precious lives. I mourn for every life lost and express condolences to the bereaved families.

The history of human civilization is one of fighting diseases and tiding over disasters. The virus does not respect borders. Nor is race or nationality relevant in the face of the disease. Confronted by the ravages of COVID-19, the international community has not flinched. The people of all countries have tackled the virus head on. Around the world, people have looked out for each other and pulled together as one. With love and compassion, we have forged extraordinary synergy in the fight against



COVID-19.

In China, after making painstaking efforts and enormous sacrifice, we have turned the tide on the virus and protected the life and health

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China will establish a cooperation mechanism for its hospitals to pair up with 30 African hospitals and accelerate the building of the Africa CDC headquarters to help the continent ramp up its disease preparedness and control capacity.

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of our people. All along, we have acted with openness, transparency and responsibility. We have provided information to WHO and relevant countries in a most timely fashion. We have released the genome sequence at the earliest possible time. We have shared control and treatment experience with the world without reservation. We have done everything in our power to support and assist countries in need.

Mr. President,

Even as we meet, the virus is still raging, and more must be done to bring it under control. To this end, I want to make the following proposals:

First, we must do everything we can for COVID-19 control and treatment. This is a most urgent task. We must always put the people first, for nothing in the world is more precious than people's lives. We need to deploy medical expertise and critical supplies to places where they are needed the most. We need to take strong steps in such key areas as prevention, quarantine, detection, treatment and tracing. We need to move as fast as we can to curb the global spread of the virus and do our best to stem cross-border transmission. We need to step up information sharing, exchange experience and best practice, and pursue international cooperation on testing methods, clinical treatment, and vaccine and medicine research and development. We also need to continue supporting global research by scientists on the source and transmission routes of the virus.

Second, the World Health Organization should lead the global response. Under the leadership of Dr. Tedros, WHO has made a

major contribution in leading and advancing the global response to COVID-19. Its good work is applauded by the international community. At this crucial juncture, to support WHO is to support international cooperation and the battle for saving lives as well. China calls on the international community to increase political and financial support for WHO so as to mobilize resources worldwide to defeat the virus.

Third, we must provide greater support for Africa. Developing countries, African countries in particular, have weaker public health systems. Helping them build capacity must be our top priority in COVID-19 response. The world needs to provide more material, technological and personnel support for African countries. China has sent a tremendous amount of medical supplies and assistance to over 50 African countries and the African Union. Five Chinese medical expert teams have also been sent to the African continent. In total, in the past seven decades, over 200 million people in Africa have received care and treatment from Chinese medical teams. At present, 46 resident Chinese medical teams are in Africa helping with COVID-19 containment efforts locally.

Fourth, we must strengthen global governance in the area of public health. We human beings will eventually prevail over the coronavirus. Yet this may not be the last time a major health emergency comes knocking at our door. In view of the weaknesses and deficiencies exposed by COVID-19, we need to improve the governance system for public health security. We need to respond more quickly to public health emergencies and establish global and regional reserve centers of anti-epidemic supplies. China supports the idea of a comprehensive review of the global response to COVID-19 after it is brought under control to sum up experience and address deficiencies. This work should be based on science and professionalism, led by WHO and conducted in an objective and impartial manner.

Fifth, we must restore economic and social development. While working on an ongoing basis to contain the virus, countries where conditions permit may reopen businesses and schools in an orderly fashion in observance of WHO's professional recommendations. In the meantime, international macroeconomic policy coordination should be stepped up and the global industrial and supply chains be kept stable and unclogged if we are to restore growth to the world economy.

Sixth, we must strengthen international cooperation. Mankind is a community with a shared future. Solidarity and cooperation is our most powerful weapon for defeating the virus. This is the key lesson the world has learned from fighting HIV/AIDS, Ebola, avian influenza, influenza A (H1N1) and other major epidemics. And solidarity and cooperation is a sure way

through which we, the people of the world, can defeat this novel coronavirus.

Mr. President,

China stands for the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind. China takes it as its responsibility to ensure not just the life and health of its own citizens, but also global public health. For the sake of boosting international cooperation against COVID-19, I would like to announce the following

— China will provide US\$2 billion over two years to help with COVID-19 response and with

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COVID-19 vaccine development and deployment in China, when available, will be made a global public good. This will be China's contribution to ensuring vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries.

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economic and social development in affected countries, especially developing countries.

— China will work with the UN to set up a global humanitarian response depot and hub in China, ensure the operation of anti-epidemic supply chains and foster "green corridors" for fast-track transportation and customs clearance.

— China will establish a cooperation mechanism for its hospitals to pair up with 30 African hospitals and accelerate the building of the Africa CDC headquarters to help the continent ramp up its disease preparedness and control capacity.

— COVID-19 vaccine development and deployment in China, when available, will be made a global public good. This will be China's contribution to ensuring vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries.

— China will work with other G20 members to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative for the poorest countries. China is also ready to work with the international community to bolster support for the hardest-hit countries under the greatest strain of debt service, so that they could tide over the current difficulties.

To conclude, I call on all of us to come together and work as one. Let's make concerted efforts to protect the life and health of people in all countries. Let's work together to safeguard planet Earth, our common home. Let's work together to build a global community of health for all!

I thank you.



# Combating COVID-19: Learning from China

The Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) and DTN jointly organized the virtual seminar on “Combating COVID-19: Learning from China”. During the webinar, the experts lauded Chinese leadership for taking timely and efficient measures to control and prevent COVID-19. China took all stakeholders on board and strictly implemented the measures against the pandemic. Experts asserted that the government of Pakistan needs to follow China’s footsteps to tackle the COVID-19. They urged people to adopt the Chinese model of social distancing to stay safe. Meanwhile, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed has condemned western propaganda against China for spreading the virus and said Chinese leadership in the fight against COVID-19 is worth following.

Speakers of an international virtual seminar on

‘Combating COVID-19: Learning from China’ said the government was confused in taking appropriate decisions at the right moment of time. They also urged the people to follow the pre-emptive measures, stay at homes and keep them virus-free by physical distancing and washing their hands.

This was the first and only solution adopted by the Chinese to defeat the COVID-19 infections. Secondly, the Chinese government practiced its writ in letter and spirit in hundred per cent harmony with the stakeholders. The flawless and strict command and control could bring the desired results.

The participants opined: Contrary to China, Pakistan government has been confused on pre-emptive measures and lockdown strategies besides locking horns with the provincial governments. Public also reacted to the

lockdown in the face of economic breakdown despite huge food and financial charity.

Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) and DTN jointly organized the virtual seminar on Friday. Devcom-Pakistan and DTN director Munir Ahmed hosted the discussion.

The panel of experts included Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, chairman Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and chairman Pakistan-China Institute, Chinese professor from Xi’an (China) Dr Shan Wang, geopolitical analyst from Beijing (China) Malik Ayub Khan, Dr Zahoor Bazai, Nima Gurang from Pokhara (Nepal) and Dr Amena Hassan.

Senator Mushahid Hussain said the failed to provide desired leadership and timely decisions to handle the situation. Contrarily,





the government locked horn with the provincial governments on variety of strategies. Federal government was not in favour of complete lockdown from the day one that hampered the situation. Lack of clarity and shortfall in the healthcare system were the other drawbacks.

The best lesson from the China's fight against Covid-19 is the leadership and timely decision making. The people of China followed the government instructions in letter and spirit.

He also condemned the western propaganda against China for spreading the virus. Delaying the lockdown and going for the herd immunity was the blunder of the leadership in the US, UK and other western countries for which they are facing the brunt now.

Devcom-Pakistan and DTN director Munir Ahmed said we all believed in faith on Allah without taking preemptive measures for which we facing the consequences now. The total cases have risen to more than 65,000 in a couple of weeks from 12,000 patients. Hospitals have told the government and the public that they have no more beds for the infected ones. Situation would turn more miserable in next couple of weeks.

Dr Shan Wang said their people followed the government instructions very carefully and remained at their homes. The Chinese government had taken strict measures for those violating the SOPs. Frankly speaking, Dr Wang

said, Chinese people are a little more disciplined while the fear of the infection made them more disciplined to follow the instructions.

She said some herbal medicines were also used for the mildly infected patients while the government established first big hospital in Wuhan city just in ten days while the second one in twelve days. Timely decisions, strict lockdown and a strong healthcare system were the major elements to recover from the corona pandemic.

Geopolitical analyst Malik Ayub Khan while speaking from Beijing said: China's fight against Covid-19 is exemplary for the rest of the world, especially the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and use of the various apps like 'Health Kit' in WeChat to screen the people according to their travel history.

Khan said "The makeshift hospitals in the Wuhan after the outbreak of the pandemic were game-changer in the fight against Coronavirus. These hospitals have made history and received international attention and set an example for the rest of the world. Italy even adopted this model and made such kind of hospitals during the pandemic. The implementation of lockdown by the Chinese government, and the way Chinese people followed the instructions were amazing. I have not seen such kind of compliance of government instructions before anywhere else.

He said: China is a country where online

shopping and groceries are very common so the Chinese authorities ensured the supply of the goods, another milestone towards fighting Covid-19. Beside all the steps and measures taken by the government and the people, dedication and commitment to take over the menace with courage was the essence of the Chinese struggle against the pandemic of Covid-19. The world had seen the images while people singing national anthems and raising slogans "Wuhan Jia You", this was an expression of encouragement and support.

Dr Amena Hassan said described different steps and SOPs required combating the corona crisis. She said we had to follow the awareness campaign first. Mostly people have taken it lightly but now suffering from their own ignorance and neglect. We are habitual to flout the SOPs of the government whatever the situation is. Perhaps we don't trust out government or it's the usual ignorance.

Nima Gurung said the government in Nepal is following a strict lockdown that is why the cases are very low but the economic crisis is looming at large.

Dr Zahoor Bazai said government could not ensure proper and large scale testing of the suspects. On the other hand, the healthcare is insufficient. Most parts of the Balochistan have no IT infrastructure so communication is weaker as compare to other provinces.

## Discussions are underway for A Huge Coastal Development Project Under The Umbrella Of CPEC

By M. Bilal Zafar

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Syed Ali Haider Zaidi was called on by H.E Yao Jing, Ambassador of China to Pakistan in the backdrop of a major initiative envisioned for the residents of Karachi. The Minister of Maritime Affairs vision is of transforming Pakistan into a Maritime Nation and especially raising the port city par excellence with leading ports. The Hon' Minister is endeavouring to fast track projects designed to transform encroached land into systematically planned residential areas having all the basic amenities in a state of the art manner. The project is expected to attract substantial FDI. "Globally, port runs the cities whereby revenue streams of ports are utilized for the betterment of the people" observed Ali Zaidi citing the examples of Los Angeles and New York ports. "Karachi has been neglected since independence, resource allocation was minimum with available resources plundered rampantly in



collusion with property mafia and land grabbers" lamented Ali Zaidi. The project initially set for launch in the first quarter of 2020 got delayed due to COVID-19 outbreak. Pioneering the concept of Blue Economy in Pakistan, Ministry of Maritime Affairs is poised to launch projects leading to sustainable exploitation of marine resources, and enhancement in turnaround time of cargo at ports. An enabling environment is being established in a transparent and non discriminatory manner. These initiatives are the outcome of efforts of the Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Zaidi, emphasising the significance of Pakistan's coastline of more than a 1000 km and harnessing of the maritime potential which can rid the country of debt. During the meeting the Minister shared with the Ambassador that

even during the present COVID -19 crisis port operations continued without any interruption. It was highlighted by the Minister that Port Qasim handled 140 ships in the month of March and 130 ships in April this year which bears testimony to the dedication with which MOMA is keeping the wheels of the economy running and Pakistan's supply chain intact. Moreover, the Ministry intimated the Ambassador that deep sea fishing was allowed to resume, after complying with health SOP's, so that the fishermen were not affected adversely due to cessation of fishing. The Ambassador of China to Pakistan appreciated the two pronged strategy of prevention through strict adherence of SOPs and protection of employment and sustenance by MOMA in these testing times.



## CHINA OFFERS ASSISTANCE IN CURBING DRUG MENACE IN PAKISTAN: AMBASSADOR H.E YAO JING

Humanities beyond borders, therefore it is necessary for both the governments to put up a mutually coordinated fight to bring down drug mafias and drug traffickers. He said that both the governments can further consolidate their relationship by starting joint ventures for drug control. He said China does not have a dedicated ministry for drug control just like Pakistan but it has very strict regulations in place. He said both the countries can learn and assist each other in the form of providing border control assistance and solving policy related issues. Mr. Jing lauded Azam Swati on the recent successful seizure of 100 kilograms of Crystal

Drug by Antinarcotics Force (ANF) done in collaboration with Pakistan Navy amid Covid-19 crisis. Swati informed the Ambassador that the 3 billion rupees worth of drug seized is going to save a plethora of young population from destroying their lives at the hands of drug lords. Swati said that ANF is working day and night to curb drug flow and bring this curse down once and for all. He also invited Chinese Ambassador to visit the on-ground facilities, ports, checkpoints and prisons run under ANF to have first hand view of efforts made by the drug control authorities within Pakistan. Swati said that China's concern for the well being of

people in Pakistan is heartwarming. He said that the support chinese government provided amid Covid-19 is unprecedented, given the fact that China itself was going through hard times in fighting novel corona virus. Azam Swati said that issue of drug trafficking has been a maga issue for Pakistan mainly because of deteriorated drug control situations in adjacent Afghanistan. He appreciated Chinese Ambassador Mr. Jing on showing concern and stepping up to take it as a regional challenge. Swati said China and Pakistan both observe zero tolerance when it comes to drug availability in their countries, bringing both the states on same page in fighting this curse.



# A drop of water rewarded by a burst of spring

After the coronavirus outbreak in Pakistan, the central and local government of China, Chinese states and provinces, the Red Cross of China, and ordinary people from all the areas of work from China have extended a promising hand of friendship and continue to support Pakistan with all the essential materials required by the country to help fight the virus. Until now, China has provided Pakistan with US\$ 4 million assistance in cash, 330,000 testing kits, over 500 ventilators, approximately 7 million surgical masks including N95 masks, millions of pieces of protective coveralls. Hoods, goggles, aprons, gloves, and necessary medicines for help. China also pays high attention to the locust outbreak while paying full attention to the viral outbreak in the country. The Chinese government sent an expert medical team to Pakistan in February. They ran a detailed investigation on the locust affected areas of Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan

to come up with a strategy to deal with it. The Chinese government had supported 300 tons of malathion and 50 air-powered high efficiency

remote sprayers to Pakistan by the end of April to overcome the locust attack.



## Chinese ambassador calls on Federal Minister for IT

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Yao Jing called on Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque. Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication welcomed the Chinese ambassador in his office, and during the meeting matters of mutual interests and relating to Information Technology and telecommunication were discussed. The Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication said that Pakistan and China were enjoying deep friendly relations and these ties will further enhance in future. The Federal Minister for IT emphasized the need of boosting cooperation between Pakistan and China in IT and Telecom sector. He said that Pakistan wanted to get benefit from Chinese experience in IT sector. The Federal Minister also sought China's help in training Pakistan's youth in IT skills besides starting youth exchange program between the two countries. The Federal Minister said that environment in Pakistan is conducive for Chinese companies to invest in IT and Telecom sector in Pakistan as IT and Telecom sector of Pakistan has great potential. Chinese

ambassador lauded the role of Ministry of IT regarding the promotion of IT in the country and gave assurance for enhancing China's collaboration with Pakistan in IT sector. Chinese ambassador also said that Chinese government and people will provide every possible support to Pakistan to deal with Covid-19 pandemic.

The Federal Minister for IT thanked and lauded Chinese government for sending medical experts and medical equipments to Pakistan to fight Coronavirus. Secretary Ministry of IT and Telecommunication Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui and senior officers of the Ministry were also present in the meeting.





# 37 Nations & WHO Join Hands to Combat COVID-19

Monitoring Desk

**T**hirty Seven countries and the WHO requested for a mutual sharing of the tools that can be used to fight the COVID-19 such as the vaccines, diagnostic tools, medications, as well as the equipment, targeting the persisting laws that can become a threat to sharing essential supplies. Also emphasized by Costa Rica President Carlos Alvarado.

While the idea of mostly developing nations called the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool, received appreciation from various groups including Doctors without Borders, a drug industry alliance interrogated if the effort to combine the intellectual property would really enhance the access to medicines.

Developing countries and small nations fear the first world countries dumping in the resources into discovering the vaccine-over 100 are in the development-will fight their way to the front line, once a participant succeeds.

The plan was proposed in March actually. It intends to provide a single platform for scientific information, analytical data, and intellectual property amid a global crisis that has infected

nearly six million people and killed more than 360,000 globally.

The WHO put forth a "Solitary Call to Action", asking other stakeholders to participate in the

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voluntary push.

WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said during an online briefing, that WHO recognized the essential part laws play in energizing innovation but this is high time when people must take priority.

The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations questioned about degrading intellectual property protections, which the group mentioned already enable team effort and will also be required after the pandemic is over.

The federation said that the 'Solitary Call for Action' promotes a uniformity or singleness ideology that discards the specific circumstances of an individual situation, each product and each country.

Health policy manager for anti-poverty group Oxfam, Anna Marriott said that the division over how to handle patents showed how some nations could end up being losers. The Pharmaceutical industry's attempt to turn down the WHO's innovative idea suggests that they are more concerned about the profits than peoples' health.



# In Pakistan, pandemic could push millions more into poverty

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

**S**piking COVID-19 rates risk overwhelming Pakistan's health system, slashing growth, derailing recovery, and pushing the country's most vulnerable further into poverty, a new UN impact assessment, coordinated by UNDP, finds.

Pakistan's confirmed and reported COVID-19 cases, as of 10 June, topped 113,000. More than 2,200 people have died, including at least four provincial legislators. Pakistan is the fifth most populous country in the world, with dense cities where contagion spreads far and fast. This virus, alongside measures to mitigate it, poses major risks to lives and livelihoods with impacts that could last for decades, the study says.

Public health systems were stretched long before the pandemic, with a ratio of one doctor to 963 people and one hospital bed to 1,608 people. Its shortage of trained medical staff is estimated at 200,000 doctors and 1.4 million nurses, and universal health coverage is nonexistent.

While the poverty rate declined by 40 percent over the last two decades to 24.3 percent in 2015, the IMF projects a sharp reversal, with up to 40 percent of Pakistanis living below the poverty line in COVID-19's viral wake.

Real GDP growth is expected to slow by 3 percent, with downturns in services and manufacturing. Agriculture will also lag if lockdowns continue and disrupt needed transportation, logistical support, labor, and access to inputs for the next planting season.

Those most at-risk include people already living below poverty line, women, children, people with disabilities, the elderly, and other marginalized groups whose lives, livelihoods, nutrition, and access to basic services are least secure.

Nearly 42 million children are now out of school,



while 17 million children under five are missing routine vaccinations. An additional 2.45 million people—beyond an existing 40 million—now suffer food insecurity, the study finds.

This assessment, which will inform policies and programs to help the country recover, argues for a “deliberate effort to reach out to the furthest and most vulnerable through economic relief packages and social sector services.” But implementers and planners will face challenges

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**Nearly 42 million children are now out of school, while 17 million children under five are missing routine vaccinations. An additional 2.45 million people—beyond an existing 40 million—now suffer food insecurity, the study finds.**

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in finding innovative technologies and credible partners to provide support efficiently and transparently, it says.

**The UN study recommends a response comprising five workstreams:**

- Making essential health services available to those in need and protecting health systems.
- Helping people cope through social

protections and ensuring basic services and food security.

- Protecting jobs, supporting small- and medium-sized enterprises, and shoring up the most vulnerable workers through economic recovery programs.
- Guiding a badly needed surge in fiscal and financial stimuli and strengthening multilateral and regional responses.
- Promoting social cohesion and investing in community-led resilience and response systems.

## On the ground

At the Government's request, UNDP established a COVID-19 Secretariat at Pakistan's Planning Commission to support the country's economic and social response to the pandemic. It also facilitated preparation of a socio-economic framework in collaboration with other UN agencies. This framework will inform the Government's 2020-2021 budget and National Action Plan for COVID-19.

UNDP is also providing technical expertise to the Federal Ministry of Health to enhance communications, coordination, and data analysis and to the National Disaster Management Authority as it implements its Pakistan Preparedness and Response Plan COVID-19.

UNDP is meanwhile working closely with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Provincial Command and Control Center to strengthen its crisis management capacity. This support includes the design of a data collection system from districts, analysis and reporting to inform decision-making by the Health Department, and provision of strategic communications to the provincial authorities.

UNDP is, further, supporting a nationwide youth perception survey, Youth Innovation Challenges, and online hackathons to understand the views of young people and include their voices in developing COVID related interventions.



## China's Ambassador blames India for Galwan clash, violating mutual agreement

Monitoring Desk

**C**hina's Ambassador to India Sun Weidong said that the recent incident at the Line of Actual Control was completely instigated by the Indian side and the responsibility does not lie with the Chinese side.

In an interview with the Government-run news agency of India "Press Trust of India", Weidong said: "The incident happened on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and the Indian side crossed the LAC first."

The Ambassador said that the Galwan Valley is located on the Chinese side of the LAC, where the ground situation of control and management is very clear. The two sides basically have kept peace for decades. However, since the beginning of this year, the Indian side has continuously built facilities at or crossing the LAC in the Galwan Valley, constantly changing the status quo of ground control.

"On May 6, the Indian border troops crossed the LAC in the Galwan Valley by night and trespassed into China's territory. They resorted to violent means to create a standoff between the two sides and built infrastructures in an attempt to maintain a permanent presence."

He said that the Indian side violated the consensus and started provocation which led to escalation of the situation. "Since the beginning of the standoff in early May, the Chinese side has lodged representations on multiple occasions to the Indian side through military

and diplomatic channels. The Indian side agreed to withdraw the personnel who crossed the LAC and demolish the facilities, and so they did.

On June 6, the border troops of both countries held a commander-level meeting. The Indian side promised that they would not cross the estuary of the Galwan River to patrol and build facilities, and the two sides agreed to build observation posts on either side of the Galwan river mouth. However, after the commander-level meeting, when the situation on the ground was already easing, the Indian border troops copped out on the consensus reached at the commander-level meeting, demanded that China dismantle its observation post, and once again crossed the line for provocations, which triggered the conflict."

"The Indian side started the fight and violently attacked Chinese people. On the evening of June 15, the Indian border troops violated the consensus reached at the commander-level meeting and crossed the LAC once again to dismantle Chinese tent. The Chinese side went for negotiation as they used to do while handling border incidents. However, the Indian army suddenly and violently attacked the Chinese officers and soldiers who went for negotiation, causing fierce physical conflicts and casualties between the two sides."

"The Indian side violated a series of agreements reached between the two countries. China and India have agreements and protocol to follow in maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas. The Article One of the

Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity Along the Line of Actual Control in the China-India Border Areas in 1993 and Article Two of the Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field Along the Line of Actual Control in the China-India Border Areas between the two governments in 1996 clearly stipulate the activities of the two sides near the LAC. Actions taken by the Indian side are not in consonance with the spirit of above mentioned agreements."

Asked if the current dispute can be resolved, the Ambassador said that the merits of this incident is very clear. "The onus is not on China. The Indian side crossed the LAC for provocation and attacked the Chinese border troops. The Indian forces seriously violated agreements on border issues between the two countries and severely violated basic norms governing international relations. We urge the Indian side to conduct a thorough investigation, hold the violators accountable, strictly discipline the frontline troops and immediately stop all provocative acts to ensure such incidents will not occur again."

About the possible prospects for solving the current border face-off, Weidong said that China and India are willing and able to properly manage differences. At present, the overall situation in the China-India border areas is stable and controllable. "We hope the Indian side meet the Chinese side halfway, avoid taking actions that may complicate the border situation and take concrete actions to maintain stability in the border areas."





## World urged to intervene over killings held in Kashmir

Pakistan's Foreign Office, on Tuesday, requested the world to intervene in the Kashmir issue due to the killing of masses over there, and violation of human rights. In reaction to the massacre of the 13 Kashmiris, the spokesperson of the foreign office stated that it was now the responsibility of the international community to step into the Kashmir issue and stop India from carrying out further terrorism against the Kashmiri people, and hold it liable under international law and relevant human rights conventions.

The 13 Kashmiris were killed in two different incidents in the Nowshera sector of Rajouri district and Mendhar in Poonch district on Monday. India covers the evil actions of its troops against the Kashmiri fighters as anti-infiltration operations which were launched on 28th May 2020. According to the statement issued by the Foreign Office of Pakistan, Pakistan has been greatly disturbed due to the frequent killings of Kashmiri youth in fake encounters and useless anti-infiltration operations. The homicide of the 13 Kashmiris shows the inhumane behavior of the Indian forces in the region.

While the world is busy dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, India has taken advantage of this diverted attention to carry out its hostile operations to brutalize the Kashmiris.

India argues that its actions in Kashmir are justified since Pakistan provides training to the Kashmiri fighters and encourages them to engage in cross-Line of Control (LoC) infiltration against India. The statement by the Foreign Office Pakistan said that these were repeated excuses put forward by India to make its actions acceptable; however, these allegations against Pakistan are uncorroborated because of which they have lost credibility with the international community. The statement proclaimed that RSS-BJP combine was exposed before the world for its unjust and extremist actions labelled as the "Hindutva" agenda.

Pakistan strongly believes that India must realize that it cannot succeed in breaking the will of the Kashmiris, in demanding their rights, by using techniques, such as armed killings, or diverting the world's attention from its cruelties in occupied Jammu and Kashmir by keeping forward its anti-Pakistan propaganda. The more the Kashmiris martyred, the more it is going to strengthen their aim to secure freedom from Indian intimidation. In its ending remarks, the statement by the Foreign Office of Pakistan stated that the Kashmiris will not lose their spirit of demanding the right to self-determination as mentioned in the UNSC Resolutions, and the authorities of Pakistan will never let go of Kashmir's hand and support it till the end.







# Seeking Justice for Kashmiri Victims of Sexual Violence & Physical Torture and Widows

By Mian Asad

The Pakistan High Commission London organized a Virtual Seminar on the theme of “Seeking Justice for Kashmiri Victims of Sexual Violence & Physical Torture and Widows” on 26 June 2020, to commemorate the UN International Days: International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, 19 June, International Widows’ Day, 23 June, International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, 26 June. The High Commission also organised a “Photo Exhibition” to reflect on the plight of the Kashmiris in IoK that conformed

the topic of the three UN Days.

In a show of solidarity, Members of the British

## Reincarnation of Nazism is taking place in India: President AJK

Parliament, Kashmiri leaders, Eminent Scholars, Academics, Members of the Civil Society and British friends of Kashmir participated in the seminar.

President AJ&K, Sardar Masood Khan, gave a keynote address. Honourable Members of British Parliament, Steve Baker, Tony Lloyd MP, Lord Qurban Hussain, Yasmin Qureshi MP, Afzal Khan MP, Khalid Mehmood MP, Barrister Imran Hussain MP were among the Speakers while MPs Nadia Whittome and Naz Shah gave their messages of solidarity and commitment to support Kashmiris in IoK.







The Kashmiri leaders who participated and spoke on the occasion were Mushaal Malik, Professor Nazir Gilani, Professor Shahid Iqbal, Raja Najabat Hussain, Councillor Liaquat Ali, Mrs Shamim Shawl, Prof. Nazir Shawl, Mr. Majid Tramboo, Mrs. Shamim Shawl, Shaista Safi, Tajammul Shaikh, Raja Sikandar Khan, Faiz Naqshbandi, Councillor Yasmine Dar, Uzma Rasool, Councillor Asim Rashid, Muzammil Thakur, and Ali Raza Syed. A number of prominent Kashmiri and Pakistani Community members also attended the Seminar.

In his opening remarks, High Commissioner Mohammad Nafees Zakaria said the sufferings of the Kashmiri people span over decades and have no parallel in the world. The humanitarian crisis since 5 August 2019 has opened yet another dark chapter in human history, he added. He also referred to authentic documentary evidence in this regard. Mr Zakaria shared that while the international community is observing UN Day in Support of Victims of Torture, over 12,000 young Kashmiris have been brutally injured by Indian occupation forces using pellet guns since July 2016. The so-called world's largest democracy has blinded a whole generation of Kashmiris and there is a complete communication blackout in IOK while International media has sporadically reported extreme torture perpetrated by the occupation forces, he added.

Mr Zakaria said the seminar is an expression of Pakistan's unequivocal support to the Kashmiri people that the entire nation stands with them until they get their right to self-determination as promised by the UN in Security Council's resolutions.

The High Commissioner said: Kashmiri women

have the distinction of being called Half-Widows. Their husbands were taken away by the Indian forces several years ago and their whereabouts are unknown which adds to the trauma of these women. Sexual violence and rape have been used by Indian forces as a weapon to deter Kashmiris from pursuing their indigenous self-determination movement. Victims of horrific mass rape of Kunan Poshpora in 1991 still await justice.

"Thousands of unnamed and unmarked mass graves have been discovered in IOK which contain irrefutable evidence of torture and fake encounters. International People's Tribunal Report entitled: "Buried Evidence" recoded details of mass graves."

In his keynote address, Sardar Masood Khan, President AJ&K said Modi government is committing war crimes in occupied Kashmir which the international community should take immediate notice of. He stated that every day dozens of Kashmiri youth are being gunned down outrageously in fake encounters and due the media blackout the world does not know the full extent of atrocities. The President informed that about 13,000 young Kashmiri boys have been taken away from their homes and are being kept in concentration camps in North India.

The President said after the recent change in domicile law of Kashmir, as many as 25,000 non-Kashmiri Hindus have been given right to residence in Kashmir which would drastically change the demography of the region in complete violation of the UNSC Resolutions.

Sardar Masood Khan noted that India has also unleashed a war on Azad Jammu and Kashmir by continuous violations of ceasefire resulting in deaths and injuries of the civilians. However, he said that after 05 August 2019, the issue of Kashmir has been internationalised and India can no longer put it out as its internal matter. He added that reincarnation of Nazism is taking place in India.

Raising serious concerns over the gross human rights violations by the Indian forces, the British Parliamentarians and other speakers called for immediate end to siege and communication blackout in Kashmir. While they underlined need for substantive accountability measures for delivery of justice to Kashmiris, they also called for immediate intervention to stop Human rights abuses in IOK and sending of a fact finding mission also. The speakers said Kashmiri widows, half-widows and victims of torture need justice and the perpetrators of crimes against humanity should be punished.

UK's relevance in terms historical links, legacy of British rule and being a P-5 Member of UNSC called for greater responsibility, MPs underlined.

They were of the opinion that the UN failure in case of Kashmir is putting the credibility of the organization at stake. Therefore, they urged the UN to fulfil its obligation towards the Kashmiri people. The Speakers also called upon the UK government to take a lead role in resolving the issue of Kashmir as it was a colonial legacy.

The concerns were also expressed over emergence of the phenomenon of fascist

## The so-called world's largest democracy has blinded a whole generation of Kashmiris and there is a complete communication blackout in IOK: Nafees Zakaria

ideology of Hindutva under Modi Government which poses serious threat to the existence of Kashmiri population.

The speakers demanded immediate end to draconian laws. The participants were deeply concerned at the continuous killings of defenceless Kashmiris by the Indian troops with impunity in IOK. A number of speakers said international community should not shy away from economic measures against India.

Earlier in the day, the High Commission arranged a Photo Exhibition of the Kashmiri victims of Indian atrocities, which was visited by a large number of people. The photos of the widows, half-widows victims of mass rapes, mass blinding, mass graves, massacres and inhuman torture of the Kashmiris gave the visitors better understanding of the sufferings of the Kashmiris.

The High Commissioner briefed the media about major gruesome incidents of the mass killings, details of the atrocities documented by various international organisations, including the UN and international media. He responded to the media questions.





# High Commissioner presents Islamic calligraphy paintings for London Central Mosque Trust & The Islamic Cultural Centre

By Mian Asadullah

High Commissioner Mohammad Nafees Zakaria presented Islamic calligraphy paintings to Dr Ahmad Al Dubayan, Director General of London Central Mosque Trust & The Islamic Cultural Centre. He presented the paintings during his visit to the Mosque.

On this occasion, the High Commissioner said that Pakistan and its Diaspora in the UK have a historic association with the London Central Mosque since its establishment. He said it is a matter of great delight that some specimens of Islamic calligraphic art from Pakistan are going to be displayed in The Islamic Cultural Centre. Mr Zakaria said Islamic calligraphy is held in great esteem by Muslims and there is a huge reservoir of talented artists in Islamic calligraphy in Pakistan. This is a small token of our people's love and respect for this monumental Islamic Centre, he added.

The High Commissioner for Pakistan is the ex-officio Permanent Secretary/Member of Board of Trustees of the London Central Mosque Trust & The Islamic Cultural Centre. The Government of Pakistan and the High Commission have always been supportive of the Mosque and the Centre.



Dr Ahmad Al Dubayan received the calligraphy paintings with thanks and appreciated their artistic beauty and visual presentation. Dr Dubayan said Pakistan has rich cultural heritage and the calligraphic paintings would make a beautiful addition to the big cultural mosaic of The Islamic Centre. He also commended High Commissioner Nafees Zakaria's close liaison with the institution.

The High Commissioner and the Director

General exchanged ideas on the important work that the institution is doing for the education and guidance of the Muslims in the UK, especially the youth. They also discussed future collaboration for the promotion of the Quranic teachings and Islamic heritage. Mr Zakaria offered all possible support to the Mosque and the Centre in their future endeavours.



# **Qatar Participates in Arab Ministerial Meeting to Discuss Developments in Libya, File of Renaissance Dam**

**T**he State of Qatar participated in an extraordinary meeting of Arab League's council at the ministerial level to discuss

that leads to a comprehensive settlement to enable Libya to achieve the desired stability and ensure its sovereignty and territorial integrity and the security and safety of its citizens.

**HE Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi said that the State of Qatar stresses the need to respect the sovereignty of States and non interference in their internal affairs...**

developments in Libya and the file of the Renaissance Dam.

The State of Qatar was represented during the meeting, which was held today via video conferencing system, by HE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi.

In a speech to the meeting, HE Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi said that the State of Qatar stresses the need to respect the sovereignty of States and non interference in their internal affairs, and the need to avoid standing with one party against another for personal goals and interests and to seek serious collective work to make the political process in Libya successful, in a way

He commended the internationally recognized Government of National Accord for its efforts to uncover the perpetrators of the torture incident against a number of Egyptian citizens in the city of Tarhuna as well as its efforts to secure their safe return to their homeland and take legal measures to punish the perpetrators of this crime.

He added: "The unity, stability and sovereignty of Libya along with the integrity of its lands and independence as well as stopping the bloodshed and preserving its capabilities and wealth are a goal we all aspire to and we strive to achieve it."

In this context, His Excellency renewed Qatar's support to the Government of National Accord in Libya, and its call on all Libyans to implement the Skhirat Agreement and its outputs along with return to negotiations and national dialogue and the completion of the transitional phase in order to preserve Libya's sovereignty and territorial integrity and achieve the aspirations of the Libyan people.

HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs said that the State of Qatar affirms its support for all efforts aimed at ending the conflict in Libya and moving forward towards building a state of institutions and protecting and promoting human rights. It stressed its steadfast position to reject all forms of external interference in the Libyan internal affairs in all its kinds and sources.

He added: "We are all sure that the continuation of the conflict in Libya is being paid for by the brotherly Libyan people and is draining the resources of their country, instead of using them to rebuild and achieve sustainable development."

In this regard, His Excellency stressed the State of Qatar's call on all parties to assume their legal and moral responsibility and respect and implement international laws and agreements to ensure the protection of civilians and civilian facilities, in addition to holding accountable all those responsible for crimes and human rights violations, especially systematic and extrajudicial killings proven by mass graves recently discovered in areas controlled by rogue militias.

# **Pakistani Special Representative met Taliban leaders in Doha**



**R**esponding to the media query, the Spokesperson of Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that Special Representative for Afghanistan, Ambassador (R) Muhammad Sadiq visited Doha, Qatar on 16-17 June 2020. During the visit, he met Taliban leaders including Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar to discuss peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan.

The Special Representative underlined that Pakistan will continue to play its role as facilitator for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. In this context, he referred to the highly productive visit of the Chief of Army Staff to Kabul recently, which had imparted a new impetus to Pakistan's efforts.

The Special Representative appreciated Taliban's commitment to implement the U.S.-Taliban peace agreement. He also noted that the release of prisoners as per the U.S.-Taliban peace agreement would be a stepping stone towards immediate start of Intra-Afghan Negotiations.

Pakistan hopes that all concerned parties will make sincere efforts for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. Pakistan, on its part, remains fully committed to support the Afghan Peace Process.



## A briefing entitled “International cooperation of Turkmenistan in the healthcare sphere” was held in Ashgabat

By Mian Fazal Elahi

On May 8, 2020, a briefing entitled “International cooperation of Turkmenistan in the healthcare sphere” was held in the building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

The briefing was attended by the heads and representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health and Medical Industry, and other relevant departments of Turkmenistan, leading political scientists of the country, as well as heads of diplomatic missions and representatives of international organizations accredited in the country, local and accredited journalists of foreign media outlets.

In addition, the event was attended by video conferencing by leaders and representatives from the health sector of several foreign countries, in particular, the Deputy Minister of Healthcare of the Republic of Belarus, senior representatives of leading foreign medical universities, including Medical University of Azerbaijan, Belarusian State Medical University and Tbilisi State Medical University. Representatives of leading foreign media and

public organizations also participated in the briefing through video conferencing. Thus, more than 60 representatives from 20 countries of the world took part in the briefing.

During the speeches, it was noted that under the leadership of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, Turkmenistan stands for international cooperation in the name of protecting and maintaining people’s health, which is especially relevant in the current period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adhering to the recommendations of reputable international organizations, the country has achieved considerable success in promoting its health policy and calls on the international community to work together to overcome the consequences of the pandemic. This applies to humanitarian cooperation, the restoration of trade and economic ties, including ensuring the functioning of transport and transit systems in emergency conditions.

As the meeting participants emphasized, as a result of a clear and well-coordinated policy of Turkmenistan, the country managed to prevent the spread of diseases caused by a new type of

coronavirus COVID-19 on its territory.

In their speeches, the Deputy Minister of Healthcare of the Republic of Belarus Ye.Bogdan, as well as the representatives of senior management of foreign universities, in particular, Vice-Rector for International Relations of the Belarusian State Medical University V.Rudenok, Vice-Rector of the Tbilisi State Medical University I.Kokhreidze and the Vice-Rector for International Affairs of the Medical University of Azerbaijan O. Isaev particularly noted that Turkmenistan had promptly responded to outbreak of the pandemic, emphasizes the prevention of infectious and non-communicable diseases. The country’s leadership also attaches great importance to promoting a healthy lifestyle.

During the briefing, a constructive exchange of views took place on the establishment of a global mechanism for resolving crisis situations. Participants also agreed that protecting the health of all people lies at the heart of the sustainable development process.





## Issues of expanding cooperation between Turkmenistan and the EU in the field of human rights and international humanitarian law discussed

By Mlan Fazal Elahi

A regular meeting as part of the Human Rights Dialogue “Turkmenistan - European Union” was held in the form of a video conference.

The heads and representatives of relevant ministries and departments, including the Mejlis of Turkmenistan, the Ombudswoman of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Internal Affairs and others attended the meeting.

The European side at the meeting was represented by the head and representatives of the European Service for Foreign Policy Activities, as well as the Head of the European Union Delegation to Turkmenistan.

During the meeting, issues of expanding cooperation between Turkmenistan and the EU in the field of human rights and international humanitarian law were discussed. An exchange of views took place on such issues as the development of civil society, the rule of law and judicial reform, as well as intensive interaction between the parties to reduce the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the framework of the online meeting, the participants discussed the comprehensive promotion of economic, social and cultural rights of the people in the framework of international and local documents, including the National Plan of Action for Gender Equality for 2015-2020, the National Human Rights Action Plan for 2016-2020, the National Plan of Action

to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for 2020-2022, the National Plan of Action for the realization of children's rights in Turkmenistan for 2018-2022, as well as the National Strategy of Turkmenistan for the Early Development of the Child for 2020-2025 and others.

Also during the dialogue, the parties expressed views on expanding cooperation between Turkmenistan and the EU in the framework of multilateral forums and international organizations.

The current session of the Human Rights Dialogue “Turkmenistan - European Union” serves yet as another proof of the adherence of the parties to multifaceted bilateral cooperation.



# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Chairman Board of Investment, Atif R Bukhari in a meeting with Ambassador of China to Pakistan. H.E. Mr Yao Jing at Islamabad



Senator Shibli Farz, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting in a meeting with H.E Yao Jing the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Islamabad



Ambassador of The People's Republic of China H.E. Mr Yao Jing called on Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Iman in Islamabad



Advisor to the PM on Commerce and Invest Abdul Razak Dawood in a meeting with H.E Sardor Umurzau Deputy PM of Uzbekistan & Ambassador of Uzbekistan



SAPM on National Security Division and Strategic Policy Planning Cell Dr Maeed Yusuf in a meeting with Kunimori Matsuda



Canada's High Commissioner to Pakistan Wendy Gillmour called on SAPM on National Security Division and Strategic Policy Planning cell Dr. Moeed Yousuf at his Office





# British H.C lauded the efforts of the Government of Pakistan to combat the Pandemic



H.E Dr Christian Tumer, British High Commissioner to Pakistan called on Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Makhdim Khusro Bakhtyar in Islamabad.

**H**.E Dr Christian Turner, British High Commissioner to Pakistan called on Federal Minister Mr. Makhdim Khusro Bakhtyar in his office. Federal Minister acknowledged the role of United Kingdom as one of the largest development partners of Pakistan. The Minister also appreciated DFID's assistance of £ 2.6 million (US \$ 3.224 M) to Pakistan for COVID-19 response through World Health Organization (WHO) to diagnose and treat cases, provide logistical support, and help communities understanding them how to protect themselves better; alongside grant

assistance for the Education sector programs of KP & Punjab, poverty alleviation through Pakistan National Cash Transfer Programme-BISP and Skill Development Programmes in various parts of the country. During the meeting, Honorable Minister also discussed the possibility of scaling up the development assistance through DFID by aligning its financial and technical cooperation in Ehsaas Programme to reduce inequality, invest in people and lift lagging districts, low cost housing and strengthening SMEs amid the Pandemic. British High Commissioner lauded the efforts

of the Government of Pakistan to combat the Pandemic and steering the economy to support the financially vulnerable segment of country in wake of COVID 19.

He said that Pakistan and UK enjoyed historic and deeply rooted bond which would be enhanced through socioeconomic cooperation in future. In conclusion, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and British High Commissioner expressed their strong commitment to further the cooperation for COVID 19 related emergency activities.

## The cooperation between Pakistan and DFID will continue in future

Staff Reporter

**B**ritish High Commissioner Dr. Christian Turner called on the Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh here at the Finance Division. Ms. Annabel Gerry – Head of DFID also accompanied the High Commissioner. The Adviser exchanged views with the High Commissioner and Head of DFID on matters of common interest and specially thanked DFID on its cooperation in the recent launch of "Secured Transaction Registry". He said that the cooperation between Pakistan and DFID will continue in future for overall prosperity of the people and businesses.



Adviser to the PM on Finance Dr. Abdul Hafeez Sheikh by Dr Christian Tumer, British High Commissioner in Islamabad.

# KENYA SET TO CONTRIBUTE ITS WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE INTO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL



Amb. Raychelle Omamo, SC, EGH  
Kenya's Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary

In just under a month, Kenya will be on the ballot for one of the five vacant slots reserved for non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. Kenya's bid follows a resounding endorsement by the African Union in August 2019; a reaffirmation of the trust the Union has in Kenya's leadership to pursue the continent's interests in the Council.

Kenya is renowned for many things: it is the archeological cradle of mankind; its galaxy of middle and long distance runners have dominated the world athletics scene for decades; and, its tourist attractions, that includes the great annual wildebeest migration, the Great Rift Valley, the Maasai Mara, the expansive beaches and mountainous landscape, are, probably, unrivalled. In addition to these and many others is that the country stands out as a global thought leader and a champion for galvanizing regional and global consensus on matters of international concern.

Following its endorsement as African Union's candidate, Kenya has run a campaign based on a "Ten Point Agenda". The Agenda focuses on regional and global concerns that the country champions, namely: building bridges; peace keeping and support operations; regional peace and security; countering terrorism and prevention of extremism; women, peace and security; youth empowerment; humanitarian action; justice, human rights and democracy; environment and climate change; and, sustainable development goals.

The 'building bridges' agenda resonates at the domestic level in deepening our democratic credentials while securing the peace during political transitions and elections. This agenda is particularly relevant today as the world needs multilateral consensus the global COVID-19

pandemic and its adverse effects. President Uhuru Kenyatta who is the current President of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States and a member of the Bureau of African Union Heads of State and Government has been at the forefront engaging world leaders and institutions in proffering solutions for concerted response measures. During its tenure in the UNSC, Kenya will pursue an approach that ensures the achievement of world peace, security and sustainable development.

Kenya has played a leading role in promoting inclusive and sustainable development in Africa and beyond. It co-facilitated with Ireland

On humanitarian action, Kenya has demonstrated its commitment to standing for peace by providing a haven for over **600,000** refugees

the post-2015 Development Agenda Process leading to adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Domestically, Kenya has made substantial progress towards the achievement of SDGs, also developed under its co-chairpersonship, recognizing that sustainable development and peace and security are mutually dependent.

In Africa, Kenya is an anchor state and guarantor of regional peace and security. Kenya made immense contributions in the process leading to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement also known as the "Naivasha Agreement" in 2005 between the Government of the Sudan the Sudan People's Liberation Movement. It also played a key role in the

Somali peace process and continues to support South Sudan and Somalia in their peace and state building efforts. Additionally, Kenya has taken part in peace missions across 40 countries and runs one of the largest and oldest peacekeeping training centers on the continent; the International Peace Support Training Center. Further, Kenya stands out as an excellent example for the progressive achievement of gender equality in peace keeping, having one of the highest percentage of female officers serving in peacekeeping missions. Kenya intends to vigorously pursue the promotion of the women, peace and security agenda during its tenure as non-permanent member of the UNSC.

Over the years, Kenya, which was home to the late Prof. Wangari Maathai - the first African Woman Nobel Peace Laureate- has a long and distinguished tradition in conservation and environmental protection. It is the first East African nation to establish a legal framework on climate change with laws against high carbon development and a ban on single-use plastic. Kenya will leverage on her experience and position as host country for the United Nations Environmental Programme to give a fresh momentum and support to the global environmental agenda.

On humanitarian action, Kenya has demonstrated its commitment to standing for peace by providing a haven for over 600,000 refugees fleeing conflict and instability in Somalia, South Sudan and other parts of Africa and indeed further afield. By the same token, the 2010 Kenyan Constitution is one of the most transformative and progressive documents on the African continent based on its guarantees of basic human rights and the power it gives citizens to determine how they are to be led.

One of the most significant threats to Kenya's security has been terrorism and violent extremism. Apart from counter terrorism measures at the domestic level, Kenya has been an integral part of regional and global efforts particularly in putting in place punitive measures to dismantle terrorist networks wherever they are. Kenya will vigorously pursue this agenda in the Council with a view to creating an environment for the achievement of long-lasting and sustainable peace and development.

With this set of credentials, it is evident that Kenya has a wealth of experience that it would bring to bear as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.



# Nigar Johar becomes first female Lt Gen of Pakistan Army



Lieutenant General Nigar Johar Khan is a three-star general in the Pakistan Army. Johar is the first and only woman in the history of Pakistan Army to reach the rank of lieutenant-general, and the third to reach the rank of major-general.

According to ISPR tweet "Major General Nigar Johar, HI (M) promoted as Lieutenant General. She is the 1st female officer to be promoted as Lieutenant General. The officer has been appointed as 1st female Surgeon General of Pak Army. Lieutenant General Nigar Johar hails from Panjpeer, District Swabi KPK."

She belongs to the Pakistan Army Medical Corps and currently serves as the surgeon general of Pakistan Army. The other two women major-generals, Shahida Badsha and Shahida Malik also belong to the Army Medical Corps. Johar was born in Panjpir village in the Swabi District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to a Pashtun family. Her father, Qadir, was an army colonel. Johar completed her schooling through the Presentation Convent Girls High School, Rawalpindi in 1978. She joined the Army Medical College (AMC) in 1981, graduating in 1985. She is from the 5th MBBS course of the Army Medical College.

## Proud DAUGHTER of A Pakistani Driver Makes It To Foreign Service After Clearing CSS

Monitoring Desk

The Central Superior Services (CSS) is Pakistan's most respected field of work. Becoming a bureaucrat is a dream for many. Some clear it easily while others end up with nothing in their hands.

The daughter of a Pakistani Christian driver, Rabil Kennedy has also broken all the socio-economic barriers. She has cleared the CSS exams for 2019. In addition, she also made it to the Foreign Service of Pakistan and has been employed in the Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR).

This girl is Rabil Kennedy and John Kennedy is her father. In fact, she has also set an example for every single minority person in the country that anything is possible if you give it your best.

John Kennedy is a driver in the Legal Wing of the FBR. But now, he is also a proud father. Rabil attributed her success to the untiring efforts and vision of her father who had selected the best educational institutions for her right from her childhood and provided her with all the necessary support in this regard.

"He has been my guiding star and a role model as he, despite having meagre resources and a large family to feed, gave me hope that I could also become an officer of the top-ranking cadre of Pakistan,"

She has been one of the three candidates selected on minority quota and luckily was awarded what she had always dreamt — a posting in the Foreign Service Group. "Joining this prestigious service, I shall put in my best efforts to promote Pakistan's soft image to the world and remove misconceptions and

negativity about my country," she said.

This news has become viral on the Internet. People within the country, and even outside the country are congratulating Rabil and her family on her accomplishment. Keeping in mind that only 2.56 percent of the candidates cleared the exam.





By staff Reporter

**H**.E. Ambassador MATSUDA Kuninori, met with H.E. Mr. Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, Federal Minister for Railways.

During the meeting, the Ambassador said that

Japanese railway companies are interested in investing in Pakistan to modernize the railway structure as Japan is very advance in railway system. He also proposed that various Japanese railway technologies should be introduced into coaches and other equipment of the Pakistan Railways.

## Japanese railway companies are interested in investing in Pakistan

The Japanese railway system is world-famous for being well-organized and efficient, and millions of passengers are transported throughout Japan each day with the Greater Tokyo Area having 40 million passengers commute to and fro daily

## Advisor to PM Imran Khan appreciated the support offered by friend countries

**M**r. Bernhard Stephan Schlagheck Ambassador of Germany accompanied by French Ambassador Dr. Marc Barety and Economic Counselor Mrs. Anais Boitiere, called on the Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh here at the Finance Division. The Adviser welcomed the Ambassadors and shared with them the overall picture of the country's economy amid the Corona Virus pandemic and its future impact on the overall progress of the economy. He shared that before the pandemic Pakistan was successfully able to control its current account deficit and was expecting a growth of 3% during the ongoing financial year after observing strict financial



discipline. However, after the outbreak the growth projections have become difficult to realize. He shared that due to the ongoing circumstances it is expected that the growth might remain between -1% to -1.5%. He then, told the ambassadors about the details of the relief package offered to the vulnerable by the Prime Minister through Ehsaas Program and the steps which the government is taking to support the SME sector. The Ambassadors then discussed with the Adviser the details of the debt rescheduling offered by G-20 countries and the need for any further loans. The Adviser said that Pakistan's firm stance in favor of debt rescheduling drive at the G-20 forum was based on the belief that the poorer countries genuinely require this

assistance though Pakistan Specifically had benefitted lesser from the said relief. He also shared that \$1.8 bn due in debt servicing to G-20 countries till December 2020 are under process of rescheduling. Pakistan is not going for any commercial loan rescheduling until now, said the Adviser. The Finance Division shall adhere to the requirements of Debt Limitation Act before planning to take up additional burden as most of the loans will be for the purpose of clearing old debt stocks, shared the Adviser. The Adviser appreciated the support offered by the friendly countries and said that he hopes that the cooperation will continue in future for the benefit of the people of the three countries.





# Pakistan gifts PPE to the United States

**A**s a gesture of solidarity with the United States, a gift of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been made by the Armed Forces of Pakistan to the U.S. Armed Forces on 21 May 2020. The PPE arrived via a C-130 flight from Islamabad at Andrews Air Force Base (AFB), Maryland this afternoon, says a press release received from Washington DC here today. Pakistan Ambassador to the US Dr. Asad M. Khan and senior officers of the

Embassy's Defence Wing were present on the occasion. From the U.S. side, Mr. David Helvey, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs and other officials were also present. During the event, Ambassador Dr. Asad Majeed Khan highlighted historic ties between people of two countries and their armed forces. He said that armed forces of both countries have fought together in "Global War on Terrorism" and stand together

in fight against COVID-19 pandemic. This is a manifestation of the longstanding and close cooperation between the armed forces of both countries, particularly in dealing with natural calamities. Both Pakistan and the U.S. remain closely engaged in combating COVID-19. The equipment has been handed over to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for onward delivery to the U.S. Armed Forces.



# flydubai and Pakistan: ten-year partnership

**f**lydubai has now been flying to Pakistan for 10 years. It began with our inaugural flight to Karachi on 21 June 2010, which became the 20th destination to join our network. flydubai has now grown to become a network of over 90 destinations in 47 countries with a young and efficient fleet of 51 Boeing 737 aircraft. Over the last 11 years we have carried more than 75 million passengers since we began operations in 2009.

Since the launch of our first flight to Pakistan we have seen growing demand in the region for direct flights to Dubai and beyond. The launch of our flights to Faisalabad, Multan, Sialkot and Quetta are examples of flydubai's commitment towards opening up new routes that did not previously have direct air links to Dubai.

With the benefit of regular direct airlines, comes opportunity for economic growth and development and we have certainly seen this in Pakistan. Since launching flights to Pakistan, flydubai has carried more than five million passengers, and we are delighted to see that our routes have provided vital trade and employment opportunities for these destinations, enhancing connectivity and opportunities to do business.

I would like to take this moment to thank the authorities for their support for flydubai and I look forward to this relationship growing over the years. In addition, I would like to thank our extremely committed and reliable flydubai team in Pakistan. None of these achievements would have been possible without their hard work and efforts. I must also thank all our trade partners and the people of Pakistan for the substantial support that flydubai has received over the last decade.

While we are fully aware that the recent COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted both businesses and the aviation sector, we have continued to support Pakistan with regular repatriation flights. We have also been focusing on a return to service. flydubai has completely reengineered the entire passenger journey following best practice which includes an extensive disinfection programme across all touchpoints throughout the customer journey. As we prepare to return to the skies, passengers can be rest assured about hygiene on board as the airline has a comprehensive cleaning programme in place.

We look forward to returning to the skies soon and once again welcoming the people of Pakistan onboard our aircraft.

Thank you for your support  
Ghaith Al Ghaith  
Chief Executive Officer, flydubai

Ghaith Al Ghaith  
Chief Executive Officer, flydubai







Message in conjunction with completion of Ten years of flydubai operation to Pakistan by

**H.E. Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi,  
UAE Ambassador in Pakistan**

**f**lydubai is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its operations to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as flydubai connects Karachi, Multan, Faisalabad, Sialkot and Quetta to the world in framework of its network to bridge the distance between people in more than 90 destinations in 48 countries across the globe.

On this occasion I am pleased to extend my felicitations to the entire team of flydubai for their commitment, hard work and efforts evolving the airline to become another Dubai success story in aviation field, and look forward to their continued success in the years to come.

I would also thank the leadership and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan specially officials of Civil Aviation Authority for their support and confidence in flydubai. Indeed this remarkable success of flydubai in bringing people together over the last 10 years alongside other airlines reflects the bonds of affinity between the two friendly countries, and the extent of people to people contacts and ever looping relations especially the aviation and tourism.

"I wish flydubai more successes and achievement in the future through its innovative services and expanding network".



**Dr. Saleem Al Khaddeim AlDhanhaneh  
Consul General of UAE**

I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to flydubai for completing 10 glorious years of success. With commitment and sincerity it has proven its worth and has gained the much deserved recognition and fame.

"Congratulations on this special day. I hope the company reaches to new heights in the coming days".





Exclusive Interview by Mian Fazal Elahi

# The pandemic has taught us a lot...

In this difficult period we felt our Pakistani friends particularly close and supporting

**H.E. Andreas Ferrarese**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Italian Republic  
to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan



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

**DF: Your Excellency! How has the pandemic treated you? What was your routine and how has your personality evolved during this lockdown?**

The pandemic has taught us a lot. Our vulnerabilities and limitations have been revealed and many of us have discovered a different perspective of life. I learned, along my career – which was full of challenges – to make of every crisis an opportunity. I spent the last months finalizing the projects for the new Italian Embassy in Islamabad, studying deeply the history and traditions of Pakistan, building an excellent team, and reorganizing the work in the Embassy. I have been blessed by finding an excellent staff in the Embassy, which is facing the ongoing crisis with commitment and sense of duty. I thank all of them, and in particular my Consul in Karachi, Anna, my Deputy in Islamabad, Francesco, Military Attache', Giuseppe, and Cooperation Agency Chief, Emanuela.

**DF: The spread of coronavirus is immoderate in Italy as compared to many other countries but the Government and the People of Italy overcome the situation and the graph of Covid-19 patients goes down. What has been the line of action of the Italian Government in this regard?**

People from so many countries of the world have chosen to make Italy their home, are welcome to actively participate in politics of the country

AF: Our Government - despite being amongst the first ones to face this huge challenge - took effective measures since the outbreak of Covid-19 in Italy. Large numbers of tests were performed on public and extensive lockdown was imposed to curtail the spread of the virus. Spread during the month of March was at extraordinary pace and our health system was severely under pressure. Thanks to tenacious fight put up by our health professionals, situation has greatly improved. Italy is reporting



## Career and Personal Data

Andreas Ferrarese was born in Tübingen (Germany) on January 17, 1968, the father being a Professor of History and his mother a Professor of Economy, both from ancient families from the city of Venice.

He graduated in Oriental Languages and Literature at the "Ca' Foscari" University of Venice in 1992. He had studying experiences in Tunisia, Egypt, France (Sorbonne INALCO), Spain, Georgia. He made a Thesis on the Arabic dialects of Spain, and attended a doctorate in Middle Ages Philosophy, about Arab philosopher Ibn Rushd.

After an intensive preparation in Law and Economy in the University of Padua, and a stage in the prestigious Ecole National d'Administration ENA in Paris, he entered the Diplomatic Career in 1994 and, following a period of training in the Diplomatic Academy, he began his professional career at the Directorate General for Economic Affairs, where he dealt with commercial relations with Asia.

In 1996 he left abroad, serving at the Italian Embassy in Manila - where he assisted Italian companies to obtain contracts for a total comprehensive amount of 2 Billion Euros - and then in Tel Aviv, since 2001, as Chief of Press Office.

Returning to the Ministry in 2004, he served as Deputy Head of the Crisis Unit. He co-managed, in that position, the Tsunami crisis and a high number of emergencies such as 3 evacuations of Italian citizens from war scenarios and 96 cases of kidnappings (of criminal and terrorist nature) in many different countries (Iraq, Afghanistan, Venezuela etc.). He gained a wide experience related to terrorism and political analysis to prevent crisis.

In 2008 he left again for abroad, as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Italy in Beirut, where he coordinated the rapports with UNIFIL II Mission - thus successfully headed by Italian General Claudio

Graziano - then in Brasilia, as Deputy Chief of Mission, since 2011. In Brazil he coordinated a network of 4 General Consulates, 2 Career Consulates and almost 100 honorary Consuls, one of the biggest consular networks in the world, assisting 400.000 Italian citizens and 30 million Brazilians with Italian origin. In that period Italian investments in Brazil reached 18 Billion Euros, mostly in the sectors of telecommunications, automotive and defense.

In 2013 he was appointed Ambassador of Italy to Pristina. In that position he was confronted with relevant political activities since, in that period, Italian Military and Officials were heading both the NATO Mission KFOR and the biggest EU Mission abroad, EULEX. He was also active in hindering - in coordination with local Authorities - relevant cases of corruption, international terrorism and human smuggling.

In 2016 he returned to Rome, where he served outside the role at the Prime Minister's Office. In that position, he headed a structure for strategic analysis to be submitted to the Prime Minister.

Since 10 February 2020 he has been Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan. He transmitted Credential Letters on June 11th, thus assuming full functions as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

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

He is fluent in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic and Georgian.

He is married with Albana, and they live in Pakistan with their daughter Chiara.

As a hobby, he practiced different martial arts, especially Karate and Judo, and to relax he cooks Italian food, being specialized in traditional Venetian cuisine.



Our bilateral trade is relevant, amounting about 1.5 billion Euros in 2019, but I consider it far below existing potential.

I am confident that we can reach a yearly of 4 billion after the ongoing crisis. We are the second partner of Pakistan in Europe

a daily-low of new cases and fatality rate has gone significantly low. Restrictions are being gradually eased and Italy now looks forward to the normalization. In this difficult period we felt our Pakistani friends particularly close and supporting. Political contacts have been intense, since there were important conversations between our two Prime Ministers, Giuseppe Conte and Imran Khan, and our Foreign Ministers, Di Maio and Qureshi. In the same way, we are brotherly close to Pakistan in this days, and to all those affected and their families.

**DF: Your Excellency! Italy is one of the important countries of the European Union in terms of bilateral and trade relations with Pakistan. Would you like to share the information on volume for trade and the products which are import/export between the two countries? What would be the impact of Covid-19 on the trade between the two countries?**

Our bilateral trade is relevant, amounting about 1.5 billion Euros in 2019, but I consider it far below existing potential. I am confident that we

can reach a yearly of 4 billion after the ongoing crisis. We are the second partner of Pakistan in Europe. Businessmen of the two countries work particularly well together. We can further improve. I hope to considerably reinforce our commercial office soon and to increase the network of honorary Consuls around Pakistan.

**DF: Your Excellency! Italy is a part of the European Union and a very friendly neighborhood, what is the role of the Italian Government in the European Union? In addition to this question, I would like to ask what is the trade of Italy with European Union countries?**

AF: Italy is one of the 6 founding members of the European Union and attaches great importance to the Institution. Several landmark agreements, with lasting impacts on Europe, were achieved during meetings hosted by Italy. Our Capital, Rome, has a tremendous symbolic value for all Europeans. In addition, our membership in the EU is part of our national interests, having an economy relying on trade. In 2019, according





to UN data, the value of our export was of 530 billions of US dollars, and our import 488,74 billions of US dollars, out of a GDP of about 2000 billions of dollars. Our main partners are the other EU Member States, which cover more than one third of our overall trade. Actually, a relevant part of our trade is directed towards Germany (65.1 billions of dollars in 2019, as 12.2% of our export) and France (55.8 billions of dollars in 2019, as 10.5%) alone. On the other hand, the US are our third partner, with a trade of 51 billions of dollars.

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

AF: Italian universities have become favorite educational destinations for Pakistani students over past few years. More and more of them are getting enrolled at prestigious Italian institutes such as Politecnico di Milano, Politecnico di Torino and La Sapienza, to name a few. Economics, Architecture, Engineering, Computer Sciences and Communication Sciences are among the most sought field of studies for Pakistani students. The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) - an international research institute for physical and mathematical sciences that operates under a tripartite agreement between the Italian Government, UNESCO, and International Atomic Energy Agency - provides numerous placements to Pakistani students and scientists every year. As a feedback, I can confirm that Italian professors share with me feelings of admiration for the high intellectual qualities of students from Pakistan, most of whom excel in their performances.

**DF: Your Excellency! Italy is rich in cultural and tourist places large numbers of tourists visit every year in your country and tourism sport GDP of Italy as well. But after the pandemic situation most of the people are not willing to travel anywhere what would be its impact on tourist industry?**

AF: This, indeed, is a major concern for Italy, both for the government and for private sector tourism industry, which contributes about 13% to our GDP. Authorities are chalking out plans that would ensure the safety of people and re-opening of tourism simultaneously. This involves a number of measure, such as having a reduced number of occupants at hotels instead of a full-house, elevated level of hygiene at hotel/restaurant premises, access to attractions through prior online bookings to maintain a safe number of visitors and many such measures. Let's not forget that Italy has numerous tourist destinations and with proper planning and guidance programs for tourists, we can distribute tourists to various regions, all of them of great quality. This will also give limelight to







the less-frequently visited tourist destinations in Italy, with marvelous spots to discover.

**DF: Your Excellency! Overseas who are leaving in Italy and they got nationality of the Republic of Italy did they have the right to participate in politics on the national level?**

AF: Absolutely! People from so many countries of the world have chosen to make Italy their home, are welcome to actively participate in politics of the country. Italian legislation does not foresee any difference due to someone's origins. Once you own an Italian passport, you have the same rights and duties of all the other Italians.

**DF: Your Excellency! You are a very senior diplomat for many years what do you think about Pakistan? Is it a good country from an investment point of view and do you want to give any message to the Pakistan investors as well as international business community?**

AF: During my very first posting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I worked on strengthening the economic ties between Italy and Pakistan. So I



have been aware of this subject for as long as 26 years. The two countries have seen a steady rise in trade on both sides, yet there is a lot of room for enhancing our economic cooperation and we shall strive hard for that in coming months. Italian companies have shown keen interest to invest in various sectors in Pakistan and we look forward to see it happening in future. Bureaucracy should be a facilitator, in

**There is a community of some 150,000 Pakistanis living in Italy. Most of them moved to Italy several years ago and many of them are Italian citizens now**

the interest of the country, employment of the citizens and progress of the country. On the other side, foreign investors must make an effort to understand local mentality, procedures, and respect Pakistani traditions and style of life.

**DF: Your Excellency! Italy and Pakistan have cultural agreements to promote the culture between the countries and the Italian embassy brings their cultural groups which are a very good activity to promote cultural diplomacy? I would like to know is Pakistan end have the same thing doing over there in Italy and what is your policy to promote cultural diplomacy between the two countries?**

AF: Cultural Diplomacy is one fine aspect of a

broad-based relationship among countries. One of my goals during my posting in Islamabad is to enhance Italian cultural presence in Pakistan through various mediums. We would like to improve Italian language teaching facilities here. Exchange of cultural groups is another effective way and we shall try to invite more people (artists) than before to share our culture with our Pakistani friends. We are also planning to show Italian cinema with collaboration of local cultural and academic institutions. I believe Pakistani Diplomatic Missions have been equally active in promoting the rich Pakistani culture in Italy that brings our two communities together. Further to that, COVID crisis has accelerated a trend that confirms modern technologies and social media as primary vehicles to promote culture. I believe in the great potential of this trend. I will work simultaneously in traditional and futuristic way.

**DF: Your Excellency! Italy is an active investor in Pakistan. How has Embassy of Pakistan helped Pakistan during the pandemic?**

The Government and people of Pakistan have shown exemplary solidarity with the Government and people of Italy during the hardest times of Covid-19 crises, with concrete proofs of friendship and support. On March 24, H.E. Shah Mehmood Qureshi, visited our Embassy to express solidarity and convey condolences over the loss of lives in Italy due to pandemic as well as Pakistan's support for government and people of Italy for valiantly combating the pandemic. I was deeply touched by countless messages of sympathies, solidarity and prayers from our Pakistani friends from all walks-of-life. Italy will always remember this gestures of goodwill and kindness.

Italy has worked in coordination with other bilateral and multilateral donors, to which it provides relevant budget contributions, in order to ensure all possible assistance. We also rescheduled our bilateral support to be better functional to current developments.

**DF: Your Excellency! Italy has supported**



**Pakistan bid for free trade agreement between EU and Pakistan. Can the trade between the two countries be affected by the coronavirus outbreak? If yes then does Embassy have any plans to overcome that?**

COVID negatively affected and is likely to further negatively affect bilateral trade, in line with a general trend which has very few exceptions in the world. I am convinced that this is a temporary phenomenon. The ongoing crisis is painful but I am sure that we will recover fast.

**DF: Your Excellency! Italy also provided millions of dollars to social development projects including health, education, and sanitation. Does Italy have any other investment plans for Pakistan in near future?**

AF: Italy has been contributing, for decades, to the socio-economic development of Pakistan. We have been partners in progress and I would briefly share with your readers some of the landmark projects that manifest the magnitude of development cooperation between the two countries. ERALP (Early Recovery of Agriculture and Livelihood Program) has been a success in war-affected Swat valley that helped restore agriculture in general and fruits orchards in particular. Italian Archaeological Mission in Swat has helped restoring tourism in the valley through their ACT (Archaeology Community Tourism) field school. Italian-funded olive program has been yet another success. Through this program, a comprehensive feasibility study was conducted and later olive orchards were established in various districts which today are producing olives (who reduce Pakistan's import bill for edible oils). In health sector, Italy helped establish a much-needed burn treatment center at Nishtar hospital Multan. A bone marrow transplant center has also been established at children hospital PIMS with cooperation of Italian Cure2Children Foundation Italy. Restoration of walled city Multan and restoration work in the walled city Lahore were successfully carried out with Italian support. HEC and their Italian counterparts are engaged to establish cooperation in the fields of higher education and research. This will provide vital support for higher education sector in Pakistan, particularly in the field of scientific research. That's what has been done and we shall continue to cooperate with Pakistan for development of social sector by sharing our knowledge, expertise and other possible forms of support.

**DF: Your Excellency! What kind of role has Pakistani community played in Italy? What challenges have been faced by Pakistanis over there and how are they being helped?**

AF: There is a community of some 150,000 Pakistanis living in Italy. Most of them moved to Italy several years ago and many of them are Italian citizens now. Majority of Pakistanis in Italy are living in the North. Pakistani community



in Italy has been an important part of services sector and they have been contributing to the economy of the country. Speaking of challenges, the most common challenge they would face, is not speaking Italian language. This poses some limits to their interaction with locals and to the process of integration. Italian authorities encourage people arriving in Italy to learn Italian language and the government provides this facility at public institutes. That is, for me, another reason to strengthen teaching of Italian in Pakistan.

**DF: Your Excellency! Do you want to give any message or a piece of advice to the people of Pakistan?**

AF: It is a matter of pride and pleasure for me to represent the Italian Republic in this beautiful and very friendly country that has a long history of cordial relationship with Italy. I wish to thanks all Pakistani authorities and friends who welcomed me here and made all efforts

to facilitate my settling down every time it was needed.

I very much look forward to work closely with the government of Pakistan, engage with business communities in a more productive way, as well as with the people from all components of Pakistani society, academia, cultural side, health, media, and other walks of life to bring the two countries closer than we are, and to achieve new milestones that would actually reflect the true friendship between the two nations. I will work with all my energies. I had concrete results and satisfaction in all my previous posting. I hope it will be the same here after my turn of duty in Islamabad.

**Pakistan Zindabad.**

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



# Italy – Pakistan Relations in the time of Coronavirus

Italy and Pakistan have always enjoyed very friendly relations, in different fields ranging from Trade to Culture. Italy has become the home of about 200.000 Pakistani citizens, who work, live and dream along with their Italian neighbors, making us the first Country in the European Union for the size of our Pakistani community, which actually empower the economy of Pakistan itself through its remittances.

Against this background, Pakistan and Italy share the same stance on several global and regional issues, in addition to their cooperation in international forums such as the United Nations.

By the same token, over past few years Italy has emerged as Pakistan's third largest trade partner in Europe and tenth in the world. Trade volume between the two countries in 2019 has been well above 1.4\$ billions, more than doubled in the last four years. A key part of our exports is made up by machineries, and it includes also chemical products, medicines, pharmaceutical preparations. On the other side, over 80% of the Pakistani exports towards Italy consists of textiles and clothing.

We are well aware of how our two economy are complementary to each other, with Pakistani economic operators turning to Italian companies for products they need for diversification and modernization of their output, especially in the textile and construction machinery sector. On the other hand Italy can offer its expertise, technology and equipment for the economy

of a Country in a period transition and of great changes, which makes Pakistan even more interesting, as a market, for Italian operators, which see the opportunities given by a growing, young middle class..

In this context, Italy has also supported Pakistan in its access to the Agreement GSP plus (Generalized Scheme of Preferences) signed with the EU, and in force since January 1st 2014. This agreement entitles Pakistan to tariff exemptions on three quarters of its products, in exchange for ratification and implementation of the 27 major international conventions on labor rights, environmental protection and governance. Starting in 2014, the annual value of Pakistani exports to the European Union exceeded six billion euro, according to sources from the European Commission.

Because of this beneficial synergy between our two countries, Italy has staunchly worked to increase its presence in Pakistan and many Italian companies have established, or are in the process of establishing, their permanent offices in Pakistan. This clearly depicts Italy's keen interest in a Pakistani market of 220 million.

This interest has been further confirmed in the Joint Economic Commission held in Islamabad last November, on the occasion of the visit of Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs H.E. Manlio Di Stefano, during which the Italian side has expressed their interest in investing in marble, construction, mining, agriculture, tourism, energy and textiles sectors of Pakistan, which could greatly benefit from Italian expertise in



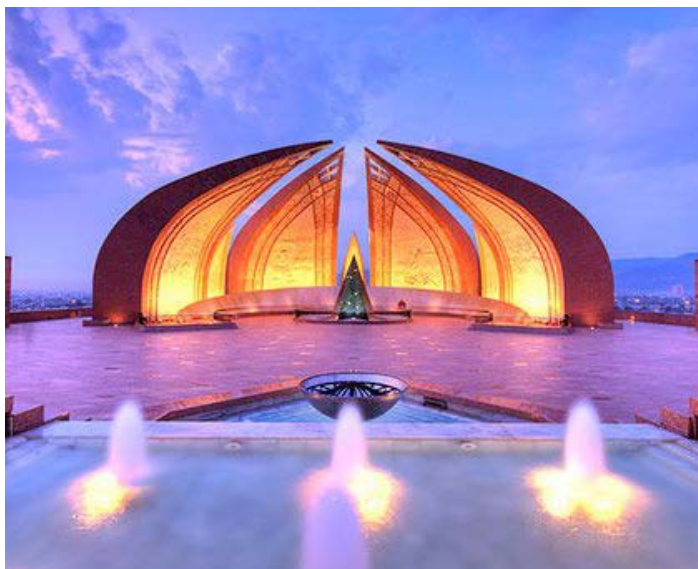
**COVID-19  
RESPONSE**

these fields. At the same time, Italian businesses may benefit from investment-friendly policies of the present Pakistani government under revised investment policies providing higher level of confidence to investors in terms of legal protection and great returns on foreign investment.

Indeed, the complementary relation between our two economy can spread its results in every sector, from the energy, where an important Italian company has signed a contract in order to provide 11 million tons of LNG, to the automotive, where other important companies are eager to make their way in a huge market of mass transportation.

The growing ties between Italy and Pakistan have seen an unprecedented boost also in the fashion and design sector. We are proud that all around the world, Italian products are taken in high consideration, and known for their quality. On the other hand, Pakistan is among the world's top producers of textile and related raw materials, especially cotton, and it can boast a traditional expertise in hand-made embroidery and garments, with the typical stile of South East Asia, which is more and more appreciated all around the world.





In order to help this two traditions blend together, with the help of Embassy important initiatives have been carried out by UNIDO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. In 2017, a delegation of Pakistani women fashion designers from Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), took part in a professional tour in Italy organized by UNIDO ITPO Italy in collaboration with CAN/Federmoda. By the same token, an UNIDO delegation, with the Italian fashion designer Stella Jean, came to Pakistan in March 2019, to foster a collaboration aimed at mixing local fashion with Italian design and know - how.

In addition, the renowned Italian fashion designer Stella John visited Pakistan in November 2019 in order to establish what she called "an Italian Pakistani bridge" in the fashion industry by creating an infusion of multicultural collaboration with local artisans of Chitral, Gilgit and Hunza and Italian artisan seamstresses.

Keeping up with this trend of blending our joint expertise it will be easier to introduce Pakistani fabrics to the international markets, as sharing of experience and expertise between Italy and Pakistan can be pivotal to introduce Pakistani brands at the global level. This is also an important challenge from the economic point of view because Pakistan could greatly improve its export through the fashion industry by catching the attention of western buyers. Promoting the Pakistani fashion industry and embroidery sectors would therefore allow the Country to secure an important place in the international market with positive effects for the whole economy.

Still in the field of culture, the Italian Archaeological Mission in Swat, has contributed significantly to the development and promotion of the archaeological heritage of the Swat valley through mobilization of the local concerned communities. Early Recovery of Agriculture and Livelihood Program (ERALP)

## Italy has become the home of about 200.000 Pakistani citizens, who work, live and dream along with their Italian neighbors, making us the first Country in the European Union for the size of our Pakistani community

by the Italian government provided the much-needed support to the post-war Swat valley in the fields of agriculture, fruit orchards revival and fish farming. After successful restoration of historical cultural heritage in Lahore and Peshawar, Italy has also assisted in the restoration of the historical center of Multan under the initiative of "Sustainable, Social, Economic and Environmental Revitalization in the Historic Core of Multan City" aiming at promotion of socioeconomic development and environmental protection in sectors such as livelihood improvement, education, and basic infrastructure in Multan city.

Last but not least, it is important to mention the deep ties between the Pakistani and Italian

Mountains, as showed by the participation of Italian climbers and their historical participation in expedition on the peaks of Pakistan, since the ascent of K2 in 1954, during the Italian Karakoram expedition led by Ardito Deso, also considering the morphological similarities between Italian and Pakistani Mountains.

The involvement of Italy in these fields comes from the acknowledgement, by both Countries, of the importance of people-to-people contact on different levels. For this reason we have been supportive of visits of people from different background, such as academia, businessmen, artists and religious scholars, in order to let them share their views and give each one of them their contribution in the relations between Italy and Pakistan.

This is particularly true considering the vision of the Pakistani government to promote Pakistan as a popular tourist destination, and to enhance tourism through developing infrastructures and easing access for foreign visitors. This project is playing a major role in shaping a different image of the Country and in attracting peoples and moneys. Italy is particularly active in this domain, through a Cooperation Program bound to promote sustainable tourism in the northern area and building related capabilities.

Against this background, it is inevitable to refer to the menace of Covid-19 still looming on our two Countries. Both agreed to have continue coordinated and collective measures to fight the pandemic, for the sake of their own citizen and of the whole world.

Nobody would have expected such a situation, but this unprecedented challenge has given us the opportunity to show the best of what we have, in terms of solidarity and resilience. In their stance against an invisible and threatening enemy, Rome and Islamabad have had the opportunity to show their strength.

H.E. Mr. Zaher Aslam, Minister  
Additional Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad

H.E. Mr. J. Ahmad, Ambassador  
Additional Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad

H.E. Mrs. T. Ahmad, Ambassador  
Additional Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad



# Japan is a partner for peace and development in our region

## Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad Pakistan's Ambassador to Japan

**Question: The spread of coronavirus is moderate in Japan as compared to many other countries despite being in close proximity with China. What has been the line of action of the Japanese Government in this regard?**

Fortunately, from the beginning, the number of Covid-19 cases has been limited in Japan if we compare it to Europe or the United States. This is interesting because, as you rightly mentioned, a large number of Chinese tourists visit Japan every year. I think there could be a number of reasons for why Japan could avoid the Covid-19 outbreak as we have witnessed in Europe or the U.S.

First, I think, is the timely action taken by the Japanese government to contain the spread. Schools were closed down across Japan early on and large gatherings were disallowed or discouraged. This helped in early containment of the virus from spreading. Then in April, the Japanese Government imposed a state of emergency, first in seven prefectures including Tokyo and Osaka, which was later extended across Japan.

The second reason can be the cultural aspect. Generally, the Japanese people are very particular about personal as well as societal hygiene. Wearing masks, use of hand sanitizers and bowing instead of handshaking is considered a normal practice here.

Another reason can be that the strain of the Covid-19 virus in Japan might be different than the one in Europe or the U.S. I think a combination of all these reasons might have helped in containing covid-19 cases in Japan.

**Question: Due to evolving situation in the wake of COVID-19, what precautionary steps have been taken by the Embassy? Are there any guidelines or advisory issued for the people visiting the Embassy for various consular matters?**

Right from the beginning, we took the outbreak of Covid-19 very seriously and took a number of steps such as:

- At the Embassy's entrance, masks and hand sanitizers are provided to the visitors.
- Body temperature of visitors is checked

through a non-touch thermometer.

c. To ensure social distancing, we decided to provide almost all the consular services, except passport, by post only.

d. The local staff working at the Embassy that use public transportation has been asked to work from home.

e. All the staff of the Embassy and their family members have been provided with masks and sanitizers and have been urged to restrict grocery shopping on weekly basis.

**Question: The suspension of air flight operations in Pakistan left many Pakistanis stranded in many countries. How many Pakistanis were stranded here in Japan and what measures were taken to facilitate and send them back to Pakistan?**

Since the outbreak, I and my team at the Embassy have been maintaining close and regular contact with Pakistani community to facilitate any member of the diaspora in need of assistance or help.

On 14 April, 53 stranded Pakistanis in Japan





were repatriated through PIA's special plane. The Embassy's staff provided protective masks to all the passengers at the airport.

We will continue to explore ways to repatriate Pakistanis, living in Japan and desirous of going back.

**Question: Japanese Government has also enforced entry restrictions from various countries to Japan. What is the policy for Pakistanis who intend to travel to Japan?**

Currently, Pakistan is not included in the number of countries from which entry has been temporarily banned by the Japanese authorities. However, since there are no direct flights between Pakistan and Japan, practically speaking it is not possible to travel for short-term visa holders.

For Pakistanis holding the status of permanent residents or spouse or child of permanent residents in Japan, they can travel to Japan through any third country.

**Question: Embassy of Japan in Pakistan is playing a positive and supportive role in the hour of need during the pandemic. Pakistan is also being helped by various friendly countries and financial institutions to combat Covid-19. What is the quantum of assistance offered by the Japanese Government in this regard?**

As always, the friendly Government and the people of Japan have been very forthcoming in assisting Pakistan in these difficult times.

In early February 2020, the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID), Japan donated testing kits to the National Institute of Health (NIH) of Pakistan.

Then on 1st April 2020, the Japanese Government announced donation of US\$ 2 million in grant assistance through UNICEF and IOM to Pakistan for fight against Covid-19.

On 6th April 2020, the Government of Japan donated an additional grant of US\$ 1 million

through United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to equip Pakistani people and Afghan Refugees to fight against COVID-19. An additional grant of US\$ 250,000.00 has also been given through International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC) to equip Pakistan in fight against Covid-19.

Apart from that, the Japanese NGO sector has also been actively supporting to mitigate the socio-economic impact of this pandemic on some vulnerable families in Pakistan.

Two Japanese NGOs, KnK (Kokkyo naki Kodomotachi, Children without Borders)

and Association for Aid and Relief (AAR) have provided relief assistance to around

200 families in Mansehra, which is one of the hardest affected districts from Covid-19

in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan. The families have been provided with one-month food ration along with sanitation kits. They have also initiated hygiene awareness campaigns in collaboration with village communities in the district whereby school children have also been trained on how better to protect themselves

against Corona through regular and proper hand washing. Besides, houses roads and mosques have also been sanitized.

**Question: The Prime Minister of Pakistan has urged the overseas Pakistani for donations etc towards Government's effort to combat COVID-19 pandemic. Any significant contribution from Pakistanis in Japan in this regard?**

The Pakistani community living in Japan is very vibrant and patriotic. Whenever any calamity or need befall Pakistan, they are always there to help and assist their compatriots back home. Despite the fact that Covid-19 has seriously affected businesses of many Pakistanis living here, the spirit to help people back home is strong as ever.

A Pakistani businessman from Japan, Mr. Asad Nawaz, has donated medical equipment Ventilators, ECG and Ultra Sound machines, Nebulizers, etc worth more than 35 million Pak Rs for treating Corona patients in Pakistan. This is a very admirable step.

Other than that, some Pakistanis have also sent cash donations to the PM Covid Fund.





Some community members have also been distributing food rations among vulnerable Pakistanis here in Japan as well as in Pakistan.

**Question: What are the initiatives to enhance bilateral trade between Japan and Pakistan? What are the areas of mutual interests? What are the challenges being faced in the bilateral economic ties especially in the backdrop of Covid-19?**

- The Mission is following a well-thought-out plan to engage Japanese counterparts to enhance trade between the two countries, not limiting focus to the conventionally traded items but making efforts to diversify and expand the products portfolio.
- The strategy is to move from push to pull policy by reaching out to different import associations in Japan and introducing Pakistani export industry and products; this pro-active approach is helping us engage Japanese businesses for possible match-making with their Pakistani counterparts.
- The Mission is also actively working with the major exhibitions organizers in Japan to identify additional fairs where Pakistani products need to be promoted.
- A close liaison has been developed with JICA, JETRO and UNIDO with the specific objective to make best use of resources available with these organizations to promote trade between Pakistan and Japan.
- Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) is regularly fed on additional information on any new trading opportunities.
- The Mission is also scheduling industry specific visits of different business

chambers and associations from Pakistan. Areas of mutual interest: The areas of mutual interest concerning trade include Agricultural and Mineral Products, Plant and Machinery; Medical Equipment and Surgical Instruments; and, services sector mainly including IT outsourcing.

Challenges being faced in bilateral economic ties, especially in the backdrop of Covid-19:

- Lack of business information on both sides is the major challenge for which we are doing our best to play role as a link.
- Additionally, standard and licensing requirements are a bit more stringent in Japan.
- High tariffs have also been restricting trade between the two countries.
- Covid-19 related challenges include cancellation of trade fairs and exhibitions in Japan where a lot of Pakistani companies were confirmed to participate.
- Also, we had to cancel all meetings scheduled for different delegations from Pakistan confirmed for this spring season.
- The restrictions on movement is a big challenge in both countries right now.

We are, however, continuing discussion with the prospective trading partners online, keeping them engaged.

The Mission is also promoting Pakistan as an attractive investment destination which can help improve the bilateral economic ties further.

**Question: Japan contributed one million US dollars to Pakistan as assistance for Afghan Refugees and this it is the first international contribution in response to the call made by the Minister for SAFRON. How do you see the**

**role of Japan in Afghan peace process?**

As you are aware, Pakistan continues to host more than 2 million Afghan refugees. I would like to convey the gratitude of Government of Pakistan to the Japanese side for attending the Afghan Refugees related conference held in Islamabad in February this year. It is very important for Japan to remain meaningfully engaged with the process of dignified repatriation and rehabilitation of the Afghan refugees living in Pakistan. We look forward to continued Japanese assistance in this regard.

Japan has been a partner for peace and development in our region, including in Afghanistan. We have always welcomed the Japanese contribution to the peace and stability of Afghanistan in cooperation with the international community. We hope that Japan will continue to engage positively through its humanitarian aid and reconstruction efforts.

**Question: Your message for the readers of the 'Diplomatic Focus' and Pakistani Community in Japan.**

These are testing times for the humanity as a whole. The need is to stay positive with the spirit to look after each other in this hour of difficulty. This is not the time to create divisions on the basis of nationality. Rather the need is to fight Covid-19 collectively, through global cooperation. To the Pakistani community in Japan, I would like to strongly reiterate that I and my team at the Embassy of Pakistan in Tokyo are there to help, assist and facilitate our Pakistani brothers and sisters in whatever way possible. The community members should also look out for those amongst us who are in need of our support. I would also reiterate my earlier requests to those members of the community who can afford to do so to generously donate in the PM Covid Fund.



# Korean companies provide 10,000 masks to KP government

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Korean investors in Pakistan's hydropower sector have not remained inattentive to suffering of the Pakistani people from COVID-19 pandemic. In an effort to help contain the spread of COVID-19 in the Khyber Pakhtunkwa province, the Korean companies including the consortium of Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power (KHNP) and LOTTE Engineering & Construction, and Korea Energy Asrit Kedam (KOAK) Power, handed over 10,000 pieces of made-in-Korea washable-and-reusable face masks to the KP government. At the handing-over ceremony at the Korean Embassy in Islamabad on June 26th, 2020, H.E. Mr. Kwak Sung-kyu, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Himayatullah Khan, Advisor to Chief Minister for Energy, accompanied by Mr. Muhammad Zubair, Energy Secretary, Mr. Ahn Ho-young, Chief Representative of LOTTE Engineering & Construction Pakistan Branch Office, and Mr. Kim Kyung-sik, CEO of KOAK



Power were present. Mr. Khan expressed his gratitude on behalf of the KP government for the good-will gesture of the Korean companies. Regarding it as appraisable beyond a simple act of corporate social responsibility, Ambassador Kwak highly appreciated the Korean investors' initiative in support of the local community

during this trying time. In last April, the Korean government provided \$300,000 to the World Health Organization in Pakistan to support Pakistan's response in controlling the spread of COVID-19, and the Korean investors in Pakistan's hydropower sector also joined in contributing to this cause by providing additional \$47,000.

## Business Community shows concerns over non-implementation of PM's construction industry package

Agency

**M**uhammad Ahmed Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has said that Prime Minister Imran Khan had announced an attractive incentive package for the construction industry which has been included in the budget but despite the passage of two months, this package could not be implemented as no department has yet issued any notification for implementation of its incentives. He demanded that the Prime Minister should take notice of this situation and issue immediate orders to all the concerned departments to implement the package in letter and spirit.

Muhammad Ahmed Waheed said that the growth of construction industry will move the wheel of the economy faster as more than 50 allied industries were associated with this industry that will also grow fast. He said that with the acceleration of construction activities, businesses in the markets will flourish, new investment will get boost, thousands of people will be employed which will benefit reduce poverty in the society while construction of houses under Pakistan Housing Program will benefit the low-income people. He, therefore, urged that the Prime Minister should take steps for immediate implementation of his announced package.

He said that the devastating impact of Covid-19 pandemic was still continuing leading to 40

percent reduction in the industrial production. He said smart lockdown in some markets and complete lockdown in others for the last 3 months have severely affected the supplies of industrial sector and if this trend continued, there was a danger that many companies in the corporate sector will default. In such a situation, for how long the industry would pay its factory workers and if this trend continued, unemployment would rise alarmingly in the next year.

ICCI President said that despite the significant reduction in the prices of petroleum products, its benefits have not yet reached the grassroots level. He said that the high cost of production due to high power tariffs was affecting our exports. He said that the government should have reduced the price of electricity in proportion to the reduction in the prices of petroleum products to cut down production cost and make our exports more competitive in the regional and global markets. He emphasized that the government should reduce the price of electricity, which would have a positive impact on the economy. He further said that the State Bank of Pakistan had reduced the interest rate, which was a positive move, however, he said the current situation demanded that the interest rate should be further reduced to 4% that would reduce the financing cost for the private sector and help it to expand its businesses and make new investments. It would ultimately lead to acceleration in the pace of economic recovery.



Mohammad Ahmad Waheed said that the new federal budget has proposed to impose heavy luxury tax on houses and farm houses in Islamabad which was unjustified. He said that last year MCI had increased the property tax in Islamabad by 300% while the citizens of Islamabad were already paying six types of taxes on their houses. In these circumstances, there was no justification for luxury tax in Islamabad, so the decision should be withdrawn immediately. He further said that a fixed tax for small traders was announced in the budget, but its details have not come out as yet. He demanded from the Finance Advisor Dr. Hafeez Sheikh to finalize the fixed tax regime in consultation with the chambers to make it a win-win decision for all stakeholders

Interview by:  
Mian Fazal Elahi  
Mian Mobeen Akhtar, Berlin

Born in 1971. Holds degrees of MBBS, M.Sc. and LL.M.

Joined Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1995.

Served at Headquarters as Section Officer (1997 and 2000-2001), Deputy Director (2002-2004) and Director General / Spokesperson (2010-2020).

Held various diplomatic assignments in Pakistan Missions abroad: Dar-es-Salam (1998-2000), Brussels (2004-2007) and Jeddah (2007-2010).

Presently, serving as Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Federal Republic of Germany since 27 April 2020s.



**Every challenge has an opportunity**

**H.E. Dr. Mohammad Faisal**

**Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Germany**





Interview by Mian Fazal Elahi

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

**Question:**

**Your Excellency! What have you learned about yourself during the pandemic? How have you been spending your time?**

It has been quite an experience. The Pandemic has been a life changing event. Staying at home, it quite a challenge, especially for a diplomat, who is used to social interaction and meeting people. We are learning the ropes for using Zoom meetings and Skype conferences. Every challenge has an opportunity.

**Question:**

**Your Excellency! What are the steps taken by the Embassy of Pakistan in Germany for the Students who are studying in Germany? And how were they helped?**

We are regularly in touch with the Pakistani community in Germany, especially the students. PIA flights have been arranged to take the stranded students back to Pakistan. Same flights have also brought many naturalized Pakistani/





German/European citizens to Europe, especially Germany. We are actively using social media platforms such as twitter, facebook, Instagram to stay in touch with our people and convey various messages of the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister to our people in Germany.

#### Question:

**Your Excellency! Some students from Pakistan have got admissions in universities in different European Countries but unfortunately due to Covid-19 they are confused to come here for study or not? What is your advice to them?**

At the moment, we are advising a wait and see policy. Europe is slowly opening up and hopefully the colleges and schools would be fully operational in about a month or so. This is uncharted territory for all of us. The only advice that we give is that the situation remains unpredictable and we proceed with caution, until we have more predictability about the future.

#### Question:

**Your Excellency! Germany is one of those countries who are fighting with Covid-19 very effectively number of new cases has been reduced and the recovered patients graph is also improved? What kind of strategy the German Government and the German People has followed?**

The German government issued strict guidelines and instructions which the German people followed in letter and spirit. This is the gist of the German policy which as you said has been very very successful and needs to be emulated by countries in Europe and around the world.

#### Question:

**Your Excellency! What kind of role has been played by the Pakistani community in Germany? What challenges were faced by the Pakistani community in Germany? And how were they helped?**

The Pakistani community is a very effective part of Germany. They are into businesses, especially shops. They have recently begun to enter into many government services. There are some doctors and lawyers in Germany, who have their origins in Pakistan.

There only challenge is completion of their documents/verification etc from Pakistan. We are trying our best to use NADRA and MRP to facilitate and speed up various actions required by our community.

#### Question:

**Your Excellency! Due to evolving situation in the wake of COVID-19, what precautionary steps have been taken by the Embassy? Are there any guidelines or**

**advisory issued for the people visiting the Embassy for various consular matters?**

The Embassy and the Consulate in Frankfurt are strictly following the guidelines of the German Government regarding social distancing and use of sanitizers, masks etc. The Consular sections remain operational but purely on appointment basis, to avoid congestion in the Consular Hall. We hope to return to normal working conditions as soon as the situation with Covid-19 improves.

#### Question:

**Your Excellency! The suspension of air flight operations in Pakistan left many Pakistanis stranded in many countries. How many Pakistanis were stranded here**

**in Germany and what measures were taken to facilitate and send them back to Pakistan?**

Special PIA flights have taken back almost all the stranded Pakistanis from Germany.

#### Question:

**Your Excellency! Approximately how many Pakistanis reside in Germany? Amongst them how many were effected? How many died?**

About 150,000 people of Pakistani origin reside in Germany. There were few cases of Corona infection. So far, with the grace of God, there have been NO deaths.







# Maritime Arena — An Untapped Resource!

Aamir Yaqoob

With a sizeable seafloor, a large Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and continental shelf, Pakistan is blessed with abundant marine resource potential for innovation and economic growth. It is believed that Pakistan's maritime zones are rich in living and non-living resources. However, sea blindness, little to no public-private partnership, dearth of marine research and development (R&D) and absence of a coherent policy are some of the most important causes of underutilization of marine resources. The need of the hour is to invest in marine R&D while generating opportunities for public-private partnership to fuel blue economy in Pakistan. The term 'blue economy' refers to the utilization of sea and its resources for sustainable development. In other words, blue economy is efficient use of ocean resources for sustained economic growth, inclusive employment opportunities, better livelihood for coastal communities and exploitation of sea-based energy reserves. Seas are increasingly being understood as engines for sustainable economic growth by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Big Oceans States alike. Since time immemorial, humans have been relying on oceans for food, transportation and therapeutic products. Today, there is a better understanding even of the non-market goods and services related to oceans. Pakistan's maritime potential is wide and varied. The country's 1001 kilometers long coast extends southeast and westward. The maritime area of Pakistan comprises of 240,000 square kilometers of EEZ. To this area, the extended continental shelf provides another 50,000 square kilometers. The combined area of roughly 290,000 square kilometers has an enormous natural resource potential, much of which remains unexplored. Most of the marine natural resources are untapped, overexploited or else shrinking on account of pollution,

Pakistan's coastal zones, a mixture of subtropical environment and riverine flow in Indus delta, are rich in bio-productivity and

bio-diversity. These deltaic systems of streams provide for breeding ground of commercially important fisheries including carab and shrimps with a potential resource worth US\$ 68 million a year. Although Pakistan's fish export is growing but when compared to other Asian countries, the numbers are only depressing. Moreover, despite huge potential, fishing sector contribute little (1 percent) to Pakistan's GDP. However, if developed for optimum exploitation, fishery sector can play pivotal role in development of rural coastal economy of the country besides creating jobs in related sectors such as processing, preserving, transporting and marketing fish and fish products.

Pakistan's maritime zones are also rich in non-living resources such as sea-based industrial resource, deep-sea minerals and hydrocarbons. It is important to note that offshore regions of Pakistan have thick marine sedimentary reservoir rocks with potential traps of industrial chemicals and hydrocarbons. In addition, Pakistan's marine geological environment is favorable for the formation of mineral resources. Nonetheless, sea blindness and lack of political will to invest in the maritime arena are major reasons for the absence of any serious exploratory efforts and subsequent discovery. Pakistan's energy-starved economy and balance of payment crisis can be cured or at least mitigated in the longer run if untapped non-living resources of sea are exploited. Coastal tourism is yet another fast expanding economic sector in the world. Pakistan is blessed to have a long coastline with pristine beaches and year-long sunshine which potentially make beach tourism an attractive industry in the country. Development of sea-based recreational facilities such as quality beaches, theme parks, promenades and hotels is an avenue of public-private partnership to boost tourism and related industries while creating job opportunities for the unemployed youth. Desalination of water; utilization of tidal and wind energy for power generation; ship construction, maintenance and repair are other areas of high potential for growth of country's

economy. Marine R&D and capacity building through encouragement of private start-ups can lead the dwindling economy of the country towards stability and progress. Chinese investment through China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a golden opportunity for Pakistan to explore its "blue" options. CPEC is connecting Pakistan's port cities to the other parts of countries through a modern network of rails and roads. This transportation network can facilitate easy and efficient movement of services, goods and human resource within the country besides connecting western China with Arabian Sea. Pakistan can capitalize on ever-increasing maritime cooperation between the two countries in order to promote "blue partnership" and can lead the country to the path of economic prosperity.

A welcome move in this regard is the decision of Prime Minister Imran Khan to declare the year of 2020 as the year of blue economy. In February this year, the decision was made in the cabinet meeting chaired by the Prime Minister in the light of a report on the economic potential of oceans in the country. Moreover, the incumbent Chief of the Naval Staff has recurrently spelled out his desire to revitalize country's maritime sector and 'blue economy'. Annual Maritime Security Workshop (MARSEW 19) organized by Pakistan Navy War College and launch of Maritime Centre of Excellence in December last year validate Pakistan Navy's commitment to play its part in the growth of blue economy and maritime sector of Pakistan.

Though call for promotion of blue economy is a positive step by government but development of comprehensive strategy to incentivize maritime sector through inter-ministerial coordination and broader consultation with stakeholders is required to prompt investment by private sector. In this way, the economic slowdown can be transformed into sustainable economic activity in the country.

*The writer is a Research Fellow at Maritime Centre of Excellence, Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore*





## PASSING OUT PARADE OF PAKISTAN NAVY SEAL COURSE HELD

Monitoring Desk

**P**assing out Parade of Pakistan Navy SEAL Course held at PNS IQBAL, Karachi. The parade comprised of officers and sailors, who completed rigorous training in conformity to set standards. Commander Coast Vice Admiral Faisal Rasul Lodhi graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

While addressing the ceremony, the Chief Guest underlined that Coastal Command of Pakistan Navy has been entrusted to safeguard country's Coastal Area from Sir Creek to Jiwani under the challenging security milieu. He further added that Pakistan Navy Coastal Command is fully geared up for the challenges related to CPEC and no stone will be left unturned for securing the maritime interests of Pakistan.

The Chief Guest while congratulating the parade expressed his hope that addition of Special Operators in Navy's offensive punch will surely enhance the capabilities Special Service Group

(Navy). Later, the Chief Guest gave away prizes to position holders. The 'Iron Man' trophy for the overall best trainee of the course was awarded to Janbaz Asim Khan, whereas, Best Endurance Swimmer and Best Endurance Runner Trophies

won by Janbaz Osama and Janbaz Ehsan Ullah respectively.

Due to COVID 19 pandemic, the ceremony was attended by limited number of guests.







## Chairman JCSC Addresses at Pakistan Navy War College

By Mian Fazal Elahi

**G**eneral Nadeem Raza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, addressed the participants of Navy Staff Course at Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore. Chairman's talk was mainly focused on evolving global order and National Security Challenges peculiar to South Asia; highlighted the increasingly fluid regional environment shaped by a dynamic mix of great power competition and Indian hegemonic aspirations. CJSC said that warfare of 21st Century has evolved and morphed into Hybrid warfare / Grey Zone Conflicts which is a blend of subversion, terrorism, and irregular warfare.

Chairman JCSC also said that Pakistan Navy has a proud history of valour and sacrifices. As a vibrant force, Pakistan Navy has always come up to the expectations of the Nation in defending

maritime frontiers of Pakistan. The talk was followed by a question & answer session. Earlier upon arrival, Chairman JCSC was received by Commandant Pakistan Navy War College,

Rear Admiral Muhammad Zubair Shafique. CJSC also laid wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada and offered Fateha.





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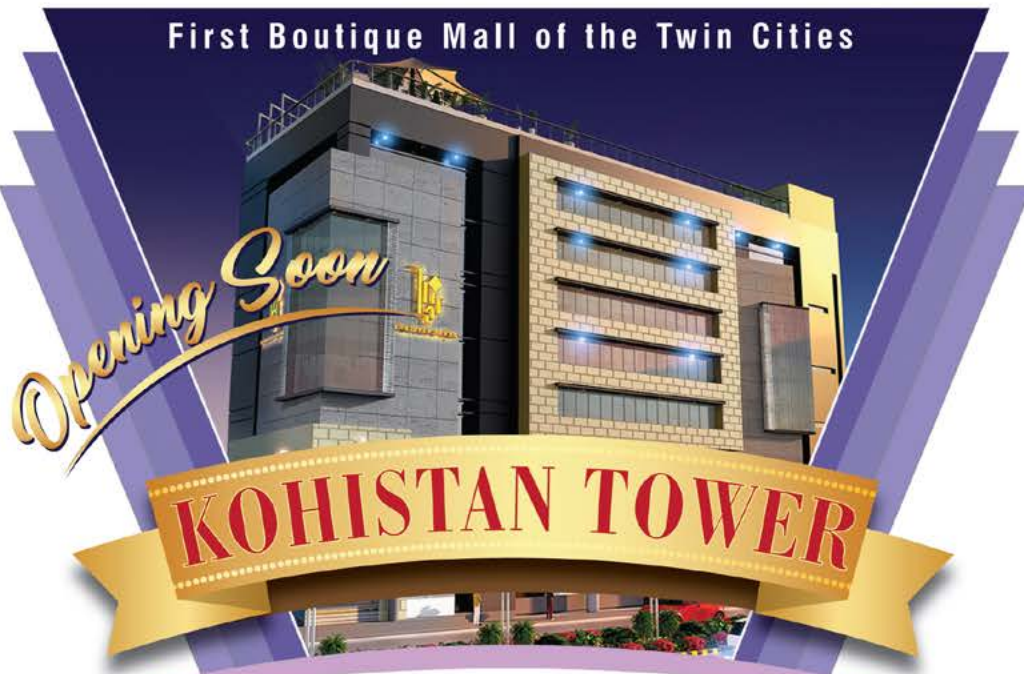


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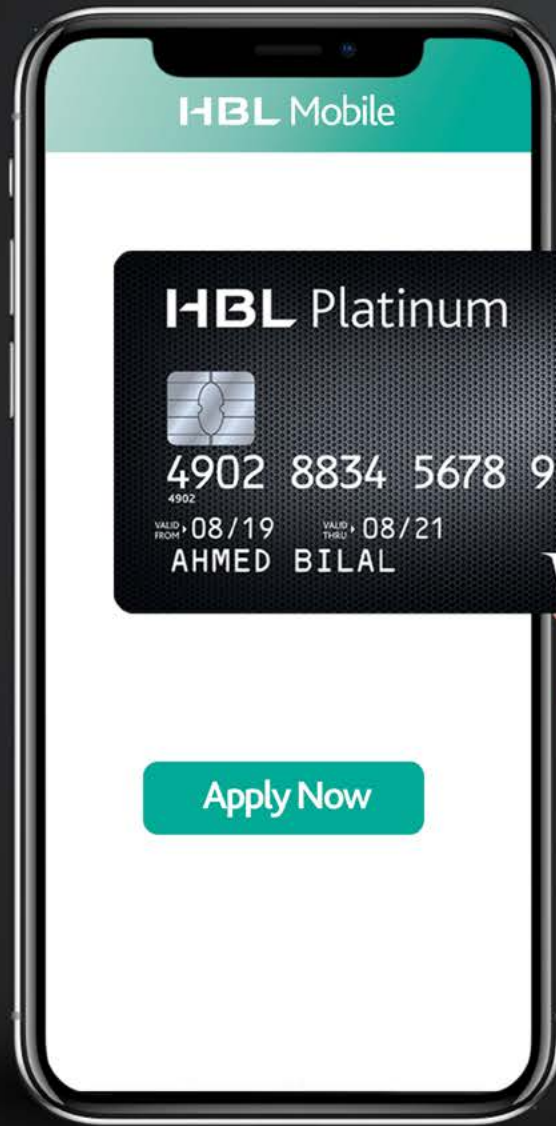




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