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H.E. Mr. Hamed Abbas, Lafta, Ambassador of Iraq to Pakistan



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## All 'on one page' for Pakistan's progress: President Alvi

President Arif Alvi said all the state institutions including the armed forces, the judiciary, the Parliament, the government, and the media were "on one page" for Pakistan's progress. "We all want legal, economic, and social justice, we're all in one direction. There's no compromise on corruption, and we..."

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## The Iraqi and Pakistani people are bound by cultural and religious ties! H.E. Mr. Hamed Abbas, Lafta, Ambassador of Iraq to Pakistan

H.E. Mr. Hamad Abbas has been a very active and energetic diplomat. He has recently been appointed as ambassador of Iraq to Pakistan. The Diplomatic Focus has found the opportunity to talk to His Excellency and learn about his early life, education, career, experiences and most importantly his role...

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## CPEC is of 'great importance' to Pak-China ties: President Xi

Chinese President Xi Jinping said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is of great importance to promoting in-depth development of the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries, Xinhua reported. The Chinese president made these remarks in a...

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## Interview on CURRENT CHINA-US RELATIONS, Given by State Councilor and Foreign Minister H.E. Wang Yi

Q: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo asserted in his speech at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library that the policy of engagement with China pursued by successive US administrations since President Nixon has not produced its goal and has failed. Many people in the United States question his assertion, saying it was more of an "ideological rant" without any...



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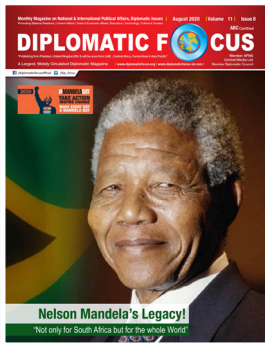
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## Our previous Issues



Mian Fazal Elahi

**P**ak-China friendship has not only evolved to touch new highs over the past few years, the countries are now reshaping the entire South Asian region. The second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has a number of game-changing developments that could breathe new life into the project and revive the private industry of Pakistan. In a consultative forum on draft framework agreement on industrial cooperation, it was revealed that Pakistan and China had decided to elevate the role that the industrialists, private sector, and business community would lay in this industrial agreement between the two countries. The framework is being expanded to include the development of special economic zones (SEZs). The first phase of CPEC required the primary role of the government, while the second phase requires a much larger shift in management and roles, by the private sector. Now that the project is entering into the second, and more ambitious phase, the government's role will be diminished to a more regulatory and policy drafting one. If both countries play their cards right, then this second phase can be a wonderful mutually beneficial opportunity for a productive transfer of information, education and technology. Relocating Chinese businesses can boost skill development and labour productivity, as long as the Pakistani industry is also keeping up. The government must utilise and follow through on these exciting developments carefully.

**Over the past few days alone** a couple of reputable international ratings agencies have maintained Pakistan's B- rating with a stable outlook. After all, if the leading ratings agencies of the world are happy with us, then investors will be encouraged to take us more seriously. So far the Pakistani government has done a number of right things to deal with a very demanding situation. The smart lockdowns worked, the reopening of the economy is largely working, and now we have maintained our rating. Now we must take what the agencies have said very seriously and begin addressing all the concerns. It would not only get us even better reviews going forward, perhaps also fetch us some millions or billions in investor funds, but most importantly it will put our own house in order, which will get us all sorts of gains.

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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# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



U.S. Charge' D' affaires to Pakistan Ambassador Paul W Jones Meets foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi For a farewell call in Islamabad



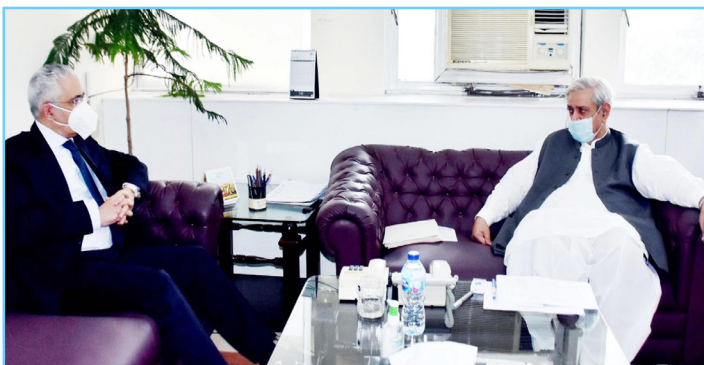
Outgoing Indonesian Ambassador H.E Mr. Iwan Suyudhie Amri meets Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi for farewell call.



Federal Minister for Industries and Production Muhammad Hammad Azhar in a meeting with Ambassador of Japan Mr Kuninori Matsuda in Islamabad



Federal Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony Pir Noor-ul-Haq Qadri meets H.E Saudi Ambassador Nawaf Al Maliki in Islamabad



Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Syed Fakhar Imam meet Ambassador of Arabic Republic of Egypt to Pakistan Mr. Tarek Dahrough



Ms Zobiaida Jalal Federal Minister for Defence Production presenting a souvenir to H.E. Mr Tarek Dahrough, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Pakistan



Ms Zobiaida Jalal Federal Minister for Defence Production presenting a souvenir to the H.E Mr. Nawaf bin Saeed al Maliki, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan



H.E. Mr. Tatsuda Kuinori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan called on Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar at Islamabad



# Pakistan marks 74th Independence Day

By Shehryar Fazil

**R**allies, flag-hoisting ceremonies and fireworks across the country marked the 74th Independence Day of Pakistan, amid a significant drop in the coronavirus casualties that have wreaked havoc on global lifestyle and economies.

The streets took on a festive green and white hue with buildings adorned with lights and other decorations in the national flag's colours.

The day dawned with a 31-gun salute in capital Islamabad and a 21-gun salute in all the four provincial capitals, followed by change-of-guards ceremonies at the mausoleums of

Pakistan conferred country's the highest civilian award, Nishan-e-Pakistan (Order of Pakistan) upon pro-freedom Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Geelani in recognition of his "unmatched freedom struggle against Indian occupation

Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of South Asian nation, in the port city of Karachi, and Allama Mohammad Iqbal, the national poet, in northeastern city of Lahore.

Similar ceremonies were also held in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, state-run Pakistan Television reported.

The main ceremony was held at the President Office where President Arif Alvi hoisted the national flag. Heads of the lower house National Assembly, and the upper house Senate, chiefs of the three armed forces, ministers, and senior government officials also attended the ceremony.

The highlight of the day was conferring the country's the highest civilian award, Nishan-e-Pakistan (Order of Pakistan) upon pro-freedom Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Geelani in recognition of his "unmatched freedom







struggle against Indian occupation”.

Kashmiri leaders based in Pakistan-administered Kashmir received the award on behalf of Geelani from President Alvi during the main flag hoisting ceremony at the president house.

Alvi, in his address, reiterated his country's support to the “freedom” struggle of the people of Kashmir.

He also lauded the nation's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, which has significantly been curbed in recent weeks. He hoped that

the nation would continue adhering to the social distancing even during the upcoming mourning rituals in Muharram as the pandemic was not yet over.

“After reaching age of 74 years...this kid is growing young. In order to boost its morale, I am highlighting the glad tidings here. Pakistani nation is arising. This is a tipping point,” the president said.

The president called upon the nation to “stand firm and work for progress and prosperity” of the country. He urged the people to stay united in order to meet the challenges that

are being faced by Pakistan.

He said Pakistan desired Afghan peace as it would be the second major beneficiary of peaceful Afghanistan. The CPEC was bringing about social development in the country that would ultimately lead to poverty alleviation.

The president particularly advised to youth to remain attached to their roots of being a Pakistan and Muslim what he believed were the strength of any nation against any challenge.

Calling the UN Security Council's debate on Kashmir as success of Pakistan's foreign policy, the president also thanked friendly countries like China, Turkey, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia besides OIC for joining Pakistan's voice against Indian atrocities in IIOJK.

He said the Indian minorities were faced with injustices particularly after amendment in citizenship laws.

Prime Minister Imran Khan, in a series of tweets, paid tribute to “all those sons of the soil who laid their lives while defending and protecting territorial as well as ideological frontiers of the motherland.”

Reaffirming Islamabad's support to Kashmiris' struggle for “self-determination”, Khan said: “The nation's heart is profoundly grieved by the sufferings of our brethren in IIOJK (Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir), who are facing military siege since the past one year.”







# All 'on one page' for Pakistan's progress: President Alvi

## Monitoring

President Arif Alvi said all the state institutions including the armed forces, the judiciary, the Parliament, the government, and the media were “on one page” for Pakistan’s progress.

“We all want legal, economic, and social justice, we’re all in one direction. There’s no compromise on corruption, and we all want to overcome hindrances in Pakistan’s progress!” the president said in his address to the joint sitting of parliament on the start of the new parliamentary year.

Prime Minister Imran Khan — who met National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser shortly before the session started — was also present in the House as were Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Raza Rabbani, Mushahidullah Khan, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Maulana Asad Mehmood, and Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.

Top opposition leaders Shehbaz Sharif, Asif Ali Zardari, and Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, however, were not present nor was BNP-M leader Akhtar Mengal due to having contracted the coronavirus.

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India has violated  
all agreements,  
resolutions, including  
the Geneva  
Conventions, Human  
Rights Charter,  
Simla Agreement,  
UNSC Resolutions:  
President Alvi

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Members of the opposition parties protested and chanted slogans against the PTI government while the JUI-F staged a walkout shortly after the session commenced.

In his speech, Alvi congratulated the House for completing two years, saying he was honoured to be speaking there for the third time. He also lauded the PTI government for its performance, saying he would present its wins to the House.

“Pakistan is at that point where it should be reviewed what has been done so far, what should have been done, and what should be done in the future,” he said.

The nation has had three lessons in the past, he added, noting that no chance should be wasted to remind the people of Pakistan of what they have learnt and what they have achieved, and how they are on the way to becoming a great country.

“We all collectively fought terrorism. Pakistan is the only nation that fought terrorism,” he added, congratulating the politicians and armed forces for the win against the menace.

“We also provided a home to the 3.5 million





## Pakistan set up an example, Pakistan told the world how it lectured us but showed how we welcomed the [Afghan] refugees: President Alvi

effects on our economy,” he added.

The president lamented how the situation at present was such that “good news is not promoted”.

“Our nation is young. Instead of giving it strength, there’s more talk in the media and elsewhere of what it didn’t do. [This leads to] depression being created that a nation that should be growing ends up losing motivation.

“This is a major injustice and I challenge you here that this is the time when you tell the nation to rise and stand up, instead of telling it that it won’t be able to do so,” he said.

“Nations are built based on strong and visionary decisions, not just on science and data but on the basis of compassion. I believe the vision and priorities should be clear in the mind of the nation and only then it becomes a true vision.”

While referring to the controversy over complete and smart lockdowns in the country to contain the COVID-19, the president said despite immense pressure the government did what was right for the nation. “We created the vision that we will not let the poor die of starvation.”

“We made use of foresight. What we did was completely different to all the pressure, all the data, and whatever the rest of the world was doing.

“Our smart lockdown led to lower deaths and reduced exposure [to the coronavirus] and today, just before coming here I read that in India, on Wednesday, 70,000 new cases were identified. And in Pakistan? Only 600.

“There must be something we did, right? We’re genetically similar, we have the same

Afghan refugees, we welcomed them with open hearts, and no politician or government spoke ill of them,” he added.

The president highlighted how “100 refugees were stranded in the Mediterranean” after “global powers that lectured us on refugees refused to let them in”.

“Pakistan set up an example, Pakistan told the world how it lectured us but showed how we welcomed the [Afghan] refugees,” he added.

Alvi also listed a third victory — the battle against extremism. “The importance of this one is, even more, considering what’s going on in our east-side neighbouring country, where extremism is rising,” he explained.

He underlined how when the incumbent government came into power, there was “a huge burden of debts, corruption was rife, and the economy was on a downtrend”.

“The first year, I, too, was worried; people advised me to sign a deal with the IMF [International Monetary Fund] or ask for assistance from friendly nations.

“But whatever we decided has led to positive

Nations are built based on strong and visionary decisions, not just on science and data but on the basis of compassion: President Alvi





atmosphere and resources, but we did something good.

"Therefore, I believe the government

admitted it was possible to learn from Pakistan with respect to the coronavirus.

He lauded the media for encouraging and reminding people to follow the SOPs, as well as the Ulema, doctors, and paramedical staff for their services. He also appreciated the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC), the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and PM Imran for withstanding pressure and remaining steadfast.

With regard to the Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme, he said 16.9 million benefitted from Rs12,000 per family, effectively translating into 80-90 million assisted by the government of Pakistan. "This compassion is something that God probably liked and then He helped us in the coronavirus [pandemic]," he noted.

The president, while speaking about the Single National Curriculum (SNC), said it would help create one nation. "It won't be that the children of wealthy parents learn differently," he added.

"We provided 50,000 scholarships in one year. This is important because, in the past 17 years, only 23,000 scholarships were awarded," he noted.

President Alvi appealed to ulema, media, and everyone to speak about healthy population.

He said he believed the people were "misers in terms of women's inheritance rights". Referring to Surah Al-Nisa, he requested

the Ulema for guidance because "women empowerment would only occur through this and when inheritance is given to the women in accordance with God's laws".

**Soon, Kashmir  
would be free.  
This Hindutva  
fascist situation  
cannot continue  
on anymore:  
President Alvi**

deserves commendation for its efforts against the coronavirus [pandemic] and the world agrees!"

The president stressed there was no moment in Pakistan's history as far as he could remember when the world had looked up to Pakistan to learn from it. There were two nations — Japan and the Philippines — that

**The current  
account deficit  
reduced from  
\$20 billion to  
\$8.5 billion:  
President Alvi**

With regard to the economy, Alvi emphasised that Pakistan registered gains despite the coronavirus pandemic.

The current account deficit reduced from \$20 billion to \$8.5 billion, he said, and corrected himself by saying it was \$3 billion when someone pointed it out.

The president also noted that international credit rating agencies Moody's and Fitch showed that Pakistan had become stable and



positive, while the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) indicated that people had hope for good in future as it rose beyond the 40,000-point mark.

Remittances shot up from \$20 billion to \$23 billion and in July, were at a historical record, he said. "This is the confidence of overseas Pakistanis and this is a good opportunity to promise again to our overseas Pakistanis brethren about voting rights. I urge this government not to let this go and ensure their voting rights are established in 2023 or before.

The president said the government had released a construction package, that the ML-1 Railways project was a "big game-changer", and that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was going on as usual.

The work on the Diamer-Bhasha Dam project had sped up, he said, adding that it would help in water storage and produce electrical energy worth 4,500 megawatts (MW).

He also spoke of the Kamyab Jawan Programme and Sehat Sahoolat Card, noting that 100% health coverage had been ensured in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Speaking of Kashmir, the president said: "I congratulate PM Imran, who vowed to be Kashmir's ambassador since the start and spoke about it in the United Nations.

"Our government pushed four or five times for the Kashmir issue to be discussed in the UN Security Council. This is a win, we're all united in this. We condemn India's steps of August 5, 2019, violence and aggression in Kashmir, and [the treatment of] Muslims and minorities in India.

## We all collectively fought terrorism. Pakistan is the only nation that fought terrorism: President Alvi

"In India, violence is being egged on. Look at the CAA [Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019], registration [National Register of Citizens (NRC)], the isolating of minorities.

"India has violated all agreements, resolutions, including the Geneva Conventions, Human Rights Charter [Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)], Simla Agreement, UNSC Resolutions.

"Soon, Kashmir would be free. This Hindutva fascist situation cannot continue on anymore," he added.

He also congratulated the premier for "speaking directly on the Israel issue immediately", underlining that Pakistan did not recognise Israel.

"Seeing this, other nations also gathered courage. We clearly said that until Palestinians

are given their rights and their state, in line with Quaid-e-Azam's point of view, Pakistan won't recognise Israel," he added.

Alvi also thanked Turkey, Malaysia, China, Azerbaijan, and Iran for their support on the Kashmir issue, saying "our friendship continues" and "our friendship with Saudi Arabia is very strong and we care about each other".

He said Pakistan was the second most-affected country due to the war, crises, and terrorism in Afghanistan and would also gain the most, after Afghanistan itself, from peace there.

"We want peace to be established in Afghanistan and we support the US-Taliban talks and talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government," he said.

With regard to environmental efforts, including the Billion Tree Tsunami Project, he said the goals for a clean and green Pakistan were clear and good for the country.

The president congratulated the Parliament for the passage of bills related to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), anti-money-laundering, and terrorism.

In a message to the youth of Pakistan, Alvi said they should work hard and not let go of their values, rules, and traditions. "Do not let your belief in Pakistan falter because Pakistan is on way to progress.

"As the prime minister said, Pakistan is on a tipping point, whether anyone else sees or not, but for the first time in its history, Pakistan has a bright future that was never seen before," he added.

Courtesy The News





# Glimpses of 74th Independence Day of Pakistan celebrations in abroad missions



Charge D'Affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan to France Mr. M. Amjad Aziz Qazi Hoisting the National Flag on the Occasion of Pakistan's 74th Independence Day in Paris, France



Ambassador of Pakistan to Iran, Rahim Hayat Qureshi hosting Pakistan National Flag on Independence Ceremony in Tehran



High Commissioner of Pakistan to Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Imran Ahmed Siddiqui hosting the National Flag of Pakistan at Dhaka



Consul General of Pakistan to HongKong, Bilal Ahmad Butt Addressing the Flag hoisting Ceremony on the Occasion of Pakistan Independence Day at Pakistan Club, Hong Kong



Ambassador Imtiaz Ahmed hosting the National Flag at Embassy of Pakistan Tokyo



Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka Mr. Tahir Ahmad hoisted the National Flag in Colombo





Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey, Mr. Syrus Sajjad Qazi Unfurling Pakistan Flag at a Ceremony in Ankara to Mark Independence Day of Pakistan



High Commissioner Raza Bashir Tarar hoisting Pakistan Flag on Independence Day in Ottawa



Ambassador of Pakistan to the U.S. Dr. Asad Majeed Khan hoisting the Pakistan's Flag on Independence Day in Washington DC



Ambassador of Pakistan to Saudi Arabia H.E. Raja Ali Ejaz Hoisting Flag on Independence Day of Pakistan in Riyadh



Counselor General of Pakistan to Sydney M. Ashraf and other staff at the ceremony held on the occasion of 74 Independence day



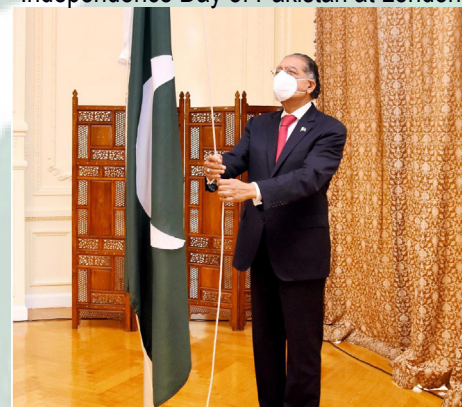
High Commissioner Nafees Zakaria hoisting National Flag to mark the Independence Day of Pakistan at London



H.E Mr. Khalid Majeed Consul General of Pakistan Jeddah Hoisting flag on the Occasion of Independence Day of Pakistan



Acting High Commissioner Syed Haider Shah hoisting flag on Independence Day of Pakistan



Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN Munir Akram hoisting the National Flag





# Taliban Political Commission (TPC) delegation calls on FM Qureshi

By Agency

**A** Taliban Political Commission (TPC) delegation, headed by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, called on Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi. During the meeting, views were exchanged on the current status of the Afghan peace process and the way forward.

Welcoming the delegation, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi underscored Prime Minister Imran Khan's consistent stance that there was no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan and that a political settlement was the only way forward. Highlighting Pakistan's positive contribution to the peace and reconciliation process, culminating in the U.S.-Taliban Peace Agreement in Doha on 29 February 2020, the Foreign Minister underlined that this historic opportunity must be seized by the Afghan stakeholders to secure an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive negotiated political solution.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi reiterated Pakistan's commitment to a peaceful, stable, united, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister emphasized the implementation of the U.S.-Taliban Peace Agreement, in its entirety, paving the way for the earliest possible commencement of Intra-Afghan Negotiations. The Foreign Minister also cautioned against 'spoilers' who did not wish to see return of peace in the region. For its part, the Foreign Minister stressed, Pakistan will continue to support an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process for durable peace, stability and prosperity in the region and beyond.

Foreign Minister Qureshi also highlighted the importance of Pakistan-Afghanistan ties based on amity, shared history and geography and reaffirmed Pakistan's abiding solidarity with the brotherly people of Afghanistan. He urged the international community to enhance its engagement for reconstruction and

economic development of Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister also underscored the need for creating economic opportunities and an environment conducive for return of Afghan refugees to their homeland with dignity and honour.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar thanked the Foreign Minister for the invitation and affirmed support for efforts for peace, security and development in Afghanistan. The delegation also thanked the government and people of Pakistan for their consistent support to the people of Afghanistan, including for graciously hosting Afghan refugees for over four decades.

A Taliban Political Commission delegation led by Mullah Baradar had also visited Pakistan in October 2019 for wide-ranging consultations on the Afghan peace and reconciliation process.



# Flag Hoisting Ceremony at ICCI to celebrate 73rd Independence Day of Pakistan

The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry held a flag hoisting and cake cutting ceremony to celebrate the 73rd Independence Day of Pakistan. Asad Umar Federal Minister for Planning & Development was the chief guest. A large number of business community was present at the occasion.

Addressing the ceremony, Asad Umar, Federal Minister for Planning & Development said that due to Covid-19 pandemic, UK economy have shrunk by 20% in a quarter while USA's economy by 32%, but with the grace of Allah SWT, Pakistan's economy did not face such worst slump. He said that with the better strategy of the government, our current account deficit has come down from USD 20 billion to USD 3 billion. He said that government was focused on promoting multiple sectors due to which our economy would soon get boost and we would celebrate the next year as a growth year. He said that business community have to face lot of difficulties due to coronavirus, but better



times were ahead for them. He said that fixed tax was under consideration for traders and assured that a meeting would be held in ICCI in near future to resolve key issues of the business community.

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Ahmed Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that promoting ease of doing business and creating conducive business environment was vital to steer the economy out of current challenges and put it on fast track growth. He said that the 73rd Independence Day of Pakistan reminded us that we as a nation should work hard with honesty and dedication for the development

of our beloved country.

Tahir Abbasi Senior Vice President, Saif ur Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI, M. Ejaz Abbasi, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Ch. Nadeem ur Din, Khalid Chaudhry, Sheikh Amir, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Nasir Chaudhry and others also spoke at the occasion and said that Pakistan was endowed with lots of natural resources and government should cooperate with private sector to transform the country into a rising economy. They resolved that business community would fully support the government in its endeavors aimed at making Pakistan a progressive and prosperous country.

## Chief Commissioner Islamabad inaugurates ICTA Facilitation Desk at ICCI

The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has established a Facilitation Desk of ICT Administration (ICTA) to resolve issues and provide services of around 18 departments working under the local administration to its members under one roof. Amir Ali Ahmed, Chief Commissioner Islamabad/Chairman CDA formally inaugurated the operation of the Facilitation Desk during a ceremony held at ICCI.

Addressing the ceremony, Amir Ali Ahmed announced that a representative of ICCI would be included in the Design Vetting Committee (DVC) of CDA to speed up approval of construction plans of private sector. Highlighting various initiatives taken to bring reforms in CDA, he said that CDA has now been converted into a financially robust civic body as it closed outgoing financial year with an amount of around Rs.9-billion in surplus while when he had taken over its charge, it was not able to pay salaries of its staff. He said that CDA's development budget has been increased from 20 percent to 36 percent. He said that CDA generated around Rs.17 billion from auction of plots. Speaking

at the occasion, Muhammad Ahmed Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that ICCI was focused on providing maximum facilitation to its members in business promotion and inauguration of ICTA Facilitation Desk was another positive step in that direction. He said that ICCI has already setup the Facilitation Desk of Pakistan Customs and such desks of more organizations including CDA, FBR, Police would be established soon to further facilitate the business community in business promotion. He thanked Chief Commissioner

Islamabad for visiting ICCI to inaugurate the FD and hoped that he would take more measures to resolve CDA related issues of business community.

Tahir Abbasi Senior Vice President ICCI, Mian Akram Farid Chairman Founder Group, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Zafar Bakhtawari, Baser Daud, Ch. Naseer, Ajmal Baloch, Malik Rab Nawaz, Khalid Chaudhry, Syed Amin Pirzada and others also highlighted various issues and gave useful suggestions to further improve the performance of CDA.





# COMMODORE MUHAMMAD SALEEM OF PAKISTAN NAVY PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF REAR ADMIRAL



**Rear Admiral M Saleem SI(M)**

Commodore Muhammad Saleem has been promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral with immediate effect.

Rear Admiral Muhammad Saleem got commission in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1991. The Flag Officer is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College Lahore and National Defence University, Islamabad. The Admiral has an illustrious career with vast experience

of various Command and Staff appointments. His major Command appointments include Commanding Officer PN Submarines HAMZA & HURMAT, Commandant PNS BAHADUR and Commander 9th Auxiliary & Mine Hunting Squadron. His major Staff appointments include Senior Staff Officer (Operations) to Commander Submarines and Director Naval Operational Plans at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad.

He also performed duties as Directing Staff at National Defence University, Islamabad. Rear Admiral Muhammad Saleem has served as Naval Attaché of Pakistan in India. After promotion, the Admiral has been appointed as Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Personnel). The Admiral is recipient of Sitara-e-Imtiaz (Military).



# The Grand Assembly and release of prisoners



By Rustam Shah Mohmand

On August 9, the Council of Afghan Elders (Loya Jirga) approved the release of the 400 remaining Taliban prisoners in custody. The Afghan President had expressed his unwillingness to set free these “dangerous” inmates who were allegedly linked to serious crimes. He convened the meeting of the traditional council to decide the prisoners’ fate. More than 3,000 Afghan elders from across the country attended the three-day session. The council “authorised” the President to release the detainees. A presidential decree has now been issued. The prisoner release will be completed within days, paving the way for the long delayed intra-Afghan dialogue.

Having released about 5,000 Taliban prisoners earlier, there was no good reason to hold on to the last 400. Refusal to release them was a political gimmick to attract attention and delay the commencement of negotiations. President Ghani also wanted to convey to the US that the release of these 400 could result in violent attacks on US forces. This didn’t work. Because the Taliban have scrupulously avoided targeting US forces or their installations since the February accord. Ghani also wanted to demonstrate the pluralistic complexion of his government by seeking advice from a wide spectrum of Afghan society elders. Eventually, US pressure forced the President to order the prisoners’ release. The Loya Jirga was used as an instrument to remove the last hurdle in starting negotiations with the Taliban.

This is a welcome development. The Taliban

have reacted by declaring their readiness to join talks as planned. Afghanistan is on the cusp of a defining moment in its long quest for peace.

Complex negotiations lie ahead. No one would expect a quick end to the talks that will address issues like amendment to the Constitution, ceasefire, mainstreaming of Taliban, governance systems, fate of Taliban fighters, etc. On many of these issues there are widely divergent views of the parties. Reconciliation and consensus building is not easy.

As preparations would now start for the first session of talks in Doha, attention will be focused on the agenda for the long debates that are to follow. One obstacle the Taliban and some members of the government would have to confront is the reluctance or complete unwillingness of some diehard anti-Taliban leaders to reach a compromise at the expense of their political clout and privileges. Some team members and some who are wire pullers would try to sabotage the talks to blame the Taliban. These are beneficiaries of the current system. They exploit opportunities to ensure a long stalemate and the continuance of a status quo that has been rewarding for them.

Such lobbies would endeavour to create hurdles in the way of any constitutional amendment. They realise amendment is not a favourable subject with the masses who are desperately longing for a return to peace and normalcy.

There would be an attempt to force a ceasefire on the Taliban. Those supporting the prolongation of the status quo know well the Taliban would not easily agree to a ceasefire.

In order to deepen the schism such opponents of a peace deal would highlight the critical importance of a ceasefire. Taliban would be careful not to agree to a cessation of attacks because they believe a suspension of fighting could demotivate their volunteers.

Both sides must engage in a long discussion over governance systems and the Taliban’s role in a new dispensation. The most difficult part would be mainstreaming the group and whether a new, transitional government could be installed through the Loya Jirga. That is a point where Ghani’s government would have to confront the harsh choice: Would the regime hang on to power after the failure of talks and risk resumption of violence or would it keep the country’s supreme interest uppermost and agree to an interim arrangement dominated by the Taliban?

One thing is clear. Any failure of talks could spread widespread discontent and lead to a breakdown of law and order. That is a frightening prospect.

The US will have to play its role carefully and regard the many perils that could result in case of breakdown of talks. It will have to monitor the powerful group that opposes reconciliation and make them ineffective. Failure of talks is not an option for the US.

*Writer is a specialist of Afghanistan and Central Asian Affairs. He has served as Pakistan’s ambassador to Afghanistan and also held position of Chief Commissioner Refugees for a decade. Courtesy to The Express Tribune*



# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Afghan outgoing Ambassador Mr. Shakrullah Atif Mashal called on President Dr Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr Islamabad.



Indonesian Outgoing Ambassador, Mr. Suyudhie Amri called on President Dr Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Ambassador of Japan Mr. Kuninori Matsuda called on Deputy Speaker National Assembly Qasim Khan Suri at Parliament House, Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Defence, Mr. Pervez Khattak presenting a shield to H.E. Mr. Tarek Dahrough, Egyptian Ambassador at Islamabad



Federal Minister for Defence, Mr. Pervez Khattak presenting a shield to H.E. Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Ambassador of Qatar at Islamabad.



Senator Shibli Faraz, Federal Minister for Information Broadcasting in a meeting with H.E. Nawaf Bin Saeed Al Maliki Saudi Ambassador in Islamabad



High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Pakistan, Vice Admiral (Rtd) Mohan Wijewickrama called on Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi at Islamabad



Sheikh Saud Bin Abdul Rehman Al-Thani, Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan called on Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi at Islamabad.



# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Fawad Hussain, Federal Minister for Science & Technology, meeting with H.E. Nawaf bin Said Al Malki, Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan in Islamabad.



Ambassador of Egypt in Pakistan, Dr. Tarek Dahroug called on Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin ul Haque in Islamabad



H.E. Mr Andreas Ferarese Ambassador of Italy called on Ms Zobaida Jalal, Federal Minister for Defence in Islamabad



Federal Minister for Railway Sheikh Rashid Presenting a welcoming bouquet to H.E Nawaf Saeed Ahmad Al Malki, Saudi Ambassador in Pakista who called on him in Islamabad



Ambassador of Republic of Turkey to Pakistan H.E. Mr Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul called on Federal Minister for Energy Omar Ayub Khan at his Office Islamabad



Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan H.E. Mr Kuniiori Matsuda called on Special Assistant to PM on Petroleum Nadeem Babar at his office Islamabad



Secretary Religious Affaris Sardar Ajaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar in a consultative meeting with H.E Malaysian High Commissioner Ikram Mohammad Ibrahim in Islamabad



H.E. Mr. Sadullah Tashmatov, Charge' D' affaires of Uzbekistan in Pakistan called on the Advisor to the PM on Commerce and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood at Islamabad



# Pakistan, Japan enhancing close relations

By Imtiaz Ahmad

**A**mbassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

On this Independence Day of Pakistan, let me express on behalf of the government of Pakistan, myself and members of the Pakistani community living in

Japan, our profound and sincere greetings to Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress, members of the Imperial family, H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the government and the friendly people of Japan.

On Aug. 14, 1947, Pakistan became an independent and sovereign nation-state owing to the relentless efforts by our elders, led by Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Since its birth, Pakistan has always approached the countries of the world with a desire for lasting peace, friendship and mutual respect for sovereignty.

With Japan, our ties go back far in history to the times when Buddhist monks used to travel to Japan from those parts of South Asia that now form Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan part of Pakistan. Overtime, those ties were further strengthened and broad-based with increased trade and commerce between the two regions. From Pakistan's inception until this day, that special bond based in deep-rooted historical linkages continues to grow, with the elaborate economic and commercial relations providing a strong anchor for the overall bilateral relationship.

As the world fights today against the COVID-19 pandemic, Pakistan-Japan bilateral cooperation continues to stand the test of time. The people of Pakistan highly appreciate the kind assistance by Japan to Pakistan, both bi-laterally and through multilateral agencies such as UNICEF, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to bolster Pakistan's efforts to fight the COVID-19 spread in Pakistan. We also particularly appreciate various Japanese nongovernment organizations for their relief efforts in this regard.

The two countries have been working with a renewed focus on enhancing mutually beneficial relations and linkages in the areas of information technology, agriculture, trade, human resource development and overall economic cooperation. Tangible results have started to emerge and we hope that we will continue to see more substantial progress in the overall investment and trade relations between the two countries in the months and years to come. Efforts are also underway for bringing interns and skilled workers from Pakistan to Japan, thus contributing to the socio-economic development of both countries.

The active and vibrant Pakistani diaspora in Japan, now numbering almost 16,000, is acting as a strong and effective bridge between our two countries and peoples. We



feel proud of their healthy contribution to the Japanese economy and culture. The Pakistani community members are also always seen at the forefront of relief activities whenever a disaster or unforeseen calamity hits the communities where they live in Japan. The conduct of the Pakistani diaspora gives me every confidence that they will continue to make important and useful contributions to Japan's society and economy.

This year marks the 68th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Japan. As our relationship moves forward, we are keen to further build on our shared commitment to peace, security and prosperity to lay the foundation of an enduring partnership based on trust and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Long live Pakistan! Long live Pakistan-Japan friendship!





## SEISHIRO ETO, PRESIDENT, JAPAN-PAKISTAN PARLIAMENTARIANS FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

**O**n the occasion of the 73rd anniversary of the Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of Pakistan on behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League.

Since the worldwide spread of the coronavirus started, both Japan and Pakistan have been making all-out efforts to tackle its spread in each country. Faced with this kind of borderless challenge, I think that it is crucial for both countries to work together, sharing their knowledge and experience with each other.

From this point of view, the Japanese government extended assistance to Pakistan via UNICEF and other international organizations for prevention of the spread of the coronavirus, and is planning to do more



by providing medical equipment. Japan has also extended support to the affected farmers to aid in the extermination of the plague of locusts, another challenge posed to Pakistan.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1952, Japan and Pakistan have forged friendly and cooperative relations by enjoying exchanges at various levels. The relations have been developed not only between the two governments, but also through the activities of the business community and academic interactions.

The Japan-Pakistan Parliamentarians Friendship League is committed to further deepening the bilateral relationship through once again promoting people-to-people exchange, when the spread of the coronavirus is finally contained.

May prosperity continue to reign in Pakistan.

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## TERUO ASADA, CHAIRMAN, JAPAN -PAKISTAN BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE

**O**n behalf of the Japan-Pakistan Business Cooperation Committee (JPBCC), please allow me to extend my warmest congratulations to the government and people of the

Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan Independence Day.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan and his cabinet, investors' expectations for economic reform in Pakistan have risen substantially. With the increasing business momentum in

Pakistan and a population surpassing 200 million, the pace of market penetration by Japanese companies is expected to accelerate.

I am convinced that more Japanese companies will enter the Pakistan market going forward. The JPBCC was established in 1984. Since


then, we have been promoting bilateral business ties, trade, investment and economic activities. Last October, the JPBCC held a round table with President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan His Excellency Dr. Arif Alvi, where the attendees had thorough and valuable discussions.

The JPBCC hopes to contribute to the further development of business between our two countries through such mutual activities. We offer our deepest condolences and sympathy to all those affected by the coronavirus in Pakistan.

At this difficult juncture, let us reaffirm our commitment to further strengthening our bilateral relationship. Please let me conclude my message by once again offering my most sincere congratulations on the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day.







**T**oday, August 14th, 2020 I want to wish a Happy Independence Day to all my Pakistani brothers and sisters.

After serving for 12 years as Ambassador of Argentina in Islamabad, and with all the good memories that I have in my heart I could say without any doubt, that Pakistan is my second Home.

Today I want to greet all my Pakistani friends and wish success to my Friend the Prime Minister and His Cabinet.

Rodolfo Martin-Saravia  
Former Ambassador of Argentina  
“Hilal e Pakistan”



## Parliamentary Webinar on Kashmir:

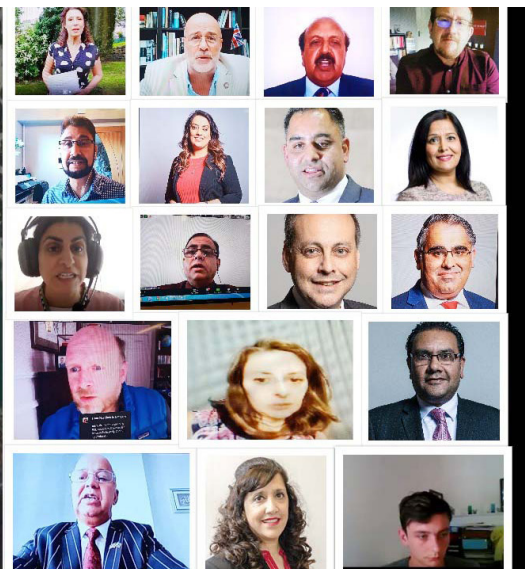
# British Parliamentarians express solidarity with the Kashmiris

By Mian Asadullah

**H**igh Commissioner Mohammad Nafees Zakaria has said that the ultimate objective of India is to alter the demography of Indian occupied Jammu & Kashmir, which it has been illegally occupying against the wishes of Kashmiri nation, in contravention of Geneva Convention IV and also UNSC Resolutions on Kashmir. He was speaking at a Virtual Parliamentary Seminar on Kashmir on 5 August 2020 to observe You-e-Istehsal marking one year of military siege of over 8 million Kashmiris by India.

Giving a context to the Webinar, the High Commissioner said on 5 August 2019, India unilaterally and illegally enacted Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act 2019. Since then the Kashmiris are living under Indian military siege with no communication with the outside world and completely deprived of their fundamental rights. He said with the communication blockade and no media access, the reports of extrajudicial and custodial killings, arbitrary detentions, rapes and sexual harassment and destruction of properties have constantly emerged. This prompted Genocide Watch to issue Genocide Alert for Kashmir, he added.

Mr Zakaria said change of Kashmir's status is a violation of the UN Security Council's resolutions on Kashmir as well as relevant International Conventions and Laws. He said, since 5 August 2019, UN Rapporteurs have published four reports on Human rights violations in IOJK. Besides, the human rights organizations such as Amnesty International, HRW, J&K Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS), Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP), the international media has also extensively reported on horrifying details of human rights violations and crimes against humanity committed by the Indian occupation forces under the direct command of the BJP government, he added.



The High Commissioner said the overarching objective of illegal move by India is to bring about demographic change in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He said that illegal actions of 5 th August 2019 opened yet another dark chapter in human and Kashmiris' history and this is not the only attempt to change the demography. India has been systematically changing the demography over the years through genocide, massacres, enforced expulsions, enforced disappearances and so on, he added.

Mr Zakaria said disclosure of mass graves, mass blinding, mass rapes and extrajudicial & custodial killings of Kashmiris constitute crimes against humanity for which the international community must hold India accountable. Mr Zakaria said Pakistan stands with the Kashmiris in their rightful struggle for self-determination and our resolve towards supporting the oppressed Kashmiris is unflinching. He cited the Government of PM Imran Khan's undertaking in this regard.

A large number of British Parliamentarians attended the Webinar. The Participants condemned grave violations of human rights in Indian occupied Kashmir and expressed their support for the oppressed Kashmiris. They said that Kashmiris under the Indian occupation are suffering from one of the most brutal oppressions in the world. They were concerned that lockdown during the pandemic has made Kashmiri lives more miserable as they have no access to medical facilities and communication networks. This necessitates immediate action by the international community.

The British Parliamentarians expressed complete solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiris and demanded an immediate end to human rights abuses by Indian occupation forces. They were of the opinion that demographic change in IOJK is a glaring violation of international laws and would further deprive the Kashmiris of their

land and opportunities.

The British Parliamentarians said Indian action of 5th August 2019 took the Kashmir dispute out of bilateral space and hence international intervention is required. The time for talking about it as a bilateral issue is over and, therefore, there is a need to drop the idea of bilateralism, they added. The speakers said that the characterization of the issue as a bilateral dispute and the language being used around it need to be changed to pave way for just and sustainable peace in Kashmir. Kashmir dispute can neither be resolved bilaterally nor through military means; hence, the international community must step in, they said. They said that multilateral institutions like UN, EU and human rights organizations should come forward to end the sufferings of the Kashmiri people. They undertook to continue raising the voice at appropriate forums including the British Parliament and with the Government.

The speakers emphasized that any trade and economic cooperation with India should be contingent upon its respect for human rights in Kashmir. They also noted that the UK media needs to focus more on Kashmir in view of the ongoing pandemic and human rights abuses by Indian occupation forces. The speakers said every Kashmiri life matters and the world needs to protect their lives and civil liberties. Those who spoke on the occasion included Lord Qurban Hussain, Liam Byrne MP, Afzal Khan MP, Naz Shah MP, Muhammad Yasin MP and Tahir Ali MP. John Howarth, former MEP, spoke on his own behalf and on behalf of his colleagues. Debbie Abrahams MP, Chair of All Party Parliamentary Group on Kashmir (APPKG), and many others participated with their statements expressing support for Kashmiris and conveying their anguish at the blatant human rights violations in Indian occupied Kashmir. Raja Najabat Hussain, Chairman Jammu & Kashmir Self Determination Movement International (JKSDMI) also participated in the webinar.



Interview by Mian Fazal Elahi

The Iraqi and Pakistani people are bound by cultural and religious ties!

H.E. Mr. Hamed Abbas, Lafta, Ambassador of Iraq to Pakistan



**H**.E. Mr. Hamad Abbas has been a very active and energetic diplomat. He has recently been appointed as ambassador of Iraq to Pakistan.

The Diplomatic Focus has found the opportunity to talk to His Excellency and learn about his early life, education, career, experiences and most importantly his role as ambassador in bringing Iraq and Pakistan closer in terms of diplomatic, trade, education and cultural ties.

**DF. You're Excellency! First of all, we are thankful to you for giving us time. After that, I would like to learn a bit about your early life, education, family and career.**

Thank you so much, I am Hamid Abbas Lafta, the ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, born on 4/9/1961, married and has five sons. After I completed my secondary education in Iraq, I moved between northern Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and then Iran

My educational qualification is Master's degree

**The historical relations between the two countries do not depend on political, diplomatic and military relations only, but there is another stronger link, which is the religious and ideological link**

in Political Science.

I was appointed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2005; I practiced diplomatic work and progressed in it, acquiring job skills and political experience. My functional career was as follows

- In 2005, I worked in the Neighboring Countries Department at the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- In 2007, Consul at the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran.
- In 2011, Associate Dean of the Foreign Service Institute at the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- In 2013, in charge of the Political Department at the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran, then the Deputy Head of Mission.
- In 2017, Assistant and then Head of the







Asia and Australia Department in the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

International relations are witnessing a rapid development with the emergence of new concepts in diplomatic work calling for the



and copes with these continuous international changes. With regard to the Iraqi-Pakistani bilateral relations, we must first address the strength of these bilateral relations, which extend deep into history. As you know, Iraq was the first Arab country to recognize the independent state of Pakistan in 1947. The historical relations between the two countries do not depend on political, diplomatic and military relations only, but there is another stronger link, which is the religious and ideological link. Here we will work hand in hand, God willing, to consolidate bilateral relations in various fields and through the diplomatic artery, and to achieve job opportunities and cooperation on the ground.

DF. His Excellency! Export and import are very important in trade relations. What do you think what steps should be taken to increase the trade ties?

Economic diplomacy is one of the priorities and important concerns of the government envoy to other countries. The continuous monitoring of partners in the implementation of their commitments to trade agreements and contracts and creating a state of economic security between the two countries is a guarantee towards success of the trade diplomacy management. The Ministry of



## Pakistani companies can enter into the reconstruction line and can invest in the oil industries in southern Iraq

- In 2020, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Iraq to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

DF. Excellency! Diplomacy is considered the life line of international relations for a stable stature for any country. How do you see the bilateral ties between the two countries: Iraq and Pakistan?

necessity of communication between peoples and nations, establishing peace and mitigating international conflicts, in light of the challenges in the Arab, regional and international arena, many events have emerged that prevent the understanding of the international and regional reality in all its backgrounds and developments, but we find that the diplomatic work interacts







Foreign Affairs plays an important role in policy-making related to trade by activating the joint committees between the two countries and bringing the specialists on the dialogue table. In this regard, we strive to develop trade exchange between Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

DF. What are the various potential opportunities in both countries that can explore and cooperate both Pakistani and Iraqi investors? And what you suggest to the Pakistani investors and businessmen to increase their business and trade with Iraq?

## **Pakistani products are required in the Iraqi markets like wood industries, spices and rice**

Iraq is a favorable market. After Iraq's victory in the war on terror and the defeat of ISIS, Iraq is planning to rebuild and rehabilitate the liberated cities that have been affected by terrorism. Here, Pakistani companies can enter into the reconstruction line and can invest in the oil industries in southern Iraq. In addition to that, Pakistani products are required in the Iraqi markets like wood industries, spices and rice.

DF. Excellency! In these modern days, the importance of bilateral trade and cultural ties has increased two-fold. What do you think what further steps should be taken to increase and enhance the trade and cultural ties between Pakistan and Iraq furthermore?

The Republic of Pakistan has great opportunities for foreign investment and building a strong economy. The cultural relations between the two countries impose themselves on the social reality, the Iraqi and Pakistani people are bound by cultural and religious ties where every year, thousands of Pakistani visitors visit the holy shrines in Baghdad, Najaf and Karbala. On







the cognitive level, opportunities for twinning universities can be developed, reviving cultural weeks in both countries, and supporting and developing joint belief events.

DF. Excellency! You have been recently appointed here in Pakistan as ambassador. What were your thoughts before coming Pakistan and how did you find it?

I was so happy and enthusiastic when I received the order for my nomination as an ambassador in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan from Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs. I have been aware of the relationship of the two countries by virtue of my work, as I was the Head of the Department of Asia and Australia and I have been in connection with His Excellency the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Baghdad Mr. Sajid Bilal. I found exactly what I have been told that Pakistani Peoples love the Iraqi People and this is a real fact.

Pakistani officials have a clear evaluation of foreign persons and institutions that work hard and sincerely to develop relations with their countries and provide them with all assistance and cooperation.

I feel very happy in this auspicious community.

DF. Excellency! Both Pakistan and Iraq share cordial ties in the diplomatic field. As per your great diplomatic experience in the field, what do you think how much is the potential for both to further enhance the mutual relations?

We look forward to translating the entire







diplomatic link into realistic work and action that produces a mutual benefit for the Iraqi and Pakistani Peoples. In this regard, we seek to activate the bilateral MoUs and agreements concluded in various fields and hold meetings of the Joint Committee as well as the political dialogue committee and exchanging the courses for developing diplomatic, military and security capabilities in both countries, as well as teaching opportunities at universities level and work to enhance it. In addition to that, there is a schedule for exchanging the courtesy visits and opening horizons for cooperation and developing relations for senior officials in both countries.

DF. Pakistan and Iraq both have huge tourism potential how can they collaborate and learn from each other experiences?

I would like to add that we are working on refining, facilitating and promoting religious tourism. We have a high determination to overcome all the difficulties facing the citizens, whether with regard to issuance of visas or the aviation aspects, or to find more comfortable solutions, such as the maritime transport of the travelers whose number would be about a quarter of a million visitors.

DF. Any message you want to give to the readers of 'Diplomatic Focus'. And also you can share anything you think we have missed in the interview?

Your magazine is highly regarded by followers, especially at the diplomatic level, because of the important and vital articles and topics it contains, in addition to the magazine's interest in news and activities of diplomatic missions. I have also noticed the peerless enthusiasm and effort that Mr. Mian Fazal Ilahi places in creating an atmosphere of friendship and familiarity between representatives of diplomatic missions, organizations and bodies accredited in Islamabad by organizing official and informal meetings and invitations that help in acquaintance, breaking the ice, exchanging views and interactive among each other. Your media work is diplomacy synonymous with political work.

DF. Thanks a lot Your Excellency! For giving time out of your busy schedule and of course for your nice talk.





# What a Biden presidency would mean for the Middle East

By Hafed Al-Ghwell

The first “virtual” convention of the Democratic half of the US political duopoly was a flashy, star-studded showcase of the party’s vision for the challenging years ahead should Joe Biden win the presidential election in November. Speakers prescribed a much-needed course correction at home, given how a poor public health response to the global pandemic went horribly awry. With millions out of work, school closures, strained healthcare facilities and intensifying anxieties about the “new normal,” concrete ideas for dealing with these crises are likely to resonate with the electorate.

For the rest of the world, however, it was the events of the second day that were of more interest, as speakers and montages played up the former vice president’s foreign affairs experience, not just as a member of the Obama administration, but as chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee. Unfortunately, the rules of politics demand only hints about what a President Biden’s international agenda will look like, instead of concrete policy goals.

The broad message was that Biden had the experience, competence and gall to navigate a global stage teetering on the precipice and unclear of what lies at the bottom of the ravine. What we do know is that the unipolarity of old is giving way to a muddled geopolitical mess of multilateralism, regionalization and strong-arm interventionism. It is impossible to turn back to a time when Foggy Bottom and the White House led the world order and it would be far too risky for America to suddenly vanish altogether.

Fortunately, even the seven paragraphs dedicated to the Middle East in the 2020 Democratic platform make it abundantly clear that the US will not abandon the region— even if the fuss and alarmism now appear to say otherwise. Indeed, planned troop reductions in Afghanistan and Iraq are a little concerning, but with US defense spending rising it is perhaps another sign of a changing world, where the number of boots on the ground is no longer a credible gauge of America’s commitment.

Both parties are eager to turn a page on large-scale military interventions abroad and getting bogged down in endless wars, necessitating a return to a Middle East policy model that centers on allies and partners. Thus, under a Biden administration is likely to eschew violent conflict, and even the threat of it, in favor of pragmatic, non-ideological diplomacy, which deters with economic might, soft power and

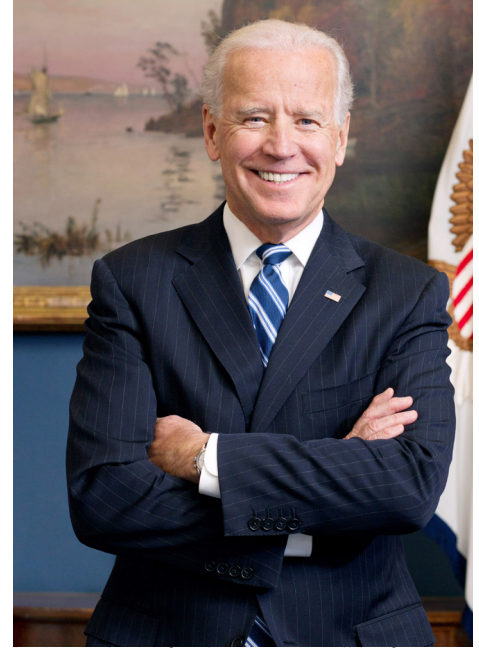
balanced relationships.

Despite the inevitable criticism for not radically departing from establishment foreign policy (which the Trump administration tried, and failed), the Middle East must prepare for a “leading from behind” foreign policy on steroids. In other words, a Biden administration will avoid re-engaging in Iraq and Syria, while urging allies bogged down in Libya and Yemen to commit to negotiated settlements. In matters that may still require a show of force, such as deterring Russian encroachment or Tehran’s wayward adventurism, a coalition of Gulf states, Israel and Egypt will gradually shoulder more of Washington’s military obligations, with US “advisers” in the shadows. The recent accord between the UAE and Israel is almost providential, intensely favorable to a Biden-style multipolar foreign policy vision.

The treaty is a massive step in Washington’s long game to make Iran, not Israel, the driving force behind the realignment and unifying of disparate interests in the region. As much as the Trump administration may seek to tout this development as a major accomplishment, the treaty is a culmination of a patient strategy to isolate Tehran and cement its pariah status for events between 1979 and 1981.

US policy theory in the region has been reliant on cordiality between Israel and Washington’s Arab allies, despite the reality being vastly different. However, with other Arab states likely to follow Egypt, Jordan and the UAE in normalizing relations with Israel, Washington is closer to its ideal framework for fostering regional security and stability, and safeguarding shared interests. Additionally, annexations in the West Bank will probably be halted indefinitely and deepening ties may require Israel to shelve those plans altogether. It also saves from the impossible dilemma of expressing solidarity with the plight of the Palestinians while giving carte blanche to Benjamin Netanyahu.

Iran should be wary of this real, practical avenue aimed squarely at curbing its activities without firing a single shot. Biden is keen on drawing Tehran back to a revived, possibly updated Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action that will require playing diplomatic hardball. After all, it is highly unlikely his 2,000 foreign policy advisers will urge a U-turn back to the 2015 agreement. What is needed now is something more iron clad, expanded to include ending Tehran’s interventionism in Yemen, Syria and Iraq as a prerequisite for its return to the global economy. Iran will also have its own demands, banking on Russia or China’s veto powers as



leverage, but refusal to engage will be far more costly.

Moscow has little in common with Tehran save for the latter being a wrench in Washington’s designs for the region. Beijing is far more inclined to support stabilizing mechanisms than risking entanglements that could result in sanctions or costly delays in its regional Belt and Road Initiative. Russia could be easily convinced to scale back its ambitions if its plans for warm water Mediterranean ports are not at risk in Syria and Libya. In addition, should Tehran reject efforts at a negotiated settlement, it risks becoming yet another geopolitical battleground, rendering its revolutionary claims of sovereignty moot.

There are a lot of upsides to prudent multilateralism, both for antagonists and allies; Biden’s extensive experience and the depth of wisdom in his ranks of policy advisers could be the lynchpin in shaping a new Middle East. The Trump administration’s isolationism and penchant for bilateral arrangements certainly has some appeal to those exhausted by regional entanglements. However, the results speak for themselves, and in November it will be up to American voters to approve a permanent shift away from the interventions of old and reactionary isolationism in the Middle East toward “pragmatic diplomacy” centered on cooperation and shared interests.

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# Issues of deepening cooperation with WHO were discussed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan

On August 10, 2020, an online meeting of the heads of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs R. Meredov and the Ministry of Healthcare and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan N. Amanepesov with the Director of the European Regional Bureau of the World Health Organization Dr. Hans Kluge took place.

As part of a constructive conversation, the parties discussed a wide range of bilateral issues, in particular, effective cooperation between Turkmenistan and WHO in the field of countering the spread of a new type of coronavirus infection.

As is known, during the video meeting of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov with the Director General of WHO, which took place a few days ago, the initiatives put forward by our country were fully supported by the head of this organization. In this connection, the head of state gave specific instructions to the heads of the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Healthcare and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan to establish coordinated work with the relevant WHO structures.

In order to fulfill these instructions and comprehensively implement the priority tasks in the field of human health, during the meeting, the heads of the relevant state structures of our country once again emphasized the need to increase international cooperation aimed at jointly combating the spread of acute infectious diseases. Also during the meeting, a positive assessment was given on the current epidemiological situation in our country and the progress in implementing the recommendations of the WHO mission experts who recently visited Turkmenistan, was discussed. In this context, based on the instructions of the head of state, the need, taking into account the requirements of the time, to make every effort to increase the

effectiveness of measures taken in the fight against infectious and non-infectious diseases and in their prevention was especially noted.

The intensification of cooperation in the area of scientific diplomacy, the creation of the necessary conditions for a systematic exchange of views between medical scientists, experts and specialists in other fields also became a topic for discussion during the conversation with the Director of WHO / Europe.

Turkmen side once again confirmed that it will continue to adhere to the recommendations of authoritative international structures and continue active cooperation with the World Health Organization within the framework of joint projects and programs.



## SPECIAL MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE “CENTRAL ASIA + JAPAN” DIALOGUE

On August 11, 2020, a special online meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Central Asia + Japan Dialogue had been held.

The meeting, which was held under the auspices of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, was attended by the heads of the foreign affairs agencies of five Central Asian countries.

As part of a constructive conversation, high-ranking diplomats discussed regional cooperation, as well as well-coordinated interaction between the CA countries and Japan, taking into account the spread of the new coronavirus infection on a global scale.

During the speeches, the effectiveness of this format of diversified cooperation, based on the principles of mutual growth, solidarity and comprehensive support in key areas of mutually beneficial partnership, was especially noted.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan R. Meredov, expressing gratitude to the head of the Japanese Foreign Ministry for the initiative to organize this ministerial online meeting, especially noted the timeliness of the meeting.

Undoubtedly, since the establishment of the Central Asia + Japan Dialogue in 2004, this format of multilateral interaction has developed significantly. The topic of discussions within this format has significantly expanded, which today covers topical issues of ensuring international and regional security, sustainable development, creating favorable conditions for effective trade-economic ties, active exchange in the cultural-humanitarian field. As the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan noted, in these conditions, when the world community is fighting an urgent struggle against a new infection, this communication format, which unites the states of Central Asia as an important region of the planet and Japan, cannot remain aloof from solving the acute problem faced by humanity. In this context, the current dialogue of the Foreign Ministers provides an opportunity for an exchange of views on the complex situation in the world and ways to overcome it.

Based on the need to develop a global response to the challenges of our time, it is advisable to intensify the process of consolidating the efforts of the countries in countering the pandemic.

In this regard, the Turkmen side also took the initiative to develop, within the framework of the “Central Asia + Japan” Dialogue, a Program document that includes the basic principles of solidarity activities of the participating States in the fight against a new type of infection and specific measures aimed at preventing and treating diseases, caused by it.

The head of the Foreign Ministry of Turkmenistan also expressed special gratitude to the Japanese side for their readiness to provide a grant project in the field of medicine within the framework of the Official Development Assistance Program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

As is known, Turkmen doctors highly appreciate the knowledge and experience gained in the course of numerous multilateral and two-way videoconferences with leading Japanese specialists.

Currently, the constant exchange of knowledge and information on the methods of treatment and prevention of infectious diseases, medical technologies, drugs and equipment, personal protective equipment for the full use of the mechanisms of scientific diplomacy is of great importance.



# ICD is committed to Strengthened the Islamic Finance during the COVID 19

**A**lHuda CIBE has launched a Webinar Series on Islamic banking & finance to learn with Islamic finance experts from around the world. The learning series is continuing with the different insightful topics in four major languages i.e. English, Arabic, French, and Russian. During the webinar series by AlHuda CIBE, the global leader, Mr. Ayman Sejiny has an interactive session on “How ICD supports its Member Countries during COVID-19”. In his valuable session, he shared the insights and highly appreciates the stimulus packages that involve joint efforts between governments and central banks that cover the fiscal, monetary, and macro-financial fronts to various degrees. He explained that The Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) continues to grapple with this pandemic and in the spirit of solidarity, it is imperative for us to join forces and address the multi-faceted impact of the crisis and focus on protecting populations in our member countries. COVID-19 is a game-changer for Digital Transformation. The increasing need for higher technology capabilities to connect businesses, customers, and supply networks is fast-tracking the world into digitalization. He concluded the interactive session by emphasizing that the ICD member countries need to focus on this effort and unlock the potential of SMEs with innovative solutions.

The purpose of the webinars is to promote and strengthen organizations and professionals. Besides the promotion of this growing phenomenon, the aim of the webinar series is also to acknowledge the need of giving hype to the system beyond any political and religious refrains. The initiative of the webinar series is also included to spread the awareness among general public and professionals of different industries including banking, Takaful, microfinance, etc. The participants of the webinars from different countries of the world are learning about Islamic finance. The demand for Islamic finance is increasing enormously and many new markets are seen to be emerging on the horizon in the world, there is a need to uplift the knowledge and understanding about this industry focusing on various aspects of the industry.

Mr. Muhammad Zubair- Global CEO of AlHuda CIBE said that Islamic finance gaining momentum exponentially and securing a prominent place in the globe especially after the recent financial crisis. The emergence of the Islamic finance industry is high due to its



sustainability and viability. He appreciated ICD working hard to strengthen the Islamic finance

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The further information  
and registration for  
free webinar series  
programs, kindly visit at  
[www.alhudacibe.com/webinar](http://www.alhudacibe.com/webinar).

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industry during the COVID-19 situation.

ICD was established in 1999 to support the economic development of its member countries and now has an authorized capital of \$4 billion. Currently, the shareholders of ICD are the IsDB, 55 Islamic countries, and five public financial institutions. ICD fosters sustainable economic growth in its 55

member countries by financing projects which are selected based on their contribution to economic development.

About AlHuda CIBE: AlHuda Center of Islamic Banking and Economics (CIBE) is a well-recognized name in Islamic banking and finance industry and dedicated to offering advisory, consultancy, product development, research and education from last 15 years. We, side by side, also publish distinguished publications in Islamic banking and finance. The prime goal has always been to remain stick to the commitments providing Services not only in UAE/Pakistan but all over the world. We have so far served in more than 35 Countries for the development of Islamic Banking and Finance industry.

*The further information and registration for free webinar series programs, kindly visit at [www.alhudacibe.com/webinar](http://www.alhudacibe.com/webinar). The attendees will also be given eCertificates. For further Details about AlHuda CIBE, please visit: [www.alhudacibe.com](http://www.alhudacibe.com)*





## PAKISTAN NAVY DISTRIBUTES RATION AMONGST DESERVING FAMILIES DURING EID UL ADHA

To share the happiness of Eid ul Adha with deserving families and affectees of COVID 19 pandemic, Pakistan Navy distributed ration bags in suburbs of Karachi and coastal/ creeks areas of Sindh.

Pakistan Navy has been continuously reaching out and helping underprivileged sections of the society since the outbreak of COVID 19 pandemic. During the recent campaign, thousands of families were provided with ration in Arban City Goth, Soomar Goth, Jamali Goth, Haji Ahmed Goth, Wali Muhammad Goth, Younasabad, Kaka village and Baba/Bhit

Islands in outskirts of Karachi and at various localities of district Thatta, Sujawal and Badin in coastal areas of Sindh. In this consoling initiative different NGOs also collaborated with Pakistan Navy.

Pakistan Navy amidst challenge of corona pandemic is persistently supporting the Nation with passion and resolve.







## A popular envoy says goodbye

Keeping in mind the SOP's to avoid complications from the COVID-19 virus, the ambassador of Sweden, Ingrid Johansson hosted a reception to bid farewell to a few colleagues and friends. The affair was held at her residence and though it appeared strange that guests were wearing masks; had fever testing and sanitizer squirted on their hands, all were happy -- and sad -- to be there to say goodbye to the ambassador who has been so interactive with the Pakistani community. Of course the mask rule was not very strictly observed inside, some guests pulling them down to talk, while others kept theirs on or removed them altogether, keeping social distancing in mind somewhat.

Addressing her guests the envoy spoke of her four year stay in Pakistan - the ups and downs of life in the country and her experiences when she travelled. Some of her remarks were those one usually hears from diplomats who have been happy and found working in Pakistan a challenge as well as a pleasure – the hospitality of the people; the beautiful country and how they enjoyed both, while other remarks dwelt on the partnerships and collaboration Sweden and Pakistan have for development and improvement in the fields of health, education, human rights etc. She ended by announcing that her successor was a family man with two small children and that she wished Pakistan success and prosperity for the future. She was given warm applause for her words, after which guests went back to enjoying the delicious Swedish snacks and continued with their conversations.

Asked what her opinion was of Pakistanis she said they had great character and potential but



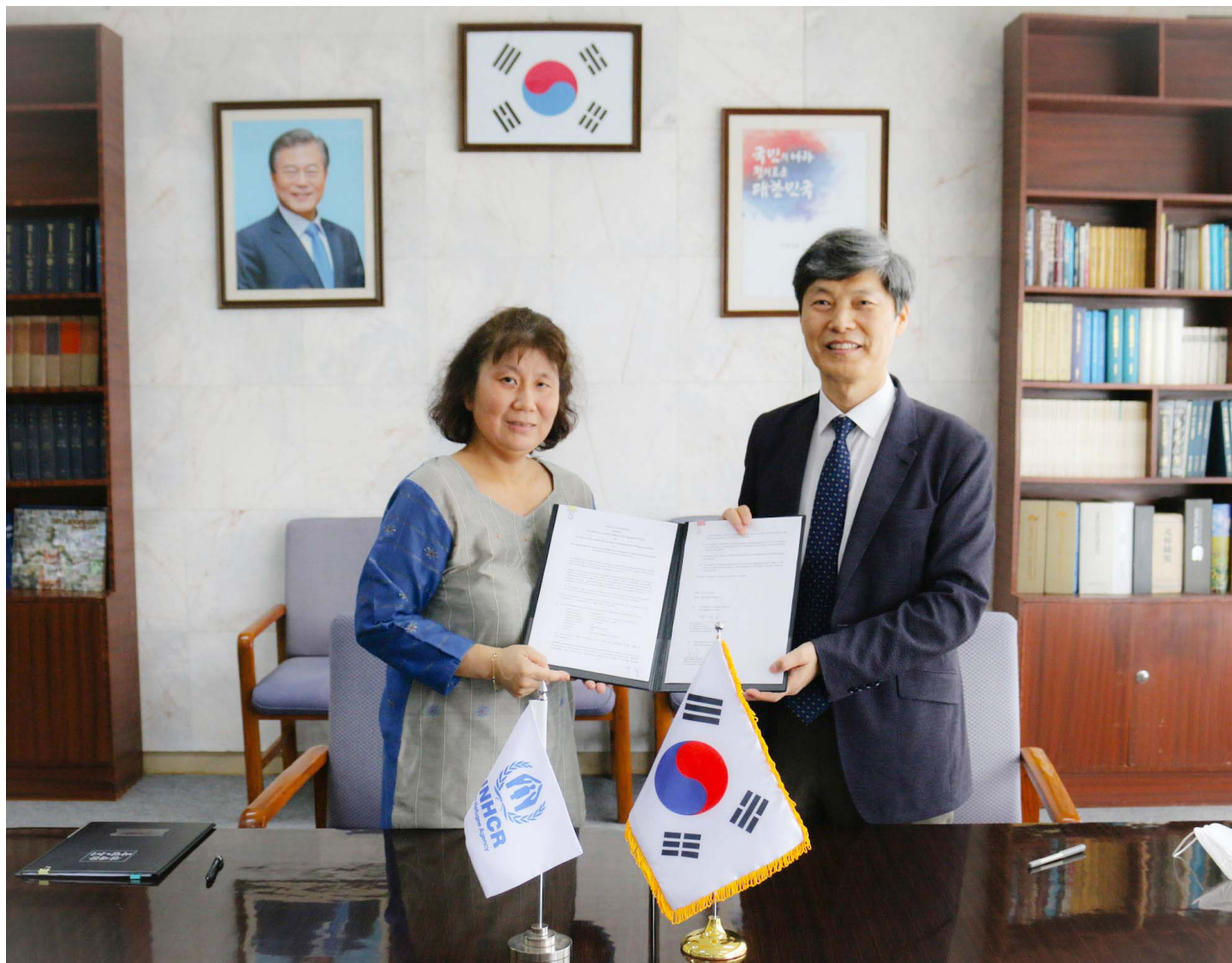
unfortunately the state was weak in utilizing these traits, otherwise Pakistan could have achieved a lot and been among the developed countries of the world - but there was always hope.

The ambassador will be missed by those who know her well – her interest in Pakistani arts and crafts; promoting and encouraging women in all spheres. She left a good impression wherever she went and was warm and friendly – something which will not be forgotten soon by those who knew her. I'm sure they all wish her well for the future as well as a safe journey home.

*Courtesy to The News and written by Ishrat Hyatt*







# Korea donates 1 million dollars to empower Afghan refugees in Pakistan

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

The Korean government and UNHCR are working hand-in-hand and making joint efforts to empower Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Korea will contribute 1 million dollars to a new UNHCR project that will strengthen the capacity and resilience of underprivileged refugees, based on the Letter of Understanding (LOU) signed between the Korean government and UNHCR in Islamabad. The one-year project will benefit some 100,000 Afghan refugees in Pakistan by providing livelihoods assistance and community-based protection.

Speaking at signing ceremony in Islamabad, Korean Ambassador Kwak Sung-kyu commended the people and the Government of Pakistan for hosting Afghan refugees for four decades. "Korea is stepping up its efforts

The one-year project will benefit some 100,000 Afghan refugees in Pakistan by providing livelihoods assistance and community-based protection

to support refugees in the spirit of burden and responsibility-sharing. We are hopeful that this aid will be instrumental in empowering young refugees and help make them self-reliant," he added.

Ms. Noriko Yoshida, UNHCR Representative in Pakistan, welcomed Korea's valuable contribution, noting that Korea's support will strengthen UNHCR's response and resolve to protect and assist all those in need. "This project will help many refugees stand on their own two feet," she said.

The project will enable refugees, especially youth, to establish small businesses by providing them with agricultural and vocational training. It will also enhance the capacity of refugee volunteers so that they are better equipped to help the refugee community in Pakistan respond to their needs.



# Egypt keen to promote bilateral trade relations with Pakistan: Envoy



Muhammad Ahmed Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry presenting shield to H.E. Tarek Mohammad Hussein Dahroug Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan during his visit to ICCI. Ibrahim Said Abdelrahim Ibrahim Deputy Head of Mission of Egypt, Tahir Abbasi Senior Vice President, Saif ur Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI and Others and can be seen.

By Mian Fazal Elahi

**H**.E. Mr. Tarek Mohamed Hussein Dahroug Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan said that his country was keen to further enhance bilateral trade relations with Pakistan as both countries have good potential to export many high quality products to each other at competitive prices. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry. He was accompanied by Ibrahim Said Abdelrahim Ibrahim, Deputy Head of Mission.

The Egyptian envoy said that he was quite ambitious and ready to go extra mile in order to promote trade relations between Egypt and Pakistan as it would bring more beneficial results for the economies of both countries. He said by enhancing trade cooperation with Egypt, Pakistan could get easy access to many the markets of African countries including Libya, Morocco, Sudan and Algeria. He said that Pakistan and Egypt should focus on promoting direct exports that would be more competitive in terms of prices for each other. He said that an MoU was signed long

time ago for Pak-Egypt Business Council, but no progress was made and urged that both countries should make target oriented efforts to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Ahmed Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Pakistan and Egypt enjoyed historically cordial and friendly relations that should be transformed into growing trade and economic relations. He said that Pak-Egypt bilateral trade in 2017 was just around USD 154 million, which was far less given the market size of both countries and urged that both sides should focus on developing strong linkages between their private sectors in order to explore all untapped areas of trade promotion.

Muhammad Ahmed Waheed said that Pakistan could export many products to Egypt including rice, marble, engineering goods, agro-processed products, surgical instruments, pharmaceuticals and sports goods. He said that both countries have good potential to cooperation in many areas

including agricultural products, engineering goods like electrical apparatuses and power appliances, construction & building material, tourism, shipping, fertilizers, chemicals, textiles products, leather goods, medical and surgical items and pharmaceuticals. He said that many Pakistani products were entering the Egyptian market through third country labels and urged that Pakistan Government should cooperate with its private sector in promoting Made in Pakistan brands in Egypt to realize better results. He further said that Pakistan and Egypt should consider signing a free trade agreement that would remove hurdles and boost trade between the two countries.

Tahir Abbasi Senior Vice President, Saif ur Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, M. Aslam Khokhar, Sheikh Ilyas, Abbas Hashmi, Faad Waheed, Malik Sohail Hussain, M. Shakeel Munir, Khalid Chaudhry and others also spoke at the occasion and offered many good suggestions for promoting Pak-Egypt bilateral trade.



# South Africa wants to further enhance bilateral trade with Pakistan: Envoy



Muhammad Ahmed Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry presenting insight Mr. Mithuthuzeli Madikiza, High Commissioner of South Africa in Pakistan during his visit to ICCI. Saif ur Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI C.J. Janse Van Noordwyk, Deputy Head of Mission of South Africa and others are also can be seen.

By Mian Fazal Elahi

South Africa considered Pakistan an important market for business cooperation and wanted to further enhance bilateral trade with it as the two countries have good potential to do trade in many areas. This was observed by H.E. Mr. Mthuthuzeli Madikiza, High Commissioner of South Africa in Pakistan while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI). Mr. C.J. Janse Van Noordwyk, Deputy Head of Mission also accompanied him at the occasion.

Mthuthuzeli Madikiza said that South Africa was now focusing on South-South cooperation whereby Pakistan and South Africa could assist each other by sharing technical and economic knowledge and skills to facilitate reciprocal economic development. He said that South Africa has launched many construction and infrastructure development projects and Pakistani investors should explore them for investment and JVs. He said that South Africa was further improving ease of doing business to facilitate entrepreneurs and it could be an

additional attraction for Pakistani investors to focus on his country. He assured that the South African High Commission would facilitate Pakistani business community in linking up with South African counterparts for promoting business collaboration in areas of mutual interest.

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Ahmed Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the existing level of bilateral trade between Pakistan and South Africa was not reflective of the actual potential of both countries and more efforts from both sides were required to improve it. He said that Pakistan has formed a "Look Africa Plan" and hoped that it would help in improving Pakistan's trade relations with African countries. He said that many Pakistani products including textiles, marble, furniture, pharmaceuticals, surgical instruments, cereals, rice, pink salt have good potential to penetrate the South African market and stressed that South Africa should rationalize its tariffs for Pakistani products that would further improve bilateral trade between the two countries. Similarly, many South African

products including machinery & equipment, steel scrap, tin sheets and others could find good market in Pakistan. He urged that Pakistan and South Africa should sign a free trade agreement to remove trade barriers and boost two-way trade volume.

Muhammad Ahmed Waheed said that frequent exchange of trade delegations and organizing single country exhibitions on reciprocal basis should be the way forward for both countries to strengthen trade and investment relations.

Saif ur Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI thanked South African High Commissioner and Deputy Head of Mission for visiting Chamber and said that South Africa should share its technology and knowledge with Pakistan that would benefit our economy.

Muhammad Aslam Khokhar, Muhammad Ilyas, Haji Zafar Iqbal, Usman Khalid, Mian Arif Hussain, Syed Amin Pirzada, Abbas Hashmi, Faad Waheed, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, Khalid Chaudhry and others were also present at the occasion.





# CPEC is of ‘great importance’ to Pak-China ties: President Xi

Monitoring

Chinese President Xi Jinping said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is of great importance to promoting in-depth development of the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries, Xinhua reported.

The Chinese president made these remarks in a verbal message to President Arif Alvi.

Xi said he appreciates the fact that Alvi sent a congratulatory letter to the opening of the Second Conference of the CPEC Political Parties Joint Consultation Mechanism, which fully demonstrated that Alvi attaches great importance to and supports the China-Pakistan relationship and construction of the

CPEC.

China and Pakistan are good brothers and partners who share a special friendship, Xi said, adding that political parties from both sides often carry out friendly consultations and constantly build political consensus, which is conducive to steadily advancing the construction of the CPEC as well as high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

Xi said the global fight against COVID-19 has fully demonstrated that mutual support, solidarity and cooperation present a sure way for humanity to defeat this virus.

China stands ready to work with Pakistan to build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future, jointly promote regional

solidarity and cooperation, and safeguard the good momentum of peace and development in the region.

President Arif Alvi, in a congratulatory message to the conference, termed the CPEC as ‘an iconic project of the Belt & Road Initiative which will change the destiny of the region and promote regional connectivity’.

He reaffirmed Pakistan’s strong support to One China policy and strongly opposed any foreign intervention in internal affairs of China with regard to Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Alvi had also thanked China for supporting Pakistan on Kashmir issue.





# Pakistan is committed to peace: COAS

## Monitoring

**G**eneral Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited troops involved in consolidation operations, along Pak-Afghan border in the Dawatol sector, North Waziristan, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) reported.

Recent consolidation operations along Pak-Afghan Border ensured effective area domination of some inaccessible pockets of land which were being sporadically used by terrorists as hideouts to target local populace and security apparatus in the rear areas.

More than 90 IEDs were recovered during the course of operations. Fencing of this arduous stretch of border terrain will commence shortly, the ISPR reported. Security Forces have active control of the last remaining stretch of International Border now in North Waziristan.

This will further enhance security of public

in both North and South Waziristan and strengthen checks over illegal crossing of Pak Afghan Border. COAS was also briefed on complementing border security /management measures particularly progress of fencing along the complete Pak Afghan border. While interacting with troops, COAS appreciated their remarkable operational performance and high state of morale. COAS said that we are Pakistan is committed to peace and stability.

For this Pakistan is playing its part by solidifying border security and capacity enhancement of FC / LEAs. Appreciating tribal people for their unflinching support in fighting terrorism, COAS said that peace has largely returned to the region, however it will take collective efforts of the local population, civil administration and LEAs to retain the hard earned normalcy.

“We have to remain vigilant and steadfast to thwart hostile attempts to create chaos and reverse the gains of Operation Radd Ul

Fasaad,” COAS concluded. Later, COAS also visited Miranshah. Earlier, on arrival, COAS was received by Lieutenant General Nauman Mahmood, Commander Peshawar Corps.

## Jordan's Ambassador calls on COAS Bajwa

### Monitoring

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa discussed matters of mutual interest with Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Maj Gen Ibrahim Yali Muhammad, the military's media wing said.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), they exchanged views over matters of mutual interest including strengthening of bilateral security and defence cooperation.

“The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's continuous efforts for peace and stability in the region,” the ISPR added.





## **Interview on CURRENT CHINA-US RELATIONS**

Given by State Councilor and Foreign Minister H.E. Wang Yi





**Q** : US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo asserted in his speech at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library that the policy of engagement with China pursued by successive US administrations since President Nixon has not produced its goal and has failed. Many people in the United States question his assertion, saying it was more of an “ideological rant” without any clear or feasible pathway forward. What is your comment?

**A:** The assertion that US policy of engagement with China has failed is just a rehash of the Cold War mentality. It turns a blind eye to all that has been achieved in China-US relations over the past decades, shows ignorance of the historical process and lack of respect for the Chinese and American peoples. This is a political virus which is understandably questioned and rebuked by people in the United States and the international community.

Over four decades ago, leaders of China and the United States made the handshake across the vast Pacific Ocean. What made this possible was that both countries adhered to the principle of mutual respect and seeking common ground while putting aside ideological differences.

During President Nixon’s visit to China in 1972, Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai said that China and the US needed to be clear about our differences and find common ground, so as to reach a new starting point in bilateral ties. President Nixon responded that our two

**We are ready to restart the dialogue mechanisms with the US side at any level, in any area and at any time. All issues can be put on the table for discussion. We have proposed that the two countries draw up three lists respectively on cooperation, dialogue and issues that need proper management, and draw up a roadmap for future interactions:**  
**H.E. Wang Yi**

countries have great differences, and what brings us together is that we have common interests which transcend those differences. The Shanghai Communiqué issued by the two countries encapsulated their consensus to respect each other and seek common ground while setting aside differences.

What has happened since then demonstrates that this monumental choice made by the two sides is the right one. Over the past 40 years and more since the two countries entered into diplomatic ties, several generations of Chinese and Americans have worked together to advance China-US relations. As a result, bilateral ties have become one of the most deeply interwoven relationships in the world with broadest cooperation areas and most extensive common interests.

China and the US now account for over one-third of global economic output and over 50% of global growth. Bilateral trade volume has increased by over 250 times since the early days of diplomatic ties and takes up one-fifth of the global total. Two-way investment has jumped from almost zero to nearly US\$240 billion, and annual two-way visits by the two peoples have reached five million. The two countries shoulder important responsibilities for almost all global issues concerning world peace and development. No one can deny these facts.

Forty years on, while China and the US are quite different in social system and many other aspects, such differences have not affected



the peaceful coexistence and cooperation between the two countries, and they should not affect their bilateral ties in the future. It is neither necessary nor possible for the two sides to change each other. Instead, we should respect the choice independently made by

**Forty years on, while China and the US are quite different in social system and many other aspects, such differences have not affected the peaceful coexistence and cooperation between the two countries, and they should not affect their bilateral ties in the future.**

the people of the other side.

China's major achievements in the past decades show that the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics fits China and enjoys the most extensive and firm support of the Chinese people. It has also benefited the world and people of other countries, including the American people.

China will continue to pursue development and progress to meet the desire of its people and make new, even greater contributions to mankind. Anyone who attempts to derail this process can only end in failure.

**Q:** Some people in the United States claim that the China-US relationship has long been unfair and not reciprocal, and that the US has rebuilt China but it has been taken advantage of. Do you think this is the case?

**A:** China-US cooperation has never been a case of one party giving favor to the other, or one party taking advantage of the other.

Both countries have benefited much from this cooperation, and no one is being taken advantage of or being ripped off.

Mutually beneficial cooperation over the years has turned China and the US into a community with shared interests. China has achieved rapid growth in part thanks to its opening-up to and cooperation with the rest of the world, including the US. China's continued growth has also created sustained demand and an enormous market for the US and other countries.

Statistics show that China-US business ties support 2.6 million American jobs. Trade with China helps each American family save US\$850 every year. Over 70,000 American businesses have made investment in China with a total sales volume of US\$700 billion. Among them, 97% are making a profit. Even with the trade friction and COVID-19, the vast majority of American companies in China still want to stay and are doubling down on investment in China.

If China-US cooperation were unfair and not reciprocal, how could it have continued for several decades? How could China-US ties have come such a long way?

Globalization and free trade have delivered development dividends, but they have also created tension for countries and affected their economic structures and distribution of interests. This should be dealt with through internal reform. Acting like a sick person who forces others to take medicine for his own illness or even resorting to decoupling will not work. It is the American companies and people that will get badly hurt.

In the globalized world today, the interests of countries are closely intertwined. The development of China and of the US is not a zero sum game, and we should not reject each other. What we should do is to draw on each other's strength to achieve common development.

As COVID-19 takes its toll on the global economy, China and the US, the world's two largest economies, should work for mutual benefit on an equal footing, stop attempts at decoupling and advance the relationship through cooperation, and live up to their responsibility for the world.

**Q:** The United States has recently made a number of moves that undermine people-to-people and cultural exchanges with China. It has harassed Chinese students in the US, obstructed normal academic exchange, and imposed restrictions on Chinese media operating in the United States. Many people are concerned that this is a resurgence of McCarthyism. Do you think the two countries will fall into a new Cold War?

**A:** China-US relations are facing the gravest challenge since the establishment of diplomatic ties, and their exchanges and cooperation in many areas are being seriously disrupted. The root cause is that some American politicians who are biased against and hostile to China are using their power to smear China with fabrications and impede normal ties with China under various pretexts. What they want is to revive McCarthyism in an attempt to undermine US relations with China, stoke hostility between the two peoples, and erode trust between the two countries. Ultimately, they want to drag China and the US into renewed conflict and confrontation and plunge the world into chaos and division again.

China will not allow these people to get their way. We reject any attempt to create a so-called "new Cold War", because it contravenes the fundamental interests of the Chinese and American peoples and the global trend toward development and progress. The Cold War, which inflicted great sufferings to the world, should not be allowed to repeat itself. Peace and development is what all countries aspire to. Anyone who tries to start a new Cold War in the 21st century will be on the wrong side of history and will only be remembered as the one who has upended international cooperation.

**China and the US now account for over one-third of global economic output and over 50% of global growth.**

Today's China is not the (former) Soviet Union. We have no intention of becoming another United States. China does not export ideology, and never interferes in other countries' internal affairs. As the world's largest developing country and a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China will stay committed to peaceful development and to pursuing an opening-up strategy of mutual benefit. China will continue to promote global peace and development and uphold the international order.

**Q:** We have noted that the current US Administration shuns dialogue with China and keeps claiming that dialogue is futile. Pompeo



even recently called for taking a “distrust and verify” approach toward China. What is your view on such moves?

A: In international relations today, dialogue is the right way for settling issues and building trust. Favouring dialogue over confrontation is not only China’s position. It is also the consensus of the overwhelming majority of countries. China and the US are two major countries with different social systems, histories and cultures, and each has its own interests and concerns. This is natural. But what is important is that no one should unilaterally shut the door for dialogue at any time. Difference, misjudgement or confrontation should not be allowed to dominate their bilateral relations.

China is a major and responsible country. We are open and above board, and we are ready to enter into candid, effective consultation with the US side and make cool-headed and sensible response to the impulsive moves and anxiety of the US side. We are ready to restart the dialogue mechanisms with the US side at any level, in any area and at any time. All issues can be put on the table for discussion. We have proposed that the two countries draw up three lists respectively on cooperation, dialogue and issues that need proper management, and draw up a road-map for future interactions. Our message is quite clear: We urge the US to stop acting with arrogance and prejudice, but enter into constructive dialogue with us on an equal footing. We hope that it will work with us to ease current tension and put the relations back onto the right track of no conflict, no confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation.

This serves the shared interests of the two peoples and meets the expectation of the international community.

Q: Recently, Hong Kong has become a prominent issue in China-US relations. The US believes that by enacting the national security legislation, China has given up One Country, Two Systems. It has imposed a number of sanctions on Hong Kong. Do you expect the US to make more trouble on the Hong Kong issue?

A: Hong Kong is part of China’s territory and Hong Kong affairs fall within China’s internal affairs. Non-interference in other countries’ internal affairs is a basic norm governing international relations, and no country will allow other countries to flagrantly sabotage its sovereignty or territorial integrity. At the recent session of the UN Human Rights Council, over 70 countries expressed support of China’s just stance and condemned the attempts to use the Hong Kong issue to interfere in China’s internal affairs. This speaks

volumes for the common and just position of the international community.

National security legislation underpins the very survival of any country, and it is a common legal practice of all countries. The legislation on safeguarding national security in Hong Kong has plugged the long-standing legal loopholes in Hong Kong. It will ensure both the long-term implementation of the policy of One Country, Two Systems on the basis of rule of law and durable security and stability

**There have always been forces in the United States attempting to rebut the leadership role of the CPC and China’s path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Their purpose is notably obvious, i.e., to contain and destabilize China.**

of Hong Kong. Several million residents of Hong Kong signed a petition in support of the legislation, which demonstrates their longing for peace and stability in Hong Kong and their strong support for the national security legislation.

China is committed to the policy of One Country, Two Systems. With the strong support from the mainland, an improved legal environment, and the united efforts of our Hong Kong compatriots, we can surely uphold and better implement the policy of One Country, Two Systems. The gross interference in Hong Kong affairs be it in words or action, can only undermine the sound implementation of the policy of One Country, Two Systems.

It will meet with the firm rejection from all the Chinese people, including the people of Hong Kong.

Q: The US recently closed the Chinese Consulate-General in Houston, claiming that it was a hub of spying and intellectual property theft. China made a reciprocal response by closing the US Consulate-General in Chengdu. Are you concerned that this will lead to escalation in a China-US “diplomatic war”?

A: The Chinese Consulate-General in Houston was the first Consulate-General opened by China in the US after the establishment of the diplomatic ties, and it was always an important symbol of China-US friendship. Over the past 40 plus years, the Chinese Consulate-General in Houston played a significant role in promoting friendship and cooperation between the Chinese and American peoples. Despite the difficulties encountered during the COVID-19 epidemic, it served as a crucial bridge for boosting cooperation against Coronavirus between the US southern states and China. Closing such a Consulate-General that bears both historical and current significance is closing a window for exchange and mutual understanding between the Chinese and Americans. This move has undermined the normal growth of China-US relations and the friendship between the two peoples. All the excuses for closure claimed by the US side are nothing but fabrications designed to slander China. None of them is backed by any evidence, and none of them can stand up to scrutiny.

Naturally, China would not swallow this arbitrary and unscrupulous US move. Our countermeasure is legitimate, justified and lawful, and it fully conforms to diplomatic norms. China has no intention to fight a “diplomatic war” with the US as it will only hurt the interests of the two peoples even more. Starting a “diplomatic war” does not prove the strength of the US. Quite the contrary, it only exposes the increasing lack of confidence of the US.

If the US is bent on going down the wrong path, China is ready to make due response.

Q: The US is going after Huawei in every possible way, and has declared to build a coalition of “clean countries” to counter China. Many see this as a reflection of US anxiety and fear. What is your take on this?

A: Without any solid evidence, the US has launched a global campaign against a private Chinese company. This is a textbook example of bullying. Everyone can see easily and clearly that the US goal is to keep its monopoly in science and technology but deny other countries the legitimate right to development. It doesn’t even bother to disguise its bullying. This not only violates the international rules of fair trade, but also hurts the free global market environment.



I'd like to stress again that Huawei and many other Chinese companies, unilaterally sanctioned by the US, are innocent. Their technologies and products are safe to use, and they have never done any harm to any country. In stark contrast, the US is behind such scandals as PRISM and ECHELON. It conducts wire-tapping and mass surveillance around the globe, and these wrongful acts are already an open secret. The US is not qualified to build a coalition of "clean countries" because itself is dirty all over.

The new science and technology revolution, driven by information technology, is picking up speed. China will continue to work with all countries to maintain a fair, just, open and non-discriminatory business environment, promote international exchanges and cooperation in science and technology, and ensure that safe, reliable and quality information technology will boost global economic recovery and help improve people's lives around the world. We hope that the US will give up its obsession with its narrow self-interest, and return to the right track of openness and cooperation.

Q: Some US politicians are making fierce attacks on the Communist Party of China (CPC), attempting to pit it against the Chinese people. Forty-one years after China and the US established diplomatic relations, what do you think is the US motive in so doing?

A: There have always been forces in the United States attempting to rebut the leadership role of the CPC and China's path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Their purpose is notably obvious, i.e., to contain and destabilize China.

Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of the CPC. Over the past century, the CPC has led the Chinese people to discard colonial rule and exploitation and realize national liberation and independence. It is the CPC that has led us in blazing the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, turning the once impoverished country into the world's second largest economy. It is under the CPC leadership that China's per capita GDP has grown from less than US\$200 forty years ago to over US\$10,000 today, and over 800 million people have been lifted out of poverty. The great endeavor of the Chinese people under the CPC leadership has been recorded in the history of modernization as an outstanding, epoch-making chapter.

Practice is the sole criterion of truth, and the people are the judges of history. Does China's system work for the country? The Chinese people know better than anyone else. The Harvard Kennedy School's surveys in China which extended 13 years suggest that over 93% of the Chinese people are satisfied

**China-US cooperation has never been a case of one party giving favor to the other, or one party taking advantage of the other. Both countries have benefited much from this cooperation, and no one is being taken advantage of or being ripped off**

with the central government which is led by the CPC. Many international polls in recent years also show that at least 90% of the Chinese people trust their government. The relationship between the CPC and the Chinese people is as close as between "fish and water" and between "soil and seed". Those who attempt to break this strong bond is making themselves enemies of the 1.4 billion Chinese people.

We have great confidence in our path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. In the meantime, we also respect the development paths chosen by other nations. We are not interested in rivalry of systems, or ideological confrontation with any country. Likewise, we hope that the US will respect China's social system and the Chinese people's choice, and give up its failed interventionism. As President Xi Jinping pointed out, we have the strong determination, resolve and national strength to overcome all challenges. We have the courage, ability and wisdom to prevail over all risks and tests. No country or individual can hold back the historic march toward the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Q: Pompeo is calling for a new alliance of democracies against China, and forcing other countries to choose between what he called "freedom" and "tyranny". But we noticed that very few nations answered the call. Do you think that the US will get what it wants?

A: Instigation for confrontation and division was not rare in history, but was all rebuked by the people. In the 21st century, it is

inconceivable that some people intend to draw an iron curtain, stoke new division, advocate identity politics and bloc rivalry, and resort to other old tricks. This is a blatant contempt of human progress and wisdom as well as a regression of history. It goes against the trend of our times and the will of most nations. Naturally it has no support of the people, and few backing in the world.

China achieved freedom from imperialism and colonialism. Freedom, democracy and rule of law are codified in China's Constitution. They are also part of the core socialist values. In addition, we also know that freedom has boundaries. Respect for science, reason, law and order as well as international rules are the basis of freedom. In fighting COVID-19, the Chinese people follow experts' advice to wear masks. However, some US politicians attacked this, calling it an example of "tyranny" and "no freedom" in China. At the end of the day, they have been slapped in the face by the reality.

China has valued peace and cooperation since ancient times, believing that "division leads to rivalry, which leads to chaos, which leads to poverty." China always opposes dangerous acts to divide the world along ideological lines. To this end, we advocate a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation. We pursue friendship and cooperation with all countries. And we endeavor to forge a global network of partnerships. President Xi Jinping calls for building a community with a shared future for mankind. This major initiative is aimed to rise above differences in system, abandon the zero-sum mentality, and find a common goal for all countries, nationalities and civilizations. China will work unrelentingly for this lofty vision for mankind.

Q: Pompeo claims that China desires global hegemony. But everyone knows that it is the US that is willfully withdrawing from international treaties and organizations. Many worry that this will have a big impact on the future international order. What is your take?

A: The real challenge to the current international order and system is that the United States, the strongest country in the world, places its own interests above everything else, and takes this as its code of conduct. It has gone extreme to pursue unilateralism and bullying, even at the cost of international responsibilities and multilateral rules. At the height of COVID-19, it went so far as to groundlessly attack and withdraw from the World Health Organization. The current US Administration has pulled out of more international treaties than any one before it, making itself the most damaging force of the current international order.

China is always a firm defender of the



international order and the international system. In the past seven decades and more since the founding of the People's Republic, China never started a war, or occupied an inch of land of others. We have enshrined in the Constitution our commitment to peaceful development, and we are the first country in the world to make such a solemn pledge. We will continue to adhere to the path of peaceful development, and will never seek hegemony or expansionism. We will always be a staunch force for peace.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War and the founding of the United Nations. Having learned hard lessons from the past, the world has ensured the longest period of stability and prosperity in modern times. We must not allow the international system to be undermined arbitrarily, or the world divided again. China was the first to put its signature on the UN Charter. China has joined almost all international treaties and agreements, and has been faithfully fulfilling its due international responsibilities and obligations. At a time when the future of the world is at stake, China will continue to champion and pursue multilateralism, safeguard the UN-centered international system, and promote multipolarity and greater democracy in international relations.

Q: The US has significantly stepped up its intervention in the South China Sea. In his recent statement, Pompeo dismissed China's sovereign rights and interests in the South China Sea. The US has conducted "dual carrier operations" there, and kept sending military vessels and aircraft on reconnaissance missions aimed at China. Some people think that the possibility for the US to provoke frictions and conflicts in the South China Sea is increasing. Can peace and stability still be maintained in the South China Sea?

A: The US has recently taken a number of provocative actions in the South China Sea. First, the US has breached its longstanding commitment of not taking sides, and blatantly interfered in the territorial disputes. Second, the US keeps increasing and showing off its military presence in the South China Sea. In the first half of this year alone, the US sent military aircraft there more than 2,000 times. Third, the US is seeking to drive a wedge between China and ASEAN countries, and disrupt the consultation process of the Code of Conduct. The US purpose is to destabilize the South China Sea, and hijack regional countries onto its chariot to serve US domestic politics and geopolitical agenda. All regional countries should be vigilant, and prevent this region's hard-won peace and development from being sabotaged by the US.

The South China Sea is the shared home for the countries in the region. It should not be

a wrestling ground for international politics. Thanks to years of hard work, countries in the region have found effective ways to properly address their differences, and reached an unequivocal consensus that China and ASEAN countries should work together to safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea. Facts have proved that settling disputes through dialogue is the right way that best serves the interests of regional countries, and countries in the region have a shared responsibility to keep the South China Sea peaceful and stable. Under the current situation, China proposes that we remove all disturbances to restart as soon as possible the Code of Conduct consultation, and agree as early as possible on a set of rules for maintaining long-term peace and stability in the region.

In the meantime, China is prepared to strengthen maritime cooperation with other

**The development of China and of the US is not a zero sum game, and we should not reject each other**

littoral countries, deepen mutual security confidence, and advance joint development, so as to make the South China Sea a sea of peace, friendship and cooperation.

Q: The China-US relationship is at the most difficult time since the establishment of diplomatic ties. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the relationship between now and the US election in November? What should be the priorities for the two countries at the moment?

A: China's US policy is always consistent and stable. In the meantime, we are also prepared for possible bumps and storms ahead. The US move to turn China into an adversary is a fundamental, strategic miscalculation. It means that the US is funneling its strategic resources in the wrong area. We are always ready to develop a China-US relationship featuring no conflict, no confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation based on coordination, cooperation and stability. In the meantime, we will firmly defend our sovereignty, security and development interests, because this is a legitimate right inherent in China being an independent sovereign state. The US should honor the principle of sovereign equality enshrined in the UN Charter, learn how to get

along with different systems and civilizations and adapt itself to peaceful coexistence, and accept the reality that the world is moving toward multipolarity.

Faced with the most complex situation since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1979, we need to put in place a clear-cut framework for the relationship:

First, steer clear of red lines and avoid confrontation. For China-US relations to develop soundly, the most critical thing is mutual respect. China never intends to and will never interfere in US elections or other US internal affairs. Likewise, the US must abandon its fantasy of remodeling China to US needs. It must stop its meddling in China's internal affairs, and stop its irrational cracking down on China's legitimate rights and interests.

Second, keep the channels open for candid dialogue. Dialogue is the prerequisite for addressing problems. Without dialogue, problems will only pile up and even get out of control. China's door to dialogue remains open. We are willing, in the spirit of equality and open-mindedness, to talk and interact with the US, and resume dialogue mechanisms at all levels and in all fields.

Third, reject decoupling and uphold cooperation. The interests of the two countries are deeply entwined. Forced decoupling will inflict a lasting impact on bilateral relations, and endanger the security of international industrial chains and interests of all countries. With COVID-19 still raging across the world, China is prepared to have mutually beneficial cooperation with the US on epidemic control and economic recovery, learn from each other and share experience on containing COVID-19, and join together with the US the global response and multilateral cooperation in fighting COVID-19.

Fourth, abandon the zero-sum mentality and stand up to shared responsibilities. COVID-19 again makes it clear that humanity is a community with a shared future. Our world still faces many global challenges. Traditional and non-traditional security challenges are intertwined. Almost all regional and international hotspot issues require a coordinated response from China, the US and other countries. China and the US must always bear in mind the well-being of mankind, live up to their responsibilities as two major countries, coordinate and cooperate as needed in the UN and other multilateral institutions, and work together for world peace and stability.

State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi had an exclusive interview with Xinhua

*News Agency on 5 August 2020. The following is the transcript. Courtesy to Pakistan Observer.*





## President Xi 'very keen' to visit Pakistan: FM Qureshi

By Monitoring

**F**oreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, while sharing details of his recent trip to China, said that Chinese President Xi Jinping was "very keen" to visit Pakistan and that discussions on this topic had taken place between both sides.

"He (Xi) is very keen to come," Qureshi told reporters. "Both sides understand that his visit will be of an extraordinary nature. For that there is a need to understand the flux in regional and international situation and also to prepare before his trip." The minister said that a "roadmap" was discussed and further interaction between the two countries will be seen in the coming days. The date of President Xi's visit will be decided keeping in mind the "developments and the Covid-19 situation", Qureshi said.

His remarks come days after President Xi, in a letter to his Pakistani counterpart President Arif Alvi, said that his country was ready to work with Pakistan to deepen the building of "China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future" and to jointly promote cooperation among regional countries. The Chinese president further said that both Pakistan and China were working to maintain the "momentum of peace and development in the region".

In press talk, Qureshi also explained that the purpose of his recent visit was to "understand [China's] current state of mind and gauge their stance on India".

"I can tell you that I didn't see any hesitation, their (China's) stance is very clear," he said.

The foreign minister also touched upon the relations of other regional countries with India, saying that the impression that Saarc member countries were "leaning towards India" was dissolving. He referred to India's conflict with Nepal and the recent resolution passed by the latter's parliament in that regard in addition to "a lack of warmth" in India's ties with

Bangladesh.

The foreign minister dispelled reports of deterioration in relations between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, saying that such rhetoric was based on "speculation". Responding to a question regarding the veracity of reports that Saudi Arabia had demanded from Pakistan money the kingdom had lent in addition to suspending a loan oil facility, Qureshi said these were just "speculative" reports and that "no decision like that was made" and then proceeded to take a dig at the media for "keeping your shop vibrant" by reporting based on "mere assumptions".

"Your question is based on an assumption. These are speculations. No decision like that was taken," he told the reporter and, in a light vein, added: "If you don't speculate, how will you run your shop, at the end of the day, you have to report something. We don't want your shop to close, it should be more vibrant and I will try to make it so, don't worry."

Reports of souring ties between the kingdom and Pakistan emerged after Qureshi, during a talk show, bluntly asked the Saudi-led Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to stop dilly-dallying on the convening of a meeting of its Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) on the Kashmir issue. "I am once again respectfully telling OIC that a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers is our expectation. If you cannot convene it, then I'll be compelled to ask Prime Minister Imran Khan to call a meeting of the Islamic countries that are ready to stand with us on the issue of Kashmir and support the oppressed Kashmiris," he had said.

The Foreign Office had later defended his remarks, saying that his statement was a reflection of people's aspirations and expectations from the OIC to raise the Kashmir issue internationally were not against diplomatic norms. The foreign minister insisted that ties between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, which he described as "people-centric", had

always been strong and will remain so in the future. "Our relationship is not new, and it is people-centric, it's not just between governments. So if I have a relationship with you, I will also have expectations. If we don't have any relationship, why would we have expectations? So, on Kashmir, Pakistanis have a clear stance and have expectations from our friends which we keep expressing and will continue to do so."

He recalled that the OIC's Kashmir contact group had held a virtual meeting this year, which was also attended by the Saudi foreign minister, where a statement prepared by Pakistan was approved by all members, including Saudi Arabia. Qureshi said multiple resolutions had been passed by the OIC that were "clear, straightforward and in accordance with Pakistan's stance".

"There is no ambiguity but absolute clarity. I am telling you this clearly, there is no change in Saudi Arabia's stance on Kashmir. And OIC's stance is before you, now we have to decide how we will take this forward." Responding to a question regarding Pakistan's stance on ties with Israel, Qureshi said that Pakistan "will not come under international pressure". "Prime Minister Imran Khan has given a clear statement on this in accordance with Quaid-i-Azam's stance. We will not come under any international pressure," he declared. "You can see that though they took some time, Saudi Arabia took a similar stance and I am sure that most of the Muslim ummah shares this position."

"If we recognise Israel and ignore tyranny faced by the Palestinians, we will have to give up (the cause of) Kashmir as well, and this we cannot do," the premier had said in an interview. Qureshi also spoke about ongoing talks between the Afghan Taliban and Kabul, saying progress was being made towards a final peaceful solution.

*Courtesy to Pakistan Observer*



# China, Pakistan agree to preserve, protect, promote CPEC



## Monitoring

**T**he Communist Party of China (CPC) and Pakistan's mainstream political parties agreed to preserve, protect and promote China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

It was pointed out that three issues in Pakistan enjoy a broad national consensus across the board above party lines including Kashmir, nuclear programme and CPEC and today's Joint Consultation Mechanism (JCM) further cemented this consensus on CPEC.

It was the crux of discussions held among the International Department of Communist Party of China, in collaboration with Pakistan-China Institute, organised the second conference of the CPEC Political Parties Joint Consultation Mechanism (JCM) on the theme of "Working Together to Promote Economic Development and Improve People's Lives Through High-Quality CPEC Cooperation" here on Thursday.

Both sides political parties viewed CPEC as a "game changer and a guarantor of a better tomorrow for Pakistan's 220 million people". It was attended by nine political parties including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz), the Pakistan People's Party, the Balochistan Awami Party, the National Party, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, the Awami National Party, the Jamaat-e-Islami, and Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, as well as leading officials from relevant government departments and representatives from business community of the two countries.

The first JCM was held in Beijing in March 2019 and this JCM has now emerged as the institutional mechanism between the CPC and Pakistani political parties for CPEC coordination and communication.

This online conference of nine political parties representing both the government and the opposition was the first of its kind in Pakistan

that agreed to preserve, protect and promote CPEC, above party lines, since they all view CPEC as a "game changer and a guarantor of a better tomorrow for Pakistan's 220 million people".

President Arif Alvi, in a congratulatory message to the conference, termed CPEC as 'an iconic project of the Belt & Road Initiative which will change the destiny of the region and promote regional connectivity'. He reaffirmed Pakistan's strong support to One China policy and strongly opposed any foreign intervention in internal affairs of China with regard to Hong Kong and Taiwan. He also thanked China for supporting Pakistan on Kashmir issue.

The conference was co-chaired from the Pakistani side by the Chairman Senate, Sadiq Sanjrani and from the Chinese side by Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of CPC who is a member of the Chinese Central leadership. The 3-hour long conference also had experts speaking on various issues.

Song Tao, Minister of IDPC in his keynote speech thanked the president of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi for sending the congratulatory letter. While appreciating the consensus to take it forward. Party to party cooperation between China and Pakistan is increasing and CPEC is entering into a new era.

Senator Sadiq Sanjrani, in his keynote address, credited China for promoting regional connectivity with its landmark Belt and Road Initiative and extended Pakistan's support to President Xi Jinping's vision of "shared prosperity" and "win-win" cooperation of which CPEC is the practical manifestation. Liu Qi, Leader of CPC Jiangxi Provincial Committee congratulated all the participants for the successful organization of the second JCM of political parties on CPEC. He said that the economic cooperation between Pakistan and China is important in high quality construction of CPEC. Moreover, he announced donation of

500,000 masked and 2000 Protective Personal Equipment (PPE) to Pakistani political parties.

Saifullah Khan Nyazee, Chief Organizer of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, said that this conference is a great moment that shows that all political parties are on one platform when it comes to CPEC. He also appreciated the exemplary measures taken by China during the fight against pandemic. Moreover, he reaffirmed the commitment and confidence of PTI in taking CPEC forward.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, from the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) and Chairman of Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, who also is founding Chairman of PCI, congratulated China on successfully combating COVID-19 through timely measures, decisive leadership and a governance system based on excellent health care facilities as well as a people centered approach and thanked China for its support to Pakistan during the COVID-19 crisis. He said that there are three issues in Pakistan which enjoy a broad national consensus across the board above party lines and these are Kashmir, nuclear programme and CPEC and today's JCM cemented this consensus on CPEC amongst political parties of Pakistan.

Amanullah Khan Yasinzai, Governor of Balochistan, said that the year 2020 is rough and tough and China has emerged as a key player in world politics and economy. Yao Jing, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, said that he is happy to see the COVID cases in Pakistan getting lower day by day. The resilient nature of Pakistan-China friendship and CPEC can be gauged from the fact that it survived even the COVID pandemic and has become stronger. Moreover, he said that China will always stand side by side with Pakistan in all areas of cooperation and both countries will fight the challenges like COVID together.

*Courtesy to The News*





## Pak-China Relations

# United We March On

By Major General Chen Wenrong, Defence Attaché, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan

**1** August 2020 is the 93rd anniversary of the founding of Chinese People's Liberation Army. On this special occasion, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all the friends from the Pakistani Armed Forces and all walks of society for your commitment and support in building strong military relations.

93 years ago, the Chinese Red Army, which later became the People's Liberation Army, was founded at a critical juncture of the Chinese nation. 93 years on, led by the Communist Party of China (CPC), the PLA has battled through flame and gun smoke, attained victory after glorious victory, thus yielding a great meritorious service for the nation and people. In the new era, to meet the strategic demands of national security and development, the PLA firmly implements its missions entrusted by the CPC and the people. We maintain a rigorous guard against any possible threats to national security and stability. Meanwhile, historic strides are being made to advance the PLA's integrated development of mechanization and informationization, speed up the development of intelligent military and create a modernized military force structure to adapt to the trends of worldwide revolution in military affairs and the demands of national security.

China has always been a peace-loving nation. The famous Great Wall itself is a symbol of defence. Under the guidance of defensive

national defence policy, the PLA honours its international responsibilities and actively participates in UN Peacekeeping operations, vessel protection operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. After the outbreak of COVID-19 epidemic, the PLA has provided medical supplies to the militaries of more than 40 countries.

Thanks to the commitment of the leaderships of China and Pakistan as well as concerted efforts of our two peoples, our two countries have forged an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. As President Xi Jinping pointed out, China and Pakistan are true friends and good brothers who are always there for each other come rain or shine. In recent years, the bilateral military relations have maintained a steady and rapid development at all levels. Exchange of high level visits has become a routine and more and more military visits have been conducted year by year. The Army's Warrior Exercises, Air Force's Shaheen Exercises and Navy's Sea Guardians Exercises have become the models of bilateral military cooperation. Each year, hundreds of officers from both countries come together to communicate with and learn from each other, making the deep rooted friendship consolidated with each passing day.

A friend in need is a friend indeed. After COVID-19 attacked China at the beginning of this year, President Arif Alvi made a special visit to China to show solidarity and support. Pakistani Army took the lead in mobilizing various sectors to donate medical supplies, and PAF dispatched a military aircraft to take them to China. We will never forget the



warm and timely support extended by our Pakistani brothers. When Pakistan is faced with the challenge of the epidemic, we reciprocated by donating medical supplies, financing a quarantine hospital and sending medical teams. The PLA also sent 4 sorties of donated medical supplies, while PLA medical expert team stayed in Pakistan for 2 months, sharing expertise with Pakistani colleagues. China will continue, as what Pakistan has done to us, to provide assistance and support to our brother for curbing the epidemic. The world today is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century. With peace and development remaining as the irreversible trends, international system and order are undermined by hegemonism, power politics, unilateralism and constant regional conflicts and wars. Facing the new era, China will continue to stand together with Pakistan in safeguarding national sovereignty, upholding justice, maintaining regional peace and marching toward an even stronger friendship!

Chin-Pak Dosti Zindabad!





## Defence Attaché of China along with delegation visited ISPR in connection with celebrations of 93rd anniversary of founding of Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA)

**M**ajor General Chen Wenrong Defence Attaché, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan along with delegation visited ISPR in connection with celebrations of 93rd anniversary of founding of Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), said ISPR press release.

Major General Babar Iftikhar, DG ISPR welcomed the delegation to ISPR on behalf of General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS). DG ISPR felicitated PLA on this momentous occasion of PLA anniversary. DGISPR conveyed compliments from COAS & all Ranks of Armed Forces to all ranks of PLA.

"Pakistan Army & PLA are the key components of Pak-China strategic relations & we are proud to be brothers in arms" COAS.

The visiting dignitary expressed his gratitude for hosting this commemoration ceremony at ISPR.

Speaking on the occasion, Major General Chen Wenrong, the Defence Attaché said that the military relations between China and Pakistan have strengthened over the years. The two countries have forged all-weather strategic partnership and China highly values the efforts made by Pakistan in all fields especially during

COVID-19. China-Pakistan friendship will remain evergreen, Major General Wenrong reiterated.

His Excellency Mr. Yao Jing, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan also sent a message of congratulations on PLA day, emphasizing that the Pakistan-China military relations are an important pillar of the strategic ties between two Countries, China looks forward to further expanding and enhancing military cooperation with Pakistan to make new contribution to the consolidation of bilateral relations and the maintenance of peace and stability in the region and beyond.



# US campaign against China will only make Chinese people more united

Monitoring

**T**he US's pressure campaign against China will only make the Chinese people more united, said the Chinese Foreign Ministry on Tuesday. They were commenting on results from a questionnaire gathered from over 100,000 responses on China-US relations. The questionnaire, launched by the Chinese newspaper The Global Times on Monday, is comprised of six questions mainly regarding how Chinese people view the current U.S. administration, its pressuring campaign against China and the motives behind as well as China's countermeasures taken. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian responded at Tuesday's regular press briefing as inquired by the The Global Times journalist, saying that the results have clearly shown that Chinese people are well aware of how the U.S. is trying to rip China-U.S. relations and create confrontation. According to the questionnaire results shared by the newspaper reporter, 98 percent of those surveyed said that they think the U.S.'s attacking of the Communist Party of China (CPC) is an attempt to alienate Chinese people and the CPC, and 97 percent said that they support China's countermeasures. The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson then urged the U.S. side to recognize the



current situation and drop the illusion that it could change China in the way that it wants. The U.S. side should stop unreasonable interference in China's internal affairs and

suppressing China's legitimate rights, and work with China to bring the bilateral relation back to the normal track of stability and stability, Zhao said.

## Moin ul Haque assumes charge as new Pakistan's Ambassador to China

**M**oin ul Haque has arrived and assumed the charge of new Ambassador of Pakistan to China.

"Arrived today in Beijing and assumed the charge of Ambassador of Pakistan to China. A great honour indeed," Ambassador Moin ul Haq tweeted after arriving in the Chinese capital.

"Pakistan and China are iron brothers. Looking forward to contributing to further strengthening of Pak-China special ties along with my wonderful team at the Embassy," he added.

Moin-ul-Haq has assumed assignment in Beijing with an expressed resolve that the two countries would resist hegemonic designs cropping in the region.

Ambassador Moin-ul-Haq has replaced Ms. Naghmana Alamgir Hashmi who has attained superannuation and stood retired

after returning from Beijing. She promoted and strengthened Pakistan's deep-rooted friendship with China, cemented economic and trade ties and took concrete steps to

promote cultural and people-to-people exchanges under the two countries' All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership during her stay in Chinese capital.





# CPEC: An architect of national connectivity



By Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

**T**HE China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has now become an architect for greater national connectivity which is now creating miracles in the life of common people and businessmen alike. Successful completion of various mega projects of infrastructural development has drastically reduced physical distances and saved time, money and energy too. In this regard while visiting to CPEC Authority Chairman, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing has conveyed official approval of his government about M1 project. The Ambassador said ML-1 project would further strengthen the cooperation between Pakistan and China.

It will create new jobs wherein local people will be consumed. Local material will also be used in this mega project. Being prominent regional expert, I expect that approval of M-I project would be a giant step towards modernization of railway system and would also put Pakistan on the path to greater and sustainable prosperity. The project of 1,872 miles length is the biggest development project of Pakistan to be built at a cost of 6.8 billion dollars. It is hoped that more than 200,000 to 250,000 people directly or indirectly would get jobs due to the mega project.

Previously, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council approved the \$6.8 billion Mainline-1 railway project, which allows the government to move ahead with its fundraising. The project, which falls in the framework of CPEC, is expected to be about 90% foreign-financing through loans from China. Engineering, procurement, and construction will be dealt and supervised by Chinese contractors, for which a request for exemption from international competitive bidding will be sent to the Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet. The rail project is notable as it is the only strategic project being finalised as part of the initial \$46 billion in CPEC deals. It will revolutionize railways in the country.

In the first of three phases, Pakistan will commit to around \$2.4 billion worth of construction work to stay compliant with an IMF commitment that created a spending limit of \$2.5 billion during the same period. The second phase will start a year after phase one and will cost \$2.7 billion as the IMF spending ceiling will not apply. The final phase will begin two years after “package one” and will cost \$1.7 billion. Completion of Mainline-I project has multiplier socio-economic and geo-strategic effects for the national economy. It will generate immense business activity in the country which will push forward various sectors and sub-sectors of macro-economy mainly, construction industries, cement, steel, artificial intelligence, electronics, ICT, digitalization and above all human capital industry etc.

It will reduce distances and promote capacity building in Pakistan Railways. It will bring drastic changes in overall hauling of the railways system including time management,



procurement and commercial cargo fleets. It will definitely further enhance revenues of Railways. It will introduce system of automation in railways which will minimize chances of accidents. It will build double track with the speed increase from 100 KM to 160 KM. Commercial cargos will be increased up to 160 trains. It will be a valuation addition for easy, smooth and speedy movement of merchandized goods and defence commodities. Main-I project has become one of the most important parts of the CPEC which will connect various junctions of railways situated in all the provinces. Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan termed it historic and vial for the development of Pakistan Railways. It will create elements of self-efficiency, productivity and commercial sustainability in local railways.

Most recently, CPEC Authority Chairman Authority Lt. Gen. (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa said that CPEC-related projects in South Balochistan are making progress. He shared that work on the 110-km-long two-lane road from Khuzdar to Bisma was in full swing while work on the N30 highway started in October 2019. The construction of N30 highway will

cost Rs 19 billion. Moreover, 20% work of the highway has been completed, this highway will connect Khuzdar to N85, with the completion of the project in 2021, and access to Gwadar will be easier. China and Pakistan have increased their cooperation on infrastructure development in Kashgar. Both countries have also announced to build a 118km stretch of road from Thakot to Havelian as part of a larger road project that runs from Islamabad to Kashgar in China's Xinjiang region.

CPEC is the flagship project of the BRI which is already connected with more than 65 countries having 35% global trade, 31% global GDPs and 62% world population needs a “specialized” outlook and projection which may be achieved with the inclusion of “genuine scholars” of applied economics, international marketing, communication strategists, experts of cultural & commercial diplomacy and likeminded “publication” houses in the country. CPEC's phase-II should be transformed to have more and more small, medium and mega “hydro-power” dams throughout the country so that somehow, inbuilt “dichotomy” in the CPEC's phase-I should be ratified now for the betterment of both the countries. Moreover, inclusion of certain projects of “renewable” energy mix (solar, wind, biomass) is the need of the hour which should be pursued having ideal combination of public-private partnership in which innovative credit financing models should also be followed.

The President of China, H.E. Mr. Xi Jinping has already stressed the need to have “Silk Health Route” during pendency of the COVID-19 which may also be included in the CPEC phase-II in the country. It would be a “game changer” for our domestic health industry having potential benefits of further enhancing of national response and capacity building and larger scale localized health products and commodities. Government of Pakistan should sincerely seek assistance and professional guidance from its counterpart. Being prominent regional expert of CPEC & BRI I, suggest that since Pakistan is under attack of “locust” (according to many reports and statistics, widespread attack of locust may have collateral damage up to Rs.750 billion to Rs.1000 billion to agricultural as well as macro-economy), the policy makers must sincerely coordinate with Chinese government and companies to eradicate this deadly calamity. Local production of agricultural drones has been started but Chinese expertise in this regard may be instrumental.

*Courtesy to Pakistan Observer*



# COAS hails Pakistan Army, PLA as 'key components' of Pak-China relations



By Monitoring

Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa, on the 93rd anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), has said both the countries militaries were key components of Pak-China strategic relations.

Celebrations were held at the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) to mark the 93rd anniversary of the founding of the PLA. The event was attended by Defence Attaché at the Chinese embassy Major General Chen Wenrong and his delegation.

According to the military's media wing, DG ISPR Major General Babar Iftikhar welcomed the delegation to ISPR on behalf of COAS General Qamar Javed Bajwa. The DG ISPR

also felicitated the PLA on the momentous occasion and conveyed compliments from the army chief and all ranks of armed forces to all the ranks of the PLA.

"Pakistan Army and PLA are the key components of Pak-China strategic relations and we are proud to be brothers in arms," said the COAS Gen Qamar Bajwa.

Major General Chen Wenrong, speaking at the ceremony, said that the military relations between China and Pakistan have strengthened over the years.

"The two countries have forged an all-weather strategic partnership and China highly values the efforts made by Pakistan in all fields especially during COVID-19. China-Pakistan friendship will remain evergreen," said Major

General Wenrong.

According to the ISPR, the Chinese general also expressed his gratitude for hosting the commemoration ceremony at the ISPR office.

Meanwhile, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing also sent a message of congratulations on PLA day. He emphasised that the Pakistan-China military relations are an important pillar of the strategic ties between the two countries.

"China looks forward to further expanding and enhancing military cooperation with Pakistan to make new contribution to the consolidation of bilateral relations and the maintenance of peace and stability in the region and beyond," said the Chinese envoy.

*Courtesy The News*

## China says Kashmir issue left over from history

By Monitoring

China reiterated again on Friday that the Kashmir issue is a dispute left over from history between Pakistan and India, which is an objective fact, and that the dispute should be resolved peacefully and properly through the UN Charter, relevant Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements.

"China opposes any unilateral actions that complicate the situation. Both sides underlined that a peaceful, stable, cooperative and prosperous South Asia was in common interest of all parties. Parties need to settle disputes and issues in the region through

dialogue on the basis of equality and mutual respect," read a joint statement released simultaneously in Beijing and Islamabad at the conclusion of the 2nd Round of China-Pakistan Foreign Minister's Strategic Dialogue.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and his Chinese counterpart Foreign Minister Wang Yi headed their delegations. The Pakistani side briefed the Chinese side on the situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJ&K), including its concerns, position and current urgent issues.

*Courtesy The News*





# China, Pakistan eye CPEC long term

By Monitoring

Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a verbal message to Pakistani President Arif Alvi on Friday, in which he mentioned President Alvi sent a congratulation letter to the opening of the second meeting of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Political Parties Joint Consultation Mechanism, which shows Alvi highly values the bilateral relations and CPEC. Friday also saw a second strategic dialogue between the two countries, during which speeding up projects under the CPEC was highly anticipated.

Political parties of China and Pakistan conduct regular consultations to build political consensus, which is conducive to the long-term development of the CPEC, Xi said.

The message was sent after the virtual second meeting of CPEC Political Parties Joint Consultation Mechanism ended on Thursday.

The CPEC is a landmark project of the Belt and Road Initiative, which is of great significance to deepen the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China, and forge an even closer community of shared future.

The CPEC is likely among the top agendas during the second strategic dialogue between the foreign ministers of China and Pakistan that ends on Friday, along with topics on a joint response to challenges caused by COVID-19, and other regional and international issues, Chinese analysts said.

The two-day second strategic dialogue, co-chaired by State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, was held in South China's Hainan Province on Thursday and Friday.

This strategic dialogue is highly relevant and significant as the two sides will hold in-depth exchanges of views on anti-epidemic cooperation, bilateral relations and regional and international issues of common concern, Zhao Lijian, spokesperson of Chinese Foreign Ministry, said at Thursday's media briefing.

The two foreign ministers agreed to accelerate the Belt and Road Initiative to benefit people of the two countries. The CPEC has entered a new phase with high quality development, and will complete projects under construction in a timely manner, create more jobs, improve people's livelihood, and strengthen cooperation in industrial parks, human resources training, poverty alleviation, health care and agriculture, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

Qureshi called his visit to China a "very important trip" before his departure, and the Foreign Office of Pakistan said in a statement that the visit will be important in further strengthening Pakistan-China's all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and deepen strategic communication and coordination with China on a range of issues, according to Pakistani media reports.

Chinese analysts also called on India to be more open and drop its "narrow-minded" mentality following the positive cooperation between China and Pakistan; after India, in an attempt to divert attention from its failure in responding to COVID-19, decided to stir up trouble with the two countries throughout past months.

Fu Xiaoqiang, an expert on South Asian issues at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, told the Global Times on Friday that China has been coordinating with neighboring countries to jointly tackle economic and other challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, coordination between China and Pakistan — two "iron brothers" — in terms of economic and strategic cooperation is very important at this current moment.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused some delays to projects under the CPEC, and the two sides are likely to adjust the speed of delivery and come up with practical suggestions to further advance the CPEC, Fu said.

Earlier in August, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council of Pakistan approved the Main Line-1 (ML-1) project



involving the upgrade of the railway track between Karachi and Peshawar — one project under the CPEC.

The Pakistani Minister for Railways Sheikh, Rasheed Ahmad, said on Thursday that the ML-1 railway project will prove to be a milestone in the country's development journey, as it would boost industrialization and create new opportunities for locals.

The dialogue also attracted much attention from India's media outlets, with some saying that fraught ties with India will be a "key topic" of the dialogue.

The Hindustan Times said Pakistan and China are looking to strengthen their ties while they deal with worsening relations with India.

"India has adopted a hostile attitude toward the cooperation between China and Pakistan and believes that China and Pakistan will soon unite against India; it's a rather 'narrow-minded' perspective that does not conform to India's position of a big country in South Asia," Fu said.

India has stirred up trouble with its neighboring countries in the past few months due to the government's need to shift public attention from its failure to respond to COVID-19, but regional countries should work together to avoid such situations, Fu said.

China's coordination with neighboring countries comes amid tense China-US relations, and Fu stressed that China's purpose was not to force neighboring countries to "pick a side" between China and the US, but strengthen cooperation to tackle joint challenges, contributing to a more stable and prosperous region.

*Courtesy: This article already published in Global Times on August 21, 2020*





## Anti Narcotics force receives specialized equipment from the government of Japan through UNODC Pakistan

By Monitoring Desk

In a high-profile ceremony held at the Headquarters Anti Narcotics Force (ANF), UNODC Country Office Pakistan (COPAK) handed over advanced IT equipment, personal protection gear and 20 Narcotics-Sniffer dogs to the ANF through funding support by the Government of Japan. Mr. Azam Khan Swati, the Federal Minister of Narcotics-Control and H.E. Mr. Kuninori Matsuda, the Ambassador Of Japan to Pakistan were also present at the occasion. While welcoming the delegates Mr. Ali Zulnoorain Sheikh, PSP, Deputy Director General ANF thanked the Federal Minister of Narcotics Control and the Ambassador of Japan for gracing the auspicious occasion. He offered gratitude to Mr. Jeremy Milsom, Representative and other senior Officials from UNODC (COPAK) for providing regular technical support to the ANF and other members of Pakistan's Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) on counter Narcotics. The IT equipment included hardware for automating Pakistan's National Precursor Management System (NPMS), as well as networking among the ANF and other IATF members. 20 Narcotics-Sniffer Canine dogs and 40 bullet proof vests and helmets were also handed over to the ANF by UNODC COPAK, under Japan-funded project 'Strengthening border security against illicit drug trafficking and other transnational organized crime (2016-2020). In his remarks, Mr. Jeremy Milsom said "It is indeed a great feeling and privilege to support a highly professional and competent force like the ANF, in its continuing efforts to save the world from drug trafficking and drug abuse — the greatest challenges of our times. UNODC COPAK well-

recognizes ANF's leading counter-narcotics role and that it will always remain UNODC's main partner in Pakistan". HE. Mr. Kuninori Matsuda assured that the Government of Japan continues to accord a high-priority to the peace-security-development nexus and therefore, it will continue endeavors to build Pakistan's counter-narcotics capacity. He also recognized ANF as the leading counter narcotics law enforcement agency of Pakistan. He also offered condolences on the recent sacrifices made by ANF personnel in the line of duty, whereby four ANF personnel were martyred during two major encounters with the drug trafficking networks. In his closing remarks, Mr. Azam Khan Swati. The

Federal Minister of Narcotics-Control highly appreciated regular and sustainable capacity-building support by the Government of Japan as Pakistan's long-term strategic partner through UNODC.

He highlighted the vision of Prime Minister Imran khan to address the growing challenge of narcotics trafficking by adopting a collective, coherent and multilateral approach. He reiterated that Pakistan, as a law abiding country is not going to tolerate the menace of trafficking and its negative consequences upon health and socio-economic development in Pakistan.







## President-elect of the UNGA calls on Prime Minister

By Mian Fazal Elahi

**T**he President-elect of the Seventy-fifth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Volkan Bozkir, called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. Prime Minister extended warm felicitations to Mr. Bozkir on his election as the President of the historic 75th Session of the UN General Assembly. During the meeting, Prime Minister Imran

Khan apprised the PGA-elect of the serious situation in the Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJK), an issue that was on agenda of the UN Security Council for over seven decades. The Prime Minister highlighted the dire human rights and humanitarian situation in IOJK since 5 August 2019, as well as the ongoing gross and systematic violations of human rights of the Kashmiri people and the attempts to change the demographic structure

of the occupied territory. He stressed that the UN must play its rightful role in addressing the grave situation and ensuring that Kashmiris exercise their right to self-determination promised to them in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. The Prime Minister apprised the PGA-elect of his Government's initiatives to mitigate and suppress the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, focused on saving lives, securing livelihoods, and stimulating the economy. He informed that his Government deployed an \$8 billion stimulus package for the poor and the needy. This was the highest social security coverage by any Government in the history of Pakistan. The Prime Minister further highlighted his call for 'Global Initiative on Debt Relief' and stressed the need to provide greater fiscal space to the developing countries to overcome deleterious socio-economic impacts of coronavirus pandemic. The Prime Minister also highlighted the high importance he attached to addressing Climate Change, countering Islamophobia, and combating illicit financial flows from developing countries. He expressed the hope that the 75th Session of the UNGA would accord priority to these issues, which affected billions around the world.



Ms Shahira Shahid, Principal Information Officer presenting a photo album to H.E. Mr Volkan Bozkir, President elect to United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on the completion of his Pakistan visit



# Setting the stage; Kashmir, Ladakh and World War III



By Senator Rehman Malik

**D**espite the advice of Indian advisors to PM Modi to not take on China, Modi undertook a venture against China and brought embarrassment to India with heavy casualties on the eastern Ladakh border. The general public in India feels that PM Modi owes an explanation to his Lok Sabha and the public as to why he went against the advice to not attack China.

Modi is known for his abrupt and unwise moves like earlier orders to scrap the autonomous status of Indian Illegally Occupied Kashmir (IIOK) and Ladakh and declared it a part of India. He also brought embarrassment to his country after the failure of his surgical strikes on Pakistan and got back a humiliated IAF pilot in return. PM Modi is on record having stated earlier that CEPC does not suit India. Obviously, he meant to inflict and obstruct the CEPC route via Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). Defence analysts are of the view that on the directions of his masters, he attacked eastern Ladakh to engage China in the mountains and then attack GB to cut off the CEPC route, but he had to change the plan after receiving a proper and unforgettable thrashing of his soldiers on the Chinese border and sensing the great unity between China and Pakistan; he could face both China's and Pakistan's armies on its triangle borders. PM Modi is under great pressure from the West to create a warzone with China to achieve larger designs against China and Pakistan. PM Modi first lost his credibility in his own country by destroying its economy, hate-mongering, and promulgating highly discriminatory anti-Muslims laws and supporting RSS. He has now lost his face by losing against China in the mountains. I always say that the West wants to stage World War III (WW-III) from South Asia and they have found a senseless implementer in PM Modi. History is witness to the fact that American-instigated wars have always failed in the past, as famous American writer Mr Peter Ullman has beautifully summed up his experiences as under:

"The fundamental factors that ensured failure in using military power were consistent regardless of the party in power. In the first instance, presidents and their administrations lacked sufficient knowledge and understanding of the conditions in which force was to be used. Second, the reasons for going to war were manufactured and proved to be wrong. Third, presidents lacked

the experience and judgment that led to flawed assumptions and decisions. Fourth, "group-think" too often dominated decisions. And finally, "expert" advice was ignored or rejected."

The above few sentences contain the real truth of the history of American remote-controlled wars. It looks like the US once again has chosen a partner namely PM Modi whose vision is limited only to RSS and the Hindutva syndrome. The world now stands divided into groups which can be differentiated from the group of China, Russia and Pakistan, with strong allies, whereas the other group has emerged under the influence of the US, India, Israel, and those countries where the US has a stronghold. I had predicted these groups in my article titled, "A defeated Modi and peace in South Asia" which appeared in this paper on July 10 this year and the relevant extract is as under; "In the meantime, India is also playing dirty and does not want peace in Afghanistan. In the emerging situation, there is likely a gulf between Russia and the US, in which Russia will be seen closer to China. The West and the US chose Indian PM Narendra Modi with low intelligence capabilities who easily fell in their trap against China, which PM Modi realised for the first time when he had to ditch the Blue Dot Network, which was aimed at shifting investors from China to India. But Modi was not allowed by the Indian elite and opposition to provide such a big cost in terms of land and logistics for the US in this anti-China project."

The United States has formulated its ill-advised war strategy and its top priority to have oil and other supplies blocked to China via the South China Sea, whereas it has already succeeded in bringing countries around the South China Sea on one page to follow the US. These countries include Japan, Philippines, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and Australia against China. The most recent defence agreement between India and Australia for using each other's islands is another indication of a joint operation against China if needed in the Indian Ocean.

India has been asked now by the US to close the Strait of Malacca for Chinese ships using the Indian navy, as most of China's trade is through the Straits of Malacca, and 80 percent of oil imported by China sails through this route. Closing this route will force China to totally depend on only Gwadar for its trade. This is one of the reasons that the US and India are against CPEC/Gwadar, as it provides an alternate route to supply line to China. It is important to note that the idea of CEPC was conceived basically to cut the long route supply to China via the Indian Ocean. This was a wise decision by China and Pakistan to bring this project in action. In response to the US-Indian designs of blocking the supplies the Chinese leadership has been also forced to formulate a policy to counter this unjustifiable aggression on China. If India chooses the option to block the Strait of Malacca to seize the supply to China, then China will not

hesitate to exercise its option to occupy the Indian state of Sikkim and the Siliguri corridor which is a lifeline for seven important Indian states; Assam, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura. It will automatically seize internal supplies and it is bound to generate uncontrollable unrest within India. This act of China will seize the internal distribution within India; will India take this risk? India also knows the risks/outcomes of blocking supplies to China and is weighing its options.

Let us see the Indian decision in this very crucial matter which can ignite WW-III. India under PM Modi is not going to digest the humiliation of its soldiers by Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley of East Ladakh. According to reports India has already started its proxy war with China and has reenergised the old Tibet card. India has strategised now to promote and support the Dalai Lama all over the world which will likely be supported in the West and the UN. On the other hand, China has played a smart game by taking Iran into its camp and as a result, Iran has cancelled the Chabahar port project with India. Most recently, China has offered Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries the option to trade oil in their own currencies instead of in dollars, but the Gulf may not agree to this proposal because of strong US influence on the ruling elite of this region. This will allow China to start buying oil from Iran and Russia instead of Saudi Arabia. China buys billions of dollars' worth of oil from Saudi Arabia whereas Iran has already picked the opportunity and has offered to supply oil to China at half the price.

The world must not forget that Israel is watching as a third party and it may jump in it once all these countries are made weak like in WW-I. Let us not forget that India has already accommodated Israel to use all of its defence and hardware and the US is India's preferred defence partner. If war begins, then expect Israel to play its last role to convert it into a victory for the US. In the given situation, Pakistan as a nuclear state cannot remain isolated if this war erupts and will have no choice except to be on the side of China. Pakistan is the only country at this point of time which can perhaps avert this war and General Qamar Javed Bajwa can play his role; who is highly respected by almost all the expected participants of this emerging war. He may try to engage them on an anti-war roundtable conference on an urgent basis. I hope General Bajwa will take the initiative to contribute to the peace of this world as modern diplomacy is more dependent on defence strategy.

The writer is a PPP Senator, former Interior Minister of Pakistan, and Chairman of think tank "Global Eye" and Senate Standing Committee on Interior. He can be reached at: rmalik1212@gmail.com, Twitter @Senrehmanmalik Note: Opinions expressed are solely my own and not necessarily to reflect the views or opinions of my party.





## Qatar Embassy provides medical and preventive aid

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

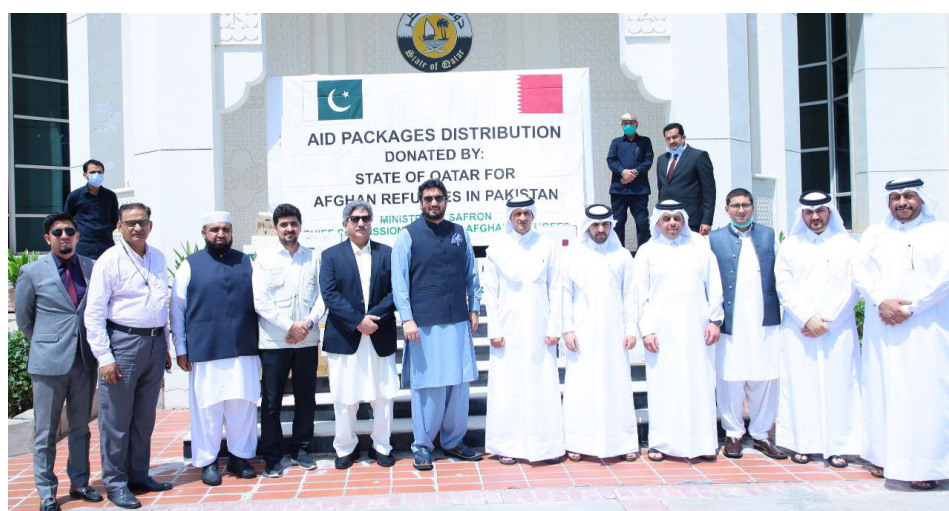
The Embassy of the State of Qatar in Islamabad provided medical and preventive aid from Qatar Charity to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to combat the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

On the Pakistani side, the event at Qatar Embassy, Islamabad, was attended by

Mr. Shehryar Khan Afridi, Federal Minister for Narcotics Control and Minister of State for States and Frontier Regions, who expressed thanks and appreciation for the support of the State of Qatar to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and acknowledged the bilateral relations between the two countries. Shehryar Khan Afridi also praised the contributions of the State of Qatar in supporting efforts to combat the Covid-19 all around the world.

His Excellency Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Pakistan, noted the deep – rooted Qatar-Pak relations and the joint cooperation between the two countries in various fields, and shared some details about the efforts of the State of Qatar to provide the necessary medical assistance to brotherly and friendly countries in order to confront the outbreak of Covid- 19, pointing out that the total aid provided by the State of Qatar during the Covid-19 amounted to more than 88 million US dollars, distributed among about 80 countries and various international organizations.

His Excellency expressed his hope that this aid would support the Pakistani government's efforts to combat Covid-19, wishing that this crisis will end soon.



Qatar's Government Communications Office said

## "Human Rights Watch report is misleading"

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

In its report published on 24 August, Human Rights Watch intentionally misled readers while performing a disservice to those they claim to be assisting, said in a statement issued by embassy of Qatar, Islamabad.

Statement further added that the current report contains repeated inaccuracies around policies and does not reflect the current situation in Qatar. Nearly all individuals who come to Qatar for employment never experience any form of wage abuse. There are a few, isolated, instances where workers experience this issue. These cases have declined as laws and regulations have driven fundamental and lasting change.

Human Rights Watch reached out to the government only prior to the publication of the report. We never heard about these issues in real time or in any of our engagement with them. If notice had taken place earlier, the government would have worked to address the issues raised by the workers interviewed in the report. A backward-looking annual report does little to address the specific challenges raised by the workers.

Going forward, the government is available to work collaboratively with Human Rights Watch when they have issues related to wage abuse or any other employment concern, as we do with other NGOs.

The recommendations put forward in the report by Human Rights Watch are already being implemented or on track to begin implementation. This includes laws that remove No-Objection Certificates and the introduction of a minimum wage – the first of its kind in the Middle East. Currently, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization, upgrades are being made to the Wage Protection System and the Workers' Support and Insurance Fund.

Qatar's labour programme protects all workers in all stages of their employment cycle. The success of our approach is evident in the achievements we have made to date and the positive impact it is having on hundreds of thousands of workers and those reliant on their income.



## Palestinian issue is not subject to trade-offs & deals reflected in the agreement of UAE with Israeli, and demand Arab & Islamic Parliaments to condemn & reject: PNC



By Agency

**T**he Palestinian issue is not subject to the principles of trade-offs, deals, false claims, or disgraceful uses, which were reflected in the agreement of the United Arab Emirates with the Israeli occupation state, under American auspices, PNC announced.

In a statement issued, PNC added that the Israeli Emirati American tripartite declaration is considered a blatant aggression on the rights of our people and their sacred cause, the rights of the Arab and Islamic nations in Palestine and the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque.

PNC condemned and strongly denounced this normalization agreement for the UAE's relations with the Israeli occupation, in exchange for the claim of a temporary and misleading suspension of the annexation of Palestinian lands, at a time when this Israeli criminal occupation escalates its measures to annex Palestinian lands, especially the city of Jerusalem, and violates the sanctity of religious places, foremost of which is the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Whoever wants to support Palestinian people and protect their rights should not sign agreements that stab them in the back and weaken their position, and recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the Israeli occupation, PNC continued, and cause a flawed breach of the position of Arab and Islamic consensus, and help the occupation and Trump to implement the (Deal of the Century), rather not to overturn the Arab

peace initiative, the decisions of the Arab and Islamic summits and the international decisions that guaranteed the rights of Palestinian people, which sanctity no one should harm.



PNC called on the heads of the Arab Parliamentary Union, the Arab Parliament, the Islamic Parliamentary Union, and the Arab and Islamic parliaments to condemn and reject this agreement that the UAE made, and to confront this blatant deviation by an Arab country from the principles of the Arab and Islamic consensus, and demand UAE to promptly back it down.

PNC considered that what the UAE did is a rejected use of the Palestinian cause, and a betrayal of Palestine and its people, serving the interest of the Israeli occupation, and this act is not representing the genuine position of the brotherly Emirati people and their will, but rather a betrayal of the legacy and trust of

Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan (may God have mercy on him), and his honorable history in defending the Palestinian cause.

PNC affirmed that the UAE, or any other party, has no right to act on behalf of the Palestinian people, stressing that Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), headed by President Mahmoud Abbas, is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the guardian of the Palestinian rights.

It is the struggle of our people and its sacrifices and support of free Arabs, Muslims and the world that failed the annexation, PNC added, that's will end the occupation, not the agreements of deception, craving and betrayal of national obligations and duties, and the abandonment of responsibilities towards Palestine.

PNC called on the brothers who welcomed this declaration or announcement to withdraw from it, affirming its full confidence in the peoples of our Arab nation, to continue their support and national commitment to the Palestinian cause for which the best of the nation's youth and leaders sacrificed.

PNC affirmed the commitment of Palestinian people to their rights and struggle, praising the unified position of our Palestinian people in facing this conspiratorial act and all Palestinian issue liquidation projects for the rights of return and establishing the state with its capital, the city of Jerusalem.





# Statistics on Palestinian Prisoners and Detainees in the Prisons of the Israeli Occupation

By Agency

**T**he Embassy of the State of Palestine reported the following statistics in a letter to all missions in Pakistan:

- (4,500) male and female prisoners in the Israeli occupation prisons.

- They are distributed over about 21 prisons, detention centers and arrest centers. Prisoners are including:

- (41) female captive
- (155) children
- (360) administrative detainees
- (6) Former Parliament members
- (700) male and female prisoners suffer from various diseases, among them (400) prisoners need urgent treatment, and among them are tens of people with special needs, cancer patients, heart patients and the elderly. The eldest of them is the prisoner Fuad Al-Shobaki "Abu Hazem" who is over eighty years old.
- Approximately (86%) of the total number of prisoners and detainees are from the West Bank governorates, (6%) from Gaza Strip, and the rest from Jerusalem and the (1948) territories.

## Old Captives

Fifty Palestinian prisoners, arrested more than 20 years ago. Among them:

- (29) Prisoners, detained for more than 25 years.
- (26) Prisoners detained since before

the "Oslo" Accords 1992 and the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

- (14) Prisoners, detained for more than 30 years continuously, the oldest of them is Karim and Maher Younis, who have been detained since 6th of January 1983.

- In addition to that, there are dozens of those who were released in the (Shalit Deal) in 2011, and were re-arrested in 2014, and the previous sentences of the Israeli occupation were applied to them again. They have spent 20 years and more in the occupation prisons, most notably the captive "Nael Barghouti", who spent (40) years on two terms, and is still in prison.

## Martyrs of the Captive Movement

224) Martyred Prisoners died in the Israeli occupation prisons since 1967, due to torture and medical negligence, or because of premeditated murder and shooting at them while they are inside the prison. And hundreds of others who died directly after their release from prison due to diseases they (inherited) collected from prisons, because of torture and medical neglect they were subjected to during their imprisonment. In addition to the detention of the bodies of the martyrs.

The Israeli occupation authorities are still holding (6) bodies of prisoners who died martyrs in its prisons at different times. The martyrs are: Anis Doula, who was martyred in Ashkelon prison in 1980, Aziz Uweissat, who was martyred in 2018, Faris Baroud, Nasar Taqatqa and Bassam Al-Sayeh, the three of them were martyred in the past year 2019, and Saadi Gharabli, who was killed in early July

2020.

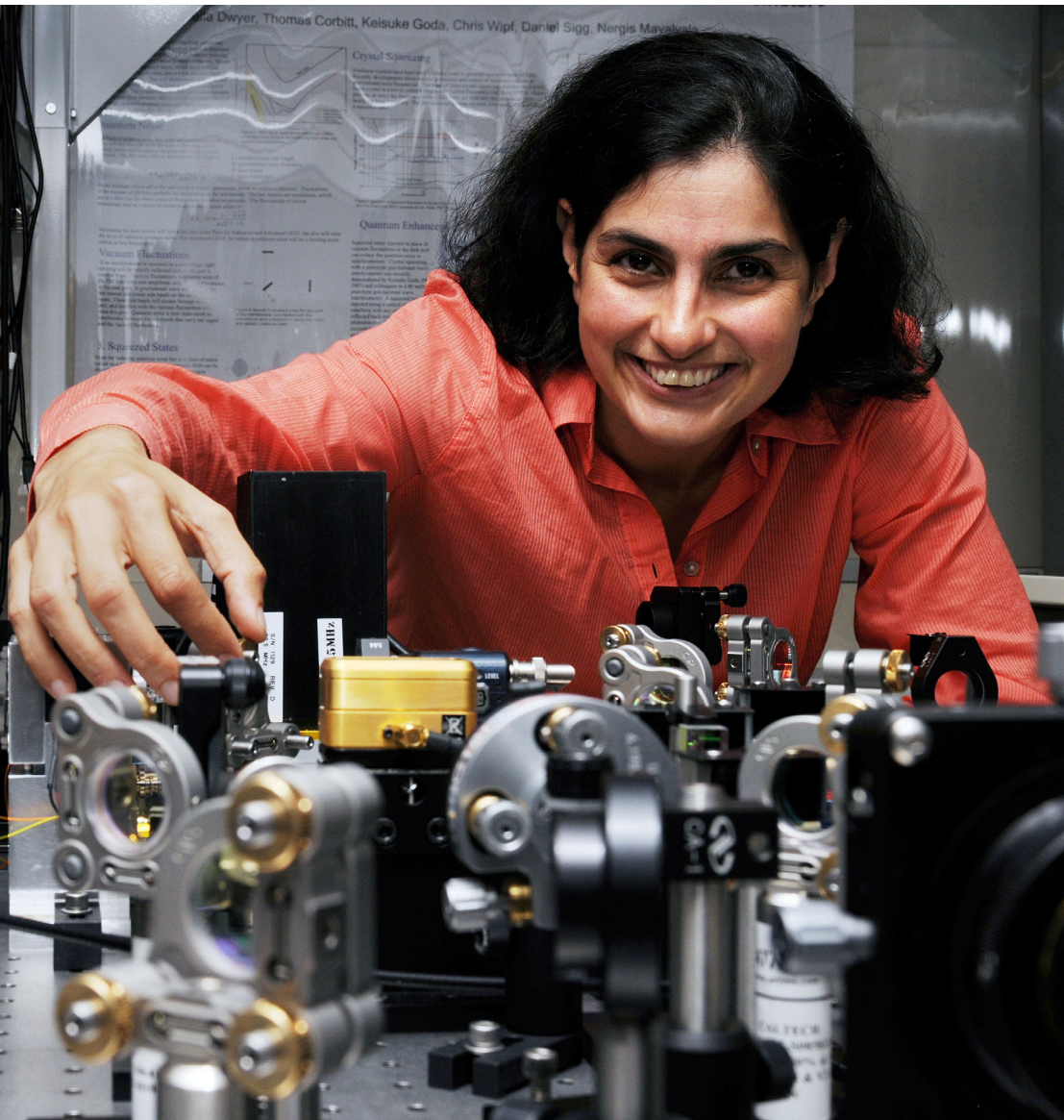
Prisoners' conditions are extremely difficult, and their conditions of detention are harsh and worsening day after day, in light of the high frequency of repression, the cruelty of the jailer, ill-treatment, the outbreak of Coronavirus among the jailers, the absence of preventive measures, the low level of safety measures, and the continued Israeli disdain for the prisoners lives and health conditions. In addition to the Israeli official announcement of the infection of many prisoners, such as: Kamal Abu Wa'ar, Abdullah Shawka, Nabil Al-Sharbati, Na'im Turki, Mahmoud al-Ghaliz, which exacerbates their suffering, and raises the degree of anxiety and tension for them and their families.

Asking the Red Cross and the World Health Organization to send a neutral international medical delegation to visit prisons, closely examine the reality of health conditions and the measures taken or must be taken, provide the necessary and appropriate treatment for sick prisoners, and conduct "COVID-19" tests for all prisoners in light of the true constant Palestinian questioning of the Israeli narrative.

Demanding to provide protection for all prisoners from the risk of death or disease, and to ensure that all preventive and safety measures are taken, to provide sterilization and hygiene materials, and appropriate food to protect them from the risk of infection of "COVID-19", in light of the spread of the virus and the increasing number of infected jailers, and many Prisoners, and the high degree of concern for the prisoners, and the continued suspension of visiting the majority of prisoners, in addition to the absence of alternative communication mechanisms between the prisoners and their families.



# Pakistan-born astrophysicist **Nergis Mavalvala** named dean of MIT School of Science



By Web Desk

**A**strophysicist Nergis Mavalvala has been named the new Dean of MIT's School of Science, effective Sept. 1. She will succeed Michael Sipser, who will return to the faculty as the Donner Professor of Mathematics, after six years of service.

Mavalvala, the Professor of Astrophysics, is renowned for her pioneering work in gravitational-wave detection, which she conducted as a leading member of LIGO, the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory. She has received numerous awards and honors for her research and teaching, and since 2015 has been the associate head of the Department of Physics. Mavalvala will be the first woman to serve as dean in the School of Science.

Dr. Nergis Mavalvala attended the Convent of Jesus and Mary, Karachi, for her O-Level and A-Level. She moved to the United States in 1986 and enrolled at Wellesley College and got a bachelor's degree in physics and

astronomy in 1990. As a graduate student at MIT, she conducted her doctoral work under Dr. Rainer Weiss and developed a prototype

**Mavalvala will be  
the first woman  
to serve as dean  
in the School of  
Science**

laser interferometer for detecting gravitational waves. Before graduation, Nargis with her physics professor, Robert Berg, co-authored a paper in Physical Review B: Condensed Matter.

After graduate school, Dr. Mavalvala served

a postdoctoral researcher and a research scientist at the California Institute of Technology, kickstarted her work with cosmic microwave background, and then eventually indulge the LIGO project. Mavalvala mainly focuses on two fields of physics: Gravitational Waves Astrophysics and quantum measurement science. She went on to do her Ph.D. in physics from MIT in 1997.

Dr. Mavalvala joined the MIT physics faculty in 2002 and was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2017. She was the younger of the two children. Her parents highly valued their daughters' educational experiences and encouraged her to pursue higher education overseas. She was always interested in math and science and believed that she was intrinsically good at it.

On February 20, 2016, Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, Jalil Abbas Jilani, conveyed the Government of Pakistan's message of felicitation to Nergis Mavalvala for her outstanding achievement in the field of astrophysics.





## Friendly cricket match played between the High Commission and Woking Cricket Club teams

By Mian Asadullah

Pakistan High Commission London's Cricket Team played a 25-over friendly match against Woking Cricket Club on 23 August 2020. The T-20 match was played at the Wheatsheaf Recreation Ground Woking.

High Commissioner Mohammad Nafees Zakaria and Hon. Jonathan Lord MP inaugurated the match. Legendary cricketer of Pakistan Zaheer Abbas also graced the occasion with his presence at the invitation of the High Commissioner.

Speaking on the occasion, the High Commissioner expressed excitement that the match was being played when Pakistan's national cricket team was playing English side and the atmosphere was full of joy in the midst of gloom created by COVID-19 pandemic. He thanked the Woking Council for making excellent arrangements for the match. He said sporting events are a useful tool of public diplomacy and act as bridges between communities. The High Commission always encourages healthy sporting activities to bring together British and Pakistani communities, he added.

Mr Zakaria also felicitated Zaheer Abbas on

the induction of his name in the ICC's Hall of Fame and termed it a proud moment for the country and its people.

On this occasion, Zaheer Abbas appreciated the High Commission for carrying out sporting activities and engaging with the local youth through fruitful activities.

Jonathan Lord MP, who played from Woking side, welcomed the PHC Team to his home ground. He said cricket has world language and it is one of the many things that enhance friendship between England and Pakistan.

Maintaining social distancing, the local cricket fans enjoyed the day out.





# IGP Islamabad inaugurates Police Facilitation Centre at ICCI



The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has established a Facilitation Centre of Islamabad Police in its premises to resolve the issues and provide police related services to its members in the premises of Chamber. Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar Khan, Inspector General of Islamabad Police formally inaugurated the Facilitation Centre during a ceremony held at ICCI.

Addressing the ceremony, Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar Khan said that ICCI should propose a committee to resolve issues of business community and Islamabad Police would issue its notification. He said that a parent committee along with sector-wise committees in order to resolve issues of business community of all sectors. He said that business community was the backbone of the economy and it was the responsibility of police to provide them peaceful environment for business activities. He said that under Safe City Project, 1880 security cameras were installed in Islamabad and 97% of them were in working condition. He said that after Aug 14, 2020, e-challans would be issued in Islamabad and after Lahore, the federal capital would be the second city of the country to issue e-challans.

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Ahmed Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said



that providing maximum facilitation to its members on a key priority of ICCI so that they could promote business activities more smoothly. He said that the inauguration of Facilitation Centre of Islamabad Police would be a great facilitation for the members of business community as they would be able to get police related services from Chamber instead of visiting various police stations. He thanked Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar Khan, IGP Islamabad for visiting ICCI to inaugurate the Facilitation Centre and hoped that he would always cooperate with ICCI in resolving police related major issues of the business community.

Speaking at the occasion, Mian Akram Farid



Chairman Founder Group appreciate the good performance of Islamabad Police that produced many prominent officers who rendered great services to the nation.

Tahir Abbasi Senior Vice President and Saif ur Rehman Vice President ICCI stressed that Reconciliation Committees and Citizen Police Liaison Committees revived that would greatly help in resolving police related issues of business community and citizens. Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Baser Daud, Malik Sohail Hussain, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Sardar Tahir, Malik Rab Nawaz, Khalid Chaudhry, Syed Amin Pirzada and others also highlighted various police related issues and gave useful suggestions for their solutions.



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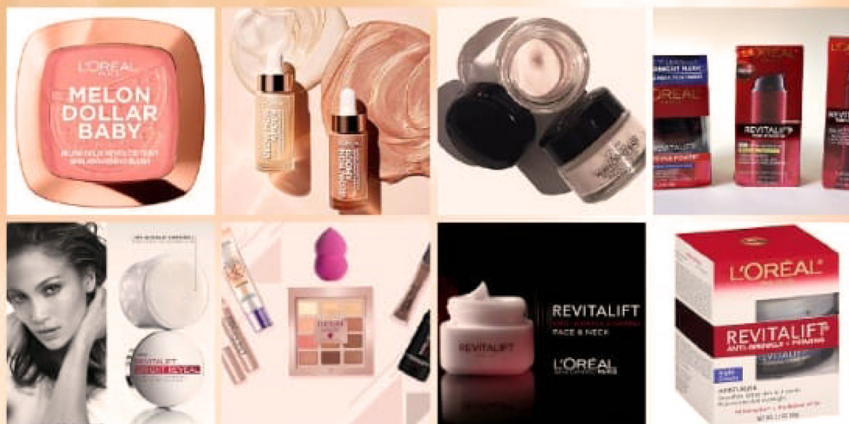


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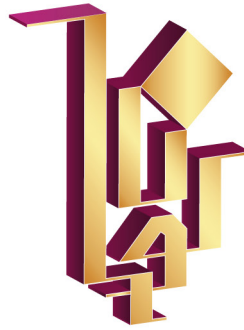
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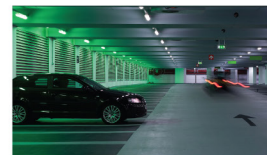
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