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10	Statement By H.E. Mr. Imran Khan, Prime Minister Of The Islamic Republic Of Pakistan at 75th Session of the UN General Assembly	Mr. President, Secretary General Guterres, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am honoured to address the United Nations General Assembly once again. I congratulate His Excellency Mr. Volkan Bozkir on his election as the President of the seventy-fifth session
16	Concluding Pakistan visit with good impres- sion: Abdullah Abdullah	Dr Abdullah Abdullah, Chairman, Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation (HCNR), on Wednesday appreciated Pakistan's efforts with regards to the Afghan peace process, and said that he was concluding his three-day trip to Islamabad "with a very positive impression and hope in his heart". On the last day of his visit, Dr Abdullah spoke at
22	Diversification and value addition of products to explore untapped export markets: President Alvi	President Dr Arif Alvi said the diversification and value addition of products were a must to achieve higher exports and explore the yet untapped global markets, particularly the African region. Addressing the 4th Export Trophy arranged by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the president called for use of information technology
38	During his speech at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly The President of Turkmenistan stressed the importance of restoring trust in international politics	On September 22, 2020, the high-level week of the 75th anniversary session of the United Nations General Assembly began. On the same day, a transmission of the speech of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov took place. Noting that the current session of the UN
_ 50	We have worked hard together to make Italy and Pakistan even closer than we already are! H.E. Anna Ruffino, Consul General of Italy in Karachi	First of all, on behalf of 'Diplomatic Focus', I appreciate your efforts for enhancing the bilateral relations praise your role as the Consul of Italy in Karachi. DF: Excellency! The western country has two views about Pakistan, one before knowing Pakistan second after knowing Pakistan, before you come to Pakistan what you think

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Editorial





Prime Minister Imran Khan's speech at the United Nations General Assembly is the most-watched video among world leaders on the UN's YouTube page with more than 170,000 views since it was uploaded on the video-sharing platform on September 25, reported media. In comparison, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's UNGA speech was viewed a little more than 60,000 times since it was uploaded on September 26.

PM Imran had used his UNGA address to warn the international community that India was planning another "ill-conceived misadventure" in a "nuclearised environment," but Pakistan was ready to "fight for its freedom to the end". He had also urged the UN Security Council to play its role in preventing this dangerous conflict, which could jeopardise the entire region. Commenting on the Afghan peace process, the premier said Pakistan's desire for peace in the region manifested in its efforts to promote a political solution in Afghanistan. PM Imran had also drawn attention to Islamophobia, and urged the international community to avoid blaming Muslims for every bad incident in the world, to stop ridiculing their religious personalities and to not desecrate their religious places.

Visit of Dr Abdullah Abdullah, the chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation (HCNR) of Afghanistan and his delegation is an important development in Pak-Afghan relations, peace process and intra Afghan dialogue. He held meetings with top Pakistani leaders, including President Arif Alvi, Prime Minister Imran Khan, and Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. Abdullah's visit is seen as a significant step forward in Kabul and Islamabad's efforts to bridge divides and advance Pak-Afghan cooperation, particularly regarding the peace push. Prime Minister Imran Khan reiterated Pakistan's support for efforts to end the nearly two-decades-long conflict in Afghanistan.

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





Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, newly elected President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other office Bearers pose for a group photo with Mian Akram Farid Chairman Founder Group and Other senior members after announcement of their election result

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan elected as President ICCI for 2020-21

By Mian Fazal Elahi

The election announcement for the office bearers of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the year 2020-21 was held at Chamber House. Ch. Abdul Ghaffar, member Election Commission announced the results. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan was elected as President, Ms. Fatima Azeem Senior Vice President and Abdul Rehman Khan as Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. All the candidates were elected unopposed and they will formally take over the charge of their portfolios on 1st October 2020.

Speaking at the occasion, the newly elected President ICCI Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that he would try best for the establishment of new industrial estate in Islamabad to promote industrialization. He said he also make efforts to get the representation of ICCI in CDA Board and FBR to protect the interest of business community. He said that outgoing President ICCI Muhammad Ahmed Waheed said set high benchmarks of good performance and he would try to further strengthen ICCI to raise its performance bar. He thanked Chairman and members of Founder Group as well as all members of ICCI for showing confidence in his abilities and resolved that he would not disappoint them.

Mian Akram Farid, Chairman Founder Group congratulated the newly elected office bearers of ICCI and hoped that they would perform better for resolving the key issues of business community. He said that establishment of new industrial zone in Islamabad should be high on their priority list to foster industrial activities and create new jobs.

Ms. Fatima Azeem newly elected Senior Vice President and Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President also spoke at the occasion and said that they would contribute their best towards promote the cause of business community.

Muhammad Ahmed Waheed, President, Tahir Abbasi Senior Vice President and Saif ur Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI congratulated the newly elected office bearers of ICCI and assured them of their full cooperation in discharging their responsibilities. They highlighted the key achievements of their tenure and hoped that the new team would achieve many new milestones for ICCI and for



the business community.

Former Presidents ICCI Khalid Javed, Abdul Rauf Alam, Tariq Sadiq, Mian Shaukat Masud, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Zafar Bakhtawari, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi as well as Ch. Waheed ud Din, Sheikh Amir Waheed, Ch. Naseer, Malik Sohail Hussain, Ajmal Baloch, Ashfaq Chatha, Babar Chaudhry, Khalid Chaudhry, Naveed Malik, Yousaf Rajput and others also congratulated the newly elected office bearers of ICCI and expressed good wishes for them.

 Statement By

 H.E. Mr. Imran Khan, Prime Minister

 Of The Islamic Republic Of Pakistan

 at
 75th Session of the UN General Assembly

r. President, Secretary General Guterres, Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to address the United Nations General Assembly once again.

I congratulate His Excellency Mr. Volkan Bozkir on his election as the President of the seventyfifth session of the General Assembly.

We also appreciate the skillful leadership of the outgoing President, His Excellency Tijani Muhammad-Bande, especially during the COVID-19 crisis.

We commend the leadership of Secretary General Antonio Guterres in these turbulent times.

Mr. President,

Since my government assumed office, our consistent effort has been to fundamentally transform Pakistan.

We envisage `Naya Pakistan' to be modelled on the principles of the State of Madinah, established by our Holy Prophet (PBUH).

A just and humane society where all Government policies are directed at lifting our citizens out of poverty and creating a just and

Our foreign policy aims to have peace with our neighbors and settle disputes through dialogue

equitable dispensation.

To achieve this goal, we need to have peace and stability. Thus our foreign policy aims to have peace with our neighbours and settle disputes through dialogue.

Mr. President,

The 75th Anniversary of the United Nations is an extremely important milestone as this is the only body in the world that can help us achieve our goal of peace and stability in our neighbourhood. This is also a time for us to reflect whether as the United Nations we have been able to realize the promise we collectively made to our peoples.

Today, the foundations of 'world order'non-use of or threat of unilateral force, selfIndia is playing a dangerous game of upping the military ante against Pakistan in a nuclearized strategic environment

10

determination of peoples, the sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in their internal affairs, international cooperation — all these ideals are being systematically eroded.

International agreements are being flouted and set aside. Renewed great-power rivalries are leading to a new arms race. Conflicts are proliferating and intensifying.

Military occupation and illegal annexations are suppressing the right of human beings to selfdetermination.

According to respected Professor Noam Chomsky, mankind is at even a greater risk than it was before the 1st and 2nd World Wars in the last century because of the increased threat of nuclear war, Climate Change, and sadly the rise of authoritarian regimes. We must come together to prevent such a catastrophe.

We believe the driving force in international relations must be cooperation, in accordance with principles of international law, and not confrontation and force.

We all must emphatically reaffirm our support for multilateralism.

Mr. President,

The COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated the oneness of humanity. In our interconnected world, no one is safe unless everyone is safe.

Today, Pakistan's response is cited among the success stories in controlling

and responding to the pandemic. However, we are still not out of the

Locking down to control the pandemic has triggered the worst recession since the Great Depression in the last Century. This has hit the poorest countries the hardest as well as the poor in all the countries.

In Pakistan, we realized very early on that if we imposed a strict lockdown, the type that several affluent countries had imposed, we would have more people dying of hunger than the virus.

Therefore, we adopted a policy of 'smart lockdown.' While concentrating on the virus hot-spots we opened up our agricultural sector immediately and then followed it up with the construction sector, which employed most of the people.

At the same time, and this is despite financial constraints, my government deployed an unprecedented 8 billion dollars for our health services; plus support the poorest and most vulnerable households with direct cash payments through Ehsaas programme; and subsidies to small businesses.

Even though our 'smart lockdown' was heavily criticized in the beginning, but thanks

to Almighty Allah's Grace, we have not only managed to control the virus, stabilize our economy, but most importantly, we have been able to protect the poorest segment of the society from the worst fall out of the lock down.

Today's Pakistan response is cited among the success storues in controlling and responding to the pandemic. However, we are still not out of the woods, like no country is out of the woods today.

India must rescind the measures it has instituted since 5 August 2019, end its military siege and other gross human rights violations, and agree to resolve the Jammu & Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people

Mr. President,

It was obvious from the outset that developing countries would need fiscal space to respond to, and recover from, the COVID crisis.

Debt relief is one of the best ways to create that fiscal space for developing countries. Therefore, in early April, I called for a "Global Initiative on Debt Relief'.

We appreciate the G-20's official debt suspension initiative and the emergency and rapid financing offered by the IMF, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and UN Agencies.

This, however, is not enough.

The IMF has estimated that developing countries will need over US\$ 2.5 trillion to respond and recover from the crisis.

The official debt suspension will need to be extended and expanded. Additional debt relief measures will also be needed.

Multilateral Development Banks should ensure adequate financial inflows.

Rich countries have generated over ten trillion dollars to finance their own response and recovery. They should support the creation of at least US\$500 billion in new Special Drawing Rights for the developing world.

Mr. President,

In my address to the General Assembly last year, I had highlighted the tremendous damage that illicit financial flows from developing countries to rich countries and offshore tax havens cause. This leads to the impoverishment of the developing nations. Money that could be used towards human development is siphoned off by corrupt elites. The loss of foreign exchange causes currency depreciation that in turn leads to inflation and poverty.

The quest for getting back these stolen resources is nearly impossible, given the cumbersome procedures. Moreover, the powerful money launderers have access to the best lawyers. And sadly, because they are the beneficiaries, there is a lack of political will in the rich countries to curb this criminal activity.

Mr. President,

If this phenomena is unaddressed, it will continue to accentuate the inequality between the rich and the poor nations, and eventually will spark off a far bigger global crisis than the present migration issue poses.

The rich states cannot hold forth on human rights and justice when they provide sanctuary to money launderers' and their looted wealth and protection of their person.

There are robust anti-Money Laundering and anti-Terrorist Financing regimes. I call upon this Assembly to take the lead in efforts to build a global framework to stem the illicit financial flows and ensure speedy repatriation of stolen wealth.

It is important to realize that the aid that flows from rich countries to the developing world is miniscule compared to the massive out-flows by our corrupt elites.

Mr. President,

This year, I must again reiterate the threat posed to mankind due to Climate Change. Unprecedented fires in Australia, Siberia, California, Brazil; unprecedented flooding in various parts of the world; and record temperatures even in the Arctic Circle. This should make us all worried for our future generations. Commitments made through the Paris Agreement must be fulfilled, in particular the commitment to mobilize US\$ loo billion annually as climate finance.

Pakistan's contribution to carbon emissions is minimal, but it is one of those countries most affected by climate change. Yet, we have decided to take the lead as we consider addressing climate change a universal responsibility.

We have launched an extremely ambitious programme to plant 10 billion trees in next three years as our contribution to mitigating the effects of climate change.

Mr. President,

The pandemic was an opportunity to bring humanity together. Unfortunately, it has instead fanned nationalism, increased global tensions, and given rise to racial and religious hatred and violence against vulnerable minorities in several places.

These trends have also accentuated Islamophobia'.

Muslims continue to be targeted with impunity in many countries. Our shrines are being destroyed; our Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) insulted; the Holy Quran burnt — and all this in the name of freedom of speech.

Incidents in Europe, including republication of blasphemous sketches by Charlie Hebdo, are recent examples.

We stress that willful provocations and incitement to hate and violence must be universally outlawed.

This Assembly should declare an "International Day to Combat Islamophobia" and build a-resilient-coalition to fight this scourge — scourge that splits humanity.

Mr. President,

The one country in the world today where, the state sponsors Islamophobia, is India. The reason behind this is RSS ideology that unfortunately rules India today.

This extremist ideology was founded in 1920s. The RSS founding fathers were inspired by the Nazis and they adopted the concepts of racial purity and supremacy. While the Nazis hate was directed at the Jews, the RSS directs it towards the Muslims and to a lesser extent towards-the Christians.

They believe that India is exclusive for Hindus and others are not equal citizens. The secularism of Gandhi and Nehru has been replaced by the dream of creating a Hindu Rashtra by subjugating, even cleansing India's



200 million Muslims and other minorities.

In 1992, the RSS destroyed Babri Mosque; in 2002, some 2000 Muslims were slaughtered in Gujarat, and this was under the watch of Chief Minister Modi; and in 2007, over 50 Muslims were burnt alive by RSS arsonists aboard the

Pakistan fully facilitated the process that culminated in the U.S.-Taliban Peace Agreement on 29 February 2020

Samjhota Express Train.

In Assam, around two million Muslims face the prospects of being arbitrarily stripped of their nationality through the adoption of discriminatory laws. There are reports of large concentration camps being filled with by Muslim Indian citizens.

Muslims were falsely blamed, vilified and victimized for spreading the Corona virus. They were denied medical attention on many occasions, their businesses were boycotted.

Cow vigilantes attack and kill Muslims with impunity. Last February, Muslims faced targeted killings, with police complicity in New Delhi.

Mass registrations in the past have often been a precursor to genocide, e.g. the Nuremburg Laws in Germany in 1935 and then in 1982 in_Myanmar.

The Hindutva ideology is set to marginalize almost 300 million human beings — Muslims, Christians and Sikhs. This is unprecedented in history and does not augur well for the future of India as we all know that marginalization of human beings leads to radicalization.

Mr. President,

For over 72 years, India has illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir against the wishes of the Kashmiri people, and in blatant violation of the resolutions of the Security Council and indeed its own commitments.

On 5th August last year, India illegally and unilaterally sought to change the status of the occupied territories and deployed additional troops, bringing the total number to 900,000, to impose a military siege on 8 million Kashmiris. All Kashmiri political leaders were incarcerated; about 13,000 Kashmiri youth were abducted and thousands tortured; a complete curfew was imposed, accompanied by a total communications blackout.

Indian occupation forces have used brute force including pellet guns

against peaceful protestors; imposed collective punishments, including the destruction of entire neighbourhoods, and extra judicially murdered hundreds of innocent young Kashmiris in fake "encounters", refusing even to hand over their bodies for burial. The Kashmiri media, and those daring to raise their voice, are being systematically harassed and intimidated through the use of draconian laws.

All of this is well documented in the reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, communications from the Special Rapporteurs of Human Rights Council, statements from human rights and civil society organizations.

The international community must investigate these grave violations and prosecute the Indian civil and military personnel involved in state terrorism and serious crimes against humanity, being perpetrated, with complete impunity.

Mr. President,

The objective of this brutal campaign is to impose what the RSS-BJP regime has itself called the 'Final Solution' for Jammu and Kashmir. To this end, the military siege is being followed by moves to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory. This is an attempt to obliterate the distinct Kashmiri identity in order to affect the outcome of a plebiscite envisaged in the UN Security Council resolutions.

This action is in violation of the UN Charter, Council resolutions and international law, particularly the 4th Geneva Convention. Changing demographic structure of occupied territory is a war crime.

Mr. President,

The brave Kashmiri people will never submit to Indian occupation and oppression. Their struggle is indigenous. They are fighting for a just cause and generation after generation have laid down their lives to rid themselves of Indian occupation.

The government and people of Pakistan are committed to standing by and supporting their Kashmiri brothers and sisters in their legitimate struggle for self-determination.

Mr. President,

In order to divert attention from its illegal actions and atrocities in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, India is playing a dangerous game of upping the military ante against Pakistan in a nuclearized strategic environment.

Despite constant Indian provocations and ceasefire violations along the Line of Control and the Working Boundary targeting innocent civilians, Pakistan has exercised maximum restraint. We have consistently sensitized the world community about a 'false flag' operation and another ill-conceived misadventure by India.

My parents, Mr. President, were born in the colonial India and I was the first generation that

grew up in an independent Pakistan. I want to make it clear that any attempt by the fascist totalitarian RSS-led Indian government to aggress against Pakistan will be met by a nation that will fight for its freedom to the end.

Mr. President,

There will be no durable peace and stability in South Asia until the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is resolved on the basis of international legitimacy. Kashmir has been rightly described as a "nuclear flash point".

The Security Council must prevent a disastrous conflict and secure the implementation of its own resolutions as it did in the case of East Timor. The Council has considered the situation in Jammu and Kashmir three times in the past year. It must take appropriate enforcement actions. It must also take steps to protect the Kashmiris from an impending genocide by

This Assembly should declare an "International Day to Combat Islamophobia

India.

Pakistan has always called for a peaceful solution. To this end, India must rescind the measures it has instituted since 5 August 2019, end its military siege and other gross human rights violations, and agree to resolve the Jammu & Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Mr. President,

Pakistan's desire for peace in our region is also manifest in our efforts to promote a political solution in Afghanistan.

I have consistently maintained over the past two decades that there is no military solution to the-decades-old-conflict in Afghanistan. The only way forward was and is a political settlement which involves the full spectrum of Afghanistan's political actors.

Pakistan fully facilitated the process that culminated in the U.S.-Taliban Peace Agreement on 29 February 2020.

Pakistan is deeply gratified that it has fulfilled its part of the responsibility.

The Afghan leaders must now seize this historic opportunity to achieve reconciliation and restore peace in their war-torn country.

Through the Intra-Afghan Negotiations that commenced on 12th of September, they must work out an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement. The process must be Afghan-led and Afghanowned, and without any interference or outside influence.

Early return of Afghan refugees must be a part of the political solution. After almost two decades of war, it is imperative not to allow "spoilers" —within and outside Afghanistan — to subvert the peace process.

Peace and stability in Afghanistan will open new opportunities for development and regional connectivity. New vistas of cooperation could emerge with Central Asia and beyond.

Mr. President,

Palestine remains a 'festering wound'. A just and lasting settlement is

indispensable, for the Middle East and the world. Illegal annexations of

Palestinian territory, the building of illegal settlements and the imposition

of inhuman living conditions on the Palestinian people especially in Gaza cannot bring peace to a troubled region.

Pakistan continues to support a two-state solution — in line with UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, within the internationally agreed parameters, pre-1967 borders, and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as the Capital of a united, contiguous and independent Palestinian state.

Mr. President,

The United Nations remains the best legitimate avenue for collective action — in managing international conflicts, fostering peace and security, promoting equitable development and addressing global problems.

I urge the Secretary-General to take the lead in preventing global conflicts.

He should convene Summit-level meetings to address regional hot spots and resolve outstanding disputes.

The United Nations should be made fully responsive to the challenges of our times. A comprehensive reform of the United Nations, including the Security Council, is essential to promote greater democracy, accountability, transparency and efficiency.

Pakistan will continue to participate actively in this process and endeavour, with other Member States, to build a world where conflict is outlawed and equitable prosperity for all pursued in conditions of peace and security.

I thank you.

Trump's bad marriage with the military has finally exploded



By David Ignatius

Reconciling Donald Trump's self-promoting "Art of the Deal" with the military's reserved code of loyalty and service was always a stretch. In Trump's early months in the White House, though, the two cultures seemed to coexist without much damage.

But the fabric began to fray by mid-2017. Trump increasingly treated the military as props in the reality-TV show of his presidency. He wanted them for parades and victory celebrations, not the anguish of combat. He seemed to take his strategic guidance from Fox News more than his commanders. The generals and admirals kept their mouths shut, but the resentment was building.

The bad marriage exploded this week, when former senior staff members told Jeffrey Goldberg of the Atlantic of their shock at Trump's crude comments about combat and loss — and his reported characterization of fallen warriors as "suckers" and "losers." The quotes were anonymous, but it has been an open secret in Washington that many prominent retired four-stars have regarded Trump with growing horror as he assaulted the traditions of discipline and professionalism that are bedrocks of military life.

The first open break point came in June, after former military leaders watched Trump try to use the military to put down protests for racial justice. Retired Adm. Mike Mullen, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, denounced Trump for "politicizing the men and women of our armed forces." Retired Gen. Jim Mattis, the former defense secretary, called Trump "the first president in my lifetime who does not try to unite the American people." Retired Gen. John F. Kelly, a former Trump White House chief of staff, said he agreed with Mattis.

It's hard to remember now that Trump's dealings with military leaders started off pretty well. I remember traveling in May 2017 with our Special Operations forces to the newly liberated town of Tabqa, at the gates of the Islamic State's capital of Raqqa. A senior U.S. official told the Syrian Kurdish commander who led the assault that this rapid assault "never would

have happened without Donald Trump." There would have been too many meetings under his predecessor, President Barack Obama.

Trump wanted victory in Afghanistan, too, so long as it was fast and unambiguous. Gen. John Nicholson, the U.S. commander in Kabul, was given authority to use America's most intimidating conventional weapon against the Taliban — the so-called "mother of all bombs." No more anguished meetings in the Situation Room. The gloves were off. Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic State, and Gen. Qasem Soleimani, the leader of Iran's Quds Force.

Trump's near-constant belittling of NATO hurt his standing with the Pentagon. So did his inexplicable affinity for Russian President Vladimir Putin. Yet military leaders bit their lips, because they were grateful that Trump had endorsed a national military strategy that took a tougher stance toward Russia and China and added money for new weapons to combat



Trump initially saw Mattis as a man in his own image — awarding him the Trumpian nickname "Mad Dog," even though the ascetic Mattis was closer to a monk than a mongrel. Over the two years Mattis ran the Pentagon, his relationship with Trump grew poisonous. The more Mattis tried to educate Trump, as in his widely reported July 2017 seminar in the "tank" at Pentagon, the more Trump became resentful.

Trump berated his generals at that gathering with language that's eerily similar to what was reported in the Atlantic this week. According to Philip Rucker and Carol D. Leonnig in their book, "A Very Stable Genius," Trump said: "You're all losers. You don't know how to win anymore."

Trump really did seem to think he knew better than his generals. "I wouldn't go to war with you people," Trump told them, according to Rucker and Leonnig. "You're a bunch of dopes and babies."

The commander who succeeded best in keeping the lid on, as Trump grew cockier, was Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., the chairman of the Joint Chiefs. A tall, reserved and utterly reliable Marine, he was often able to curb Trump's impulsive decisions and steer him toward steady policy, without infuriating him.

What the military liked in Trump was that he was sometimes (not always) prepared to "take the shot" at terrorist adversaries, such as Abu

these near-peer adversaries.

A heartbreaker for the military was Trump's decision to abandon the Syrian Kurds who had fought so bravely against the Islamic State. I remember talking to the officer who had to break the news of Trump's decision to quit Syria to Gen. Mazloum Abdi, the commander of the Syrian Democratic Forces. His description of that betrayal was unprintable.

What the military came to understand over the past four years is that, for all Trump's talk of patriotism, he truly is transactional. Throughout his career, he has always believed that loyalty was for chumps. That's why New York business executives told me back in early 2016 they had never wanted to do business with him.

The military understand their role in a democracy. They have obeyed Trump as their commander in chief, even amid his tirades and insults. And they will continue to do so if he's reelected. But many of them won't like it: Trump just isn't a guy with whom you'd want to share a foxhole.

Courtesy to Washington Post

David Ignatius writes a twice-a-week foreign affairs column for The Washington Post. Ignatius has written 11 spy novels: "The Paladin" (2020), "The Quantum Spy," (2017), "The Director," (2014), "Bloodmoney" (2011),...



Concluding Pakistan visit with good impression: Abdullah Abdullah

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Agencies

Dr Abdullah Abdullah, Chairman, Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation (HCNR), on Wednesday appreciated Pakistan's efforts with regards to the Afghan peace process, and said that he was concluding his three-day trip to Islamabad "with a very positive impression and hope in his heart". On the last day of his visit, Dr Abdullah spoke at a roundtable event organised by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) and called on President Dr Arif Alvi at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. Earlier this week, he had met Prime Minister Imran Khan and Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

Abdullah's visit comes amid ongoing direct peace negotiations in Doha between the government in Kabul and the Taliban. He said that he had wanted to visit Pakistan for a long time, and was "concluding his trip today with a very positive impression and hope in his heart".

Abdullah Abdullah, head of the High Council for National Reconciliation met with Pakistan's President Arif Alvi. According to the statement, both leaders discussed the Afghan peace negotiations and bilateral relations.

During the visit, Alvi expressed his full support for the peace effort and for strengthening relations between the two countries.

"The Pakistani government and leadership

fully support the peace efforts in Afghanistan. We stand for an end to war, and for peace and stability in Afghanistan. Pakistan suffers from war in Afghanistan and benefits from peace," Alvi said during the meeting.

This was followed after meeting between Abdullah and Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan. According to the statement, extending a warm welcome, the Prime Minister Imran Khan conveyed his best wishes for the successful outcome of the Afghan peace process. He expressed the hope that Dr. Abdullah Abdullah's visit will help open a new chapter in the bilateral relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Prime Minister reiterated his longstanding position that there is no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan and that a political solution is the only way forward. The Prime Minister expressed gratification that the international community had come to recognize this stance and also acknowledged Pakistan's positive role in facilitation of the Afghan peace process. The U.S.-Taliban Peace Agreement was a major step forward in these endeavours. Commending the start of the Intra-Afghan Negotiations in Doha on 12 September, the Prime Minister expressed the hope that Afghan leadership would seize this historic opportunity to work together constructively and secure an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement. The Prime Minister underscored that all Afghan parties must work for reduction in violence leading to ceasefire. The Prime Minister conveyed that





Pakistan would support whatever the Afghans agree upon about the future of Afghanistan. He further reaffirmed Pakistan's full support for the post-conflict Afghanistan on its path to reconstruction and economic development. In the bilateral context, Prime Minister Imran Khan highlighted that Pakistan and Afghanistan had immense trade complementarities and emphasized the need to optimally utilize these capacities for mutually-beneficial trade and transit. He assured that Pakistan will continue to undertake all efforts to facilitate Afghan transit trade and deepen our bilateral trade and economic ties and people-to-people exchanges with Afghanistan. The Prime Minister stated that he was looking forward to his visit to Afghanistan on the invitation of President Ashraf Ghani.

Earlier, upon arrival of Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and his delegation to Pakistan, the Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi welcomed and expressed the hope that his visit will open a new chapter in bilateral relations. The Foreign Minister said that Dr. Abdullah Abdullah's visit will greatly help to strengthen relations with Afghanistan and forge a common understanding on the Afghan peace process. The Foreign Minister also extended best wishes to Dr. Abdullah Abdullah in steering the peace negotiations to a successful outcome. Reaffirming Pakistan's steadfast support to the peace process, Foreign Minister Qureshi emphasized that Pakistan had always maintained there is no military solution to the Afghan conflict and encouraged all parties to reach a political solution through an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process. Welcoming the inaugural ceremony of Intra-Afghan Negotiations, held in Doha on 12 September, the Foreign Minister noted that it was now up to the Afghan leadership to seize this historic opportunity to bring an end to the decades long conflict and secure an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement. The Foreign Minister underscored Pakistan's support for a peaceful, stable, united, sovereign and prosperous Afghanistan. He stressed that mistakes of the past should not be repeated; nor past history should dictate the future course of action. Foreign Minister Qureshi further underlined that there was a need to guard against the detrimental role of 'spoilers', both within and outside Afghanistan, who do not wish to see return of peace in the region. Foreign Minister Qureshi underlined the high importance Pakistan attached to its brotherly relations

with Afghanistan. He stated that recently, at the request of the Afghanistan government, Pakistan opened five border crossing-points for facilitating transit trade, bilateral trade and pedestrian movement. The Foreign Minister also highlighted the USD 1 billion development and capacity-building assistance that Pakistan has extended to support reconstruction and economic development in Afghanistan. Emphasizing importance of bilateral economic relations, the Foreign Minister noted that negotiations for Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and revision of Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) will commence soon to optimally utilize our capacities for mutually beneficial trade and transit. The Foreign Minister stressed that return of Afghan refugees to their homeland with dignity and honour should be part of the peace and reconciliation process. Highlighting that terrorism was a common threat, Foreign Minister emphasized the need for close cooperation through bilateral institutional mechanisms including relevant working groups of APAPPS for effective border management. Dr. Abdullah Abdullah is on his first visit to Pakistan as Chairman, High Council for National Reconciliation of Afghanistan.



Arousing world's conscience toward Modi's policies

Gone are the days when India was idolised as a model of democracy for developing nations



By Talat Masood

Prime Minister Modi's leadership poses the greatest threat to Pakistan and to the Muslims of India. Having brazenly abandoned democracy in pursuit of his dangerous Hindu ideology, he is set on an unfettered course with his zealot party members toward despotism and tyranny.

Gone are the days when India was idolised as a model of democracy for developing nations. The Congress party, which was in the forefront of the freedom struggle of India and a harbinger of secular politics, has itself faded into a nonentity. Regrettably, the Muslims of India — disorganised and lacking unified and effective leadership — seem to be in no position to stand up to this Hindu fanatic outrage.

The greatest paradox is that with the exception of Turkey and Malaysia none of the Muslim nations have uttered a statement in sympathy or support of the beleaguered Kashmiris or the Muslims of India. For these countries, in a world dictated by no other criteria than self-interest, the treatment of Muslims or conditions in Kashmir are of no consequence. This should come as no surprise for us when we see the struggle of the Palestinians abandoned and left to be an easy prey to the manipulations and exploitation of the expanding Israeli state. Similar is the insensitivity toward Rohingya Muslims in Burma or those of Xinjiang in China. One wonders if there is anything such as the world's collective conscience or brotherhood inspired by solidarity of the Muslim ummah.

How the world watches with indifference the deliberate and planned demographic changes that the BJP government is introducing. Apart from Pakistan and a few human rights organisations, none other voices have been raised giving a free hand to Modi to brutalise the Kashmiris.

Moreover, Pakistan's own political internal weaknesses and heavy foreign economic dependence reduces the weight of its protests.

Sadly, Pakistan's government, though it projects the atrocities and human rights violations in Kashmir, it hardly exposes the plight of Indian Muslims. I would also like to remind my fellow countrymen that it is the sacrifices of the forefathers of Indian Muslims that largely contributed to building the momentum for Pakistan.

The most disturbing aspect is that the Muslims of India are leaderless and disorganised giving greater space to Modi for their exploitation. It would be pertinent to remind our readers that the Indian Muslims now fall in the lowest income category. Their average per capita income is even lower than the Dalits'. This is in sharp contrast to what the Indian leaders in the early years of independence talked of — a people-oriented social contract that is supported by a mixed economy and social order.

The pathetic plight of Muslims and certain other minorities of India should be actively agitated at appropriate regional and global forums.

One of the major reasons for the drift of Muslim nations and their inability to pursue just causes is their internal weaknesses. These are of political legitimacy or economic bankruptcy or lack of technological and scientific base or all of these. This has made them heavily dependent on the West or on China or Russia. Not to mention that internal weaknesses coupled with intractable conflicts are draining the energy and vitality of Muslim nations.

The British who had deliberately created divisions in the Indian polity on the policy to divide and rule made sure that the Hindu identity was strengthened to take on the beleaguered Muslim community. Political parties with narrow religious agendas such as Arya Samaj spearheaded the concept of Hindu nationalism. This led to the emergence of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), of which Modi had been a passionate member since his young days.

Even as a chief minister of Gujarat state, Modi's hands were soaked in Muslim blood during the pogrom of 2002 in which state-motivated Hindu mobs went for killing thousands of Muslims mercilessly. It is important that these incidents are not forgotten. For anyone to expect that a leader with such a record is likely to change, irrespective of the garb of innocence he wears today, would be a victim of wishful thinking and living in a world of make belief. In fact, Modi's policies towards Muslims have hardened even more since his days as CM Gujarat. These find expression in the way he brazenly got laws passed that have adversely affected over 120 million Muslims in Assam and deprived voting rights of more than 70 million. The plight of Muslims and Dalits in these states is rated to be even more pathetic than in other places in India. As they live constantly under pressure of being deported.

Unfortunately, Modi's anti-Muslim policy has huge support among the Hindus that could have far-reaching consequences for the Muslims. Apart from other factors, one of the major reasons why Modi is getting away with his highly prejudiced policies toward Muslims is the general anti-Muslim sentiment that prevails almost in several Western and Asian countries. More significantly, he has found President Trump an ardent supporter who unfortunately has shown no qualms in expressing his disdain for Islam. This is reflected in the immigration policies and his present support of Israel's creeping annexation of Palestine.

To Modi's advantage is the fact that there is a resurgence of the far-right in several important countries of the West. Moreover, his Hindu nationalist policy is apparently supported by 70% of India's population. All these trends and positive responses encourage him to suppress Muslims without any serious backlash. By pursuing these ultra nationalist policies, Modi is altering the very character of the Indian state with long-term consequences for its minorities and international relations.

It is the fallout of these narrow bigoted policies and his unbridled ambition that has landed India in a major economic crisis with attendant negative political fallout.

For Pakistan, the best course is to continue speaking in support of the freedom struggle for Kashmiris and highlight India's bigoted policies towards its minorities. Its voice, however, would carry greater weight if its economy, politics and human rights record gets better.

Courtesy to The Express Tribune

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Outgoing Chinese ambassador conferred Hilal-e-Pakistan Award

Pakistan on the outgoing Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing in recognition of his efforts for further strengthening Pakistan-China relationship in diverse fields.

The special ceremony was held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad which was by the chairman senate, speaker National Assembly, federal ministers and other high officials of the government.

Earlier, the outgoing Chinese ambassador praised Prime Minister Imran Khan for further solidifying and deepening Pakistan's relationship with China.

During his farewell meeting with the premier, the envoy said PM Imran's leadership role in strengthening bilateral ties is "greatly valued by the Chinese leaders at the highest level," an official statement said.

The prime minister lauded efforts of Ambassador Yao in further deepening and strengthening Pakistan-China "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership".

He conveyed that the people of Pakistan are keenly looking forward to welcoming President Xi Jinping to Islamabad.

Appreciating priorities of Chinese leadership for its people, Premier Imran emphasised that they had played a remarkable role in socioeconomic transformation of the country and "there is a lot to learn from Beijing's example of economic development and poverty alleviation".

He underlined that during the Yao's tenure, the multibillion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic

Corridor (CPEC) had entered the second phase focusing on industrialisation, agriculture and socio-economic development and it would play a key role in promoting regional growth and prosperity.

The Chinese envoy said that the prime minister's vision and leadership is instrumental in Pakistan's transformation.

He appreciated that due to PM Imran's personal focus on poverty alleviation and people-centered approach, the CPEC had entered into its second phase and will deliver substantial and immense benefits not only to people of Pakistan but the entire region.

Pakistan's policy of "smart lockdown" in containing Covid-19 was internationally recognised and could be followed as a model

by others to deal with a possible second wave of coronavirus, Ambassador Yao added.

The envoy also said that he will have very fond memories of Pakistan and would wish to see Pakistan-China relationship further strengthened. He emphasised that China would continue to support Pakistan in pursuit of its national development and objectives.

The prime minister appreciated Ambassador Yao's overall contribution to the Pakistan-China partnership and wished him well in his future endeavours.

The ambassador served in Islamabad from October 2017 to September 2020. This was his third assignment in Pakistan.

Courtesy Express Tribune





President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the 8th Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce aned Industry

The prestigious 8th Achievement Awards ceremony of FPCCI held

By Mian Fazal Elahi

G overnment is committed to promote Industrialization in the country as a priority matter considering it as the most effective tool to sup up economic growth, create jobs and enhance exports" this was stated by Dr. Arif Alvi, President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan at the prestigious 8th Achievement Awards ceremony of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) held at Islamabad.

The President of Pakistan stated that the world is currently facing severe economic crisis due to COVID – 19, however Pakistan is the only country where the business community played an equal role alongside the government to curb the adverse economic impact due to the pandemic. "The developed economies of the world are now adopting similar measures of smart lockdown initiated by the Pakistani government which itself is an achievement for every citizen of the country." He added.

He acknowledged the concerns of the business community put forth by Mian Anjum Nisar, President FPCCI and assured that the

government is primarily focused to enhance the promotion of trade in the country and will introduce better economic measures in

Government is committed to promote Industrialization in the country as a priority matter considering it as the most effective tool to sup up economic growth, create jobs and enhance exports" President Dr. Arif Alvi consultation with FPCCI for the betterment of the private sector in line with the ease of doing business policies of the country. Dr. Arif Alvi congratulated FPCCI for organizing Achievement Awards while terming it as an effective platform to acknowledge the contribution of the achievers in various socio – economic sectors.

Mian Anjum Nisar, President FPCCI in his welcome address appreciated the President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan for his keen interest and cooperative support to the address the concerns of the business community. He stated that despite the complications in the current global scenario and challenges aroused from Covid, the efforts of the award winners for the promotion of Pakistan are highly commendable. As a representative of the business community of the country, he highlighted the issues and challenges faced by the business community and demanded of the Government to take proactive and effective measures to reduce cost of Production, provision of fiscal incentives to bring electricity cost to 6-7cents per unit, enabling the industry to compete in both domestic and international market, support to agriculture sectors



Mian Anjum Nisar, President FPCCI highlighted the issues and challenges faced by the business community and demanded of the Government to take proactive and effective measures to reduce cost of Production, provision of fiscal incentives to bring electricity



and products & markets diversification for Halal products, Horticulture, Livestock & Fisheries. He also called attention of Dr. Arif Alvi to the potential in organized farming, subsidy to seed production and hybrid seed and establishment of accredited labs He appreciated the Government for new agreements with IPPs, which would not only reduce electricity price substantially but also reduce circular, which was effecting the industry output.

President FPCCI also highlighted the urban flooding in Karachi during the recent torrential monsoon rains and emphasized early restoration of economic and commercial activities of the economic hub of the country through development of infrastructure.

The gathering was also addressed by Dr. Abdul Hafeez Sheikh, Advisor to Prime Minister on Finance & Revenue affairs and Hammad Azhar, Federal Minister for Industries & Production who highlighted the economic achievements of the federal government despite the pandemic. They stated that Pakistan Stock Exchange has been declared Asia's best-performing market and fourthbest-performing stock market in the world as well as the due to the sound economic policies of the government, Pakistan has achieved current account surplus for the last three months. Both of them assured that the fundamental objective of Prime Minister Imran Khan is to stabilize the economy of the country and economically compete with the world for which the country is progressing on the right path.

Asim Ghani Usman, Convener of FPCCI Awards Committee in his vote of thanks expressed his gratitude to the Chief Guest for gracing the occasion as well as acknowledged the efforts of FPCCI management and members to successfully organize this event despite the limitations due to the pandemic.

The awards ceremony was also attended by high profile government officials and diplomats.

cost to 6-7cents per unit, enabling the industry to compete in both domestic and international market, support to agriculture sectors and products & markets diversification for Halal products, Horticulture, Livestock & Fisheries



President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the awards ceremony of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad

Diversification and value addition of products to explore untapped export markets: President Alvi

By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Dr Arif Alvisaid the diversification and value addition of products were a must to achieve higher exports and explore the yet untapped global markets, particularly the African region. Addressing the 4th Export Trophy arranged by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the president called for use of information technology and artificial intelligence in the agriculture and other businesses to bring more efficiency and profitability. He said unlike the past, the modern technologies had made it easier for the businessmen to assess the requirements of targeted markets to help design the supply chain accordingly.

He said currently Pakistan's exports revolved



President Dr Arif Alvi awarding trophies to prominent businessmen and members of lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Islamabad



around cotton, wheat, rice and sugarcane, which necessitated the diversification of existing products and investment in modern fields like the information technology.

He told the audience that until 2010, the world's top 10 companies hailed from the oil sector but currently they had been replaced by the IT (information technology) firms, which manifested the huge scope of the sector. The president, who earlier distributed export trophies among the Lahore-based businessmen for their remarkable contribution in the exports sector, also advised the agriculturalists to think out of the box and consider producing sugar from beetroots to

LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh said the export trophy was meant to encourage the businessmen to diversify and increase their exports replace the sugarcane which burdened the water resources.

He said the flood irrigation of crops caused huge wastage of rain waters which needed to be mended through modern technology to preserve the natural resource . He said under the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami, the government had massively planted olive trees to meet the country's needs as well as opening up export opportunities. The president particularly advised the businessmen to adhere to the principles of morality, honesty and sincerity in their trade across the globe, which ultimately paid back in the long term.

He said as an initiative to promote Pakistan's fruits abroad, the President House dispatched mango packs to different heads of state along with descriptive pamphlets. He also asked the business community to support the industry workers and create job opportunities for women and differently-abled people. The president viewed that Pakistan had successfully sailed through the COVID-19 pandemic due to Allah Almighty's blessings and support extended to the needy ones by the people as well as the government under the Ehsaas Programme.

Earlier, LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh said the export trophy was meant to encourage the businessmen to diversify and increase their exports. He thanked the government for extending support to the business sector particularly during the pandemic and also lauded its policies to bring ease of doing business. He said fortunately, the pandemic did not affect Pakistan's exports as the indicators showed positive growth comparing with the last year.

He, however, urged his fellow businessmen to tap the Halal Food and IT sectors for exports and focus the African region, besides requesting the government to establish export processing zones.



President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with the awardees and office bearers of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, at Aiwan-e-Sadr Islamabad

New Envoys Presented Credentials to President Dr. Arif Alvi













By Mian Fazal Elahi

E nvoys-designate of South Africa, Italy, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Iraq, Qatar and Switzerland presented their credentials to President Dr. Arif Alvi in a credentials ceremony, at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. Felicitating the newly appointed High Commissioners/ Ambassadors-designate to Pakistan, the President expressed the hope that they would work for further expanding and promoting economic, trade and political relations with Pakistan. Mr. Mthuthuzeli Madikiza, High Commissioner-designate of South Africa, Mr. Andreas Ferrarese, Ambassador-designate of Italy, Mr. Tarek Dahroug, Ambassadordesignate of Egypt, Vice Admiral (R) Mohan Wijewickrama, High Commissioner-designate of Sri Lanka, Mr. Hamid Abbas Ali Al-Aramshawi, Ambassador-designate of Iraq, Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman bin Faisal Al Thani, Ambassador-designate of Qatar and Mr. Benedict Edouard de Cerjat, Ambassadordesignate of Switzerland presented their credentials to the President. Later, the High Commissioners/Ambassadors separately called on the President. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Pakistan wanted to promote relations with all friendly countries in the areas of mutual interest. He stated that Pakistan was making efforts for promoting peace and stability in the region. The President apprised the envoys about the human rights violations and brutalities being committed by India against the Muslims of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He said that India had been persecuting the minorities and international community was required to take note of gross human rights violation by Indian security forces against Muslims and other minority groups.





Pakistan's Ambassadors-designate to Austria and Sweden called on President Dr. Arif Alvi

By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Dr. Arif Alvi has asked Ambassadors-designate of Pakistan to Austria and Sweden to highlight atrocities and human rights violations by the Indian security forces in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K) at various fora during their interactions with various dignitaries.

He said that the real face of India needed to be exposed as India had unleashed a reign of terror against the innocent population of IIOJ&K and other minority groups.

The President made these remarks during meetings with Pakistan's Ambassadors-

designate to Austria and Sweden, who made separate calls on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

While talking to Ambassador-designate to Austria, Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khokhar, the President said that Pakistan highly valued its ties with Austria which were based on commonality of views and mutual respect. He asked the Ambassador to make endeavors to promote high level contacts and increase volume of bilateral trade between the two countries.

The President asked the Ambassador to encourage Austrian companies to invest in different sectors like agriculture, thermal and renewable energy. He also appreciated the Austrian contribution in establishing the Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology in Haripur, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The President urged the Ambassador to make efforts to enhance linkages between universities of the two countries. While speaking to the Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Sweden, Mr. Zahoor Ahmad, the President said that Pakistan attached importance to its ties with Sweden and wanted to further enhance bilateral cooperation with Sweden in different fields. He asked the Ambassador to make concerted efforts to enhance trade, economic and vocational training cooperation between the two countries.

Peace is within reach in Afghanistan A hasty international withdrawal would be unwise



By Imran Khan Prime Minister of Pakistan

www.e have arrived at a rare moment of hope for Afghanistan and for our region. On Sept. 12, delegations from the Afghan government and the Taliban finally sat down in Doha, Qatar, to begin negotiations toward a political settlement that would bring the war in Afghanistan to an end.

With the exception of the resilient Afghans themselves, no people have paid a higher price for the conflict in Afghanistan than the people of Pakistan. Through decades of conflict, Pakistan has dealt with the responsibility of taking care of more than 4 million Afghan refugees. Guns and drugs have also flowed into our country. The wars have disrupted our economic trajectory and radicalized fringes of our own society. The Pakistan I had known growing up in the 1960s and 1970s changed in some deeply unsettling ways.

This experience taught us two important lessons. First, that we were too closely intertwined with Afghanistan by geography, culture and kinship for events in that country not to cast a shadow on Pakistan. We realized Pakistan will not know real peace until our Afghan brothers and sisters are at peace.

We also learned that peace and political stability in Afghanistan could not be imposed from the outside through the use of force. Only an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led reconciliation process, which recognizes Afghanistan's political realities and diversity, could produce a lasting peace.

So, when President Trump wrote to me in late 2018 to ask for Pakistan's assistance in helping the United States achieve a negotiated political settlement in Afghanistan, we had no hesitation in assuring the president that Pakistan would make every effort to facilitate such an outcome — and we did. Thus began arduous rounds of talks between the United States and the Taliban, which culminated in the February U.S.-Taliban peace agreement. This agreement, in turn, has laid the groundwork for talks between the Afghan leadership and the Taliban.

The path we have traveled to get here wasn't easy, but we were able to press on thanks to the courage and flexibility that were on display from all sides. The United States and its allies facilitated the prisoner exchange between Kabul and the Taliban. The government of Afghanistan and the Taliban responded to the Afghan people's yearning for peace.

Like the United States, Pakistan does not want to see Afghanistan become a sanctuary for international terrorism ever again

The intra-Afghan negotiations are likely to be even more difficult, requiring patience and compromise from all sides. Progress could be slow and painstaking; there may even be the occasional deadlock, as Afghans work together for their future. At such times, we would do well to remember that a bloodless deadlock on the negotiating table is infinitely better than a bloody stalemate on the battlefield.

All those who have invested in the Afghan peace process should resist the temptation for setting unrealistic timelines. A hasty international withdrawal from Afghanistan would be unwise. We should also guard against regional spoilers who are not invested in peace and see instability in Afghanistan as advantageous for their own geopolitical ends.

Pakistan will continue to support the Afghan people in their quest for a unified, independent and sovereign Afghanistan that is at peace with itself and its neighbors. Pakistan believes that peace negotiations should not be conducted under coercion and urges all parties to reduce violence. Just as the Afghan government has recognized the Taliban as a political reality, it is hoped that the Taliban would recognize the progress Afghanistan has made.

Like the United States, Pakistan does not want to see Afghanistan become a sanctuary for international terrorism ever again. Since 9/11, more than 80,000 Pakistani security personnel and civilians have laid down their lives in perhaps the largest and most successful fight against terrorism. But Pakistan continues to be the target of attacks launched by externally enabled terrorist groups based in Afghanistan.

These terrorist groups pose a clear and present danger to global peace. We hope the Afghan government will take measures to control ungoverned spaces inside its territory from where terrorist groups are able to plan and carry out attacks against the Afghan people, the international coalition forces stationed in Afghanistan, and other countries in the region, including Pakistan. Like the United States, we do not want the blood and treasure we have shed in the war against terrorism to be in vain.

It is also time to start planning for the "day after" — how can the world help a post-war Afghanistan transition to sustainable peace? How do we create conditions that will enable the millions of Afghan refugees living in Pakistan, and other countries, to return to their homeland with dignity and honor?

My vision for Pakistan prioritizes development and prosperity for my country and our region through connectivity and economic diplomacy. Our recent investments in key economic connectivity projects can be harnessed to complement efforts for regional integration between South and Central Asia. Our initial discussions with the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation on these issues have been encouraging. It is heartening that the United States and Pakistan are of one mind on the importance of a "peace dividend" for ensuring a sustainable peace in Afghanistan.

For Pakistan, regional peace and stability remain key to realizing the collective aspirations of our people for a better future. We are committed to multilateral collaboration to achieve this.

The first step toward that peace has been taken in Doha. Not seeing through the Afghanistan peace process or abandoning it for any reason would be a great travesty.

Courtesy to Washington Post



Fachhochschule Institute inaugurated by PM Imran Khan

By Education Desk

Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that he is planning to spend money recovered from corrupt people in education sector.

While addressing the ceremony after inaugurating Pak-Austria Fachhochschule Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology in Haripur, the PM said that we need to advance science and technology field for the progress of the country.

We are moving in the right direction with a focus on education, science, technology and knowledge economy, he stated.

Imran Khan told that the government is going to collaborate with five Chinese and three Austrian universities for technological advancement in Pakistan.

The premier said in the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), special economic zones will be established and industry will be relocated in Pakistan.

Pak-Austria Fachhochschule Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology will offer special courses in artificial intelligence, engineering and food technology.

The premier also thanked the Austrian

government for the cooperation it extended in setting up the new institute. He was of the opinion that the institute would prove its worth in days to come.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Shah Farman,

Chief Minister Mahmood Khan, prominent scientist Dr Atta-ur-Rehman and federal and provincial ministers were present on the occasion.





Kashmir still a burning issue, Erdogan tells UNGA

By Monitoring Desk

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan raised the Jammu and Kashmir issue in his address to the United Nations General Assembly, calling for the resolution of the decades-old dispute between Pakistan in India in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

The Turkish leader also criticised the "countries that have declared their intention to open embassies in Jerusalem, in violation of United Nations resolutions and international law", accusing them of making the Palestinian conflict "more complicated" to resolve.

Last year, Erdogan had also called for dialogue for the solution of the Kashmir issue in his address to the 74 session of the General Assembly. He had stressed that stability and prosperity of South Asia could not be separated from the Kashmir issue.

Addressing the 193-member gathering on Tuesday, Erdogan reminded the international

community that the Kashmir dispute was still a "burning issue", while the unilateral steps taken by India on August 5 last year further complicated the problem.

Erdogan called for "sincere" dialogue to settle the growing row with Greece over energy search in the eastern Mediterranean

"The Kashmir conflict, which is also key to the stability and peace of South Asia, is still a burning issue," Erdogan said. "Steps taken following the abolition of the special status of Jammu-Kashmir further complicated the problem," he added.

"We are in favour of solving this issue through dialogue, within the framework of the United Nations resolutions and especially in line with the expectations of the people of Kashmir," the Turkish leader said.

On domestic issues, Erdogan called for "sincere" dialogue to settle the growing row with Greece over energy search in the eastern Mediterranean. "Our priority is to settle disputes with sincere dialogue, based on international law and on an equitable basis," Erdogan said

Erdogan said Turkey, a Nato ally, also said that the Palestinian conflict could only be resolved with the establishment of an independent, sovereign, and contiguous State of Palestine based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Daesh's growing influence in the region



By Senator Rehman Malik

have been watching the fast growth of Daesh in the region and I was the first one who pointed out the presence of ISIS, but successive governments have been refusing to accept its presence just as a policy. In fact, I have always been advocating that Daesh is very much in Pakistan. The Daesh handlers recruited over 80 thousand Pakistanis mostly from south Punjab. The recent ouster of Pakistani Daesh operators from Syria finally landed in Turkey where they were checked and interviewed by our agencies in Istanbul, which was coordinated by the Council General Pakistan embassy. The last I heard, there were around 8000 operators who had reported for help to return to Pakistan. In fact, we have already got thousands of trained boys from Daesh. It is an alarming situation for the government as these trained ones are the asset of ISIS present in Pakistan and after returning from Syria/Turkey they have gone to their home districts. We have another potential threat of ISIS and Pakistani Taliban relations.

Now, the estranged Pakistani Taliban leaders have also shunned their differences in light of Daesh's growing foothold and joint antiterror operations by the US, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. On August 17, the Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA) and the Hizb-ul-Ahrar(HuA)-the two militant groups that splintered from the TTP—announced they would merge back into one fearsome terror outfit, pledging their allegiance to its chief Mufti Noor Wali. Daesh's Khorasan chapter, also known as ISIS-K, also poses a new challenge to the TTP. It has caused further splintering in the group because Daesh's extremely radical ideology and substantial financial resources have attracted a number of disgruntled leaders from the TTP, including senior commanders like Hafiz Saeed Khan and Haji Daud, the former chief of the Taliban in Karachi. Khan, who operated in a tribal district Orakzai, joined Daesh in October 2014 and he was killed in 2016 in a US drone attack. The JuA had also briefly joined Daesh for a few months in late 2014. In July, the UN Security Council also put Wali on the Daesh and Al Qaeda

sanctions list, designating him as a global terrorist for "participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, or perpetrating of acts or activities." The recent UN report was a trigger factor behind this unification alongside long-term future development under Wali. It is estimated that more than 10,000 Daesh terrorists remain active in Iraq and Syria two years after the extremist group's defeat, and their attacks have significantly increased this year. The Daesh/ISIS terror group has increased its attacks in Iraq, especially in rural areas, amid political instability and security weakness in the country as well as the USled coalition forces' withdrawal due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Daesh has been trying to strengthen its operational capability in rural areas since mass protests against the Iraqi government erupted in October in the capital Baghdad and southern provinces. The pandemic's impact on Daesh recruitment and fundraising activities remains unclear, and there is no clear indication of a change in the terrorist group's strategic direction under its leader, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Quraishi.

The attacks on mosques in Pakistan, election rallies, and security forces have killed dozens of people, affecting Pakistan's economic ambitions, and making it very clear that the Daesh is a bigger threat to Pakistan than to India. I am sorry to say it will grow to become more lethal.

The group's ability to strike alliances with militant organisations like Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and an Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan splinter group is continuously expanding its longevity and resilience, and becoming a threat not only to Afghanistan and Pakistan but also other regional countries, Central Asian republics, Russia, and China. Amid its blame games, India is facing the same threat. The President of Tajikistan and its interior minister told me how Daesh is expanding in his country and most of them have trained in Afghanistan. There are nearly six Daesh training centres where ETMI and some Iranians are getting training to be launched in their respective home countries. Turkey recognised Daesh as a terrorist organisation in 2013 but I blame Turkey as they were part of the collation countries to help in raising Daesh against Syria and I advised President Gul and his foreign minister in the presence of President Asif Ali Zardari to not to support this terrorist group as they will come against Turkey as the Taliban came at our throat. The world witnessed the suffering of Turkey in the hands of ISIS. Since then, the country has been attacked by Daesh terrorists numerous times, including 10 suicide bombings, seven bombings, and four armed attacks that killed 315 people and injured hundreds. In response, Turkey has launched military and police operations inside the country and abroad. Turkey also captured top Daesh terrorists in counterterror operations at home and Syria.

On March 6, 2020, ISIL gunmen killed 32 people and injured over 80 people at a ceremony in Kabul, on 25 March 2020, ISIL killed 25 people in a Gurdwara in Kabul, and on 12 May 2020, gunmen executed a mass shooting at a hospital's maternity ward. 80 patients were evacuated, 24 victims, including newborn babies, mothers, and nurses, killed by the gunmen, and all three attackers killed by the army; An hour after the Kabul attack, a suicide bombing took place in Kuz Kunar, Nangarhar Province at the funeral of a police commander, killing 32 mourners and injuring 133 others. ISIL was thought to be responsible for the Kabul shooting although the Afghan government blamed the Taliban for it; ISIL claimed responsibility for the Kuz Kunar bombing. On August 3, 2020, ISIL launched an attack on an Afghan prison that left at least 29 dead.

Whereas now the United States is providing support to the Taliban in its fight against ISIS but according to reports, ISIS is also being used against the Taliban and selectively against governments. Taliban units actively engaged in fighting with ISIS-K," the ISIS branch in Afghanistan. The U.S. also carried out strikes on known ISIS-K locations but emphasised that those strikes were not coordinated with the Taliban and there was hardly any damage but an eyewash planned operation to show that the USA is not on the side. Although the US is emphasising that the Taliban would defeat ISIS, should the US leave the territory but some analysts caution that the US clearly knows about ISIS real motives as the leaders of IS-Khorasan, like their counterparts in Iraq and Syria, seem to be less focused on holding territory, instead of looking to lay the groundwork for a larger resurgence after US forces leave Afghanistan and the USA will inverse the funding for ISIS and ISIS will be used against Pakistan and China and partly against Russia. US intelligence indicates that despite having lost territory in Nangarhar and Kunar provinces, IS-Khorasan still has strongholds in Herat province and parts of Kabul, while maintaining smaller cells in Helmand, Kapisa, and Baghlan provinces.

There are also indications that IS-Khorasan is focusing on more global ambitions. There

have been many attacks on President Ashraf Ghani and reports are that these are usually combined operations of ISIS and Taliban and those who want to eliminate him. I foresee more attempts on Ashraf Ghani in the near future and we will yet see a new group of followers of late Dr Najeeb Ullah emerging with some others duly sponsored by certain countries including RAW which has already established a deep relationship and RAW demonstrated its action with ISIS in Sri Lanka to ensure Sri Lanka to follow Indian policy.

I warn the government and the agencies to please prepare an anti-Daesh Counter National Action Plan as it is likely to be used against us. It is shocking to note that ISIS has been carrying out attacks worldwide except for the US lately and ISIS will never attack against the USA & more lover USA will further destabilise South Asia and the Middle East through proxy wars.

ISIS claimed to have done the deadliest attacks on Niger's military, which left 71 soldiers dead and 12 wounded. The attack happened when several hundred heavily armed militants ambushed soldiers at an outpost in the west of the country near the Mali border, according to the defence minister, Daesh picks those countries as its targets where there is grouping because of the political instability. Niger which is named after the long river called Niger. This entire region remained under the influence of Libya but after the fall of Col. Al-Gaddafi it is now gone under the influence of France and Nigeria and also under USA influence but both the countries are the targets of ISIS whereas the Ivory coast, DRC Congo, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Somalia and Sudan continue to under intense internal fights and ISIS will be used in these countries as ISIS has turned out to be the best tool for proxy war especially in the Muslim States.

On February 2, 2020 two people were stabbed in Streatham, London, and one more had minor injuries and the perpetrator, Sudesh Amman, who was a fighter of Islamic State and had previously praised it, was shot dead by police. It looks as if the USA itself does not want immediate peace in Afghanistan and is playing a game to keep Pakistan and President Ashraf Ghani under pressure.

The writer is a PPP Senator, former Interior Minister of Pakistan, and Chairman of think tank "Global Eye" and Senate Standing Committee on Interior.

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Author's note: Opinions expressed are solely my own and not necessarily to reflect the views or opinions of my party.

Value of Dubai Chamber member exports up 7.4% in June-August 2020



Commerce Desk

Exports of Dubai Chamber members exceeded a combined value of AED 45 billion between June and August 2020, marking a 7.4 percent increase compared to the March-May period during the same year.

Over 151,000 Certificates of Origin were issued by Dubai Chamber over the last three months (June-August), an 11.7% rise from the 135,00 certificates issued during the three months prior (March-May).

The average number of exporters over the three months ending in August stood at 4,630, increasing 14% from the 4,066 exporters accounted for between March and June 2020.

H.E. Hamad Buamim, President & CEO of Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the latest export figures signal an uptick in activity within Dubai's trade sector following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, improving market conditions and growing business confidence. He underlined the importance of foreign trade to Dubai's economy and noted that the emirate remains resilient as it navigates new challenges created by the pandemic.

H.E. Buamim noted that the gradual re-opening of Dubai's economy has been successful, thanks to the government's swift and effective response in enforcing preventative health and safety measures, and introducing stimulus packages to help businesses deal with the impact of Covid-19.

He added that government-led efforts to drive Dubai's digital transformation in recent years, along with close cooperation between the



public and private sectors, were key crucial factors that helped ensure business continuity and maintain economic competitiveness.

Dubai Chamber currently provides 50 e-services to the business community through its website and smart applications. The services include certificates of origin, membership, attestation, ATA Carnets, legal inquires, smart mediation, credit rating and CSR Label, among many others.

Earlier this year, the Chamber launched a new electronic attestation service and the authentication of signatures on documents, which raised the percentage of smart transformation of core services to 98 percent.

President of Pakistan appointed Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi as Chief of the Naval Staff



The President of Pakistan has been pleased to appoint Vice Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi as Chief of the Naval Staff and promoted him to the rank of Admiral. His promotion to the rank of Admiral will be effective from the date of assuming Command of Pakistan Navy.

Vice Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi will succeed Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi who will relinquish the Command of Pakistan Navy on 7 Oct 20. The Change of Command ceremony will be held at PNS ZAFAR, Islamabad.

Vice Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi was commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1985 and won the coveted Sword of Honour upon completion of initial training at Pakistan Naval Academy. During his illustrious career, Vice Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi has served on various Command and Staff appointments. Command appointments of the Admiral include command of two Type 21 ships PNS BADR and PNS TARIQ, Commander 18thDestroyer Squadron, Commandant PNS BAHADUR, Commandant Pakistan Navy War College/ Commander Central Punjab Lahore, Commander Pakistan Fleet and Commander Karachi. His distinguished staff appointments include Principal Secretary to Chief of the Naval Staff, Head of F-22P Mission China, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Training & Evaluation) and Director General

Naval Intelligence. Currently, the Admiral is serving as Chief of Staff (Operations) at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad.

The Admiral is a graduate of Army Command & Staff College Quetta and National Defence University Islamabad. The Admiral also holds Masters Degree in Underwater Acoustics from Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, China.

In recognition of his meritorious services, the Admiral has been awarded Hilal-e-Imtiaz (Military) and Sitara e Basalat. He has also been conferred with the French Medal Chevalier (Knight) by the Government of France.



Chief of the Naval Staff Laid Foundation for Health Sciences Complex at Bahria University Medical & Dental College Karachi

By Mian Fazal Elahi

G vound breaking ceremony of Bahria University Dental College & Hospital held at Karachi. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Upon his arrival he was received by Rector Bahria University, Vice Admiral (Retd) Kaleem Shuakat.

Later, the Chief Guest was briefed about the salient aspects of the project. Bahria University

is developing a Health Sciences Complex at Bahria University Medical & Dental College (BUM&DC), Karachi. In first phase of Health Sciences Complex, Bahria University Dental College & Hospital will be constructed. Second phase includes Pakistan Navy Nursing College & Medical Training School. During the last phase, Allied Health Sciences & College of Physical Therapy will also be established.

In pursuance of Chief of the Naval Staff's vision to promote quality education, Bahria University

Dental College & Hospital, will provide quality Oral health care facilities and inter-disciplinary research in different areas. Additionally, it will contribute to produce & skill-up dental professionals, postgraduates and dental paramedic staff of international standards.

The ceremony was attended by Director General Medical Services (Navy) Surgeon Rear Admiral Ch. M Qamar Ul Haq Noor, Director General BUM&DC Rear Admiral Imtiaz Ahmad, Senior Naval Officers and faculty members.



Chief of the Naval Staff Lays Foundation of Pakistan Maritime Science & Technology Park and Inaugurates Bahria School of Engineering & Applied Sciences

By Mian Fazal Elahi

hief of the Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi laid stone of Pakistan Maritime Science and Technology Park (PMSTP) and inaugurated Bahria School of Engineering & Applied Sciences (BSEAS) at Bahria University, Karachi. Upon arrival, Chief of the Naval Staff was received by Rector Bahria University, Vice Admiral (Retd) KaleemShaukat.

The core objective of PMSTP project is to jump start national blue economy through promotion of maritime sciences, technologies and businesses. PMSTP will act as a vibrant platform for academia, government, industry collaboration and to further facilitate startups, industries and entrepreneurs through policy support. PMSTP will house various Research, Design and Development (RD&D) Centres, Centres of Excellence (CoEs) and various other multi-purpose structures. A dedicated space will be created to generate & maintain maritime innovation eco-system. A state-ofthe-art Maritime Skills Development Centre will also be established to train the youth in diverse maritime disciplines in order to enable them to benefit from boundless opportunities in the expanding maritime sector. PMSTP will subsequently contribute in national GDP besides playing a critical role in mapping of national offshore riches.

The new setup of Bahria School of Engineering & Applied Sciences (BSEAS) is an integration of major Bahria University Departments comprising Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Software Engineering. Inauguration of BSEAS is another key step towards achieving excellence in research facilitating interdisciplinary education. BSEAS is a prominent endeavor to promote cross-disciplinary learning.

In pursuance to Naval Chief's vision, PMSTP and BSEAS are established as flagship projects of the year 2020 to provide qualitative and sustained educational opportunities.







Pakistan stands with the brotherly nation of Azerbaijan and supports its right of self-defence

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Pakistan is deeply concerned on the deteriorating security situation in Nagorno-Karabakh region said in press release of Ministry of foreign affairs, Pakistan. The intensive shelling by Armenian forces over the weekend on civilian populations of Azerbaijani villages of Terter, Aghdam, Fizuli and Jabrayil region is reprehensible and most unfortunate. This could compromise peace and security of the entire region. Armenia must stop its military action to avoid further escalation.

Pakistan stands with the brotherly nation of Azerbaijan and supports its right of selfdefence. "We support Azerbaijan's position on Nagorno-Karabakh, which is in line with the several unanimously adopted UN Security Council resolutions" read the statement. **Bilateral Relations**

Envoys witnessed Indian ceasefire violations along LoC & meet survivors of Indian shelling

So far in 2020, India has committed 2,158 ceasefire violations, martyring 17 people and leaving 168 civilians with serious injuries

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistani officials took a foreign delegation to visit the area along the de facto Pakistan-India border known as the Line of Control (LoC).

The delegation including ambassadors, diplomats, defence attachés and the representatives of various countries and international organisations visited the Jura sector in Pakistan-administered Kashmir along the LoC.

During the tour, arranged by the army's media wing Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the diplomatic community was briefed on the latest situation by ISPR Director General, Major General Babar Iftikhar.

The envoys met victims, including women and children affected by cross-border shelling, and witnessed damaged homes, shops and protection bunkers for the civilian population.

Major General Babar Iftikhar briefed that the ceasefire violations (CFVs) by India have increased since 2014. Gen Iftikhar urged the international community to take notice of violations on the border and called for the Kashmir issue to be resolved in accordance with UN resolutions.

"Human rights situation in occupied Kashmir



is alarming," the director-general for the Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Major General Babar Iftikhar told the envoys during a visit to the Jora sector along the LoC.

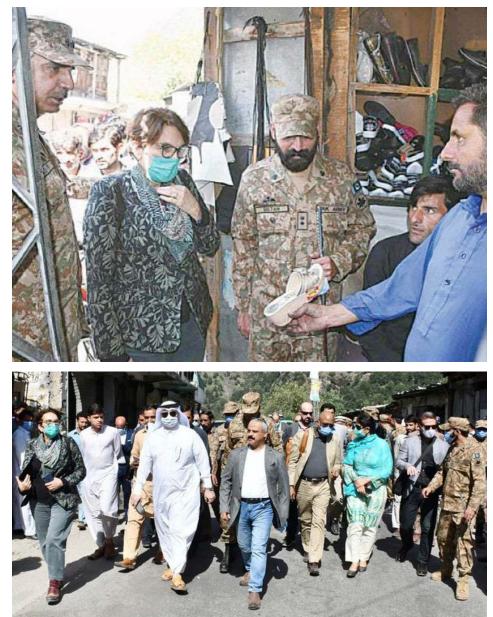
Indian forces were deliberately targeting civilians on the LoC, Maj Gen Iftikhar told.

He informed them that India was carrying out the CFVs to divert the world's attention from Kashmir — the Muslim-majority Himalayan region which had its special status under Articles 370 and 35A revoked by New Delhi more than a whopping 400 days ago — as well as what was happening to minorities in the South Asian nation.

The military's spokesperson also apprised the envoys of the Indian forces' use of heavy weapons in the violations. The visitors met and interacted with the victims of Indian shelling, including women and children, witnessed the damaged civilian properties as well as protection bunkers for the civilian population after attending a briefing by Maj Gen Iftikhar.

The delegation of defence attachés, ambassadors, and international organisations' representatives from 24 countries are on a visit to the LoC to get a first-hand account of the situation in the area. The diplomats including representatives from Azerbaijan, Australia, Bosnia, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Poland, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, and the European Union — were also slated to meet the victims of Indian aggression and those targeted by unprovoked firing from New Delhi's forces during their visit.

The representatives of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) have also left for the LoC.







During his speech at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly

The President of Turkmenistan stressed the importance of restoring trust in international politics

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

n September 22, 2020, the high-level week of the 75th anniversary session of the United Nations General Assembly began. On the same day, a transmission of the speech of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov took place.

Noting that the current session of the UN General Assembly is being held in a difficult period, the Head of Turkmenistan called for an objective look at the general international situation, shattered by the neglect of international law, military and political rivalry, which, unfortunately, is observed in the world today.

To resolve this situation, the Head of State noted "that it is necessary to consolidate efforts aimed at strengthening the role of international law, multilateral legal instruments of the existing system of global security, strict observance by all countries of generally recognized norms arising from the UN Charter. This is the only way to maintain stability and predictability in world politics, to reduce the risks of conflicts. "

The President of Turkmenistan emphasized that in order to achieve these goals, it is necessary to restore trust in international politics, to establish a culture of respectful dialogue.

In this regard, the important role of the policy of permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan was underlined. As a matter of fact, its keystones contain the principles of humanism and peaceful approach to the resolution of global challenges and response to the threats of modern times. As is known, this year Turkmenistan honors the 25th anniversary since obtaining the given status. The model of positive neutrality developed by Turkmenistan calls not for impartiality, but unity by means of political-diplomatic tools. This concept is vividly presented in the project of the resolution initiated by Turkmenistan entitled "the Role and Significance of the Neutrality Policy in Sustaining and Strengthening International Peace, Security and Sustainable Development," the presentation of which was held in January of current year in the UN headquarters. The draft of the resolution is under consideration.

Then, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov added that "the UN General Assembly, at the initiative of Turkmenistan, adopted a resolution declaring 2021 the Year of International Peace and Confidence. In the light of the implementation of the provisions of this document, Turkmenistan sets forth the initiative to hold an International Forum of Peace and Trust next year. The leader of Turkmenistan expressed confidence that this Forum will give an important impetus to the promotion of peace, stability and will contribute to the strengthening of international cooperation.

In this context, the important role of preventive diplomacy was noted, which is consonant with the UN principles. Noting that the policy of Neutrality is aimed at ensuring regional peace, security and development, the President of Turkmenistan stressed that within the framework of the upcoming session, the Turkmen side intends to propose to the General Assembly to consider the draft resolution "The Role of the Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia."

The Head of State noted that the achievement of peace, security and progress in the Central Asian region depends on the settlement of the situation in Afghanistan. "The position

Turkmenistan honors the 25th anniversary since obtaining the given status

of Turkmenistan here is principled and unchanged: there is no alternative to the negotiation process," the President noted. In this regard, it was noted that Turkmenistan is ready to assist in the advancement of this process, in particular, by creating the necessary political and organizational conditions on its territory.

Along with political stabilization, the economic and social reconstruction of Afghanistan is also important. In this regard, Turkmenistan stands for the implementation of large infrastructure projects with Afghan participation, primarily in such important areas as energy, transport and communications. Turkmenistan has already initiated a number of projects in this direction, in particular the construction of a gas pipeline along the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India route, railway branches, and fiber-optic communication lines reaching the territory of Afghanistan.

The President of Turkmenistan stressed that Turkmenistan firmly believes in the future of the UN, will continue to strengthen and build up strategic partnership with this Organization for the benefit of all mankind.

In his address, the head of Turkmenistan voiced the state of the global economy, which was going through a difficult period this year. It was emphasized that, being a staunch adherent of the Sustainable Development Goals, Turkmenistan is actively using all the necessary potential in this direction. Unfortunately, the pandemic has seriously undermined the colossal progress towards the SDGs.

The Head of State stressed that Turkmenistan intends to intensify work on the creation of UN international legal instruments in the field of stability and reliability of energy transit. As is known, the proposals of Turkmenistan in this area have more than once been confirmed by the relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly.

The leader of Turkmenistan also noted the importance of developing cooperation in the field of transport, adding that Turkmenistan proposes to consider the issue of ensuring stable international transport in times of emergency. It was also expressed the intention of Turkmenistan to host the International Conference of Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries, which will make it possible to intensify interaction in this direction.

In his speech, the Head of State outlined in detail the position of Turkmenistan on key aspects of the international agenda, put forward a number of significant initiatives of a political, socio-economic and humanitarian nature.

At the beginning of his speech, the President of Turkmenistan expressed words of deep empathy in connection with the loss of numerous inhabitants of the planet who did not survive the blow of the coronavirus pandemic.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov dwelled on the measures taken in Turkmenistan, which were carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the World Health Organization and in close cooperation with the relevant UN departments to counter this threat.

The Head of State noted that for a speedy victory over the pandemic, close professional coordination and unification of efforts of scientific and medical communities around the world are necessary. Having voiced the importance of multilateral cooperation on the problem of dangerous viral diseases, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted the importance of fully launching channels of scientific diplomacy. He added that under the auspices of WHO, it is advisable to establish a Special Program of the World Health Organization to study the genome of coronavirus, develop a multilateral mechanism to combat pneumonia, and create a Methodological Center for the Treatment and Prevention of Acute Diseases.



Conference of the People's Council of Turkmenistan was held at the high organizational level

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

n the 25th of September 2020, the utmost nation-wide assembly of Turkmenistan – the meeting of the People's Council of Turkmenistan was held. In view of the world epidemiological situation, the participants of the People's Council of Turkmenistan located in the other regions of the country took part in the session, which was organized in Ashgabat through videoconferencing.

The successive session of the People's Council of Turkmenistan chaired by the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and the session was attended by the Chairperson of Mejlis (Parliament), Deputy Chairmen of the Cabinet of Ministers, heads of the ministries and profile agencies, members of public organizations, elders, representatives of various sectors, students and representatives of the mass media.

Being the highest representative body of the public authority, the People's Council (Halk Maslahaty) provides for the application of the experience of Turkmen people in the area of state formation accumulated during the centuries-old history and participation of extensive groups of population in the adoption of significant public and political resolutions leading consequently towards realizing conceptual ideas and unity. This is based on such noble traditions of ancestors as holding nation-wide assemblies, during which the authorized representatives of communities made decisions on the most vital political, economic and military issues while generally accepted democratic principles were observed.

The successive session of the People' Council of Turkmenistan had a rich agenda. During the meeting, the key vectors of successful implementation of historic and long-term programs in the new development period of the independent and permanently neutral Turkmenistan, as well as the subjects related to socio-economic growth of the state in 2021 were considered.

Besides, the constitutional reforms aimed at the development of work of the representative bodies in the area of legislative power were regarded. The corresponding documents of the People's Council were adopted.

The historic address of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov took place. The Head of State noted that in the result of the work done, the social





conditions corresponding to the world standards are created for the population. These achievements were attained due to the friendship, hard work and high spirituality of the people.

During the successive session of the People's Council of Turkmenistan, it was also comprehensively spoken about the constitutional reforms, which serve as a proof of adherence to democratic norms and international cooperation conditioned by the achievements of the society.

The People's Council joined the system of state institutions performing functions in the field of legislation. Thus, on the way to the creation of a bicameral system of a representative legislative institution of state government, a proposal was voiced to establish the National Council of Turkmenistan, and its Chambers to be named as the Halk Maslahaty (People's Council) and the Mejlis. This proposal was unanimously adopted.

During a regular meeting of the People's Council, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov signed the Constitutional Law of the meeting of the People's Council of Turkmenistan "On Amendments and Additions to the Constitution of Turkmenistan".

The implementation of constitutional reforms is aimed at ensuring a prosperous and happy life for the Turkmen people and is one of the important steps towards further democratization of the state.

Starting from the first days of its sovereign development, Turkmenistan proclaimed the neutrality of the state, taking into account national and international interests in world politics, and strictly adhering to the principles of good neighborliness, mutual respect and equality, implements a foreign policy aimed at maintaining global peace, security and prosperity.

The need to strengthen multilateral cooperation of Turkmenistan with such authoritative international organizations as the United Nations, the European Union, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation was especially noted. Strengthening ties with the countries of Asia and the Pacific region, states of the Near and Middle East, the European and American continents was also noted among the priority tasks of the country.

The President also stressed the importance of strategic cooperation between Turkmenistan and the United Nations. In this context, it was noted that the country's initiatives put forward in the field of water, energy and transport diplomacy are supported by the world community and contribute to strengthening the international authority of Turkmenistan. The head of the Turkmen state stated that the proclamation, on the initiative of Turkmenistan, of 2021 as the International Year of Peace and Trust, in accordance with the Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, in turn, demonstrates to the whole world the country's efforts aimed at establishing universal peace and friendship, and this, became another historic milestone in strengthening the importance of the neutral status of the state.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted that the acquisition of the observer status in the World Trade Organization by Turkmenistan will ensure the coordinated development of the national economy, strengthening its position in foreign trade relations, intensifying multilateral cooperation, including actively attracting foreign capital.

In view of the global situation, ensuring environmental safety in the Aral Sea basin also became a separate topic on the agenda of the meeting.

The President of Turkmenistan also stated that the spread in 2020 of a particularly dangerous disease - a new type of coronavirus, adversely affected the economies of the countries of the world, and despite the ongoing difficult socio-economic situation on a global scale, the country's economy maintained its stable development.

In Turkmenistan, more than 70 percent of the state budget is directed to the social sphere. In this context, in his speech, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted that as part of the implementation of the "Program of socio-economic development of the country for 2019-2025", a huge work is being done in all areas of the national economy. In particular, work is underway to comprehensively develop the national education system, increase the range of import-substituting products, expand the indicator of national energy products in the world market, widely introduce innovative technologies in all spheres of the economy, increase the export of textile goods, and create competitive macro structural transport and logistics systems. In this direction, other significant tasks have been identified for the development of priority sectors of the economy.



5th Round of Pakistan – Germany Strategic Dialogue held

By Mian Moben Akhtar

The 5th session of Pakistan-Germany Strategic Dialogue was held via video conference. Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood and State Secretary Miguel Berger of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany led their respective sides.

The Foreign Secretary expressed condolences on the loss of lives due to Covid-19 pandemic and briefed his German counterpart on the steps taken by the government to contain the spread of Corona virus. He highlighted the Government's measures including 'smart lockdown' strategy, with emphasis on saving lives, securing livelihoods, and stimulating the economy. He appreciated the close contacts between the leadership of the two countries and reiterated that international solidarity and a coordinated approach were the best way to counter the myriad challenges posed by the pandemic.

The two sides took stock of the whole range of bilateral relations, including political, economic, trade, investment, education and cultural fields. The desire for continuity of regular high-level exchange for strengthening bilateral cooperation was emphasized. The Foreign Secretary briefed on the economic development and investment opportunities in Pakistan, including the improved business climate and Ease of Doing Business. He invited German companies to invest in different

Foreign Secretary invited German companies to invest in different sectors, including in agriculture, information technologies, tourism and renewable energy

sectors, including in agriculture, information technologies, tourism and renewable energy.

The Foreign Secretary emphasized that the regional security situation had become

perilous following India's illegal and unilateral actions in IIOJK on 5 August 2019. Foreign Secretary highlighted the continuing military siege and communication blackout, gross and systematic violations of human rights, India's steps to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory in violation of 4th Geneva Convention, and India's intensified ceasefire violations across the Line of Control (LoC) and targeted killing of innocent civilians. He underlined the importance of the international community playing its part in peaceful resolution of Jammu & Kashmir dispute in line with UN Security Council resolutions. The Foreign Secretary reaffirmed Pakistan's consistent support and positive contribution to the Afghan peace process. He underscored the need for early commencement of Intra-Afghan Negotiations for an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement to ensure durable peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region.

The two sides also exchanged views on cooperation at the international fora, including the UN and the European Union, and agreed to continue close contact and mutual support on all issues of convergent interest.

China is ready to continue to provide support to Pakistan in fighting COVID-19 until the epidemic is defeated



By Mian Fazal Elahi

tate Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on the sidelines of the meeting of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers in Moscow. The two foreign ministers agreed that the SCO foreign ministers' meeting this time has achieved positive results. In particular, against the backdrop of rising unilateral bullying practices, it made a resounding voice of upholding multilateralism, defending the authority of the United Nations and international law, and jointly addressing various challenges, thus fulfilling the SCO's due international responsibilities, stated Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian in Regular Press Conference.

During the meeting, State Councillor Wang Yi stressed that China is ready to continue to provide support to Pakistan in fighting COVID-19 until the epidemic is defeated. China stands ready to work with Pakistan to better develop the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, including conducting agricultural cooperation to the benefit of the people. It is believed that with the joint efforts of both sides, the CPEC will play a greater role in boosting Pakistan's economic development and improving its people's well-being. China is ready to continue to firmly support Pakistan on multilateral occasions to safeguard international justice. Next year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan. The two sides should carry forward traditional friendship, plan for the future and elevate bilateral relations to a new height.

Foreign Minister Qureshi said that Pakistan and China have always trusted and supported each other. Pakistan will continue to stand firmly with China and oppose any stigmatization and groundless accusations against China. Pakistan is ready to better develop the CPEC with China, enhance experience sharing in poverty alleviation, carry out agricultural cooperation and move forward the all-weather strategic partnership between the two countries.



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China put forward five proposals for strengthening SCO cooperation

he holding of face-to-face meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers by SCO member states in Moscow amid COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates the importance they attach to the meeting and their expectations said by Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian in a Regular Press Conference. Zhao Lijian further add that State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi put forward five proposals for strengthening SCO cooperation. First, firmly support each other and uphold each other's core interests. Second, stand in solidarity and cooperate with each other in this fight against COVID-19. Third, persist in sharing weal and woe to resolve various security risks. Fourth, adhere to coordinated development and boost economic recoveries in the member states. Fifth, uphold multilateralism and improve global governance. He stressed that SCO member states should never allow external forces to intervene in their internal affairs, a "color revolution" to succeed in this region, or the regional peace and stability to be undermined. The SCO member states should also adhere to multilateralism, prevent power politics from dragging the world back to "the law of the jungle" and reject unilateral bullving that hinders the democratization of international relations.

State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi's proposals have been echoed by participants of the meeting. The SCO members underlined the need to preserve the basic norms of international relations with the UN Charter as its basis, defend the core position of the UN, firmly uphold multilateralism and oppose unilateralism, and reject interference by external forces in the internal affairs of countries in the region. The SCO members reiterated that they are committed to countering all forms of terrorism and promoting political settlement of regional hotspot issues through dialogue. A press statement was adopted at the meeting.

We will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the SCO next year. China stands ready to work with all parties closely to ensure the SCO always stands on the side of multilateralism, the side of justice and fairness and the right side of history, in an attempt to more effectively address risks and challenges and make contributions to regional and world security, stability, development and prosperity.

On a question that The Caribbean countries have been severely impacted since COVID-19 pandemic broke out, the Chinese spokesperson said that The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted the Caribbean countries. China relates to what they are going through and has provided assistance at the best of its capacity to friendly countries and regional organizations in the Caribbean region via various means and channels.

The Chinese government has provided for free multiple batches of urgently needed anti-epidemic supplies to all countries with diplomatic relations in the Caribbean. In particular, the Special Vice-Foreign Ministerial Meeting on COVID-19 between China and Caribbean Countries That Have Diplomatic Relations with China was held successfully via videoconference on May 12 this year, during which Vice Foreign Minister Zheng Zeguang announced that China will provide another batch of anti-epidemic supplies, including masks, ventilators, protective suits and test kits to the Caribbean countries having diplomatic relations with China and the CARICOM Secretariat. By August 31, all the assistance from China has been delivered. Chinese localities, businesses and civil society including the Alibaba Foundation and the Jack Ma Foundation, have leveraged their strengths to offered support and assistance to the Caribbean side in a timely manner. Besides material assistance, China has conducted multilateral and bilateral technology cooperation with Caribbean countries via videolink and shared experience in epidemic control.

The Caribbean countries commended and appreciated China for the anti-epidemic supplies, which stands as a token of friendship through hard times and played an important role in enhancing their anti-epidemic capabilities, improving medical staff's preparedness, and resuming socioeconomic development. While keeping the epidemic firmly under control at home, China has also played a constructive role in international anti-virus cooperation and made important contribution to the global fight. They also expressed readiness to work hand in hand with China to fight COVID-19 and foster a community of health for mankind to benefit all the people.

In the face of the challenges posed by this global pandemic, China and Caribbean countries stand in solidarity with mutual assistance, writing a new chapter of friendship in trying times. China attaches high importance to relations with Caribbean countries and stands ready to build on the momentum of anti-epidemic cooperation to deepen exchange and cooperation in various sectors.

Digital Farming: Empowering the farmers to get the best out



By Zaigham Abbas

There is a concrete growth of population, yet the measure of farmland accessible per head is contracting. Agrarian efficiency should increment on the off chance that we need to safe-watch our food gracefully in the long haul. Digitalization in cultivating can assist us with conveying our assets effectively and economically, empowering farmers to get the best out of their fields with negligible ecological effect.

Digital cultivating as we see it can possibly change agribusiness and bring noteworthy advantages for agri growers and the general public by and large, as we need better approaches to develop more food all the more livable. Solidly, it implies applying new innovations, for example, information Technology, Data Sciences, AI, progressed sensors in the field and from space, computerized correspondence stations, and computerization on the field. Through this way Farmers will have a sophisticated approach better bit of knowledge to take more ideal choices, drive up yield, diminish squander, and - especially in developing business sectors, for example, in Asia – drive up riches in country zones.

For crop nourishment, for example, it will mean finding the optimal utilization of fertilizer program for singular fields, helping farmers to choose when, how and the quantity to apply, and respond to varieties in various pieces of a field. Here are a few reflections on key attributes of things to come of farming:

Yield: the fate of agriculture will open yield holds that we fundamentally need to reasonably take care of a developing populace. This will mean more optimized cultivating, and helping a large number of farmers to take improved choices.

Integration: we obviously observe the eventual fate of the farmer more associated. Various gadgets will gather data and – in a much mechanized manner – lead to coordinate enhanced application: the "Internet of things" on the farm.

Dynamics: we see a profoundly unique condition, with quick improvement of Technology, and very significant changes to the manner in which cultivating is done. This is additionally determined by "Agile Framing" – high paced innovation improvement that is trademark for Digital Farming applications.

We can't anticipate the future, however what we cannot deny is that it will be an energizing future, with loads of opportunities for farmers to misuse need approaches to expand profitability, while securing the world's restricted assets.

Basically, we have to figure out how to create significantly more food, with lesser input in a more optimal way. The main significant advance development in agriculture happed over 100 years back with the coming of nitrate based mineral fertilizer. As our difficulties grow - interest for better food, environmental change, water shortage, contamination, diminishing biodiversity, noteworthy populace growth, riches driving higher worth nutrition we need new weapons to try and keep up, not to mention improve the manner in which we develop food. We trust Digital Farming is one key response to these difficulties. This is additionally why Developed nations has and will be proceeding to put resources into Digital farming. We consider it to be a basic tool stack towards our main goal to economically take care of the world and secure the planet.

There is a serious proposal of sensor-driven devices and arrangements, similar to the Nitrogen Sensor, pH sensors, nutrient sensors, picture innovation that permits to determine a field's wellbeing to have your phone camera, or our water sensor innovation, to advance water system and along these lines spare one of the planet's most scant assets.

Tech arrangements open new opportunities to improve. By consolidating a lot of information that we as people can't legitimately measure, we can lead more accurate and minute calculations, and for example alter the manner in which we treat various pieces of a field.

Moreover, Digital innovation empowers us to address a key issue in small markets, which is the way to bring small and remote farmers into consideration, and arrive at a large number of farmers. Envision a reality where such farmers can get to a rational decision making – we can open enormous potential!

Technology is obviously an aspect of a comprehensive framework. Surely, top notch physical information sources, enhanced seeds, foundation, and so forth need to likewise be additionally improved!

The Platform will permit all farmers access through an easy to understand front end interface. At that point they will have the option to get to world of digital services that are significant and simple to utilize. This will cover a wide scope of administrations for the farmers, and after some time likewise welcome different players to get together with this platform. Through this, farmer's efficiency and yield will enhance, and we will have the option to address yield incremental avenues. we basically need to fix worldwide starvation and fathom the issue with restricted homestead land on the planet.

We can improve more extensive and quicker by joining farmer driven, advanced agronomyinitiated advancement through Digital Farming unit, and technology driven growth in AI and Cloud Computation, which is an unrivaled chance to grow genuinely game-changing development that works in the world of Agriculture. US presidential election is the US internal affair, in which we are not interested and have never interfered: China

By Mian Fazal Elahi

The US presidential election, as we've said many times, is the US internal affair, in which we are not interested and have never interfered said by Foreign Ministry Spokesperson on question about comment of Microsoft that it detected some cyber-attacks targeting the US presidential campaign coming from China, from Chinese hackers. I believe that you may have also noticed that several US intelligence officials have told the US media that they have not yet seen any evidence linking China to interference in the US elections. Microsoft should not target China and make such unfounded accusations.

It is the US government and relevant companies that have been for a long time mounting a largescale, organized and indiscriminate cyber theft, surveillance and attack, without any regard to international law and basic norms governing international relations. This is not a secret, but a well-known fact.

All countries around the world should be on high alert against US hi-tech companies installing backdoors to gather personal data overseas and transmit them back to the US intelligence agencies. Examples like WikiLeaks, Snowden incident, Equation Group and Echelon System abound. They are proof that the US is the largest cyber attacker and no one deserves the title of Empire of Hacking, Bugging and Spying better than the US.

On question that American journalist Bob Woodward revealed in his new book that President Donald Trump claimed in an interview that the US is working secretly to develop a new nuclear weapons system Foreign Ministry Spokesperson said that "Equipped with the largest and most advanced nuclear arsenal, the US not only goes against international consensus and refuses to fulfill its special and primary responsibilities in nuclear disarmament, but also pursues a regressive agenda dominated by Cold War mentality and major power rivalry, willfully withdraws from treaties and organizations, and vigorously strengthens nuclear build-up". Mr. Zhao Lijian further added that such practices severely undermine strategic mutual trust and heighten nuclear risks. The US owes the world an explanation. We hope it will respond to international concerns, earnestly assume its due responsibilities and stop damaging the system of international arms control treaties and undermining global strategic stability.

In respond to question that US Secretary Pompeo has leveled a barrage of attacks on the Communist Party of China (CPC), accusing it of exploiting COVID-19 to weaken democracy, Chinese spokesperson said that Facts are the best myth-busters. After the epidemic broke out, the Chinese people, under the leadership of the CPC, adopted the most comprehensive, rigorous and thorough prevention and control measures and secured major strategic achievements in the nation-wide fight against the virus. By September 10, the Chinese mainland has not seen any newly-confirmed local case for 26 days in a row.

In the meantime, the epidemic in the US has torn "the emperor's new clothes" off Pompeo's American democracy. According to the latest statistics, the number of confirmed cases in the

US has surpassed 6.3 million, including over 510,000 children, with more than 190,000 fatal cases in total. Our hearts all go out to them. However, faced with such grim circumstances, some US politicians, instead of respecting life and science and protecting people's health, are busy seeking selfish political gains by scapegoating, deflecting attention, and concocting flimsy lies to smear other countries. While some sing high praises for social equality in the US, the epidemic has seen the rich given priority access to testing while the aged, the poor and the ethnic minorities suffer the most fatalities. A Time magazine commentary in May called the coronavirus crisis in the US "a failure of democracy". And yet, some in the US have been promoting their so-called "American democracy" and trashing China all over the world. I wonder what gives them the confidence and makes them think they are in any way entitled to do so!

The US has no monopoly on democracy. What it has is but one version of democracy. And China has its own version. Regardless of their differences, all democracies must go through the test of COVID-19. Pompeo and his like can by no means represent the American people. They only speak for the minority ruling class and the interest groups behind it. No matter how they carry on bragging, facts will only make them a laughing stock. I would like to ask you, friends of the press, to convey this message to those few American politicians: do away with your arrogance and bias towards China, spare a thought for American people's well-being, and work harder to fix your problems at home, Chinese spokesperson added.



China lauds President Alvi's remarks regarding benefits of CPEC's connectivity to region

hina has apprecia'ted President Dr Arif Aliv's remarks about China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), its role for boosting regional connectivity and benefits to Afghanistan and Central Asian Republics (CARs).

"Just as President Alvi pointed out, the CPEC not only benefits the people of China and Pakistan, but will also boost the development of other countries in the region and elevate connectivity and economic cooperation throughout the entire region," Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Wang Wenbin told media in a response to a question in this regard.

"We have noted President Alvi's remarks," he said and added, "The CPEC is an important pilot program of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and a flagship in China-Pakistan cooperation."

He remarked that since its launch six years ago, major progress had been achieved with a large number of projects starting construction or being completed and more than \$25 billion direct investment flowing into Pakistan.

"The completed projects have greatly

since its launch six years ago, major progress had been achieved with a large number of projects starting construction or being completed and more than \$25 billion direct investment flowing into Pakistan

The CPEC is an important pilot program of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and a flagship in China-Pakistan cooperation: China improved transportation infrastructure and electricity supply in Pakistan, created over 70,000 direct employment opportunities, contributed between one percentage point and two to its annual GNI growth, and enhanced socioeconomic growth and people's well-being," he added.

Wang said, "China firmly supports CPEC development and stands ready to work together with Pakistan to act on our leaders' consensus and, on the basis of continued solid progress in infrastructure development, focus on cooperation in social welfare, industrial and agricultural cooperation, to turn the CPEC into a demonstration project for high-quality BRI development and deliver more benefits for the two countries and regional countries."

It may be mentioned that President Dr. Arif Alvi in a telephonic talk with his Turkmen counterpart Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov had said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would boost regional connectivity and particularly Afghanistan and Central Asian Republics would benefit from its road and railway infrastructure. He also highlighted importance of Gwadar seaport.



CPEC to improve economy

hairman CPEC Authority Lt-Gen (Retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa called on Chief Minister Usman Buzdar at his office and discussed progress made on CPEC projects in the province. Both agreed to expedite work on CPEC projects and decided to give a priority focus to agri research alongwith the need for introducing new seeds for improving crops productivity.

Speaking on the occasion, the CM expressed

satisfaction that work is being carried out on CPEC projects on priority. The completion of CPEC projects will help improve the economy, he maintained.

CPEC projects situated in Punjab are being completed with speed and transparently, he added. The CM said the test-run of the orange line metro train has been completed and it has been planned to operationalise it by the end of the next month. The Punjab Mass transit Authority has been issued instructions and tree transplantation and beautification of the route is being done as well, he said. Chairman CPEC Authority said the CPEC projects are being completed speedily as CPEC is vital for the country. The situation of CPEC projects is satisfactory in Punjab and the province also has a lot of potential in the agriculture sector, he added.

CPEC to bring economic prosperity

Aviser to Punjab government Dr Salman Shah said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will develop geographical linkages to promote regional connectivity and economic activities. He said, in time completion of CPEC was imperative for regional economic development, Radio Pakistan reported. It opens up the entire region for investment which will bring a positive economic impact and it was the high time to take advantage of this great economic opportunity, he added. He said the positive involvement of India in CPEC will improve bilateral ties between Pakistan and India.

Chairman CPEC urges investors to finance Faisalabad's Medical City

By Monitoring

Corridor (CPEC) Authority Lt Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa has urged investors to finance the newly established medical equipment manufacturing zone set up in Faisalabad, media reported.

"CPEC Authority urges new investors to our Industrial development, welcomes the initiative to develop exclusive Health/medical City in CPEC's Faisalabad SEZ for the related manufacturing industry," said Bajwa in a tweet post.

Bajwa added that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are our future for enhancing exports, import substitution, and job creation.

Earlier, Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry said a medical equipment manufacturing zone has been set up in Faisalabad. Chaudhry said local manufacturing of all equipment would greatly reduce medical device imports worth Rs1.4 billion. He added that 200 acres of medical equipment manufacturing zone has been set up in Faisalabad's Industrial area.

He said, "We will now produce Injections, Canolas, Xray Machines, Heart stents, Dialysis machines in Pakistan." Chaudhry said that 30 million syringes will be manufactured locally to administer vaccine of COVID-19. Prime Minister Imran Khan also announced that for the first time in the history of Pakistan, all duties levied on medical equipment imported into the country have been removed.

These include medical equipment/machinery and apparatus like coronavirus detection kits, surgical masks, multimode ventilator with an air compressor, face shields, and other medical equipment.

Opinion

High expectations from the newly designated Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan



By Prof. Engr. Zamir Ahmed Awan

he new designated Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Nong Rong, an expert in trade and commerce, currently serving as a minister in a Guangxi provincial government. According to the website, The Ethnic and Religious Affairs Commission of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Nongrong, a male, born in September 1967, Zhuang ethnicity, a native of Mashan County, Guangxi Province, joined the Chinese Communist Party (CPC) in January 1987, started work in July 1991, holding a MASTER degree in business administration, Senior management, and International business. He has been serving in the Government in various capacities including, foreign trade and economic cooperation, ASEAN-business, City Mayor, and Hong Kong, Macao & Taiwan regions. In December 2019, he assumed the post of Secretary of the Party Committee of the Ethnic Minority Language Working Committee of the Autonomous Region and Vice Minister (and concurrently minister) of the United Front Work Department of the Autonomous Region Party Committee. In January 2020, he assumed the post of Director of the Ethnic Minority Language Working Committee of the Autonomous Region. Deputy to the 13th National People's Congress and member of the 11th Party Committee of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Mr. Nong Rong will replace Ambassador Yao Jing, who has been serving as a Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan and has served in Pakistan three times in the various capacity of the diplomatic mission. He has also served in India as Deputy Head of Mission and as Ambassador in Afghanistan. He understands the regional issues very well and has been a successful Ambassador in Pakistan. However, he has been called back two months in advance before completing his three-year tenure. He enjoys popularity in Pakistan. He



The new designated Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Nong Rong,

will be joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing until the assigned next assignment.

China and Pakistan are traditional friends, strategic partners, and a nation of shared destiny. Pakistan is the largest supporter of Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI), launched by President Xi Jinping in 2013. Pakistan is a host of one of the Six-Planned Corridors, "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor" (CPEC). The CPEC is a flagship initiative and in the most advanced stage of its execution among all other Corridors. Pakistan is the largest beneficiary of BRI, in the form of CPEC.

The early harvest projects, or generally known as phase I, have been completed or going to be completed soon. Most of the projects were in Power Sector and Infrastructure development. Pakistan has almost over-came the shortage of electricity, and a vast network of Motorways and Highways has been established the width and length of Pakistan. The Railway network is being ug-graded soon.

CPEC is to enter into phase II, where the focus will be Agriculture, Industrialization, Services Sector, etc. It will enhance Economic activities and eradicate poverty. This phase will be crucial for Pakistan, as the country is passing through the worst economic crisis. Both governments have been in close consultations to make the second phase more fruitful.

The designated Ambassador is a political appointee and expert of Trade and Commerce;

he might be the right choice for Pakistan to take-off CPEC phase II. Keeping his trackrecord of success and achievements in Guangxi province, it is believed he will contribute toward CPEC a lot. China and Pakistan both nations are committed to turning CPEC as a "role model" of BRI for the rest of the world to be followed. Designated Ambassador has the requisite and relevant expertise.

Although, previously, several Chinese Ambassadors were career diplomats and have been served in the diplomatic assignments in several countries before their appointment as Ambassador to Pakistan. The Appointment of Mr. Nong Rong is out of routine and expected to perform extraordinarily. However, he is not the only political or non-career diplomat appointee. General Geng Biao was also a political appointee as the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan in the 1950s, and he also performed extraordinarily. He was known as the Chief Architect of China-Pakistan relations.

Based on Mr. Nong Rong's profile and success stories & achievements, high expectations are circulating even before his arrival.

Courtesy to Modern Diplomacy.

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

We have worked hard together to make Italy and Pakistan even closer than we already are! H.E. Anna Ruffino, Consul General of Italy in Karachi I appreciate your efforts for enhancing the bilateral relations praise your role as the Consul of Italy in Karachi.

DF: Excellency! The western country has two views about Pakistan, one before knowing Pakistan second after knowing Pakistan, before you come to Pakistan what you think about Pakistan, Now after having time in Pakistan what is your views about Pakistan.

I agree, in the West we have a very vague idea about Pakistan. I did not know many aspects of the country myself before coming here. Initially, I thought it was a rather dangerous place, not so open to the rest of the world. After two and a half years, I changed my mind: Pakistan, above all, is a beautiful place. The nature here is spectacular. From the mountains of the North to the lakes, the desert of Sindh, the beaches of Balochistan. Furthermore, the people are really hospitable and kind. I immediately felt at home in Karachi, a city that will always remain in my heart. The energy that one finds is incredible and I hope that this metropolis can return to the splendor of the past, when it was called "The city of lights".

DF: Excellency! Pakistani food is different from Italy, Do you like to interest Pakistani Food, How do you find Pakistani Food? Do you like Pakistani cooking, what kind of food do you like the most in Pakistan, Did try to cook any Pakistani food?

I must say that there are some typical Pakistani dishes that I really like, like paratha and daal, but unfortunately I am sensitive particularly to spices and in Karachi the food is a lot more spicy! On the other hand, I found Hunza's food delicious, which is not spicy, and which I tried at a restaurant in Islamabad. As for cooking, my father is a retired cook, and I'm used to preparing Italian dishes also following his recipes. I have never tried to make biryani or any other local food as I believe I would not be able to touch the masala! However, I really admire my Pakistani friends who manage to eat such spicy foods.

It is very difficult for me to leave Karachi. I have been happy, I lived many intense moments and I met some real friends. I did not think Pakistan could welcome me so warmly, but I immediately felt at home here. I am happy to have had the opportunity to learn more about a country that for us in Italy is quite exotic



- Born on 30th June, 1983 in Genova (Italy). Diploma of Piano obtained on 26th June, 2003 from Musical Conservatory "Ghedini" of Cuneo (Italy).
- Degree in Political Science obtained on 25th September 2006 from University of Pavia (Italy).
- Degree in International Relations obtained on 11th February 2009 from the Faculty of Political Science "Cesare Alfieri" University of Florence (Italy).
- Master in Diplomacy obtained on 22nd June, 2010 from the Institute of International Political Studies (ISPI) in Milan.
- Joined Diplomatic Service as Secretary of Legation (on probation) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Economic Cooperation from 21st December, 2010.
- Diplomatic Institute of the Directorate General for Resources Innovation of the Ministry: professional training course «Sidney Sonnino» from 21st December, 2010 till 20th September, 2011.
- Directorate General for overseas Italians and Migration Policies: Electoral Office and the Directorate General for Cooperation and development; Budget and Planning Office.
- From 21st September, 2011 confirmed in service and nominated as Secretary of Legation.
- From 21st September, 2011 joined
 Directorate General for overseas Italians and Migration Policies: Electoral Office.
- Second Secretary at the Embassy of Italy in Madrid from 8th September 2014
- Promoted as First Secretary at the Embassy of Italy in Madrid on 21st December, 2014.
- Joined as the Consul of Italy in Karachi from 2nd January, 2018.

Languages: Italian (native) French (advanced) Spanish (advanced) English (advanced) I can tell you that the Consulate of Italy in Karachi has worked a lot in recent years to strengthen economic relations between Italy and Pakistan

Bilateral Relations



DF: Excellency! How do you feel about Pakistani women, how do you closed known about Pakistani women? How they are, how do you find Pakistan women? Would you like to say something about Pakistani women?

I think Pakistani women are fantastic. I met incredible women in Karachi who are resilient, strong, intelligent and very elegant. I believe that Pakistan needs to give more importance and value to its women, who are half of the country's workforce. Many upper-middle-class girls have higher education, which can greatly contribute to the country's development. There are women who sometimes face family and professional obstacles, and for this, they have developed a great inner strength. I am honored to have met such intelligent women.

DF: Excellency! Pakistani culture is very unique, you are living in Karachi, there are different types of people living in Karachi coming from different parts of Pakistan belong to different cultures and tradition how do you see the Pakistani culture?

Certainly, from a cultural point of view, Karachi is the result of a varied ethnic and religious composition that testifies to the historical vicissitudes of the country. The megalopolis has attracted people from all over Pakistan and has become a meeting point (and

sometimes a clash point) between ethnic groups with different traditions. I find all of this very enriching and fascinating. Karachi would not be Karachi without Mohajirs, Sindhis, Balochis, Sikhs, Hindus, Zoroastrians, etc... Difference means richness, especially in the cultural field, and Pakistan is full of history and culture. I remained very fascinated by the archaeological heritage present in Lahore. The Great Mosque, the Fort, the Baths, all are testimony to the wonderful Pakistani cultural heritage, which must certainly be appreciated.

Italy has the largest Pakistani community in Europe, after the UK, and this helps to strengthen our bond

DF: Excellency! Trade is one of a fine aspect of a broad based relationship among countries, Trade is one of them to be an improvement, what is your experience, and would you like to share with us?

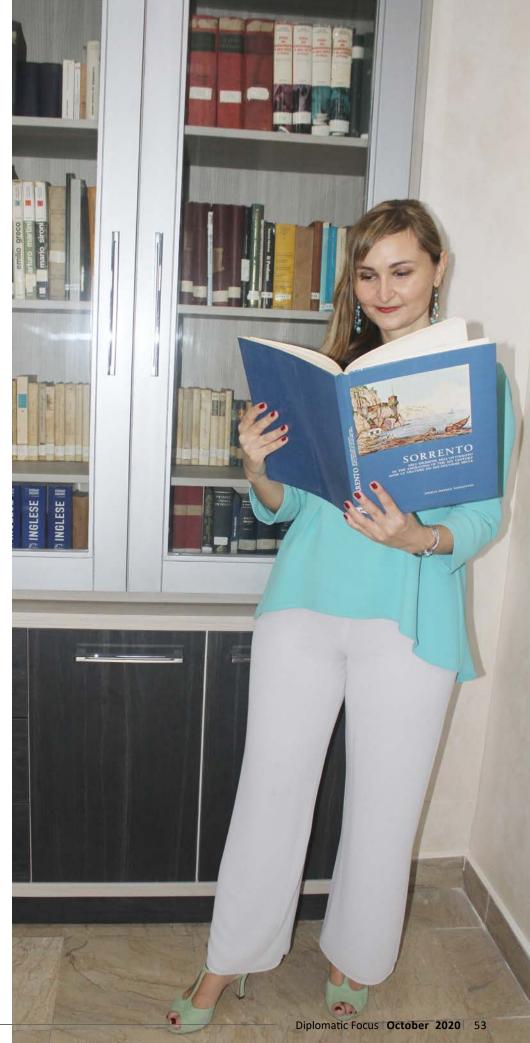
I can tell you that the Consulate of Italy in Karachi has worked a lot in recent years to strengthen economic relations between Italy and Pakistan. The volume of bilateral trade has increased significantly for both countries; however, there is still ample room for growth. In my opinion, we should focus our future efforts on strengthening trade. There are many Italian companies interested in investment in Pakistan, as well as numerous entrepreneurs who often come to your country. In particular, in Karachi I came to know some wonderful experiences of solidarity and friendship between Italian and Pakistani companies: in the most difficult years of the city, when crime was at its peak, several Italian entrepreneurs continued to come to meet

Pakistan has great potential as a tourist destination and I hope that local authorities continue to invest in the development of the infrastructure for the hospitality sector, which is fundamental if you want to welcome more tourists from the West

their correspondents, in a moment where several foreign companies had left Pakistan. This created a strong bond between supplier and customer, which continues until today. Some local businesses have chosen to turn to Italy also for the willingness shown by our entrepreneurs in the dark years of Karachi. This shows that trade, like culture, can also be an instrument of peace and collaboration between states.

DF: Excellency! Pakistan is facing many challenges Education is one of them, Italy is considered one of the best education system, there are many Pakistani students studying in Italy, but there are strict rules and regulation for students, what do you think, How to promote education in the government level ?

Italy certainly has an excellent education system. I know that many Pakistani students are interested in coming to study in our







country and for this reason, every year; I personally go to the best high schools in Karachi to present the advantages of enrolling in Italian universities. Certainly, there are some minimum economic conditions required to be able to obtain a study visa, but in Karachi, the caliber of students is very high and I can say with satisfaction that we have seen an increase in applications for study for Italy. There are prestigious universities such as the Polytechnic University of Milan or Turin that welcome talented young Pakistanis, who stand out for their ability and intelligence. We are more than happy to welcome your brilliant students to Italy.

DF: Excellency! What do you think how the two countries come together to promote politically, economically, socially and, culturally, the two governments are seriously working on it?



Italy certainly has an excellent education system... We are more than happy to welcome your brilliant students to Italy



There is certainly great collaboration between our two countries, both at the government and at the level of civil society. Italy has the largest Pakistani community in Europe, after the UK, and this helps to strengthen our bond. There are many examples of collaboration between Italy and Pakistan but I would like to recall in particular the joint archaeological mission we have in Sindh thanks to an agreement signed between the Catholic University of Milan and the Department of Culture, Tourism, Antiquities & Archives, Government of Sindh. We have an Italian team of archaeologists and antiquities experts who come every year to carry out excavations in Banbhore, in collaboration with Pakistani archaeologists. The results of this project are extraordinary: last year the world's first Ivory Workshops were found. It is an exceptional discovery that has appeared in many specialized archeology journals. It is a great honor to be able to

contribute in enhancement of wonderful Pakistani cultural heritage.

DF: Excellency! This is your last month in Pakistan Karachi, what is you're feeling when now you are leaving Pakistan?

It is very difficult for me to leave Karachi. I have been happy, I lived many intense moments and I met some real friends. I did not think Pakistan could welcome me so warmly, but I immediately felt at home here. I am happy to have had the opportunity to learn more about a country that for us in Italy is quite exotic. I could appreciate the kindness and availability of its people, visit your archaeological heritage, see the beauty of nature, feel the energy of Karachi and work together to strengthen the ties between Italy and Pakistan. It has been a very satisfying period, speaking both personally and professionally. I will leave a part of my heart here.

DF: Excellency! During your stay in Pakistan, Did you get opportunity to visit to North or East Side of Pakistan (Sindh Mohenjo-daro ,PUNJAB Lahore City like Shesh Mehal Palace of Mirrors, Lahore fort, Minar-i- Pakistan (KPK Khaghan, Naran Murree) Northern side is very beautiful for

I think Pakistani women are fantastic. I met incredible women in Karachi who are resilient, strong, intelligent and very elegant

tourist like Gilgit Baltistan, Chitral Kalash.

I have visited almost all of Pakistan, and one of the places I liked the most is certainly Lahore. It is a splendid city, rich in history and culture. The Palace of Mirrors is a marvel. However, Sindh also has many interesting places: Mohenjodaro, Banbhore, Makli, and Chowkandhi. Pakistan has great potential as a tourist destination and I hope that local authorities continue to invest in the development of the infrastructure for the hospitality sector, which is fundamental if you want to welcome more tourists from the West. Unfortunately, I was unable to visit Gilgit Baltistan. I had planned a trip in June to go to the North but the COVID pandemic forced me to cancel my trip. It means I will return to Pakistan as a tourist to visit Gilgit Baltistan!

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

I am much honored to have been the Consul of Italy in Karachi for almost 03 years. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the people who welcomed me and helped me live peacefully in Karachi. My Special thanks go to the Sindh Police, who have always demonstrated the maximum collaboration, and to all the local authorities.

In recent years we have worked hard together to make Italy and Pakistan even closer than we already are, in the cultural, economic and social fields. I will miss the people of Pakistan and this wonderful country, which surprised me in a positive way.

Let me say for the last time, as Consul of Italy: Pakistan Italy dosti, Zindabad!



Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi, CEO, Editor, Publisher of a prestigious monthly magazine "Diplomatic Focus" Islamabad hosted a very well attended welcome dinner reception in the honor of H.E. Mr. & Mrs. Tarek Dahroug Ambassador of the Republic of Egypt and H.E. Mr. & Mrs. Hamid Abbas Lafta Al-Armashawi Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq at Islamabad. The reception was attended by a large number of guests including political entities, diplomats, government officials and business community





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Opening ceremony of painting exhibition titled "Bexon Exhibition 2020" organized by Handicrafts Association of Pakistan (HAP) at Aqs Art and Craft village







The outgoing Ambassador of the People's Republic of China H.E. Mr. Yao Jing hosted Farewell Reception for Pakistani Media persons and journalists at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Large number of journalists, prominent anchor persons and other members of the civil society were present on the occasion





Armed forces of Armenia blatantly violated the ceasefire regime

infrastructures in the villages were severely

By Mian Fazal Elahi

statement issued by Azerbaijan embassy in Islamabad said that on 27 September 2020, at around 06:00, the armed forces of Armenia have blatantly violated the ceasefire regime and using large-caliber weapons, mortar launchers and artillery have launched an intensive attack on the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan along the frontline, as well as densely civilian populated areas.

There are killed and wounded among the civilian population as a result of the intensive shelling by the enemy of the Gapanly village of Terter region, the Chiragli and Orta Gervend villages of Aghdam region, the Alkhanli and Shukurbeyli villages of Fizuli region, and the Jojug Marjanli village of Jabrayil region. Serious damage was caused to civilian infrastructure.

Dozens of houses and other civilian

damaged and number of civilians and military servicemen were injured and killed.

In response to Armenian provocation, Azerbaijan Army has launched counteroffensive operation along the entire Line of Contact at Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan to suppress the combat activity of the armed forces of Armenia and ensure the safety of the civilian population of Azerbaijan.

The military personnel and tank units, with the support of units of the Rocket and Artillery Troops, frontline aviation, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), determining a large number of manpower (military personnel), military facilities, and military equipment of the Armenian armed forces located in the forward line and in the depths of the enemy's defense, have destroyed them. According to the information received, 12 OSA anti-aircraft missile systems of the Armenian air defense units were destroyed in various directions. A combat helicopter of the Air Force of Azerbaijan was shot down in the Terter direction, the crew members are alive.

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The blitz counter-offensive operation of Azerbaijan Army continues. Currently, the Azerbaijan Army is taking retaliatory actions and our troops fully control the operational situation.

The responsibility for the present situation and future development lie squarely with Armenia's political-military leadership.

We call upon all international organizations and community to condemn Armenia for its current provocation against Azerbaijan, which is aimed at destabilizing peace and security in the region. Dr. Amr Nasreldin, First Secretary and Spouse Mrs. Hebatallah Yasser Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt hosted a "Welcome Reception" in the honor of H.E. Dr. Tarek Dahroug Ambassador of the Republic of Egypt and spouse Mrs. Aliaa Sarwat at Serena Hotel Islamabad. The reception was attended by a large number of guests including political entities, diplomats, government officials and business community.

































Air cargo control unit set up at Islamabad International Airport

This is the third unit to be set up in Pakistan

new air cargo control unit was inaugurated at the Islamabad International Airport (IIA).

The unit has been set up by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Pakistan Country Office, the World Customs Organisation (WCO) as part of the UNODC Container Control Programme (CCP), in partnership with the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), and Pakistan Customs.

The unit is tasked with profiling inbound and outbound air consignments and identify and stop those that may carry illicit substances. Smugglers use legitimate cargo to cover their illegal shipments and the high volume of global trade consignment movements makes it particularly hard for Customs and law enforcement officers to spot illicit consignments.

To address this challenge, UNODC and World Customs Organisation (WCO) developed the Container Control Programme concept and methodology which invests on human resource development and training profiling experts.

The programme aims to bring the best of counterpart agencies together and focus the unit on risk analysis, joint profiling and

targeting in an inter-agency setup.

This is the third unit to be set up with the first established in Karachi in 2016 followed by Lahore in 2018.

"The success of the container control programme in Pakistan is a result of the great commitment from national counterparts," said Jeremy Milsom, the UNODC Representative for the Country Office in Pakistan, while speaking during the inauguration ceremony.

"This is a great example where the joint initiative of UNODC and WCO flourishes through national counterparts' reception, collaboration and appreciation," Milsom continued.

Japanese Embassy Charge d' Affaires Yusuke Shindo said that strengthening aviation security to prevent trafficking of illegal items is one of the major challenges, not only for Pakistan but other countries as well.

"Stability and peace are one of the important pillars of the foreign policy of Japan," he said adding that the Japanese government continues to contribute to stability-based on laws and regulations in various countries."



Newly appointed Pakistani envoy presents credentials to Austrian President



By Mian Fazal Elahi

Massador Aftab Ahmed Khokher, presented his credentials to the Federal President of the Republic of Austria, Dr Alexander Van der Bellen, during an official ceremony held at the Hofburg Palace on 30th September 2020.

Presenting his credentials, Ambassador Khokher conveyed to the Federal President the warm greetings of President Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan. He pledged to further strengthen and expand the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Austria. President Van der Bellen noted that there was immense potential for cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the field of renewable energy, green economy and higher education. He praised Prime Minister Imran Khan's commitment to combating climate change and recalled his recent virtual address at the Austrian World Summit. He also appreciated Pakistan's COVID-19 related policies and measures.

Ambassador Khokher, whose last assignment at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad was Additional Secretary (Americas), has previously served as Pakistan's ambassador to Lebanon. He has also served at Pakistan's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva and as Pakistan's Consul General in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Ambassador Khokher will also be Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the Viennabased international organizations which include the International Atomic Energy Agency, UN Industrial Development Organization, UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the UN Commission on International Trade Law.

President Islamic Republic of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi presenting achievement award to Ammad Rasheed (WINGS GROUP) in Islamabad



Political economy of Pakistan



By Maryam Amna

A fter independence, Pakistan was ruled by bureaucrats who insured the wellbeing and survival of state. In the beginning, military was protector of state. Its purpose was to protect Pakistan from collapse. In the early days, there was lack of industries in Pakistan. Pakistan was ruled by military because parliamentary democracy and constitutionalism failed in state. Socioeconomic disparities were main reason behind slow economic growth of Pakistan. Political structure of Pakistan shifted from import substitution industrialization to neo liberal economic policies.

World Economic forum ranks Pakistan 124 out of 144 countries on the basis of index of competitiveness. It means governance of Pakistan lacks behind in international and national level. Corruption is main factor in stagnant economic growth. Corruption is caused by inefficiency of government. Good governance involved following an efficient policy plan. Integrity framework of Pakistan also needs to be focused.

In year 1959, land reforms were introduced. Its purpose was to lessen the hold of land owners. Large scale economic development took place in year 1947-77.Large amount of money was remitted to Pakistan. As a result, economic development took place International occasions in the past have had an impact on economy of Pakistan. World is a global village, whatever happens in one side of world has an impact on other side of world. This influences political, democratic and social outcomes of a country. For instance, when USSR attacked Afghanistan in year 1979, Pakistan suffered.

9/11 was a global phenomenon. It had impact upon economy of whole world. Pakistan being the neighboring country of Afghanistan was negatively affected by 9/11. US provided aid of 25 billion USD to Pakistan.

Less amount of USAID is used for development of Pakistan. Foreign aid was used by military and bureaucracy. Pakistan is said to be included in war on terror 2001 event. Such situation jeopardized economic growth of Pakistan. The 18th amendment in 2010 says to reduce power of presidency. Provinces were given autonomy after 18th amendment.

Any disruption in one country has effect on other countries. It includes costs like cultural cost, social cost and fiscal cost. Economic cost is also included in it. Pakistan lost 2083 billion rupees in war against terror. Because of terrorism, Pakistan lacks behind in maintain a good situation in world. It faced currency devaluation.

Pakistan's GDP has declined due because industrial and service sectors are left far behind. Pakistan experienced a negative growth rate of 0.4 percent for year 2020.

The circumstances of international political economy effect the political situation of Pakistan. Pakistan became ally of United States right after its independence because of its great geographical location. The aid from US has helped to develop military power of Pakistan economy. The relation with US was counterproductive for Pakistan. After gaining dependence, Pakistan is stuck between authoritarianism and autocracy.

The US aid has been used to build up Pakistan army. The cold war between USSR and US changed the global conditions of world. Third world war decolonized the third world countries. If development is not taking place in a country, it means political situation is not suitable.

Tourism industry has not yet been fully developed. The world travel and tourism council says that Pakistan earned 8.8 billion USD from tourism as compared to India that was 91.3 billion USD. Global ranking of Pakistan is 136 among 190 countries.

There is inequality between men and women in Pakistan. According to UNDP report of gender equality, Pakistan is ranked among 133 out of 160 countries. Pakistan has most growth rate 2.4% annual population among neighboring countries. Women empowerment is essential for socio economic development of Pakistan.

Urbanization eradicates poverty. The poverty is less in urban areas (9.4%) as compared to rural areas (54.6%). Global innovation index says Pakistan is ranked 109 among 126 countries. Pakistan faced slowed growth rate of 3.3% in year 2019.

The democratic system could not make Pakistan's economy better. Pakistan was under military rule for 66 years. Even Bangladesh has higher economic growth than Pakistan. Other countries have been using Pakistan for their own benefit. It is said that military was the main reason behind lack of economic growth. The military power was misused. In the recent years, no strengthening of industries is taking place. In the recent years industrial sector has been neglected, manufacturing sector has been left far behind. Illiteracy has been major cause behind.

PTI government is taking steps for revival of industrial, manufacturing and services sector.

Proper policy system can enhance Pakistan's economy. Those policies should be implemented for sustaining a good reputation at national and International level. Government should protect rights of individual. Planning and budgeting practices will eliminate corruption and Pakistan will attain a good place in political world. In regional comparison with other countries of world, Pakistan lacks far behind.

Population growth of Pakistan compared to other countries from region is 2.1 percent higher. Karachi is the most populated country of Pakistan. Prime Minister Imran khan is taking steps to reform education system of Pakistan. PTI government has announced focus on human development. Provision of education and health has direct link with development of country. It made sure that environment of Pakistan is business friendly.

As far as issue of Kashmir is concerned, Imran khan wants to solve it without involvement of military. He is solving it through negotiation. Slight change is seen in Pakistan's foreign policy as Imran khan is solving US-Taliban issue. President trump says, "Pakistan has made efforts to facilitate the Afghanistan's peace talks, and we are going to ask them to do more."

As far as the CPEC project is concerned, Chinese ambassador said Pakistan is provided 15 million USD. The ties of Pakistan and china are even stronger. In the beginning of CPEC project, 50 billion USD was given to Pakistan. It helped strengthen Pakistan economy and infrastructure was also developed.

PTI is transforming governance in a positive way. The purpose of transforming governance is to make sure wellbeing of citizens. Strengthening of The federation is taking place. The water scarcity is being controlled as dams are being constructed. Government is taking steps to ensure national security of Pakistan. To make Pakistan a well-organized state.

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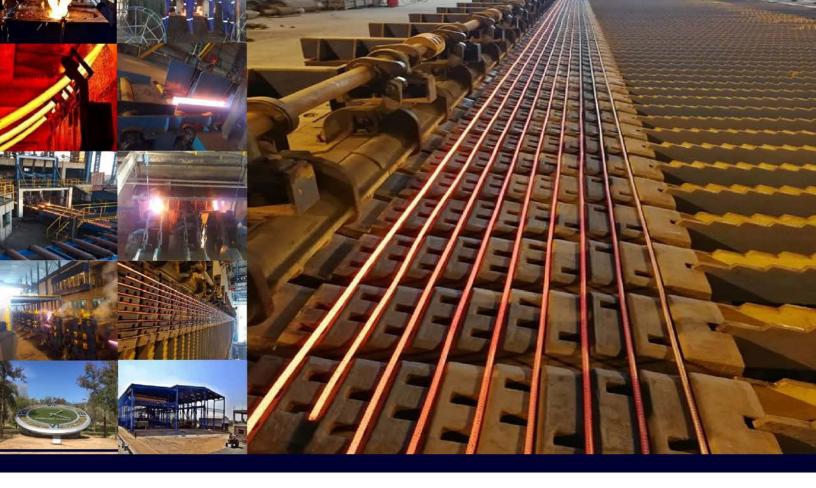
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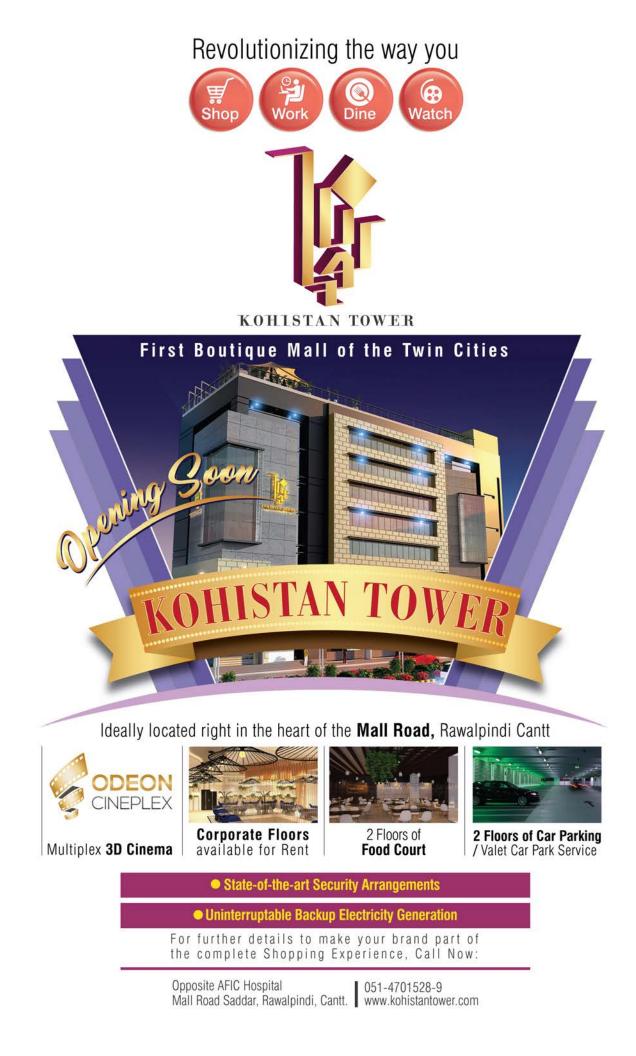


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