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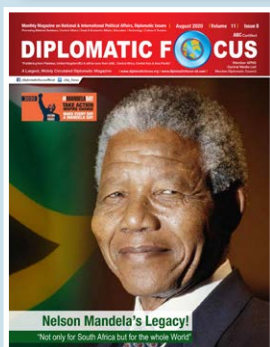
October 2020



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Mian Fazal Elahi

Prime Minister Imran Khan has reiterated that leaders of the Muslim world must take the lead in breaking the cycle of hate and extremism against the Muslims.

He made these remarks during his telephonic conversation with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Both the leaders shared concerns on the rising tide of Islamophobia in the Western world particularly in Europe. The Prime Minister said that Muslim leaders should explain to their counterparts from the Western world about the special reverence and love all Muslims feel towards the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Imran Khan said as European states have laws criminalizing the denial of Holocaust and their sentiments for Holocaust are respected, similarly, the West must also respect the sentiments of Muslims all over the world and refrain from justifying offensive actions under the garb of freedom of expression. The two leaders also agreed that their Foreign Ministers would meet and continue to engage on issues of mutual interest including efforts to address Islamophobia.

President Macron must realise that throwaway irresponsible statements blaming religion for terrorism will only inflame tensions and cause a further increase in attacks. The more Macron sidelines an entire religion for the actions of a few, and encourages Islamophobia instead of countering it, the more fuel he gives to those who perpetrate these attacks, who benefit from the Muslim population being isolated. Even leaders such as Canadian PM Trudeau have come out and drawn a clear line between freedom of speech and hate speech. Freedom of speech has its limits in every legal system; the kind of speech which leads to violence or discrimination must be rejected.

I am highly indebted to all those who have extended their well wishes and precious prayers to me in this time of test and trial. I was very badly sick due to the COVID-19. I quarantined for fourteen days at home. It was really a one of the hardest experience of my life. It was indeed an acid test. And by Grace of Almighty Allah, I appeared triumphant. My COVID-19 test result is NEGATIVE. And prognosis is encouraging. I once again thank you all for your support and cordial warmth. May Allah protect us all and grant speedy recovery and patience to all those who are suffering. Amin!"

Mian Fazal Elahi

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

### Important Announcement

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

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# Muslim world condemns Macron, France over treatment of Islam

Leaders and groups across Muslim world join debate as protests erupt

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring

The backlash over French President Emmanuel Macron's critique of Islam has intensified. Muslims in several countries are demanding a boycott of France. Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has written to the leaders of Muslim-majority countries, asking them "to act collectively to counter growing Islamophobia in non-Muslim states", his office has said. Pakistan has also summoned France's ambassador in Islamabad to express its deep concerns over what it called "systematic ... Islamophobic acts" in the European country.

Ambassador Marc Baret was summoned to the foreign office in Pakistan's capital on Monday morning, a day after Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan criticised French President Emmanuel Macron for "encourag[ing] Islamophobia".

The row centres around recent remarks by Macron regarding Islam and the issue of "blasphemy" that have sparked outrage in several Muslim-majority countries, including Pakistan, UK, Kuwait, Qatar, Palestine, Egypt, Algeria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

Macron hailed Samuel Paty, a French schoolteacher who was beheaded by an 18-year-old man for showing cartoons of Islam's Prophet Muhammad in his class. "[Paty was killed] because he embodied the Republic which comes alive every day in classrooms, the freedom that is conveyed and perpetuated in schools," said Macron. "Samuel Paty was killed because Islamists want our future and because they know that with quiet heroes like him, they will never have it."

Muslims believe any depiction of the prophet is blasphemous. On Friday, the cartoons were projected onto government buildings in France.

Macron, who in September had defended the "right to blaspheme" under free speech rights,

pledged earlier this month to fight what he termed "Islamist separatism" in France.

"The problem is an ideology which claims its own laws should be superior to those of the Republic," he said during a visit to an impoverished Paris suburb on October 2.

The French government, he added, would work to enforce regulations that limit home schooling and to take other administrative actions that would limit what Macron referred to as "indoctrination". The remarks have been met with anger in some quarters.

In recent days Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Macron needed "mental treatment" for his statements. On Sunday, France recalled its ambassador to Ankara over those comments. The row deepened on Monday, with Erdogan calling on Turkish people to not buy French goods. Trade associations in several Arab countries had already announced a boycott of French products on Sunday, the same Khan also criticised Macron for his comments.

"This is a time when Pres[ident] Macron could have put healing touch and denied space to extremists rather than creating further polarisation and marginalisation that inevitably leads to radicalisation," the Pakistani prime minister said in a Twitter post.

"It is unfortunate that he has chosen to encourage Islamophobia by attacking Islam rather than the terrorists who carry out violence, be it Muslims, White Supremacists or Nazi ideologists."

PM Imran Khan did not explicitly mention the attack on Paty, or other violent attacks related to alleged blasphemy, in his comments on Sunday. Khan has frequently brought up the issue of rising Islamophobia, especially in Western European countries and the United States, once again focusing on the issue during his address to the United Nations General Assembly in September.

On Sunday, he wrote a public letter to Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg asking the social media platform to place a ban on content deemed to be Islamophobic or encouraging hate against Muslims.

He referenced the platform's recent decision to ban content that supports the Holocaust genocide against European Jews between 1941 and 1945, or questions its existence.

"Given the rampant abuse and vilification of Muslims on social media platforms, I would ask you to place a similar ban on Islamophobia and hate against Islam for Facebook that you have put in place for the Holocaust," Khan said in a copy of the letter published by his office.

"The message of hate must be banned in total – one cannot send a message that while hate messages against some are unacceptable, these are acceptable against others." Pakistan Foreign Minister Qureshi said Pakistan had urged the United Nations "to take notice and action against the hate-based narrative against Islam."

Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif wrote on Twitter: "Muslims are the primary victims of the 'cult of hatred' – empowered by colonial regimes & exported by their own clients. Insulting 1.9B Muslims- & their sanctities – for the abhorrent crimes of such extremists is an opportunistic abuse of freedom of speech. It only fuels extremism."

Morocco's foreign ministry also "vigorously" condemned the continued publication of the caricatures, in a statement carried by the official MAP news agency. Jordan's Islamic Affairs Minister Mohammed al-Khalayleh said that "insulting" prophets was "not an issue of personal freedom but a crime that encourages violence."

Saudi Arabia on Tuesday condemned cartoons and any attempts to link Islam with terrorism.



# Eid Milad un Nabi (PBUH) celebrated across Pakistan



By Mian Fazal Elahi

**E**id Milad un Nabi or 12 Rabi Ul Awal 2020 is celebrated on the 12th day of the Rabi-ul-Awal which holds significant importance in Islam and the Muslim ummah is blessed on this day with the birth of their last Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in the third month of the Islamic calendar. The green color pennants are observed in different.

People illuminated several streets, buildings, and mosques across the country with beautiful lights and buntings in celebration.

Every year, the government, religious organisations, Milad committees, and individuals plan a large number of activities, comprising processions, seminars, conferences, and discussion programmes to mark the annual event.

Special prayers are offered in mosques, where

religious scholars preach about Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) teachings of tolerance, serving mankind, peace, love, forgiveness, and his practices which lead us to become a better person. His life was indeed a picture of what Islam stood for.

A public holiday is declared on 12 Rabi Ul Awal 2020 day whereof the offices are closed and different rallies and processions took place in different cities of Pakistan. The Eid Milad un Nabi celebrations are also observed in other countries, the celebration varies from place to place.

According to reports, the federal government has already announced to observe an Ishq-e-Rasool (S.A.W) week starting 12 Rabi-ul-Awal comprising conferences and Milad programs across Pakistan.

The date of 12th of Rabi-ul-Awwal is the

greatest day in the history of mankind. In addition to paying homage to this day in a glorious way, The Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH) should be spent in the mirror. All the problems will be solved if the life and civil life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) remain in front.

By highlighting and describing the radiant aspects of the social, political, economic, social and family life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), the people should be taught a lesson on how to start a meaningful practical life.

It is very important to highlight the tolerance of the Holy Prophet, equality, women's rights and respect, education and training of children and mental development, upholding the truth, beautiful ways of rooting out evils, brotherhood, rights of neighbors and so many other aspects of life and humanity that world should follow for the betterment of human society.



## Congratulatory Message from Prime Minister Imran Khan to Chinese Premier on China's National Day

**E**xcellency, On behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan, and on my own behalf, I would like to extend my heart-felt felicitations on the 71st anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China. The birth of New China on 1st October 1949 was a momentous occasion in the annals of history. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese people are set to achieve the centennial goals of building Moderately Prosperous Society and Great Modern Socialist Country. It is a matter of immense satisfaction that Pakistan's bilateral relationship with China has maintained its characteristic momentum, unaffected by the vicissitudes of times. Our All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership continues to grow from strength-to-strength. Pakistan would continue to support China in pursuit of its core national interests. CPEC is a transformational project and my government has whole-hearted commitment to making it a High-Quality Demonstration Project of BRI. It is heartening to know that China has successfully won the 'People's War' against COVID-19. Our mutual cooperation and joint efforts in the fight against COVID-19 remained exemplary and delivered promising results. I take this opportunity to extend my best wishes for Your Excellency's health and happiness and for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of China. Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.





# New envoys presented their credentials to President Dr. Arif Alvi



By Mian Fazal Elahi

**R**esidents Ambassadors-designate of Brazil, Denmark, Sweden, Greece, Hungary and Ukraine presented their credentials to President Dr. Arif Alvi in a credentials ceremony, at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. Felicitating the newly appointed Residents Ambassadors-designate to Pakistan, the President expressed the hope that the bilateral relations of their respective countries with Pakistan would further improve in all areas of mutual trust including the economic, political, cultural and diplomatic relations. Mr. Olyntho Vieira, Ambassador-Designate

of Brazil, Ms. Lis Rosenholm, Ambassador-designate of Denmark, Mr. Henrik Persson, Ambassador-designate of Sweden, Mr. Andreas Papastavrou, Ambassador-designate of Greece, Mr. Bela Fazekas, Ambassador-designate of Hungary and Mr. Markian Chuchuk Ambassador-designate of Ukraine presented their credentials to the President. Later, the Residents Ambassadors separately called on the President. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Pakistan was keen to promote relations with all friendly countries in the areas of mutual interest. The President apprised the Ambassadors about the smart lock-down policy of the

Government which successfully contained the spread of Covid-19 pandemic. He remarked that Pakistan was making efforts for promoting peace and stability in the region. The President also highlighted the gross human rights violations being committed by India against the Muslims of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He said that India had unleashed a reign of terror by persecuting the minorities. He urged the international community to take note of atrocities being perpetrated by the Indian security forces against Muslims and other minority groups.





## Mr. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar firming up bilateral cooperation between Pakistan & Afghanistan

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Leader of the Hizb-e-Islami, Afghanistan, Mr Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. While welcoming the visiting dignitary, President Dr. Arif Alvi said that Pakistan and Afghanistan shared a similar history, culture and religion and the two brotherly countries must further strengthen bilateral cooperation for the mutual benefit of two peoples. He said that Pakistan would continue to stand by the Afghan nation in difficult times and would continue to contribute to the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan. The President underscored the need for peace and stability in Afghanistan, which he said, would benefit not only Afghanistan and Pakistan but the entire region as well. He assured that Pakistan would continue to support Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process for an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement. He expressed the hope that the peace agreement between the USA and the Taliban and the Intra- Afghan Negotiations would help bring peace and stability to Afghanistan. The President warned against the role of spoilers who are bent upon derailing the peace process. He added that the Afghan leadership must seize this historic opportunity to establish lasting peace in Afghanistan and save the peace-process from being harmed. The President emphasized that Pakistan's positive contribution in promoting peace in Afghanistan had

been acknowledged by the international community. He highlighted Pakistan's support to Afghanistan, particularly, the assistance extended to Afghan refugees, opening of the border for transit and bilateral trade during Covid-19, and revised visa policy for Afghan nationals. Mr Gulbuddin Hekmatyar lauded Pakistan's efforts for promotion of peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan.

Mr. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of Hizb-e-Islami of Afghanistan, called on Prime Minister Imran Khan today. The Prime Minister, while welcoming the Afghan dignitary, underscored

historic bonds of friendship and brotherhood between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Prime Minister underscored the importance Pakistan attaches to the fraternal Afghan people and reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to foster closer cooperation with Afghanistan. The Prime Minister expressed best wishes for successful outcome of the Afghan peace process as Pakistan had the highest stake in peace and stability in the region. He reiterated his long-standing position that there was no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan and that an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process was the only way forward.







The Prime Minister noted that Intra-Afghan Negotiations provided a historic opportunity for the Afghan leadership to establish lasting peace. Underlining the positive contribution made by Pakistan in facilitating the Afghan peace process, the Prime Minister hoped that the Afghan parties would work to secure an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement. The Prime Minister also warned against the damaging role of 'spoilers', within and outside Afghanistan. Besides undermining peace and stability, the Prime Minister underlined, this could also undermine the peace dividend to be accrued in terms of progress and prosperity of the Afghan people. Referring to the enormous potential in bilateral trade, transit and connectivity between the two countries, the Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's full support for Afghanistan on the path of reconstruction and economic development and dignified return of Afghan refugees. The Prime Minister said Pakistan would continue to facilitate people-to-people exchanges, promote Afghan investments, and enhance programmes for human resource development and capacity-building of Afghans, especially in the education and health sectors. Mr. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar appreciated Pakistan's positive role in facilitating the Afghan peace process. He also thanked Pakistan for its long-standing contribution to the socio-economic development of Afghanistan and for hosting millions of Afghan refugees for more than four decades.

Mr. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of Hezb-e-Islami Afghanistan, called on Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. Foreign Minister Qureshi welcomed the delegation and underscored the historic ties of amity and brotherhood between Pakistan and Afghanistan. He reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to further strength the close fraternal relations between the two countries.



The Foreign Minister emphasized that Pakistan has always supported a peaceful, stable, united, democratic, sovereign and prosperous Afghanistan. Prime Minister Imran Khan has consistently underlined that there is no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister added that Pakistan facilitated the process that culminated in the U.S.-Taliban Peace Agreement in Doha on 29 February 2020 and supported the commencement of Intra-Afghan Negotiations.

The Foreign Minister stressed the importance of an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement through an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process. The Foreign Minister underscored that all parties must honour their respective commitments and work for reduction in violence leading to ceasefire. The Afghan leaders must seize this historic opportunity to achieve durable and sustainable peace in Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister also underlined the importance of exercising vigilance and guarding against the role of 'spoilers', both within and outside. The Foreign Minister highlighted the steps taken by Pakistan to support Afghanistan on its path to reconstruction and economic development as well as for improved transit and bilateral trade relations. The Foreign Minister underlined the importance of making the return of Afghan



refugees to their homeland with dignity and honour a part of the peace process.

Mr. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar is on a three-day visit to Pakistan. During the visit, he will have meetings with political and parliamentary leadership and other dignitaries.



# New Envoys presented their credentials to President Dr. Arif Alvi

**R**esidents Ambassadors-designates of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Indonesia and Residents High Commissioners-designates of Bangladesh and Maldives presented their credentials to President Dr. Arif Alvi in a Credentials ceremony, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Congratulating the newly appointed Residents Ambassadors-designate/High Commissioners-designates to Pakistan, the President expressed the hope that bilateral relations of their respective countries with Pakistan would further expand in the areas of economy, culture, trade and investment. Ambassador-designate of Afghanistan, Mr. Najibullah Alikhil, Ambassador-designate of Indonesia, Mr. Adam Mulawarman Tugio, High Commissioner-designate of Bangladesh, Mr. Md. Ruhul Alam Siddique, and High Commissioner-designate of Maldives, Ms. Farzana Zahir, presented their credentials to the President. Later, the Residents Ambassadors/High Commissioners made separate calls on the President.

While talking to the Ambassadors/High Commissioners, the President said that Pakistan wanted to further strengthen and enhance economic, trade and political relations with friendly countries. The President briefed the envoys about the steps taken by Pakistan to contain the spread of the Covid-19 virus. He said that the Pandemic was the greatest challenge and the global community needed to make collective efforts to contain the disease. The President also highlighted the gross human rights violations being committed by the Indian security forces against the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

He said that India had transformed the entire valley into world's largest open-air prison. He urged the international community to take note of atrocities being perpetrated by the Indian security forces against Muslims and other minority groups.





# #StopArmenianTerrorism #آرمینیائی\_دہشتگردی\_کو\_روکو



Surrounding residential apartments and buildings have left in ruins.  
This aggression should stop! The political and military leadership of Armenia must be held responsible for the act!



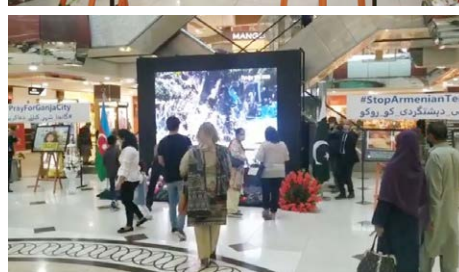
## A special coroner established at Centaurus to show solidarity with Azerbaijan

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

The special coroner established at Centaurus to show solidarity with Azerbaijan. The special corner has the latest photographs from the war affected region of Azerbaijan. It is to commemorate the victims of Armenian aggression and to spread awareness about Armenian war crimes in Karabakh.

Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Ali Alizada pledged that Nagorno Karabakh will be fully liberated by Azerbaijan's valorous armed forces. The war crimes committed by the Armenia will be put to an end. He reiterated that Armenia must respect the United Nations Security Council resolutions and make an unconditional and immediate withdrawal from occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

The ambassador, along with Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, president of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Investment (ICCI), was visited the special coroner. President ICCI, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that people of Pakistan are firmly standing with their brethren from Azerbaijan. He further said that Armenia is an aggressor and has illegally occupied the Azerbaijan's lands. It is time that United Nations must put an end to the plight of Karabakh, Kashmir and Palestine.







# US Election 2020

## Biden beats Trump to win US Election

Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. is an American politician and president-elect of the United States. Having defeated incumbent Donald Trump in the 2020 United States presidential election, he will be inaugurated as the 46th president on January 20, 2021. A member of the Democratic Party, Biden served as the 47th vice president from 2009 to 2017 and United States Senator for Delaware from 1973 to 2009.

Raised in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and New Castle County, Delaware, Biden studied at the University of Delaware before earning his law degree from Syracuse University in 1968. He was elected a New Castle County Councillor in 1970, and became the sixth-youngest senator in American history when he was elected to the U.S. Senate from Delaware in 1972, at the age of 29. Biden was a longtime member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and eventually its chairman. He opposed the Gulf War in 1991, but supported expanding the NATO alliance into Eastern Europe and its intervention in the Yugoslav Wars of the 1990s. He supported the resolution authorizing the Iraq War in 2002, but opposed the surge of U.S. troops in 2007. He also chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee from 1987 to 1995, dealing with drug policy, crime prevention, and civil liberties issues; led the effort to pass the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act and the Violence Against Women Act; and oversaw six U.S. Supreme Court confirmation hearings, including the contentious hearings for Robert Bork and Clarence Thomas. He ran

unsuccessfully for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1988 and again in 2008.

Biden was reelected to the Senate six times, and was the fourth-most senior senator when he resigned to serve as Barack Obama's vice president after they won the 2008 presidential election; Obama and Biden were reelected in 2012. As vice president, Biden oversaw infrastructure spending in 2009 to counteract the Great Recession. His negotiations with congressional Republicans helped pass legislation including the 2010 Tax Relief Act, which resolved a taxation deadlock; the Budget Control Act of 2011, which resolved a debt ceiling crisis; and the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, which addressed the impending "fiscal cliff". He also led efforts to pass the United States–Russia New START treaty, supported military intervention in Libya, and helped formulate U.S. policy toward Iraq through the withdrawal of U.S. troops in 2011. Following the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, he led the Gun Violence Task Force. In January 2017, Obama awarded Biden the Presidential Medal of Freedom with distinction.

In April 2019, Biden announced his candidacy in the 2020 presidential election, and he reached the delegate threshold needed to secure the Democratic nomination in June 2020. On August 11, he announced U.S. Senator Kamala Harris of California as his running mate. Biden defeated Trump in the November 3 election. He is the second non-incumbent vice president to be elected

president, after Richard Nixon in 1968.

### Early life (1942–1965)



Biden at age 10 (1953)

Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. was born November 20, 1942, at St. Mary's Hospital in Scranton, Pennsylvania, to Catherine Eugenia "Jean" Biden (née Finnegan) (1917–2010) and Joseph Robinette Biden Sr. (1915–2002). The oldest child in a Catholic family, he has a sister, Valerie, and two brothers, Francis and James. Jean was of Irish descent, and Joseph Sr.'s parents, Mary Elizabeth (née Robinette) and Joseph H. Biden (an oil businessman from Baltimore, Maryland) were of English, French,

and Irish descent.

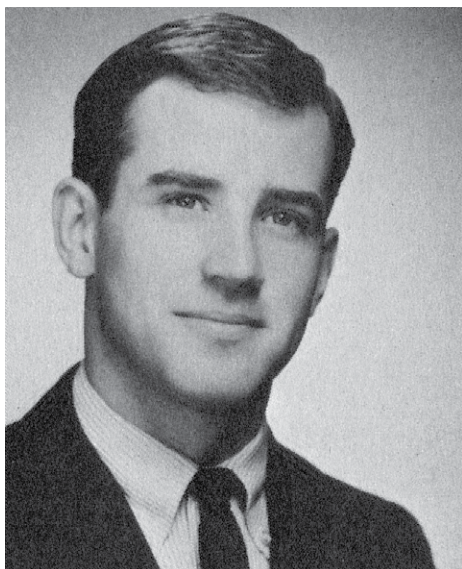
Biden's father was initially wealthy but had suffered several financial setbacks by the time Biden was born; for several years the family lived with Biden's maternal grandparents. Scranton fell into economic decline during the 1950s and Biden's father could not find steady work. Beginning in 1953, the family lived for several years in an apartment in Claymont, Delaware, then moved to a house in Wilmington, Delaware. Joe Biden Sr. later became a successful used car salesman, maintaining the family a middle-class lifestyle.

At the Archmere Academy in Claymont, Biden was a standout halfback and wide receiver on the high school football team; he also played baseball. A poor student but a natural leader, he was class president in his junior and senior years. He graduated in 1961.

At the University of Delaware in Newark, Biden briefly played freshman football and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1965 with a double major in history and political science, and a minor in English. He had a C average and was ranked 506th in his class of 688.

Biden has a stutter, which has improved since his early twenties. He says he has reduced it by reciting poetry before a mirror, but it has been suggested that it affected his performance in the 2020 Democratic Party presidential debates.

### First marriage, law school, and early career (1966–1972)



Biden in the University of Delaware's 1965 yearbook

On August 27, 1966, Biden married Neilia Hunter a student at Syracuse University, after overcoming her parents' reluctance for her to wed a Roman Catholic; the ceremony was held in a Catholic church in Skaneateles, New York. They had three children: Joseph R.

"Beau" Biden III (February 3, 1969 – May 30, 2015), Robert Hunter Biden (born 1970), and Naomi Christina "Amy" Biden (November 8, 1971 – December 18, 1972).

In 1968, Biden received a law degree from Syracuse University College of Law and was admitted to the Delaware bar in 1969. While in school, he received student draft deferments, and afterward was classified as unavailable for military service due to asthma.

In 1968, Biden clerked at a Wilmington law firm headed by prominent local Republican William Prickett and, he later said, "thought of myself as a Republican". He disliked incumbent Democratic Delaware governor Charles L. Terry's conservative racial politics and supported a more liberal Republican, Russell W. Peterson, who defeated Terry in 1968. Biden was recruited by local Republicans but registered as an Independent because of his distaste for Republican presidential candidate Richard Nixon.

In 1969, Biden practiced law first as a public defender and then at a firm headed by a locally active Democrat who named him to the Democratic Forum, a group trying to reform and revitalize the state party; Biden subsequently reregistered as a Democrat. He and another attorney also formed a law firm. Corporate law, however, did not appeal to him, and criminal law did not pay well. He supplemented his income by managing properties.

Later that year Biden was elected to a county council seat in a usually Republican district of New Castle County, Delaware, running on a liberal platform that included support for public housing in the suburbs. He served on the council, while still practicing law, until 1972. He opposed large highway projects that might disrupt Wilmington neighborhoods.

### 1972 U.S. Senate campaign

1972 United States Senate election in



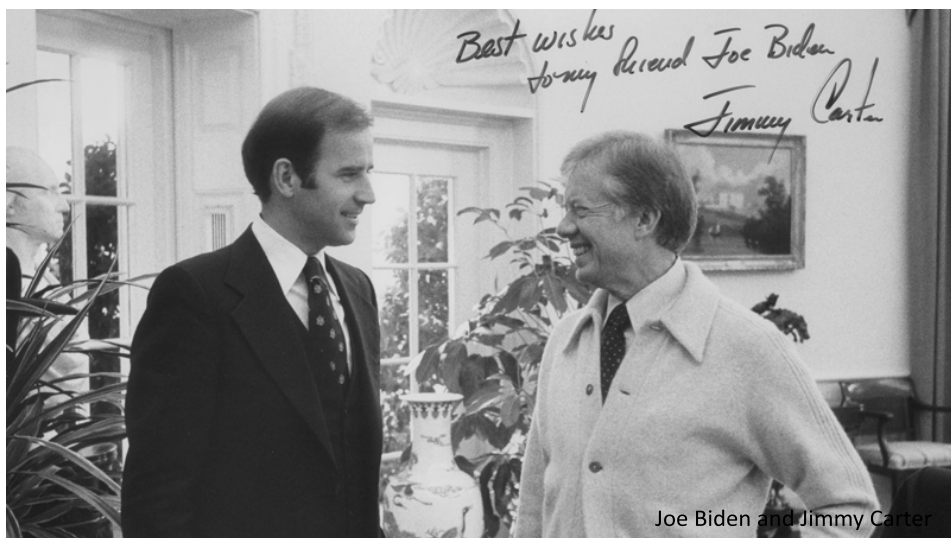
Delaware

In 1972, Biden defeated Republican incumbent J. Caleb Boggs to become the junior U.S. senator from Delaware. He was



Biden in 1973

the only Democrat willing to challenge Boggs; his campaign had almost no money, and he was given no chance of winning. Family members managed and staffed the campaign, which relied on meeting voters face-to-face and hand-distributing position papers, an approach made feasible by Delaware's small size. He received some help from the AFL-CIO and Democratic pollster Patrick Caddell. His platform focused on withdrawal from Vietnam,



Joe Biden and Jimmy Carter



the environment, civil rights, mass transit, more equitable taxation, health care, and public dissatisfaction with “politics as usual”. A few months before the election Biden trailed Boggs by almost thirty percentage points, but his energy, attractive young family, and ability to connect with voters’ emotions worked to his advantage, and he won with 50.5 percent of the vote.

### Death of wife and daughter

On December 18, 1972, Biden’s wife Neilia and their one-year-old daughter Amy were killed in an automobile accident in Hockessin, Delaware. Biden’s sons Beau and Hunter respectively suffered a broken leg and a minor skull fracture, but doctors predicted they would recover fully. Biden considered resigning to care for them, but Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield persuaded him not to.

### United States Senate (1973–2009)

Joe Biden, the president-elect of the United States, previously served in the United States Senate from 1973 through 2009. A member of the Democratic Party from Delaware, Biden was first elected to the Senate in November 1972, and sworn into office at age 30 on



Biden and his second wife, Jill, met in 1975 and married in 1977

January 3, 1973; he was reelected six times. He resigned on January 15, 2009, five days before becoming vice president of the United States during the presidency of Barack Obama.

### Second Marriage

Biden was sworn in on January 5, 1973, by secretary of the Senate Francis R. Valeo at the Delaware Division of the Wilmington Medical Center; present were Beau (whose leg was still in traction), Hunter, and other family. At 30, he was the sixth-youngest senator in U.S. history.

To see his sons every day, Biden commuted by train between his Delaware home and Washington, D.C. 90 minutes each way and maintained this habit throughout his 36 years in the Senate. But the accident had filled him with anger and religious doubt. He wrote later that he “felt God had played a horrible trick” on him, and he had trouble focusing on work.

Biden credits his second wife, teacher Jill

Tracy Jacobs, with the renewal of his interest in politics and life; they met in 1975 on a blind date arranged by Biden’s brother (who had known Jacobs in college) and were married at the United Nations chapel in New York on June 17, 1977. They are Roman Catholics and attend Mass at St. Joseph’s on the Brandywine in Greenville, Delaware. Their daughter Ashley Blazer (born 1981) is a social worker.

Beau Biden became an Army Judge Advocate serving in the Iraq War, and later Delaware Attorney General he died of brain cancer in 2015. Hunter Biden is a Washington attorney and lobbyist.

### Vice President (2009–2017)

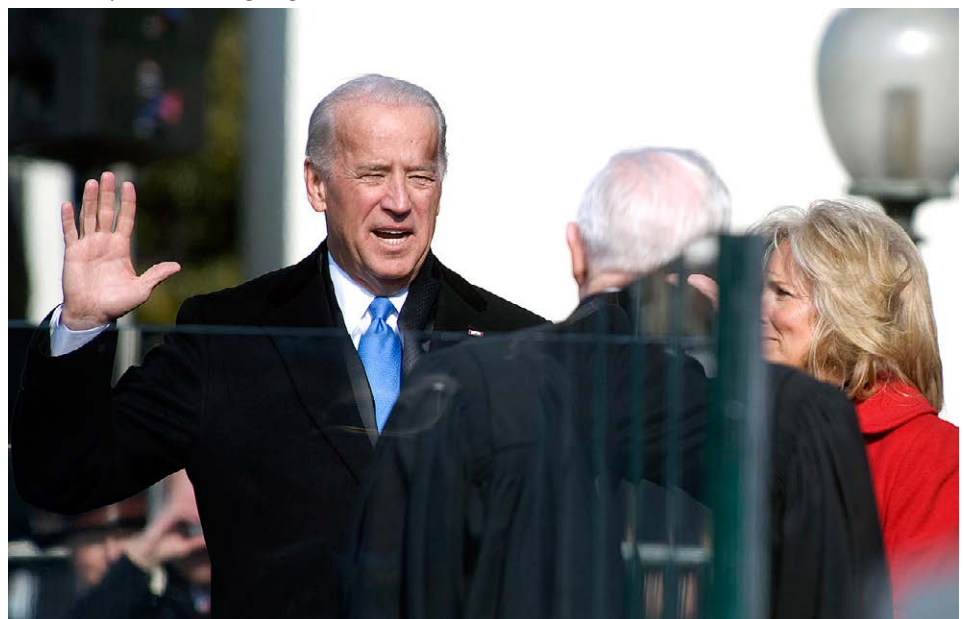
Biden said he intended to eliminate some of the explicit roles assumed by George W.



Biden speaks at the August 23, 2008, vice presidential announcement in Springfield, Illinois



Biden spoke at the signing of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act in 1994.



Biden was sworn into office by Associate Justice John Paul Stevens on January 20, 2009





Biden speaks to Navy SEAL trainees at NAB Coronado, California, May 2009



President Obama presents Biden with the Presidential Medal of Freedom with Distinction, January 12, 2017

Bush's vice president, Dick Cheney, and did not intend to emulate any previous vice presidency. He chaired Obama's transition team and headed an initiative to improve middle-class economic well-being. In early January 2009, in his last act as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, he visited the leaders of Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, and on January 20 he was sworn in as the 47th vice president of the United States the first vice president from Delaware and the first Roman Catholic vice president.

Obama was soon comparing Biden to a basketball player "who does a bunch of things that don't show up in the stat sheet". In May, Biden visited Kosovo and affirmed the US position that its "independence is irreversible". Biden lost an internal debate to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton about sending 21,000 new troops to Afghanistan, but his skepticism was valued, and in 2009, Biden's views gained more influence as Obama reconsidered his Afghanistan strategy. Biden visited Iraq about every two months, becoming the administration's point man in delivering messages to Iraqi leadership about expected progress there. More generally, overseeing Iraq policy became Biden's responsibility: Obama was said to have said, "Joe, you do Iraq." Biden said Iraq "could be one of the great achievements of this administration". His January 2010 visit to Iraq in the midst of turmoil over banned candidates from the upcoming Iraqi parliamentary election resulted in 59 of the several hundred candidates being reinstated by the Iraqi government two days later. By 2012, Biden had made eight trips there, but his oversight of U.S. policy in Iraq receded with the exit of U.S. troops in 2011.

Biden speaks to Navy SEAL trainees at NAB Coronado, California, May 2009. President Obama congratulates Biden for his role in shaping the debt ceiling deal which led to the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Biden was also in charge of overseeing infrastructure spending from the Obama stimulus package intended to help counteract the ongoing recession, and stressed that only worthy projects should get funding. He talked with hundreds of governors, mayors, and other local officials in this role. During this period, Biden was satisfied that no major instances of waste or corruption had occurred, and when he completed that role in February 2011, he said the number of fraud incidents with stimulus monies had been less than one percent.

In late April 2009, Biden's off-message response to a question during the beginning of the swine flu outbreak, that he would advise family members against traveling on

airplanes or subways, led to a swift retraction by the White House. The remark revived Biden's reputation for gaffes. Confronted with rising unemployment through July 2009, Biden acknowledged that the administration had "misread how bad the economy was" but maintained confidence the stimulus package would create many more jobs once the pace of expenditures picked up. On March 23, 2010, a microphone picked up Biden telling the president that his signing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was "a big fucking deal" during live national news telecasts.

Members of the Obama administration said Biden's role in the White House was to be a contrarian and force others to defend their positions. Rahm Emanuel, White House chief of staff, said that Biden helped counter groupthink. White House press secretary Jay Carney, Biden's former communications director, said Biden played the role of "the bad guy in the Situation Room". Another







Biden with Chuck Schumer, Barack Obama and President Donald Trump, January 2017

senior Obama advisor said Biden “is always prepared to be the skunk at the family picnic to make sure we are as intellectually honest as possible.” Obama said, “The best thing about Joe is that when we get everybody together, he really forces people to think and defend their positions, to look at things from every angle, and that is very valuable for me.” On June 11, 2010, Biden represented the United States at the opening ceremony of the World Cup, attended the England v. U.S. game, and visited Egypt, Kenya, and South Africa. The Bidens maintained a relaxed atmosphere at their official residence in Washington, often entertaining their grandchildren, and regularly returned to their home in Delaware.

Biden campaigned heavily for Democrats in the 2010 midterm elections, maintaining an attitude of optimism in the face of predictions of large-scale losses for the party. Following big Republican gains in the elections and the departure of White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel, Biden’s past relationships with Republicans in Congress became more important. He led the successful administration effort to gain Senate approval for the New START treaty. In December 2010, Biden’s advocacy for a middle ground, followed by his negotiations with Senate minority leader Mitch McConnell, were instrumental in producing the administration’s compromise tax package that included a temporary

extension of the Bush tax cuts. Biden then took the lead in trying to sell the agreement to a reluctant Democratic caucus in Congress. The package passed as the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010. In foreign policy, Biden supported the NATO-led military intervention in Libya in 2011. He supported closer economic ties with Russia.

In March 2011, Obama delegated Biden to lead negotiations between Congress and the White House in resolving federal spending



levels for the rest of the year and avoiding a government shutdown. By May 2011, a “Biden panel” with six congressional members was trying to reach a bipartisan deal on raising the U.S. debt ceiling as part of an overall deficit reduction plan. The U.S. debt ceiling crisis developed over the next few months, but Biden’s relationship with McConnell again proved key in breaking a deadlock and bringing about a deal to resolve it, in the form of the Budget Control Act of 2011, signed on August 2, 2011, the same day an unprecedented U.S. default had loomed. Biden had spent the most time bargaining with Congress on the debt question of anyone in the administration, and one Republican staffer said, “Biden’s the only guy with real negotiating authority, and [McConnell] knows that his word is good. He was a key to the deal.”

### Barack Obama 2012 presidential campaign

In October 2010, Biden said Obama had asked him to remain as his running mate for the 2012 presidential election, but with Obama’s popularity on the decline, White House chief of staff William M. Daley conducted some secret polling and focus group research in late 2011 on the idea of replacing Biden on the ticket with Hillary Clinton. The notion was dropped when the results showed no appreciable improvement for Obama, and White House officials later said Obama had never entertained the idea.

The Obama campaign nevertheless still valued Biden as a retail-level politician who could connect with disaffected, blue-collar workers and rural residents, and he had a heavy schedule of appearances in swing states as the Obama reelection campaign began in earnest in spring 2012. An August 2012 remark before a mixed-race audience that Republican proposals to relax Wall Street regulations would “put y’all back in chains” led to a similar





analysis of Biden's face-to-face campaigning abilities versus his tendency to go off track. The Los Angeles Times wrote, "Most candidates give the same stump speech over and over, putting reporters if not the audience to sleep. But during any Biden speech, there might be a dozen moments to make press handlers cringe, and prompt reporters to turn to each other with amusement and confusion." Time magazine wrote that Biden often went too far and "Along with the familiar Washington mix of neediness and overconfidence, Biden's brain is wired for more than the usual amount of goofiness."

### **Biden speaks during the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue in Washington, D.C., July 2013.**

Biden was officially nominated for a second term as vice president on September 6 by voice vote at the 2012 Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. He faced his Republican counterpart, Representative Paul Ryan, in the vice-presidential debate on October 11 in Danville, Kentucky. There he made a feisty, emotional defense of the Obama administration's record and energetically attacked the Republican ticket, attempting to regain the momentum lost by Obama's unfocused debate performance against Republican nominee Mitt Romney the week before.

On November 6, 2012, Obama and Biden were elected to second terms. The ticket won 332 Electoral College votes to Romney-Ryan's 206 and 51% of the popular vote.

In December 2012, Obama named Biden to head the Gun Violence Task Force, created to address the causes of gun violence in the United States in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. Later that month, during the final days before the United States fell off the "fiscal cliff", Biden's relationship with McConnell once more proved important as the two negotiated a deal that led to the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 being passed at the start of 2013. It made many of the Bush tax cuts permanent

but raised rates on upper income levels.

### **List of honors received by Joe Biden**

Biden has received honorary degrees from the University of Scranton (1976),[411] Saint Joseph's University (LL.D 1981), Widener University School of Law (2000), Emerson College (2003), Delaware State University (2003), his alma mater the University of Delaware (LL.D 2004), Suffolk University Law School (2005), his other alma mater Syracuse University (LL.D 2009), Wake Forest University (LL.D 2009), the University of Pennsylvania (LL.D 2013), Miami Dade College (2014), University of South Carolina (DPA 2014), Trinity College, Dublin (LL.D 2016), Colby College (LL.D 2017), and Morgan State University (DPS 2017). Biden also received the Chancellor Medal (1980) and the George Arents Pioneer Medal (2005) from Syracuse University.

In 2008, Biden received Working Mother magazine's Best of Congress Award for "improving the American quality of life through family-friendly work policies". Also in 2008, he shared with fellow senator Richard Lugar the Government of Pakistan's Hilali-Pakistan award "in recognition of their consistent support for Pakistan". In 2009, Kosovo gave Biden the Golden Medal of

Freedom, the region's highest award, for his vocal support for its independence in the late 1990s.

Biden is an inductee of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association Hall of Fame. He was named to the Little League Hall of Excellence in 2009.

On May 15, 2016, the University of Notre Dame gave Biden the Laetare Medal, considered the highest honor for American Catholics. The medal was simultaneously awarded to John Boehner, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. On June 25, 2016, Biden received the Freedom of the City of County Louth in the Republic of Ireland. On January 12, 2017, Obama surprised Biden by awarding him the Presidential Medal of Freedom with Distinction—for "faith in your fellow Americans, for your love of country and a lifetime of service that will endure through the generations". It was the only award by Obama of the Medal of Freedom with Distinction; other recipients include Ronald Reagan, Colin Powell and Pope John Paul II. On December 11, 2018, the University of Delaware renamed its School of Public Policy and Administration the Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of Public Policy and Administration. The Biden Institute is housed there.





# Chief of the Naval Staff called on President Dr. Arif Alvi

By Main Fazal Elahi

The newly appointed Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. The President congratulated him on assuming the office of Chief of the Naval Staff. While talking to the CNS, the President said that Pakistan Navy played vital role in defending the maritime frontiers as well as securing the economic interest of the country by providing security to Gwadar Port and CPEC sea routes. He expressed the hope that Pakistan Navy, under the leadership of Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, would successfully overcome the maritime challenges being confronted the country.



Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Islamabad.

## CNS Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi conferred Nishan-i-Imtiaz by President of Pakistan

In recognition of the illustrious services of Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, the President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi, conferred Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon him at a special Investiture Ceremony, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr. The ceremony was attended by Federal Ministers, senior military and civil officials of the Government of Pakistan. Admiral Muhammad Khan Niazi, CNS, was commissioned in Operational Branch of the Pakistan Navy in January 1985. He has held important Command and Staff appointments both afloat and ashore. The Government of Republic of France has also conferred upon him the medal of "Chevalier" in recognition of his commendable services during Tsunami Relief Operations in 2004. He was promoted to the rank of Admiral and appointed as Chief of the Naval Staff on 7th October, 2020. He is the 21st Chief of the Naval Staff.



President Dr Arif Alvi conferring Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi.





# ADMIRAL MUHAMMAD AMJAD KHAN NIAZI ASSUMES COMMAND OF PAKISTAN NAVY

**A**dmiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi HI(M) SBT has assumed Command of Pakistan Navy as 22nd Chief of the Naval Staff. The change of Command was formally held in an impressive ceremony today at PNS ZAFAR Islamabad, in which Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi NI(M), upon completion of his tenure of Service, handed over the reins of Command to Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi.

In his farewell address to officers and men of Pakistan Navy, the outgoing Naval Chief, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi, thanked Allah SWT for enabling him to discharge his duties to the best of his abilities with honesty, justice and dignity. The Admiral underscored that he kept his primary focus on transforming Pakistan Navy into a combat ready force with special emphasis on optimum battle preparedness and professional competence. He praised the untiring efforts of the finest officers and men of Pakistan Navy who worked as a team to achieve the progress made in all domains in line with his vision. Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi while highlighting the volatile geo-political landscape and heightened tensions in the preceding years made particular mention of the conflict situation post-Pulwama incident. He remarked that Pakistan's civil military unified stance and diplomatic-military push back, frustrated Indian designs. Pakistan Armed Forces gave a befitting response and won the battle of hearts

and minds, shattering the myth of India's false sense of superiority. He applauded the professionalism displayed by PN in detecting the intruding Indian Navy submarine in Pakistani waters.

The Admiral also highlighted his initiatives to generate maritime awareness and channelize efforts to jump start Blue Economy, with focus on joint exploration of offshore hydrocarbon resources to reap full dividends of Pakistan's enormous and untapped maritime potential. In the end, the outgoing Naval Chief congratulated Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi on his appointment. He reposed complete confidence in the incoming CNS for leading the Navy to new heights and wished him a successful tenure in office.

While relinquishing his Command, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi thanked the Government, MoD, JSHQ and sister Services for rendering all out support to PN in execution of its sacred responsibilities of seaward defence.

Earlier, the outgoing Naval Chief was presented Guard of Honour. Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi formally handed over the Command of Pakistan Navy by presenting the traditional scroll to Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi. The change of command ceremony was attended by former Naval Chiefs, serving and retired PN officers, CPOs/ sailors and Navy civilians. Later, Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral

Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi laid wreath at Shuhada monument at Naval Headquarters and offered Fateha. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi was commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1985. A winner of the coveted Sword of Honour, the Admiral has vast experience of both command and staff appointments. Command appointments of the Admiral include command of two Type 21 ships PNS BADR and PNS TARIQ, Commander 18th Destroyer Squadron, Commandant PNS BAHADUR, Commandant Pakistan Navy War College/ Commander Central Punjab, Commander Pakistan Fleet and Commander Karachi. His distinguished staff appointments include Principal Secretary to Chief of the Naval Staff, head of F-22P Mission in China, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Training & Evaluation), Director General Naval Intelligence and Chief of Staff (Operations) at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad.

Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi is a graduate of Army Command & Staff College Quetta and National Defence University Islamabad. He also holds a Master 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 was also conferred the French Medal Chevalier (Knight) by the Government of France.



# PAKISTAN NAVY AND CPEC SECURITY

By: Baber Ali Bhatti

CPEC is one of the biggest projects undertaken in the region. Besides providing a most economical route for trade connectivity between China, Pakistan and rest of the world, CPEC (along with Gwadar Port) will also provide better connectivity to the Central Asian Republics (CARs). It may potentially act as transit and transshipment port for Central Asia. The Gwadar Port can also be utilized as a hub-port for the Gulf States as well. In this way, the project with the port utility will potentially speed up the economic activities in the seas and oceans. Ultimately, the increasing economic activities would provide tremendous support to the economy of Pakistan. With these benefits, this project also invites multitudes of challenges to ensure its security. Gawadar port is the major

component of this project which brings this project under maritime domain.

Gawadar port located at Arabian Sea in the Indian Ocean which is home to multiple conventional and non-conventional security threats emanating from state and non-state actors. Increased Chinese interests and presence in the region, Indo-Iran and Indo-Gulf cooperation, emerging Indo-U.S. strategic partnership and increasing Indian ambitions have made the Indian Ocean home to different threats and challenges. With changing dynamics of security in the Indian Ocean, non-conventional threats are also posing challenges to security. Specter of non-conventional threats is much wider and intertwined with conventional means such as climate change, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, illegal immigration, smuggling of arms and drugs,





piracy and maritime terrorism. Besides non-conventional threats, conventional security and defending more than a thousand kilometer coastline is itself a bigger challenge. Pakistan's navy is safeguarding the interests and addressing the challenges emanating from the maritime dimension of CPEC.

This article succinctly provides overview of the security projects, and initiatives undertaken by Pakistan navy to ensure the security of CPEC and Gwadar Port. Pakistan navy is expanding the overall security apparatus of Gwadar Port, including conduct of coastal exercises and security patrols in the required areas. It is also enhancing its maritime domain awareness (MDA) and largely engaging itself in collaborative maritime security practices with regional and extra-regional navies. The Navy established an exclusive force namely Force Protection Battalion (FPBn) consisting of Pakistan Marines for the protection of Gwadar Port and the Chinese personnel. The

force size is strategically subject to increase and decrease as port related activities increase or decrease. Moreover, the new port security task force TF-88 has also established by Pakistan which is said to be equipped with aerial surveillance aircraft, missile boats and drones. This special security force set up for the defence of shore-side facilities and activities will further consolidate the security measurements.

Additionally, the modern state-of-the-art radar networks, electro-optic sensors and pickets deployed by the Navy are providing tremendous assistance for constant surveillance and monitoring of the maritime area of Pakistan. Coastal Watch Stations (CWSs) and Joint Maritime Information Coordination Centre (JMICC) being established by the Pakistan Navy in order to further strengthen the maritime and coastal security will also prove critical as with the establishment of these centers and stations,

the Navy will be able to gather and compile valuable information and to synergize coordinated operations with different security agencies in the maritime domain. Pakistan Navy is regularly collaborating with navies of different countries and engaging in various different activities including joining multinational task forces to advance interoperability and handle maritime crimes. Pakistan Navy is playing a pivotal role in the security and protection of this project. Seemingly, the initiatives taken and strategies opted by the Navy imply that Pakistan Navy will be finely tuned to tackle the changing and emanating threats, and will remain up to speed regarding modern challenges in the maritime domain.

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# Nigerian High Commissioner paid a farewell call on President Dr. Arif Alvi



The Outgoing Nigerian High Commissioner, Major General (R) Ashimiyu A. Olaniyi Paid a farewell call on president Dr Arif Alvi At Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

By Mian Fazal Elahi

**P**resident Dr Arif Alvi has emphasized the need for increased cooperation between Pakistan and Nigeria in the areas of trade, economy and defence. He said that Pakistan attached utmost significance to its relation with Nigeria and wanted to further strengthen and diversify the existing bilateral relations to the mutual benefit of the two countries. He stated this during a meeting with outgoing

Nigerian High Commissioner, Maj Gen (R) Ashimiyu A. Olaniyi, who made a farewell call on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. While talking to the High Commissioner, the President said that both countries needed to promote high-level contacts and visits which would further cement bilateral relations. The President highlighted the atrocities being committed by India security forces against the Muslims of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K). He urged the international

community to play its role for peaceful resolution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute and protection of the Muslim minority in India. The meeting expressed satisfaction over the current level of cooperation and emphasized the need to further strengthen defence, trade and political relations. The President appreciated the efforts made by the outgoing High Commissioner for enhancing bilateral relations between Pakistan and Nigeria.

## Pakistan highly values its ties with Malaysia

**H**igh Commissioner of Malaysia in Pakistan Ikram Mohammad Ibrahim called on Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque.

Federal Minister for IT welcomed the High Commissioner of Malaysia in his office and during meeting matters of bilateral cooperation and concerning IT and Telecommunication were discussed during the meeting.

Federal Secretary Ministry of IT Shoaib Ahmad Siddique was also present. The two sides agreed to boost cooperation in field of IT and Telecommunication.

Federal Minister for IT Syed Amin Ul Haque said that Pakistan highly values its ties with Malaysia.

He said that under the Digital Pakistan vision of Prime Minister of Pakistan, Ministry of IT is taking measures for provision of broadband services across the country. The High Commissioner

of Malaysia said that efforts of the Ministry of IT for promotion of information technology are commendable and collaboration between two countries in the field of information and

communication technology (ICT) is vital. Federal Secretary Ministry of IT Shoaib Ahmad Siddique was also present.



High Commissioner of Malaysia in Pakistan Ikram Mohammad Ibrahim called on Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque in Islamabad.





## President's visit to Kuwait to offer condolences on the demise of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

By News Agency

During his meeting with the new Amir of Kuwait, High Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the President offered profound sympathies and heartfelt condolences on behalf of the leadership, Government and people of Pakistan. The President conveyed that the Pakistani nation fully shared the sorrow and grief of their Kuwaiti brethren and stood by them in this difficult time. The President noted that the late Amir was a true and trusted friend of Pakistan and made invaluable contribution to the furtherance of brotherly relations between the two countries. The late Amir's services to the Kuwaiti nation, his contribution to the Pakistan-Kuwait relationship, and his efforts for regional peace and stability will be long remembered. The President also conveyed best wishes to High Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah upon assuming his responsibilities as the new Amir and expressed the confidence that Kuwait would continue to forge ahead on the path of progress and prosperity under his wise stewardship. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah expressed sincere gratitude to President Dr. Arif Alvi, Prime Minister Imran Khan, and the people of Pakistan for their condolences and for sharing the sorrow and

grief of the Kuwaiti people. The two leaders affirmed their shared commitment to further

deepen the Pakistan-Kuwait relationship in all dimensions.

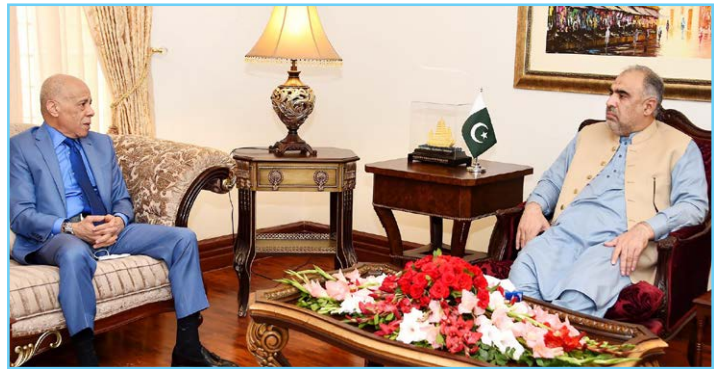




# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi call on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Islamabad



Ambassador of Morocco Mohammed Karmoune called on Speaker Assembly Asad Qadir in Islamabad



British High Commissioner to Pakistan Christian Tuner called on Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qurehis at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad



Federal Minister for Interior Ijaz Ahmad Shah met with the Ambassador of Kingdom of Thailand H.E. Mr. Pornpop Uampidaya at the Ministry of Interior Islamabad



Lt. Gen Shahab Jahid Ali Al Shakarachi, Commander Iraqi Air force called on Federal Minister for Defence Production, Ms. Zobia Jalal at Rawalpindi.



Egyptian Ambassador to Pakistan, Tarek Mohamed Hussein Dahrouh called on Federal Minister for Aviation, Ghulam Sarwar Khan in Islamabad.



Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan, H.E. Andreas Ferrarese called on Federal Minister for Human Rights Dr. Shireen Mazari at her office in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Syed Fakhar Imam met Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Ms. Anoroulla Kaminara in Islamabad.



# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



World Bank's country Director to Pakistan Najy Benhassine call on the Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam in Islamabad



Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Tarek Mohamed Dahrough called on Secretary Commerce, Muhammad Sualeh Ahmed Faruqi



Ambassador of Pakistan to Afghanistan, H.E. Mansoor Khan called on H.E. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Leader of Hisb-e-Islami in Kabul.



Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Paulo Neves Pochinho called on Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood



British High Commissioner Dr. Chrisitan Turner called on Advisor to PM on Accountability and Interior Barrister Mirza Shahzad Akbar



Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Tarek Mohamed Dahrough Called on Advisor to the PM on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood



Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Tarek Mohamed Dahrough Made A Courtesy call on Federal Minister for Energy, Mr. Omar Ayub Khan in Islamabad



Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK Moazzam Ahmad Khan received the Pace sSticking Team from Pakistan Military Academy at the High Commission and congratulated them on winning the competition at Royal Military Academy Sandhurs





# Lahore joins the metro train club!

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

**P**unjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar inaugurated Pakistan's first ever Orange Line Metro Train project in Lahore.

This is the first electricity-run public transport project through which around two lac fifty thousand commuters will travel daily.

This project would lessen transport load on Multan Road and would provide a world-class public transport facility to the citizens.

Orange Line Metro Train is the first transport project under CPEC which is also a symbol of Pakistan-China friendship and a gift for the people of Lahore.

The line runs for 27.1 km serving 26 stations on a mostly-elevated alignment, with a 1.7 km tunnelled section in the city centre. Starting from Ali Town in the southwest it follows Multan Road to reach underground stations at Anarkali Bazaar and Central, then runs via the main line station and east along Grand Trunk Road to Dera Gujran.

CRRC Zhouzhou has supplied a fleet of 27 five-car Type B trainsets, with the first delivered on May 15 2017, and a further 27 are expected

to arrive by 2025. The trains are maintained at North depot, beyond the eastern terminus at Dera Gujran, and a stabling yard has also been provided at Ali Town. Traction power is from a 750 V DC third-rail supply. Dynamic testing began on October 8 2017. The trains are expected to operate at up to 80 km/h, offering an end-to-end commercial speed of nearly 35 km/h. Design capacity of the line is 250 000 passengers per day.

A metro for Lahore had been proposed in 1991, and again in 2005, but the plans stalled until a memorandum of understanding was signed with China in May 2014 under the umbrella of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor. The

Punjab provincial government subsequently agreed a Rs162bn soft loan with China's Exim Bank the following year to fund the project.

Construction of the west-east Orange Line began in October 2015. The line has been built by China State Railway Group Co and China North Industries Corp with civil works undertaken by local contractors creating an estimated 7 000 jobs.

Two further lines are currently being planned. The Blue Line would run south from Chauburji on the Orange line for 24 km serving 22 stations, whilst the 32 km northwest-southeast Purple Line with 20 stations would serve the city's international airport.





# Pakistan and Bosnia have great opportunities for cooperation in diverse areas



**P**akistan and Bosnia have agreed to improve the volume of trade and expand cooperation in different fields.

The understanding came at a meeting between Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Sefik Dzaferovic in Islamabad today.

Later, in a joint media talk, Prime Minister Imran Khan pointed out that the trade between the two countries currently stands at four point five million Euros which is nothing. He said both the sides have decided to hold further deliberations to improve trade and cooperation in every field.

The Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to the Bosnian President for his principled stance on Kashmir dispute. He said India has been taken over by a fascist regime that is not only persecuting innocent people in occupied Jammu and Kashmir but also targeting its minorities especially the Muslims.

Voicing his concerns over rising trend of Islamophobia, the Prime Minister said freedom of speech shouldn't be used as a tool to hurt the sentiments of any religious community. He said desecration of holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Sallaallaho Alaihe Wa Sallam Khatim-un Nabiyeen causes the greatest pain to the Muslims and the Western countries must understand it.

In his remarks on the occasion, the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia said both the countries have stood by each other in difficult times.

Regarding Kashmir Dispute, Sefik Dzaferovic said human rights of the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir must be respected. He also stressed for the resolution of the dispute in line with the UN Security Council Resolutions.

Sefik Dzaferovic strongly condemned Islamophobic incidents in the world. He said these are unacceptable and religious feelings

of the Muslims should not be hurt. He called for a dialogue to build bridges and evolve unity around diversity.

The Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia said there are great opportunities of cooperation between the two countries in diverse areas including military, agriculture and diplomacy.

Sefik Dzaferovic was appreciative of the fact that Pakistan has successfully tackled the COVID-19 pandemic. He thanked Pakistan for offering assistance to Bosnia in fight against the pandemic.

He also invited Prime Minister Imran Khan to visit Bosnia.

Earlier, the two sides signed two MOUs. One was related to Scientific and Technological Cooperation and the other about readmission of their own citizens and the accompanying protocol.



## Mr. Maurizio Romani hosted a dinner reception for Ambassadors

General Manager Islamabad Marriott Hotel Maurizio Romani hosted a dinner reception in the honor of newly arrived Ambassador and High Commissioners of various countries. A large number of diplomats attended the reception. Mr. Maurizio Romani speaking on the occasion welcomed the new ambassadors and hoped they would enjoy their stay in Pakistan Member of Diplomatic community, Government Official, High Dignitaries, Business Community and Media persons also grace the occasion.





# Election turbulence in America



Maleeha Lodhi

**I**N one of the most consequential elections in America's recent history, the presidential contest between Donald Trump and Joe Biden has been mired in fierce contention and acrimony. Apart from the charged environment in which the campaign is taking place, legal challenges to voting procedures have been mounting in many states — a portent of the political turbulence that may lie ahead.

Just two weeks away, the election is being viewed with rising concern in the US and beyond over whether its outcome will produce an orderly transfer of power or become bogged down in long drawn legal battles, strife and even violence. The world watches with dismay and bewilderment at the spectacle of American democracy and institutions being undermined in the election tussle. With the country deeply polarised, political consensus over the integrity of the electoral process has eroded to such an extent that it may risk delegitimising the election outcome itself.

So far, the Democratic contender Joe Biden is leading in all the national polls. But the race is still close in the battleground or swing states which have greater political weight given America's electoral college method of electing the president. A key question is whether in this election too, the winning candidate will secure more electoral college votes but lose the popular vote. This is what transpired in the previous election when Hilary Clinton won the popular vote but Trump received the requisite electoral college votes to be declared the winner.

Unprecedented uncertainty characterises the environment in which the election is taking place. The coronavirus pandemic has injected many unknowns into the election and how it would impact polling especially voter turnout. Record use of postal ballots rather than in-person votes is being forecast, and already being witnessed in the early voting process. But the uncertainty this has triggered is whether the election infrastructure in many states has the capacity and resources to deal with millions of mail-in votes. That would also mean the electoral verdict could take days, even longer,

to compute so that the outcome may not emerge on election night.

This points to a danger being widely discussed in American political circles — of an aspirant declaring himself the winner on polling day when postal votes have yet to be fully counted, which could be decisive to the outcome. Trump has constantly questioned postal ballots assuming they would advantage the Democrats. Describing mail-in votes as a “corrupt disaster”, he has suggested they would be used fraudulently to favour Biden.

## Will the outcome produce an orderly transfer of power or lead to legal battles and strife?

Perhaps the greatest election uncertainty has been fuelled by Trump's assertions that he may not accept the result if he loses and raising doubts about the election's integrity. Although he started alleging foul play months ago, Democrats too have been questioning the election's credibility, accusing Republican-run states of trying to suppress the vote. Meanwhile legal teams of both parties have been stepping up challenges to election rules across the country.

A record number of legal fights are in progress especially in battleground states. As a report in the Wall Street Journal pointed out, “In some key states, lawsuits that could affect turnout and outcomes in races across the ballot are making their way through the court hierarchy and could land at the US Supreme Court.” Exacerbating this situation have been deliberate cuts in federal funding for the US Postal Service with Trump acknowledging unabashedly that he is doing this to restrict mail-in votes. Democrats have predictably accused him of voter suppression.

Against this fraught backdrop the election outcome might well be disputed. Several possibilities are being speculated by American election analysts. If the result is a decisive victory for any candidate that would arguably minimise chances of a challenge. But if the result is a narrow one, legal battles may ensue and could go to the US Supreme Court, leaving the country in limbo until the dispute

is resolved. While the election dispute in Florida went to the Supreme Court in the 2000 presidential race between George W. Bush and Al Gore, the latter accepted the verdict and conceded defeat. It is far from certain how it could play out this time.

A significant disconnect between the popular and the electoral college vote may also serve to delegitimise the election for supporters of the candidate who wins the popular vote by a large margin but loses in the electoral college. This will not be the first time for the popular and electoral college vote to vary but in the prevailing climate it could have a different political impact.

A grimmer scenario is also possible, as indicated by Trump's assertions, which have fuelled much speculation in the country's media. In this, Biden wins by a handsome margin but Trump refuses to concede and challenges the outcome, alleging voter fraud. He has made ominous statements calling for ‘election squads’ to monitor the vote to “watch all the thieving, stealing and robbing”. In the first presidential debate Trump urged a far-right group and his supporters to be ready, ostensibly to prevent ballot fraud. This is heightening tensions and more dangerously leading to attempts by right-wing militia groups to intimidate voters.

Actions by right-wing vigilantes and white supremacist groups — encouraged by Trump's stance — can provoke election chaos. This acquires greater significance in view of the fact that American security agencies now see armed white supremacist groups as among the most lethal threats to the country. In Congressional testimony last month, the FBI director warned that “racially motivated violent extremism,” principally from white supremacists, represented “the majority of domestic terrorism threats”.

All this adds up to an election and its aftermath fraught with the risk of America's descent into prolonged turmoil and instability — a situation succinctly summed up by Frank Bruni in a New York Times op-ed: “This country, already uncivil, is on the precipice of being ungovernable, because its institutions are being so profoundly degraded, because its partisanship is so all-consuming, and because Trump, who rode those trends to power, is now turbocharging them to drive America into the ground.”

The implications for the world of protracted instability in the US are considerable and will be discussed in a later column. (Courtesy to Dawn) The writer is a former ambassador to the US, UK and UN.



# Learning the Chinese way



By Senator Rehman Malik

The nation takes its place in the world with good performance coupled with high integrity. As of now, the Chinese say that big walls are not protectors; instead, the national character with loyalty to the nation is the real national protector in all odd situations including in blocking the criminal activities through rule of law. Integrity and a strong character become the automatic protector of the rule of law and once rule of law is in place, then no one can stop a nation to the height of achievements in all walks of life. Corruption is automatically eradicated with strong integrity of every citizen. Those in charge of accountability boys even fail in Pakistan to control corruption. Justice has to be certain with honest dealing and in China, the bullet used in executing the death penalty is to be paid by the family of the convict whereas this needs to control the natural force of character.

We have been building tall walls of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and PPO etc against the corruption and malpractices but we have so far failed and these high walls of accountability could not stand in front of mighty corruption and other crimes. Why? A question and response is built in the true story of the Chinese system evolved through centuries with a great lesson to the world. Let us recall the history of China with its ancient history and the Chinese decided to live in peace and free of alien attacks, hence they made the Great Wall of China with a lot of resources with the view that this wall will protect them and they thought no one could climb it due to its height and it will provide the security to people of China.

The Chinese were invaded thrice in the first 100 years, even with the presence of this wall and every time, despite the high wall it became a big national issue and concern as to how the enemy managed to climb up so high to attack. The enemy infantry did not require penetration or climbing up over the wall, because they found an easy way every time and bribed the guards on duty and the doors were all opened for the enemy and

these guards sold their country and national character for a few pennies. The dignity of their nation was sold to the enemy enabling them to invade their country via easy access to the main locked gates. The Chinese thought to make a high wall to protect themselves but they forgot the guards/soldiers standing at vital points who were more important than the high wall and the Chinese had actually forgotten the character-building of the guards. There is no doubt that the great wall has become a powerful symbol of the country's enduring strength and spirit, but it has been a good reminder to the Chinese of the superiority of human character than the walls and it is a lesson for the whole world, not only in the field of defence but in security, economy and law enforcement.

This is what the Chinese learned later; that a solid character is more important than the strongest wall to protect them from internal and external intruders. The wisdom that the Chinese realised much later is that the best defence against the enemy is not a fortified wall, but a solid national character. Thus, the building of human character comes before the building of anything else. Pakistan has built high walls of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) against corruption but it did not work as this is not the NAB wall or long stick but we need to devise laws and SOPs for national character building which should be embedded with hate against corruption and other crimes. The fear of law must be there as we are losing our national strength because of noncompliance with the law.

William Shakespeare stated "The fault is not in our stars, but in ourselves" and it is very true even now. We need to inculcate crime free-thinking in ourselves and respect the law; always change yourself and your nation will change itself automatically. Wetland leads you to water and national character leads the nation to success. We need to build strong laws to protect our people and lead them the way to success.

We need a stronger social justice system and it is unfortunate to quote the following and it should be alarming for the parliament and higher judiciary and the Ministry of Law and Justice that our justice system stands at 120th position in the WJP of Law Index 2020 out of 128 countries; we even stand lower than Congo. It is not the fault of the judiciary but it is the fault of our social justice system and the whole society, the government and all of us including the parliamentarians are responsible for this International Index.

It looks like our present justice system has failed to provide justice. I myself became a victim once as DG FIA and law enforcer and then as a politician and the intelligence agencies were responsible for it and I will raise it in the parliament too. Even most recently, I experienced unimaginable pressure on our judicial system and it is overworked. I experienced a few odd disappointing judicial encounters faced being a senior law enforcer, a former Interior Minister and thrice-elected Senator.

I plan to bring to the Supreme Judicial Council with evidence for the purpose to bring good change and some amendments in our social justice system. I will also have an open debate on our social justice system. I will brief the House as to what I observe, hiding my identity with a cap and COVID mask to observe the influence of the 'powerful of the powerful' playing with our criminal social justice system. How we need to reform our social justice system, the functioning of police and prosecution without extra wheels to run it. I remember Mr. Saleem Safi's interview with a business tycoon who told him outspokenly as to how he ties extra wheels with files to get his any job done in the present system.

My disclosures will surprise many about my latest encounters in the high corridors of power in our mighty custodian of the "criminal social justice system" which is not free of pressures and extra wheels.

I now tend to believe in another way that "justice is blind". I think the International Law Society needs to change this worldwide idiom "Justice is never Blind" whereas according to Ibne Khaldoon, nations are built with the yardstick of triangular accountability of three arms of the state i.e political, judicial and bureaucracy. Will we ever be able to do that and stop one phone call that snatches away the rights from the deserving and oppressed ones.

*Author Note: "Opinions expressed are solely my own and not necessarily to reflect the views or opinions of my party": Senator Rehman Malik*

*The writer is former Interior Minister of Pakistan, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Interior and Chairman of Think Tank "Global Eye". He is the author of four books and his fifth book is about to get published. He can be reached at: rmalik1212@gmail.com, Twitter @Senrehmanmalik*



# Turkish Embassy celebrated Republic Day ceremony at the Embassy in Islamabad



**Turkish Republic Day was celebrated in Pak-Turk Maarif International Schools in Islamabad with a great spirit. Ambassador Mustafa Yurdakul and his spouse Madame Zlatomira Yurdakul also attended the ceremony and the activities within celebration**





# China Focus: Xi's statements at UN meetings demonstrate China's global vision



Chinese President Xi Jinping's statements at High-level Meetings Marking the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations (UN), demonstrating the global vision and firm commitment of China as a major country, have been welcomed and highly regarded by the international community, Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Friday.

Wang gives an overview of Xi's participation and important statements at these meetings.

Xi has recorded video messages for a series of important video conferences, including the High-level Meeting to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the UN, the General Debate of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly, the Summit on Biodiversity, and the High-level Meeting on the 25th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

It is widely agreed that Xi's statements and proposals will have positive and far-reaching impact on the evolution of the international landscape, both now and in the future, Wang added.

## DEMONSTRATE NEW SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY

Xi provided comprehensive and systematic answers to such key questions as what kind of a world humanity will face in the post-COVID era, what role China will play in the world and what kind of an international order we all need, Wang said, adding that the Chinese president took a clear stand and unequivocally reiterated China's firm commitment to multilateralism,

the authority of the UN, the path of peaceful development and mutually beneficial cooperation, and the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Photo taken on Sept. 14, 2020 shows the outside view of the United Nations headquarters in New York, the United States. (Xinhua/Wang Ying)

Noting Xi announced a set of new initiatives and measures at this year's General Assembly, Wang said these initiatives are part of China's proactive efforts to advance global peace and development. They are also the solid actions taken by China to support multilateralism.

Wang emphasized that the new statements and proposals by Xi at this year's General Assembly further enriched and expanded Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy in both theory and practice.

## INJECT NEW IMPETUS INTO GLOBAL COVID-19

## RESPONSE

Noting COVID-19 is a global public health crisis to confront humanity since World War II, and international solidarity is much needed in overcoming it, Wang said Xi put forward a range of important initiatives and proposals and demonstrated a strong sense of responsibility for the wellbeing of humanity against this backdrop.

Xi elaborated on China's experience in fighting COVID-19, including its people-first, life-first commitment, science-based approach and well-calibrated measures, Wang said, adding that many countries have stated that China's experience has been proven effective in practice, and reinforced their confidence and strength in defeating the virus.

Chinese medical expert team members pose for a photo at Dr. John Garang Infectious Disease Unit in Juba, South Sudan, Aug. 21, 2020. (Chinese Embassy in South Sudan/Handout via





Xinhua)

“China both advocates and more importantly, actively pursues global cooperation against COVID-19. Under the personal direction of President Xi, China engaged in a biggest-ever global humanitarian action in the history of the People’s Republic, and provided assistance to countries in need to the best of its ability,” Wang said.

#### FORGE NEW CONSENSUS ON GLOBAL GOVERNANCE SYSTEM REFORM

Emphasizing the global governance system needs to be reformed and brought up to date, Wang said Xi set out China’s views on this subject in an all-round fashion, with a dialectical perspective on what should remain unchanged and what should be changed in today’s global governance system.

The Chinese president pointed out that there is but one system in the world, and it is the UN-centered international system; there is but one set of rules, and it is the basic norms governing international relations underpinned by the UN Charter, Wang said, adding that these important statements set the tone for the reform of the global governance system.

Xi called on the UN to stand firm for justice, uphold the rule of law, promote cooperation and focus on real action, Wang said, adding that these four propositions epitomize the great expectations of the global community on the UN.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has a videoconference with United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 23, 2020. (Xinhua/Liu Weibing)

Wang highlighted that Xi’s resounding statements struck a chord with the majority of the international community, and charted the right course for reforming the global governance system.

#### PUT FORTH NEW PROPOSALS FOR GLOBAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Noting COVID-19 has taken a heavy toll on the economic and social development of all countries, while the backlash against globalization and rise of protectionism has aggravated the global downturn, Wang said Xi made proposals on effectively removing the main obstacles holding back global recovery and development at this critical moment.

Xi calls for remaining committed to building an open world economy, upholding the multilateral trading regime with the World Trade Organization as the cornerstone, and working to ensure the stable and smooth functioning of global industrial and supply chains demonstrate China’s vision and sense of responsibility to forge ahead against all odds



and charted the future course for the world economy, Wang said.

Meanwhile, the Chinese president underlined that China aims to foster, over time, a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other, Wang said, adding that these statements reflected China’s openness and readiness to share its huge market with the rest of the world, and projected its image as a responsible country promoting win-win cooperation through real actions.

Aerial photo taken on Sept. 24, 2020 shows a cargo ship loaded with containers at Dalian port in northeast China’s Liaoning Province. (Xinhua/Yao Jianfeng)

Xi also made many important observations on the new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation and the transition to green and low-carbon development, Wang added.

“All this has pointed the way forward for the sound and sustained growth of the world economy,” noted the state councilor.

#### SET NEW BENCHMARK FOR GLOBAL ECOLOGICAL PROGRESS

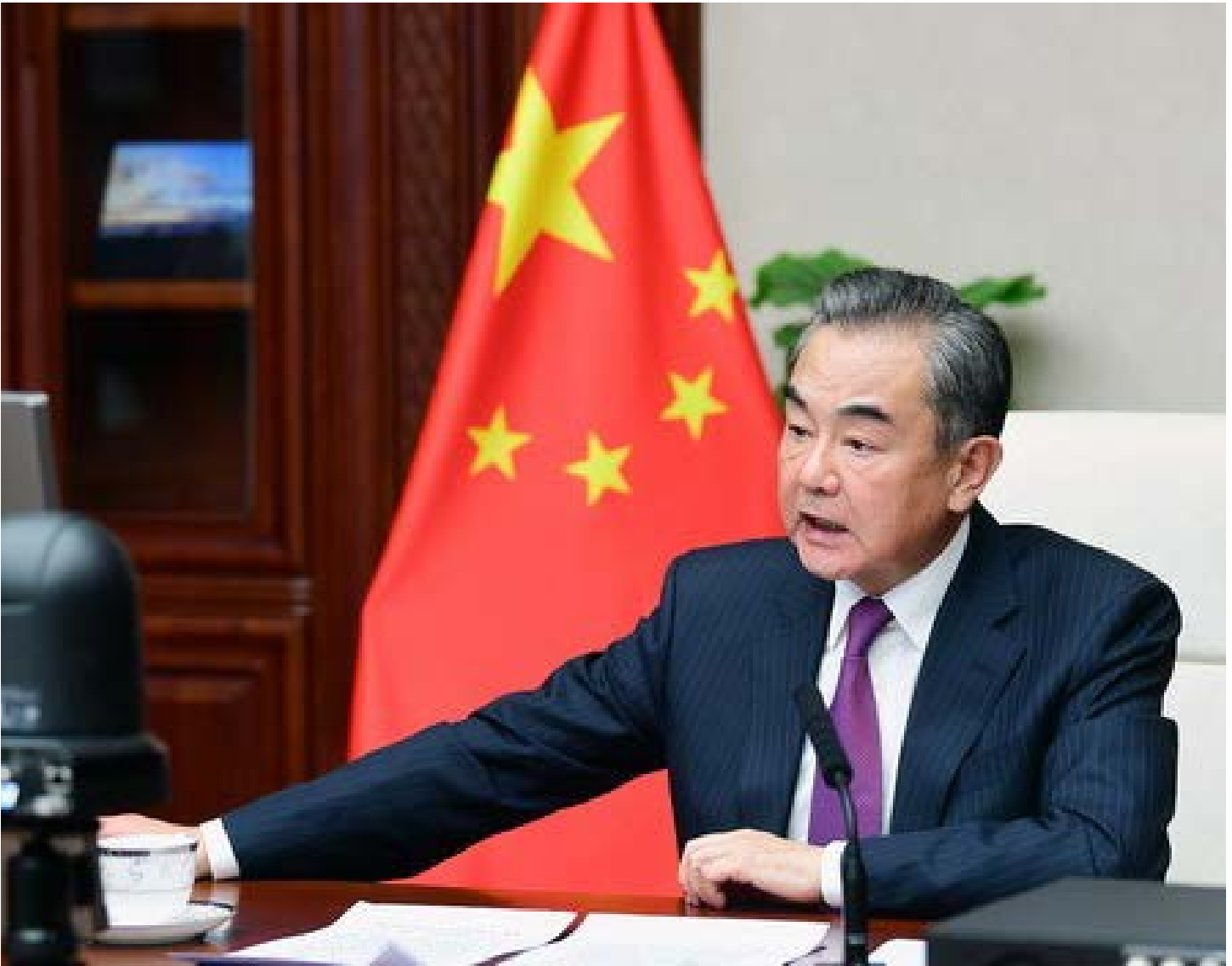
Noting Xi put forward four proposals, namely, increase the drive for building a beautiful world, build synergy for global governance on the environment, increase the potential for high-quality economic recovery after COVID-19, and strengthen the power of action to tackle challenges to the environment, Wang said these insightful views and important announcements have contributed to the promotion of global ecological progress.

Xi solemnly announced that having met its 2020 climate action targets two years ahead of schedule, China will scale up its nationally determined contributions, adopt even more forceful policies and measures, and strive to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060. Wang said these ambitious targets have shown to the world that China is firmly committed to the new development philosophy and stands ready to make new contributions to global climate response.

Looking ahead, Wang said that no matter what difficulties and obstacles may lie ahead, the pursuit of the Chinese nation for rejuvenation will not be stopped, the just cause of multilateralism will not be halted, and the prevailing trend of peace and development in the world will not be reversed.







## Wang Yi Attends UNSC Ministerial Meeting on the Situation in the Persian Gulf Region

On the evening of October 20, 2020, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi attended a ministerial meeting of the United Nations Security Council on the situation in the Persian Gulf region in Beijing via video link.

Noting that ongoing tensions in the Persian Gulf region are taking a toll on regional and even international peace and security, Wang Yi urged UNSC members and Gulf states to seek the key to peace with sincerity and goodwill, and be more responsive to the aspirations of the international community, especially people in the region. China puts forward three proposals:

First, adhering to the rule of law to contribute to the peace of the Gulf. All parties should





follow the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, uphold the basic norms governing international relations, including full respect for sovereignty and peaceful settlement of disputes, oppose unilateral sanctions and use of force to put on pressure, and abandon the double standard of choosing to abide by whatever suits its purpose and discarding whatever it finds obstructive. The United Nations should fully play its role in mediating and facilitating talks, and support the mediation efforts of regional organizations such as the Gulf Cooperation Council. All parties should earnestly implement the resolutions of the Security Council and fulfill their international obligations.

Second, upholding good neighborliness to contribute to the security of the Gulf. No country can choose its neighbors, so harmonious co-existence is the only right choice. All parties should seek common ground, rising above institutional differences, putting aside sectarian rifts, remaining committed to dialogue and consultation, and creating the conditions needed for regional security.

Third, championing fairness and justice to contribute to the stability of the Gulf. The Persian Gulf is home to all Gulf states. While

non-Gulf countries may offer constructive help, they should not overstep or form cliques for private gains. Non-Gulf countries should take a fair and balanced stance, and make sincere efforts to promote peace talks and the stabilization of local situation.

Wang Yi said, the Iranian nuclear issue is key to the situation in the Persian Gulf region. In face of unjustified oppression or even threat, most UNSC members remain committed to an objective and fair position on the Iranian nuclear issue, and uphold the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and the UN Security Council Resolution 2231. China calls on creating a new platform for multilateral dialogue for Gulf countries on the basis of preserving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, to inject momentum into deescalating the tension and reaching new consensus on maintaining peace and stability of the region.

Wang Yi emphasized, the platform will be equal and open, so all parties should follow the principles of mutual respect, mutual understanding and mutual accommodation, join the dialogue process and address their respective concerns through consultation on an equal footing. The platform will be an action-oriented one, so all parties should follow the principle of reciprocity, synchronization and meeting each other halfway, and focus

on building trust and releasing goodwill. The platform will aim at making continuous progress, so all parties should build consensus and work together to solve the easier issues first and then move on to the difficult ones, and dynamically adjust the agenda to ensure gradual, sustained progress on the dialogue.

Wang Yi said, the Gulf states are always China's good friends and partners. China takes an active part in the affairs of the Persian Gulf region, dedicates itself to pushing the alleviation of regional situation, continues to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation with the Gulf countries, and helps the region to solidify the foundation for development and stability. China is working actively with the Gulf countries on combating COVID-19 and will provide them with the vaccines as needed once the vaccine development and deployment is completed. China stands ready to join all countries in the region and the international community in further contributing to the region's security and stability and building an "oasis of security". Initiated by Russia, the rotating presidency of UNSC for the month, the ministerial meeting was hosted by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and attended by foreign ministers of other UNSC member states, as well as the Persian Gulf region countries and the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

## Pakistan attaches great importance to its cordial relations with Saudi Arabia

By Zainab Arshad

President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan attaches great importance to its cordial relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and wants to further expand bilateral ties with the brotherly country for the mutual benefit of the two sides. The President stated this during a meeting with the President, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), Dr Hathal Hamoud Al-Otaibi and Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Mr. Nawaf Saeed Al Malkiy, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Congratulating Dr Hathal Hamoud Al-Otaibi on his appointment as President of the IIUI, the President expressed the hope that the university would progress further under his leadership. The President asked him to develop and strengthen international linkages between IIUI and reputed foreign universities of the world and Saudi Arabia. Underscoring the increasing importance of online education, the President said that online contents of the knowledge needed to be enhanced as distant learning is cost-effective and easily accessible. Dr Hathal Hamoud Al-Otaibi said that he would follow merit and run the affairs of the university in accordance with the guidelines of the Higher Education Commission.



Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan. Mr. Nawaf Saeed Al Malkiy and President International Islamic University Islamabad.



# Wang Yi Holds Talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif



**S**tate Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in Tengchong, southwest China's Yunnan Province.

Wang Yi said, amid profound changes of a kind the world has never seen in a century, we are confronted with a series of emerging threats and challenges. The international community needs multilateralism, fairness and justice, and openness and cooperation more than ever. China and Iran are comprehensive strategic partners, and China will stand ready to strengthen communication with Iran to deepen cooperation in the fight against the COVID-19 and other fields. We will work with all countries to safeguard multilateralism, oppose unilateralism, and maintain international fairness and justice, and common interests of developing countries.

Wang Yi said, China has been committed to upholding the authority and efficacy of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear issue. To preserve the JCPOA is to uphold the outcome of multilateralism, the practice of resolving hot-spot issues through dialogue and consultation, and the authority of the UN and the Security Council. The Chinese

side opposes unilateralism that sabotages the comprehensive agreement, and will continue to promote the implementation of the JCPOA and UN Security Council Resolution 2231, with a view to facilitating the political and diplomatic settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue.

Wang Yi expressed, to respect legitimate security concerns of all parties, China proposes to establish a regional multilateral dialogue platform and include all parties concerned to facilitate dialogue on equal footing and increase understanding under the principle of preserve the JCPOA, thereby resolving the security issues facing the Gulf Region in the Middle East through political and diplomatic means. China is open to the form and content of such a dialogue and all parties are welcome to join the discussion.

Mohammad Javad Zarif congratulated China on its remarkable achievements in COVID-19 response and national development, and said a multi-polar world is an inevitable trend, and the unipolar hegemony can't sustain. China is growing into a major force in the world, and it plays a very important role in the transformation of the global landscape. Iran thanked China for its strong support to Iran in the fight against



the epidemic, and is willing to work with China to strengthen all-round cooperation, oppose unilateralism and safeguard multilateralism. Iran appreciated China's announcement that it will help developing countries have access to vaccines. Iran also commended China's significant role in upholding the JCPOA, and will work with China, Russia, the EU and other parties to uphold the efficacy of the JCPOA. Iran welcomes China's initiative to build a multilateral dialogue platform for the Gulf region, and hopes all parties to demonstrate flexibility and jointly maintain regional peace and stability.

The two sides also held an in-depth exchange of views on international and regional issues of mutual interest.





## Message from H.E. Imran Khan, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nation

The international community commemorates the United Nations' 75th anniversary. We are celebrating this momentous occasion, when 75 years ago, the founding fathers came together to establish a rules-based international system to 'save the succeeding generations from the scourge of war'.

While remaining at the forefront of the deliberations in the UN in supporting decolonization and advocating liberation of many States, Pakistan is proud to play its part in upholding universal values to protect and safeguard human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. Pakistan continues to support the right of all peoples living under foreign occupation and alien domination to self-determination.

It is gratifying that Pakistan has played a critical role in preserving international peace and security, through its contribution of 'blue helmets' to the UN Peacekeeping Missions all around the world.

At this historic occasion, I want to pay tribute to all men and women peacekeepers,

including from Pakistan, who remain ready to serve in the most fragile and conflict-ridden areas and never hesitate to make the ultimate sacrifice for maintaining peace and security around the globe.

The 75th United Nations Day is also a somber reminder that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute remains unresolved, despite being on the UN's agenda for over seven decades.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir are still awaiting the fulfillment of commitment made to them by the United Nations to exercise their right to self-determination.

It is deplorable that the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) has further exacerbated since India's unilateral and unlawful actions of 5 August 2019. Led by 'Hindutva' ideology, the RSS-BJP regime has continued an inhuman military siege and imposed draconian restrictions on freedom of movement and communications.

I urge the international community, especially the Security Council, to exercise its moral, legal, political and diplomatic authority to implement UN Security Council resolutions on

Jammu and Kashmir.

The United Nations faces many challenges amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. We are witnessing rise of ultra-nationalist, populist, xenophobic and Islamophobic tendencies. At the same time, international law and agreements are being flouted or set aside. Trade barriers are being imposed and the pandemic is being 'politicized'.

Pakistan remains committed to supporting the United Nations for realization of our shared objectives of maintaining international peace and security; economic and social development including the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals; and the promotion and protection of human rights for all.

I also reaffirm Pakistan's abiding commitment to multilateralism. Pakistan would continue to play a leading role in the United Nations for peaceful settlement of international disputes and developing friendly relations among nations based on the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, as enshrined in the UN Charter.





## Preventive diplomacy is an integral part of Turkmenistan's neutrality, President of Turkmenistan

**T**urkmenistan is one of the states of Central Asia - a region that today attracts more and more attention of the world community. Here geopolitical and geo-economic interests of many countries of the world are intertwined. Realizing this, Turkmenistan, under the leadership of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, actively participates in processes aimed at strengthening peace, stability, sustainable development and mutual understanding between the peoples of the region, which is of no small importance for achieving universal peace and progress.

One of the important partners of Turkmenistan in this regard is the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), established in accordance with the decision of the UN General Assembly with the support of neighboring states and members of the Security Council in 2007. The headquarters of this unique structure is located in Ashgabat.

The effectiveness of preventive diplomacy has been tested by time. President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted the role and importance of the activities of the UNRCCA

in his video address to the participants of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly. Turkmenistan actively supports the work and initiatives of this Center, which has done a lot since its inception, in particular, in promoting political-diplomatic, trade-economic and cultural-humanitarian interaction between the states of the region and neighboring countries. Turkmenistan actively cooperates with UNRCCA in maintaining regional security, including the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Among the main areas of current cooperation is overcoming pressing threats and challenges, in particular the global pandemic and its socio-economic consequences.

In 2020, Turkmenistan celebrates the 25th anniversary of the permanent Neutrality of the state. By maintaining friendly, impartial and mutually beneficial relations, the state has achieved a lot within this status, one of the pillars of which is preventive diplomacy.

As the President of Turkmenistan noted during his speech at the 75th jubilee session of the UN General Assembly: "Following the logic of its neutral policy to ensure regional

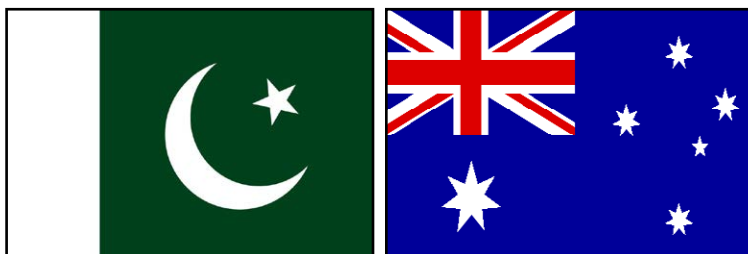
peace, security and development, consistently unlocking the potential of preventive diplomacy, during the session, Turkmenistan intends to invite the General Assembly to consider the draft resolution "Role of Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia".

Turkmenistan is committed to regional and international cooperation through established platforms and programs to achieve concrete results in the economy, trade, healthcare, education and science, the development of energy and transport corridors, and environmental safety. In this context, it is important to emphasize the partnership of Turkmenistan within the framework of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program and other significant structures.

Following the principles of preventive diplomacy, Turkmenistan intends to further make a positive contribution to the process of achieving peace, stability and sustainable development at the regional and international levels.



# Prime Minister of Pakistan telephonic conversation with Prime Minister of Australia



PRIME MINISTER

PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

IMRAN & SCOTT  
KHAN MORRISON

HELD A TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION

BOTH LEADERS DISCUSSED **BILATERAL MATTERS AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST.** **PRIME MINISTER IMRAN KHAN** NOTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S EMPHASIS HAD BEEN ON SAVING LIVES, SECURING LIVELIHOODS, AND STIMULATING THE ECONOMY.

By M. Bilal Zafar

Prime Minister Imran Khan had a telephonic conversation with Prime Minister of Australia, Honourable Scott Morrison, today. Both leaders discussed bilateral matters and international issues of mutual interest.

The Prime Minister appreciated Australia's impressive management of COVID-19 situation and highlighted the unprecedented global health and economic challenges posed by the pandemic.

Prime Minister Imran Khan noted that his government's emphasis had been on saving lives, securing livelihoods, and stimulating the economy. The "smart lockdown" strategy and other measures taken by the government

had led to significant containment of the pandemic in Pakistan.

The Prime Minister particularly highlighted the adverse economic impact of COVID-19 on the developing countries, for which he had also called for the "Global Initiative on Debt Relief" supported by Australia.

While expressing satisfaction at the level of bilateral relations between the two countries, the Prime Minister stressed that there existed huge potential for further enhancing mutually beneficial cooperation in diverse fields. The Prime Minister stated that with improved on-ground situation, cricket between the two sides could also be resumed as COVID-19 pandemic situation improves.

In the regional context, the Prime Minister

highlighted Pakistan's positive contribution to the Afghan peace process and stressed that peace in Afghanistan was of paramount importance for the region and Pakistan. The Prime Minister also highlighted the potential for enhanced trade and increased regional connectivity among the dividends of peace in Afghanistan.

The Prime Minister extended an invitation to the Australian Prime Minister to visit Pakistan at an early date.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison shared his country's efforts to manage COVID-19 pandemic. He also noted Pakistan's positive role in the Afghan peace process. Prime Minister Morrison also invited Prime Minister Imran Khan to visit Australia.





Federal Minister for Interior, Brig (R) Ijaz Ahmad Shah met with the Ambassador of Qatar H.E. Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman Bin Faisal AL Thani at the Ministry of Interior in Islamabad.

## Pakistan welcomes the offer of further firming mutual ties with Qatar

By M. Bilal Zafar

Federal Minister for Interior, Brig (R) Ijaz Ahmad Shah met with the Ambassador of Qatar H.E. Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman bin Faisal Al Thani at the Ministry of Interior. On behalf of the Government of Qatar, conveying the message of his Prime Minister, the Ambassador said that we look forward to strengthening bilateral ties and mutual cooperation between the two countries. Federal Minister for Interior, Ijaz Ahmad Shah welcomed the initiative and stated it is always great to have strong mutual cooperation. The Ambassador briefed the Minister about their upcoming projects in Pakistan, primarily targeting the education field and refugee rehabilitation. In response to which the Federal Minister said that it will have a great positive impact on the concerned areas and appreciated such thoughtful projects. Towards the end of the meeting, the Ambassador

thanked the Minister for his valuable time. The meeting concluded with the promise that both sides will continue to work together on matters of mutual interests in future.







Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, Ambassador Munir Akram casting vote at UN Human Right Council Elections.

# PAKISTAN WINS ELECTION TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan has been re-elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) with an overwhelming majority securing 169 votes in the 193-member UN General Assembly. Elections were held in New York earlier today. Among the five candidates from the Asia-Pacific region vying for four seats, Pakistan secured the highest number of votes. Pakistan is currently serving on the HRC since 1 January 2018. With its re-election today, Pakistan will continue as a member for another three-year term commencing on 1 January 2021. Since the HRC's establishment in 2006, this is the fifth time that Pakistan has been elected to the United Nations' premier body on Human Rights. The international community has once again reposed confidence in Pakistan, recognizing our contribution to the national and global human rights agenda and strong credentials as a consensus builder in the HRC. Pakistan remains firmly committed to upholding, promoting and safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. Pakistan will sustain its efforts towards ensuring that the HRC's work is guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, dialogue and cooperation. In line with Pakistan's commitment, we will prioritize advancement of tolerance, respect and constructive engagement in the HRC. The HRC has been a prominent forum for discussing the gross and systematic human rights abuses being perpetrated in Indian Illegally Occupied

Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The human rights violations committed with impunity by the Indian occupation forces in IIOJK have been extensively documented in the various reports of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the independent Special Procedure Mandate Holders. Pakistan will remain actively engaged with the Council as well as its related processes to continue to highlight the plight of Kashmiris and other oppressed people all over the world. The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body based in Geneva within the United Nations system responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights around the globe. It comprises 47 States

and discusses all thematic human rights issues and specific situations requiring attention, such as those in IIOJK.







# Pakistan stood firmly for peace in the region through dialogue

Moeed Yusuf, National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan

Monitoring

In the first interview by a senior Pakistani official to an Indian news outlet since India's unilateral and illegal actions on 5th August 2019, National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Moeed Yusuf spoke with India's renowned journalist Karan Thapar, saying that Pakistan stood firmly for peace in the region through dialogue but New Delhi's draconian policies towards Kashmiris had made talks impossible. He reiterated Prime Minister Imran Khan's stance that if India took one step forward, Pakistan would take two steps forward. He outlined pre-conditions necessary for any dialogue and said that New Delhi must release all political prisoners in IIOJK, lift the military siege, reverse the domicile bill and stop all human rights violations against Kashmiris before any dialogue could begin. He reminded Indian audiences that today, even pro-India Kashmiri politicians have publicly admitted that no one in IIOJK was willing to live under Indian occupation anymore. Dr Yusuf emphasized that Kashmiris remain the principal party in the dispute according to Pakistan and their wishes and aspirations should be addressed in any dialogue. Drawing a contrast between Pakistan and India, Dr Yusuf said that Prime Minister Imran Khan's government was dedicated to pursuing economic security and connectivity for the prosperity of Pakistan and the region, but policy makers in New Delhi remained blind

sighted by Hindutva ideology. He said India had lost the neighbourhood because of the expansionist policies of the BJP government, while Pakistan was pursuing peace in its neighbourhood. Responding to Indian allegations about terrorism, Dr Yusuf said that Pakistan had facilitated investigations in all cases pending in courts but India was delaying the investigations by not providing evidence in the case. He said not finding a resolution to terror cases helped India in its false narrative of terrorism. Dr Yusuf called out India for being unable to bring the perpetrators of the Samjhuta and Babri Masjid cases, Malegaon blast case and others to justice while it accused Pakistan of delays which spoke to double standards. ? Indian Support for Terrorism Taking an aggressive approach towards Indian sponsored terrorism in Pakistan, the SAPM on National Security revealed new details about millions of dollars in payments made to TTP leadership by RAW officer through Indian Embassy funds. He said Pakistan knew the names and ranks of officers in touch with terror leadership and would soon reveal Indian activities to the world through a detailed dossier based on lengthy investigations. He also revealed that India had financed anti-Pakistan terrorist groups and supported their merger with the TTP earlier this year. For the first time, Dr Yusuf also blamed India for sponsoring the heinous APS attack in which over 100 innocent children lost their lives, saying that Pakistan

had record of eight phone calls made from India to TTP commander before the attack. He added that Indian intelligence handlers based in a neighbouring country had directed the attacks on the Chinese consulate in Karachi, PC hotel in Gwadar and the PSX attack in the last two years. He also revealed how BLA terrorists were receiving treatment in a hospital in New Delhi. ? Kashmiris Principal Party Debunking latest propaganda by India on GB and Kashmir issue, Dr Yusuf said Pakistan stood by UNSC resolutions as the way forward for resolving the dispute and fulfilling the aspirations of over 8 million Kashmiris. He said Indian propaganda would not shake the principled stance of Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. The SAPM said that Prime Minister Imran Khan had directed his office to open space for the government in the region and find solutions to lingering problems, but his counterpart in India was pursuing an opposite direction.

He highlighted that Pakistan stands for peace and would welcome any dialogue with India if the lives of Kashmiris in IIOJK were normalized, Kashmiris were recognized as the rightful principal party in any dialogue, and India stopped sponsoring terrorism against Pakistan. He also pointed to Pakistan's response on 27 February 2019 and warned that any misadventure from India would result in an equally swift response from Pakistan.





## JCC to consider road projects in CPEC

By Monitoring

The government decided to take up new road projects to be included in China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the annual meeting of Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on CPEC that is scheduled to be held in Beijing next month.

This was decided in a consultative meeting to review the preparations for the upcoming 10th JCC meeting.

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar chaired the meeting. All the conveners of the respective Joint Working Groups (JWGs) under CPEC framework including Secretary Planning, Chairman CPEC Authority, Secretary Communications and Secretary Foreign Affairs attended the meeting.

Officials from line ministries and representatives from all relevant departments also attended the meeting.

The conveners of the JWGs and their representatives briefed the minister on the agenda and proposed deliverables for the 10th JCC.

The minister expressed satisfaction over the preparations and suggested deliverables for the JCC.

Under the JWG on Transport and Infrastructure, Asad Umar agreed to take up DI Khan–Zhob

highway project with the Chinese side for funding in the meeting of the respective JWG.

The meeting also agreed that new projects will be considered in the next JCC after approval of the PC-Is including Swat Express Way Phase-II and Peshawar-D I Khan Motorway.

Greater Peshawar Mass Transit was also discussed and it was decided that the project will be taken up with the Chinese side after the completion of feasibility study.

Progress on prioritized CPEC SEZs including Rashakai, Dhabeji, Alama Iqbal Industrial City (M3) was also reviewed.

Discussing the progress in industrial cooperation sector under CPEC, Asad Umar stressed the need to take immediate actions to encourage the Chinese investors to invest in SEZs.

He emphasized to enhance industrial competitiveness of business in Pakistan, through technology transfer, world class managerial and industrial practices and skills transfer from China.

Asad Umar directed Ministry of National Food Security and Research to select need based specific projects for agriculture to take up with Chinese counterparts and Foot and Mouth Disease free zone for Balochistan should also be the part of upcoming JCC.

## Agro-industrial coop gains momentum under CPEC



By Monitoring

The agro-industrial cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been getting momentum in recent months which is a good sign for both China and Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported.

This cooperation is an important area of CPEC phase II, under which China announced to set up eight new agricultural institutes in Pakistan.

In this connection, private sector has a major role, to be facilitated by both the governments. As agreed, in this area the Chinese private sector will form joint ventures with Pakistani companies.

It was decided that a leading research centre focusing on pest control will be in Karachi. The research will be done on insects and pests and how to protect seeds and plants from these pests.

According to the report, both the countries agreed to work together to produce high-quality inputs, especially seeds, which are direly needed in Pakistan.

The CPEC Authority has also prioritized it and is working to make it operational as soon as possible. Agriculture is one of the seven pillars of the long-term CPEC plan. It has been agreed that both countries will work on enhancing cooperation in the agriculture sector.

The Authority's sources said, China will assist Pakistan in developing an agro-industrial base, which is negligible at present.

As Chinese firms are way ahead in terms of technology and experience, it will help to build the capability of Pakistani companies.

*Courtesy to The Nation*





## Foreign Minister Inaugurates Foreign Office Media Centre

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Pursuant to Vision FO series of initiatives, Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi inaugurated the new, state-of-the-art, multi-purpose Media Briefing Centre in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Media Centre is equipped with latest digital technologies aimed at improving the interface between the Ministry and the press corps. Addressing the gathering, the Foreign Minister observed that the Media Centre represented the new face of the Ministry, and underscored the abiding linkage between the Foreign Office and the press, which remained an important partner. He maintained that effective narrative building and dissemination necessitated active engagement and collaboration with the media community. In line the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, a Strategic Communications Division had been set up in the Ministry to build further targeted narratives and shape positive perceptions. The Foreign Minister further highlighted the series of reform measures taken over the past two years to upgrade the toolkit of the Foreign Office to meet the demands and challenges of Twenty-First Century diplomacy. These included inter alia setting up specialized Cells and structures in the Foreign Office. The training arm of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Foreign Service Academy, had been shifted to a sprawling new campus. The



role of think tanks affiliated with the Ministry, including the Institute of Strategic Studies and the Institute of Regional Studies, was being made more effective. An Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs had been set up to channel independent research and inputs into foreign policy formulation. Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood while thanking the participants underscored the crucial role played by the media in augmenting the national narrative, and lauded efforts by Foreign Office press corps in transmitting Pakistan's foreign policy perspectives to the people of Pakistan and the international community. Two short documentaries, on foreign policy achievements over the past two years as well as various initiatives taken to strengthen the capacity of the Foreign Office, were shown during the event.





## H.E. Mr. Bernhard Schlagheck Ambassador of Germany visited Multan

H.E. Ambassador Bernhard Schlagheck visited Multan. He was amazed by its historical rituals. As one of the oldest cities of the subcontinent, Multan has a rich heritage. He was particularly impressed by mystical stories about shrines & saints. The breath-taking architecture contributes to the magical feeling of the city. Ambassador Bernhard Schlagheck of Germany visited the Shrine of Hazrat Shah Yousef Gardez in Multan on 28 October, 2020. Received by Makhdoom Syed Muhammad Yusuf Gardezi, Syed Khursheed Abbas Gardezi, Amb (R) Syed Zulfiqar Gardezi and Syed Hussain Gardezi.



## International celebrity Turkish chef Burak Ozdemir has visited Islamabad upon the invitation of Marriott Hotel. Ambassador Mustafa Yurdakul attended the meeting as honored guest of the Marriott Hotel







Ambassador of European Union to Pakistan Mrs. ANDroulla Kaminara called on Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser at parliament House

## EU Assisted IP5 Project to Strengthen Parliament: NA Speaker

Mian Fazal Elahi

**E**U Ambassador to Pakistan Ms. Androulla Kaminara called on Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser at Parliament House. Issues of mutual interest, including enhancing parliamentary and economic cooperation between Pakistan and the European Union were discussed in the call on.

Speaker Asad Qaiser said that Pakistan attaches immense importance to its relations with the European Union and would like to further strengthen them through collaboration in diverse sectors. He said that Improving Parliamentary Partnership project (I.P5) was great contribution by EU which would help Parliamentarians to better contribute towards parliamentary processes. He also appreciated EU for its previous program I.P3 which turned out to be a success in enhancing capacity of Parliamentarians and the Secretariat.

The Speaker thanked the European Union for the trade concessions given to Pakistan under GSP Plus and said that the concession offered had given a substantial boost to the economy of Pakistan. Referring to the vast opportunities for investment in Pakistan in the economic, industrial, trade and agriculture sectors, the Speaker offered EU investors to join the country's economic development by investing in Pakistan. He said that economy of Pakistan as agrarian, however due to various handicaps; the potential of agricultural sector could not be realized. He stressed the need for enhancing collaboration in agriculture sector and subsequent value addition.

The Speaker said that Pakistan's role in the

international community is responsible and wants all disputes to be resolved through dialogue and peaceful means. He said that a peaceful Afghanistan would play a positive role for peace and development in Pakistan and the region. He said that Pakistan will continue its support for peace in. He said that parliamentary and trade relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan had witnessed positive developments in recent months. He apprised about the parliamentary initiatives of visa and trade concessions, removing hurdles in trade activities and enhancing people to people contacts.

EU Ambassador to Pakistan Mrs. Androulla Kaminara thanked the Speaker of the National Assembly and said that the EU values its relations with Pakistan. She said that European Union seeks cooperation with Pakistan in various sectors of economy besides social sector development in Pakistan. Referring to the trade between EU and Pakistani, she said that Pakistani products were in demand in EU and steps are being taken to increase the volume of trade with Pakistan. She agreed that EU would support Pakistan in agriculture sector with special emphasis on value chain.

Emphasizing the need to promote parliamentary co-operation, the EU Ambassador said that the EU's mission in Islamabad would continue to play a role in enhancing parliamentary co-operation. She said that IP5 project was in implementation stage and would help Parliamentarians to enhance their capacity to better respond to their constituents. She was convinced that Pakistan's contributions towards Afghan

peace process would yield excellent results.

Improving Parliamentary Partnership project (I.P5) was great contribution by EU which would help Parliamentarians to better contribute towards parliamentary processes



# Dinner reception hosted by Dr. Ikhtiar Baig in honor of Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani

Dinner reception hosted by Noreen & Dr. Ikhtiar Baig in honor of Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani former PM of Pakistan at BAIGS, attended by Jam Ikramullah Dharejo Minister for Commerce & Industry, Iftikhar Shallwani Administrator Karachi, Shahid Hussain Dy. DG IB, Ishtiaq Baig Hon. Consul General of Morocco, Azfar Ahsan, Nasir Hussain, Anwar Qureshi, Azeem Abbas Naqvi, Ahsan Soomro, Omair & Imran Baig with their spouses



Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani with Ishtiaq Baig, Administrator Karachi Iftikhar Shallwani & Dy. DG IB Shahid Hussain



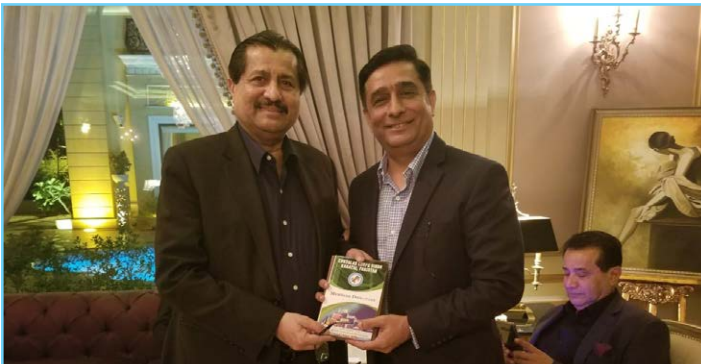
Yousuf Raza Gillani, Dr. Ikhtiar Baig, Ishtiaq Baig, Azfar Ahsan, Adv. Shahid Soomro, Nasir Hussain & Ikramullah Dharejo



Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani with Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Iftikhar Shallwani, Omair Baig & Subhan Mohsin



Yousuf Raza Gillani with host Noreen Baig, Zoyaa & other female guests



Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig presenting CCSK members directory to Shahid Hussain.



Yousuf Raza Gillani with Dr. Ikhtiar Baig, Ishtiaq Baig & Imran Baig.



Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig presenting his biography to Yousuf Raza Gillani, also present Ishtiaq Baig, Ikramullah Dharejo & Nasir Hussain.



Yousuf Raza Gillani with host Noreen&Dr. Ikhtiar Baig, Ishtiaq Baig, Iftikhar Shallwani, Shahid Hussain, Ikramullah Dharejo, Azfar Ahsan, Azeem Abbas Naqvi, Anwar Qureshi, Ahsan Soomro, Imran & Omair Baig & other guests





## Diplomats visit to culturally rich Chitral Valley

By M. Bilal Zafar

**H**.E. Christian Turner British High Commissioner, H.E. Wendy Gilmour Canadian High Commissioner, Mr. Callum Trimble-Jenkins (Second Secretary Political) and Mr. Chris Khng (Canadian HC Development Counsellor) and CEO AKDN Akhtar Iqbal visited Deputy Commissioner Lower Chitral House. The distinguished guests also met with the social activists, officials of Chitral Bar, Chamber of Commerce and notables of Chitral at DC House.

Deputy Commissioner Lower Chitral Naveed Ahmed, ADC (Gen) Muhammad Hayat Shah, ADC (Relief) Abdul Wali Khan, AC HQ Tania Rashid, Settlement Officer Fida Ul Karim and other officers and Police were present on the occasion.

The guests have also visited the historical DC House, and On behalf of District Administration Lower Chitral Deputy Commissioner Lower Chitral Naveed Ahmed and ADC (Gen) Muhammad Hayat Shah, presented Chitral traditional caps and souvenirs to the distinguished guests.





# Embassy of Canada committed to ensure quality education for all

By M. Bilal Zafar

**H**igh Commissioner of Canada H. E. Wendy Gilmour said that Canada is committed to work with partners in Pakistan & the globe to ensure quality education for all during her visit in Gilgit Baltistan School. Canada High Commissioner Wendy Gilmour delighted to see the innovations undertaken in Pakistan gov't schools in partnership with Aga Khan Development Network-Professional Development Center North to support girls education in Gilgit Baltistan.

Canada has focused its health investments in Pakistan on improving the health, rights and well-being of women, adolescents & children. This is being put into practice at the Public Private Partnership Rural Health Center in Garam Chashma, Chitral. Maternal & reproductive health services remain critically important: all the more so during the COVID19 pandemic. Chitral's Garam Chashma Rural Health Center has received Flag of Canada funding via "Access to Quality Care through Extending and Strengthening Health Systems" program.







H.E. Nong Rong tweeted



**It is my honor to serve as the Ambassador of China to Pakistan. Assalam-o-Alaikum Iron Brother!**

H.E. Nong Rong was born in September 1967 in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. He obtained degrees of MBA and EMBA, and owns a certificate of International Business Engineer.

1991-1996 Staff member, Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Commission, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

1996-2004 Senior Staff Member, Principal Staff Member, Deputy Director and Director, Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

2004-2005 Director, Department of Commerce, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

2005-2007 Member of CPC Leading Group and Director of General Office, Guangxi International Expo Affairs Bureau. Assistant to Secretary-General of China-Asean Expo Secretariat

2007-2013 Deputy Director General, Guangxi International Expo Affairs Bureau

2013-2015 Member of Standing Committee, Deputy Mayor and Deputy Secretary of CPC Fangchenggang Municipal Committee, the city of Fangchenggang, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

2015-2019 Deputy Secretary of CPC Guigang Municipal Committee, Mayor, the city of Guigang, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

2019-2020 Secretary of the CPC Group, Ethnic and Religious Affairs Commission of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Deputy Head of the United Front Work Department of CPC Committee, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

H.E. Nong Rong is married with a son.





## H.E. Nong Rong presented credentials to President Dr. Arif Alvi

By Mian Fazal Elahi

**N**ew Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong is already a celebrity in the country just hours after presenting credentials to President Arif Alvi.

As the envoy met President Alvi, the Chinese embassy in Pakistan announced the Ambassador had taken to Twitter to remain in contact with the Pakistanis on the social media.

Thousands of people followed the envoy's Twitter @AmbNong as Ambassador Nong Rong started his official engagements with the Pakistani authorities.

"It is my honor to serve as the Ambassador of China to Pakistan. Assalam-o-Alaikum (a traditional Islamic greeting which means peace be upon you), Iron Brother (a nickname

which both Pakistan and China use for each other keeping deep friendship)," the envoy tweeted, which received thousands of likes, a large number of retweets and scores of comments.

Tagging a picture, he tweeted again: "Presenting Letter of Credence to the Honorable President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi." This tweet was also accepted well by the followers who are bound to increase in the days to come.

Earlier in the day, Ambassador Nong Rong presented credentials to the President. Later, he also held a meeting with the President.

While talking to the envoy, the President said that Pakistan wanted to further strengthen and enhance economic, trade and political relations with friendly countries.

The President briefed him about the steps taken by Pakistan to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus. He said the pandemic was the greatest challenge and the global community needed to make collective efforts to contain the disease, read an official statement.

Iron Brother China had designated first non-career ambassador for Pakistan in more than 40 years a few weeks ago. Nong Rong has now assumed his assignment in Islamabad and has started holding important meetings with top officers including that of the Foreign Office.

He has also brought a special message of goodwill of President Xi Jinping for the government and people of his host country.

The new envoy is expected to provide much needed push to the historic China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)—a flagship project of the gigantic Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).



# H.E. Nong Rong, Welcome to Pakistan!



By Mian Fazal Elahi

**H**.E. Mr Nong Rong, the new ambassador of China to Pakistan to Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood. Foreign Secretary reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to all-weather strategic and cooperative partnership. He said that all the projects under the CPEC would be accelerated to ensure their speedy completion. Ambassador Nong Rong presented a copy of his credentials to Hassan, Director-General of the Protocol Department of the Pakistani Foreign Ministry. His expertise in his field has been praised internationally. He is also credited with the building of two ports in East Asia.

Earlier, H.E. Mr Nong Rong, the new ambassador of China to Pakistan, arrived in Islamabad to assume the post. Ms Pang Chunxue, Minister-Counselor of the Embassy of China, and Mr Ammar Amin, DCP of the Protocol Division of Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, were present at the airport to receive the new ambassador.

On behalf of the Pakistani government, Mr Ammar Amin warmly welcomed Ambassador Nong Rong. Mr Amin said that Pakistan and China are all-weather strategic partners and iron friends. Friendly cooperation with China is not only the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy but also the consensus of all walks of Pakistani society. The Pakistani side expects that Pakistan-China relations will be further

improved during the term of Ambassador Nong Rong. Mr Amin assures that Pakistan will provide all facilitation and support for the Ambassador for continuous progress of bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Ambassador Nong thanked Mr Amin for his warm welcome and said that it is his great honor to be posted in Pakistan. China and Pakistan are good brothers and partners with special friendship. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is an important pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative. Since

the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, China and Pakistan have carried out close anti-epidemic cooperation, which reflects the true nature of China-Pakistan relations of sharing weal and woe together. He looked forward to strengthening all-round exchanges and cooperation with all walks of life in Pakistan during his tenure, so as to promote the comprehensive and in-depth development of the China-Pakistan All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and jointly work for a Closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future.





# Jacinda Ardern considers coalition despite New Zealand election landslide

By Monitoring Desk

Jacinda Ardern has held out the possibility of forming a coalition government despite securing a historic election victory that will enable her Labour party to govern alone.

Jacinda Ardern, New Zealand's Labour prime minister who was returned to power for a second term with a commanding majority, has often been hailed internationally as a foil to global surges in right-wing movements.

But the historic victory of Ardern's centre-left party on polling day, its best result in five decades, winning 64 of parliament's 120 seats – was not the only measure by which New Zealand bucked global trends in its vote. The public also rejected some political hopefuls' rallying cries to populism, conspiracy theories and scepticism about Covid-19.

The lack of traction gained by fringe or populist movements was due to the majority of New Zealanders' long-term contentment with the direction the country was headed – which had persisted for more than 20 years, through both centre-right and centre-left governments, and prevented populist sentiment from taking root, analysts said.

"When you look at the numbers, New Zealanders have essentially been satisfied with their government since 1999," said Stephen Mills, the head of UMR, Labour's polling firm. That period had spanned two Labour and two centre-right National prime ministers including Ardern all of whom had led fairly moderate governments.

"People were deeply satisfied with the government," during the peak of New Zealand's coronavirus response, said Mills (Ardern has won global accolades for her decisions during the crisis, with New Zealand recording one of the world's lowest death tolls).

"Records were set during Covid with that number in our polls, which is so weird when you think about it, during a pandemic," Mills said.

David Farrar, the founder of Curia Market Research, National's polling firm, also asks the "right or wrong direction" question and has recorded a "strong net positive" result since 2008 meaning people mostly thought the country was traveling the right way.

"We have a functioning political system, we have one house of parliament and a neutral public service," Farrar said.



Advance NZ, a new party in the 2020 election that made its name by campaigning against Ardern's Covid-19 restrictions, vaccinations, the United Nations, and 5G technology, won just 0.9% of the vote, attracting 21,000 ballots from the 2.4 million New Zealanders who cast them.

The result means the party will not enter parliament. Two days before the election,

Facebook removed Advance NZ's page from its platform for spreading Covid-19 misinformation.

"They are cynical, opportunistic narcissists and this is absolutely what they deserved," said Emma Wehipeihana, a political commentator for 1 News, in election night remarks that were widely applauded on social media.





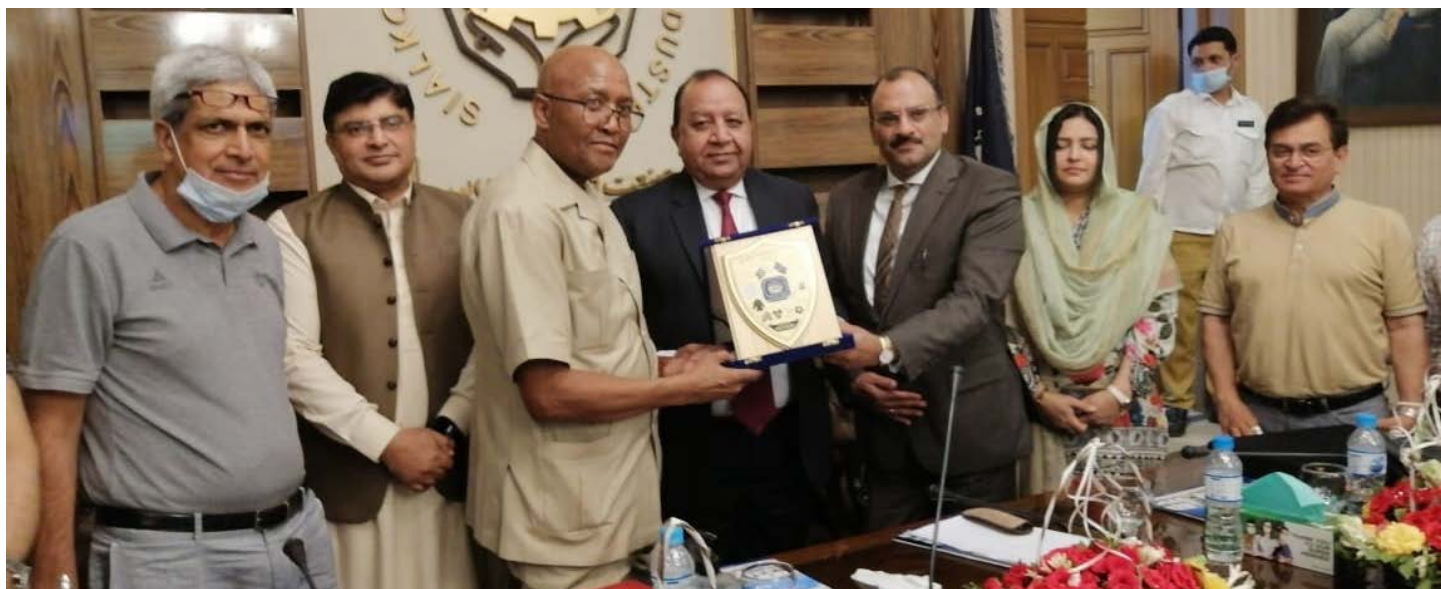
governmental officials have benefited from the human capital development and capacity-building programmes under the MTCP.





South Africa and Pakistan have been enjoying warm trade and diplomatic ties since 1994 but the

## Present volume of bilateral trade is fat below the actual potential of both the countries



By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring

The High Commissioner of South Africa Mthuthuzeli Madikiza said South Africa and Pakistan have been enjoying warm trade and diplomatic ties since 1994 but the present volume of bilateral trade is fat below the actual potential of both the countries.

Addressing local industrialists and traders at the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), Mthuthuzeli said promotion of bilateral trade between South Africa and Pakistan is one of his top priorities and in order to achieve that objective promotion of the person to person and business to business relations was essential.

He said the promotion of positive images of both the countries could also greatly help improve bilateral trade. He said before his arrival here he had been told about Pakistan as 'a dangerous place' with repeated terror incidents but he had found Pakistan as a peaceful and loving place, quite contrary to the general propaganda.

He maintained similarly South Africa had been facing the issues regarding the high rate of crime but the crime was a major issue in most of the countries of the world at present and not South Africa alone. He said the promotion of the positive images of both South Africa and Pakistan was also one of his top most priorities.

Mthuthuzeli Madikiza termed South Africa as the gate way to the African markets and also stressed upon the local exporters and traders

to come forward and search new markets for their products. He said the volume of bilateral trade in 2019-19 was 1.35 billion with hugely in favor of South Africa. He urged the local business community to work hard and try to enhance their share in the bilateral trade.

Earlier, SCCI president Malik Muhammad Ashraf highlighted the unique export-oriented culture of small and medium entrepreneurs in Sialkot. He said holding of single country exhibitions in both the countries could play vital role in the enhancement of the bilateral

trade apart from the promotion of people to people and business to business relations. He invited the businessmen from South Africa to come to Pakistan and avail the opportunities of business and investment here.

SCCI senior vice president Khurram Azeem Khan, vice president Jaleel Aslam and general secretary Tariq Mehmood Malik, Nasir Saleem Mirza, Khawaja Khawar Anwar, Kh Musharraf, Sh Zohaib Rafique and others were also present on the occasion.







## The President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan receives Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta, on the occasion of his accreditation as Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Islamabad

By Mian Fazal Elahi

**H**.E. Dr. Arif Alvi, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan received, H.E. Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta, on the occasion of his accreditation as Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Ambassador expressed his honor for availing the opportunity to represent his country in Pakistan, assuring his endeavor to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries, and to open horizons for joint cooperation to achieve common interests in various fields.

During his meeting with Dr. Arif Alvi, the Ambassador conveyed the greetings of Honorable President of the Republic of Iraq, Dr. Barham Salih, the Prime Minister, Mr. Mustafa al-Kadhimi, and the Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Fuad Hussein, and their emphasis on the importance of relations between the two countries.

During the meeting, the Pakistani President praised the level of the relations developed between the two friendly countries, and the ways to further enhance them, affirming that his country stood with the Iraqi government in

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Dr. Arif Alvi, the Ambassador conveyed the greetings of Honorable President of the Republic of Iraq, Dr. Barham Salih, the Prime Minister, Mr. Mustafa al-Kadhimi, and the Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Fuad Hussein, and their emphasis on the importance of relations between the two countries.

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its war against terrorism and extremism and its endeavors to fight corruption and build a strong state, praising the courage and bravery of the Iraqi military establishment for its response to the terrorist organization "ISIS". This indicates that Iraq is truly defending itself and on behalf of the world.





## Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad receives the Ambassador of Switzerland

**H**E. Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad, received the Ambassador of Swiss Confederation to Islamabad, Mr. Benedict de Cerjat, at the Embassy headquarters. The two sides exchanged expressions of welcome and acquaintance during the discussion,

and talked about the Mission's workplace. Mr. Benedict referred to the old civilization and history of Iraq, its People, its location and its wealth, which qualify it to become an influential force in the regional and international arena. Mr. Benedict recalled his earlier visits to Iraq, given the importance

and admiration of this country, referring to his previous work as Director of the Asia Department at the Swiss Foreign Ministry. The two sides called for intensifying mutual visits that would achieve the common interests of the two countries.



## The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad receives the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait

Ambassador Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad, received the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait in Islamabad, Mr. Nassar Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi, at the Iraqi Embassy. The two parties exchanged talks about the workplace and the nature of its environment. During the meeting, they discussed the historical relations and good neighborliness that binds the two brotherly countries, indicating thus about the regional situation and its impact on the countries. The Ambassador indicated that Kuwait is a fundamental and important partner, and it is linked with Iraq by common factors that can invest in the interest of both sides. The two sides called for the continuation of communication that would enhance the fraternal relationship, and the means for its successes.





## The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad meets the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan

**T**he Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad meets the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan

H.E. Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta paid a courtesy call upon Mr. Sohail Mahmood, Foreign Secretary of the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The two sides exchanged welcome expressions, starting to talk about bilateral relations between the two countries, mutual relations and ways to enhance them in a way that serves the interests of the two friendly Peoples.

Both sides also discussed the issue of Turkish interference in Iraq and its violation of national

sovereignty, which threatens to ignite more conflicts in the region, hoping that this will be implicitly indicated in the speech of the official spokesman for the Pakistani Foreign Ministry.

They also discussed some files related to the mission's work, coordination and cooperation in various fields, including the issue of the religious visit, as it is sacred to the People and the Pakistani government.

On the other side, the two sides stressed upon the need to activate the Iraqi-Pakistani Joint Commission and the Political Dialogue Committee between the two foreign ministries, and to determine the date for its meeting.

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Both sides also discussed the issue of Turkish interference in Iraq and its violation of national sovereignty

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## Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad meets the Head of the Middle East Department at the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**H**.E. Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad, paid a courtesy call upon Mr. Zahid Raza, Head of the Middle East Department at the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The two sides discussed the files related to the mission's assignments and ways to facilitate them at a time when there is need for more

coordination and cooperation in various fields, including the issue of the religious visit, and the new mechanism for this seasonal visit, because of its importance and sacredness for Pakistani citizens.

Mr. Zahid Raza expressed his country's desire to develop and strengthen its relations with Iraq at various levels, stressing upon the need to activate the Joint Iraqi-Pakistani Commission.



## Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad meets the Ambassador of the Holy See

**H**.E. Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad, met with the Ambassador of the Holy See in Islamabad, Mr. Christophe EL Kassis, at the Embassy of the Vatican Mission. The two sides exchanged expressions of welcome and acquaintance, beginning with the talks about the importance of interfaith dialogue and world peace. Ambassador Hamid Abbas affirmed that Islam and Christianity call for tolerance and peace, and this must be highlighted in various international forums. For his part, Ambassador Christophe

emphasized that the teachings of the Christian religion are not different from the teachings of the Islamic religion, and both of them worship Allah Almighty and believe in what Allah has revealed to them. Mr. Christophe noted that Iraq is a great country with an ancient civilization, and very important to the Holy See. In conclusion, Ambassador Hamed thanked his counterpart for the hospitality and reception, wishing him success in his work. On his part, Ambassador Christof expressed his gratitude for this visit, wishing the ambassador success and achievement in his duties.



## Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad receives the Ambassador of the Republic of Lebanon

H.E. Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad, received, on 24/8/2020, the Ambassador of the Republic of Lebanon in Islamabad, Mr. Vazken Kavlakian, at the embassy headquarters in Islamabad.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Ambassador welcomed this visit, through which both sides reviewed developments and events linking the two friendly countries, and their efforts to achieve economic development, and discussed opportunities to expand relations in all fields.

The Ambassador pointed out that Lebanon is an essential partner and is linked with Iraq by common factors, affirming the solidarity of the Iraqi People and Government with Lebanon, the People and the Government to overcome the effects of the recent incident in the port of Beirut.

Mr. Vazken Kavlakian expressed his appreciation for the warm reception, appreciating the assistance provided by the



## The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad receives the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran

H.E. Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Islamabad has received the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Islamabad, Syed Muhammad Ali Hosseini, at the Embassy's headquarters.

The Ambassador warmly welcomed this visit. Both sides talked about the bilateral relations that bind the two brotherly countries and ways to enhance them in order to achieve common interests and eliminate common risks,

stressing upon the stability and unity of Iraq. The Ambassador expressed his happiness for this visit, wishing his counterpart success in his assignment.





## The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad receives the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates



**H**.E. Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad, received H.E. Mr. Hamad Al Zaabi, the Ambassador of United Arab Emirates to Islamabad, at the Embassy headquarters.

workplace and the nature of its work. During the meeting, they reviewed the historical relations that bind the two brotherly countries, the regional situation and its impact on countries.

Arab Emirates is a basic partner, and is linked with Iraq by common factors that can invest in the interest of both sides.

The two parties called for the continuation of communication that would enhance fraternal relations and achieve their successes.

The two sides exchanged talks about the

The Ambassador indicated that the United

## The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad receives the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt

**H**.E. Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad, received H.E. Mr. Tariq Dahroug, the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Islamabad, at the Embassy headquarters. The Ambassador expressed his country's cooperation with Egypt, the mother of the world, in all fields, especially the transfer of Egyptian experiences and expertise in the field of energy in Iraq, pointing to the strategic importance of relations between the two countries. During the meeting, Mr. Dahroug expressed his happiness that Iraq had regained its international and regional position after it had recovered from terrorism, stressing his country's support to provide all forms of support for the reconstruction of cities in Iraq.





# Uzbek language day celebrated in Uzbekistan embassy

Charge d Affaires of Embassy of Uzbekistan COL. Saadulla A Tashmatov has said Uzbek language day is celebrate on regular basis. He made these remarks while speaking during a function held at the Embassy premises to celebrate the Language Day. The Charge d Affaires welcomed the guests. He in his brief remarks highlighted the significance of the event. Col Saadulla A Tashmatov said "This year marks the 31st anniversary of the Uzbek state language status". He congratulations to the people of Uzbekistan and Uzbek communities everywhere, as they are celebrate the Uzbek Language day. Even as this year's celebrations have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Pakistani stand in solidarity with Uzbekistan. Chargé D Affaires said that Uzbek language is a symbol of national identity, pride, and state independence. The language has a huge spiritual value for the people of Uzbekistan. He said number of Uzbek language speaking people is increasing at a fast speed.





# Azerbaijan rejects baseless, speculative reports

## And calls for peace, justice and withdrawal of Armenian forces from occupied lands



By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Azerbaijan government rejected 'speculative and baseless' media reports, claiming the Pakistan Army was fighting alongside Azerbaijani forces against Armenia in the breakaway Nagorno-Karabakh region. Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Ali Alizada said it was only 'speculations and rumors' spread by the Armenian government, and hold no truth.

The press conference was held amid both Armenian and Azerbaijani forces engaged in the heaviest fighting in years over Karabakh, an ethnic Armenian province that broke away from Azerbaijan in the 1990s during the collapse of the Soviet Union. The long-conflict erupted on September 27 with both sides blaming each other for the outbreak of violence.

The Embassy of Azerbaijan has arranged a joint press conference on the latest situation of 'Armenian military aggression and attacks against Azerbaijan'. The ambassador appreciated the concern shown by the Foreign Office of Pakistan. The Foreign Office stated that Pakistan supported Azerbaijan's position on Nagorno-Karabakh, which was in line with the several unanimously-adopted United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions.

Armenian deliberate targeting of civilian population in the towns and villages including Mingachevir, Ganja, the largest cities of Azerbaijan, left 31 civilians dead and around 150 wounded. Meanwhile, 567 houses and 72 civilian facilities were destroyed, he added.

Ali Alizada, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan stated, "We don't need war but

demand justice and unconditional immediate withdrawal of troops under UN Security Council resolution and an end of occupation of Armenia".

He said the Armenian armed forces, in violation of the norms and principles of international law, in particular international humanitarian law, and the 1949 Geneva Conventions were directly targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure in order to provoke panic among Azerbaijani nation, but Azerbaijani nation was strongly united against Armenian aggression.

Attacking civilians from its own territory, Armenia aims to instigate Azerbaijan to retaliate, and as a result to involve CSTO military block into the conflict, which Armenia is member of, he added.

"Thanks to Pakistan, Turkey for their

unequivocal support, and to other countries, which took the principle position, and support Azerbaijan's just cause. Karabakh is Azerbaijan," he added. Earlier, Col Mehman Novruzov, the military attaché, said that in order to ensure safety and security of civilian population,



Azerbaijan Army had launched counter offensive peace enforcement operation against Armenian provocation.







# Tajikistan re-elects leader Rahmon with overwhelming majority

By News Agency

Tajikistan's Central Election Commission published the final results of the presidential election held on October 11. Incumbent head of state Emomali Rahmon won the election with 90.92% of the vote. The document was published by the state news agency Khovar.

"The Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of the Republic of Tajikistan has ruled to recognize the election of the president of the Republic of Tajikistan. According to the final results of the election, Emomali Rahmon is considered the president-elect of the Republic of Tajikistan having received 3,853,987 votes of those taking part in the vote, which constitutes 90.92%," the document informs.

The commission has ruled to issue Rahmon the document confirming that he is the president of Tajikistan.

According to the final data, 4,238,839 voters cast their ballots, with the voter turnout reaching 85.44%.

Candidate representing the Communist Party of Tajikistan Miroj Abdulloyev got 1.17% of the vote, Abduhalim Gafforzoda of the Socialist Party got 1.49%, Rustam Rahmatzoda, who represents the Party of Economic Reforms, got 2.14% and Rustam Latifzoda from the Agrarian

Party has received 3.02%.

The president-elect begins his mandate after a swearing-in ceremony held during the joint session of both chambers of parliament. The date will be set by Tajikistan's legislative body. The recent presidential election was the sixth in the history of Tajikistan's independence. Rahmon, who has recently turned 68, won four out of five previous elections. He has been at helm since 1992, when he became chairman of Tajikistan's Supreme Soviet (which was a post equivalent to that of president at the time). In 1994, he was elected president for



Felicitations to President Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan on his historic win in Presidential elections. Pakistan & Tajikistan are partners in regional peace, prosperity & connectivity. I look forward to working closely with President Rahmon in further cementing our brotherly ties

PM IMRAN KHAN

the first time.



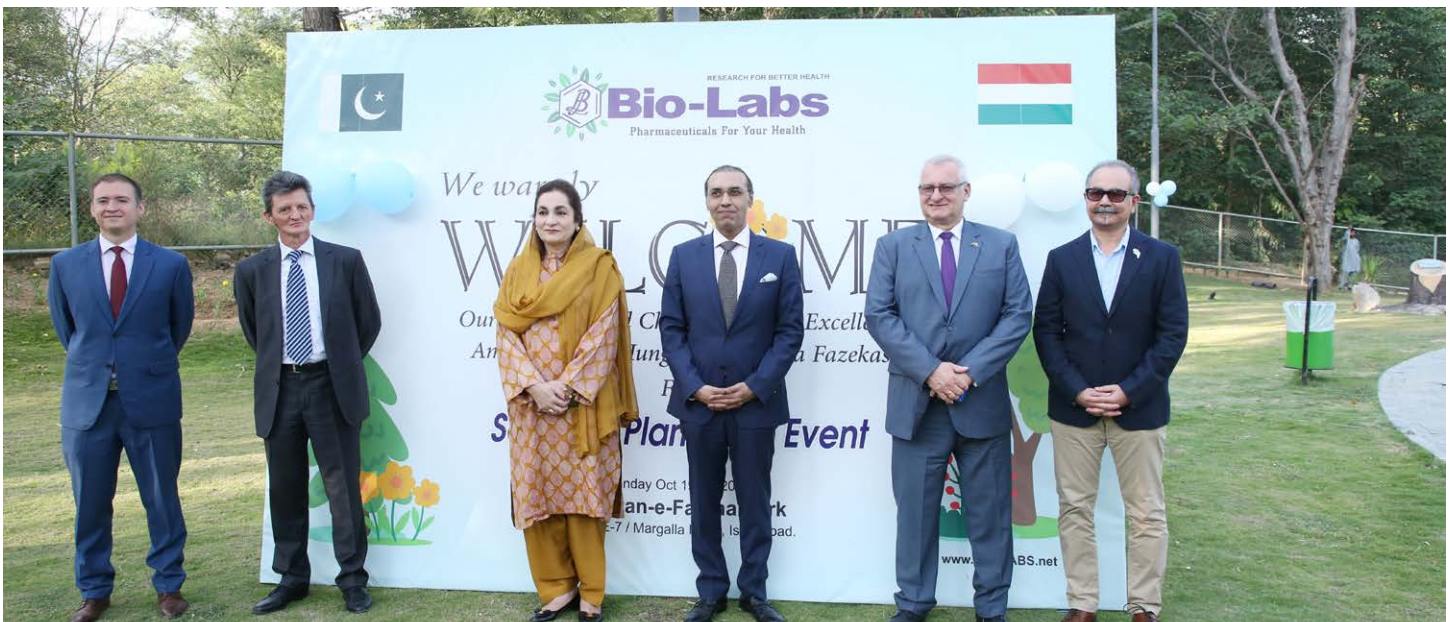


# Another feather in Bio-Labs

As part of its commitment to sustainable living and building a healthier Pakistan, Team Bio-Labs organized a Saplings Plantation Event at Gulistan-e-Fatima Park

in E-7, Islamabad on October 19, 2020. Chief Guest for the occasion was the Hungarian ambassador to Pakistan H.E Mr. Béla Fazekas. Bio-Labs is also responsible for the successful

renovation of the park in collaboration with Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI). We invite our fellow citizens to stand with us in our quest to make Pakistan cleaner and greener!





My target is to  
**Translate the existing goodwill  
between Pakistan & Austria**

into concrete cooperation in areas

Trade, Investment, Education and Culture

**H.E. Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khokhar**  
**Ambassador of Pakistan to Austria**



**H**.E. Aftab Ahmad Khokhar is Ambassador of Pakistan to Austria. H.E. Aftab Khokhar has served in many other countries, including Beirut, and has been shining Pakistan's name and image in the outside world. Excellency has taken many important steps to increase Pakistan's trade and relations. He is a passionate diplomat. That's why he has good relations abroad.

H.E. Aftab Ahmad Khokhar has made Pakistan famous at every opportunity. And new relocation to Austria will add a new chapter to bringing society closer to Pakistan. Relations between the two countries will be further enhanced.

Pakistan and Austria established diplomatic relations in 1956 and have traditionally enjoyed friendly ties based on mutual goodwill

The Diplomatic Focus has found the opportunity to talk to His Excellency and learn about his life, education, career, experiences and most importantly his role as ambassador in bringing Austria and Pakistan closer in terms of diplomatic, trade, Defence and cultural ties. He had been kind enough to give us time from his busy schedule.

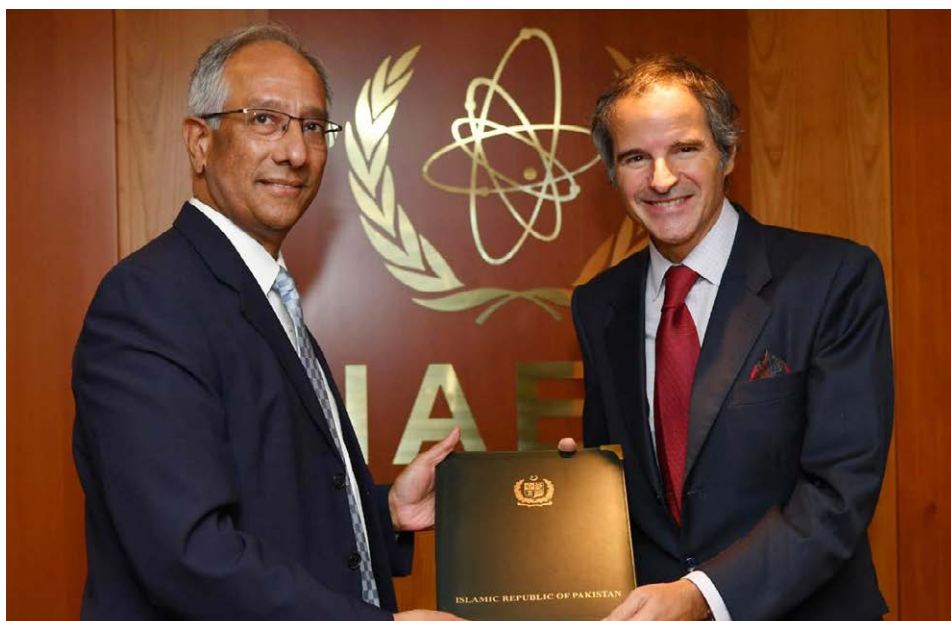
As Pakistan's Ambassador to Austria, you have the task to promote and expand bilateral ties between the two countries. What is your assessment of the existing bilateral relations and how can they be further strengthened?

Pakistan and Austria established diplomatic relations in 1956 and have traditionally enjoyed friendly ties based on mutual goodwill. In fact, there are interesting historical links between Pakistan and Austria of which not many Pakistanis and Austrians are aware. The great Islamic scholar and translator of the Holy Quran, Muhammad Asad, was an Austrian by birth and his name before embracing Islam was Leopold Weiss. He played an important role in Pakistan's history: he was an associate of our national poet Allama Iqbal; contributed to the drafting process of Pakistan's constitution and also served at the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as Pakistan's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. Another distinguished personage in Pakistan's history, Begum Viqar-un-Nisa, wife of former Prime Minister Feroze Khan Noon, was also an Austrian national.

In terms of size and population, Austria is a small country but it has an advanced economy. Due to its geography - it is a landlocked country in Central Europe - and history, Austrian diplomatic and economic engagement remains largely focused on its immediate neighbours



Ambassador 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



Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher presented his credentials as Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to its Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, in Vienna



including Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Hungary, as well as the broader EU zone.

At present, there is certain consonance of priorities between the Pakistani and Austrian governments, particularly in the area of action against climate change and combating corruption. Recently, Prime Minister Imran Khan virtually addressed the Austria World Summit which is an initiative of the famous actor and politician Arnold Schwarzenegger and Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen.

My target is to translate the existing goodwill between Pakistan and Austria into concrete cooperation in areas such as trade and investment as well as education and culture. More frequent interaction between the highest leadership of the two countries can give a fillip to efforts in this direction. Organizing such an interaction, including on the sidelines of diplomatic events such as the UN General Assembly, will be one of my top priorities as Ambassador.

DF: In addition to being Pakistan's Ambassador to Austria, you are also Pakistan's Permanent Representative to many important UN and international organizations in Vienna. What would like to share about Pakistan's role at and engagement with these organizations?

After New York and Geneva, Vienna is the third United Nations Headquarters and hosts several important international organizations. These inter alia include International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and United Nations Office for Drug Control (UNODC), UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). The thematic areas covered by these organizations such as the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technology, world drug problem, combat against organized crime and corruption are of particular interest to Pakistan. We have, therefore, always remained actively engaged with the deliberations and work of these organizations, including through representation on their policy making bodies. We have a regular presence on the Board of Governors of the IAEA and are also serving as the Chair of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Pakistan's role at these organizations is widely appreciated and signifies international community's confidence in our positive contribution. As Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the Vienna-based international organizations, it will remain my goal to further build on the good work of my predecessors and ensure that Pakistan continues to remain an important voice on all multilateral issues being dealt in Vienna.

DF: What is the volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Austria? How can Pakistan increase its exports to Austria? What are the investment opportunities in Pakistan for



Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher presented his credentials as Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) based in Vienna to Mr. Li Yong, Director General

Austrian businesses and companies?

In 2019, total bilateral trade between Pakistan and Austria stood at € 454 million, with the balance of trade in Pakistan's favour. Pakistan's exports to Austria registered 86% year-on-year increase in 2019, rising from €168.5 million to € 314 million.

As I referred earlier, Austrian's overwhelming economic and commercial engagement is focused on its immediate vicinity. Meeting the EU standards on quality, packaging, phytosanitary and other technical requirements could provide a boost to Pakistan's export to Austria. There is also significant scope for expanding our exports by focusing on non-traditional areas. IT/software, pharmaceuticals and fresh fruits can be promising areas.

Renewable energy i.e. hydroelectric and wind can be attractive sectors for Austrian FDI in Pakistan. The leading Austrian oil and gas exploration firm OMV has been present in Pakistan since 1990 with a sizeable investment of \$ 2.5 billion, including joint ventures.

Another interesting area could be infrastructure development related to ski resorts and alpine tourism where Austria has great expertise. Pakistan's northern areas have great potential for mountain tourism and winter sports.

DF: Promoting the country's positive image and its culture is one of the important tasks of a diplomat. What would be your plans in this important area? Also, how can we promote cultural ties between Pakistan and Austria?

Promotion of Pakistan's culture has always been one of my priorities during my diplomatic assignments and will continue to be so in Vienna. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has come up as a big hurdle. The annual UN Festival Bazaar in Vienna has always been an important occasion for us to promote our cuisine, music, handicrafts and fashion products in Austria but it had to be cancelled this year due to the pandemic. As soon as the situation becomes more favourable, we will resume our cultural initiatives. I plan to organize musical performances by Pakistani artistes in Vienna, as well as a fashion and food events show which







Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher presented his credentials to Mr. Thomas Stelzer, Dean of International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) based in Laxenburg, Austria as Pakistan's Permanent Representative



Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher presented his credentials as Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations organizations based in Vienna to Mrs. Ghada Fathi Waly, Director General (UNOV). She received the credentials on behalf of the Secretary General of United Nations

could be useful for our fashion industry and rice exporters.

Love for the mountains is something that Pakistanis and Austrians share. Both countries boast some of the most breathtaking mountain landscapes in the world and Austrian mountaineers and adventurers have long been attracted to mountain ranges in Pakistan's northern areas. Therefore, holding a photo-exhibition of Pakistan's mountains and exploring collaboration with leading Austrian tour operators to promote tourism to Pakistan will be among my plans.

DF: Austria has excellent educational institutions and universities, and has a lot to offer to Pakistan in the field of higher education. How can Pakistan benefit from such opportunities?

Pakistan and Austria enjoy good cooperation in field of higher education. Many Pakistani students are presently pursuing higher level studies at Austrian universities. In addition to contributing to Pakistan's socio-economic development, they also serve as an important people-to-people link between the two countries. We understand that sometimes Pakistani students face visa-related issues which interfere with their academic plans. We will intensify our engagement with the Austrian side to remove such hurdles and make the process more streamlined.

An MoU between the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Pakistan Academy of Sciences has been signed. It will be of great help in promoting collaboration between scientific institutions of the two countries through exchange of scientists and scholars and undertaking of joint research projects.

Another big achievement in the field of academics is the recent inauguration of Pak-Austria Fachhochschule Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology (PAF-IAST) in Haripur,

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Institute will help students in Pakistan access advanced quality education in emerging technologies. We will be exploring the possibility of replicating similar projects in other provinces of Pakistan.

DF: What is the size of Pakistani expatriate community in Austria? How is it fared during the COVID-19 pandemic? What steps would you take for the community's welfare during your tenure in Vienna?

Pakistan views its diaspora as an asset that plays an important role in the nation's socio-economic development. Pakistani community in Austria which numbers around 6,000 is no exception; it is small but vibrant and hardworking. It is also highly patriotic and is always in the forefront in playing its due role in national causes such as Kashmir as well as philanthropy and fund-raising during times of crises and natural disasters. For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the community organized relief efforts for the deserving and vulnerable in both Austria and Pakistan. These efforts were duly recognized when two prominent members of the Austrian Pakistani community were awarded certificates of merit by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi as part of the Foreign Minister's Honours List initiative.

The Embassy has remained in close contact with the community during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Embassy also extended financial assistance to Pakistani students who were facing difficulties due to the loss of their part-time employments.

I believe in an open-door policy for engagement with the Pakistani community. They are an asset in promoting a positive image of Pakistan and strengthening Pakistan-Austria bilateral relations. I will also ensure that we continue to provide them the best consular services. Welfare of overseas Pakistanis and their enhanced engagement in Pakistan's economy is among the

top priorities of Government. Initiatives such as the Roshan Digital Account are one such initiative that will enable overseas Pakistani access a host of banking services in Pakistan.

DF: You have been in the diplomatic field for quite a long time and certainly there would have been some memorable moments as well as some challenging ones. Would you please like to share some of them with us?

Diplomatic career is a package of challenges, responsibilities and prestige. Every place where I served and represented had its own character and provided me with a unique opportunity to enjoy and fulfill my responsibilities.

DF: How do you see the role of 'Diplomatic Focus' in enhancing the bilateral ties of Pakistan with other countries of the world?

Publications like the Diplomatic Focus are playing an important role in giving greater visibility to the painstaking work that diplomats are always engaged in but which sometimes goes unacknowledged by the public at large. Such publications also serve as an important vehicle for public and cultural diplomacy by enabling diplomatic community in Islamabad to reach out to the larger Pakistani audience and vice versa. This can promote mutual understanding and goodwill as well as more people-to-people contacts between Pakistan and other countries. I am confident that Diplomatic Focus will continue to play its important role every success in this useful work in supporting the efforts of professional diplomats.

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



# Certificates of Appreciation handed over to eminent members of Pakistani community

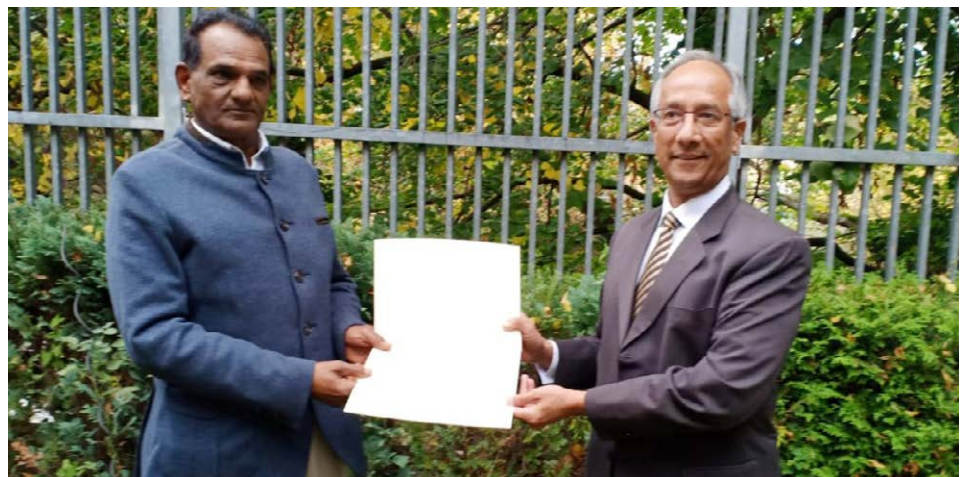
for their contribution to relief efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic

By Mian Asadullah

A ceremony was held at the Pakistan Embassy in Vienna to hand over Certificates of Appreciation from the Foreign Minister of Pakistan H. E. Shah Mahmood Qureshi to two eminent members of the Pakistani community, namely Mr. Deewan Muhammad Afzaal and Mr. Muhammad Hussain Khan Tabassum, for their contribution to relief efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher handed over the certificates to the two recipients.

The certificates were awarded as part of Foreign Minister's Honours List which is an initiative aimed at acknowledging the services and contributions of the overseas Pakistani community.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Khokher said that Pakistani diaspora was a source of strength for Pakistan and an important contributor to the national economic development and prosperity. He thanked the Pakistani community for raising its voice in support of the people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir in their struggle to win the right to self-determination. He said that the Kashmir cause remained at the heart of Pakistan's foreign policy and Pakistan would continue to extend all diplomatic, political and moral support to the people of IIOJK. In this regard, he also acknowledged the important role of the media to help amplify Pakistan's perspective at the international level.



Highlighting the Government's various steps aimed at the welfare of Pakistan's overseas communities, Ambassador Khokher referred to the Roshan Digital Account which would

offer wide-ranging banking services to non-resident Pakistanis enabling their enhanced participation in the country's economic activity.





# Kashmir Black Day was observed at the Pakistani Embassy in Vienna

By Mian Asadullah

**K**ashmir Black Day was observed at the Pakistani Embassy in Vienna to express solidarity with the people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Representatives of the Pakistani and Kashmir expatriate community as well as Austrian nationals of Pakistani origin attended the event.

Messages of the President and the Prime Minister on the occasion of the Kashmir Black Day were read out. A short documentary was screened highlighting the gross human rights violations committed by India against the people of IIOJK which have intensified since India's illegal unilateral actions of 5th August 2019.

While condemning Indian atrocities, speakers paid tributes to the people of Kashmir who are waging a heroic struggle and rendering huge sacrifices to win freedom. They called upon the international community to raise its voice in support of the people of IIOJK who have been denied the inalienable right to self-determination and continue to suffer decades-long brutal occupation by India which claims to be the world's largest democracy.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Aftab Ahmed Khokher said that India's Hindu-extremist BJP/RSS government was implementing an ethno-fascist agenda through policies aimed at changing the demographic composition of the IIOJK from a Muslim-majority state to a Hindu-Majority State and obliterating its distinct identity. He reiterated that Pakistan will continue to extend all diplomatic, political and moral support to the people of IIOJK. He also referred to India's belligerent policies and hegemonic designs which posed a grave



threat to peace and stability in South Asia. At the conclusion, the community representatives adopted a resolution which inter alia strongly condemned India and called upon to cease all human rights violations against the people of

IIOJK, rescind the unilateral measures adopted on August 5, 2019, and comply with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.





# The shortcomings of the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant



By: Ramsha Ashraf

Pakistan is developing two additional Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (Kanupp) with Chinese synergy, Kanupp-II, and Kanupp III. The Kanupp-I established with collaboration to Canada is scheduled to be permanently close down after the complete commence operation of the other two and has already outlived life design of 30 years by 2002. Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) is trying to meet the energy requirements by installing and expanding nuclear power plants. By shedding light on the nuclear plants at Chashma C-1 and C-2, also funded by China, the Kanupp project is inexpensive, reliable and not affected by seasonal shifts. Moreover, PAEC claims to be at the pace of meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals electricity requirement of 8800 megawatts by clean-energy and cost-effective means by 2030. The plants are conjoined to the prior KANUPP reactor, and the site was away from Karachi approximately 20 km. However, size and population since 1971 have considerably increased with almost 20 million people and residential areas are barely 10 km away from the site.

This August marked another anniversary of the nuclear attack in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with an estimated killing of 40,000 people in Nagasaki and a 90% population of Hiroshima. In post-World War II, the South Asian region is termed as a harbinger. India induced security dilemma by acquiring atomic weapons, which consequently resulted in Pakistan's nuclear weapons accession. Culture, grand designs, and history are the cornerstone of strategic competition among the dyads. Pakistan only clenches the enmity of Indian supremacy within the region. The current post-Pulwama scenario is nonnegligible as the strategic situation is direly influenced by deep rooted Kashmir crisis. The evolution shift from Sunderji Doctrine to the aggressive Cold Start Doctrine will continue to whip the regional strategic equation. Prime Minister Modi's Hindutva rhetoric is an epitome of increasing populism, a key determinant affecting stability. One cannot say, equilibrium can be

maintained in strategic stability as it is not a fixed proposition. The connotation of effort is the constant requirement. Additionally, India and Pakistan need to ensure a robust control and command system of strategic weapons.

PAEC senior management of the health Physics Division, Khawaja Ghulam Qasim, announced KANUPP never emitted any radiation regardless of nuclear power plant running for over more than 40 years. This implies radiations emitted from K-2 and K-3 under construction 2200 megawatt plants should be of least concern. Dr Ahmad Fatimi, a faculty member of the Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS), quotes a self-owned hypothesis, "the fear of radiation is worse than radiation". He adamantly believes annual exposure of natural radiation is a lot more in contrast to the nuclear power plant. Additionally said, the two-year radiation dose of a nuclear plant is less and reduced than to radiation exposure from Islamabad to New York flight. World Health Organisation did not cite any death, and cancer spreading chances were trivial in the nuclear calamity in Fukushima Daiichi, Japan. However, Dr Ahmad said this does not entertain that the Karachi plant was secure instead strict safety precautions are a must and paramount. An official at the Pakistan Peace Coalition, B.M. Kutty demanded the government to close unnecessary and non-productive plants, risking the populace and posing a threat to the marine environment. Moreover, upon request by Mr Kutty, PAEC did not provide any transcript of the Karachi Emergency Relief Plan to address nuclear disaster threats. A homogenous catastrophe over some 20 years ago occurred at the Karachi facility but the government did not entertain the public with details.

According to PAEC chairman, while quoting Indian Point Energy Centre away New York said the K-II and K-III location was considerably picked away from the city and safe from seismic fault lines. Concomitantly, in National Disaster Plan 2019 by Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) covers managing of earthquakes, monsoon weather, floods and intentionally neglecting nuclear calamity by solitary using 'nuclear' word once in a 100 pages plan. Regardless, Pakistan has nine functional nuclear reactors and two under construction in Karachi, a potential nuclear accident could be significantly foreseen. Nuclear mishap can take place due to human error, unexpected natural events, and radioactive fuel contamination. The historical incident of Chernobyl 1986 and Fukushima 2011 is an imperative example

and a concerned query against National Disaster Plan 2019. Nevertheless, the Punjab Disaster Management Authority and the Sindh Management Authority shares a similar silent nuclear disaster remedy as of the NDMA proposed plan of 2019.

Responding to the aforementioned criticism, Pakistan Atomic Energy said nuclear security and safety are of prime concern and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has repeatedly recognized Pakistan with gold standards. A vigilant check on PAEC nuclear safety and radiological security matters is ensured by Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) round the clock. The regulatory authority works independently and guarantee standard guidelines of IAEA. The unfinished plants have the latest double containment wall feature removing the risks in 1970s reactor.

The critique raised was valid and the response miserably failed to address critical points highlighted. Instead, the response tried to allay concerns with empty reassurances except for this once with double containment walls. There were no numbers, statistics, or technical information whatsoever in the response by PAE. In the history of calamities in Pakistan, earthquake 2005, floods 2010-2011, military-led operations in Swat 2009 and North Waziristan 2014, Baldia factory fire incident 2012, Karachi's heatwave 2015 protrude. The absence of an evacuation plan and impoverished management observed. Mass migration was a fruit of military and floods operation. Disarray was the sole faith of affectees camps and facility centres together with healthcare, education, food and sanitation. International donors and non-governmental organizations did the service delivery deficit.

Karachi is below sea-level and continuous climatic shifts are potential havoc. In spite of natural disasters, Pakistan-centric Indian policy is a prime concern. One single stroke of eco-terrorism from the neighborhood can change the emerging energy project into a holocaust. The examination should be a primary concern to prevent it from turning into a grave concern. PAE should mitigate the distress with authentic logic and statistical indicators.

*Ramsha Ashraf is an M.Phil candidate at the school of politics and IR, Quaid-I-Azam University in Islamabad, Pakistan. Her area of research interest include conventional warfare and impact of new technologies on strategic stability in South Asia.*



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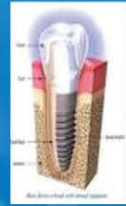




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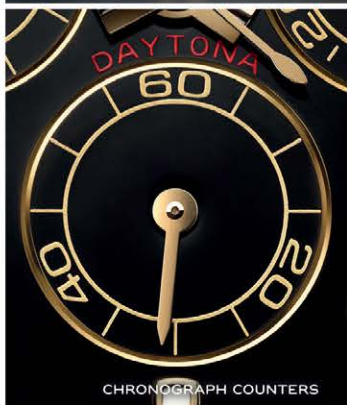


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