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Atif Naeem Rana, CEO, Lahore Qalandars



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14 Further solidifying and expanding Pakistan-China ties

Pakistan and China have reiterated their resolve to further consolidate their friendship for the mutual benefit of the two countries. This was discussed at a meeting between the visiting Chinese Minister for National Defence, General Wei Fenghe, and President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Welcoming the Chinese Defence Minister, the President said that Pakistan's friendship with China was the cornerstone of its foreign policy and Pakistan wanted to further improve and cement its ties with the People's Republic of China so as to address the security challenges being faced by the region.

20 PRIME MINISTER IMRAN KHAN VISITS NAVAL HEADQUARTERS

Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan visited Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. Upon arrival Prime Minister was welcomed by Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi and was presented Guard of Honour by a smartly turned out contingent. Prime Minister laid floral wreath at Shuhada monument and was introduced to the Principal Staff Officers at Naval Headquarters.

24 Statement by the Foreign Minister at the 47th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers Niamey, Niger

Honorable Foreign Minister Kalla Ankourao of the Republic of Niger, Secretary General Dr. Yousaf bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen, Distinguished Colleagues, Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen, Let me, at the outset, congratulate Foreign Minister Ankourao for assuming the Chair of the 47th CFM Session. Our deepest appreciation to Niger for the hospitality and the excellent arrangements.

30 Exclusive Interview Atif Naeem Rana CEO, Lahore Qalandars

They were ridiculed, they were mocked, they were bashed. They finished bottom at each of first four editions of Pakistan Super League. There were memes about the team. The critics had been demanding removal of team management, specially their head coach. But, nothing could divert them from their focus. And, finally, this time they came so near to achieving what they'd be waiting for. They're Lahore Qalandars.

36 A reflection of close and cordial relationship, which Pakistan and the UAE have enjoyed for decades

During the visit, the Foreign Minister called on His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and ruler of Dubai and met His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Minister of the UAE. Foreign Minister Qureshi paid homage at the tomb of founder of the UAE His Highness (late) Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and offered prayers at Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. During his stay, the Foreign Minister also visited Consulate General of Pakistan in Dubai and interacted with local and international media.

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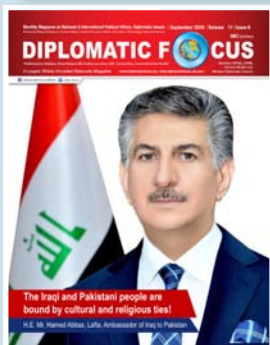
November 2020



October 2020



September 2020



Mian Fazal Elahi

A delegation of Taliban Political Commission (TPC), headed by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, called on the Prime Minister Imran Khan. The discussions focused on the progress in the Afghan peace process and the way forward. Reiterating that there was no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan, Prime Minister Imran Khan underlined that the Intra-Afghan Negotiations provide a historic opportunity to the Afghan leaders for achieving durable peace and stability through an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process. The Prime Minister expressed hope that the Afghan parties would continue to build on the recent positive developments in the Intra-Afghan Negotiations.

Another important development takes place on 47th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers Niamey, Niger. The OIC has been at the forefront of efforts to support the legitimate and just struggle of the people of IIOJK for their inalienable right to self-determination. Since 5 August 2019, the OIC Contact Group on J&K has held three meetings, including two Ministerial Meetings by adopting unanimous Communiqués. Visit of the Secretary General's Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan and AJK in March this year was another manifestation of the OIC support on the J&K dispute. Pakistan welcomes the Report on the Special Envoy's visit. The beleaguered people of IIOJK, now more than ever, look towards the OIC and the Ummah to help alleviate their sufferings. Foreign Minister of Pakistan appealed to the OIC countries to also use their political influence and economic clout to prevent India from committing further atrocities in IIOJK. It is imperative for the CFM to demand that India: rescind its illegal and unilateral actions; immediately halt its egregious human rights violations; provide access to IIOJK to human rights organizations, including the UN fact finding mission and OIC IPHRC; and take practical steps to resolve the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UNSC resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people.

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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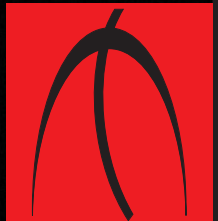
May Allah the Almighty rest his soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the beraved family to bear the loss. Ameen!

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ



**Condoles the sad demise of
Mr. Tariq Mehmood
Senior Journalist, Hum News**

Mian Fazal Elahi CEO/ Publisher of "Diplomatic Focus" Magazine and on behalf of Diplomatic Focus team wish to extend our heartfelt condolences to the Family and friends over the sad demise of Senior Journalist Mr. Tariq Mahmood. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the departed soul, his family and friends



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Father of the Nation

**Quaid-e-Azam
Muhammad Ali Jinnah**

25 December 1876 – 11 September 1948



Nation celebrates Quaid's 144th birth anniversary

The nation is celebrating the 144th birth anniversary of the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, on Friday with traditional zeal and fervour.

Mr Jinnah was born on December 25, 1876, in Karachi. The birth anniversary is a public holiday and the national flag was hoisted on principal government buildings throughout the country.

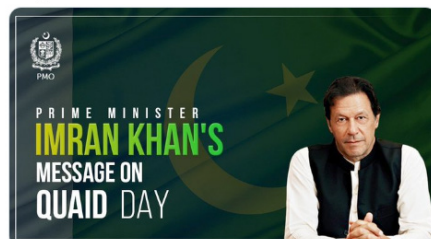
The day dawned with special prayers for the security, progress and prosperity of the country, while a change of guards ceremony also took place at the Mazar-i-Quaid in Karachi.

Sindh Governor Imran Ismail and Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah visited the Quaid's mausoleum where they offered

Prime Minister's Office, Pakistan
@PakPMO

Prime Minister @ImranKhanPTI's Message on #QuaidDay

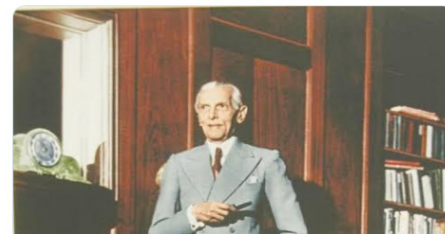
"On this eventful day when Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was born, a proud nation was destined to come into being.



Shah Mahmood Qureshi
@SMQureshiPTI

Today, as we reflect on the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam, let his words serve as a reminder to us all, during these trying times of global pandemic: 'My message to you all is of hope, courage and confidence.'

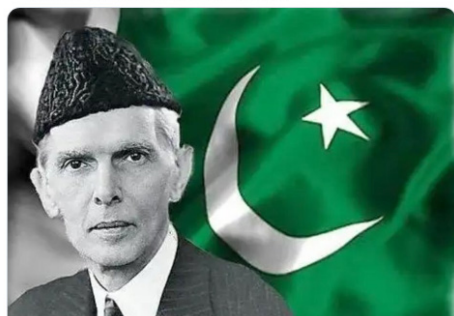
Pakistan Zindabad!



Shireen Mazari
@ShireenMazari1

"Few individuals significantly alter the course of history. Fewer still modify the map of the world. Hardly anyone can be credited with creating a nation-state. Mohammad Ali Jinnah did all three."

--- Stanley Wolpert, Jinnah of Pakistan





President Dr. Arif Alvi Addressing Ceremony 'Quaid aur Bachay' held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad to celebrate Quaid-e-Azam, Muhammad Ali Jinnah's Birth Anniversary.



The President of Pakistan
@PresOfPakistan

"As we celebrate the 144th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, we pay him a rich tribute for his role in the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent."

Message from President Dr. Arif Alvi on Quaid-e-Azam Day.



Fateha and laid floral wreaths together.

In Pakistan this day is all the more significant as it is also the birth anniversary of our founding father, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He was one of the greatest statesmen of the modern age. His integrity, commitment and vision inspired a nation to wage a peaceful struggle to gain independence from colonial rule and communal domination.

The Quaid-e-Azam singlehandedly reshaped the map of South Asia and transformed the dream of an independent homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent into the tangible reality of Pakistan. On his 144th birth anniversary, all Pakistanis, at home and abroad, must live up to his call for unity, faith and discipline and renew the collective commitment to realize the Quaid's purpose of making Pakistan a progressive, advanced and welfare state which guarantees a secure future for all its citizens and protects the rights of the weak and vulnerable in Pakistan and of those who are oppressed in any part of the world



President Dr. Arif Alvi Cutting Cake to Commemorate Quaid-e-Azam, Muhammad Ali Jinnah's Birth Anniversary, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



President Dr. Arif Alvi Being Presented with the National Flag at Quaid Day Ceremony, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Pakistan was keen to promote trade and cultural cooperation with Belarus

President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan highly values its ties with Belarus and wants to further enhance bilateral relations with Belarus in all fields of mutual interest, including trade and investment, science and technology, culture and defense.

He stated this while talking to the outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus, Mr. Andrei Ermolovich, who paid a farewell call on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Talking to the Ambassador,

the President said that Pakistan was keen to promote trade and cultural cooperation with Belarus. He highlighted that Pakistan offered promising opportunities for joint ventures and investment and would welcome Belarusian investment in Pakistan. The President remarked that both countries had great potential for cooperation in the areas of culture, tourism and pharmaceuticals and emphasized the need for increasing cooperation in these areas for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

The President expressed the hope that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed by the two countries on cooperation in the field of education, would greatly help in strengthening cultural linkages. He congratulated Mr Andrei Ermolovich on the successful completion of his tenure as Ambassador and expressed the hope that he would continue to promote Pakistan-Belarus relations.



Pakistan highly values its ties with the Republic of Korea and wants to further take the relations to a higher trajectory

By M. Bilal Zafar

President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan highly values its ties with the Republic of Korea and wants to further take the relations to a higher trajectory in all areas of mutual interest. He said that both countries had enormous potential in the area of trade and measures were needed to increase the existing

volume of trade. He made these remarks in a meeting with the outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Kwak Sung-kyu, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. The President emphasized the need to encourage cultural and political exchanges which could bring the two countries further closer. He said that Pakistan was an important destination for religious tourism as it had large number of Buddhist artifacts

and people from Korea could visit these sites. He also appreciated the increase in Economic Cooperation Development Fund by the Republic of Korea for energy and infrastructure projects. President Dr Arif Alvi congratulated the outgoing Ambassador on the successful completion of his tenure in Pakistan and lauded his efforts in expanding bilateral relations.



PRESIDENT DR. ARIF ALVI ON THE OCCASION OF QAID-E-AZAM DAY

As we celebrate the 144th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, we pay him a rich tribute for his role in the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent. We pledge to follow his ideals to make Pakistan a strong and prosperous country. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah propounded the two-nation theory. He championed the rights of minorities and declared that members of every community will be treated as citizens of Pakistan with equal rights, privileges and obligations and that minorities will be safeguarded and protected. Today, we reaffirm our commitment to building a state that respects the diversity of its people and provides equal opportunities to its citizens irrespective of their religion, caste, creed or colour. On this day, we must also remember the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) who have been subjected to the worst form of state-terrorism for over seven decades. India has unleashed a reign of terror against them and has imposed a complete lockdown since last year. We urge the international community to compel and shame India to stop committing human rights violations and grant Kashmiris their right to self-determination as promised under the UN Security Council resolutions. Currently, the entire world is facing the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic, and I urge the nation to exhibit self-discipline and follow health guidelines to contain the spread of the virus. We need to display the same spirit of discipline which we did during the first wave of the pandemic. Pakistan Paindabad.



Prime Minister Imran Khan ON THE OCCASION OF QUAID-E-AZAM DAY

On this eventful day when Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was born, a proud nation was destined to come into being. I feel blessed to have opened my eyes in a free environment bestowed upon us by God through his chosen personality who was none other but our beloved Quaid. He had a vision for the Muslims of the subcontinent which got translated in the shape of Pakistan. Therefore, there is no other pleasure more real to us as a nation than the commemoration of his birthday. As a prime representative of whole nation, I owe immense gratitude, love and devotion towards my beloved leader Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. In the modern history of mankind, there are a few people who garnered such a wide popularity as our Quaid did. His determination to carve a nation out of chaos and relentless deprivation was miraculous and insuperable against all odds and challenges. He had a firm faith in God and His Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) which guided him through a long journey comprising of ordeals, deceptions and dejections but culminating in grandeur, décor and eternity. He is a role model not merely for us but for Muslims of whole world because of the universal vision he instilled in the creation of Pakistan. With the adorable actions which spoke louder than words, he became an actual prototype of honesty and righteousness. We trace not a single discourse by our beloved Quaid on the innumerable sacrifices he made for the cause of his nascent nation rather it is only through his actions that we learn of all those grieving losses he personally went through. Today, I urge all of you to pay a befitting homage to our great Quaid by following his footsteps in all walks of our lives. Let us live the Quaid's ideals of Unity, Faith and Discipline with a renewed national spirit so that we make this country rise above all seen and unseen challenges. Together, let us beseech Allah that He grants us strength to realize our destiny of becoming the strongest nation on earth as rightly visualized by our Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.



Further solidifying and expanding Pakistan-China ties

Pakistan and China have reiterated their resolve to further consolidate their friendship for the mutual benefit of the two countries. This was discussed at a meeting between the visiting Chinese Minister for National Defence, General Wei Fenghe, and President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Welcoming the Chinese Defence Minister, the President said that Pakistan's friendship with China was the cornerstone of its foreign policy and Pakistan wanted to further improve and cement its ties with the People's Republic of China so as to address the security challenges being faced by the region. The President informed the delegation that Pakistan and China were great friends and Pakistan strongly adhered to One-China Policy and supported China on issues of Taiwan, Tibet, Xinjiang and South China Sea. The President expressed concern over the Indian hegemonic designs that posed a threat to regional peace and stability. The President also highlighted India's state-sponsorship of terrorism against Pakistan. President Dr Arif Alvi appreciated the economic progress made by China as well as the measures taken by the Chinese Government in containing the Covid-19 pandemic. He lauded the steadfast Chinese support to Pakistan on the Jammu & Kashmir dispute, including at international fora. The President underlined that there was huge scope of bilateral defence cooperation that needed to be further expanded for the mutual



advantage of the two countries. General Wei Fenghe stated that military relations between the two all-weather friends had made significant progress and expressed the hope that his visit would further strengthen the defence cooperation. He said that China

wanted to share dividends of development with Pakistan that would help in economic uplift of Pakistan. He thanked the President for being the first foreign dignitary to visit China during March 2020 amidst the Covid-19 pandemic as well as sending the medical equipment. He also

thanked the President for conferring the award of Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) on him, saying that it reflected the true friendship between the two countries.

Chinese State Councilor and Minister of Defence of China General Wei Fenghe called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. General Wei is leading a high-level delegation to Pakistan on a three-day official visit. His visit is aimed at further solidifying and expanding Pakistan-China ties.

Welcoming the Defence Minister's visit to Pakistan, Prime Minister Imran Khan underscored the importance of regular high-level exchanges, even in the time of COVID-19. The Prime Minister stressed that the two countries were bound by 'All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership' based on mutual trust, understanding and commonality of views. He added that Pakistan firmly adhered to One-China policy and supported China on issues of its core national interest.

General Wei Fenghe conveyed warm greetings of President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang to the Prime Minister and underscored the importance the Chinese leadership attached to China's relations with Pakistan.

The Prime Minister warmly reciprocated the greetings and recalled his past meetings and exchange with President Xi and Premier Li. The Prime Minister appreciated China's development model that has lifted millions of people out of poverty, and added that Pakistan wishes to emulate this example. The Prime Minister appreciated China's consistent support to Pakistan in pursuit of Pakistan's national development goals.

The Prime Minister appreciated China's success in dealing with COVID-19 pandemic. He thanked the Government and people of China for extending solidarity and material support to Pakistan to manage COVID-19 pandemic.

The Prime Minister deeply appreciated China's principled support on Jammu and Kashmir in





the wake of India's unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019. He underlined the serious threat posed by RSS-BJP dispensation through belligerent actions, discriminatory measures against Indian minorities, and harshest steps to curb all the freedoms of innocent Kashmiris in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). These and other steps highlighted India's hegemonic designs and expansionist agenda, which was imperiling peace and stability in the region.

The Prime Minister emphasized that Pakistan-China ties remain an anchor for peace and stability in the region and beyond, and that both countries may further deepen strategic communication and coordination to deal with the emerging challenges and threats.

Prime Minister underscored that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a signature project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), was transformational and stressed that the economic and social impact of CPEC on the region will be substantial and beneficial.

General Wei Fenghe underlined that Pakistan was China's close friend, good neighbor and 'iron brother'. Underscoring the depth and breadth of China-Pakistan ties, he conveyed Chinese leadership's firm commitment to further strengthening China-Pakistan ties in a host of areas.

General Wei underlined that the South Asia and Arabian Sea Region needed peace, stability and economic development and appreciated Pakistan's efforts in advancing those goals. He maintained that both countries needed to make collective efforts to protect and promote their common interests





Parliamentary cooperation to help Iran

The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan and Speaker of Pakistani parliament have stressed the need to strengthen parliamentary friendship group between the two countries which could help in removing obstacles impeding mutual economic and trade cooperation. According to National Assembly's statement, Ambassador Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini and Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly Asad Qaiser met on Friday at the parliament house to discuss parliamentary and bilateral relations.

During the meeting, Ambassador Hosseini thanked Pakistan for its firm stance against the oppressive and unilateral US sanctions against the Iranian people. The two sides emphasized

the need to deepen parliamentary cooperation, strengthen the parliamentary friendship group between the two countries, increase border crossings and trade cooperation. Speaker Asad Qaiser emphasized to enhance cooperation in the fields of trade commerce and energy for the mutual benefit of both states.

He also remarked that trade activities across the Pakistan-Iran border need special focus as it would increase the trade volume between both countries exponentially. Qaiser said that the government of Prime Minister Imran Khan is striving to have friendly relations with all its members, specially trade and commerce. The Speaker also mentioned that unity among Muslim countries is imperative to resolve the

issues faced by Muslim Ummah across the world. He also mentioned the importance of Parliamentary diplomacy in this context as people to people contacts between countries would be a win win situation. Ambassador Hosseini remarked that Iran values its ties with Pakistan and desires to enhance these ties on the basis of trade and business. He appreciated the role of Pakistan for bringing regional peace.

He also said that Parliamentary contacts are essential to improve these ties. He appreciated the role of Pakistan for its efforts to have unity among Muslim countries



MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO ELIMINATE THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS: IJAZ SHAH

Federal Minister for Interior, Brig (R) Ijaz Ahmad Shah met with the Ambassador of Greece H.E. Mr. Andreas Papastavrou at the Ministry of Interior. The two discussed bilateral ties, economic situation and impact of pandemic on the global level. Pakistan and Greece share good relations on government level, said the Ambassador. We have plenty of Pakistanis living in Greece and this plays an important role in strengthening ties between the two countries. While discussing the issue of illegal immigrants, the Federal Minister for Interior, Brig (R) Ijaz Ahmad Shah said that all the needful measures are being taken to

eliminate this problem. He referred to recent incident where Ministry of Interior processed the Greek request for the chartered flight carrying illegal immigrants on a very short notice. "This in time and active response was to ensure that our friendly and cooperative relationship should continue in future" the Minister said. The Ambassador welcomed the positive response from Pakistan and Interior Ministry. On exchanging views about COVID-19, the Federal Minister for Interior said that this pandemic has taken a toll on world economy. To which Greek Ambassador said that their country heavily relied on tourism and economy

has suffered due to outbreak of this deadly virus. The duo hoped for the better things to happen in near future and wished that people can have virus free lives again. The Ambassador invited Federal Minister to Greece, the Minister warmly welcomed the invitation and hoped to visit once the pandemic situation gets better. The meeting concluded with the hope that the two countries will continue to work on strengthening bilateral ties and mutual cooperation.



The Intra-Afghan Negotiations provide a historic opportunity to the Afghan leaders for achieving durable peace and stability: PM Imran Khan

By Mian Fazal Elahi

A delegation of Taliban Political Commission (TPC), headed by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, called on the Prime Minister Imran Khan. The discussions focused on the progress in the Afghan peace process and the way forward. Reiterating that there was no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan, Prime Minister Imran Khan underlined that the Intra-Afghan Negotiations provide a historic opportunity to the Afghan leaders for achieving durable peace and stability through an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process. The Prime Minister expressed hope that the Afghan parties would continue to build on the recent positive developments in the Intra-Afghan Negotiations. Prime Minister Imran Khan underscored Pakistan's consistent support to an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement. He also underlined the need to be vigilant about the role of spoilers, who continue to make attempts to disrupt and derail the peace process. The Prime Minister expressed concern over the high level of violence and called on all sides for

reduction in violence leading to ceasefire. The Prime Minister highlighted that return of peace and stability in Afghanistan would provide a strong impetus to economic development, regional integration, and connectivity, benefitting Afghanistan and the region. The TPC delegation's visit is part of Pakistan's serious efforts to facilitate

Afghan peace process to achieve a peaceful, stable, united, independent, sovereign and prosperous Afghanistan.

A delegation of Taliban Political Commission (TPC), headed by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, called on Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi today



for exchange of views on the Afghan peace process. Reaffirming Pakistan's support for a peaceful, stable, united, sovereign and prosperous Afghanistan, the Foreign Minister reiterated Pakistan's belief that there is no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan. He underlined that Pakistan will continue to facilitate the Afghan peace process and expressed the hope that the Afghan parties would seize this historic opportunity to establish lasting peace in Afghanistan through an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement. Welcoming the announcement of the agreement on Rules and Procedures between the two negotiating sides in Doha, Foreign Minister Qureshi conveyed that the agreement reflects a common resolve of the parties to secure a negotiated solution. He emphasized importance of measures by all sides for reduction in violence leading to ceasefire. The Foreign Minister added that Pakistan will respect the decisions taken by the Afghan parties through the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process. The Foreign Minister also underlined the need for guarding against the machinations of "spoilers" from disrupting the process. The Foreign Minister highlighted the steps being taken by Pakistan to deepen the economic relations and people-to-people exchanges including visa facilitation and enhancing trade and transit for the welfare of fraternal



Afghan people. Emphasizing Pakistan's commitment to safe and dignified return of Afghan refugees to their homeland, the Foreign Minister expressed the hope that peace and stability in Afghanistan will help create conducive conditions for a time-bound and well-resourced roadmap supported by international community. He also stressed the importance of the international community playing its role in reconstruction and economic development of Afghanistan. The delegation thanked Pakistan for hosting millions of Afghan

refugees for more than four decades. The Taliban Political Commission's delegation appreciated Pakistan's facilitative role in the Afghan peace process and shared its perspective on various aspects of the Intra-Afghan Negotiations. The Taliban Political Commission delegation is visiting Pakistan from 16-18 December 2020 as part of Pakistan's efforts of outreach to all Afghan stakeholders for a peaceful resolution of the Afghan conflict.





PRIME MINISTER IMRAN KHAN VISITS NAVAL HEADQUARTERS

Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan visited Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. Upon arrival Prime Minister was welcomed by Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi and was presented Guard of Honour by a smartly turned out contingent. Prime Minister laid floral wreath at Shuhada monument and was introduced to the Principal Staff Officers at Naval Headquarters.

The Prime Minister greatly appreciated the professionalism and operational readiness of Pakistan Navy. Prime Minister reposed complete confidence on the preparedness of Pakistan Navy in safeguarding country's sea frontiers. He also acknowledge Pakistan Navy's contribution towards regional maritime security by contributing in international efforts and taking own initiatives. Prime Minister showed his satisfaction on steps taken to ensure security of Pakistan's coast, Gwadar Port and maritime related projects of CPEC.

The Prime Minister further assured full support of the Government for capacity building of Navy to meet the evolving challenges in maritime domain. He further added that the Government fully realizes the importance of maritime sector and its immense economic potential which can be



utilized for the prosperity of the country. In the same spirit, Government's vision of declaring 2020 as 'Year of Blue Economy' was to set the strategic direction for spurring growth of maritime sector.

Earlier, Prime Minister and the Minister for Defence, Finance & Maritime Affairs, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on NSD & SPP and Secretaries Defence, Finance, Foreign and Maritime Affairs were given detailed briefing on maritime security challenges and Pakistan Navy's perspective on development of maritime sector.

The Naval Chief thanked Prime Minister for his visit and reposing confidence in the Navy. He also assured that Pakistan Navy with the help of Allah SWT will continue to defend the country's sea frontiers & maritime interests and shoulder the responsibilities with honour both during peace and war.



Benazir Bhutto

A Triumph for Women

Benazir Bhutto (1953-2007) was the first democratically elected female leader of a Muslim country during a tumultuous life that ended with her assassination.

Benazir Bhutto was born in Karachi, Pakistan to a prominent political family. At age 16 she left her homeland to study at Harvard's Radcliffe College. After completing her undergraduate degree at Radcliffe she studied at England's Oxford University, where she was awarded a second degree in 1977.

Later that year she returned to Pakistan, where her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, had been elected Prime Minister, but days after her arrival, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was imprisoned. In 1979 he was hanged by the government of General Zia Ul Haq.

Bhutto herself was also arrested many times over the following years, and was detained for three years before being permitted to leave the country in 1984. She settled in London, and along with her two brothers. When her brother Shahnawaz died in 1985, she traveled to Pakistan for his burial, and was again arrested for participating in anti-government rallies.

She flew to London after her release, and martial law was lifted in Pakistan at the end

of the year. Anti-Zia demonstrations resumed and Benazir Bhutto returned to Pakistan in April 1986. The public response to her return was tumultuous, and she publicly called for the resignation of Zia Ul Haq, whose government had executed her father.

She was elected co-chairwoman of the Pakistan

People's Party (PPP), along with her mother, and when elections were finally held in 1988, she herself became Prime Minister. At 35, she was one of the youngest chief executives in the world, and the first woman to serve as prime minister in an Islamic country.

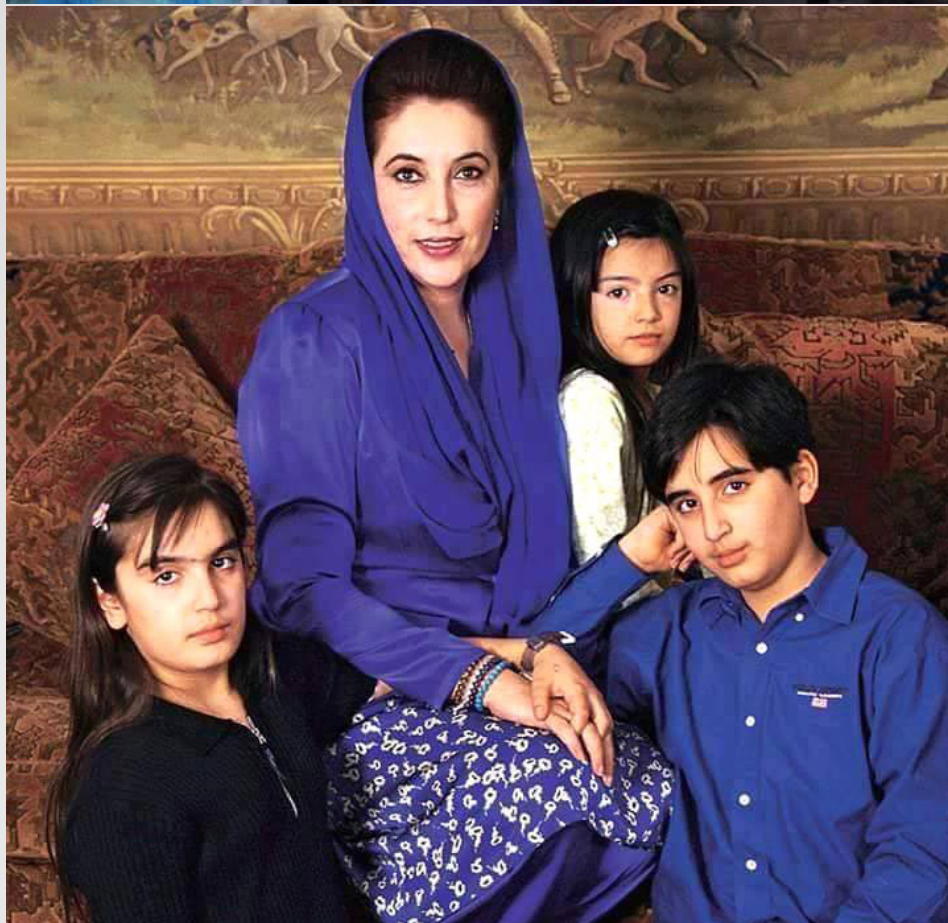
Only two years into her first term, President





Ghulam Ishaq Khan dismissed Bhutto from office. She initiated an anti-corruption campaign, and in 1993 was re-elected as Prime Minister. While in office, she brought electricity to the countryside and built schools all over the country. She made hunger, housing and healthcare her top priorities, and looked forward to continuing to modernize Pakistan. At the same time, Bhutto faced constant opposition from the Islamic fundamentalist movement.

In 1996, President Leghari of Pakistan dismissed Benazir Bhutto from office, alleging mismanagement, and dissolved the National Assembly. A Bhutto re-election bid failed in 1997, and the next elected government, headed by the more conservative Nawaz Sharif, was overthrown by the military. Bhutto's husband was imprisoned, and once again, she was forced to leave her homeland. For nine years, she and her children lived in exile in London, where she continued to advocate the restoration of democracy in Pakistan. Asif Ali Zardari was released from prison in 2004 and rejoined his family in London. In the autumn of 2007, in the face of death threats from radical Islamists, Benazir Bhutto and her husband returned to their native country. Although she was greeted by enthusiastic crowds, within hours of her arrival, her motorcade was attacked by a suicide bomber. She survived this first assassination attempt, although more than 100 bystanders died in the attack. With national elections scheduled for January 2008, her Pakistan People's Party was poised for a victory that would make Bhutto Prime Minister once again. Only a few weeks before the election, the extremists struck again. After a campaign rally in Rawalpindi, a gunman fired at her car before detonating a bomb, killing himself and more than 20 bystanders. Bhutto was rushed to the hospital but soon succumbed to injuries suffered in the attack. In her political testament,



Benazir Bhutto identified her son, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, as her choice to succeed her as Chairman of the PPP. At the time of her death, Bilawal was only 19, still an undergraduate at Oxford. Although Benazir Bhutto did not live to see the developments, the party she led and the causes she championed still play a major role in the political life of contemporary Pakistan.

Bhutto's autobiography, *Daughter of the East*, was published in 1988 (also published as *Daughter of Destiny*, 1989); she also wrote

Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy, and the West, which was published posthumously in 2008.

Benazir Bhutto left a deeply polarizing legacy. Her career has been celebrated as a triumph for women in the Muslim world and for the global fight against Islamic extremism. Her efforts and struggle to champion democracy remain a lasting legacy that is deeply respected among her rivals.



Statement by the Foreign Minister at the 47th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers Niamey, Niger

Honorable Foreign Minister Kalla Ankourao of the Republic of Niger,

Secretary General Dr. Yousaf bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen,

Distinguished Colleagues, Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen, Let me, at the outset, congratulate Foreign Minister Ankourao for assuming the Chair of the 47th CFM Session. Our deepest appreciation to Niger for the hospitality and the excellent arrangements. I carry warm sentiments of goodwill and amity from the people of Pakistan. I also express my profound gratitude for the OIC General Secretariat, for facilitating this important meeting. Let me also appreciate His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Foreign Minister of United Arab Emirates for his leadership as the outgoing Chair.

Mr. Chairman,

As we meet today, the Ummah is at an inflection point, with enormous challenges ahead. One such challenge that the whole humanity faces, is COVID-19 pandemic. To effectively confront it, we need to coordinate our actions, benefit from each other's experiences and pool our resources by bringing governments, scientists and research institutions together. By the Grace of Allah, Pakistan has been able to contain the worst effects of the pandemic, despite having the world's fifth largest population. We are humbled that our response is cited among global success stories. Yet no one is out of the woods and a second wave is hitting us all.

Pakistan is ready to share its experience with Muslim countries. Pakistan has also been at the

forefront of highlighting and working on peculiar challenges posed to the developing countries because of COVID-19 due to shrinking fiscal space. It was in this context that Prime Minister Imran Khan called for a "Global Initiative on Debt Relief" for developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

The pandemic is just one of the challenges the Ummah continues to face. Islamophobia and hatred toward Muslims is on steep rise in the West and elsewhere. Recent despicable incidents like desecration of the Holy Quran and reprinting of caricatures of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) have seriously hurt the sentiments of over 1.8 billion Muslims around the world. These shameful acts cannot and should not be justified in the name of freedom of expression. The rise and political mainstreaming of far-right extremism in many countries is creating a hostile environment for Muslims. It is critical to raise awareness about this new scourge. Pakistan has always played the lead role in combating Islamophobia, and will continue to do so. It is as part of these efforts that we are asking this forum to authorize the Secretariat to launch an international campaign for outlawing willful provocation against Muslims and incitement to hate. I also propose designating 15 March as the 'International Day to Combat Islamophobia'. A resolution to this effect has already been tabled.

Mr. Chairman,

The rising wave of Hindutva in India has emerged as a serious threat not only to Indian Muslims but also to regional security. The RSS-BJP dispensation openly espouses Hindutva, an

ultranationalist ideology marked by extreme animus towards Muslims.

The Modi government is systematically attacking the country's over 180 million Muslims. Incidents of mob lynching have witnessed a steep rise; we saw systematic violence and targeted killing of over 50 Muslims in New Delhi in February 2020; discriminatory steps targeting Muslims including the arbitrary stripping of nationality and discriminatory citizenship laws are horrendous examples. Muslims are even stigmatized as spreaders of the Corona virus.

On 5 August 2020, in clear violation of OIC resolutions, the Indian Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of a Hindu temple on the site of the historic Babri Mosque that was demolished by Hindu extremists in 1992. A few weeks later, the culprits involved in its planned destruction, including many senior BJP politicians, were exonerated of their crime by a special court.

International media and human rights organizations have reported this. We must take cognizance of these crimes lest we see another bloodbath of Indian Muslims.

Mr. Chairman,

The suffering and the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) remains particularly dire. In the backdrop of India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019, IIOJK has turned into a grave human and humanitarian tragedy. For over 15 months now, over 8 million Kashmiris continue to face lockdown, military siege, communications blockade, arbitrary

detentions, and unprecedented restrictions. The entire occupied territory has turned into the world's largest open air prison.

Operating under draconian laws with complete impunity, Indian occupation forces are committing unspeakable atrocities to silence the voice of the Kashmiris and break their will. Extra-judicial killings in fake "encounters"; "cordon-and-search" operations; destruction of property and torching of houses as collective punishment; systematic intimidation of local media; and indiscriminate use of pellet guns against unarmed peaceful protestors have become the order of the day. Efforts to change the demographic structure of IIOJK are part of the nefarious Indian designs. Under the so-called "Jammu & Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules 2020", 2 million 'domicile' certificates have been issued in the last six months. Similarly, the laws meant to provide protection to the people of IIOJK regarding land ownership have been revoked.

These actions are in clear violation of the UNSC resolutions and international law, in particular the 4th Geneva Convention. International human rights organizations, media, parliaments and civil society organizations the world over are condemning India. Statements by the UN Secretary General and other world leaders, as well as several rounds of consultations at the UN Security Council, have served to underscore the internationally recognised nature of Jammu and Kashmir dispute, as also the need for a just and durable solution in line with the relevant UNSC Resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

The RSS-BJP regime in India, however, refuses to respond to these appeals. To gloss over its crimes and malign the indigenous resistance movement in IIOJK, India hurls false accusations of "cross-border terrorism" against Pakistan and may resort to a "false flag" operation and undertake another misadventure. India also continues to commit violations of the 2003 ceasefire understanding along the Line of Control (LoC), deliberately targeting the civilian population.

Pakistan is exercising maximum restraint but our patience is not unlimited. While Pakistan has been at the forefront of fighting the menace of terrorism, India has been weaving a web of terrorism in Pakistan.

We have prepared a dossier on India's state sponsorship of terrorism against Pakistan and provided incontrovertible proof to the international community. We hope that the OIC collectively, and Muslim countries individually, will play a role in stopping India from following this dangerous course.

Mr. Chairman,

We deeply appreciate the new CFM Chair Niger's Foreign Minister Ankaourao, Chair of 14th Islamic Summit Saudi Arabia's FM Prince Farhan bin Faisal, and Turkish FM Cavusoglu

(speaking on behalf of Asian Group) for highlighting J&K dispute in their statements in the Opening Plenary Session.

The OIC has been at the forefront of efforts to support the legitimate and just struggle of the people of IIOJK for their inalienable right to self-determination.

Since 5 August 2019, the OIC Contact Group on J&K has held three meetings, including two Ministerial Meetings by adopting unanimous Communiqués. Visit of the Secretary General's Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan and AJK in March this year was another manifestation of the OIC support on the J&K dispute. We welcome the Report on the Special Envoy's visit. The beleaguered people of IIOJK, now more than ever, look towards the OIC and the Ummah to help alleviate their sufferings. I appeal to the OIC countries to also use their political influence and economic clout to prevent India from committing further atrocities in IIOJK.

It is imperative for the CFM to demand that India: rescind its illegal and unilateral actions; immediately halt its egregious human rights violations; provide access to IIOJK to human rights organizations, including the UN fact finding mission and OIC IPHRC; and take practical steps to resolve the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UNSC resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people. We look for to the 47th CFM reaffirming its strong support for the Kashmiri people by adopting the resolution tabled by Pakistan.

Mr. Chairman,

Palestine is another wound that continues to fester. Taking advantage of the unstable security situation in the region, Israel continues to take unilateral steps that fly in the face of the two-state solution. Peace and stability in the Middle East is a priority for Pakistan. Illegal annexation of the Palestinian territory, building of illegal settlements and inhuman living conditions of the Palestinian make realization of that dream more difficult every passing day.

Let me reiterate Pakistan's abiding commitment to the Palestinian people. For a just, lasting and comprehensive peace, Pakistan continues to support a united, contiguous and independent Palestinian state, in line with UN General Assembly and Security Council Resolutions, within the internationally agreed parameters, pre-1967 borders, and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

Mr. Chairman,

Peace in Afghanistan is key to stability and progress of the entire region. Apart from Afghanistan itself, Pakistan has suffered the most from conflict in Afghanistan, and will be the biggest beneficiary of peace in the country.

Pakistan's efforts aimed at achieving this goal have been widely acknowledged and appreciated.

We continue to fully support the Afghan peace and reconciliation process, and hope that our collective endeavours will result in a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan has also consistently supported the resolution of Nagorno Karabagh dispute in accordance with international law and relevant UNSC resolutions. We congratulate the government and brotherly people of Azerbaijan on their remarkable success against Armenian aggression, and liberation of their territories. The trilateral agreement offers a renewed opportunity for establishing peace in the South Caucasus region.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan has a long and illustrious history partnering our African friends, whether it is supporting freedom struggles from colonial rule or the struggle against apartheid. We have extended humanitarian assistance and capacity building programs, and contributed to peace and security in the continent through UN Peacekeeping Missions.

Pakistan has embarked upon a new, path-breaking "Engage Africa" initiative to strengthen political and diplomatic linkages, and further deepen and broad mutually beneficial trade and economic ties.

Pakistan reaffirms full solidarity and support for the aspirations and endeavours of African nations for peace, progress and prosperity.

Mr. Chairman,

As we congregate, the OIC has just completed 50 years of its existence. On this important milestone, we need to reiterate our commitment and consolidate our efforts to enhance the effectiveness of OIC as a collective voice of the Muslim Ummah. I wish to highlight that our Organization was established to forge unity and solidarity of the Ummah against common challenges. For its part, Pakistan remains committed to promoting the OIC as the sole and most effective voice of the Ummah. Pakistan will continue to work closely with the OIC for developing mechanisms to advance this objective.

We are looking forward to hosting the 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers next year and welcoming you all. I avail this opportunity to extend a cordial invitation to all of you to visit Pakistan. As the prospective CFM Chair, Pakistan is ready to constructively engage with the entire membership to promote unity, peace and prosperity among the Muslim Ummah.

I wish colleagues a successful CFM Session.

I Thank you.

Foreign Minister Qureshi activities on sidelines of OIC 47th CFM Niamey

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on the sidelines of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers in Niamey. During the meeting, views were exchanged on bilateral relations, regional issues, cooperation at multilateral fora, and the Covid-19 situation.

The Foreign Minister extended felicitations to the Saudi leadership on successful convening of the G-20 Summit.

The Foreign Minister underscored that the relationship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia is deep-rooted and long-standing. The two sides agreed on further deepening bilateral trade and economic cooperation including in the field of energy.

The two Foreign Ministers discussed OIC's importance as the vital platform for Muslim Ummah and its role in the advancement of the Kashmir cause. Foreign Minister Qureshi apprised of the continuing grave situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

He thanked the Saudi Foreign Minister for the Kingdom's principled and steadfast support for the just cause of Kashmir. Prince Faisal underscored the importance that Saudi Arabia attaches to its fraternal and strategic relationship with Pakistan.

He conveyed Saudi Arabia's appreciation for the role played by Pakistan in maintaining regional peace and stability. The two sides agreed to have high-level exchanges to promote bilateral cooperation in relevant fields.

On the sidelines of the OIC Council of Foreign Minister's meeting, Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi had a bilateral meeting with Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Haneef Atmar. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on Afghan peace process and measures to further strengthen Pakistan-Afghanistan bilateral relations. Foreign Minister Qureshi extended condolences to his Afghan counterpart over recent terrorist attacks in Kabul and Bamiyan and reiterated Pakistan's condemnation of terrorism in all forms and manifestations.

The Foreign Minister also stressed the importance of reduction in violence leading



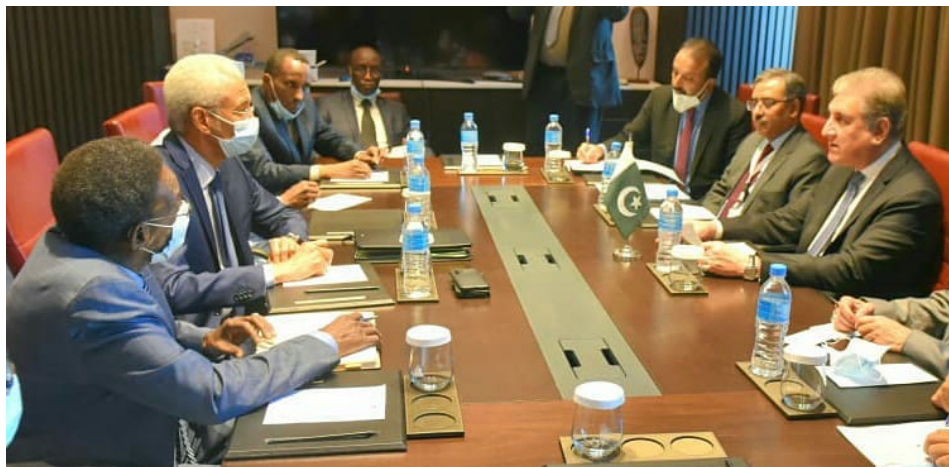
Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on the sidelines of the OIC of Foreign Ministers in Niamey



Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on the sidelines of the OIC of Foreign Ministers in Niamey



On the sidelines of the OIC Council of Foreign Minister's meeting, Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi had a bilateral meeting with Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Haneef Atmar



Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi had a bilateral meeting with Chadian Foreign Minister Mr. Amine Abba-Siddick today, on the sidelines of the 47th CFM Session in Niger



FM Qureshi met FM of Niger Kalla Ankouraou on sidelines of OIC 47CFM Niamey



FM Qureshi met FM of Niger Kalla Ankouraou on sidelines of OIC 47CFM Niamey

to ceasefire to save lives and advance peace efforts. Referring to the recent successful visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Kabul, the Foreign Minister conveyed that Pakistan remained committed to deepening bilateral cooperation in diverse fields. The Foreign Minister underlined that the understandings reached during the visit and the 'Shared Vision' issued by the two sides will help take this process forward.

Reiterating Pakistan's steadfast commitment to the Afghan peace process, the Foreign Minister conveyed that Pakistan will continue to facilitate the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process.

Noting the recent progress in Intra-Afghan negotiations, he also emphasised the need to remain vigilant about the role of 'spoilers' who did not wish to see return of peace in the region.

Foreign Minister Qureshi stressed that peace negotiations represented a historic opportunity, which must be seized by the Afghan leadership to establish enduring peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region.

The Foreign Minister also underlined the need to utilize the tremendous potential in the economic and commercial fields which could be exploited by securing peace in Afghanistan and enhancing regional connectivity.

The Foreign Minister further underscored that the Afghan peace process offered the opportunity for return of Afghan refugees to their homeland with dignity and honour.

Appreciating Pakistan's sincere efforts in support of the Afghan peace process, the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan expressed gratitude for the Prime Minister's visit to Kabul and its important outcomes.

He also thanked Foreign Minister Qureshi for his participation in the Geneva Conference and reaffirmation of Pakistan's support for reconstruction and economic development of Afghanistan.

While reaffirming resolve to closely follow-up on the Prime Minister's visit to Kabul, the two Foreign Ministers agreed to pursue cooperation in relevant fields under the agreed mechanism of APAPPS.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi had a bilateral meeting with Chadian Foreign Minister Mr. Amine Abba-Siddick, on the sidelines of the 47th CFM Session in Niger. The exchange of views covered bilateral relations, regional developments and cooperation in multilateral

fora.

Foreign Minister Qureshi highlighted that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Chad, which are marked by common faith, convergence of views and shared perspectives. The people of two countries had deep historical linkages, with Pakistan extending support to the freedom struggle of their Chadian brethren.

The Foreign Minister underscored the importance of deepening and expanding economic and commercial ties between the two countries.

The Foreign Minister also stressed the importance of regular high-level exchanges, consultations mechanism between the Foreign Ministries, and enhanced cooperation in security and CT fields.

The Foreign Minister stated that, in line with Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision, Pakistan had embarked on the "Engage Africa" initiative. The policy, inter alia, envisages greater collaboration with Chad and deepening of bilateral cooperation in diverse fields.

The Foreign Minister apprised the Chadian Foreign Minister of the aggravating human rights and humanitarian situation in IIOJK in the aftermath of India's illegal and unilateral actions since 5 August 2019, and India's moves to alter the demographic structure of the occupied territory, in clear violation of the 4th Geneva Convention.

The Foreign Minister also highlighted the issue of rising wave of Islamophobia in various parts of the world, while underscoring the need to strengthen the role of OIC to combat this menace.

The Chad Foreign Minister underlined the high importance Chad attached to its relations with Pakistan.

He welcomed Pakistan's growing engagement with Africa and underscored Chad's intention in developing cooperation in trade, investments, industry and security fields.

The two Ministers also discussed issues related to the OIC and the Muslim Ummah. They agreed to remain in close contact.

FM Qureshi met FM of Niger Kalla Ankouraou on sidelines of OIC 47CFM Niamey.

Both sides agreed that exchange of high-level visits will provide further momentum to bilateral ties.

FM thanked for its long-held principled stance



FM Qureshi had a meeting with FM Dr. Ahmad Nasser Al Mohammed Al Sabah on sidelines of OIC47CFM Niamey



Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met OIC Secretary General Dr. Yousef Al-Othaimeen in Niamey



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Somalia Mr. Balal Mohamed Osman called on FM Qureshi on sidelines of OIC 47th CFM Niamey



FM Qureshi met Sudanese FM Omar Qamaruddin Ismail on sidelines of 47th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), being held in Niamey



FM Qureshi met UAE Minister of State Reem Al Hashimi on sidelines of OIC47CFMNiamey



FM Qureshi met UAE Minister of State Reem Al Hashimi on sidelines of OIC47CFMNiamey

on J&K & apprised him about HR situation in IIOJK.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met OIC Secretary General Dr. Yousef Al-Othaimeen in Niamey.

The meeting took place in the run up to the 47th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), being held in Niamey on 27-28 November 2020.

The Foreign Minister emphasized that Pakistan, as a founding member of the OIC, attached utmost importance to the Organization as the sole and most prominent voice of the Muslim Ummah.

The exchange of views covered wide range of issues confronting the Muslim Ummah, including rising Islamophobia, the situation in IIOJK and Palestine, and challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Foreign Minister conveyed Pakistan's deep concern at the aggravating human rights and humanitarian situation in IIOJK, and India's moves to alter the demographic structure of the occupied territory, in clear violation of UN Resolutions and International Law including the 4th Geneva Convention. Foreign Minister Qureshi expressed appreciation at the OIC's consistent and historic support for the Kashmir cause.

The Foreign Minister also apprised the Secretary General about the initiative by Pakistan for adoption of a resolution on Islamophobia by the 47th CFM.

The Secretary General appreciated Pakistan's role as a founding and active member of the OIC. The Secretary General reaffirmed OIC's steadfast support on the Jammu & Kashmir dispute.

He noted that his Special Envoy on Jammu & Kashmir visited Pakistan and AJK earlier this year and that the Special Envoy's report would be submitted to the CFM.

The Secretary General also shared his perspective on the issue of Islamophobia and apprised that the latest report of OIC's Islamophobia Observatory was also due to be released at the CFM.

The OIC Secretary General's Special Envoy on Jammu & Kashmir Ambassador Yousef Al-Dodeay, Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the OIC and other senior officials were also present.

Exclusive Interview

**Qalandars is
a tribute to
everyone who
works selflessly
to a cause**

**Atif Naeem Rana
CEO, Lahore Qalandars**

Exclusive Interview by Mian Fazal Elahi

They were ridiculed, they were mocked, they were bashed. They finished bottom at each of first four editions of Pakistan Super League. There were memes about the team. The critics had been demanding removal of team management, specially their head coach.

But, nothing could divert them from their focus.

And, finally, this time they came so near to achieving what they'd be waiting for.

They're Lahore Qalandars.

The most active and much discussed franchised of Pakistan Super League, and also widely followed and massively loved by the fans in Pakistan and abroad.

Today, we are joined by Mr Atif Rana, who is the CEO of Lahore Qalandars and the man behind the widely acclaimed cricket talent scouting project – the Players Development Program.

DF: Mr Rana, thanks for your time. First question; Why did you name the franchise "Qalandars."

Atif Rana: Qalandars represent the selfless attitude, the attitude that makes you dedicated towards a cause, a cause to help the masses. It could be in any way, for us it is helping them through cricket. We are trying to empower Pakistani youth using the sport everyone love – Cricket. Qalandars is a tribute to everyone who works selflessly to a cause.

DF: Please tell us about your program, player development program, which is mentioned every time when Qalandars is being discussed.

Atif Rana: When we first went to players draft ahead of inaugural edition of Pakistan Super League, we were provided with aged 30+ players in emerging category and were told that that's the only talent country has. At that point, we had decided to start our own talent hunt program to develop new talent for the country, that's how it all started. I must credit our Director Cricket Operation Aqib Javed for the efforts and the hard work he has put in during last five years for success of player development program. When we started this program everyone mocked us, but today every one can see how Pakistan Cricket, not only Qalandars, have benefitted from the program.





DF: Can you please highlight how the program helped Lahore Qalandars?


Atif Rana: Not Only Qalandars, but Pakistan Cricket as well. You can see Haris Rauf is an example. He was no where in 2017, came to appear in our trials and now he is among most successful T20 bowlers in the world. Usman Qadir is another name to mention, he had given hopes of playing cricket but made a comeback thru our program, travelled to Australia and that turned the tables for him. Qalandars' captain Sohail Akhtar is another such example. Dilber Hussain who has recently been signed by Big Bash League team Melbourne Stars is another name and I can tell you, Dilber is next big thing. He is a superstar in making. And, then outside of program, players liked Fakhar Zaman and Shaheen Shah Afridi were given the platform by Qalandars to show what they've. See, these players were somewhere in system but were not getting the launchpad which Qalandars provided to them.

I want to tell them that each and every member of Qalandars family is proud of all the fans and supporters: Atif Rana

DF: So, what is the secret behind success of this program? We have seen other talent hunts as well, but they are not massively successful as your PDP is, how come this became a huge success?

Atif Rana: Honesty, hard work and dedication. Let me tell you a major difference between our program and other programs: we don't stop after hunting talents like other, our real job starts after hunting the talent. When we pick them, most of them are raw without any prior experience, so we transform them thru a proper program to prepare for to level cricket.

It is also important to understand the



Qalandars represent the selfless attitude, the attitude that makes you dedicated towards a cause, a cause to help the masses

QALANDARS

steps a player takes to graduate from this program. The first step is appearing in open trials at respective regions, 16 players are picked from each region and they're formed as a team. Then comes the second step, the formed teams play each other in a tournament and the tournament is broadcasted live on Geo Super. The live broadcast of matches are massive confidence booster for any player.

Anyway, following the tournament, comes the step number three; top 16 performers of the tournament form LQ's development squad, they're given a contract by the franchise and then their development process starts. The development squad travels to Australia and UAE to compete against top domestic teams. We have an understanding with Big Bash teams as well where we can send our players to experience further skill enhancement. And after that, the best ones get the opportunity to be part of Qalandars' squad for Pakistan Super League and then world is all yours.

DF: But it must be very difficult and challenging, going to one city from another and arranging programs for the players, from South to North and then continuous criticism.

Atif Rana: As I said earlier, you need to remain focus about things you are doing. Nothing comes to you automatically; you have to work to achieve that. As they say good things don't always come to those who wait, you have to go and get them. So, the only way you can ensure your success is by doing something about it. You need to work on your goals to achieve them. As I mentioned, we were mocked by many people, they questioned integrity of the program, on your way to success you always get to see such type of negative people who try to pull you down saying you won't be successful. Don't mind them, keep on working on your goals instead.

DF: This is very impressive, but surely not everyone could make it to final 16, what do you do with those who can not make it to final squad or those who have the ability but still couldn't do well enough at the time of competition or trials.

Atif Rana: We don't let them go in vain, not at all. This is not our mantra. For us, once Qalandar, always a Qalandar. We have our own high-performance-center and that's of international standards,



The most active and much discussed franchised of Pakistan Super League, and also widely followed and massively loved by the fans in Pakistan and abroad: Atif Rana

where all the players get the opportunity to train under guidance of top coaches so that they can improve their skills. We will soon launch such HPCs in other cities as well.

DF: Are you doing anything for the players who are struggling financially in recent times?

Atif Rana: We have already taken some steps to support cricketers. Other than that, we have recently signed a MoU with TEVTA to provide vocational training to cricketers and also provide cricket coaching to graduates of TEVTA so that both the skills can be mixed and help the player earn a good job. Other than that, we have employed a large number of former players as coaches in high performance center. So, we are trying to do every possible support to Pakistan Cricket.

DF: Your franchise represents the city of Lahore but you have worked outside of Lahore as well, what's the idea behind this?





Atif Rana: What's the purpose of PSL? Isn't to support Pakistan Cricket and unearth new talent for Pakistan? So, why limit us to one city? Kashmir or Gilgit are as our part as any other city is. And that's why we went to these places. Not only to bring their cricket to mainstream cricket but also to make them feel owned by Pakistan Cricket fraternity. And you know what, when we went to these beautiful valleys with players like Inzamam ul Haq and Shoaib Akhtar, it also helped boosting country's tourism. One thing I want to mention here is what makes us different from other franchises and its our focus on working beyond the tournament. When you see other franchises, they usually care about 4, 5 top players signed by them for the season, or may be the 16 picked for that particular season but we think beyond them our aim is to transform hidden talents into super stars, and Haris Rauf is

an example of that.

DF: Rana sb, what did your franchise do this year, amazing turn around. From bottom in four consecutive seasons to the final of PSL, so near yet so far, still not bad?

Atif Rana: Not bad at all, a win there would have been amazing but Qalandars played brilliantly throughout the season under captaincy of Sohail Akhtar. And, this performance is testament to our players development program's success.

If you see, majority of players in our squad this year were from our PDP, our own product. Sohail Akhtar, Haris Rauf, Dilber Hussain, Farzan Raja, Maaz Khan and Mohammad Faizan, they all are our own product. We can proudly say that we reached final via a process, not by fluke or by signing big names. And, we shall continue doing that. InshaAllah,

next year Qalandars will emerge as champions.

DF: What is your message to the supporters of Lahore Qalandars.

Atif Rana: I want to tell them that each and every member of Qalandars family is proud of all the fans and supporters.

I can confidently say that ours is the most loyal and dedicated fan base, they remained loyal to us throughout all these years despite the fact that we couldn't provide them enough opportunities to cheer about and I can't thank enough to each of our friends.

I want them to continue supporting us and want to assure that as PSL team and as a franchise working for Pakistan Cricket, we will try not to let down our fans ever.





A reflection of close and cordial relationship, which Pakistan and the UAE have enjoyed for decades

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi concluded his two day official visit to the UAE on 18 December 2020.

During the visit, the Foreign Minister called on His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and ruler of Dubai and met His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Minister of the UAE. Foreign Minister Qureshi paid homage at the tomb of founder of the UAE His Highness (late) Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and offered prayers at Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. During his stay, the Foreign Minister also visited Consulate General of Pakistan in Dubai and interacted with local and international media.

The long-standing fraternal ties between Pakistan and the UAE are marked by frequent high-level visits from both sides, which serve to provide impetus to their close bilateral cooperation. Over the years, the two countries have signed a number of agreements in diverse fields which provide a strong framework for enhancing their mutually beneficial partnership. The two countries also collaborate closely in the multilateral organizations, in particular the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). The Foreign Minister's visit provided another opportunity to Pakistan and



the UAE to reaffirm their commitment towards strengthening their ties, in particular in the areas of trade and investment, share views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, as well as to deepen their cooperation in the multilateral

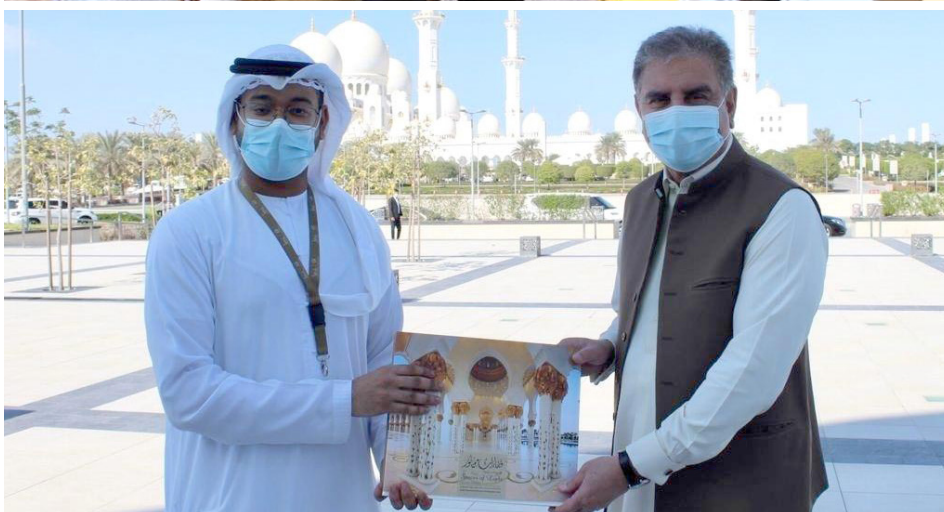
arena. Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met his UAE counterpart, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, in Abu Dhabi on 17 December 2020. The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere. During the



meeting, the Foreign Minister underscored the significance accorded by Pakistan to its fraternal relations with the UAE - a brotherly country and an important regional partner. The two Foreign Ministers reviewed all aspects of bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues. Foreign Minister Qureshi elaborated the worsening situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the precarious security situation in South Asia. He also outlined Pakistan's consistent efforts to support peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. Both Foreign Ministers agreed to enhance the existing strong bilateral ties, in particular in the areas of economy, trade and investment.

Foreign Minister Qureshi assured his counterpart of active participation in the Expo 2020. He appreciated the UAE's leadership for its consistent support Pakistan, especially during COVID-19 pandemic. Praising the hard work and dedication of Pakistani professionals and workers in the UAE, Foreign Minister Qureshi acknowledged their positive contribution towards progress and development of the UAE as well as Pakistan. He discussed with his counterpart matters pertaining to Pakistani Diaspora's welfare and stressed the need to further strengthen people to people linkages between the two brotherly countries. Foreign Minister expressed his sincere appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and his delegation during the visit. He cordially extended an invitation to H.H Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to visit Pakistan on mutually convenient dates in near future which he graciously accepted.

Pakistani expatriates and workers have contributed immensely to the progress and development of both countries. During the visit of the Foreign Minister, the two sides acknowledged Pakistani community's positive contribution to the UAE's success story. A large Pakistani Diaspora in the UAE forms a strong people to people bridge between the two countries. Accordingly, they agreed to consider taking appropriate steps to encourage people to people contacts between them. The Foreign Minister's visit was a reflection of close and cordial relationship, which Pakistan and the UAE have enjoyed for decades.



HEYET-I ALİYENİZİN CUMHURİYET ORDUSUNUN TERAKKİ VE
TEKEMMÜLÜNÜ TEMİN YOLUNDA VE MEMLEKETİN ESBAB-I
MÜDAPPAASINI İHZA VE TAKVİYE EMRİNDE MUVAFFAKİYETLİ
MESAIYE MAZHAKİYETİNİ TEMENNİ EDERİM. (20 ARKALIK 1925)



15TH MEETING OF PAKISTAN-TURKEY HIGH LEVEL MILITARY DIALOGUE GROUP HELD IN ANKARA

By Mian Fazal Elahi

On the invitation of Lt. General Selcuk BAYRAKTAROGHLU, Deputy Chief of Turkish General Staff, Republic of Turkey, Lt. Gen (Retd) Mian Muhammad Hilal Hussain, Secretary Defence, alongwith delegation visited Turkey for attending 15th Round of Turkey-Pakistan High Level Military Dialogue Group (HLM DG) meeting from 20-24 December 2020. Pakistan delegation first visited the mausoleum of great Turkish leader Mustafa Kamal Atatürk and laid the floral wreath. Later, Secretary Defence held meetings with Mr. Huslusi AKAR, Minister for National Defence, Gen Yasar Guler, Chief of Turkish General Staff, Lt. Gen Selcuk, Deputy Chief of Turkish General Staff, Prof Ismail Demir, President SSB (Presidency of Defence Industries) and Dr. Temil Kotel, Head of Turkish Aerospace Industry (TAI). During the meetings, both sides discussed matters of mutual interest, particularly in defence

and training cooperation. It was agreed that cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey

in all spheres of interest shall continue for the benefit of both brotherly countries. This





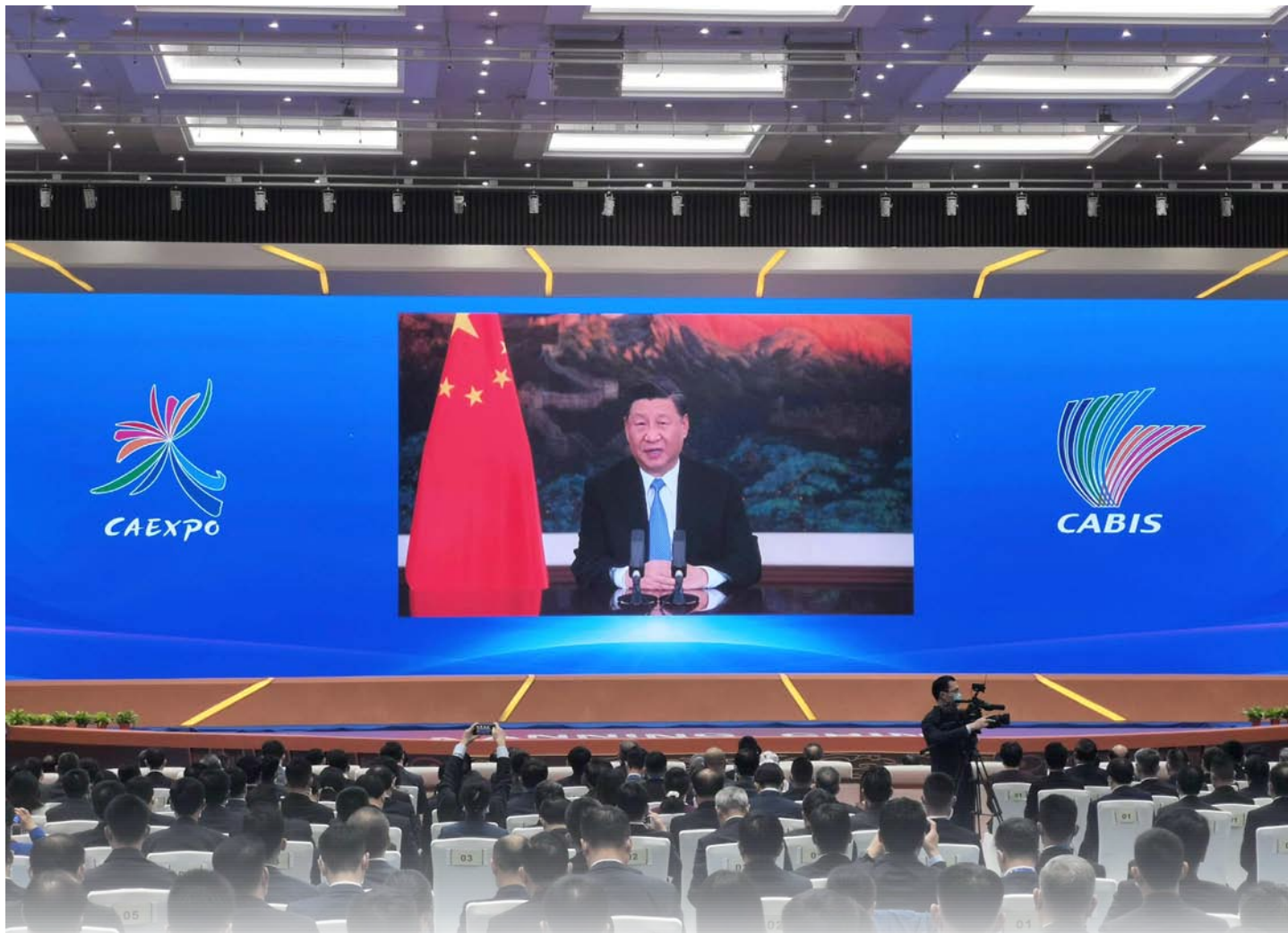
meeting started with opening addresses by Lt. General Selçuk BAYRAKTAROGHLU, Deputy Chief of Turkish General Staff and Lt. Gen (Retd) Mian Muhammad Hilal Hussain, Secretary Defence. In this session, both leaders took stock of the progress that has been made since last HLMDG meeting held in Pakistan in April 2019. Two Working Groups functioning under Ministry of Defence Production and Joint Staff Headquarters on Defence Industry and Military Training Cooperation presented their respective progress and agenda points. Later, Lt. Gen (Retd) Mian Muhammad Hilal Hussain visited Turkish Ministry of National Defense and Defence Industrial Units, like Baykar (UAV OEM), ASELSAN, HAVELSAN and TAI etc. In the concluding session, both sides agreed that High Level Military Dialogue achieved its objectives and next meeting will be convened in Pakistan on mutually convenient dates in 2021.

The 15th meeting of Turkey-Pakistan High Level Military Dialogue Group (HLMDG) was held in Ankara. General Selçuk Bayraktaroglu, Deputy Chief of Turkish General Staff led the Turkish delegation, while Lt. Gen. (Retd) Mian Muhammad Hilal Hussain, Secretary Defence led Pakistan delegation in the talks from Ankara. During the HLMDG meeting, both delegations discussed all avenues of mutual cooperation in military training, education, counter terrorism and defence industry cooperation including joint production and procurement. Both sides shared perspectives on prevailing regional environment including the Middle East, South

Asia and Afghanistan. The two sides reaffirmed the resolve to further strengthen defence cooperation. The meeting also took stock of the progress that has been made since the last HLMDG meeting held in Pakistan in April last year. The HLMDG is the highest level of institutional mechanism between Pakistan and Turkey, mandated to charter policies and action plans to promote ties in the defence field. The next session of Pakistan-Turkey HLMDG meeting will be held in Pakistan in 2021. Lt. Gen. (Retd)

Mian Muhammad Hilal Hussain separately called on Minister for National Defence of Turkey Hulusi Akar, Chief of Turkish General Staff General Yasar Guler, Head of Presidency of Turkish Defence Industries Prof. Dr. Ismail Demir and CEO of Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) Dr. Temil Kotil. Pakistan delegation also visited defence industry firms including Baykar (UAV OEM), ASELSAN, HAVELSAN and TAI.





Remarks by H.E. Xi Jinping President of China at the Opening Ceremony of the 17th China-ASEAN Summit

Your Excellencies Leaders of Participating Countries,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

As the 17th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (CABIS) open today, I wish to extend, on behalf of the Chinese government and people and also in my own name, a hearty welcome and warm greetings to all the guests attending in person or via the Internet.

This year's CAEXPO, themed "Building the Belt and Road, Strengthening Digital Economy Cooperation", aims to deepen China-ASEAN cooperation on the digital economy, promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and inject new vitality into the economic and social

development of both sides.

China and ASEAN countries, connected by the same mountains and rivers, share close affinity and a longstanding friendship. In 2013, I announced an initiative for China to work with ASEAN countries for a 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and for a closer China-ASEAN community with a shared future.

We are glad to note that, seven years on, China and ASEAN enjoy growing connectivity, deepening economic integration, robust business ties, and closer people-to-people exchanges. The China-ASEAN relationship has grown into the most successful and vibrant model for cooperation in the Asia-Pacific and an exemplary effort in building a community with a shared future for mankind.

When confronted by the sudden onslaught of COVID-19 this year, China and ASEAN have

helped each other and took on the challenge in solidarity. We have reached important consensus in many respects, including sharing experience on COVID-19 response, ensuring medical supplies, conducting joint research and development of vaccines, and keeping the regional industrial and supply chains stable. At a crucial stage in China's fight against the coronavirus, ASEAN countries promptly provided invaluable support and selfless assistance to China. Once the situation began to ease on its domestic front, China sent expert teams to ASEAN countries, offered material and technical assistance, shared containment experience, and speedily opened "fast tracks" and "green lanes" to facilitate the flow of people and goods.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Friends,

Our world is undergoing momentous changes unseen in a century. It is moving toward greater multi-polarity, economic globalization and cultural diversity, and is becoming increasingly information-oriented. Never before have the destinies of people in different countries been so closely connected. At the same time, however, the world is faced with growing uncertainties and instability. The world economy is sluggish; unilateralism and protectionism are on the rise; cyber security issues, major infectious diseases, climate change, and many other non-traditional security threats continue to spread; and the international order and global governance system are being challenged.

Under the new circumstances, China continues to regard ASEAN as a priority in its neighborhood diplomacy and a key region in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. China supports ASEAN's community-building, supports ASEAN centrality in East Asian cooperation, and supports ASEAN in playing a bigger role in building an open and inclusive regional architecture.

China will work with ASEAN to advance all-round cooperation under the guidance of the Strategic Partnership Vision 2030. Such efforts will help maintain the good momentum for development and prosperity in our region and cultivate a closer China-ASEAN community with a shared future. For that to happen, let me make the following suggestions on what we need to do:

First, we need to enhance strategic mutual trust and further synergize our development plans. China will work with ASEAN to advance our wide-ranging cooperation in the coming five years in line with the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on China-ASEAN Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2021-2025). China will also work with ASEAN to implement the China-ASEAN Joint Statement on Synergizing the Belt and Road Initiative and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025. To be specific, more efforts will be made to build the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, strengthen cooperation on infrastructure connectivity including railways, highways, ports, airports, power and communications, speed up the development of existing economic corridors and key projects, and continue to develop the China-ASEAN Multimodal Transport Alliance. Next year will mark the 30th anniversary of China-ASEAN dialogue relations. China will work with ASEAN on the planning and organization of commemorative events and take our strategic partnership to a higher level.

Second, we need to elevate economic and trade cooperation and facilitate an early and full recovery of the regional economy. China will enhance coordination with ASEAN countries, and take the 10th anniversary of the full establishment of the China-ASEAN FTA as an opportunity to further implement our free

trade agreement. China welcomes the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and looks forward to its early entry into force. China will work with ASEAN countries to sustain the smooth flow of trade, promote mutual investment, open up markets wider to each other, and foster deeply integrated industrial, supply and value chains. Provided that all necessary COVID-19 containment protocols are duly observed, steps should be taken to facilitate the movement of people and goods. We also need to further deepen and substantiate Lancang-Mekong cooperation and China-BIMP-EAGA cooperation. The CAEXPO should be used fully as a platform with a bigger role to play in promoting all-round economic and trade cooperation between China and ASEAN and in the entire East Asia.

Third, we need to enhance innovation in science and technology and deepen cooperation on the digital economy. This year is designated the China-ASEAN Year of Digital Economy Cooperation. China will work with ASEAN countries to seize the opportunities presented by the new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation. We should tap into our complementarity and pursue mutually beneficial cooperation. We could create more highlights of cooperation in such areas as smart city, 5G, artificial intelligence, e-commerce,

**China will work
with ASEAN to
advance all-round
cooperation under
the guidance of the
Strategic Partnership
Vision 2030**

big data, blockchain and telemedicine, and strengthen the protection of data security and policy communication and coordination, as these efforts will help nurture new drivers for the social and economic development of our two sides. China will work with ASEAN on the China-ASEAN Information Harbor to advance digital connectivity and build a digital Silk Road.

Fourth, we need to strengthen cooperation against COVID-19 and enhance capacity building in public health. China stands ready for policy dialogue on public health with ASEAN to improve cooperation mechanisms. It is important that we join forces in fighting the coronavirus and step up information sharing and cooperation on the production, development,

and deployment of vaccines. When its COVID-19 vaccines are available for use, China will actively consider the needs of ASEAN countries. China will provide financial support to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, and work with ASEAN in developing the Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies and launching a Liaison Mechanism for Public Health Emergencies with ASEAN. China will act on the China-ASEAN Human Resources Training Program of Health Silk Road (2020-2022) to train for ASEAN countries 1,000 administrative and specialized personnel in the health sector, in a bid to help deliver higher quality public health services in the region. China will work with ASEAN countries and other members of the international community through greater solidarity and cooperation to support the World Health Organization in playing a leadership role and to build a global community of health for all.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Friends,

China has secured major strategic achievements in coordinating COVID-19 response and economic and social development. It is the first major economy in the world to resume growth. The recently concluded Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee adopted recommendations for formulating China's 14th five-year plan. The plenum underscored that China will finish building a moderately prosperous society in all respects within the set time frame, and will embark on a new journey next year toward fully building a modern socialist country. Based on a scientific analysis of the new stage of China's development, we will stay committed to the new development philosophy, and actively foster a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other. China will stay as committed as ever to further opening-up, and seek greater synergy through the interplay of its domestic and world economies. China will fuel a worldwide recovery with its own economic rebound, and countries around the world, ASEAN members included, will all benefit from it. Looking ahead, China-ASEAN cooperation will enjoy still greater prospects.

The CAEXPO and CABIS are a results-oriented platform for us to advance regional economic integration. I hope this year's gathering will enable China and ASEAN countries to find more business opportunities, reap more fruits, and usher in a brighter future of prosperity.

To conclude, I wish the CAEXPO and CABIS a full success.

Thank you.



China is keen to work with Pakistan in field of energy including power projects under CPEC

Federal Minister for Energy Mr. Omar Ayub Khan welcomed the newly appointed Ambassador of China to Pakistan, H.E Nong Rong in his office this morning. Chairman CPEC Authority Gen. (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa and Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Power Mr. Tabish Gouhar & Secretary Power Ali Raza Bhutta were also present at the meeting. During the meeting, both sides reviewed the progress of power projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) & agreed to continue the cooperation in field of energy in mutual interest of both countries.

The Minister highlighted the provision of power & energy to establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and said that it would boost economic activity along with creation of thousands of new jobs in the country. The Minister also apprised the Envoy about the initiatives by the current government to curb the distribution & transmission losses in the power sector. He said that the focus of our government is to lower the cost of power generation by increasing Renewable Energy.

He said that sustainable & affordable structure

of energy tariffs will be beneficial for positive economic trajectory of the country. The Chinese Ambassador while appreciating the government's commitment to reform the energy sector said that China is keen to work with Pakistan in field of energy including power projects under CPEC.

He thanked and appreciated the efforts of the Government of Pakistan and Ministry of Energy to expedite the progress of power projects under CPEC.



CPEC is a flagship project of Pakistan and China: Dr. Moeed Yusuf

CPEC is a flagship project of Pakistan and China. This was said by SAPM on National Security, Dr. Moeed Yusuf while meeting China's Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong in his office. Both dignitaries discussed matters related to China Pakistan relationship. Speaking during the meeting, the SAPM said that the cordial relations between the two countries are setting a path of economic progress in the region. China and Pakistan are united at all fronts and both countries are working jointly for regional development. The SAPM discussed

the Indian dossier. He added that India is trying to sabotage CPEC. But together Pakistan and China are ensuring that Indian attempts will fail. Dr. Moeed Yusuf said that Pakistan is focusing on economic diplomacy and economic security. He mentioned that Prime Minister Imran Khan has constituted an Economic Outreach Apex Committee for this purpose. SAPM mentioned that purpose of economic outreach is coordination among various relevant federal ministries, provincial departments and others and for achievement of targets. The Chinese

Ambassador said that Pakistan need to develop Special Economic Zones (SEZs) being set up under the transformative CPEC. Pakistan has special relations and comprehensive strategic partnership with China. The SAPM underlined the need for China and Pakistan to constantly give message to the world that we stand united against all challenges. Both sides also agreed to increase collaboration among think tanks of their countries and to devise a plan for this purpose.



Pakistan and China expand co-operation in the agriculture sector under the umbrella CPEC to enhance productivity: Minister for Economic Affairs

China's newly appointed Ambassador Mr. Nong Rong called on the Minister for Economic Affairs Makhdom Khusro Bakhtyar. Minister for Economic Affairs congratulated the Ambassador on his appointment to Pakistan and hoped that Pakistan-China ties will further deepen and strengthen based on his experience and professionalism. During the meeting, Pakistan-China economic relations, cooperation in fighting COVID-19, CPEC, and matters of mutual economic interests were discussed. The Minister for Economic Affairs appreciated the assistance extended by Government of China to fight the

pandemic. He underlined that Pakistan and China are strategic partners and both countries supported each other on the issues of their core interest. It was discussed that the strategic partnership should set the basis for strong economic partnership. CPEC is transformational initiative in this regard. The Minister stated that the agriculture is one of the key sectors for the Pakistan's economy and emphasized that Pakistan and China should deepen and expand co-operation in the agriculture sector under CPEC umbrella to enhance productivity and value addition. The Minister hoped that the 10th JCC will be successful and that the

implementation of important Socio-economic, Energy, transport, infrastructure projects and special economic zone development will be expedited. Ambassador Nong appreciated the Minister's support and expressed that Pakistan – China relations would grow further under the leadership of the two countries. He conveyed Government of China's full support to CPEC and resolved that Pakistan and China should further deepen and cooperation at the bilateral and multilateral institutions.



Sports Diplomacy Brings Nations and people closer: Dr Fehmida Mirza

Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Nong Rong called on Federal Minister for Inter Provincial coordination, Dr Fehmida Mirza at IPC Ministry in Islamabad. Dr Fehmida Mirza warmly welcomed the Chinese ambassador and exchanged views on matters pertaining to cooperation in Sports, tourism and some other affairs of mutual interests. Dr Fehmida Mirza said the importance of Pak-China relationship cannot be overemphasized. Both are all-weather friends and our friendship has stood all the tests of time. Dr Fehmida Mirza said to

the ambassador that "your presence in Pakistan will give further impetus to the CPEC projects." While highlighting the importance of sports in public policy and diplomacy, Dr Fehmida Mirza said Sports Diplomacy brings nations and peoples closer. Pakistan is planning to host next South Asian Games next year and IPC Ministry is looking forward to invite Chinese Sports experts to ameliorate the sports facilities in the Pakistan Sports Complex before the start of the Games. Dr Fehmida Mirza said that Pakistan can learn a lot from Chinese model of Economic

Zones and for the creation of successful economic zones, establishment of strong local government system is sine qua non. Through Sports diplomacy Pakistan and China can start exchange programs of athletes and coaches. These initiatives should be incorporated in the CPEC phase-II projects. These initiatives will further ossify people to people relation of both the countries.

Activities of Chinese Ambassador

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Nong Rong had a constructive meeting with Adviser to PM on Climate Change Mr. Malik Amin Aslam. With guidance from President Xi Jinping and PM Imran Khan China-Pak green cooperation, especially green CPEC, will make greater contributions to tackling global climate challenges.



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Nong Rong had conducted a fruitful talk with Mr. Shafqat Mahmood, Minister of Federal Ministry of Education & Professional Training, on promoting the exchanges & cooperation in the fields of education, vocation training, culture & cultural heritage between China and Pakistan.



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Nong Rong had a warm and pleasant talk with Ambassador Masood Khalid and Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi former Ambassadors of Pakistan to China. Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Nong Rong thanked for their outstanding contribution to our bilateral relations and affirmed that this will work hard and add up to the joint efforts.



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Nong Rong had a constructive talk with Dr Fahmida Mirza Minister of Inter Provincial Coordination of Pakistan. Relevant matters including tourism, sports, youth, agriculture, poverty alleviation, industrial zone, livestock & sister city cooperation have been well discussed.



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Nong Rong had a good meeting with Ambassador Khalid Mahmood & Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry at ISSI on exchanging perspectives on China-Pakistan relations and the CPEC.



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Nong Rong had a fruitful talk with Mr. Atif R. Bokhari Board of Investment on promoting investment in Pakistan.



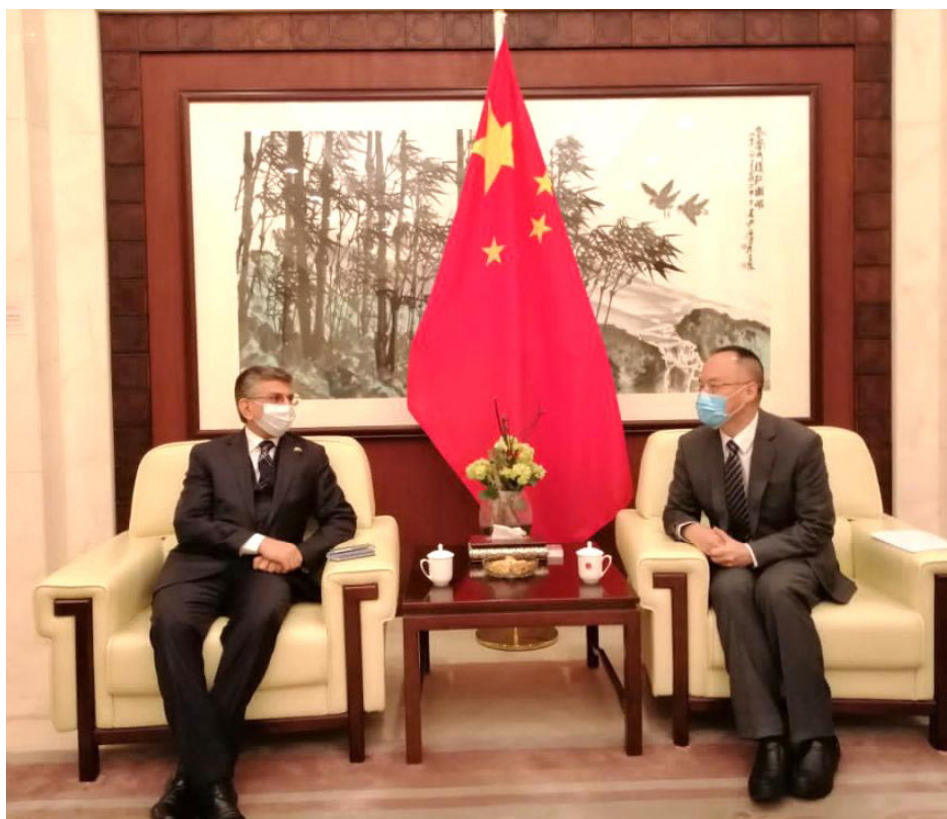
Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Nong Rong had a very productive discussion with Sana Ullah BALOCH, MPA on CPEC and development of Balochistan. Both sides reached the consensus on promoting CPEC & people to people exchanges between China and Balochistan.





Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Nong Rong had a comprehensive meeting with Mr. Syed Shibli Faraz, Minister for Information and Broadcasting and discussed the blueprint of China-Pakistan media cooperation and people-to-people exchanges. Looking forward to telling more good stories of China-Pakistan friendship.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Nong Rong had Pleasant talk With Syed Zulfiqar Abbas Bukhari Special Assistant To The Prime Minister on Ministry Overseas Pakistanis & HRD for potential exchange and cooperation in the fields of tourism, human resources development between China and Pakistan. High expectations for the Gandhara Corridor!



H.E. Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad met with the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China H.E. Mr. Nong Rong in Islamabad. The Ambassador called for expanding the scope of bilateral cooperation in the field of infrastructure reconstruction in Iraq, indicating the Iraqi government's intention to proceed with completing its steps related to the recent strategic agreement with China.

Mr. Nong Rong expressed his government's desire to strengthen relations with Iraq in all fields.



Chinese Ambassador meets Senator Rehman Malik

By Monitoring Desk

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong held a meeting with former interior minister Rehman Malik and discussed Pak-China ties.

Senator Rehman Malik welcomed the envoy at his residence and extended his best wishes on assuming the charge as ambassador of China to Pakistan. He said that bond of friendship between China and Pakistan was very strong and will continue to become stronger by every day.

He said that Pak-China relationships will grow fast and solidify further under the leadership of new young, energetic and experienced diplomat Nong Rong.

He thanked the top leadership of China for their continuous help and support to Pakistan in difficult times and termed China 'all weathers friend of Pakistan'. He said that China stood with Pakistan during pandemic Coronavirus and extended full support to the people of Pakistan for which he and the

nation is thankful to China.

Both discussed general international affairs particularly the growing tension in the region. Senator Rehman Malik elaborated the criminal acts by Indian government against China and Pakistan recently exposed by DisinfoLab EU. He briefed him about the Indian model of conspiracy against both countries through fake news, dubious Non-Governmental Organisations, Think Tanks and social media. He elaborated the Indian model of negative and defamatory propaganda.

Both leaders discussed in detail the bilateral relations, and resolved that the progress on China Pakistan Economic Corridor projects will prove time changer for the whole region and will bring positive changes and good impact on the economy of both countries. They expressed that CPEC is playing an exemplary role in expanding the people-to-people contact and enhancing the Sino-Pak multi-sector cooperation. They reiterated that the anti-lobby of CPEC will never succeed in their ill motives.

Ambassador Nong Rong thanked Senator A. Rehman Malik for the warm welcome and hospitality and said that "You in person has been a great friend of China and your cooperation helped China in curbing terrorism in China". He added that leadership, people of China and he himself are thankful to him. He praised Pakistan CPEC and reinforced that Pakistan and China will continue the greater cooperation for peace and stability of the region.

The Chinese ambassador also praised the leadership of PPP for cementing the Sino-Pak warm friendship. He stated that China and Pakistan are true friends through thick and thin and have always stood beside each other in difficult times. He thanked Senator Rehman Malik presented a set of his five books to Chinese ambassador. He appreciated Senator Rehman Malik's great intellectual work.

Both the leaders also exchanged presents and shields. The meeting lasted for more than two and a half hours.

中巴经济走廊项目优秀巴方员工颁奖仪式 AWARDING CEREMONY

Outstanding Pakistani Staff of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)



CPEC achieves major progress despite COVID-19

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects have achieved major progress despite grave economic and health challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Chairman of the CPEC Authority Asim Saleem Bajwa said on Monday.

"After successful completion of the first phase, CPEC is expanding into its second phase as per schedule despite a very serious setback of COVID-19 around the world, ensuring economic stability and well-being of the people of Pakistan," Bajwa said while addressing an awarding ceremony for outstanding Pakistani staff of CPEC projects.

During the ceremony organized by the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, a total of 18 staff members working at various energy and infrastructure projects under CPEC, including hydropower projects, Orange Line Metro Train and Gwadar port, received the award for their distinguished performance.

The timely implementation of the projects was one of the manifestations of time-tested friendship between the two countries that even the pandemic could not affect the progress of CPEC, Bajwa said, adding that the project is a game changer as it has brought employment, prosperity and socio-economic development to the country.

"The biggest dividends people of Pakistan are



going to witness due to CPEC in the coming days are creation of massive local jobs, transformation of technology, particularly in the newer areas of science and technology, industrialization and agriculture," the chairman said. Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong said CPEC has achieved great success and made a tremendous contribution to the development of Pakistan and regional connectivity under the joint efforts of the governments, enterprises and all walks of life from both countries.

"Both sides have overcome the difficulties of COVID-19, and made new headway of

cooperation in a coordinated way. In the ongoing year, there was no stop of the construction, no job cut, and no withdrawal of workforce of the CPEC projects," the ambassador said.

"In the next stage... we will focus more on areas of industrial cooperation, agriculture and socio-economic development to promote CPEC into a demonstration project for high quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative," he said.



Foreign Secretary mention that CPEC energy and infrastructure projects had created thousands of jobs and had boosted industrial growth and productivity

CPEC IS A TRANSFORMATIONAL PROJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY

CPEC is a transformational project. There is a complete national consensus on CPEC's indispensability for our national development efforts. Pakistan and China are firmly committed to the timely completion of CPEC projects and making it a High-Quality Demonstration Project of BRI, this was underscored by Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood in a meeting with Chairman CPEC Authority, General (R) Asim Salim Bajwa. Reviewing the progress of CPEC projects, Foreign Secretary maintained that CPEC energy and infrastructure projects had created thousands of jobs and had boosted industrial growth and productivity.

It testified to the fact that CPEC's contribution to strengthen Pakistan's economic landscape has been real and substantial, he emphasized.

The Foreign Secretary underlined that Pakistan's focus in the next Phase of CPEC was on industrialization and socio-economic development, areas that will create vast job and growth opportunities for the common people.

Three out of the nine CPEC SEZs, namely Rashakai, Dhabeji and Allama Iqbal, have been prioritized and Pakistan would welcome

foreign direct investment in those projects.

General (R) Asim Salim Bajwa underscored that the CPEC Authority was committed to ensuring that CPEC projects were completed on time. He hoped that the 10th JCC, likely to be held in the near future, will create more economic opportunities and contribute to further expansion of CPEC projects.

He reaffirmed that Pakistan would welcome relocation of industry from China and in that regard will institute a regime that could encourage inflow of Chinese investments to Pakistan.

The Foreign Secretary underlined that the Government was particularly focused on strengthening agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and China. In that regard, a Plan of Action, detailing the contours of this collaboration, was already being discussed between the two governments.

The Foreign Secretary hoped that the Plan of Action will be expeditiously implemented. It was reaffirmed in the meeting that post-COVID-19, through collective efforts of China and Pakistan, CPEC would become the hub for the regional trade and connectivity and will deepen people-to-people exchanges at a wider level.





Environmental friendly Wind Power Project milestone achieved under CPEC

China Three Gorges's 2nd Phase Wind Power Project (2×49.5MW) located in Thatta District, Sindh, has generated total electricity of 550 GWh since commercial operation in 2018, with a total of 230,000 tons coal saving and equivalent to 550,000 metric tons CO₂ emissions reduction.

Three Gorges Second Phase Wind Power Projects (2×49.5MW) are located in Jhimpir, Thatta District, Sindh Province, Pakistan, which is 90 km west of Karachi city and 80 km north of the coast of Arabian Sea.

Leading to sufficient wind energy resources, the average wind velocity is measured to be 7.56 m/s at the height of 80m, and the average wind energy density is 378W/m². The expected annual generation for TGS and TGT is 152.5 GWh and 152.1 GWh, respectively.

The projects have been developed on a Build Own Operate (BOO) basis.

The Projects have been listed as the "Actively Promoted Projects" in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) since August, 2014 with both the Governments of China and Pakistan keen for their fast track implementation. The Projects achieved COD in Jun 2018.





19th Ministerial Conference of Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Held Virtually

President of Afghanistan Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani while delivering his special message especially appreciated the Prime Minister Imran Khan's recent visit to Kabul.

He termed the PM Imran Khan's visit an importance milestone in strengthening bilateral ties and enhancing prospectus for regional cooperation and integration. CAREC Program is a partnership of 11 countries and 6 development partners working together to promote development through cooperation, leading to accelerated economic growth and poverty reduction.

It is guided by the overarching vision of "Good Neighbors, Good Partners, and Good Prospects." The ministers & senior representatives of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan also addressed to the conference. Senior representatives of ADB, IMF, WB, AIIB, IDB, EBRD, EIB, OFID, USAID, UN Agencies, WTO and JICA also attended the Conference.

The Minister, in his remarks, highlighted the significance of regional cooperation such as CAREC for Pakistan in achieving shared goals of sustainable development and economic growth.

Mr. Bakhtyar reiterated the importance of regional connectivity not only through road network but also rail, aviation and ports for unleashing trade and tourism potential in the region.

While endorsing the Framework, he emphasized that setting specific,

measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) targets along with active monitoring & annual reporting, we can effectively monitor the progress leading to implementation of CAREC's Vision 2030.

CAREC Program is a partnership of 11 countries and 6 development partners working together to promote development through cooperation, leading to accelerated economic growth and poverty reduction

The Minister highlighted that tourism is part of national development policy of the Government of Pakistan and this sector contains immense untapped potential. He suggested the development of regional tourism corridor, establishment of CAREC Business Council and increased involvement of the private sector in promoting tourism. He further highlighted that the incumbent government is focusing on facilitating the private sector for increased investment.

He also suggested enhanced visa facilitation regime in the form of "CAREC Sticker" for certain categories within the region.



The Minister highlighted that in order to expand trade between the CAREC countries; Transit Trade Agreements amongst member countries leading to the Regional Free Trade Agreement (RFTA) may be considered. The Minister endorsed the long term CAREC strategies to promote regional tourism and gender mainstreaming.

Furthermore, CAREC enables the member countries to share thoughts and provide input for the long-term strategic frameworks to achieve envisaged regional cooperation goals. He also suggested the CAREC institute to conduct comprehensive studies identifying underlying gaps and including roadmaps on mutually beneficial topics.

Pakistan attaches high importance to CAREC as it is aligned with our national priorities of regional integration and cooperation, the Minister stated



MANIFESTATION OF MISSION OF PEACE AND HARMONY EXERCISE AMAN 2021

Pace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding. Albert Einstein

The true essence of the above quote lies in the fact that the very person who unlocked the most forceful weapon mankind has ever witnessed advocated peace through understanding; which compels us to establish it as a reality of life. In the short span history of the modern world, mankind has witnessed quite a lot of horrific wars fought in the name of peace. Time and again the above quote has held its weight, and reaffirmed to the inhabitants of planet earth, that peace prevails only through understanding. As a major player in the Indian Ocean region (IOR), Pakistan has always played its part to promote regional peace and harmony. It is not only in our own interest to have safe and freely navigable seas but also in the prime interests of other countries of this region. Countries heavily dependent on Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCs) for their trade and economic activity are especially affected by the various threats harboring in the high seas.

The western half of the IOR remained at the centre stage of economic, military and

diplomatic activities during the last few decades. The militarized zones (Ops Enduring Freedom), piracy off Somalia, the Yemen conflict, rise of the ISIS, dynamic Iran-West-Saudi relations, the Arab spring, turmoil in Levant, are a few significant developments worthy of mention with regards to challenges in the IOR. The Indian Ocean region's strategic importance lies in its geography which renders it as a bridge between East and West. Politically, the region has a strange admixture of democracy, military dictatorship, absolute monarchy and constitutional monarchy; several regimes in the region are politically unstable and provide a fertile ground for external intervention.

The regions diverse nature of threats also includes a multitude of problems such as narco-trafficking, gun running, human trafficking and maritime terrorism. Individually, each of these threats has directly impacted the regional peace which also transcends all over the globe. These issues are in some way or the other all interconnected under the garb of maritime terrorism. Post 9/11, the terrorist outfits have not only schemed to attack global trade through sinking merchantmen at various choke points, but also have generated huge amounts of

revenue through drug/ arms/ human trafficking to feed their nefarious designs. Consequently, in the GWOT (Global War on Terrorism), a major part was played by the sea campaigns which provided direct support to land forces as well as counter the auxiliary operations of terrorist outfits at sea. The piracy is another angle of challenges/ threats to safety of shipping/ trade at high seas.

The contemporary global maritime environment remains fraught with challenges from traditional and non-traditional threats. The oceans which serve as great highways to carry the life blood of global economic system also provide attractive avenue for illegal activities such as piracy, human smuggling and arms/ drugs trafficking etc. Such acts being transnational require collaborative approach at regional as well as international level. The inherent challenges in the IOR demand an initiative by the resident countries to form a forum designed for experience sharing and gaining interoperability to tackle these menaces together. In the spirit of promoting peace through collaborative approach, Pakistan Navy took the driving seat and initiated the AMAN series of exercises. These exercises are held

biennially, the first of which was held in 2007. The exercises have over the years seen an encouraging rise in regional and extra-regional participants which portrays the emerging need of knowledge sharing and understanding between countries, to achieve the underlying aim of persistent peace and harmony. The exercise of this series is being held in the first quarter of 2021 has participation sizeable numbers of countries including extra-regional countries such as USA, China, Russia, Japan and UK to name a few. These multi-country naval exercises are not a new concept and have various examples from different regions across the world, which demonstrate the benefits gained through cooperation and maritime harmony.

AMAN series of exercises are playing a pivotal role against regional threats, for not just the participating countries, but for the extra-regional countries as well. The shared knowledge and skill enhances interoperability between participants which bears fruit in the form of a well-connected and stable sea body with enhanced cooperation between all stakeholders. AMAN series of exercises are undoubtedly the most significant initiative of Pakistan Navy in the field of maritime diplomacy, aimed at reinforcing regional maritime security and cooperation between partnering nations. The biennial exercise preceded by International Maritime Conference has since become a regular mega event in the PN calendar which is considered as one of the top forums in the region for maritime knowledge sharing.

Over the years, International Maritimes Conference has evolved into a revered forum where delegates from reputable maritime organizations from all over the globe present their thoughts and views on various emerging maritime threats and issues. The ideas are shared in a conducive environment with a large participation of visiting navies. The ideas shared in this forum and extracts and designs relevant policy options, response strategies and operating procedures are analyzed for the Government and the regional countries to formulate viable strategies against the most pressing issues. These are not only limited to the inherent threats in the region, but also include a wide array of topics ranging from fishery preservation to climate change remedies.

"For in this modern world, the instruments of warfare are not solely for waging war. Far more importantly, they are the means for controlling peace. Naval officers must therefore understand not only how to fight a war, but how to use the tremendous power which they operate to sustain a world of liberty and justice, without unleashing the powerful instruments of destruction and chaos that they have at their command" - Admiral Arleigh Burke



With the wisdom carried in the above quote, it is evident that furthering the cause of peace dictates that we understand each other and realize the importance of maritime diplomacy in the process. AMAN exercises are not only the means of enhancing interoperability between the countries, it is also a direct manifestation of Pakistan's mission to enforce a peaceful footprint with enhanced cooperation with regional navies. It cannot be achieved overnight and it cannot be made to last forever, but understanding the challenges associated

and the rapidly evolving threats in the region is a big step in the right direction. Slowly yet surely, AMAN exercises are bridging the gaps, connecting the dots and providing a medium for interconnectivity between regional countries, all of which share the common goal for a peaceful and prospering region. "Together for Peace" is true manifestation of our shared desire to strengthen Interoperability to work towards a world defined by harmony.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



The Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Mr. Nawaf bin Saeed Al- Maliki calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Islamabad.



Pakistan Ambassador to Sudan, Dr Sarfraz Ahmad Khan Sipra called on Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



The Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Pakistan, Nassar Abdul Rahman AL-Mutairi called on Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Ambassador of Sweden H.E. Henrik Persson called on Abdul Razak Dawood, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce & Investment in Islamabad.



Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), Nawaf Saeed Al-Malkiy, called on Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



H.E. Piotr Opalinski, Ambassador, Embassy of Poland in Islamabad called on Mr. Atif R. Bokhari, Mos/Chairman, Board of investment at BOI in Islamabad.



H.E Tarek Mohamed Dahroug, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt in a meeting with Minister of State/Chairman, BOI, Mr.Atif R .Bokhari in Islamabad.



H.E. Mr. Mansoor Ahmad Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan to Afghanistan called on the honourable Karim Khalili, Former Vice President of Afghanistan and leader of Unity party, to discuss ongoing Afghan peace process and strengthening Bilateral ties.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



British High Commissioner to Pakistan, H.E. Dr. Christian Turner called on Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Petroleum Division, Islamabad.



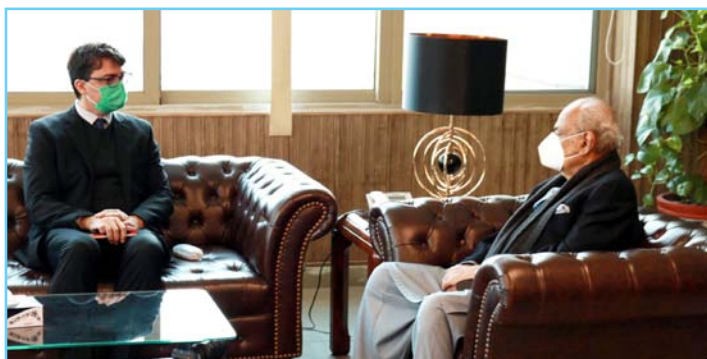
H.E. Syed Mohammad Ali Hosseini Ambassador of Iran called on Ms. Zobaida Jalal, Federal Minister for Defence Production in Islamabad



United Arab Emirates' Ambassador for Pakistan His Excellency Mr. Hammad Obaid Ibrahim Alzabi calling on Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed in Islamabad



Malaysia High Commissioner H.E. Mr. Ikram Bin Mohammad Ibrahim called on Abdul Razak Dawood, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce & Investment in Islamabad



Federal Minister for Narcotics Control, Brig (R) Ijaz Ahmad Shah met with the country Representative of UNODC, H.E. Mr. Jeremy Millsom at the Ministry of Narcotics Control, Islamabad.



Afghan Ambassador, Najibullah Alikhel called on Forign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad.



Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), Nawaf Saeed Al-Malkiy, called on Federal Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination, Dr. Fehmida Mirza



Ambassador of Sweden in Pakistan, Henrik Persson called on Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Syed Amin ul Haque in Islamabad

Democracy vs rule of law and mutual tolerance

By Senator Rehman Malik

Democracy becomes non-functional if we do not follow the basic principles dictated by it. Democracy if is not run under the rule of law then, unfortunately, it is worst than dictatorship as the deviation from the rule of law means vesting the entire powers with a single individual, who can use it for his interests fearlessly.

This had been the main issue with our Pakistani branded democracy, which always remained under threat within its own created disloyal political fleet within the democratic system.

Democracy through the power of vote leads to the democratic system for the government to be run through the rule of law and it all depends on how we develop an honest and transparent democratic system to serve the people and to create fear of law and not to rule the people by undermining their constitutional rights.

The public representatives through elections automatically become the masters and the common man helplessly submits himself with the hope of better days to come.

Almighty God has given the right of living a better life to every human being. Our religion protects the rights of every human being from children to women and younger men to elders through well-defined Islamic laws.

Islam and our Constitution both have provided us with the rights of freedom of religion, speech, press, procession, and justice. It advocates respect for rule of law and no injustice at any level.

The element of love care and resolution of problems through the help of elders



remained dominated for a very long period. It teaches us honesty and a corruption-free society and bars us from stealing others' rights.

The governance is always implemented with a stick of accountability at all levels of the society irrespective of their status and rule of law prevails only by its strict implementation through the law enforcers. The criminal justice system and crimes have been running side by side ever since the existence of human beings.

The criminal justice system has gone through a process of evolution starting from the stone-age till now and the basic principle of governance is to respect the rule of law and the law.

Rules are made by the respective society/parliament as per their traditions to live together with respect, tolerance, honour, and dignity.

Pakistan has also gone through a similar transition in the legal and administrative systems and finally, the Constitution of Pakistan came into being in 1973, which is undergoing numerous amendments as per the developing legal and administrative requirements.

Despite having a Constitution, we are struggling for an appropriate system of governance through different transitions from dictatorship to semi-democratic forms of government since our independence. Basically, we experienced three models of

governance in Pakistan i.e. parliamentary government, presidential, and military dictatorship.

Since 1947, Pakistan has been run by dictators three times. Since its creation in 1947, Pakistan has spent several decades under military rule Ayub Khan (1958–1971, General Ziaul Haq 1977–1988, General Pervaiz Musharraf 1999–2008).

The rest of the time there has been parliamentary government. The detail of those regimes is bellow enabling us to analyse the frequent falls of the governments.

Liaquat Ali Khan was the first Prime Minister of Pakistan under the first-ever democratic regime of Pakistan but he also kept on facing unusual opposition and he was finally shot dead.

This was the first tragedy for Pakistan and Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto also met the same fate as Liaquat Ali Khan and the same was the fate of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto.

1. Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan 15-08-1947 To 16-10-1951
2. Mr. Khawaja Nazimuddin 17-10-1951 To 17-04-1953
3. Mr. Mohammad Ali Bogra 17-04-1953 To 11-08-1955
4. Ch. Mohammed Ali 11-08-1955 To 12-09-1956
5. Mr. Hussain Shaheed Suharwardi 12-09-

1956 To 18-10-1957	29. Justice (Retd) Nasir-ul-Mulk (Caretaker) 01-06-2018 To 18-08-2018	everything to create long term national constructive engagements for future generations.
6. Mr. Ibrahim Ismail Chaundrigar 18-10-1957 To 16-12-1957	30. Mr. Imran Khan 18-08-2018 to date.	
7. Malik Feroz Khan Noon 16-12-1957 To 07-10-1958	The above chart of our PMs and presidents shows that none of the elected PMs could ever complete democratic tenure and almost everyone faced internal encounters and remained in a state of insecurity.	The fifth one is to develop a national habit of expression of gratitude demonstrating at all levels including the armed forces, officials, political leaders all those who are serving the nation. And, the sixth and foremost one rule of democracy is to exercise tolerance which is the main key to the success of democracy.
8. Mr. Noor-ul-Amin 07-12-1971 To 20-12-1971	The above chart further reflects the struggle for power and track record of our internal dirty politics and intrigues for power.	It is important to note that democracy is too important and precious to be wasted away in petty arguments, dharnas, long marches, and by allowing the foreign-funded proxy wars which had been the practice in our beloved country.
9. Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto 14-08-1973 To 05-07-1977	This also demonstrates a lack of consistency as a nation. Let us admit some of our politicians had played the dirty role to undermine democracy and a lot can be written on it.	Let us not forget the tragedy of breaking of 'East Pakistan' and making of Bangladesh.
10. Mr. Muhammad Khan Junejo 23-03-1985 To 29-05-1988	Our politics was nothing but a race of deals and self-serving interests to get power or to facilitate dictator to take over and it is equally applicable now even but this double-faced political hypocrisy should come to end now.	The above narration clearly shows that democracy is not a mechanical system but a system that is run by individuals with a sense of unity.
11. Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto 02-12-1988 To 06-08-1990	It is on record that only the dictators could rule for an extended period of time for over 5 years. It is unfortunate that whether it is a military rule or the democratic one, the nation's opinion was never taken into consideration to formulate the national policies.	We, as a total of 70 political parties, expect to run the country with flawless democracy.
12. Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Khan Jatoi (Caretaker) 06-08-1990 To 06-11-1990	A great democratic nation is one that is free, honest, and self-reliant individuals having faith in God and themselves.	We have a divided democratic system where instead of being thankful to our institution we invent ways and means to humiliate our institutions endangering the security of the country.
13. Mian Mohammed Nawaz Sharif 06-11-1990 To 18-04-1993	Such individuals can only be groomed in an environment of freedom and confidence where they can get inspired to seek national targets.	Our governance needs to be enhanced and rule of law has to prevail.
14. Mir Balakh Sher Mazari (Caretaker) 18-04-1993 To 26-05-1993	There are six ways to enhance our democracy and make it more meaningful and effective for a common man which are practised universally as follows:	We have major national defaults that need to be rectified otherwise ruling chair will keep changing hands like the past as per the above power chart and will ultimately harm our beloved country.
15. Mian Mohammed Nawaz Sharif 26-05-1993 To 08-07-1993	Firstly there should be individual contribution in improving the community through community services ranging from delivery of logistics to local private or government organisations.	It must be noted that we are developing political polarisation and element of national disunity and this developing countrywide tension with multiple national crises may once again cause irreversible damage to the fragile democratic system leaving many politicians in unexpected shocks.
16. Mr. Moin Qureshi (Caretaker) 08-07-1993 to 19-10-1993 and he was imported from USA representing World Bank.	Secondly, invest in your futuristic ideas and community by applying vision to innovation and progress.	Note: Opinions expressed are solely my own and not necessarily to reflect the views or opinions of my party.
17. Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto 19-10-1993 To 05-11-1996	Thirdly, efforts to be directed towards reforms which should provide comfort to a common man with security through rule of law.	<i>The writer is former interior minister of Pakistan, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Interior, author of five books and Chairman of Think Tank "Global Eye". He can be reached at: rmalik1212gmail.com , Twitter Senrehmanmalik</i>
18. Malik Meraj Khalid (Caretaker) 06-11-1996 To 17-02-1997	The fourth is to have qualitative input in	***
19. Mian Mohammed Nawaz Sharif 17-02-1997 To 12-10-1999		
20. Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali 23-11-2002 To 26-06-2004		
21. Chuadhary Shujaat Hussain 30-06-2004 To 26-08-2004		
22. Mr. Shaukat Aziz 28-08-2004 To 15-11-2007		
23. Mr. Muhammad Mian Soomro (Caretaker) 16-11-2007 To 24-03-2008		
24. Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani 25-03-2008 To 25-04-2012		
25. Raja Pervez Ashraf 22-06-2012 To 24-03-2013		
26. Mir Hazar Khan Khoso (Caretaker) 25-03-2013 To 05-06-2013		
27. Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif 05-06-2013 To 28-07-2017		
28. Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi 01-08-2017 To 31-05-2018		

An international conference on the role of neutrality in maintenance of peace, security and development was held in Turkmenistan



On December 12, Ashgabat hosted an international conference “Policy of Neutrality and its importance in ensuring international peace, security and sustainable development” dedicated to the 25th anniversary of permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan.

The President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov participated to the forum of international scale.

The event was attended by the leadership of Mejlis, Deputy Chairmen of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan, heads of the ministries and departments of the country, chiefs of the diplomatic missions and representations of international organizations in Turkmenistan, rectors of the higher educational institutions of Turkmenistan, heads and representatives of local mass media, as well as the accredited foreign press.

The heads of respected international and

regional organizations took part in the forum via videoconferencing.

In his speech, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov emphasized the main vectors of the foreign policy of Turkmenistan based on the principles of permanent Neutrality.

He voiced the commitment of Turkmenistan to the development of international cooperation for the sake of peace, stability and sustainable development. The head of state drew the attention to the need of reestablishing the culture of peace, trust and friendly dialogue in the relations among the countries.

The participants heard the video statements of the UN Secretary General António Guterres, OIC Secretary General Youssef Ben Ahmed Al-USaymin, Chairman of the Executive Committee - CIS Executive Secretary Sergei Lebedev, SCO Secretary General Vladimir Norov, and UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay.

In the framework of the Conference it was noted that within its neutral status, Turkmenistan is committed to expand mutually beneficial partnership with the international and regional structures.

The initiative to hold this forum in Ashgabat belongs to President of Turkmenistan

António Guterres:
“The status of permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan will contribute to strengthening peace and security in Central Asia”



Yousef Bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen: “We highly appreciate Turkmenistan’s commitment to the ideals of the OIC”

Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. The Conference caused a wide international resonance, active interest and support in world circles.

Convincing confirmation of the recognition by the international community of the peace-loving policy pursued by Turkmenistan became the next adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Resolution “The Role and Significance of the Policy of Neutrality in Maintaining and Strengthening International Peace, Security and the Process of Sustainable Development” on the eve of the 25th anniversary of the permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan at the initiative of the Turkmen side.

Also, during the 47th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, the Resolution “The Role of the Policy of Neutrality in Maintaining and Strengthening International Peace, Security and Sustainable Development in the Region of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and in the World” was adopted.

The International Conference continued in plenary sessions

As part of his speech at the International Conference “Policy of Neutrality and its Role



in Ensuring International Peace, Security and Sustainable Development”, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, congratulating the leadership of Turkmenistan and the entire Turkmen people on the glorious date, emphasized that by adopting this resolution the General Assembly recognized the status of permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan and expressed the hope that it will contribute to strengthening peace and security in Central Asia.

The leadership of the United Nations also expressed gratitude to Turkmenistan for hosting the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia since 2007 and supporting its activities.

The UN Secretary General also expressed his gratitude to Turkmenistan for recognizing the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The United Nations system will continue to provide unwavering support to Turkmenistan in its efforts to achieve these goals.

In his video message to the participants

of the International Conference “Policy of Neutrality and its Role in Ensuring International Peace, Security and Sustainable Development” Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Yousef Bin Ahmad al-Othaimeen addressed warm words of congratulations to the leadership of Turkmenistan and the Turkmen people on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the permanent neutrality of the country.

The head of the OIC noted that the positive policy of mutual respect and mutual benefit pursued by Turkmenistan, as well as its position on resolving international problems through peace and dialogue, are consistent with the goals and principles enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

The head of the second largest international organization also stated that the vision of Turkmenistan to achieve significant progress based on equality, mutual benefit and global cooperation is in line with the goals of the OIC Action Program for 2020-



Sergey Lebedev: “The policy of Turkmenistan, based on the principles of Neutrality, deserves universal recognition and respect”



Vladimir Norov: “The status of a neutral state contributes to the growth and strengthening of the authority of Turkmenistan in the international arena”

2025, and added that the OIC highly values Turkmenistan’s commitment to the ideals of the Organization, his positive contribution to joint action.

Sergey Lebedev, Chairman of the Executive Committee - Executive Secretary of the CIS, during his video message at the International Conference “Policy of Neutrality and its Role

in Ensuring International Peace, Security and Sustainable Development”, stated that over 25 years of permanent Neutrality, Turkmenistan has proved the effectiveness of its neutral foreign policy and its compliance with the long-term interests of the world community.

It was especially emphasized that such a policy

of Turkmenistan, based on the principles of Neutrality, on the resolution of controversial issues and contradictions in international affairs by political and diplomatic means, deserves universal recognition and respect.

During the International Conference “Policy of Neutrality and its Role in Ensuring



Audrey Azoulay: “To imagine a shared world, we need dedicated member states to build it”

International Peace, Security and Sustainable Development” Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Vladimir Norov emphasized that the status of a neutral state contributes to the growth and strengthening of the authority of Turkmenistan in the international arena as a country aimed at developing mutually beneficial cooperation with all states and peoples of the world, as well as strictly complying with international legal norms and obligations.

It was also noted that strict adherence to the principles of neutrality gave Turkmenistan the credibility of a reliable, responsible

and consistent partner in international circles, whose steps are not subject to conjuncture and bias. The SCO leader also in his video message to the participants of the International Conference expressed his congratulations to the Government of Turkmenistan and the Turkmen people on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the country’s permanent Neutrality.

As part of her video message at the international conference “The Policy of Neutrality and Its Role in Ensuring International Peace, Security and Sustainable Development”, UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay emphasized that Turkmenistan,

having proclaimed its Neutrality, opened a new chapter in its history, which is rich in dialogue between peoples and cultures, and being part of the common roots of humanity.

The Director General of UNESCO stated that “Turkmenistan’s Neutrality is a continuation of this story, since this commitment to peace for the country and for the region is far from being aloof or solitary. In fact, it reflects a strong openness to the world”.

Turkmenistan expands the international cooperation through the environmental diplomacy



On the threshold of the 25th anniversary of permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan, an exhibition dedicated to the International Day of Neutrality has started in the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan.

The exhibition is expected to become a kind of report on the development of the national economy of the country where the expositions of 37 ministries and profile departments, as well as the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan will be demonstrated.

On the second day of the exhibition, the high achievements of the agricultural sector of Turkmenistan have been displayed.

In the framework of the event, the ceremony of signing a number of bilateral documents took place.

In particular, “The Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in area of nature protection between the Ministry of Agriculture and Nature Protection of Turkmenistan and the Representative Office of the UN Development Programme in Turkmenistan,” “The Memorandum of

Understanding on cooperation in area of sustainable development of the power industry between the Ministry of Energy of Turkmenistan and the Representative Office of the UN Development Programme in Turkmenistan,” as well as “The Memorandum of Understanding on sustainable management of water



resources between the State Committee of Water Industry of Turkmenistan and the Representative Office of the UN Development Programme in Turkmenistan” were signed.

As is known, Turkmenistan, from the first days since gaining its independence, stands

for combing the efforts of the countries of the region with the aim of safeguarding and ensuring the rational use of water resources.

The modern water saving technologies are introduced into the agriculture, construction and use of industrial and hydraulic structures in the country.

Aimed at the consolidation of common efforts and mutually useful exchange of experience, the water diplomacy of Turkmenistan adds new priorities to the work of the UN and contributes to the flourishing and progress at the national, regional and global levels.

Among the main goals of the environment protection strategy consistently implemented by the President of Turkmenistan, are the provision of dynamic growth of economy through effective and rational use of natural resources and consolidation of international efforts in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

39th OCA General Assembly

16 Dec 2020 - Muscat, Sultanate of Oman



Qatar, will host the Olympic Council of Asia's 21st Asian Games in 2030

Doha, capital city of Qatar, will host the Olympic Council of Asia's 21st Asian Games in 2030.

Doha achieved the highest number of votes in a secret ballot of the OCA's 45 National Olympic Committees at the 39th OCA General Assembly at the JW Marriott Hotel in Muscat, Oman on Wednesday, 16th December. Doha has hosted the Asian Games once before, in 2006.

Riyadh will now host the 22nd Asian Games in 2034, meaning the next four Asian Games are in place and the next available hosting year is 2038 – 18 years away.

Doha put forward a compact and risk-free bid, with all sports stadiums already in place. The award of the Asian Games will further boost its profile as a world-class sports city, capable of hosting major international events in a variety of sports. Qatar will host the next FIFA World Cup in 2022. Riyadh has welcomed Asian Olympic Family to Saudi Arabia's capital city in 2034.

Before the vote took place, OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah said he had met with representatives of the two candidate cities the previous evening, and they had agreed to a proposal that the city with the highest number of votes would host the 2030 Asian Games and the city with the second most votes would host 2034.

Sheikh Ahmad said he had made the move in the spirit of "friendship, solidarity and unity" and to produce a "win-win" situation. Before starting the vote under these circumstances, Sheikh Ahmad asked for the support of the 45 NOC delegations – and they approved unanimously, with nobody against this proposal. "I believe you are making history, and I will be proud to have two Asian Games in West Asia," Sheikh Ahmad said. "Thank you Asia for your solidarity and coordination." The voting numbers in the host cities election were 27 for Doha.

Previous Asian Games host cities: 1951, New Delhi, India; 1954, Manila, Philippines; 1958, Tokyo, Japan; 1962, Jakarta, Indonesia; 1966, Bangkok, Thailand; 1970, Bangkok, Thailand; 1974, Tehran, Iran; 1978, Bangkok, Thailand; 1982, New Delhi, India; 1986, Seoul, Korea; 1990, Beijing, China; 1994, Hiroshima, Japan; 1998, Bangkok, Thailand; 2002, Busan, Korea; 2006, Doha, Qatar; 2010, Guangzhou, China; 2014, Incheon, Korea; 2018, Jakarta-Palembang, Indonesia.





Framework Program for Cooperation in the Field of Sustainable Development between Turkmenistan and the UN for 2021-2025

On December 16, 2020, the first meeting of the Steering Committee for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework between the Government of Turkmenistan and the United Nations for 2021-2025 was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

The meeting was attended by the heads and employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan, as well as representatives of more than 30 relevant ministries and departments of the country. The meeting was attended by the UN Resident Coordinator in Turkmenistan, as well as the heads of the UN structural divisions in Ashgabat.

At the opening of the meeting, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan R. Meredov noted the high level of multifaceted cooperation between Turkmenistan and the UN. In particular, the Minister expressed confidence in that through joint efforts it will be possible to attain vast results in line with the present objectives and partnership spirit, as well as the long-term interests of Turkmenistan and the UN in the process of provision of

sustainable development and stable progress. In this context, the importance of joint systemic works on the basis of medium-term and long-term programs and plans was highlighted.

As known, in March of this year, a new Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework between the Government of Turkmenistan and the United Nations for 2021-2025 was signed. Speaking at today's session, UN Resident Coordinator in Turkmenistan E. Panova underlined the special attention and commitment of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to the development of strategic partnership with the UN on a wide range. She expressed gratitude to the Government of Turkmenistan for assistance in the implementation of joint programs and projects aimed at the wellbeing of not only the people of Turkmenistan, but of the whole world.

At the meeting, the parties discussed the main achievements in the implementation of the current Cooperation Framework Program. Presentations were made by representatives of UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, UNFPA in Turkmenistan on the results of joint activities.

Then an exchange of views took place on the implementation of the Cooperation Framework for the coming period. Particular emphasis was placed on the development of a "road map" for its implementation. The participants were familiarized with the presentation of the mechanisms of management and implementation of this Program, the strategy for its financing, as well as the plan for monitoring and evaluating the activities.

The meeting participants agreed to consider in the first quarter of 2021 the UN Country Team's Joint Resource Mobilization Strategies, as well as recommendations and proposals for financing the Cooperation Framework Program and mobilizing resources for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national level.

Upon completion of the meeting, the Protocol of the first meeting of the Steering Committee was signed which reflects the practical measures for the implementation of the given Framework Programme.



Japan grants USD 9.5 million to Pakistan for confronting COVID-19

Japan has extended a grant assistance of JPY 1 billion (approx. USD 9.5 million) to Pakistan for enhancing its capacity to confront COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. Notes to this effect were signed and exchanged between H.E. MATSUDA Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan and Mr. Noor Ahmad, Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, in Islamabad on December 15, 2020.

Equipment & machineries to be provided to medical institutions

In this program, more than 30 types of medical equipment including the Bedside X-ray Machine will be provided to medical institutions in Pakistan through the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). NDMA has taken effective measures against national-level disasters such as floods, earthquakes, COVID-19 and locust invasion since its establishment in 2007.

The Embassy of Japan and NDMA have been working together since the beginning of COVID-19 outbreak in Pakistan with due consideration to the need of front-line medical institutions.

Japan's firm commitment to control COVID-19 and prepare for the future

In the signing ceremony, Ambassador MATSUDA clearly stated, "Our assistance will not only improve the capacity of controlling COVID-19

but will prepare for the risk in the future.

The Government of Japan has expressed its strong commitment to this assistance, recognizing the necessity to go hand in hand on a global scale to confront the unknown viruses such as COVID-19."

Japan's counter-COVID-19 support reaches USD 16.91 million

As for COVID-19, Japan delivered diagnostic kits in the beginning of February, three weeks before the first case was reported in Pakistan.

Then, Japan provided a total of USD 7.41 million to Pakistan through international organizations. With this support to the NDMA, Japan's support to Pakistan for controlling COVID19 will reach USD 16.91 million in total.





USPICC appoints Muhammad Ahmed as President of Pakistan Chapter

By News Agency

The US-Pakistan International Chamber of Commerce (USPICC) has appointed two leading business leaders for their Pakistan chapter.

The Chairman of USPICC Siddique Sheikh and the board of the chamber has approved appointment of Muhammad Ahmed as President of Pakistan Chapter for two years while Malik Sohail Hussain has been appointed as Secretary General for five years.

On the occasion, Siddique Sheikh has hoped that both the leaders will strive hard to bring the business community of the US and Pakistan closer and play their due role in promoting the common cause of mutual understanding and prosperity.

He said that we are looking forward to the newly-appointed office bearers to promote trade, commerce, understanding, networking, linkages, exchange of delegations and sectoral exhibitions in the both countries.

Muhammad Ahmed is a renowned businessman based in Islamabad and CEO of a leading group of companies who has also served as ICCI president rendered valuable services in fight against coronavirus, organised

many successful events and strived hard to bring business community closer.

Malik Sohail Hussain has served in very important positions in FPCCI, SAARC CCI, ICCI,

UBG and commands vast experience in holding different events and leading delegations to different countries including the US.



Diplomatic Focus hosted a Lunch reception in the honor of Dean of Diplomatic Corps and Ambassadors of Central Asian Countries

Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi CEO/Editor/Publisher of **Diplomatic Focus** hosted a Lunch reception in the honor of Dean of Diplomatic corps Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov and Ambassadors of Central Asian Countries. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan His Excellency Mr. E. Beyshbiev, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Akan Rakhmetullin, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Ismatullo Nasredin along with their spouses grace the reception. Ambassadors also visited Uniworth Dress Co, Rolax and World Class Suiting for shopping in Beverly center Islamabad.



Photography exhibition dedicated to Turkmenistan opened in Islamabad

Photography exhibition titled “The art for neutrality and peace” is opened at the Marriott hotel in Islamabad. This exhibition devoted to the 25th anniversary of permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan, the 75th anniversary of the United Nations Organizations and the International Neutrality Day organized by the Embassy of Turkmenistan in Pakistan together with the “Naqashee Art” gallery in Islamabad. At the exhibition, the photographs, displaying the achievements, rich history traditions and culture of the neutral and independent Turkmenistan were presented.

Heads and employees of several diplomatic representatives in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as well as local mass media also participated the event. Julies Garneis, the UNO regular coordinator in Pakistan, the honorary guest, together with other participants of the exhibition gave high mark to the positive neutrality policy of our country.



Diplomatic Focus celebrated Merry Christmas and New Year reception

Diplomatic Focus has become one of the most consistent magazine in last ten years. Editor /Publisher/ CEO of Diplomatic Focus Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi celebrated the Merry Christmas and New Year reception with newly appointed Ambassadors to Pakistan Mrs. Andleeb Abbas, was the chief guest and Guest of honor was Senator Mrs. Sitara Ayaz, Honorable dean of Diplomatic corps heads of missions, ambassadors, high commissioners, other prominent dignitaries also graced the occasion. In his speech Mian Fazal Elahi welcomed the guest. Wished a bright Christmas "I hope you have a safe and relaxing holiday season. "It's the most wonderful time of the year." However, this holiday season, some of the magic has been compromised by the COVID-19 pandemic. But I am hopeful that we will come out from the situation soon and Wishing you health, wealth, and happiness in the New Year ahead. Your Excellencies! May God continue to give you success and I wish you all the very best in your future".





Event organize to Commemorate International Overdose Awareness Day

Serena Hotels, under its Sports Diplomacy initiative, sponsored “Save Tomorrow 5 – Walk for a Better World” by the Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation (KKWAF). KKWAF is a civil society outfit dedicated to fighting the war on drugs in Pakistan. The activity aimed to commemorate International Overdose Awareness Day, and featured staff and volunteers of KKWAF and Serena Hotels along with students, teachers, families, friends, diplomatic community and people with special needs. The aim was to highlight the perils of drug overdose and remember those who have lost their lives to this menace. The walk started from the Rose and Jasmine Garden and ended at the Open-Air Theater, Shakarparian. All SOPs to meet with government regulations during the pandemic times were followed in the holding of this activity.





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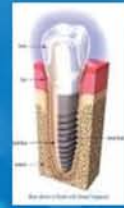


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