

Monthly Magazine on National & International Political Affairs, Diplomatic Issues |
Promoting Bilateral Relations | Current Affairs | Trade & Economic Affairs | Education | Technology | Culture & Tourism

March 2021

Volume 12 | Issue 03

ABC Certified

DIPLOMATIC FOCUS

"Publishing from Pakistan, United Kingdom/EU & will be soon from UAE, Central Africa, Central Asia & Asia Pacific"

A Largest, Widely Circulated Diplomatic Magazine

| www.diplomaticfocus.org | www.diplomaticfocus-uk.com |

Member APNS, CPNE
Central Media List
Member Diplomatic Council

[/diplomaticfocusofficial](https://www.facebook.com/diplomaticfocusofficial) [/dip_focus](https://www.instagram.com/dip_focus)

TOGETHER FOR PEACE



AMAN 2021



MILLENNIUM
EDUCATION



MILLENNIUM
ROOTS SCHOOLS



TMUC
THE MILLENNIUM
UNIVERSAL COLLEGE

A world of learners
where children gain a
passport to the world



SCHOOL
WITH A
DIFFERENCE



CONTACT US



Head Office: No. 80, Street 1, NPF Society, Sector E-11/4 Islamabad 44000, Pakistan



Tell: 051 2375201 - 6 Cell: 0331 5060561



TME.PakistanOfficial



www.millenniumschoools.edu.pk



info@millenniumschoools.edu.pk



Elegance is an attitude

LONGINES



HydroConquest

 **KAHF**
INTERNATIONAL

Official Sale & Service Centres:

KARACHI:

Dolmen Mall, Clifton:
Mansoor Tower, Clifton:
Saddar:

Tel 021-35293667-68
Tel 021-35820644, 35820707
Tel 021-35655081-84

ISLAMABAD:

Beverly Centre, Jinnah Avenue:

Tel 051-2824751, 2824901

LAHORE:

Shop 2067, Packages Mall: Walton Road: Tel 042-38914244

www.kahfintl.com

Email: kahf@kahfintl.com



REFINING GENERATIONS




Book An Appointment
+92 42 111 789 456





or whatsapp at
+92 345 4037778



UNI WORTH | BLACK
Worth Weaving

 www.uniworthblack.com

   [uniworthblack](#)

LAHORE

PC Hotel | Emporium Mall | MM Alam Road | Packages Mall

ISLAMABAD

Beverly Center | Centaurus Mall

SIALKOT

V-Mall

MULTAN

CherOne Tower

FAISALABAD

Serena Hotel





11



18



28



50



62

11 Message from H.E. Dr. Arif Alvi President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Kashmir Solidarity Day

The people of Pakistan join in commemorating this Kashmir Solidarity Day, paying rich tribute to the Kashmiris on their resilience in their just struggle for the right to self-determination. More than a year-and-a-half has passed since 5th August 2019 when India took unilateral and illegal actions...

18 NAVAL CHIEF MET VARIOUS FOREIGN MILITARY DELEGATES PARTICIPATED IN MULTINATIONAL MARITIME EXERCISE AMAN 2021

Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN-21 conducted under the slogan of "Together for Peace". The week long Exercise provides the forum to various participating nations to interact and promote Maritime cooperation. In tandem with various activities of the exercise, International Bands Display and Maritime ...

28 Prime Minister Imran Khan received a warm ceremonial welcome by the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

At the invitation of the Prime Minister of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa, the Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E. Imran Khan paid a two-day official visit to Sri Lanka on 23-24 February 2021. Prime Minister Imran Khan was accompanied by a high-level delegation, comprising Federal Ministers...

50 New prospects for Egypt-Pakistan cooperation

Egypt-Pakistan relations are deeply rooted. What is your evaluation of the bilateral political ties?
FM Shah Mahmood Qureshi: Relations between Pakistan and Egypt are based on bonds of common faith and culture and similarity of perception on many regional...

62 Xi declares "complete victory" in eradicating absolute poverty in China

Chinese President Xi Jinping announced on Thursday that China has secured a "complete victory" in its fight against poverty. Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, said absolute poverty has been eradicated in the world's most populous country, home to over 1.4 billion people. Xi made the announcement...

Contents



RBI Mediaminds
Group of Publications
Electronic & Print Media Production House

- 10 Simmering Kashmir: A record of world's longest running conflict in nutshell
- 11 Message from H.E. Dr. Arif Alvi President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Kashmir Solidarity Day
- 12 7Th Multinational Maritime Exercise Aman- 2021 - The Mega Event Of Pakistan Navy Commences With Flags Hoisting Ceremony
- 13 International Maritime Conference (Imc) Held In Tandem With 7Th Multinational Maritime Exercise Aman 21 Culminates
- 14 Chief Of The Naval Staff Visits Foreign Navy Ships Participating In The 7Th Multinational Naval Exercise Aman 2021
- 16 President Of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi Addressed The Opening Session Of International Maritime Conference Held In Tandem With 7Th Multinational Naval Exercise Aman-2021
- 18 Naval Chief Met Various Foreign Military Delegates Participated In Multinational Maritime Exercise Aman 2021
- 21 Naval Chief Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi Meets Foreign Military Delegates Participating In Multinational Maritime Exercise Aman 2021
- 22 Multinational Maritime Exercise Aman-2021 Culminates With The Conduct Of International Fleet Review (Ifrr)
- 23 Chief Of Air Staff Farewell Calls On Chief Of The Naval Staff At Naval Headquarters
- 24 Pakistan attaches great importance to its ties with Japan
- 26 Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens
- 28 Prime Minister Imran Khan received a warm ceremonial welcome by the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka
- 32 Foreign Minister Qureshi held a meeting with Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena
- 34 Saudi wins Best Allied Cadet Trophy at Pakistan Air Force graduation ceremony
- 36 Foreign Minister Qureshi appreciated Qatar's positive efforts as the host of the U.S.-Taliban Peace Agreement & Intra-Afghan Negotiations
- 37 The Defence Minister of Iraq meets Foreign Minister Qureshi
- 40 Embassy of the State of Qatar, Islamabad Celebrates National Sport Day
- 41 Qatar Petroleum enters into a long-term agreement for the supply of 3 MTPA of LNG to Pakistan
- 42 Pakistan and Egypt determined to take the bilateral relationship to new heights
- 43 Foreign Minister meets the Secretary General of the Arab League in Cairo
- 44 WHAT PAKISTAN NEEDS TO DO FOR EDUCATION IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS
- 45 30th Anniversary of the Establishment of V4 Conference in Islamabad
- 46 Italian Ambassador H.E. Mr. Andreas Ferrarese inaugurates MMUN
- 48 Diplomats appreciated Ehsaas programme initiatives in Khyber Tribal District and Peshawar
- 49 The Ambassador of Iraq in Islamabad holds a dinner reception in honor of Honorable Iraqi Minister of Defense during his visit to Pakistan
- 50 New prospects for Egypt-Pakistan cooperation
- 54 Khojaly genocide commemorated in Pakistan
- 56 HE Ambassador of the State of Qatar visited Qatar Visa Center in Islamabad as it resumed providing services, to review the work progress
- 57 India's smear campaign against Pakistan has no limits: Qureshi
- 58 Ambassador Andreas Ferrarese together with Mr. Danilo Giordanella, Consul in Karachi, visited Quaid e Azam Mausoleum to pay homage to the father of nation.
- 60 Activities of Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan
- 61 The New Leap of China's Economy benefits China-Pakistan Cooperation
- 62 Xi declares "complete victory" in eradicating absolute poverty in China
- 64 Pakistan and China Commence 70th Anniversary Celebrations
- 65 Xi Focus: Pioneering spirit, hard work urged as China embraces Year of the Ox
- 67 China appreciates positive remarks by Pakistani, UAE sides about Xinjiang
- 68 Ambassador of China Nong Rong inaugurated the Chinese New Year celebrations at the Marriott Hotel, Islamabad
- 70 Serena Hotels, under its Cultural Diplomacy initiative hosted the Bakshi Brothers live in an outdoors concert
- 71 Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation Launches Education Initiative "Unplugged – Hum Saath Hain
- 72 "MARTISOR" Tradition in Romania

Group Chairman/CEO: Mian Fazal Elahi
 Chief Editor Hon: Mian Akhtar Hussain
 Editor/Publisher: Mian Fazal Elahi
 Managing Director: Shahzada Khurram
 Executive Editor: M Bilal Zafar
 Group Editor: Saeed Yousafzai
 Associate Honorary Editor: Zanib Arshad
 Director Marketing: Mian Furqan Akhtar
 Editor in Chief UK/EU Edition: Mian Assadullah
 Justin Plaza 3, 341London Road, Mitcham, Surrey-CR4 4BE
 Editor Germany, EU Edition: Mian Mubeen Akhtar
 Office Manager: Rana Bilal Ahmed
 Creative Art Director: M.Shahbaz Nawaz, RN Scanner
 Art Director: Sharyar Fazil
 Web Developer: Muhammad Wajahat
 Chief Photographer: Ramzan Mughal

Copenhagen Denmark: Fazal Hussain 004540521485
 Email: fazal1955@hotmail.com
 Bureau Chief Australia, Newzealand
 Javed Iqbal Butt

Board of Advisors

General (R) Talat Masood, Ambassador (R) Tassaduq Hussain, Ambassador (R) Arif Mehmmod, Mr. Kanwar Muhammad Tariq, Ambassador(R), Mr. Tariq Hyder, Ambassador(R) Fozia Nasreen, Ambassador(R) Javed Hassan, Maria Sultan, Kanwar Muhammad Dilshad (EX-Federal Secretary)Chaudhry Faisal Mushtaq (Thagma-e-Imtiaz), Dr. Mirza ikhtiar Baig (Thagma-e-Imtiaz), Shoukat Paracha, Malik Yousaf Ali, Ex-Ambassador, Mian Anwar-Ul-Haq Ramay, Ex-Parliamentarian, Ilyas Ahmed Chaudhry, CR Shamsi, Fozia Shahid, Mateen Haider, Captian (R) Wasif, Mian Mahmood Hon: Council General Republic of Moldova

Bureau Office

Qaisar Masood: Muhammad Athar
 Northern Virginia: Georgia
 Israr Masood: M. Jamil Rathore
 Sydney Australia: Bureau Chief Jeddah KSA
 Rana Salman Shahid: Cell: +966-502583608
 Vehari
 Mr. Muhammad Muzzammilullah Maan
 Brussels (Belgium)

Printer

Roohani Art Press, Street no. 1, Service Road Muhammadi Town, Sohan near Express High Way, Islamabad.

Publisher

Mian Fazal Elahi, House No 263-C, Street 87, Sector E-11/2 Islamabad.
 Tel: +92-51-2163092, 2163070, News Room: +92-51-2163029
 Mobile: +92-345-5565552, +92-322-5565552
 Email: mianfazalelahi@gmail.com, diplomaticfocus.isb.pk@gmail.com
 www.diplomaticfocus.org

Karachi Office: Mobile: +92-331-5155515

Price

Pakistan	Rs.1000	Middle East	50 Saudi Riyal
UK	£ 8	Schengen State	€10
Chinese Yuan:	75	Canada:	\$15
USA:	\$12		

Published from Islamabad

Our previous Issues

February 2021



January 2021



December 2020



November 2020



Mian Fazal Elahi

AMAN Exercise will provide a medium to develop doctrinal synergy to tackle maritime security challenges and to enhance interoperability amongst navies at different pedestals of the technological prowess to come together and secure a sustainable maritime environment. The Naval Chief in his message also highlighted Pakistan Navy's initiative of Regional Maritime Security Patrols (RMSP) to fulfill international obligations beside protection of national interests in the Indian Ocean Region and emphasized that the camaraderie generated herein will continue to grow and bring us even closer to the cherished goals of realizing regional peace and shared prosperity through collaborative efforts

During Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN 21, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi was called on by Commander Royal Jordanian Naval Force Col Hisham Khaleel Mubarak Aljarrah, Commander Djibouti Coast Guard Col Waiss Omar Bogoreh, Deputy Chief of Russian Navy HQ Rear Admiral Oleg Apishev, Flag Officer Commanding Sri Lankan Fleet Rear Admiral YMGB Jayathilake and Deputy Commander US NAVCENT Rear Admiral Curt Renshaw.

In addition, Chief of the Naval Staff was also called on by Deputy Commander RSNF Eastern Fleet Rear Admiral Ahmed Bin Mohammad, Commander Brazilian Surface Fleet Rear Admiral Rogerio Da Rocha, in separate meetings. Matters of defence collaborations and maritime security dynamics were discussed during the interactions.

The Naval Chief thanked the dignitaries for participation in Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN 21 to enhance the collaborative efforts for peace and maritime security. The Naval Chief also highlighted Pakistan Navy's initiatives for ensuring maritime security and peace in the region through Regional Maritime Security Patrol (RMSP) and regular bilateral/multilateral engagements with other countries.

The dignitaries lauded and acknowledged Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitments in support of collaborative maritime security in the region and conduct of 7th Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN 21.

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

Annual Subscription of
Diplomatic Focus Rs. 9840/ Year (Including Courier Charges)
For Further detail Email: diplomaticfocus.isb.pk@gmail.com



- Publications
- Documentaries
- Films
- Events Managements
- Events Shots
- Advertising
- Telefilms
- Cultural Affairs
- Dramas
- Modeling



Victory Pipe Industries (Pvt) Ltd.

Manufacturers of M.S. & G.I. Pipes
Square Tubes & Tube Profiles
0.5" to 12" dia

BS EN 10255:2004
(BS 1387:1985)

API 5L
ASTM A53

EN 39
DIN



The Pipe You Can Trust

Product Category

- ☐ **Mild Steel Pipe (M.S. Pipe)**
- ☐ **Galvanized Iron Pipe (G.I. Pipe)**
- ☐ **Scaffolding Pipe**
- ☐ **Square Tubes & Profile**
- ☐ **Steel Tubular Poles**
- ☐ **Tube Well Pipe**

Head Office: Plot: 54, Street: 1, Main Service Road I-10/3, Industrial Area, Islamabad. Pakistan

Factory: Plot:330, Street: 4, I-9/3, Industrial Area, Islamabad. Pakistan

Tel: +92-51-4434384, 4434385, 8466888 Fax: +92-51-4434387

E-mail: info@victorypipe.com.pk **Web:** www.victorypipe.com.pk



TOGETHER
FOR
PEACE



AMAN
2021
www.ksew.com.pk

Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works is joining hands with Pakistan Navy for AMAN-21 a global platform to synchronize & synergize common efforts for maritime prosperity



Striving for
Excellence
in Shipbuilding

KARACHI SHIPYARD & ENGINEERING WORKS LTD

ISO 9001, ISO 14001 & OHSAS 18001 CERTIFIED

P.O. Box No. 4419, Karachi-74000, Pakistan

Tel: 99214045 (20 Lines) Fax: (92-21) 99214020, 99214030

Email: contact@karachishipyard.com.pk

Web: www.karachishipyard.com.pk



ZIGOLINI'S MENU **RELAUNCHED**

INDULGE IN A DELICIOUS VARIETY OF
ITALIAN CUISINE WITH AN ALL-NEW
MENU AT ZIGOLINI'S RESTAURANT



UAN: (051) 111 22 33 44

☎: 0300-0459117

W: WWW.MARRIOTT.COM/ISBPk

Simmering Kashmir: A record of world's longest running conflict in nutshell

By Sharyar

SLAMABAD-Throughout the history, stronger states have sought to establish an authority by dominating weaker nations.

The British Imperial ambitions were unique, as they triggered two devastating conflicts of the present times, Palestine and Kashmir.

The question of why India and Pakistan, two nuclear armed neighbours, despite fighting three wars remain in a standoff has spawned a vast literature but very few provide a thorough context of the issue in common man's language.

Author Jamal Qaiser and Sadaf Taimur's *Simmering Kashmir* is one of the rare books which skilfully portray past, present and future of one of the oldest unresolved international conflicts in a smart handbook of 100 pages.

Without clichés, or jargons, the book is a candid record of Kashmir related developments that took place during the last few centuries.

Simmering Kashmir, not only gives an understanding of the geographical importance of the area, but also argues the role of major players and the international community. It discusses the severe political and social oppression which forced Kashmiris to pick up arms and how India's furious reaction to a just demand turned into an immense humanitarian crisis.

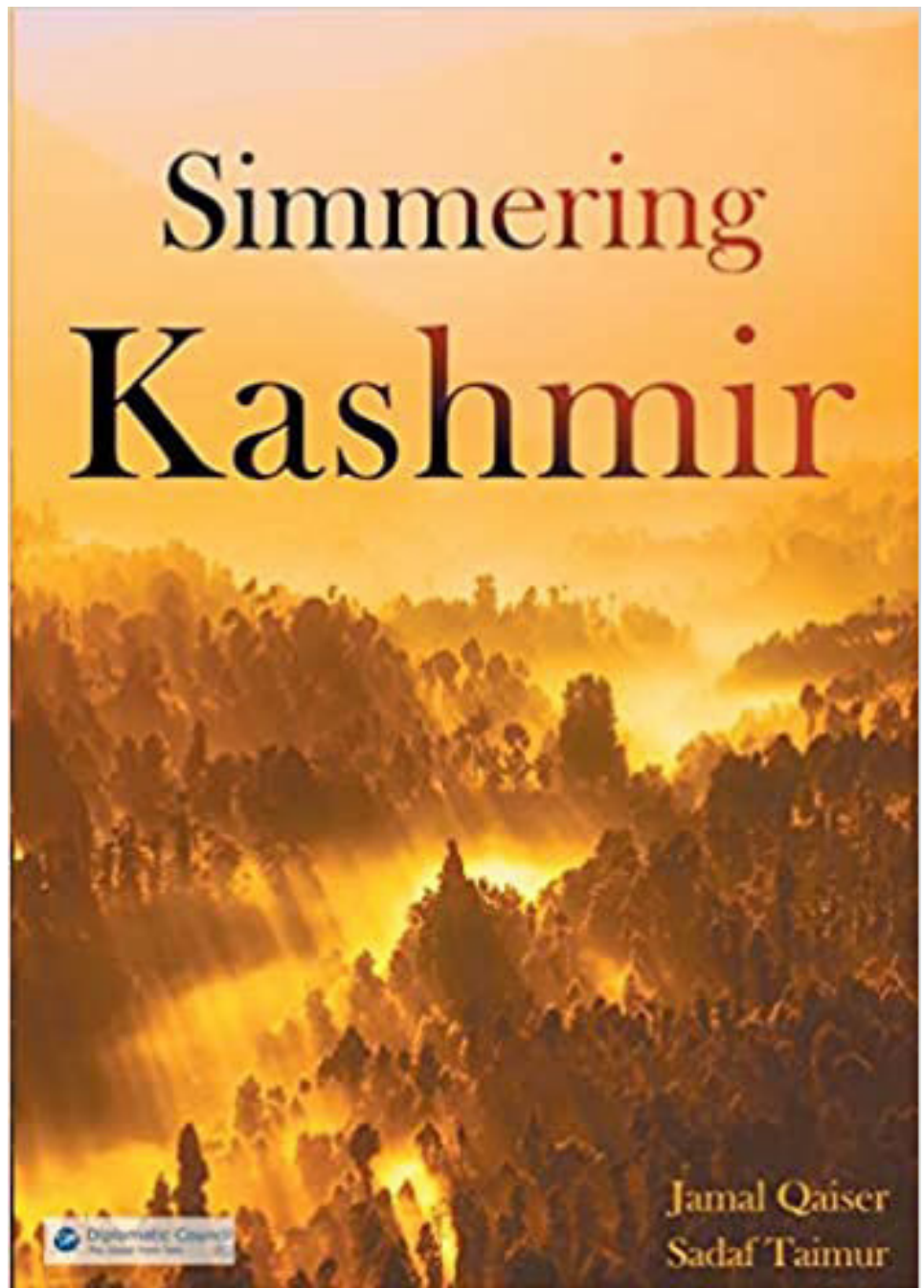
In 2019, India abolished special status of Kashmir by revoking almost all of Article 370, which allowed certain amount of autonomy to the state. Kashmir had its own constitution, a separate flag and freedom to make its own legislation.

The new laws allowed Indian citizens to settle and buy land in the disputed territory. For most of the average readers, it is difficult to understand the new Indian legislation and what it meant for millions of Muslim Kashmiris.

Simmering Kashmir gives the readers a historical perspective by taking them back to the 16th century, when European powers competed with one another to control the rest of the world.

The book also mentions British economic interests in India and how they manipulated local economy and industry for their vested interests.

After describing the overall Indian political and social environment systematically, the authors narrow down to Kashmir. From page 55 onwards, the book documents everything



from the geographical significance to the major political and social events, which took place before and after 1947. It tells us about continuous standoff between Pakistan and India and the role United Nations played in resolving the conflict.

Media has emerged as powerful player in shaping public opinion during the modern times. *Simmering Kashmir* discusses how both the countries are using their media as a proxy and how reporting has become an extension of

India Pakistan war over Kashmir.

After presenting the whole picture of the conflict in a neutral tone, the authors offer a solution to the problem in the same unbiased way.

To resolve one of the oldest conflicts, the authors suggest a three tier approach. They believe if Pakistan and India fail to reach an understanding, International Court of Justice may intervene and solve the matter without violating the bilateral agreement.

Message from H.E. Dr. Arif Alvi President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Kashmir Solidarity Day

Muhammad Bilal Zafar

The people of Pakistan join in commemorating this Kashmir Solidarity Day, paying rich tribute to the Kashmiris on their resilience in their just struggle for the right to self-determination. More than a year-and-a-half has passed since 5th August 2019 when India took unilateral and illegal actions aimed at altering the internationally recognized disputed status of IIOJK and changing the demographic structure of the occupied territory. Self-determination is one of the fundamental rights codified in all major human rights instruments as well as the United Nations Charter. The denial of this right and subjugation of Kashmiris in IIOJK is the very negation of human dignity. The Jammu and Kashmir dispute is one of the oldest items on the agenda of the UN Security Council. The dispute remains unresolved due to India's obstinate refusal to honour its commitments and its disrespect for the fundamental human rights and international law. Indian Occupation Forces continue oppression and brutalization of innocent Kashmiris through and inhuman military siege, communications blockade, cordon-and-search-operations, fake "encounters", extra-judicial killings of Kashmiri youth, use of pellet guns, and collective punishment of entire communities and neighbourhoods. The draconian laws in place in IIOJK provide complete impunity to the occupation forces as they commit egregious violations of human rights. Demographic apartheid in IIOJK by Indian Occupation Forces is further violation of international law wherein the Kashmiris majority is being turned into a minority in its own land. These measures are a constant reminder to the world community of India's State-terrorism—being perpetrated day in and day out against innocent Kashmiri men, women and children. On this day, Pakistan calls upon the international community to hold India accountable for all its misdeeds and crimes against humanity. India must rescind its unilateral and illegal actions and stop implementing the RSS-inspired 'Hindutva' agenda in IIOJK that is detrimental to peace and security in the region. The key to durable peace in South Asia is resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people. Pakistan remains in full support and solidarity with its Kashmiri brothers and sisters. We will continue to extend all-out support to the Kashmiris till the realization of their unalienable rights to self-determination.





Group photo of International Navies Officials during Flags Hoisting Ceremony of Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN-21 held at PN Dockyard Karachi

7th MULTINATIONAL MARITIME EXERCISE AMAN- 2021 - THE MEGA EVENT OF PAKISTAN NAVY COMMENCES WITH FLAGS HOISTING CEREMONY

An impressive and colorful Flags Hoisting Ceremony was held at Pakistan Navy Dockyard, Karachi, to formally commence the proceedings of Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN-21. A large number of senior military representatives from participating countries, observers, diplomats and Pakistan Navy officials attended the ceremony. The opening of the Exercise was marked with simultaneous hoisting of Flags of all the participating nations of AMAN-21.

The Message of Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi was read during the ceremony. In his message, the Naval Chief warmly welcomed the participants of Exercise AMAN-21, the 7th edition of Pakistan Navy's AMAN initiative. The Admiral underlined that the AMAN Exercise will provide a medium to develop doctrinal synergy to tackle maritime security challenges

and to enhance interoperability amongst navies at different pedestals of the technological prowess to come together and secure a sustainable maritime environment. The Naval Chief in his message also highlighted Pakistan Navy's initiative of Regional Maritime Security Patrols (RMSP) to fulfill international obligations beside protection of national interests in the Indian Ocean Region and emphasized that the camaraderie generated herein will continue to grow and bring us even closer to the cherished goals of realizing regional peace and shared prosperity through collaborative efforts.

Speaking on the occasion, Commander Pakistan Fleet, Rear Admiral Naveed Ashraf warmly welcomed all the participants and thanked them for their enthusiastic participation in the Exercise. He sought their cooperation in achieving the Exercise objectives and hoped that the Exercise would prove mutually rewarding for all. While

highlighting the importance of the Exercise in enhancing interoperability between the navies, Commander Pakistan Fleet praised the participating countries for their support towards Pakistan's quest for peace and order at sea. He also acknowledged the flags of participating countries from across the globe fluttering together as an embodiment of the Exercise motto, 'Together for Peace'.

AMAN-21, the 7th Exercise of the AMAN series is being held from 11-16 February 2021. The exercise is one of the mega events of Pakistan Navy held biennially to signify the commitment towards making seas safer for positive human activities while inviting regional and extra-regional navies. This year the AMAN Exercise is being attended by up to 45 countries with their ships, aircraft, Special Operation Forces and a large number of observers.



Officials from International Navies presenting salute during flags hosting ceremony of Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN-21

PRESIDENT OF PAKISTAN DR. ARIF ALVI ADDRESSED THE OPENING SESSION OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME CONFERENCE HELD IN TANDEM WITH 7TH MULTINATIONAL NAVAL EXERCISE AMAN-2021



President of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi addressing the opening session of International Maritime Conference during Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN-21

The three-days International Maritime Conference (IMC-21) organized on the theme of 'Development of Blue Economy under a Secure and Sustainable Environment: A Shared Future for Western Indian Ocean Region' by National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) under the auspices of Pakistan Navy has commenced. The President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi graced the Opening Session as Chief Guest. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi was also present on the occasion. The conference is being held in tandem with 7th Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN 2021.

Eminent international and national scholars from Australia, Bahrain, China, Nigeria, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Turkey, UK and USA are participating in the three days conference and will share their thoughts on the dynamic theme. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic scenario, international scholars are also joining the Conference online.

While addressing the audience, the Chief Guest emphasized the strategic importance of Western Indian Ocean Region for international commerce & trade and also underlined that government is cognizant of the importance of blue economy and has initiated major policy reforms to support the maritime industry and maritime stakeholders. The Honorable President added that global economic system was significantly dependent upon unhindered activity in the maritime domain, which demanded a collaborative approach for maintaining a secure maritime environment. Pakistan, blessed with important geostrategic location, is in a unique position to provide global connectivity through CPEC to promote and facilitate economic integration between



Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi addressing the opening session of International Maritime Conference during Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN-21



Senator Sherry Rehman Addressing the second session at opening day of International Maritime Conference during Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN-21



General (Retd) Ehsan ul Haq addressing the second session at opening day of International Maritime Conference during Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN-21



President of Pakistan Dr Arif Ali graced the inaugural session of International Maritime Conference during Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN-21

Asia, Africa, Europe and beyond.

The President assured the organizers and participants of the Conference that their suggestions will be given due consideration at appropriate forums and will go a long way in supporting Government's efforts for the development of our maritime sector. He congratulated NIMA for hosting the Conference and expressed his hope that the institute will continue its endeavors to promote research and discourse on maritime issues. The President also appreciated Pakistan Navy for actively promoting maritime thought in the country and spearheading efforts for the development of Blue Economy in the country.

Earlier, Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi in his opening remarks welcomed the guests and participants of the Conference. The Naval Chief highlighted Pakistan Navy's efforts for promoting maritime awareness in the country and the Blue Economy through a variety of initiatives and pointed out the key role of Pakistan Navy in enhancing regional maritime security through its contributions in international and regional collaborative security mechanisms. The Admiral thanked all the worthy speakers, participants and guests from Pakistan and abroad for their valued participation in the Conference.

International Maritime Conference (IMC-21) is a three days conference held in tandem with 7th Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN 2021. The first day of the IMC was divided into three Sessions. In the First Session, apart from opening addresses by the Chief Guest and the Naval Chief, IMO Secretary General, Honorable Kitack Lim presented the opening remarks whereas, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Masood Khan delivered the keynote address. In addition, CEO Zero Emissions Research and Initiatives (ZERO) South Africa, Dr Gunter Pauli talked on 'Blue Growth Strategy for the Future World' as the other online keynote speaker.

During the Second Session, former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General (Retd) Ehsanul Haq graced the conference as the Chief Guest. Prominent speakers of the



Defence Minister Pervaz Khan Khattak addressing the third session at opening day of International Maritime Conference during Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN-21



Rear Admiral YMGB Jayatilake RSP USP of Sri Lankan Navy addressing the third session at opening day of International Maritime Conference during Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN-21

session comprised, Senator Sherry Rehman who expressed her thoughts on the Geo-Strategic Environment in Indian Ocean Region - Opportunities for Developing Countries. Besides, Commander US Naval Forces Central Command, Vice Admiral Samuel Paparo also delivered his keynote online address on Enhancing Regional Maritime Security in the Western Indian Ocean through Effective Mechanism. The last speaker of the Second Session was Australian National University Professor Dr. David Brewster, who talked about challenges and opportunities of changing maritime dynamics in the Indian Ocean Region and its implications for the regional states.

Minister for Defence, Mr Pervaz Khan Khattak was the Chief Guest of the third and last Session of the IMC-21 Conference. In this Session, Rear Admiral, YMGB Jayatilake of Sri Lankan Navy highlighted the Challenges of Maritime Security and proposed Future

Course of Actions for Regional Navies. Later, Dr. Timothy Walkers from South Africa discussed the South Africa's Perspective on the Blue Economy and Security Management. Besides, Professor Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, of Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad also presented critical analysis on 'Emerging Geo-Strategic Environment and Indo-Pacific Strategy'. Last speaker of the session was Ms Camille Lons, Research Associate from International Institute of Strategic Studies, Bahrain.

The First Day of International Maritime Conference was attended by a large number of dignitaries from across the globe, Officers from Defence Forces of Pakistan and friendly countries, academia, media representatives and researchers from local and international think tanks. International Maritime Conference (IMC-21) will continue for the next two days and would cover the thoughts of distinguished International and National scholars.

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME CONFERENCE (IMC) HELD IN TANDEM WITH 7TH MULTINATIONAL MARITIME EXERCISE AMAN 21 CULMINATES



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi in a group photo with Speaker of the Final Session of International Maritime Conference during Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN-21

The three-days International Maritime Conference (IMC-21) organized on the theme of 'Development of Blue Economy under a Secure and Sustainable Environment: A Shared Future for Western Indian Ocean Region' by National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) under the auspices of Pakistan Navy has culminated at Karachi. The Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi graced the Closing Ceremony as Chief Guest. The conference included an array of prominent speakers who delivered keynote addresses during the conference presenting their dynamic thoughts over theme of the conference.

Addressing the audience, the Chief Guest highlighted that Government is cognizant of the importance of Blue Economy and taking all possible measures for its development. He underscored the huge potential of the maritime domain, where all other sectors of economy crisscross and also underlined that unveiling of new Shipping Policy offers tangible benefits for investment in maritime sector. While addressing, the Chief Guest added that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was rightfully considered a game changer not only for Pakistan but for the economic development and prosperity of the entire region.

The Foreign Minister praised Pakistan Navy for promoting maritime awareness in the country, spearheading efforts for the development of Blue Economy and taking various initiatives to ensure peace & order at sea individually and in collaboration with regional and extra regional navies. He also commended NIMA for attracting a large number of intellectuals around the globe and making the Conference a success.

Earlier, Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral



Chief of the Naval Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi addressing the closing session on final day of International Maritime Conference during Multinational Naal Exercise AMAN-21

Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi in his closing remarks thanked all the speakers, panelists and participants who travelled from far and wide or participated virtually to add great value to the Conference. The Naval Chief emphasized on the great potential and prospects of the Western Indian Ocean Region for regional integration, inclusive development and international cooperation. The Admiral also praised the efforts of NIMA for successful conduct of the event.

The last day of IMC comprised over two sessions. During the former session, Minister of State for Climate Change Ms Zartaj Gul graced the conference as Chief Guest. Eminent scholars deliberated on the Ocean governance, policies and laws. Chairman Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology UK, Capt Muhammad Shafique explicated the blue economy paradigm in light of IMO and UN bodies. Later, Director of Maritime Research World Maritime University Sweden, Dr. Aykut I. OLCER, in an online talk extended his views regarding importance of decarbonization of international shipping for a sustainable planet.

The last speaker of the session was Regional Head Sindh and Balochistan WWF-Pakistan, Dr. Tahir Rasheed to underscored blue growth strategy, opportunities for socio-economic development for coastal communities.

In the third and last session, CEO ZERI, Mr Gunter Puli presented his views online on Blue Growth Strategy for the Future World. Later, another important keynote address was delivered by Vice Admiral (Retd) Iftikhar Ahmed Rao emphasizing on Blue economy.

At the closing of the Conference, on behalf of Director General NIMA Vice Admiral (Retd) Abdul Aleem, Director NIMA Karachi Commodore (Retd) Ali Abbas integrated the Conference proceedings and presented the recommendations. He thanked the Chief Guest for gracing the occasion with his presence. The conference was attended by a large number of dignitaries from across the globe, Officers from Defence Forces of Pakistan and friendly countries, academia, media representatives and researchers from local and international think tanks.



Chief of the Naval Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi in a group photo onboard Indonesian Ship during Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN-21

CHIEF OF THE NAVAL STAFF VISITS FOREIGN NAVY SHIPS PARTICIPATING IN THE 7TH MULTINATIONAL NAVAL EXERCISE AMAN 2021

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi visited foreign ships of navies participating in 7th Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN-21. Upon his arrival on board foreign visiting ships, the Naval Chief was warmly welcomed by Senior Officers/Commanding Officers and was presented Guard of Honour by smartly dressed out contingents.

The Naval Chief visited Indonesian Navy Ship KRI BUNG TOMO, Russian Navy Ship ADMIRAL GRIGOROVICH and Sri Lankan Navy Ship GAJABAHU, amongst the platforms participating in Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN-21. The Admiral interacted with Senior Officers/Commanding Officers and was given briefings on board ships. During interactions, the Admiral highlighted that Pakistan as a responsible maritime state is persistently contributing in peace and stability in the region. AMAN Exercise demonstrates Pakistan's commitment to peace, reinforce regional maritime security and enhance interoperability between regional and extra regional navies. The Naval Chief further expressed that camaraderie generated herein will grow in future and shall bring us closer to the mutual goal of peace and prosperity and appreciated their participation in AMAN



Guard of Honour presented to Chief of the Naval Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi onboard Russian Ship during Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN-21



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging Souvenirs with Commanding Officer of Sri Lankan Ship during Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN-21

Exercise to fulfill common resolve of “Together for Peace”.

The Senior Officers/ Commanding Officers of the respective ships highly acknowledged the persistent efforts of Pakistan Navy to bring global navies towards shared commitment of maritime peace, stability and lawful order at sea.

During the other activities of the day, three-days International Maritime Conference (IMC-21) was organized on the theme of ‘Development of Blue Economy under a Secure and Sustainable Environment: A Shared Future for Western Indian Ocean Region’ by National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) under the auspices of Pakistan Navy. The President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi graced the Opening Session of IMC as Chief Guest. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi was also present on the occasion. The Chief Guest underlined that government is cognizant of the importance of blue economy and has initiated major policy reforms to support the maritime industry and maritime stakeholders. The President also appreciated Pakistan Navy for actively promoting maritime thought in the country and spearheading efforts for the development of Blue Economy in the country. The Naval Chief highlighted Pakistan Navy’s efforts for promoting maritime awareness and the Blue Economy through a variety of initiatives and in enhancing regional maritime security through its contributions in international and regional collaborative security mechanisms.

Friendly sports matches between officers and men of participating countries and Pakistan Navy were also held during the day.

In order to provide an opportunity to observe the varied cultures of contributing countries, an International Food Gala and Cultural Show was also organized for officers and sailors showcasing food stalls and cultural items. Personnel from participating navies, observers, foreign diplomats and senior officials of Pakistan Armed Forces attended the event.



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi was briefed onboard Indonesian Ship during Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN-21



Guard of Honour presented to Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi onboard Sri Lankan Ship during Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN-21



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi was briefed onboard Russian Ship during Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN-21



Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee along with Chief of the Naval Staff Witnessing Maritime Counter Terrorism Demo held at PNS Qasim Manora in Tandem with Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN-21

International Band Display and Counter Terrorism Demonstration

Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN-21 conducted under the slogan of "Together for Peace". The week long Exercise provides the forum to various participating nations to interact and promote Maritime cooperation. In tandem with various activities of the exercise, International Bands Display and Maritime Counter Terrorism Demonstration were held at PNS QASIM Manora, Karachi. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), General Nadeem Raza graced the occasion as Chief Guest and appreciated the efforts of Pakistan Navy in conducting the Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN 2021 in a befitting manner.

An impressive International Bands Display was presented by bands of the participating countries of AMAN 21, aiming to connect the countries through cultural legacies. The military bands from Sri Lanka, Tri Services of Pakistan, Sindh Rangers and Coast Guard played traditional and military tunes. The fascinating melodies were appreciated by the audience. Besides, an enthralling Special Rifle Drill by Pak Marine was also a part of the event displaying excellent performance of spins and expert maneuvers. Additionally, counter terrorism demonstration was another forceful display of strength and specialized skills by Special Operations Forces to counter acts of maritime terrorism, refine special operating procedures, exchange of professional expertise and to enhance interoperability with participating SOF teams.

Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Nadeem Raza lauded the professionalism of the participants and also underlined that Exercise AMAN 21 will promote Regional cooperation and stability, greater interoperability and united resolve against terrorism and crimes in maritime domain. A large number of observers, foreign diplomats, personnel from the participating navies and senior officials of armed forces of Pakistan witnessed the International Bands Display and Counter terrorism demonstration



NAVAL CHIEF ADMIRAL MUHAMMAD AMJAD KHAN NIAZI MEETS FOREIGN MILITARY DELEGATES PARTICIPATING IN MULTINATIONAL MARITIME EXERCISE AMAN 2021



Deputy Commander US NAVCENT called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi during ongoing Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN-21

During Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN 21, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi was called on by Commander Royal Jordanian Naval Force Col Hisham Khaleel Mubarak Aljarrah, Commander Djibouti Coast Guard Col Waiss Omar Bogoreh, Deputy Chief of Russian Navy HQ Rear Admiral Oleg Apishev, Flag Officer Commanding Sri Lankan Fleet Rear Admiral YMGB Jayathilake and Deputy Commander US NAVCENT Rear Admiral Curt Renshaw. In addition, Chief of the Naval Staff was also called on by Deputy Commander RSNF Eastern Fleet Rear Admiral Ahmed Bin Mohammad, Commander Brazilian Surface Fleet Rear Admiral RogerioDa Rocha, in separate meetings.

Matters of defence collaborations and maritime security dynamics were discussed during the interactions. The Naval Chief thanked the dignitaries for participation in Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN 21 to enhance the collaborative efforts for peace and maritime security. The Naval Chief also highlighted Pakistan Navy's initiatives for ensuring maritime security and peace in the region through Regional Maritime Security Patrol



Commander Royal Jordanian Naval Force Called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi during ongoing Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN-21



Rear Admiral Oleg Apishev Deputy Chief of Russian Navy called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi during ongoing Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN-21

(RMSP) and regular bilateral/ multilateral engagements with other countries. The dignitaries lauded and acknowledged Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitments in support of collaborative maritime security in the region and conduct of 7th Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN 21.

Besides, 9th International Maritime Conference (IMC) 2021 organized by National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), under the aegis of Pakistan Navy and being conducted in tandem with 7th Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN-21, culminated with its second day proceedings. The IMC is themed on 'Development of Blue Economy under a Secure and Sustainable Environment: A Shared Future for Western Indian Ocean Region'. The Second Day of the IMC featured eminent international and national scholars to elucidate variety of issues pertaining to maritime security, environment and relevant growth opportunities in the region. Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, National Security Advisor to Prime Minister of Pakistan and renowned scholars joined the conference held on sideline of 7th Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN-2021.

Further, friendly sports matches between officers and men of participating countries and Pakistan Navy were also organized which included cricket, basketball, Volleyball, shooting and Golf.



Commander Brazilian Surface Fleet called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi during ongoing Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN-21



Commander Djibouti Coast Guard called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi during ongoing Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN-21

During the ongoing Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN 21, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi was called on by Southern Fleet Commander of Iran Commodore Arya Shafaqat, Director of Naval Operations Centre Iraq Brigadier Wael Abdul Mohsin Shayyin, Deputy Hydrographer of Nigerian Navy Commodore Sunday Daniel and Area Commander of Palestinian Navy Commodore Hazem S N Abu Hannoud in separate meetings.

Matters of defence collaborations and maritime security were discussed during the interactions. The Naval Chief thanked the dignitaries for participation in Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN 21 to enhance the collaborative efforts for peace and maritime security while highlighting Pakistan Navy's initiatives for ensuring maritime security and peace in the region through Regional Maritime Security Patrol (RMSP) and regular engagements with other countries.

The visiting dignitaries highly appreciated and acknowledged Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitments in support of collaborative maritime security in the region and conduct of 7th Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN 21.

Besides, the three-days International Maritime Conference (IMC-21) organized on the theme of 'Development of Blue Economy under a Secure and Sustainable Environment: A Shared Future for Western Indian Ocean Region' by National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) under the auspices of Pakistan Navy has culminated at Karachi. The Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi graced the Closing Ceremony as Chief Guest. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi was also present at the event.

While addressing the IMC audience, the Foreign Minister praised Pakistan Navy for promoting maritime awareness in the country, spearheading efforts for the development of Blue Economy and taking various initiatives to ensure peace & order at sea individually and in collaboration with regional and extra regional navies. Earlier, Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi in his closing remarks thanked all the speakers, panelists and participants and also commended efforts of NIMA for successful conduct of the event.

The conference included an array of prominent speakers who delivered addresses during the conference presenting their dynamic thoughts over theme of the conference.



Area Commander Palestinian Navy Hazem S N Abu Hanoud called on Chief of the Naval Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi during Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN-21



Cdre Sunday Daniel Deputy Hydrographer Nigerian Navy called on Chief of the Naval Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi during Multinational Maritime Naval Exercise AMAN-21



Southern Fleet Commander Iranian Navy Cdre Arya Shafaqat called on Chief of the Naval Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi during Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN-21



Director Naval Operations Centre Iraq Brig Wael Abdul Mohsin Shayyin Called on Chief of the Naval Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi during Multinational Maritime Naval Exercise AMAN-21

MULTINATIONAL MARITIME EXERCISE AMAN-2021 CULMINATES WITH THE CONDUCT OF INTERNATIONAL FLEET REVIEW (IFR)



President of Pakistan, CM Sindh, CJSSC and Chief of Armed Forces witnessing International Fleet Review during Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN-21

Pakistan Navy Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN-21 culminated in the North Arabian Sea with a graceful conduct of International Fleet Review (IFR) followed by spectacular forming up of AMAN Formation comprising Pakistan Navy and foreign warships. President Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

Upon arrival on board Pakistan Navy Ship MOAWIN, the Honorable President was received by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi. Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Federal Minister of Defence Production, Chief Minister Sindh, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Air Staff were also present on the occasion. In addition, ambassadors, high commissioners, senior military officers, Defence & Naval

Attaches from various countries also witnessed the event.

The Chief Guest observed various operational maneuvers and drills during the IFR. The Fleet Review also featured an impressive Fly Past by Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Air Force and participating foreign aircraft followed by Man and Cheership by participating ships. The Exercise culminated with the participating ships forming up in traditional 'AMAN Formation' to signify unity and collective resolve.

The President congratulated Pakistan Navy for successfully hosting AMAN-21 and reaffirming Pakistan's resolve for promoting peace and security in the region. The Chief Guest thanked the participating regional and extra-regional navies for displaying their commitment

to collaborative maritime security despite COVID-19 pandemic. The President emphasized that AMAN-21 will pave the way to make the region more peaceful and secure with combined efforts by all stakeholders.

The Chief of the Naval Staff thanked the honorable President for gracing the International Fleet Review with his presence. The Naval Chief assured that Pakistan Navy will continue to play active role in enhancing regional maritime security individually and in collaboration with partner navies.

During Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN 2021, up to 45 countries participated in the exercise with their Naval warships, aircraft, Special Operation Forces and a large number of observers.



A Pakistan Navy Ship demonstrates live weapon firing during sea phase of Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN-21



Formation of Participating Ships on culmination of 7th multinational maritime exercise Aman 21



CHIEF OF AIR STAFF FAREWELL CALLS ON CHIEF OF THE NAVAL STAFF AT NAVAL HEADQUARTERS

Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Mughid Anwar Khan paid a farewell call on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad.

Upon arrival at Naval Headquarters, Air Chief was received by the Naval Chief and a smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Navy presented him Guard of Honour. Thereafter, the dignitary laid floral wreath at the Shuhdas Monument.

During the call-on, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi commended the remarkable services of Air Chief Marshal Mughid Anwar Khan for Pakistan and Pakistan Air Force during a long and illustrious career. The Naval Chief also highlighted the dynamic role played by Air Chief Marshal and acknowledged PAF's all-out support to Pakistan Navy in strengthening the maritime defence during his tenure of command to enhance the operational capabilities of sister services.

Air Chief Marshal Mughid Anwar Khan also thanked Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi for his support and well wishes.



Pakistan attaches great importance to its ties with Japan

By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan attaches great importance to its ties with Japan as both countries enjoy cordial relations in various fields for decades. He stated that Japan enjoyed tremendous good will in Pakistan as the Government and people of Pakistan highly valued the important contribution made by Japan in supporting development efforts in Pakistan. He made these remarks while talking to the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Mr. Kuniori Matsuda, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. While talking to the



Ambassador, the President expressed the desire to further enhance trade and economic relations for the mutual benefits of the two countries. Highlighting the investment potential in Pakistan, the President underscored that Japan could avail abundant and business opportunities in Pakistan, especially in sectors like, agriculture, automobile, information and textile. He appreciated the Government of Japan's decision to suspend debt repayments under the Debt Service Suspension Initiative. He thanked the Government of Japan for the assistance provided to Pakistan to combat COVID-19 Pandemic. The President stressed the need to increase frequency of bilateral exchanges

at the highest level to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries. He added that Japan could recruit skilled workers and IT experts from Pakistan to meet its human resource requirements. The President asked the Ambassador to convey his heartfelt felicitations and best wishes to His Majesty Emperor Naruhito on his birthday, which is tomorrow (23rd February). The Japanese Ambassador congratulated the President over the recently concluded Pakistan Navy's Multinational Maritime Exercise Aman-2021, adding that it brought countries from different parts of the world to work together for collective purpose.

Inauguration ceremony "The Project for Establishment of Specialized Medium Range Weather Forecasting Center and Strengthening of Weather Forecasting System"



An inauguration ceremony for Japanese grant aid to "The Project for Establishment of Specialized Medium Range Weather Forecasting Center and Strengthening of Weather Forecasting System" was held with attendance of H.E. MATSUDA Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Mr. FURUTA Shigeki, Chief Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Pakistan Office, H.E. Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Federal Minister for Aviation and Mr. Muhammad Riaz, Director General, Pakistan

Meteorological Department (PMD).

This project has updated the degraded weather radar system in Islamabad and provided the wind profiler radar for upper-air observation, which monitor wind direction and speed in the Head Quarter of PMD in Islamabad and Multan Airport. The weather forecasting and analysis system which enables medium-range (over 3 days up to 10 days) forecasting has been also provided to the Specialized Medium Range Weather Forecasting Center (SMRFC) located in the Head Quarter of

PMD in Islamabad. Technical trainings on the operation and maintenance of the weather radar, utilization of various meteorological products for weather forecasting, etc. were conducted as well. In addition, meteorological data communication systems have been installed in SMRFC and five PMD Regional Meteorological Centers, which enable exchange weather information such as various weather forecasting products, weather radar images, weather observation data, etc. between PMD Head Quarter and each PMD Regional Meteorological Office.

It is expected that the project will improve weather surveillance capacity and the weather forecasting and warning system in the country.

In the inauguration ceremony, H.E. MATSUDA Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan stated "We will follow in the footsteps of our pioneers who built the old weather radar in Islamabad 30 years ago; Japan will remain committed to continuously enhance Pakistan's resilience in coping with natural disasters."

Mr. FURUTA Shigeki, Chief Representative, JICA Pakistan Office, while speaking at the event said "I hope that the project enables Pakistan to forecast weather more accurately and contribute to mitigation of damage caused by natural disaster in Pakistan".

Pakistan has a high frequency of natural disasters such as floods, landslides, cyclones and earthquakes. Quite notably, every year Pakistan experiences heavy damages to whole country due to floods triggered by heavy rains during the monsoon season.

The Government of Japan and JICA will continue to assist the disaster risk management initiatives conducted by the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Islamabad. Professional matters pertaining to Pakistan Air Force were discussed during the meeting



Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Mr. Tarek Dahroug, called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. Prime Minister reaffirmed the commitment to expand Pakistan-Egypt relations in diverse fields, including high-level exchanges, trade and economic cooperation, and education and culture.



Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Nadeem Raza called on President Dr Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad



President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the inauguration ceremony of citrus show 2021 at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad



Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed exchanging views with H.E. Dr Mutliq Bin Majed Al Qahtani, Special envoy of Qatar on combating Terrorism and Medication in Conflict Resolution



British Commissioner H.E. Dr Christian Turneer called on Federal Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed



H.E. Mthuthuzeli Madikiza High Commissioner of South Africa met with Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi CEO/Editor/ Publisher of Diplomatic Focus and Country Head of Diplomatic Council.



H.E. Tomas Smetanka Ambassador of Republic of Czech in Pakistan called on Omar Ayub Khan Federal Minister for Energy in his office.



Special Representative to the PM on Religious Harmony and Middle East, Haifz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi meeting with Ambassador of Saudi Arabia

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging views with Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan, H.E. Mr Paulo Neves Pocinho at Naval HQ



Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging views with Ambassador of Greece to Pakistan, H.E. Mr Andreas Papastavrou at Naval HQ



Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Mr Shafqat Mahmood presenting mementos to his Kyrgyz Counterparts Almazbek Bishenaliev



Adviser to PM on commerce and Investment Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood meeting with Mr. Adkham Ikramov, President of Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Tashkent



Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan H.E. Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdul Rehman Bin Faisal Al Thani called on Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed in Islamabad



Federal Minister for Energy Omar Ayub Kahn met H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Saleem Al Zaabi Ambassador of UAE in Pakistan



Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin ul Haque in a meeting with German Ambassador to Pakistan Bernhard Schlagheck in Islamabad.



Muhammad Sualah Ahmed Faruqi Secretary Commerce in a meeting with H.E. Mr. Obaid Alzaabi, Ambassador of UAE in Islamabad.



Prime Minister Imran Khan holds one on one meeting with Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa at Temple Trees in Colombo

Prime Minister Imran Khan received a warm ceremonial welcome by the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

Special Report by Mian Fazal Elahi

At the invitation of the Prime Minister of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa, the Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E. Imran Khan paid a two-day official visit to Sri Lanka on 23-24 February 2021.

Prime Minister Imran Khan was accompanied by a high-level delegation, comprising Federal Ministers and senior Government officials.

This was the first visit by the Prime Minister of Pakistan to Sri Lanka since the formation of the new governments in both the countries, clearly reflecting the warmth and goodwill between the governments and peoples of the two countries.

Prime Minister Imran Khan received a warm ceremonial welcome by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet of Ministers of Sri Lanka.

During the visit, Prime Minister Imran Khan held delegation-level meetings with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka. Both sides comprehensively reviewed the multifaceted bilateral relationship in diverse fields of cooperation.

The talks were held in a warm and cordial atmosphere, marked by mutual trust and respect. The visit afforded a timely opportunity to both sides to further build upon their close and regular consultations, particularly in the



Prime Minister Imran Khan reviews Guard of Honor at Colombo



Prime Minister Imran Khan received Guard of Honor upon arrival at Colombo

areas identified during the recently held Foreign Secretary-level Bilateral Political Consultations, Joint Economic Commission session, and the Commerce Secretaries-level Talks.

Both sides reached broad consensus on ways and means to further strengthen cooperation in a comprehensive manner and agreed to hold frequent meetings; promote high-level and delegation-level exchanges; and enhance the process of consultations, cooperation and coordination between their respective institutions. Prime Minister Imran Khan reiterated Pakistan's support for the socio-economic development of Sri Lanka in line with the vision of a "peaceful neighborhood".

The two sides reviewed the extensive engagement that exists between the two countries in promoting cultural linkages, human resource development, and capacity building in diverse areas as well as educational and technical cooperation. The Pakistan side announced 100 scholarships in the field of medicines (MBBS and BDS) as part of the Pakistan-Sri Lanka Higher Education Cooperation Programme (PSLHECP). The Sri Lankan side appreciated the cooperation being extended by Pakistan in human resource development and capacity building.

While realizing the existence of great potential

Pakistan and Sri Lanka stressed the need of SAARC Member countries to build on convergences, for greater good of the people in the region

of religious tourism to Buddhist archeological sites and noting the close ancient and cultural ties dating back to Gandhara civilization, the two sides underscored the importance of enhancing cooperation in the field of tourism and highlighted the benefits of sharing expertise in the hospitality industry, including training and capacity building. The Pakistan side announced its initiative of establishing Asian Civilization and Culture Centre at University of Peradeniya, Kandy.

Both sides recognized the importance of enhancing air connectivity to promote people-to-people contact, tourism, trade and culture.

In order to explore new avenues for enhancing bilateral trade and investment between the two countries, a high-level Pakistan-Sri Lanka Trade and Investment Conference was held on



24 February 2021. The Conference provided an opportunity for effective and meaningful engagement between the business communities of the two countries.

At the conference, both Pakistan and Sri Lanka sides reiterated the importance of strengthening economic relations in key areas of mutual interest and diversifying trade and investment between the two countries. The two sides stressed the importance of realizing the goal of achieving US\$ 1 billion bilateral trade target and also agreed to work towards broadening and deepening of Pakistan Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement.

During the visit, the following MoUs between

Pakistan and Sri Lanka were signed:

- i. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Cooperation in Tourism
- ii. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation between the Board of Investment of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Board of Investment of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- iii. Memorandum of Understanding between Industrial Technology Institute (ITI), the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and



International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences, University of Karachi Islamic Republic of Pakistan

iv. Intent of Cooperation between Industrial Technology Institute of Sri Lanka and COMSATS University Islamabad

v. Memorandum of Understanding between University of Colombo, Sri Lanka and Lahore School of Economics, Pakistan

Pakistan and Sri Lanka underlined the importance of inter-religious dialogue and harmony as a key to promote cultural diversity, peaceful co-existence and mutual empathy

Prime Minister Imran Khan and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa jointly acknowledged the reconstitution of the Sri Lanka-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Association. Both sides underscored the need to strengthen parliamentary cooperation between the two sides.



Prime Minister Imran Khan holds one-on-one meeting with President of Sri Lanka Gotabaya Rajapaksa at Presidential Secretariat in Colombo



Delegation Level Talks Between Prime Minister Imran Khan and Prime Minister Imran Mahinda Rajapaksa at Colombo

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the existing bilateral cooperation in the field of defence and noted that the elevation of staff-level talks to Defence Dialogue has further provided an opportunity to expand security sector relations. Prime Minister Imran Khan announced a new \$50 million defence credit line facility.

The two sides stressed the need for stronger partnership for supporting and coordinating with each other in dealing with matters related

to security, terrorism, organized crime and drug and narcotic trafficking as well as intelligence-sharing.

Prime Minister Imran Khan in his efforts to strengthen sports diplomacy participated at an interactive session with the sports community of Sri Lanka on 24 February 2021.

At this event, Sri Lanka's Minister of Sports and Youth Namal Rajapaksa, in the presence

of the Parliament Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardane, announced the commissioning of the “Imran Khan High Performance Sports Centre” in Colombo.

The Pakistan side announced its decision to provide PKR 52 million for promotion of sports in Sri Lanka, including through training and equipment.

Both sides underlined the importance of inter-religious dialogue and harmony as a key to promote cultural diversity, peaceful co-existence and mutual empathy.

The two sides noted the close cooperation between the two countries at regional and international fora on issues of mutual interest, and agreed to further strengthen a coordinated approach on such matters.

Both sides reiterated their commitment to the principles and objectives of the SAARC Charter and stressed the need of SAARC Member countries to build on convergences, for greater good of the people in the region. Both sides stressed the need to convene the Charter Based bodies and agreed to take forward the SAARC process for further strengthening regional cooperation to achieve prosperity in the region.

Discussing the developments in regional and global environment the two sides reaffirmed their joint commitment to regional peace, security and stability. Prime Minister Imran Khan underscored the need for peaceful resolution of outstanding disputes through constructive dialogue in accordance with international legitimacy.

In the context of regional connectivity, Prime Minister Imran Khan highlighted the opportunities presented by China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of BRI, for regional economic growth and prosperity.

Discussing the unprecedented challenges posed by Covid - 19, the two sides underscored the need for collective efforts to deal with the pandemic. Sri Lanka thanked Pakistan for the tremendous assistance extended to the repatriation of stranded Sri Lankans in Pakistan since the outbreak of the Covid pandemic. While reiterating the commitment of the new government to further strengthen the bilateral relations, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka thanked the government, and people of Pakistan for the constant support extended by Pakistan to safeguard the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan extended an invitation to the President and the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka to visit Pakistan at their earliest convenience. Prime Minister Imran Khan thanked Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa for the warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation.



Prime Minister Imran Khan and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa witnessing Signing of MoUs at Colombo



Prime Minister Imran Khan and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa witnessing Signing of MoUs at Colombo



Prime Minister Imran Khan and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa witnessing Signing of MoUs at Colombo



Prime Minister Imran Khan and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa witnessing Signing of MoUs at Colombo



During Prime Minister Imran Khan's official visit to Sri Lanka, Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi held an informal meeting with his Sri Lankan counterpart, Mr. Dinesh Gunawardena, in Colombo.

Foreign Minister Qureshi held a meeting with Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi held a bilateral meeting with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, Dinesh Gunawardena in Colombo. The Foreign Minister underscored the importance Pakistan attached to its relations with Sri Lanka and further strengthening the multifaceted cooperation. He stressed that Prime Minister Imran Khan's present visit was reflective of the priority accorded to this relationship.

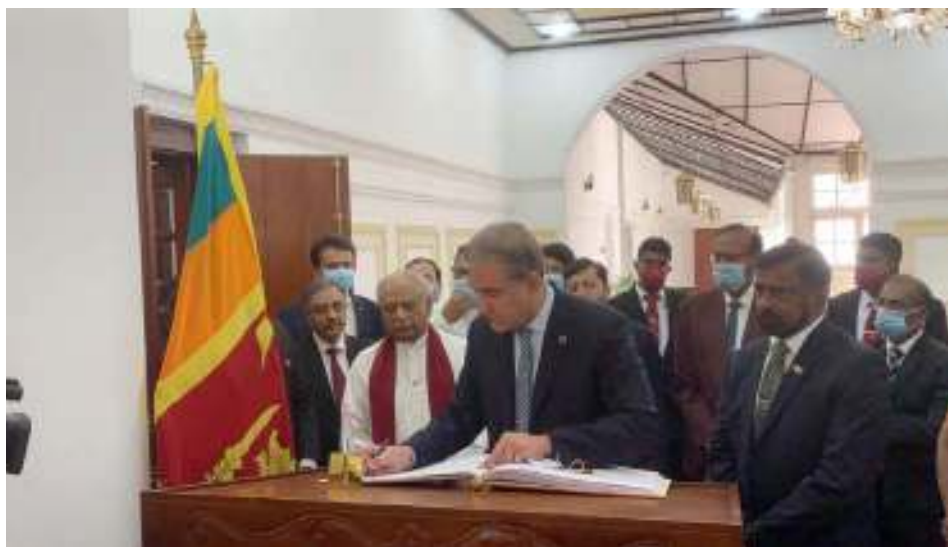
The two Foreign Ministers reviewed the whole gamut of bilateral relations. Underscoring the need to enhance bilateral trade and investment, Foreign Minister Qureshi expressed satisfaction at the progress made during the recently held meetings of the 12th Joint Economic Commission (JEC) and 7th Commerce Secretary



Foreign Minister Qureshi expressed satisfaction at the progress made during the recently held meetings of the 12th Joint Economic Commission (JEC) and 7th Commerce Secretary Level talks

Level talks. He welcomed the convening of the "Trade and Investment Conference" jointly chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.

To realize the full potential of bilateral trade, the need to further expand the Pakistan-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was underscored.





Prime Minister Imran Khan Addresses Pakistan Sri Lanka Trade & Investment Conference at Colombo

In the context of economic connectivity, Foreign Minister Qureshi highlighted that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), could be a game changer for the entire region.

The Foreign Minister also highlighted the mutual benefit that linking of Gwader Port in Pakistan to the Sri Lankan Ports could bring to both the countries. He invited Sri Lanka to benefit from Gwader Port for easy access to the Central Asian markets. Foreign Minister Qureshi, noting the close traditional and cultural ties between the two countries, proposed on promoting religious tourism. The Foreign Minister welcomed the reconstitution of Sri Lanka-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group in Sri Lankan Parliament and underscored the importance of regular parliamentary exchanges to reinforce bilateral cooperation in diverse fields.

Foreign Minister Qureshi stated that Pakistan was a key partner of Sri Lanka in human resource development. In this regard, he highlighted the Pakistan-Sri Lanka Higher Education Cooperation Programme (PSLHECP). The Foreign Minister also appreciated the Sri Lankan cricket team's visit that led to the return of international cricket to Pakistan.

The Foreign Minister shared Pakistan's perspective on major issues of regional and international importance. The two Foreign Ministers re-affirmed the commitment for close cooperation at the regional and international fora, including the UN and SAARC. The two Foreign Ministers agreed to work closely to further strengthen ties and enhance cooperation in diverse fields.



Sri Lankan foreign Minister Mr. Dinesh Gunawardena received Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombo



Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki and Pakistan's army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa are cutting a cake along with the graduating cadets at the Pakistan Air Force Academy Risalpur on Feb. 2, 2021

Saudi wins Best Allied Cadet Trophy at Pakistan Air Force graduation ceremony

By Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: A Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) cadet, Hatem Muhammad Alsofiani, won the Best Allied Cadet Trophy, announced an official statement released by the military's media wing, ISPR, earlier this week, during the graduation ceremony of the 144th General Duty Pilot course at the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Academy in Risalpur.

"Alsofiani, who joined the 144th long course in 2018, was awarded for overall best performance including studies and general services training," Group Captain Muhammad Bahroni, director media affairs with the PAF, told Arab News on Thursday.

According to the ISPR, a total of 133 graduating cadets, including 11 Royal Saudi Air Force trainees, graduated at the ceremony.

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa awarded branch insignias to the



Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa is awarding the Best Allied Cadet Trophy to a Saudi cadet, Hatim Muhammad Alsofiani, during the graduation ceremony at the Pakistan Air Force Academy in Risalpur on Feb. 2, 2021. (Photo courtesy: Pakistan Air Force)



graduating officers and gave away trophies to distinction holders.

"We are training 50 Saudi cadets and officers in Pakistan, and these 11 [who graduated] will continue to stay in the country for one more year as officers," Bahroni said, adding that 34 Saudi cadets were still being trained at the academy.

"The rest of the five officers have completed their course at the academy and are now getting technical training for one more year in Pakistan," he added.

Addressing the graduation ceremony, the army chief congratulated all young officers for their landmark achievement and applauded the presence of Saudi cadets at the PAF Academy.

"This is a manifestation of warm fraternal ties between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and our Defense Forces indeed. We are proud of the strong bonds of Islam, brotherhood and cultural

communion that bind us together," he said.

Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki was also present at the graduation

ceremony which was followed by a thrilling performance of aerobatics by PAF pilots and a specialized military drill.



Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa and Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan are witnessing a thrilling display of aerobatics by Pakistani pilots during the graduation ceremony held at the Pakistan Air Force Academy in Risalpur on Feb. 2, 2021. (Photo courtesy: Pakistan Air Force)



Foreign Minister Qureshi appreciated Qatar's positive efforts as the host of the U.S.-Taliban Peace Agreement & Intra-Afghan Negotiations



By Bilal Ahmed

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar's Special Envoy for Counterterrorism and Mediation in Conflict Resolution Dr. Mutlaq bin Majed Al-Qahtani called on Minister of Foreign Affairs Shah Mahmood Qureshi in Islamabad. Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi received Special Envoy of the Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar, Dr. Mutlaq bin Majed Al-Qahtani. Matters of mutual interest were discussed, with a special focus on the Afghan peace process.

Foreign Minister Qureshi appreciated Qatar's positive and constructive efforts as the host of the U.S.-Taliban talks that culminated in the Peace Agreement and the subsequent Intra-Afghan Negotiations. The Foreign Minister highlighted that both Pakistan and Qatar had facilitated the Afghan peace process. Foreign Minister Qureshi reiterated that Pakistan strongly believed in a negotiated settlement as there was no military solution of the conflict in Afghanistan. Emphasizing that peace and stability in Afghanistan were in Pakistan's

interest, the Foreign Minister underscored the need to remain vigilant of the role of 'spoilers' seek to undermine the peace process.

The Foreign Minister hoped that the collective efforts to achieve lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan would bear fruit.

Foreign Minister Qureshi also expressed the hope that progress on the implementation of

the U.S.-Taliban Peace Agreement would be maintained to achieve its stated objectives of a peaceful political settlement in Afghanistan.

The Foreign Minister reiterated Pakistan's support for Intra-Afghan Negotiations which provide a historic opportunity for establishment of durable peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region.



The Defence Minister of Iraq meets Foreign Minister Qureshi



By M. Bilal Zafar

The Defence Minister of the Republic of Iraq, Jumaah Enad Saadoon, met Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, today.

Foreign Minister Qureshi welcomed the Iraqi Defence Minister and underscored the importance accorded by Pakistan to its fraternal ties with Iraq. The two Ministers reaffirmed the mutual desire to further promote and solidify existing bilateral relations. Stressing the need for frequent high-level exchanges between the two countries, the Foreign Minister hoped that the visit of the Iraqi Defence Minister will help diversify and deepen collaboration between the two countries in the fields of defence and defence production.

The two Ministers also exchanged views on the regional situation. Foreign Minister Qureshi reiterated Pakistan's support for sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity of Iraq.

Pakistan and Iraq enjoy warm and friendly ties, rooted deep in shared faith, values and culture. Both countries cooperate closely in regional and multilateral fora.



H.E. the Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to Pakistan Ambassador Nawaf called on H.E. Imran Ismail, the Governor of Sindh in Karachi. Topics of mutual interests were discussed.



H.E. the Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to Pakistan Ambassador Nawaf called on the Sindh Chief Minister H.E. Syed Murad Ali Shah in Karachi. Topics of mutual interest were discussed.



H.E. Andreas Ferrarese, Ambassador of Italy in Pakistan with Counsul General of Italy, Danilo Giurdanella Paid a courtesty call on Governor Sindh Mr. Imran Ismail



Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets with Ambassador of Italy in Pakistan Mr Andreas Ferrarese at CM House





Embassy of the State of Qatar, Islamabad Celebrates National Sport Day

By: Mlan Fazal Elahi

On the occasion of Qatar's National Sports Day, Qatar Embassy Islamabad organized various sport activities in presence of HE Sheikh / Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, members of the diplomatic mission and military attaché and the local staff.

In his statement on this occasion, HE the Ambassador said that the State of Qatar is currently playing an increasingly prominent and effective role in the field of sports. Qatar is using sports as a reason to forge friendship and to enhance the relations with nations worldwide and has expressed the wish to be active around the world as an outward looking state dedicated to the improvement of relations between nations through sports.

HE the Ambassador added that the national sport day is an important annual event for all, making sports one of the most important pillars of the National Vision 2030, pointing out that the celebration of the Sport Day this year comes in light of the preparations of the State of Qatar to host the World Cup 2022, stressing that the sports field in the State of Qatar is witnessing a major renaissance at the present time, similar to what is being witnessed in the political, economic and social fields.

His Excellency affirmed the State of Qatar's great interest in sports and its keenness to

promote a culture and a healthy lifestyle, pointing to Qatar's hosting of some of the largest international sport events. The Sport Day activities included running, and a number

of other individual sports activities, while adhering to the precautionary measures related to COVID-19.





Qatar Petroleum enters into a long-term agreement for the supply of 3 MTPA of LNG to Pakistan

Monitoring Desk

Qatar Petroleum entered into a new long-term Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA) with Pakistan State Oil Company Limited (PSO) for the supply of up to 3 million tons per annum (MTPA) of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Under the 10-year agreement, LNG deliveries to Pakistan's world-class receiving terminals will commence in 2022 and continue until the end of 2031.

The SPA was signed in Islamabad by His Excellency Mr. Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, the Minister of State for Energy Affairs, the President and CEO of Qatar Petroleum, and Mr. Syed Taha, the Managing Director & CEO of PSO in a special ceremony held under the patronage and with attendance of H.E. Mr. Imran Khan, the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, senior Pakistani government officials and H.E. Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Qatar's Ambassador to Pakistan.

His Excellency Mr. Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi welcomed the SPA signing and said: "We are delighted to enter into this new long-term agreement with Pakistan State Oil Company Limited and to continue our contributions towards meeting Pakistan's increasing energy demand."

His Excellency Minister Al-Kaabi added: "This agreement further extends Qatar's long standing LNG supply relationship with Pakistan and highlights our commitment to meeting Pakistan's LNG requirements. We are confident

that the exceptional reliability of our LNG supplies will provide PSO with the required flexibility and supply security to fuel Pakistan's impressive growth."

His Excellency Minister Al-Kaabi concluded his remarks by saying: "With a well-established gas market and distribution system, Pakistan is a strategically important market for Qatar LNG. We are encouraged by Pakistan's exceptional growth and excellent economic potential as well as by the prospect of it being one of the world's fastest growing LNG markets. I would like to take this opportunity to thank His Excellency Prime Minister Imran Khan for his support and for his patronage of this special event. I also would like to thank Pakistan's energy officials as well as PSO's management for all their efforts and for the professional and transparent negotiations leading to today's important agreement."

Pakistan currently has two operational LNG receiving terminals, namely the Engro LNG Receiving Terminal and Pakistan GasPort LNG Receiving Terminal, both of which, utilize Floating Storage and Regasification Units moored in Port Qasim. There are a number of additional terminals currently under consideration by various private sector players in the country.

This is the second such agreement signed between Qatari and Pakistani entities since 2016, when Qatargas signed a long-term agreement to supply PSO with 3.75 MTPA of LNG. Today's agreement raises the total of long-term LNG supplies from Qatar to Pakistan to 6.75 MTPA.

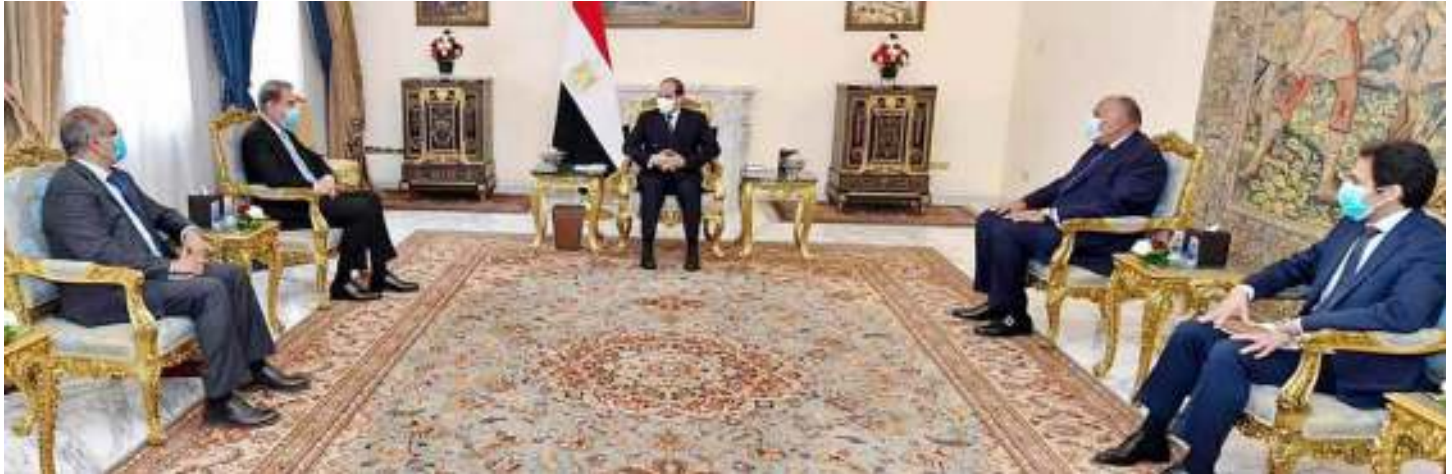
About Qatar Petroleum

Qatar Petroleum is an integrated national oil corporation responsible for the sustainable development of the oil and gas industry in the State of Qatar and beyond.

Qatar Petroleum's activities encompass the entire spectrum of the oil and gas value chain locally, regionally, and internationally, and include the exploration, production, processing, marketing and sales of oil and gas, liquefied natural gas (LNG), natural gas liquids (NGL), gas to liquids (GTL) products, refined products, petrochemicals, fertilizers, steel and aluminum.

Qatar Petroleum is committed to contribute to a better future by meeting today's economic needs, while safeguarding our environment and resources for generations to come. Thriving on innovation and excellence, Qatar Petroleum is bound to the highest levels of sustainable human, socio-economic, and environmental development.

For more information, please visit www.qp.com.qa



Pakistan and Egypt determined to take the bilateral relationship to new heights

By Mian Fazal Elahi

During the visit, the Foreign Minister called on President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, and held delegation-level talks with the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Sameh Shoukry, besides holding a meeting with Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary General of the League of Arab States.

In his meeting with the Egyptian President, the Foreign Minister conveyed the warm greetings of the Prime Minister of Pakistan and invited him to visit Pakistan on behalf of President Arif Alvi. Foreign Minister Qureshi, while referring to the shared vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Sisi, emphasized the importance of increased high level visits and economic engagement to translate the vision and cordiality into a mutually beneficial partnership.

President Sisi expressed great appreciation for the leadership and the people of Pakistan and hoped that the two countries could play an important role in addressing the challenges faced by Muslim Ummah.

During the delegation level talks with his Egyptian counterpart, the Foreign Ministers agreed to deepen bilateral relations by holding soon the next sessions of the Bilateral Political Consultations as well as the Joint Ministerial Commission. Foreign Minister Qureshi invited his counterpart to visit Pakistan at his earliest convenience. Foreign Minister Shoukry promised to visit Pakistan as soon as possible.

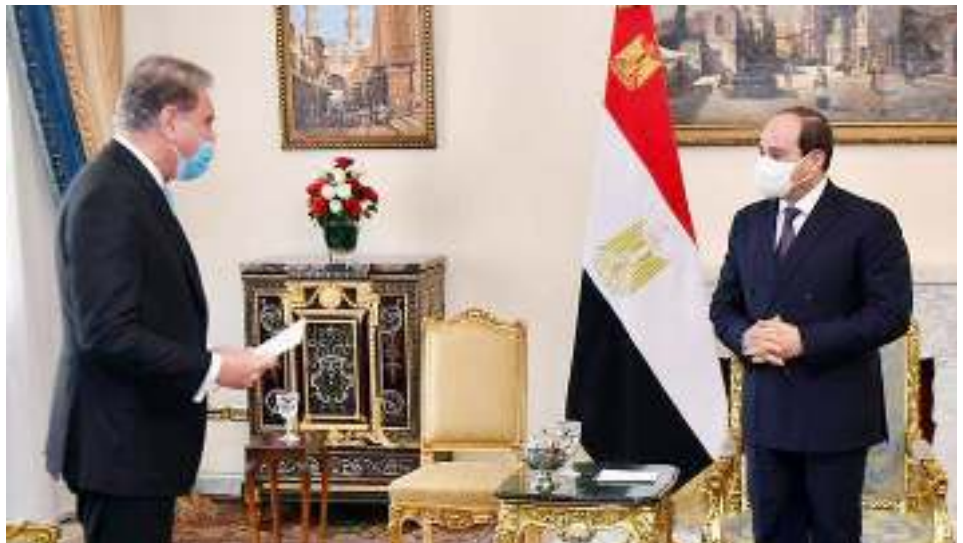
The Foreign Minister briefed his interlocutor about the humanitarian crisis being faced by the Kashmiri people in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and stressed the need for the international community to take action against the egregious human rights violations being committed against the innocent Kashmiri people. Both Foreign Ministers echoed

each other's desire and commitment to take the bilateral relationship to new heights.

The Foreign Minister also visited the Arab League Headquarters and met Secretary General Ahmed Aboul Gheit. He appreciated Arab League's unwavering commitment to the Palestinian cause. The Foreign Minister emphasized the need for a dialogue mechanism between Pakistan and the Arab League to

enhance mutual understanding.

Besides official meetings, the Foreign Minister also interacted with the leading Egyptian businessmen, local media and Pakistani community. Pakistan and Egypt enjoy close fraternal relations. The visit of the Foreign Minister would serve as a stepping stone for a stronger and broader partnership between the two brotherly countries.





Foreign Minister meets the Secretary General of the Arab League in Cairo

By: Milan Fazal Elahi

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met the Secretary General of the Arab League, Ahmed AboulGheit, at the Headquarters of the Organization in Cairo.

The Foreign Minister highlighted the importance attached by Pakistan to the member states of the Arab League. With deep bonds of shared faith, culture and values, Pakistan enjoyed strong political, security, trade and diaspora linkages with all countries of the organization. Pakistan hoped that its bilateral cordial relations with Arab countries should also translate into a closer collaboration with the Arab League.

Recalling the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Pakistan and the Arab League, the Foreign Minister and the Secretary General discussed ways of reinvigorating the framework to develop tangible cooperation and collaboration. They agreed to remain engaged in this regard. The Foreign Minister and the Secretary General also discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest. Foreign Minister Qureshi apprised the Secretary General of Pakistan's efforts towards promoting peace in Afghanistan. He also briefed the Secretary General on latest developments in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and the continued grave human rights violations by the occupying Indian forces, especially since August 2019.

The Foreign Minister appreciated the Secretary General for his skillful diplomacy, enabling the organization to present unified stance on major issues. He hoped that the Arab League will continue to benefit from his professionalism and experience.





WHAT PAKISTAN NEEDS TO DO FOR EDUCATION IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS



By Chaudhry Faisal Mushtaq

The fundamental principles for any democratic society are choice, equity and inclusion; by echoing a populist-political demand for single national curriculum, standardized exams, regimented testing regimes and uniform text books, we shall sponsor a polarized nation-state and thus imposing one size fit all. Which brings the big education question into picture, which is; do we need 'uniformity in curriculum' or 'equity or inclusion in learning' over the next 10 years?

Since Pakistan is far from its global commitment to the United Nations sustainable development goals SDGs 2030 which is about assuring the world on quality, equal opportunity, access, inclusion and standards, our education regimes and policy provisions over the next decade must replace an empty mind with an open mind. In today's time and age, uniformity is a war strategy not a human capital strategy. Choice based equitable quality education and inclusive public literacy should be the first line of defense for our national and social security over the next decade.

What many of us do not realize, while we may have 220 million subjects living in Pakistan, we are far from having as many citizens. Education and literacy over the next decade, shall be the

single common denominator for transforming subjects into citizenry. The trust deficient in education policy viz-a-viz federating units must be consolidated with the reconstruction or revision of the 18th constitutional amendment. This brings us to realize the fact that education should not be about 'testing for nation'; it should be about 'investing in society'. The contents, pedagogy, standards, framework and assessments of the curricula should remain with the federation since the provinces could take liberties which may result in putting the unity and ideology of the country at risk in the future.

As an educational theorist I would suggest, there are two kinds of federations in the world; to hold-together and to come-together, we need to make a move from 'holding the provinces together' to democratically persuading them 'to come together' for education. Suspicion and ideological disparity, and the conflict within educational responsibility paradigm has demonized the marketplace, may it be public, provincial or a private provider and must be undone. As a society and federation, we need to redefine the social contract in support of charter-of-education before any other charter, our national curriculum and framework requires informed unity; rather than enforced uniformity.

Over the next decade, we must move towards outcome based education through digital inclusion, ICT integration, skill based learning, non-standardized tests, choice based curriculum and diversity in assessments; thereby spinning job creation, scaling entrepreneurship through digital, social and financial inclusion and nurturing sustainable models of national development. Key Interventions to bridge the growing education and literacy gap must include - skill based or vocational education

as a winning strategy to prepare our youth for the future - financial literacy Inclusion and instilling financial acumen across academic-marketplace - affordable interest free study loans for undergraduate and postgraduate education - incremental doubling in education Budget for all - digital inclusivity, electronic and mobile learning ecosystem and Infrastructure - training and capacity building of teachers and practitioners - enriched national curriculum - standards monitoring regime and regulatory oversight for educational institutions - need to embrace 22million Out of school children OOSC and finally mainstreaming maddaris for national social cohesion and economic integration.

Going forward, we must reflect and learn from the ongoing impact of the pandemic, with the largest closure of educational institutions after the second world war with 1.6 billion children out of school today; hence we must not get muddled in the self-inflicted debate of 'medium of instruction' in comparison to 'medium of learning'. Nation-states among the global comity have transited from traditional blackboard-medium to whiteboard-medium, and now, we must embrace the digital-medium by ensuring equitable education ecosystem through connectivity, access and quality.

It is the need of the hour to revisit our social-contract and demonstrate choice and access in our national education policy; thus ensuring a promising, inclusive yet sustainable future for our citizens, classrooms and country.

Chaudhry Faisal Mushtaq - The writer is an educationist, a former minister and recognized as 500 Influential Muslims of the world. He tweets @FaisalMushtaq18



30th Anniversary of the Establishment of V4 Conference in Islamabad

By: Muhammad Bilal Zafar

The event, attended by top Pakistani media outlets, was led by Ambassador of Poland, Mr. Piotr Opaliński, who elaborated on the history, main concepts, future plans, and potential for Visegrad Group's cooperation with Pakistan. The Hungarian Embassy was represented by Ambassador Béla Fazekas, while deputy head of mission Mr. Antonín Hradilek spoke for the Czech Republic. The presence of nearly 50 representatives from 25 largest media outlets in Pakistan attests to a significant interest created by the event.

The most prominent topics touched upon by the inquiring journalists concerned suggestions for Pakistan resulting from the V4 Members' experiences of transformation, the noticeably growing interest of Pakistani students in higher education in these countries, the epidemiological situation in Central Europe, as well as Polish winter mountaineering, which contributes to Poland's positive image among diverse groups of Pakistani citizens.

After the main seminar, Ambassadors of the Visegrad Group countries held several individual interviews with a number of reporters, which further raised the event's profile and visibility in local media.





Italian Ambassador H.E. Mr. Andreas Ferrarese inaugurates MMUN

Islamabad : Italy Ambassador, Andreas Ferrarese with Madame Albana Andreas inaugurates the three-day mega event Millennial Model United Nations (MMUN) 2021 at the Flagship Millennium College Campus, I-9/3,. The MMUN 2021 with the theme World Dynamics during COVID-19 is the outcome of the aspirant and motivated students of Millennium College Campus I-9/3, Islamabad. Present on the occasion amongst the Guests of Honours, were the Education Counsellor of the Republic of Turkey Dr. İlhami Ayranci, distinguished Director of China Media Group Mr. Chen Xiang, The Millennium Education CEO Chaudhry Faisal Mushtaq TI, Executive Director Anna Faisal and Director Sabina Zakir.

Italy envoy Andreas Ferrarese in his speech to the delegates expressed his pleasure in witnessing the event and stressed that education is the best investment for the future of the country. He further shed light on his own MUN experiences as a student and how they helped pave the path of his diplomatic career. Moreover, he spoke on the fact that Italy and Pakistan maintain extensive bilateral, friendly and economic cooperation since decades and that there is a lot of potential and opportunities for the two countries to further cement their relations.

The opening ceremony was marked by some breath-taking performances by the Millennials which included a flag-parade with National Anthems of both the countries Pakistan and Italy, artistic performances and a motivational speech by Chaudhry Faisal Mushtaq TI, Founder and CEO of The Millennium Education, where he inspired the educated youth to play a significant role in sensitizing the international community and to maximise their skills of diplomacy as





Millennium Model United Nations is built on open minds and fresh ideas- the essence of successful diplomacy.

The event is to be a mix of various elements such as cultural diversity, intellectual mind set and delegates from sister campuses nationwide who get to win a memorable experience. The conference opened opportunities for the students to be truly engaged in the learning process which has been missing since long due to pandemic. Students at Millennium College Campus, I-9/3, understand that in the near future the focus of dynamics of the world has shifted from specialized knowledge to a more holistic development of the individual and that the world needs leaders that can resolve local and global issues through peaceful negotiations.



Diplomats appreciated Ehsaas programme initiatives in Khyber Tribal District and Peshawar



By Monitoring Desk

SAPM Dr. Sania Nishtar was accompanied by H.E. Christian Turner, British High Commissioner; Najj Benhassine, Country Director World Bank; Xiaohong Yang, Country Director Asian Development Bank; Julien Harneis, UN Resident Coordinator; Androulla Kaminara, Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan; and Lire Ersado from the World Bank on the visit to Khyber Tribal District and Peshawar, where they took stock of the multisector Ehsaas interventions and met beneficiaries. The foreign delegation had expressed an interest to see multi-sectoral Ehsaas interventions in the field. The visit began with the inauguration of Ehsaas Nashonuma Center at Civil Hospital in Jamrud, Khyber Tribal District. Dr. Nishtar formally opened the Nashonuma centre with a curtain raising. Following it, the delegation visited a survey site in outskirts of Peshawar to oversee the digital registration of the local household through Ehsaas survey. Later, the delegation also joined the children and their mothers in Peshawar to

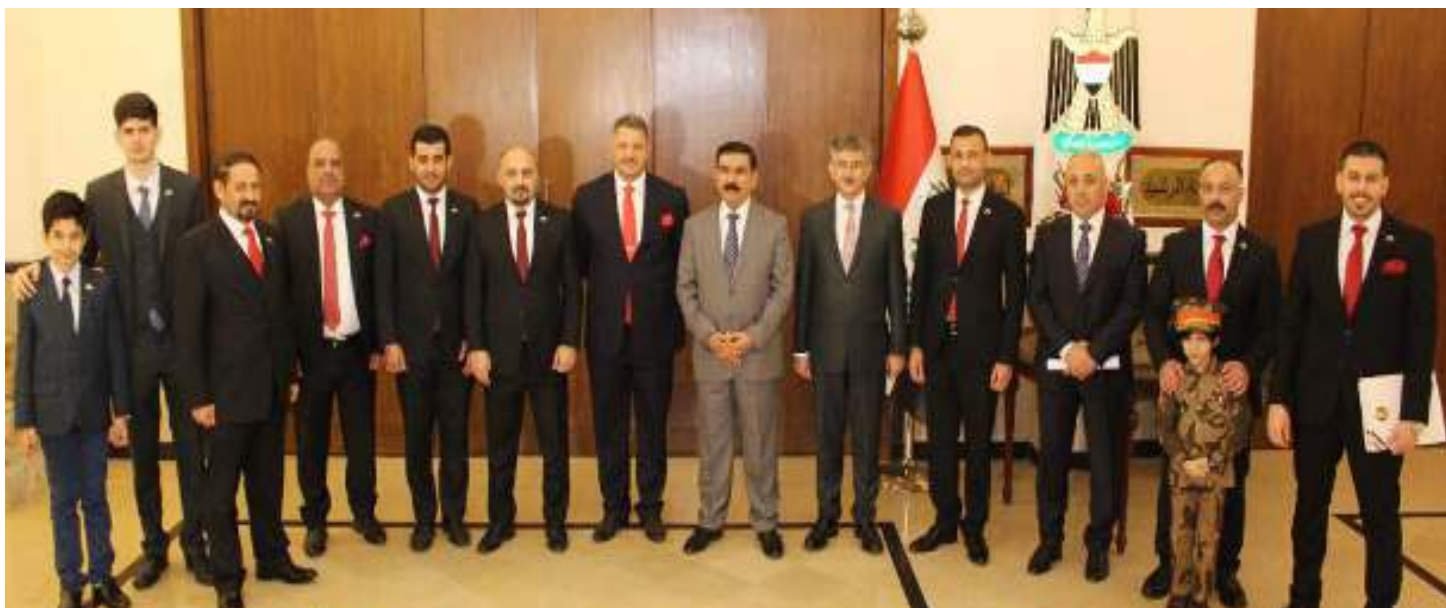
witness new enrolments of deserving children in Waseela-e-Taleem Digital. The high-level delegation was especially inspired by the success of the Ehsaas programme that was completed in

one and a half years' time and were fascinated by its transformative characteristics they saw in in KP.



The Ambassador of Iraq in Islamabad holds a dinner reception in honor of Honorable Iraqi Minister of Defense during his visit to Pakistan

H.E. Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad, on 24/2/2021, in the presence of the embassy staff, held a dinner invitation in honor of the Iraqi Minister of Defense, Lieutenant General Juma'a Enad Saadon Al-Jubouri, and the accompanying delegation, at the embassy's headquarters. A number of Arab military attaches accredited to Pakistan, and a number of Pakistani government officials were also invited. Honorable Minister discussed with the Arab military attaches issues of common interest, and ways to cooperate with Iraq in a way that serves everyone's interests, pointing at the same time to the threat of the terrorist organization "ISIS" on Iraq and the region, praising the heroic role of all types of Iraqi security forces in defeating this extremist organization. The Iraqi delegation's visit to Pakistan comes to discuss with their counterparts common issues, security and defense aspects, in addition to developing military expertise on both sides and ways to benefit from them in order to achieve the common interests of both sides.



New prospects for Egypt-Pakistan cooperation

Egypt-Pakistan relations are deeply rooted. What is your evaluation of the bilateral political ties?

FM Shah Mahmood Qureshi: Relations between Pakistan and Egypt are based on bonds of common faith and culture and similarity of perception on many regional and global issues. The foundation of our relations was laid by the father of our nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah who visited Egypt in 1946, even before the independence of Pakistan.

Over the past 70 years, our relations have grown steadily, with institutional mechanisms set up gradually to foster cooperation in all fields.

A new chapter was opened after the inauguration of Prime Minister Imran Khan in 2018 and his meeting with President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi twice in 2019, i.e. on the margins of the OIC summit in Makkah, and the 74th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

They spoke again in 2020 to cooperate on Prime Minister Imran Khan's "Global Initiative on Debt Relief" for developing countries.

Our leaders also agreed on a roadmap for revival of traditional warmth in our fraternal relations.

I have also had the pleasure of meeting my Egyptian counterpart, His Excellency, Mr.

Sameh Shoukry a number of times. My current visit to Cairo is aimed at preparing grounds for augmenting our bilateral relations.

The volume of economic and trade relations between Cairo and Islamabad falls short to the size of bilateral political relations. Why? And what is your vision to support economic cooperation?

FM Qureshi: Pakistan and Egypt have dynamic economies with robust rates of growth. Our emerging markets are poised to play a pivotal role in promoting global trade and economic

cooperation.

Both countries are strategically located at the crossroads of continents where they serve as corridors for trade and energy. While Egypt is a pier on the maritime Silk Route, we have also established a deep sea port at Gwadar, which is ready to contribute positively to regional trade.

There is enormous potential for our two countries to collaborate under the umbrella of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Pakistan attaches great importance to developing trade and economic cooperation





with Africa -- an emerging economic bloc with immense potential to contribute to global trade and economy.

We look forward to establishing collaborative mechanisms to promote trade and economic cooperation with Egypt. It is a pivot for Pakistan's "Engage Africa" policy.

How do you see Egypt and President El-Sisi's role in achieving security and stability in MENA?

FM Qureshi: President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi is an astute and accomplished statesman who continues to play an important role in promoting peace, security, and prosperity in the region.

This has been manifested in his chairmanship of the African Union in 2019 and hosting of the first Arab-EU summit in Sharm El-Sheikh in 2019. His initiative to organise an annual World Youth Forum was also commendable. Egypt's deft handling of the COVID-19 crisis also won him laurels.

Unfortunately, the Middle East region is experiencing turmoil and instability. These challenges have overshadowed regional efforts to help the disenfranchised people of Palestine get their right to self-determination.

We hope that Egypt, under the dynamic leadership of President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, will continue to contribute to promoting peace, stability, and cooperation in the region.

What do you think about developments in Egypt politically, economically, and on the

security level?

FM Qureshi: Egypt is a vibrant nation. As one of the most ancient civilisations of the world, the country is blessed with strong traditions and institutions, which have helped it overcome internal and external challenges.

We are pleased to see political and economic progress achieved by Egypt over the past few years. I am confident that the Egyptian people would attain new milestones in their march on the road to peace, stability, security, and prosperity. We wish well for the country, and I am here with a message of friendship. Our governments and peoples can be partners in peace and development.

What is Pakistan's vision for the situation in the Middle East?

FM Qureshi: The Middle East region faces turmoil primarily because of the denial of the right to self-determination to the people of Palestine. What is worrying is that the world powers, rather than resolving this fundamental dispute, are grappling with its political and security effects on the region.

This is very similar to the situation in South Asia, where the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir regions are persistently denied their UN guaranteed right to self-determination for seven decades.

Pakistan's vision for the Middle East, as well as South Asia, is of peace and development. It is rooted in a firm belief that disputes and

conflicts must be resolved through dialogue, diplomacy, and within the ambit of International law, in particular the relevant Security Council resolutions. Prime Minister Imran Khan has stressed that war is in no one's interest. He also made it clear that Pakistan would not be part of any conflict in the region but will be a partner for peace. We will continue to make efforts for peace on the basis of these principles.

Kashmir is one of Pakistan's key and thorny issues. In your opinion, what is the future of relations between Pakistan and India in view of the Kashmir crisis?

FM Qureshi: As I have mentioned earlier, the non-resolution of long-standing disputes, in particular the dispute of India's illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir lies at the core of Pakistan-India relations.

The Kashmir dispute needs to be resolved in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people.

However, instead of granting Kashmiris their legitimate rights, India has resorted to illegal and unilateral actions. Particularly, in the past two years, there have been unprecedented human rights violations and attempts to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory.

Pakistan seeks peaceful and good relations with all its neighbours. Prime Minister Imran Khan has made special gestures for peace and prosperity in the region. Unfortunately, India continues to vitiate the environment. The onus



Foreign Minister Mahkdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi in addressing a joint press conference with his Egyptian Counter Part Sameh Hassan Shoukry at Ministry of Foreign Affairs Egypt

is on them to create an enabling environment for a meaningful engagement.

We believe that the international community should play its role in facilitating resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute for durable peace and stability in South Asia.

How do you evaluate the UN and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) roles in the Kashmir issue?

FM Qureshi: Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognised dispute, and its final disposition must be in accordance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

The issue has triggered major wars. We believe that the only way to attain peace, security, and prosperity in the region is to resolve disputes peacefully.

The people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir have endured deprivation and denial of rights for over seven decades. Their suffering has been magnified by the imposition of draconian laws coupled with further denial of rights and information blackout, which have been documented and acknowledged by the UN Human Rights Commission and other human rights bodies.

The OIC in its 47th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers in November 2020 called for resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

We believe the wider international community must play its rightful role to urge India to abide by the relevant UN resolutions, and stop its egregious and continued violations of the fundamental human rights and International Humanitarian Law.

Pakistan has suffered from terrorism for many years. What is your vision to fight terrorism locally and globally?

FM Qureshi: Terrorism is an international phenomenon that transcends national boundaries and must be condemned in all its forms and manifestations. As a transnational threat, countering terrorism requires strong cooperation among states.

Terrorists usually operate locally but possess means to fund and recruit internationally for their organisations. It is important that countries closely cooperate and share information on terrorist networks to defeat this menace.

While countering terrorism, we must also remain cognizant that the phenomenon is not associated with any particular faith or region.

Pakistan has suffered over 83,000 casualties and economic losses of more than \$126 billion.

However, I am happy to say that collective

efforts of our security forces and the civil society have helped reverse the tide of terrorism. Having eliminated the terrorist hideouts in the remote areas, we are now in the process of reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Pakistan stands ready to share its experience and capability in countering terrorism with other states.

How can Egypt and Pakistan cooperate against terrorism?

FM Qureshi: Egypt and Pakistan have been victims of the scourge of terrorism and share the perception and concerns about the nature and causes of the menace. People as well as security forces of our two countries have made colossal sacrifices. Having achieved success at home, the security agencies of our two countries can work together to find collective solutions to this global menace. Pakistan wishes to further strengthen its counter-terrorism cooperation with Egypt.

What is the OIC's role in fighting terrorism and protecting Islamic minorities in different countries?

FM Qureshi: The OIC is an important platform for Muslim countries to exchange views on issues of mutual interest including terrorism. With regard to protection of Islamic minorities, the OIC member countries have always extended

support both politically and diplomatically to Muslim minorities, in particular in India.

The OIC's Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) has an important role to play in this regard. It has worked admirably thus far, presenting facts and reports on areas where the rights of Muslim minorities have been violated.

The OIC also has an important role of championing the common causes of Muslim Ummah.

Muslim communities around the world look up to the organisation to amplify their voice and concerns. I must appreciate that the OIC, in its latest session of the Council of Foreign Ministers in November 2020 in Niger, unanimously adopted Pakistan-sponsored resolution on countering Islamophobia. Pakistan-sponsored resolution on countering Islamophobia was adopted unanimously.

Pakistan is one of Asia's important and strategic countries, yet it hasn't been able to overcome difficult economic conditions. What is your plan to support the Pakistani economy?

FM Qureshi: The current government of Pakistan has shifted the focus from geo-politics to geo-economics. Our leadership's vision is centered around economic security, which is predicated on connectivity, providing economic

bases as a development strategy and ensuring peace within our borders and beyond.

Under this vision, Pakistan's economic indicators continue to improve as a result of a number of tough reforms undertaken by the current government. The steps taken have not only brought economic stability, it has put our economy on a path of sustainable growth. The IMF has acknowledged Pakistan's economic reform program, which has remained on track and has started to bear fruit. On the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business report, Pakistan climbed 28 places in 2020.

The international rating agency, Moody's, has also upgraded Pakistan's rating. After stabilisation, our economy is well poised for growth in the coming years.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a transformational project for Pakistan's economy. Over the past seven years, CPEC projects have created around 77,000 jobs in the power and infrastructure domain respectively.

Aimed at promoting regional connectivity, shared prosperity and people to people linkages, CPEC is open to third country participation. I would invite Egyptian investors to explore and reap the incentives being offered in the Special Economic Zones under CPEC.

(Courtesy by Al-Ahram)



Group photo of Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi with the delegation of Egyptian Business Community during his visit to Calro



Khojaly genocide commemorated in Pakistan

By News Agency

The Azerbaijani Embassy in Pakistan, in cooperation with the Conflict Resolution Institute, one of the country's specialized think tanks, has organized a seminar on "Bombings, Massacres, Genocides. Crimes against Humanity" dedicated to the 29th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide.

It was stated that the "Bombing, Massacres, Genocides. Crimes against Humanity" Sabah Aslam, head of the Conflict Resolution Institute, Amjad Shoaib, a defense analyst and retired lieutenant general, Dr. Salma Malik, a professor of defense and strategic research at Kayde Azam University, a number of Pakistani parliamentarians, diplomats, youth and university students, students, members of the media and the public.

After the national anthems of the two countries, commemoration of the victims of the genocide and the screening of a documentary on the Khojaly genocide with the support of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Sabah Aslam, head of the Islamabad Conflict Resolution Institute, opened the seminar with information on the consequences of the Khojaly genocide.

Azerbaijani Ambassador to Pakistan Ali Alizadeh began his speech by saying that the Khojaly massacre was a continuation of the 200-year-old policy of genocide and ethnic cleansing committed by Armenian chauvinists and nationalists against Azerbaijanis throughout history. The Armenian military-political





leadership addressed the Azerbaijani civilian population and innocent people. He said that he continued his crimes against Azerbaijan during the Great Patriotic War, and that this was due to the fact that the perpetrators of massacres such as the Khojaly genocide, which were once committed against humanity, still go unpunished. During the Second Karabakh War, the Armenian armed forces deliberately subjected the civilian population of Azerbaijani cities such as Ganja, Barda, and Tartar, far from the conflict zone, to large-scale rocket attacks. Noting that the killing of hundreds of innocent people, including infants and women, is an example of modern Armenian savagery and genocide, Ambassador Ali Alizadeh said that the international community must show unity and determination against war crimes. Recalling the resolutions adopted by the Pakistani National Assembly, as well as various standing committees of the Pakistani Senate and Assembly, and the Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, recognizing the Khojaly genocide and strongly condemning Armenia's occupation of Azerbaijani lands, the ambassador expressed political and moral support to Azerbaijan during the 44-day war. thanked the state and people of Pakistan for their commitment and principled stand against Armenian injustice.

Shahriyar Afridi, Pakistan's Federal Minister and Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir, said the 29th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide was celebrated this year, adding that

the massacre of civilians by Armenians was a crime against humanity. The Federal Minister condemned these crimes against humanity committed in Khojaly, Kashmir and around the world, noting the non-compliance with UN resolutions in favor of Muslim countries, and regretted that international organizations approach many issues from double standards.

Reservist Lieutenant General Amjad Shoaib and Professor of Defense and Strategic Studies at Kayde Azam University Dr. Selma Malik also spoke about the history of the Khojaly genocide, the brutal killing of innocent civilians by Armenians in Khojaly, and strongly condemned these crimes against humanity.

Speakers stressed that humanity should not remain silent about the genocides in Khojaly and elsewhere, and that all countries and international organizations should demand that the perpetrators of the massacre be brought to justice in order for people to live in peace and tranquility. The event also featured photo stands depicting the atrocities committed by Armenians in Khojaly, and visual materials on the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, as well as the realities of Azerbaijan were distributed among the participants. The seminar, which was met with interest by the Pakistani public, was widely covered by Pakistan's leading television and other media.





HE Ambassador of the State of Qatar visited Qatar Visa Center in Islamabad as it resumed providing services, to review the work progress

Muhammad Bilal Zafar

His Excellency Sheikh / Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on Wednesday, 24/2/2021, visited the Qatar Visa Center in Islamabad, to review the work progress since the center resumed providing services after it was temporarily closed as part of the precautionary measures to confront the spread of Covid - 19. HE the Ambassador was accompanied by Mr. Nasser Hassan Al-Suwaidi, Third Secretary at Qatar Embassy, Islamabad.

On this occasion, His Excellency Ambassador

of the state of Qatar affirmed that the establishment of Qatar visa centers in Pakistan came within the framework of strengthening the distinguished relations between the two countries, and with the aim of facilitating the recruitment of skilled workers from Pakistan. The establishment of these centers in Islamabad and Karachi has ensured speedy completion of procedures for obtaining visas.

His Excellency mentioned that the State of Qatar desires to increase the number of Pakistani workers in the State of Qatar, noting that Doha will bring Pakistani cadres to work on the various infrastructure projects currently underway in the State of Qatar.

His Excellency the Ambassador expressed appreciation for the Pakistani workers in the State of Qatar for their participation in the development process, stressing that the State of Qatar provides a good environment for foreign workers, and the International Labor Organization has commended the facilities Qatar grants to workers from all over the world.

It is noteworthy that Qatar visa centers in Pakistan have been provided with modern technological means that enable it to perform the tasks in the best way possible, facilitate and simplify procedure and people are benefitting in an increasing number from the various types of services these centers provide.





India's smear campaign against Pakistan has no limits: Qureshi

By: Milan Fazal Elahi

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi Monday said India's smear campaign against Pakistan had no limits as the country had even misused prestigious international institutions, including the United Nations for its nefarious designs.

"Members of European Parliament were duped, disinformed and unabashedly manipulated" and "think-tanks, researchers and even students" were used as pawns to peddle Indian fallacies," the foreign minister said addressing the concluding session of a seminar on 'Disinformation as a Tool of Strategic Warfare' organized here by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS).

Referring to the recent report of EU Disinformation Lab titled Indian Chronicles, he shared that the Government of Pakistan had called upon the international community to take due cognizance of India's systematic designs to damage Pakistan's image and international standing.

He said he had written to the EU High Representative asking him to make India accountable for its deeds that had been unearthed by an independent not-for-profit organization funded by the EU itself.

Qureshi said Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN in New York had written to the chair of the NGO committee in ECOSOC to de-register the 10 fake NGOs (non-

governmental organizations) identified in the Indian Chronicles.

He viewed that the Indian Chronicles had revealed the real face of India and its hate for Pakistan, and termed maligning Pakistan an article of faith for the BJP-RSS dispensation in New Delhi.

Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Ms Andleeb Abbas enumerated three challenges of countering disinformation in the 21st century: one, the use and abuse of information technology; two, the reality of the post-truth world where facts were constructed; and the inability of the international institutions to adapt to this new reality of fake news.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed called for busting myths about propaganda that it was only linked to dictatorships, it was only employed in a situation of war, and it was only orchestrated through state-controlled media.

He said India's disinformation campaign against Pakistan revealed by the EU Disinformation Lab was something new because it was conducted for 15 years to malign a neighbouring country against which India did not have active hostilities.

Pakistan's former Ambassador to China Masood Khalid said fake news travelled faster than true news through social media and called for greater regulation of social media platforms. He condemned Indian tactics of spreading falsehoods about the China-Pakistan Economic

Corridor (CPEC).

Prof Glenn Diesen of the South Eastern University of Norway, who addressed the seminar virtually, stated that while the attempts by states to promote a national narrative were not new, international redistribution of power and the emergence of new technologies had emerged more recently.

IRS President Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz urged the governments and people to work together to ensure that people and governments were not led astray with fake news, propaganda, and false narratives.

It could only be safeguarded with news literacy, high quality journalism, and social responsibility, he added.

Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir Mr Shahryar Khan Afridi, Prof Athina Karatzogianni of the Leicester University, Air Cdr (Retd) Khalid Banuri, defence analyst Lt Gen (Retd) Naeem Lodhi, political analyst Dr Huma Baqai, Professor Shahab Enam Khan, Pakistan's former Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva.

Ambassador Faruk Amil, Professor of International Relations at the NESU Dr Hassan Abbas, columnist and public policy professional Mosharraf Zaidi, Pakistan's former permanent representative to the UN in Geneva and Ambassador Zamir Akram also addressed the event.

Ambassador Andreas Ferrarese together with Mr. Danilo Giurdanella, Consul in Karachi, visited Quaid e Azam Mausoleum to pay homage to the Father of Nation.



Ambassador Ferrarese had the honor to receive H.E. Khalid Khurshid, Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan, at his residence. They discussed ETIs, tourism, climate change and village-based development in Gilgit Baltistan. Italy would continue support development projects in GB.



H.E. Andreas Ferrarese Ambassador of Italy in Pakistan and H.E. Danilo Giurdanella visited the historical and archaeological site of Bhanbore hosted by Mr. Syed Sardar Ali Shah, Minister for Culture and his team. Italy is strongly committed to expand its scope of archaeological cooperation in Sindh and Pakistan to unearth hidden treasures of the Pakistan



Activities of Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Nong Rong handed over batches of Wushu equipment to Mr. Malik Iftikhar Ahmed, President & Founder of Pakistan Wushu Federation. The donation by Chinese Wushu Association will greatly help to promote Wushu practice in Pakistan and to strengthen the friendship between China and Pakistan.



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Nong Rong met with H.E. Mr. Mohammad Swati, Federal Minister for Railways. Had a productive discussion on promoting railways system reform and expediting the implementation of ML1.



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Nong Rong, joined the celebration organized by Millennium Confucius Classroom celebrating Chinese New Year and addressed to highlight China-Pakistan friendship & the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties.



Lunar Year of Ox approaches. Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Nong Rong delighted to celebrate the Spring Festival with All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises' Association (APCEA). Let's work together for closer friendship & cooperation between China & Pakistan.



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Nong Rong had a good meeting with Chairman WAPDA Lt Gen Muzammil Hussain (Retd). Both sides exchanged views on promoting hydro power cooperation between China and Pakistan.

The New Leap of China's Economy benefits China-Pakistan Cooperation



By H.E. Nong Rong, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan

At the beginning of 2021, there comes an encouraging news from China. According to the preliminary calculation of the National Bureau of Statistics of China, China's GDP in 2020 reached 101.6 trillion yuan (around 14.7 trillion USD), increased by 2.3% from 2019. For the first time, China's GDP exceeded the 100-trillion-yuan threshold achieving a historic leap.

This Leap Is Significant

For China, this leap marks the milestone in the journey of Chinese national rejuvenation. The GDP of 100 trillion yuan and the per capita GDP of 10,000 USD for the second consecutive year indicates a new height in the overall national strength and people's living standard. It has laid a solid foundation for China in implementing the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) and embarking on a new journey towards fully building a modern socialist country. It has also created ample space for China to follow a new development philosophy and foster a new development paradigm with domestic circulations as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other.

For the world, this leap is a ray of warm sunshine amid economic gloom. The world economy has been severely hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. China is the first and the only major economy to achieve positive growth in 2020, injecting impetus into the global economic recovery. The China's share in the world economy is anticipated to rise to around 17%. China's growing economy will further enhance its potential of foreign trade and investment, strengthen the inter-connection and mutual promotion of the markets of China and the world, and make greater contributions to the improvement of global economic governance, the building of an open world economy and a community with a shared future for mankind.

This Leap Is Hard-Won

This leap is attributed to the wise leadership of the Communist Party of China CPC. In the face of the

sudden outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and the turbulent external environment, the CPC has united and led all the Chinese people to respond calmly and rise up to challenges. The CPC Central Committee with President Xi Jinping as its core assessed the situation from the long-term perspective while taking both the domestic and international situations into consideration, coordinated pandemic control and socioeconomic development, and resolutely adopted a series of significant measures. CPC organizations at all levels strictly implemented the decisions and instructions of the CPC Central Committee. The majority of CPC members actively responded to the Party's call by rushing to the front-line in fighting against pandemic and played a leading role in every field. The judgment, decision, and action taken by the CPC are decisive in helping China to take the lead in controlling COVID-19 pandemic, resuming work and production, and achieving positive economic growth.

This leap is attributed to the unique advantages of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics. First, this system guarantees the whole nation acts in an coordinated way. Both in COVID-19 response and economic development, China gives the full play to the initiative of both the central and local governments. The local governments cooperate with the central government and the central government assists the local governments. At local level, governments also support each other under the coordination of the central government. Second, the socialist system with Chinese characteristics ensures that we concentrate efforts on major tasks. Faced with arduous development tasks, China, following the belief that "good steel is used for the cutting edge", concentrates on the most important tasks with the best resources, and has achieved progress in poverty alleviation, research and development of vaccine, and technological innovation. Third, the socialist system with Chinese characteristics ensures that we make cohesive planning to achieve consistent development. 2020 was the last year of China's 13th Five-Year Plan. China maintained its strategic focus, overcame the impact of COVID-19, stuck to its goals, and completed the development tasks specified in the 13th Five-Year Plan on schedule. These advantages are the institutional basis for the resilience of China's economy.

This leap is attributed to China's adherence to reform and opening up. China is not swayed by the historical counter-currents of unilateralism and protectionism, and does not fear the threat of decoupling, supply disruption or sanctions. We uphold that the development quality and market vitality should be enhanced by deepening reform and opening up. China has taken the initiative to maintain the stability of the global supply chain, industrial chain, and value chain. With both the goods trade and the actual use of foreign investment growing against the trend, China has maintained its status as the largest trading nation and has become the largest host country for foreign direct investment (FDI). Besides,

the "Belt and Road Initiative" continued to advance steadily, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was successfully signed, and the China-EU Comprehensive Agreement on Investment completed negotiations on schedule. Reform and opening up is the source of China's economic vitality.

This Leap benefits China-Pakistan Cooperation

The new leap of China's economy is the result of China's adherence to self-reliance and opening-up, the hard work of the Chinese people, as well as the support and contributions of friends from various countries including Pakistan. Therefore, the expansion of China's economic volume will not only benefit the Chinese people, but also have a positive impact on the international community, especially create more development opportunities for Pakistan, China's all-weather strategic cooperative partner. With the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the implementation of the Second Phase Protocol of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, China's new economic leap will bring a larger market and deeper cooperation potential for Pakistan, and lays a more solid material foundation for upgrading China-Pakistan practical cooperation.

China's good economic performance can boost the determination and confidence of the two countries to join hands in fighting the pandemic. At the just-concluded World Economic Forum "Davos Agenda" dialogue, President Xi Jinping stated that China will continue to take an active part in international cooperation on COVID-19 and continue to implement a win-win strategy of opening up. China is still facing a tight anti-pandemic situation, and there is a severe supply and demand gap in vaccine production. Even so, China, as a responsible major country in the international community, and a reliable partner who withstands the test in the face of danger, will do its best to make safe and effective Chinese vaccines available and affordable for the Pakistani people, and to boost Pakistan's economy to full recovery at an early date.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. China will take this opportunity to speed up the high-quality development of CPEC. The two sides are in close communication and serious preparation for the upcoming 10th meeting of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee. In the next stage, the two countries will take well-targeted steps in developing Gwadar Port, industrial parks, agriculture, science and technology, assisting Pakistan's development towards industrialization, urbanization, digitization and agricultural modernization. We also welcome friends from all walks of life in Pakistan to get a more comprehensive understanding of the contemporary China, promote bilateral exchanges and cooperation, and give new momentum to this time-tested friendship!



Xi declares “complete victory” in eradicating absolute poverty in China

Chinese President Xi Jinping announced on Thursday that China has secured a “complete victory” in its fight against poverty.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, said absolute poverty has been eradicated in the world’s most populous country, home to over 1.4 billion people.

Xi made the announcement while addressing a grand gathering held in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing to mark the nation’s poverty alleviation accomplishments and honor model poverty fighters.

With absolute poverty eliminated, China has created another “miracle” that will “go down in history,” Xi said in a televised speech.

The high-profile event was presided over by Premier Li Keqiang and attended by other senior Party leaders Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji, Han Zheng -- all members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee

-- and Vice President Wang Qishan.

A MIRACLE

Under Xi’s leadership, China launched a monumental anti-poverty campaign on a scale unseen anywhere in the world.

Over the past eight years, the final 98.99 million impoverished rural residents living under the current poverty line have all been lifted out of poverty. All 832 impoverished counties and 128,000 villages have also been removed from the poverty list.

The country has met the poverty eradication target set out in the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule.

Combined with poverty-reduction results since the late 1970s, China is responsible for over 70 percent of the global reduction in poverty over the period, World Bank statistics have shown.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres acknowledged the success of China’s anti-poverty campaign over the past few years, calling it “the most important contribution” to



Xia Sen, former researcher of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, attends a grand gathering to mark the nation’s poverty alleviation accomplishments and honor model poverty fighters at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Feb. 25, 2021



A grand gathering is held to mark the country's accomplishments in poverty alleviation and honor its model poverty fighters at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Feb. 25, 2021.

the global poverty reduction cause.

"No country has been able to lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty in such a short time," Xi said.

At Thursday's gathering, Xi presented medals, certificates and plaques to role models from the country's anti-poverty fight. He also joined other Chinese leaders in presenting awards to individuals and groups for their outstanding achievements in the fight against penury.

The recipients include villagers, Party members dispatched to villages to fight poverty, grassroots officials and college researchers. Some of them were honored posthumously.

Shi Jintong, a village Party chief in central China's Hunan Province, accepted an award on behalf of his village. Shi's village -- Shibadong -- is where Xi, during a visit in 2013, put forward the "targeted poverty alleviation" strategy that was instrumental in the success of China's poverty eradication campaign.

"I feel so honored to meet the general secretary again, yet I am confident at the same time as we have accomplished the task of poverty eradication," Shi said.

But not all of China's anti-poverty champions lived to see this day.

Over the past eight years, more than 1,800 people died fighting poverty on the front lines.

Xi acknowledged these fallen heroes at Thursday's event, saying that their sacrifice and contributions "will never be forgotten by the Party, the people and the republic."

PARTY, PEOPLE, POOLING RESOURCES, PRECISION

Summarizing China's experience in conquering poverty, Xi said the country has blazed a poverty reduction trail and formed an anti-poverty theory with Chinese characteristics.

He underlined the role of Party leadership, which has provided a "political and organizational guarantee" for China's poverty

alleviation efforts.

Poverty relief work has been led by the centralized and unified leadership of the CPC with its 90 million members. Party chiefs at all levels were required to assume the primary responsibility for achieving the campaign's ambitious targets. Over 3 million public sector officials were sent from cities and towns to villages to fight poverty "on the front lines."

Funds were channeled to assist the fight. Nearly 1.6 trillion yuan (about 246 billion U.S. dollars) of fiscal funds have been invested into poverty alleviation over the past eight years.

China also leveraged the political advantage of its socialist system, which can bring together the needed resources to accomplish great tasks. This enabled massive programs, such as those pairing up better-off provinces with others in need to tackle poverty.

The country's strategy of targeted poverty alleviation was also highlighted.

Xi said poverty eradication is an important embodiment of the Party's fundamental purpose of "whole-heartedly serving the people."

"Ending poverty, improving people's well-being and realizing common prosperity are the essential requirements of socialism," Xi said.

RURAL VITALIZATION

Building on its victory in eradicating poverty, China is moving on to push for higher-level development in its rural areas.

Shaking off poverty is not the finish line, but the starting point of a new life and new endeavor, Xi said in the speech, demanding efforts to consolidate poverty alleviation achievements and initiate a dovetailing drive of "rural vitalization."

The rural vitalization strategy was proposed as a key move for the development of a modernized economy at the 19th CPC National Congress in 2017.

More detailed plans of the strategy were unveiled in the Party leadership's proposals for formulating an economic and social development plan for the 2021-2025 period and long-term goals through the year 2035.

China on Thursday inaugurated a new cabinet body on promoting rural vitalization, which was transformed from the State Council Leading Group of Poverty Alleviation and Development.

In his speech, Xi said efforts must be made to prevent any large-scale relapse into poverty, and identifying solutions to problems concerning agriculture, rural areas and farmers must be the top priority of the Party's work.

"China will attach greater importance to the pursuit of common prosperity," he said.



A grand gathering is held to mark the nation's poverty alleviation accomplishments and honor model poverty fighters at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Feb. 25, 2021



Pakistan and China Commence 70th Anniversary Celebrations

By: Milan Fazal Elahi

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, in an impressive ceremony, formally commenced activities to celebrate 70 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and the People's Republic of China. The virtual ceremony was simultaneously held in Islamabad and Beijing and was attended by high-ranking officials from both sides.

Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Minister Qureshi underscored that, "we pay tribute to the Chinese leadership which has done an incredible job in changing the lives and destiny of its people. We believe that President Xi Jinping's leadership, at a momentous history, has greatly helped Chinese nation achieve its national aspirations". Foreign Minister added that, "successive generations of leaders and people of both Pakistan and China made invaluable contributions to strengthen these ties." The Foreign Minister also reaffirmed that the CPEC was set to become a High-





Quality Demonstration Project of BRI.

At the ceremony, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi underlined that Pakistan-China friendship has a time-honored history and in the 7 decades the two countries have stood together in rain or shine, and built an exceptional, iron-clad friendship.

A logo was launched at the ceremony epitomizing historic nature of Pakistan-China ties. On the special occasion of the 70th anniversary, both sides have planned a series of events, including people-to-people exchanges, spread over the entire year to commemorate this historic milestone in a befitting manner.

To mark the historic occasion, both Foreign Ministers authored articles that were published today highlighting how the two countries have solidified and deepened their "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership" over seven decades, despite vicissitudes of times and changes in the international system.





Xi Focus: Pioneering spirit, hard work urged as China embraces Year of the Ox

BEIJING, Feb. 13 (Xinhua) As China rings in the Year of the Ox, President Xi Jinping has urged promoting “the spirit of the ox” in pursuit of fully building a modern socialist China.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, has highlighted the spirit of serving the people as willing steers, blazing new trails in development as pioneering bulls and engaging in an arduous struggle as hardworking oxen.

Xi promoted the spirit at a New Year gathering organized by the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference on Dec. 31, 2020.

“We must promote the spirit of the ox in serving the people, driving innovative development and working tirelessly. We must continue to be careful, as we were in the past, guarding against arrogance and impetuosity, and continue to fear no hardship and be enterprising, marching forward bravely on the new journey of fully building a modern socialist country, and marking the centenary of the CPC with outstanding achievements,” Xi said.

Xi reiterated the spirit of the ox in his Spring Festival greetings to all Chinese on behalf of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council on Wednesday.

In China, an ancient civilization nurtured by its

agriculture and fertile lands, the ox has always been considered an important animal as they help farmers cultivate the farmlands.

“In Chinese culture, the ox is a symbol of diligence, dedication, endeavor and strength,” Xi said.

Stressing the virtues of modesty and prudence, Xi called for efforts to achieve the second centenary goal and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and make new and greater contributions to the noble cause of securing peace and development for all mankind.

The ox is the second zodiac sign in the Chinese zodiac cycle, represented by 12 animals: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig.

The previous Year of the Ox was 2009. After an

interval of 12 years, a new Year of the Ox began this month.

Despite complicated international and domestic situations in 2020, China has made major strategic achievements in the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic, conquered serious floods and achieved positive economic growth.

The country has lifted nearly 100 million rural poor out of poverty over the past eight years, securing a decisive victory in ending absolute poverty.

These hard-won, remarkable achievements would not have been attained without the spirit of the ox, which will play a more important role in the year 2021 as China strives to achieve rural vitalization, implement a new development paradigm and deepen reform and opening up.





China appreciates positive remarks by Pakistani, UAE sides about Xinjiang

China appreciates the objective and unbiased position upheld by the Pakistani and UAE sides,” Chinese Foreign Ministry’s Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing while commenting on positive remarks made by Mushahid Hussain Syed, Chairman, Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and UAE Ambassador to China Ali Al Dhaheri.

He said that Chairman Hussain and Ambassador Dhaheri both spoke about their first-hand experience in Xinjiang during the interviews, which reflected the real situation in Xinjiang.

“It has also proven that the lies on Xinjiang concocted by a handful of anti-China elements in the West are nothing but a farce to malign and smear China. Their attempts to interfere

in China’s internal affairs will not succeed,” he added.

He said that since 2018, more than 1,200 people from over 100 countries had visited Xinjiang. That includes UN officials, foreign diplomats posted in China, some countries’ permanent representatives to Geneva, journalists and religious groups.

They saw with their own eyes a region thriving with stability and prosperity and commended its exemplary counter-terrorism and de-radicalization efforts, he added.

“We welcome more foreign friends to visit Xinjiang and see the real situation there, including its socioeconomic development and how local residents are enjoying their life and

work,” he added.

Wang Wenbin said that the Chinese side believed more and more countries would speak up for justice like Pakistan and the UAE.

According to media reports, Mushahid Hussain Syed said in a recent interview that the economic growth of China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the population growth of the Uygur community belie the politically-motivated fiction peddled by a few Western politicians.

Also the UAE ambassador to China Ali Al Dhaheri spoke highly of Xinjiang’s economic development and progress in poverty alleviation, applauded the effective counter-terrorism and deradicalization efforts and expressed hope for stronger cooperation with China on this front.

Ambassador of China Nong Rong inaugurated the Chinese New Year celebrations at the Marriott Hotel, Islamabad

The hotel's general manager, Maurizio Romani, facilitated the pool-side gathering with a sumptuous spread from Dynasty Restaurant. The scene was lit up in red and gold, colors that flourish all things considered Chinese occasions as they represent satisfaction and best of luck. Sparkling lamps overhead set the state of mind as did conventional music playing at sight. Little youngsters wearing conventional Chinese clothing invited visitors while offspring of fluctuating ages captivated them with happy melodic exhibitions. Visitors appreciated an exemplary Chinese smorgasbord, offering mark things including cook duck, tiger prawns, and an assortment of fish. The Year of the Ox is said to imply wellbeing as the bull represents tirelessness, inspiration, and reliability. Custom says that the Ox will bring flourishing, accomplishment in business and professional success. The Chinese diplomat and Mr Romani slice a cake to celebrate the beginning of the New Year.





Serena Hotels, under its Cultural Diplomacy initiative hosted the Bakshi Brothers live in an outdoors concert. The show is part of Serena Hotels' cultural diplomacy initiative "Sarangi" whose aim is to foster and propagate musical talent in the country. The Bakshi Brothers are a band of cousin-brothers who produce a modern rendition of traditional folk with Qawwali, and are grandsons of legendary Qawwal Ustad Bakshi Salamat



Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation Launches Education Initiative “Unplugged – Hum Saath Hain

In continuance of its mission to fighting the war on drugs in Pakistan, the Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation launched on February 17th the European Union best practice drug prevention education initiative “Unplugged – adapted in Pakistan as Hum Saath Hain”, at Mashal community school, Bari Imam, Islamabad. KKAWF is the first civil society outfit to bring this prevention awareness programme to local schools in Islamabad. Delivered by KKAWF Board member and education advisor Ms. Lubna Hayauddin a UN certified life-skills trainer, the programme will have participation of 100 students and run for 12 weeks with one session each week. This interactive life skills program is targeted at 12-15 years old, where the students during the course of the programme are exposed to the knowledge on drugs and their ill-effect on the physical and social health of the individuals and others associated to these people. The youth are equipped in skills such as communication,

problem solving, critical thinking to handle peer pressure and make wise decisions, raise drug use awareness and understanding to promote healthy behavior. The student participants will receive their completion certificates at a concluding ceremony with attendance of distinguished guests.

KKAWF plans to continue implementation of Hum Saath Hain programme among teachers and students in schools across Islamabad and other areas. School teachers are trained on the Unplugged modules and enabled to deliver to more students, which will allow for benefits of the programme to outreach more students continually.

Speaking at the occasion Cristina von Sperling Afridi, Chairperson KKAWF said that drug use is one of the biggest public health challenge we face as it is further putting at risk the young population under 30 – Of 130 million in Pakistan

to addiction of drugs during the times of the Covid-19 pandemic. She said that only last year, hundreds of teenagers had lost their lives and other hundreds of thousands unfortunately have started to indulge on drugs resulting in this big epidemic menace in our society and the future of the Country. It is imperative that stigma is broken and prevention is used as a powerful tool to fight the menace of the drug problem.

KKAWF is working since 2015 with rich experience on promoting healthy behavior among youth regarding adverse effects of drug abuse. KKAWF implements its mission by equipping youth with better knowledge and awareness, breaking taboos through prevention education using its five pillars of drug abuse, arts, sports, environment, civic sense to build protective factors for youth and engage with them to make healthy life choices and better identify, understand and manage emotions.



“MARTISOR” Tradition in Romania

The tradition of Martisor on 1st of March symbolizes the rebirth of the nature and marks the beginning of spring and changing of seasons in Romania, being the first in line of a series of celebrations in the month of March.

Martisor is an old tradition celebrated all over Romania and archaeological discoveries (small stones painted in red and white) suggest that the Martisor traces its history more than 8,000 years back. Some ethnologists believe that the Martisor celebration has Roman origins while others support the theory that it is an old Dacian tradition. In ancient Rome, the New Year's was celebrated on the 1st of March. March ('Martius') was named in the honor of the god Mars. Mars was not only the god of war but also the god of agriculture, which contributes to the rebirth of vegetation. The Dacians also celebrated the New Year's on the first day of March. Ample spring celebrations were consecrated to this event.

In the old times, Martisor were made of small river pebbles, colored in white and red, strung on a thread and worn around the neck. They were worn, to bring good luck and good weather, from March 1 until the first trees would bloom. When the first trees were flowering the Martisor were hanged on tree branches.

Nowadays, on March 1, Romanians buy silky red-white threads (snur) tied into a bow to which a small trinket is attached and offer them to their (female) family members, friends and colleagues to show friendship, respect or admiration.

All these small items are considered talismans and special in their own way, some Martisoare have a specific significance. Although this specific is up to anyone's imagination, here you have a few examples: a four-leaf clover is a symbol of good luck - the four leaves represent hope, faith, love and luck, the horseshoe Martisor is also among the most popular in Romania, as it is also said to bring good luck and good fortune,

a heart-shaped Martisor is the symbol of love and affection, a star martisor is also a symbol of good luck, while an owl Martisor is the symbol of wisdom. The tradition of Martisor is spread not only in Romania, but also in the neighboring countries like Moldova, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Serbia etc., and has been included since 7th of December 2017 in the UNESCO's list of "intangible heritage of humanity".

Starting with 1st of March, and all the way to March 8th, Martisoare are offered to dear and beloved ones - small symbolic items tied with a red and white entwined cord, white for purity, red for life, as a sign of friendship, respect and affection.



HBL

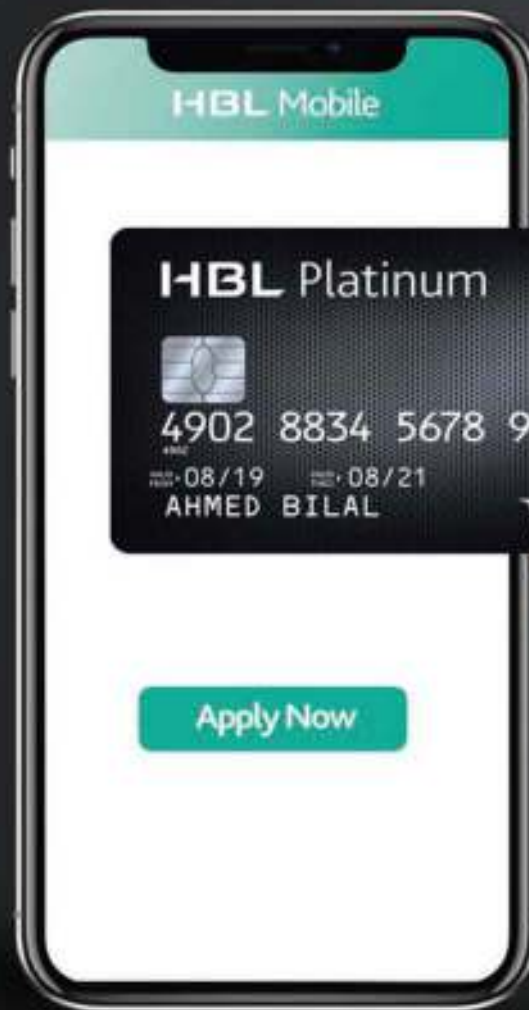
HABIB BANK
حبیب بینک

Jahan Khwab, Wahan HBL

No paperwork, no branch visits.
Your credit card is 4 taps away!



HBL CreditCard
The Most Rewarding Experience



☎ 111-111-425 | 🌐 www.hbl.com | 📱 HBL Mobile | 📘 hblbank | 🐦 HBLPak | 📷 hblpak | 📺 HBL

This offer is exclusively available for select customers only. Terms & conditions apply.

Estd. 1860



MURREE BREWERY

ISO 9001, 14001, HACCP & OHSAS Certified Company

A New
**HEALTHY
& NATURAL**
Addition

WHEAT
malt



INVISIBLE BRACES

Now in Pakistan

DENTAL IMPLANTS



Dr. Abrar & Associates
D E N T A L S U R G E O N S

House # 6-A, Ismail Zabeeh Road, (Service Road Parallel to Faisal Avenue) F-8/3, Islamabad.
e-mail: abrar_associates@yahoo.com | www.drabrarassociates.com
Ph: +92 51 228 7691 / +92 51 228 7692 | Fax: +92 51 228 7693



freeline MOVERS

PACKING, SHIPPING & FREIGHT FORWARDING



Our strength is "thinking in the box" !!!

At Freeline Movers, we do not replicate the mainstream just for the sake of it but value your possessions by handling them with an extra care & responsibility because we know, they are your life.

*When the whole world is thinking out of the box,
"we think in the box"*

To reaffirm our commitment that we really care !



www.freelinemovers.com

A Land of Adventure
**DISCOVER
PAKISTAN**



SERENA HOTELS

HOTELS AND RESORTS
PALACES • PORTS

For reservations, please call (05811) 455894-7 or email at sales@serena.com.pk



[serenahotelsofficial](https://www.facebook.com/serenahotelsofficial)



[serenahotelsofficial](https://www.instagram.com/serenahotelsofficial)



[serena_hotels](https://twitter.com/serena_hotels)



VERTICAL CLUTCH



CHRONOGRAPH COUNTERS



CHRONOGRAPH PUSHERS



ROLEX 24 AT DAYTONA

THE COSMOGRAPH DAYTONA

Engineered to meet the demands of endurance drivers, the Cosmograph Daytona features a chronograph function for precise timing and tachymetric scale bezel to measure average speed. With a high-performance movement, it has been worn by racing legends from the 24 Hours of Le Mans to Formula 1®. Presented to every winner of the Rolex 24 At DAYTONA, it remains one of the most iconic racing watches ever designed.

#Perpetual



OYSTER PERPETUAL COSMOGRAPH DAYTONA

KAHF INTERNATIONAL

KARACHI

SADDAR: Tel 35655 081-83

CLIFTON: Tel 3582 0544

ISLAMABAD

BEVERLY CENTRE: Tel 282 4751, 282 4901

E-mail: kahn@kahnintl.com

WWW.KAHFINTL.COM


ROLEX