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Pakistan, **Kuwait** vow to expand ties



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



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08 Nation celebrates Pakistan Day With commitment to ensure progress, strong defense

The Joint Services Pakistan Day Parade held on 25th March, 2021 as per program and timings already specified, according to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). President of Pakistan, Dr Arif Alvi, Defence Minister, Pervez Khattak, Chief of Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Naval Chief, Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi, and other distinguished guests are attending the ceremony.

13 Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar takes command of PAF

President Dr Arif Alvi conferred the award of Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Civil) on outgoing Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan at a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-i-Sadr. Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar took charge as the new chief of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) at a change of command ceremony held in Islamabad. Outgoing Air chief Mujahid Anwar Khan pinned badges on the new air chief and presented him the command sword.

24 Pakistan, Uzbekistan vow to strengthen bilateral ties further

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi held delegation-level talks with the Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, Dr. Abdulaziz Kamilov. Views were exchanged on enhancement of economic cooperation, mutual support in international fora, regional connectivity and tourism promotion.

38 Heart of Asia conference- Istanbul Process held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan

The 9th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (HoA-IP) is taken place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi leading the Pakistani delegation. Apart from the foreign minister, the Pakistani delegation includes Foreign Secretary Sohail Mehmood, Pakistan's Ambassador in Tajikistan Imran Haider and senior officers of the Foreign Office.

66 Diplomats called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ

Her Excellency Mrs. Androulla Kaminara – Ambassador of European Union (EU), Her Excellency Ms Wendy Gilmour – Canadian High Commissioner & Her Excellency Ms. Lis Rosenholm, Ambassador of Denmark called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security and enhanced bilateral cooperation with European Union (EU) and Canada came under discussion. COAS said that Pakistan values its relations with EU countries & Canada and we earnestly look forward to enhance mutually beneficial multi-domain relations based on common interests.

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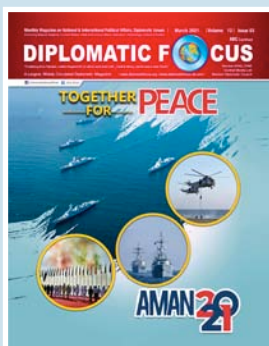
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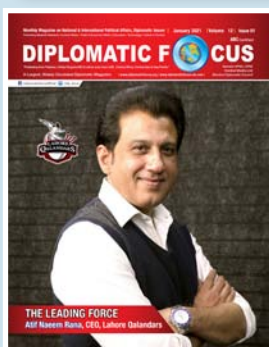
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Our previous Issues



Mian Fazal Elahi

On Pakistan day, we pledge to proceed with our struggle to make our general public altruistic, comprehensive and open minded to different minorities dwelling in Pakistan. We additionally vow to maintain popularity based qualities, law and order and the Islamic lifestyle in our country as imagined by our establishing fathers.

On this day, we should likewise recall our Kashmiri brethren who have been enslaved for more than seventy years by the Indian brutal Forces. They have been exposed to the most exceedingly awful type of constraint and state-supported illegal intimidation. We promise our obligation to keep on supporting Kashmiris in their simply battle for their entitlement to self-assurance. The world should pay heed to obtrusive common freedoms infringement being submitted by India in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The way to sturdy harmony in South Asia is goal of the Jammu and Kashmir debate as per the important United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

We additionally salute our saints, especially the wellbeing of frontline health workers and other concerned offices, who assumed an incredible part in containing COVID-19 and giving medical services to individuals in the hour of need. We praise our wellbeing experts for their untiring endeavors who benevolently served the country during the emergency. I encourage my individual comrades to follow all SOPs concerning COVID-19 in order to beat the third rush of the pandemic. I'm certain that with solidarity, confidence and order we can defeat any test that comes in our direction.

Pakistan Paindabad

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

Important Announcement



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

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Nation celebrates Pakistan Day With commitment to ensure progress, strong defense

The Joint Services Pakistan Day Parade held on 25th March, 2021 as per program and timings already specified, according to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). President of Pakistan, Dr Arif Alvi, Defence Minister, Pervaz Khattak, Chief of Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Naval Chief, Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi, and other distinguished guests are attending the ceremony.

The joint Services parade in connection with Pakistan Day celebrated in the federal capital on Thursday, 25th March, 2021. In his speech President of Pakistan, Dr Arif Alvi, said on this Pakistan Day, we pay homage to the founding fathers of Pakistan whose services and sacrifices led to the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent.

Today, we reaffirm our resolve

to make Pakistan an economically stronger and prosperous country. On this historic day, we vow to continue

our struggle to make our society humane, inclusive and tolerant to other minorities residing in Pakistan. We also pledge



to uphold democratic values, rule of law and the Islamic way of life in our country as envisioned by our founding fathers. On this day, we must also remember our Kashmiri brethren who have been subjugated for over seven decades by the Indian Security Forces. They have been subjected to the worst form of repression and state-sponsored terrorism. We pledge our commitment to continue to support Kashmiris in their just struggle for their right to self-determination.

The world must take notice of blatant human rights violations being committed by India in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

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 Resolutions. Today, we also salute our heroes, particularly the health workers and other concerned agencies, who played a great role in containing COVID-19 and providing health care to the people in the hour of need. We laud our health professionals for their untiring efforts who selflessly served the nation during the crisis.

I urge my fellow countrymen to follow all SOPs concerning COVID-19 so as to overcome the third wave of the pandemic. I am sure that with unity, faith and discipline we can overcome any challenge that comes our way. May Allah be with us all. Pakistan Paindabad

The contingents of the three Armed Forces and other security forces are conducting marches and aerobatic maneuvers. The ceremony kicked off with the fly past of the Pakistan Air Force and Navy fighter jets, led by Air Chief Zaheer Ahmad Babar Sidhu, which saluted President Alvi. Fighter aircraft F-16, JF 17, Mirage, AWACs, P-3C Orion, and ATR aircraft formation participated in the flypast.

Prime Minister Imran Khan is not attending the event as he is in self-quarantine at his residence after testing positive for Covid-19. As per notifications of Deputy Commissioners Islamabad and Rawalpindi, there is a local holiday in both cities in connection with the joint military parade.

On Monday, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) had said the Pakistan Day Parade – held every year on March 23 to mark the day when Pakistan Resolution was passed, was rescheduled due to ongoing inclement weather and rain showers forecast for the next two days, the parade has been delayed to March 25. Authorities have limited the participants for the parade and they had been strictly directed to follow Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs). Face masks have been made mandatory for all participants attending the Pakistan Day parade. All of the attendants would undergo temperature checks while it has been directed to staff to ensure the presence of hand sanitizers, masks, and distance between the sitting area.





PAKISTAN NAVY PARTICIPATES IN PAKISTAN DAY JS PARADE WITH ZEAL & ZEST

Pakistan Day Joint Services Parade was held at Shakarparian parade ground Islamabad. Smart clad and agile contingent of Pakistan Navy led by Commander Muhammad Shahid Iqbal PN was part of the Joint Services Parade. Pakistan Navy contingent included Lady Officers, Special Services Group (Navy) and PN Band.

The hallmark of Pakistan Navy contingent includes participation of first Pakistani Sikh Naval officer Lt Pawan Singh leading the PN squad. Pakistan Navy lady officers squad was led by Lt Cdr Sana Firdos.

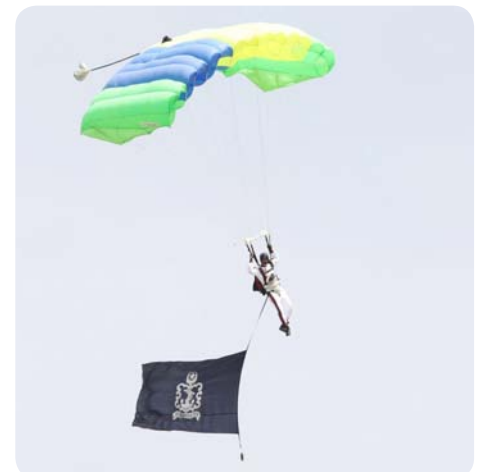
In addition, formations of Pakistan Navy aviation assets including Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P3C Orion led by Capt Saleem Nasir PN, ATRs led by Capt Syed Talat Hussain PN, Seaking helicopters led by Capt Sher Wali Khan PN and Z-9EC helicopters led by Cdr Talha Mateen PN participated in impressive fly past at the parade venue. PN UAV was also displayed during the parade. Pakistan Navy Sea Eagle team, led by Commander Muhammad Abrar Younis PN, Special

Services Group (Navy) was part of Tri Services Sky Diving Team. The Sea Eagle Team exhibited various free-fall jump techniques including Sky maneuvers and landing at targets with precise accuracy.

Earlier, the investiture ceremony for award of medal of year 2020 was held at Aiwan-e-Saddar on 24 March. During the ceremony, President of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi conferred upon Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military) to six Rear Admirals of Pakistan Navy namely; Rear Admiral Ather Saleem, Rear Admiral Adnan Khaliq, Rear Admiral Ahmad Fauzan, Rear Admiral Javaid Iqbal, Rear Admiral Mirza Foad Amin Baig and Rear Admiral Mian Zakirullah Jan. In addition, 02 officers and 01 sailor of Pakistan Navy namely Cdr Syed Kamran Saeed Gillani, Lt Cdr Hammad Hassan Maken, Muhammad Abbas Khan SFT-I (Shaheed) were conferred Sitara-i-Basalat.

On the occasion of Pakistan Day 2021, the President of Pakistan has approved Medals and Awards to Pakistan Navy Officers, Master Chief Petty Officers, Chief Petty Officers/ Sailors and Navy Civilians. The

Medal & Awards include 02 TAMGHA-I-BASALAT, 03 HILAL-I-IMTIAZ (Military), 14 SITARA-I-IMTIAZ (Military), 13 TAMGHA-I-IMTIAZ (Military). 04 IMTIAZI SANAD, 16 TAMGHA-I-KHIDMAT (Military)-I, 26



TAMGHA-I-KHIDMAT (Military)-II, 37 TAMGHA-I-KHIDMAT (Military)-III. Letter of Commendation from Chief of Naval Staff have also been approved upon 53 Officers, Master Chief Petty Officers, Chief Petty Officers/ Sailors and Navy Civilians.



PNS NASR's HADR MISSION TO AFRICA: A VIBRANT STEP FOR COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

By Naveed Mushtaq

By definition, collaborative security is linked directly with human security and is extended to the broader conception wherein security of States and their common survival are interlinked. With such a vast scope, collaborative security and diplomatic efforts are persistent in the contemporary time with exclusive intra state initiatives like EU based Common Foreign and Security Policy (CSFP).

Under such initiatives, helping other nations in terms of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) the most important pillar of non-traditional form of security, has become a focal agenda of international navies. Hence, on a similar ground, Pakistan Navy participate in multiple common Foreign and Security initiatives of the region. In continuation of the process, recently PNS NASR has rendered HADR service to Djibouti, Sudan, Benin, and Niger. In its recent visit to Niger, Pakistan Navy Ship NASR, as a gesture of solidarity and friendship, delivered gift of food from the people of Pakistan to the people of Niger during the ceremony held at Port Cotonou of Benin. Previously, Pakistan Navy Ship NASR also handed over similar food assistance support to Djibouti and Sudan.

This ongoing deployment of Pakistan Navy Ship to African region is to further strengthen the bonds of friendship with African countries and hence, the continued PN's engagements and HADR efforts are in this way contributing in Pakistan's engage Africa foreign policy initiative. Having rich history of HADR in African continent, the same PNS NASR recently visited Eastern African countries of Djibouti and Sudan in the month of January 2021 with provision of basic food ration, creating Pakistan's positive image.

It is indeed a clear message of common empathy and a manifestation of continued process of Pakistan Navy helping the African Nations from the Horn of Africa to the Western African nations.

Under the 'Engage Africa' policy, Pakistan always allots its support to the rest of African nations through United Nations (UN) peace keeping missions and Pakistan Navy's HADR and overseas deployments. If history is a prism than the PN's HADR missions are not limited to even African continent. The Pakistan Navy's assistance rendered to Maldives and Indonesia after horrific Tsunami in 2004.

Likewise, the rescue of MV Suez Crew from pirates in 2011, the successful conduct of humanitarian operations to evacuate stranded Pakistanis and foreign nationals at Yemen in 2015 and the support rendered to the flood stricken Sri Lankan populace is among the few glorious chapters of the zeal and commitment of Pakistan Navy. Keeping its conducts to animate, Pakistan Navy in 2019, had sent its two ships namely PNS ASLAT and PNS MOAWIN to 8 African states covering from West to east Africa. These Ships offered diplomatic leverage through port visits along with providing humanitarian assistance to the visiting countries by organizing free medical camps.

Benin, Niger and Pakistan share cordial and brotherly relations as the countries are members of common international forums including Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and Group of 77. Benin is bordered

by the Niger to the north and both countries have an estimated population of 12 million and 23 million respectively.

Importance of these two countries lie more in their transit position than direct market of goods. Some companies of Pakistan, dealing in food items, have recently established offices in Benin to coordinate exports from Pakistan to the region. hence, Pakistan Navy's HADR efforts will pave the way for our traders, diplomats and overseas communities to further expand the footprints in the region.

Similarly, During the contemporary age of great power politics in Indian Ocean Region (IOR), any effort in HADR domain in continuity to recently concluded AMAN Exercise 2021 and Pakistan Navy's Command of CTF-151, will further mandate Pakistan's highly productive approach of common development and mutual co-existence.

Current HADR sailing to Niger and Benin, is a hallmark segment of Pakistan Navy's continued multilateral and multi-dimensional engagements to promote mutually shared interest of regional peace and prosperity. It is time that such efforts in naval domain are translated into economic, diplomatic and informational domains through highly assertive "whole of a nation" approach.



Defence Staff and Commander of the Sri Lankan Army, General Shavendra Silva, called on His Excellency Dr. Arif Alvi, the President of Pakistan

By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Dr. Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan highly values its relations with Sri Lanka as both countries have unanimity of opinion on regional and international issues and enjoy excellent relations in all areas of mutual interests.

The President underlined the need for further enhancing economic, cultural and defence relations between the two countries. He made these remarks while talking to the visiting Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Sri Lankan Army, General Shavendra Silva, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. The President said that Pakistan was attractive destination for the Buddhist tourists and people from Sri Lanka needed to be encouraged to visit the religious and scenic sites in Pakistan.

He briefed the visiting dignitary about the successes achieved by Pakistan against the war on terror. He also highlighted the ongoing atrocities and human rights violations by

Indian Security Forces in the Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. The President urged that International community should play a positive role to resolve the Kashmir issue in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions. The Chief of Defence Staff & Commander of Sri Lankan Army said that Pakistan was a close and dearest friend and his country wanted to further improve bilateral ties with Pakistan. He said that the recent visit of

the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Imran Khan to Sri Lanka would boost bilateral relations. He deeply thanked Pakistan for its support which stood by Sri Lanka in difficult times.





Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar takes command of PAF

By Muhammad Bilal Zafar

President Dr Arif Alvi conferred the award of Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Civil) on outgoing Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan at a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-i-Sadr.

Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar took charge as the new chief of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) at a change of command ceremony held in Islamabad. Outgoing Air chief Mujahid Anwar Khan pinned badges on the new air chief and presented him the command sword.

The outgoing air chief also reviewed a guard of honour and a formation of JF-17 fighter jets presented a salute to him.

Air Marshal Sidhu was earlier posted as the deputy chief of administrative affairs.

He joined the GD(P) branch of the PAF in 1986 as a fighter pilot and has also commanded a fighter squadron, operational airbase and regional command during his service.

He also served as the assistant chief of the air staff (operations research and development), assistant chief of air staff (training officers) and director general projects at Air Headquarters Islamabad.

He served as the additional secretary in the Ministry of Defence as well. Air Marshal Sidhu is a graduate of Britain's Combat Commanders School, Air War College and the Royal College of Defence Studies.

He has been awarded the Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military) and Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Military) in recognition of his services.

Sidhu is the son of renowned religious scholar Hakeem Ghulam Muhammad and hails from Gujrat. This makes him the third service chief to come from Gujrat, with retired Admiral Mohammad Sharif and retired Gen Raheel Sharif being the other two.

President Dr Arif Alvi conferred the award of Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Civil) on outgoing Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan at a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-i-Sadr.



President confers civil awards on different personalities

An investiture ceremony to confer civil awards on different personalities for their contributions in different fields was held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad. President Arif Alvi decorated the awards to 88 recipients.

These included six Nishan-e-Imtiaz, three Hilal-e-Imtiaz, twenty four Sitara-i-Shuja'at, eight Sitara-e-Imtiaz, fourteen President's Award for Pride of Performance, one Sitara-e-Quaid-e-Azam, one Sitara-e-Khidmat, one Tamgha-i-Pakistan, twenty two Tamgha-i-Shuja'at and eight Tamgha-e-Imtiaz.

Prominent personalities who received Nishan-e-Imtiaz include Sadiqain Naqvi (Art), Abida Parveen (Singing), Ahmad Faraz (Literature) while Bushra Ansari (Art), Syed Farooq Qaiser (Art), Sultana Siddiqi (Art) received Sitara-e-Imtiaz.

The President's Award for Pride of Performance was received by Maulana Tariq Jameel (Religious Scholar), Muhammad Ali Shehki (Singing), Resham (acting) and Humayon Saeed (Acting), Ali Zafar (Singing).

Zaiba Shehaz (Acting) and Faisal Edhi (Public Service) were given award of Tamgha-e-Imtiaz.

The Tamgha-i-Imtiaz was awarded to Muhammad Tahir Javed, Zeba Shehnaz



(Acting), Hameedullah Shah Hashmi, Ilyas, Farid Ahmed Khan and Omar Saeed. Faisal Edhi (Public Service), Syed Aamir Mehmood, retired Capt Muhammad

The Hilal-i-Imtiaz was given to Prof Dr Anwarul Hassan Gillani (Science:





pharmaceutical), Dr Asif Mahmood Jah and Syed Javed Anwar. The Sitara-i-Quaid-i-Azam was awarded to Prof Dr Tariq Shafi, Sitara-i-Khidmat to Richard Geary Horwitz (USA) and Tamgha-i-Pakistan to Jane Teller (Denmark) for services to Pakistan.

Personalities who received the Sitara-i-Shuja'at for their gallantry were Jawad Qamar, Safia Shaheed, Malik Hayatullah, Malik Sardar Khan Shaheed, Mumtaz Khan Shaheed, Hayatullah Khan Dawar Shaheed, Malik Muhammad Niaz Khan Shaheed, Sepoy Akhtar Khan Shaheed, Muhammad Naveed Sadiq, Mahar Muhammad Yasir Manzoor Shaheed, Shafqatullah Malik, Dr Mustafa Kamal Pasha Shaheed, Prof Hafiz Maqsood Ahmad Shaheed, Dr Bashir Ahmed Shaheed, Dr Khalid Masood Qaisrani Shaheed, Dr Muhammad Asif Shaheed, Dr Shafqatullah Shaheed, Dr Younas Channa Shaheed, Dr Wilayat Ali Gopang Shaheed, Prof Dr Muhammad Javed Shaheed, Munir Khan Shaheed, Dr Usama Riaz, Malik Ashdar Shaheed and Dr Muhammad Akhlaq Shaheed.

The president awarded the Tamgha-i-Shuja'at to Fida Hussain (Gilgit-Baltistan), Ali Aftab Tarar (Punjab), Syed Shahzad Hassan (Punjab), Haroon Rashid Khan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Fakhar ud Din (Punjab), Mian Khan (Punjab), Muhammad Faheem Raza Khan (Sindh), Malik Wasid Khan (KP), Molvi Gul Dad Khan (KP), Malik Aslam Noor Khan (KP), Muhammad Rafi Shaheed (KP), Daud Khan Shaheed (KP), Alam Zeb Shaheed (KP), Allah Rakha (Azad Jammu & Kashmir), Shakeela Naz Shaheed (KP), Ghuncha Sartaj Shaheed (KP), Aetzaz Ahmed Goraya (Balochistan), Sajid Khan Mohmand (KP), Shahid Ali Shaheed, Muhammad Iftikhar Shaheed, Khuda Yar Shaheed and Hassan Ali Shaheed.



Sindh Governor Ismail, Chief Minister Murad visited Mazar-e-Quaid to mark Pakistan Day



Sindh Governor Imran Ismail and Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah along with his cabinet members visited the mausoleum of founder of the nation — Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah — on the occasion of Pakistan Day.

The day was celebrated across the country with national zeal and fervor to commemorate the Pakistan Resolution that was passed on March 23, 1940 in Lahore.

Pakistan Navy band also performed at the Quaid's mausoleum to mark the occasion. They offered Fateha and laid the floral wreath and also recorded their impressions on visitors' book. To mark the day, a number of programmes were also organised throughout the city by different educational, social and government organisations.

It was a public holiday across the province and all the celebrations were organised in

compliance with all the standard operating procedures (SOPs) against coronavirus. The day was dawn with 21-gun-salute in the provincial capital while special prayers were also offered in mosques and homes for the progress, prosperity and the integrity of Pakistan. The Directorate of Electronic Media & Publication (DEMP) also organised the Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah Photograph Exhibition at the University of Karachi.





Foreign Ministers of Pakistan and Hungary inaugurated the Hungary-Pakistan Trade & Economic

By Muhammad Bilal Zafar

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Foreign Minister of Hungary Mr. Peter Szijjarto jointly inaugurated the Hungary-Pakistan Trade and Economic Window (HPTEW) and the first Hungary-Pakistan business forum. The event was held online.

Foreign Minister Qureshi, in his welcome remarks, underlined the importance Pakistan attached to Hungary, both bilaterally, and within the EU. Focusing specifically on enhancing bilateral trade and economic ties, the Foreign Minister invited Hungarian companies to take advantage of the investor-friendly climate

in Pakistan to enter into joint ventures with Pakistani companies, especially in the SEZs under the CPEC. He welcomed Hungarian expertise in the fields of agriculture and food, environment, water resource management, engineering, vocational training and urban planning. Appreciating the improving economic cooperation between Pakistan and Hungarian businesses, despite CoVID-19, the Foreign Minister also highlighted the importance of collaboration in the fight against the pandemic.

The Hungarian Foreign Minister agreed with Foreign Minister Qureshi that boosting linkages in all areas, particularly the economy, trade and enhanced people-to-people exchanges,

would lead to fully realizing the economic potential between the two countries. Foreign Minister Szijjarto said that Hungary's policy of opening towards East would provide a good impetus to Pakistan-Hungary relations.

Foreign Minister Qureshi also extended an invitation to the Hungarian Foreign Minister to visit Pakistan at his earliest convenience.

The online event was jointly organized by the All Pakistan Business Forum, Hungarian Export Promotion Agency, Embassy of Hungary in Islamabad, and the Pakistan Embassy in Budapest. More than 100 well-reputed Hungarian and Pakistani companies attended the event.

The Ambassador of Hungary Visited Governor Punjab

H.E. Mr. Béla Fazekas Ambassador of Hungary to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was received by Mr. Mohammad Sarwar, Governor of the Pakistani Punjab Province.

The Head of Mission informed the Governor about the start of the restoration of the August Schoefft (1809-1888) paintings in the Lahore Fort and introduced the four Hungarian experts, who will stay in Lahore during the three months long work period.

The Ambassador expressed his hope that as a result of the project supported by 55 million HUF sponsorship, the



iconic pieces of the historical heritage of Pakistan will soon be presented in their original splendid grandeur to the general public of Pakistan as well as to foreign tourists visiting the country. Mr. Mohammad Sarwar praised the cultur-

al significance of the 19th century paintings and assured the Ambassador about his support in organizing a large-scale exhibition. The Governor said that he would provide all assistance to the project and the Hungarian restorers to be successful.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



The Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, by H.E. Shaikh Abdulaziz Hamad Al-Jomaih, owner of Aljomaih holding company, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



H.E. Mr. Hassan Abghari, Deputy Minister for Economic & Finance Affairs and the Managing Director, Iran Foreign Investment Company (IFIC) of the Islamic Republic of Iran called on the Minister for Finance and Revenue, Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh.



Mr. Wouter Plom, Ambassador of Kingdom of the Netherlands called on Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr. Faisal Sultan.



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce & Investment Abdul Razak Dawood in a meeting with H.E. Aybek Arif Usmanov Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan in Islamabad.



H.E. Mr. Matsuda Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan Called on Ms. Zobaida Jalal, Federal Minister for Defence Production at Islamabad.



Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque in a meeting with Japan Ambassador to Pakistan Kuninori Matsuda in Islamabad



The Nepalese Ambassador to Pakistan Called on to Syed Fakhar Imam, Federal Minister of National Food Security and Research in Islamabad



The South African High Commissioner to Pakistan, Mr. M Madikiza, Called on the Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Syed Fakhar Imam in the Minister's Office.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



European Union's Ambassador to Pakistan, Ms. Androulla Kaminara called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr Islamabad.



US Charge'd Affaires Ms. Angela P. Aggeler called on Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed at Ministry of Interior in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for education, Professional Traning, National Heritage and Culture Shafqat Mahmood talking to United States Charge'd Affairs in Pakistan Ms. Angela Aggeler who called on him in this office in Islamabad.



H.E. Mr. Anderi Metelitsa, Ambassador of Belarus called on Ms. Zobaidda Jala, Federal Minister for Defence Production at Islamabad.



Ambassador of Egypt for Pakistan H.E. Mr. Tariq Mohamad Dahroug calling on Federal Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed at Ministry of Interior in Islamabad.



Tarek Dahrough, Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan. Called on Fereign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad.



British High Commissioner H.E. Dr. Christian Turner called on Federal Minister for Education, Professional Traning, National Heritage and Culture Shafqat Mahmood in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for education, Professional Traning, National Heritage and Culture Shafqat Mahmood talking to Japan Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Kuninori Matsuda who called on him in this office in Islamabad.

Pakistan and Kuwait committed to further strengthen and diversify bilateral cooperation



By Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan and Kuwait have underscored the need for increasing cooperation in the fields of education, health, trade and economy. This was discussed at a meeting between the President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi and the visiting Foreign Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Naseer Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Both sides discussed the existing level of cooperation and agreed to further expand bilateral ties for the mutual benefits of the two brotherly countries. Talking to the Foreign Minister of Kuwait, the President said that Pakistan accorded highest importance to its cordial and fraternal relations with Kuwait and wanted to further expand the ties with the brotherly country. He said that both countries had tremendous potential to increase cooperation in the fields of education, health and science. He offered that Pakistan could provide skilled labour and other professionals to Kuwait. The President told the delegation that Pakistan could provide training to the military personnel of Kuwait in its military training institutes.

He said that Pakistan's geo-economic importance was being increased due to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) & Gwadar Port and Kuwait could benefit of the emerging economic opportunities by making investment in different projects under CPEC. The President also highlighted the atrocities and human rights violations being committed by India in Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He urged the international community to put pressure on India to stop human rights violations against the Muslim population of IIOJK. The President lauded Kuwait for supporting Pakistan's position on IIOJK at international fora especially at OIC.

He stated that Pakistan was also grateful to Kuwait for supporting Pakistan's resolution on "International Day to Combat Islamophobia". The Foreign Minister of Kuwait emphasized the need for further improving the relations between the two brotherly countries. He deeply thanked the President for visiting Kuwait to offer condolences over the death of late Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah. He deeply appreciated the contribution of Pakistani community in the development of Kuwait, saying they are integral part of development programme of Kuwait.

He also thanked Pakistan for its principled stance on Kuwait during its invasion in 1990. The Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs of Kuwait, His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Nasser Al-Sabah, was warmly received by Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi at the Foreign Office. Foreign Minister Qureshi congratulated him on his reappointment as the Foreign Minister of Kuwait. Kuwait's Foreign Minister was accompanied by senior officials from the Kuwaiti Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior,

Health, and Trade and Commerce.

Upon arrival at the Ministry, Foreign Minister Ahmed Nasser Al-Sabah planted a sapling at the premises upholding a long-standing tradition followed by visiting dignitaries. Thereafter, the two Foreign Ministers held delegation-level talks.

During the meeting, the Foreign Ministers reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including cooperation in political, economic, defence, trade and investment sectors, and manpower export, and discussed ways to enhance people-to-people linkages between the two countries. The resolve to continue close collaboration in multilateral fora, in particular the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), was reaffirmed.

Foreign Minister Qureshi highlighted Pakistan's shifting focus to geo-economics with central emphasis on peace, development and connectivity. The Foreign Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to further strengthening and diversifying bilateral cooperation with Kuwait



in all fields. Expressing satisfaction at the recently held Bilateral Political Consultations (January 2021), he reiterated the resolve to work together towards achieving mutually agreed goals. It was agreed to convene the next (5th) Session of the Joint Ministerial Commission as soon as possible. The need for facilitating travel between Pakistan and Kuwait to provide impetus to bilateral trade was also emphasized. In this regard, the two sides resolved to achieve tangible results in the near future.

Foreign Minister Qureshi briefed his counterpart on the economic potential of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), in particular its Special Economic Zones. He invited Kuwait to benefit from the vast and profitable investment opportunities in Pakistan.

The Foreign Minister of Kuwait appreciated the positive contribution of more than one hundred thousand expatriate Pakistanis towards the development of Kuwait. He thanked Pakistan for support and cooperation during the global pandemic, in particular in the health sector and food security of Kuwait. Foreign Minister Qureshi assured him of Pakistan's continued cooperation.

The two Foreign Ministers also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. Foreign Minister Qureshi briefed his counterpart on the situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), in particular the serious human rights violations and attempts to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory.

He stressed that peaceful resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute, in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions, was indispensable for durable peace and security in South Asia.

The Foreign Minister also briefed on Pakistan's efforts in support of the Afghan peace process and stressed that the Afghan parties must seize this historic opportunity to secure an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement.

Foreign Minister Qureshi acknowledged and appreciated the role of the Kuwaiti leadership in promoting regional peace and harmony, in particular the efforts of His Highness the Emir of Kuwait that helped in bridging differences among the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

He reaffirmed Pakistan's support for all efforts aimed at enhancing solidarity and unity within the Muslim Ummah.



The Foreign Minister of Kuwait is visiting Pakistan at the invitation of Foreign Minister Qureshi. During the visit, he will call on

Pakistan's leadership and the senior officials accompanying him will meet their respective counterparts in Pakistan.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging views with Italian Deputy Defence General Secretary Vice Admiral Dario GIACOMIN during call on at Naval headquarters Islamabad



Italian Deputy National Armament Director, Admiral Guido Giacomini called on Ms. Zobaidda Jalal, Minister for Defence Production in her office at Islamabad.



British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Dr. Christian Turner called on Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad.



H.E. Andreas Papastavrou, Ambassador of Hellenic Republic Greece called on Mr. Atif R. Bokhari, MOS/Chairman board of Investment at BOI Islamabad.



Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid calling on Prime Minister of Qatar His Excellency Khalid Bin Khalifa during his Official visit to the State.



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood in a Meeting with H.E. Benedict De Carjat Ambassador of Switzerland in Islamabad.



H.E. Mr. Ikram Mohammad Ibrahim High Commissioner of Malaysia in Pakistan along with Mr. Asad Bilal (Area Head Habib Metropolitan Bank), Mr. Mohsin Nathani (CEO Habib Metropolitan Bank), Mr. Zohair Islam (Regional Corporate Head), Ms. Fatemah Zahra (Manager Diplomatic Missions, Habib Metropolitan Bank)



Mr. Abdul Aziz AlNeyadi, the Charge d' affairs of UAE Embassy in Islamabad meets H.E. Ikram Mohammad Ibrahim, the High Commissioner of Malaysia in Islamabad and discusses future bilateral cooperation

Pakistan congratulates Bangladesh on golden jubilee



H.E. Sheikh Hasina Wajed, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



H.E. Mr. Imran Khan, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday congratulated his Bangladeshi counterpart, Sheikh Hasina, on her country's golden jubilee and invited her to visit Pakistan. In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Hasina, Khan said the centenary events to commemorate the late Prime Minister Sheikh Mujib ur Rahman were reflective of the deep affection and esteem in which he is held by herself and the people of Bangladesh.

"On my own behalf, and behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan, I have great pleasure in extending our felicitations on the 50th anniversary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh," Khan wrote. The ten days of grand celebration in Bangladesh, which started on March 17, ended on Friday following Independence and National Day. Prime Minister Khan said his country deeply values its fraternal ties with Bangladesh, "which are based on shared history, common faith, and convergent interests in promoting lasting peace and security as well as sustainable prosperity in our region and beyond.

"The centenary and the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh remind us of the far-sighted vision of reconciliation and friendship between our two peoples, so dearly cherished by the leaders of Pakistan and Bangladesh. Pakistan remains a sincere partner in the

fullest realization of this vision," he added. He stressed the need to jointly work for a better future for the peoples of both countries and further strengthen ties. Khan also extended an invitation to Hasina to visit Pakistan and said her visit would open a new chapter in their countries' fraternal relations.

The move came after Hasina sent a con-

**Imran Khan
felicitates Sheikh
Hasina on 50th
anniversary of
her country's
Independence**

gratulatory letter to her Pakistani counterpart on Tuesday on Pakistan Day, commemorating the adoption of an independence resolution for the country, commonly known as the Pakistan Resolution. In her letter, she congratulated Khan on his country's National Day and said her government is committed to "peaceful

and cooperative" relations with Pakistan. Since the independence of Bangladesh (then East Pakistan) from Pakistan in December 1971 following a nine-month bloody war, the relationship between the two South Asian Muslim states has passed required courses with ups and downs.

In recent years, already icy relations between the two worsened with the conviction and subsequent execution in Bangladesh of several members of the Jamaat-e-Islami group and main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party leaders by a controversial local tribunal on accusations of committing atrocities during the 1971 War of Independence. Bilateral ties, however, have seemingly improved as Dhaka follows its constitutional

"friendship to all and malice to none" diplomacy with Islamabad in recent months. The UK's Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, also congratulated Bangladesh on its 50th anniversary. In a video message, Johnson congratulated Hasina and Bangladesh's people on their 50th anniversary. "The bond between our two nations is incarnated by the 600,000 strong British-Bangladeshi community, who contribute so much to our country," he added.



Pakistan, Uzbekistan vow to strengthen bilateral ties further

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi held delegation-level talks with the Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, Dr. Abdulaziz Kamilov. Views were exchanged on enhancement of economic cooperation, mutual support in international fora, regional connectivity and tourism promotion.

Outlining the vision of “Naya Pakistan” centered around economic security, the Foreign Minister underlined the importance of shifting focus from geo-politics to geo-economics, to advance the goals of national economic development.

Both sides expressed their firm resolve to boost high-level interactions to give impetus to the existing positive momentum in bilateral relations. It was agreed to maximally utilize the existing institutional mechanisms by regularly

convening sessions of Bilateral Political Consultations and Joint Ministerial Commission.

The two Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved in advancing rail connectivity between the two countries and agreed on early completion of Trans-Afghan railway project. Foreign Minister Qureshi emphasized the importance of direct air connectivity to further trade and tourism. He also stressed facilitation of visas for businessmen and tourists.

Foreign Minister Qureshi underlined the need to further strengthen the existing parliamentary cooperation between the two countries through exchange of visits. He welcomed the proposed “Re-connect Silk Route Conference” scheduled for July 2021. The event would help showcase Pakistani exports and products in Central Asia. He also underscored the importance of closer

agricultural cooperation between the two countries particularly in cotton seed sector.

Foreign Minister Qureshi expressed satisfaction at the level of cooperation between the two countries in the multilateral organizations such as the UN, OIC, ECO and SCO.

The Foreign Minister highlighted Pakistan’s positive role for the facilitation of Intra-Afghan Negotiations. The Foreign Minister reiterated Pakistan’s support to Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace and reconciliation process culminating in an inclusive and broad-based

Pakistan and Uzbekistan exchanged Views on enhancement of economic cooperation, mutual support in international fora, regional connectivity and tourism promotion



Foreign Minister Qureshi expressed satisfaction at the level of cooperation between the two countries in the multilateral organizations such as the UN, OIC, ECO and SCO

political solution. Establishment of lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan would contribute to progress on various connectivity initiatives leading to regional prosperity. He also underlined the grave and systemic human rights violations in IIOJK by Indian security forces.

Foreign Minister Kamilov extended an invitation to Foreign Minister Qureshi to participate in the Central Asia- South Asia Connectivity Conference to be held in Tashkent in July 2021.

Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa and discussed the Afghan peace process, Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

According to the ISPR, the meeting between the two was also attended by Director General Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Lieutenant General Faiz Hamid.

"Matters of mutual interest, overall regional situation including Afghan Peace Process and bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed," the army's media wing said regarding the meeting.

It said that COAS Qamar Javed Bajwa and the Uzbek foreign minister reiterated the desire to further enhance bilateral relations including



efforts for peace and security in the region. Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister appreciated Pakistan's positive role for regional peace

and stability, especially Afghan Peace Process and pledged to keep working for better relations between two brotherly countries.





EUD Pakistan, UN Women and Human Rights Ministry join hands to mark the International Women's Day at the President House, Islamabad

By Monitoring Desk

To commemorate the International Women's Day, the achievements made by the women of Pakistan were celebrated at the Presidency in Islamabad on 8 March in a programme co-organised by the Ministry of Human Rights, the UN Women and the European Union under Haqooq-e-Pakistan project. The President of Pakistan H. E. Dr Arif Alvi was the chief guest on the occasion. The event marked the progress achieved in safeguarding and promoting women rights in Pakistan. Occasion also provided opportunity to underline next steps needed to ensure further empowerment of women and gender equality.

Women leaders and representatives from all over Pakistan shared their achievements as well as spoke about challenges they faced in their respective fields. Amongst the speakers were the Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Fehmida Mirza; the Federal Minister for Minister for Defence Production Zubedia Jalal; the Ombudsperson for KP Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace Rukhshanda Naz; the first Transgender police officer in Pakistan Reem Sharif; the top position holder in ACCA examination Zara Naeem; and a young athlete from Jacobabad (Sindh) Erum Baloch.

President Dr. Arif Alvi has emphasized on women empowerment through better health and education, hereditary rights and financial independence. During her address, HoD Pakistan Androulla Kaminara appreciated the progress made by Pakistani women while signifying the needed for their further empowerment and inclusion in all fields.

The event also included a musical folk performance with Shamu Bai and Vishnu, a brother-sister duo from rural Sindh. The Ministry of Human Rights also showcased several films that delved into pro-women legislation, women's rights, and the Ministry's 1099 National

Human Rights Helpline. Sar Buland, a music video tribute to daughters and inspirational women in Pakistan, developed by Samar Minhallah was also showcased at the event

In his welcome remarks, Federal Secretary for Human Rights Inamullah Khan spoke about the theme for International Women's Day this year, "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world." He highlighted the central role that women have played in combating the pandemic, featuring prominently at the front lines as health care workers, caregivers, innovators, and community organizers.

He also spoke about the significance of acknowledging their contributions and creating more opportunities and space for them in critical policy making and decision making circles, to account for the learnings of Covid-19 and ensure greater resilience to future public emergencies related to disease or climate change.

Speaking at the event, Sharmeela Rasool, Country Representative, UN Women said, "The COVID-19 pandemic has taught the world that

inclusivity and diversity of leadership styles make a difference. When more women are in decision-making positions, different voices are heard, and innovative solutions are created. Both the process and the outcomes are for a more just, equitable and prosperous society".

Androulla Kaminara, Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan also gave an address at the event. Kaminara acknowledged the significance of the collaboration between Pakistan and the EU in developing key areas of cooperation geared towards gender mainstreaming, women empowerment and elimination of all forms of violence against women, under the Strategic Engagement Plan (SEP). She also mentioned that the EU's Huqooq-e-Pakistan project with the Ministry of Human Rights has supported the development of awareness raising films on pro women legislation, including inheritance and GBV, and expressed hope that this event will promote these videos and serve to spread these important messages to a wider audience in Pakistan.





Bringing Women in Mainstream Imperative for the Progress & Prosperity of the Country: Speaker N.A

Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser and Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri have expressed their resolve to address the challenges faced by differently abled women. They said that protection of rights of women was imperative for formation of a progressive society. They said this in their message on the occasion of International Women's Day being commemorated on 8th across the world.

The Speaker said that protection of women's rights is essential for the formation of a progressive society, which is the top priority of the incumbent government. Highlighting the positive role of women for the development of the society, the Speaker said that women need to be brought forward and encouraged through providing them a safe environment. He said the international community needs to make joint efforts to protect women's rights and take practical steps to legislate on the issue

of discrimination and violence against women around the world.

The Speaker said that Islam gives equal rights and respect to women and strictly prohibits gender discrimination. "Through mutual partnership, women can be given their rightful place in society by changing negative attitudes and attitudes towards women's rights and bringing them into the national mainstream," he said. He said that in order to empower women financially, women need to be brought forward and encouraged in the economic spheres. "We intend to make Pakistan a place where women have the opportunity to participate in all walks of life with dignity and self-confidence," he said.

Speaker Asad Qaiser said that COVID-19 pandemic had effected the entire world population but it had been more devastating for differently abled women. He said that it

was right time to join hand for forging common strategy to achieve a common future in a Covid World. Paying tribute to the differently abled women. Speaker Asad Qaiser said that "Differently abled women face a double challenge because they face the challenges of society along with their disabilities," he said.

On this occasion, the Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri said that more than half of the population of Pakistan is women and the provision conducive environment and protection of their rights was necessary for national development. He said that The Constitution of Pakistan guarantees women fundamental rights and financial security, job, business, education and freedom of choice in their profession, participation in political and social activities. He extended his all out support for achieving the desired objectives in this regard.



‘Nowruz’ promotes peace, solidarity: Samina Arif Alvi



By Muhammad Bilal Zafar

Islamabad: Serena Hotels held a colorful ‘Nowruz’ celebration event in collaboration with the diplomatic missions of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the banner of its Cultural Diplomacy Initiative. ‘Nowruz’ which means ‘new day’ is an ancient celebration of spring dating back to around 3000 years; today it celebrated by around 300 million people belonging to different faiths and ethnicities across the world. In 2010 the United Nations adopted a resolution to officially recognise the International Day of ‘Nowruz’. The event included beautiful cultural performances as well as stalls by the participating countries featuring their local handicrafts and heritage products. The First Lady Samina Arif Alvi was the chief guest at the occasion. A number of notable dignitaries from the Diplomatic Corps, Government and Corporate Sector also attended the event. Samina Alvi said ‘Nowruz’ promoted values of peace and solidarity between generations and within families as well as fostered reconciliation and neighborliness. CEO Serena Hotels South and Central Asia Mr. Aziz Boolani thanked the First Lady

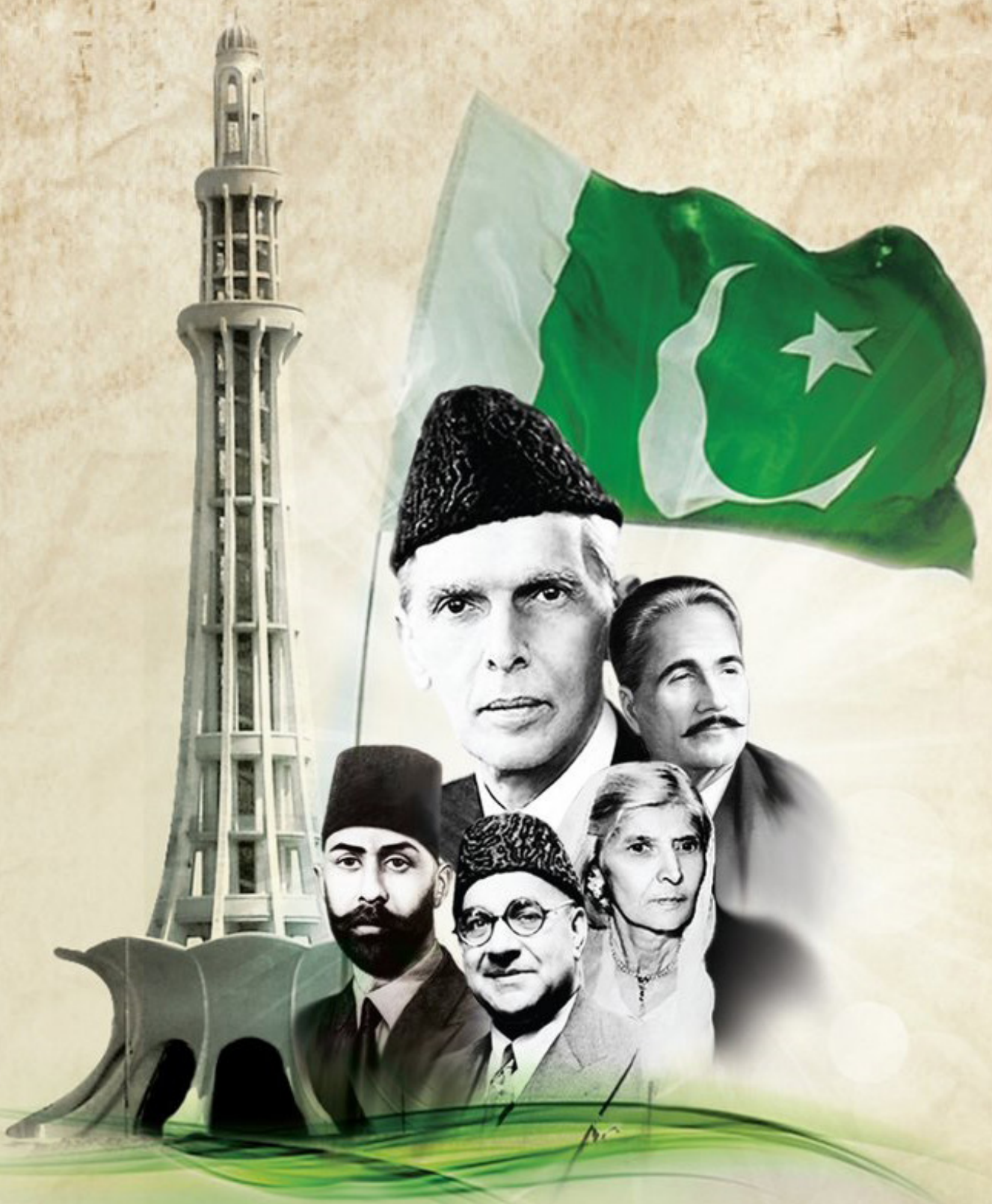




and the collaborating countries as well as the attendees for their participation. "At Serena Hotels, we believe in creating positive linkages that can bring value to the society, and our various Diplomacy initiatives follow this overarching mission. The 'Nowruz' event at Serena Hotels has become a yearly feature and a unique platform for the 'Nowruz' celebrating countries to come together to celebrate this UN-recognised festival collectively," he said.

"'Nowruz', a spring festival that has been celebrated across different regions since centuries, reminds us of what we have in common," said Atadjan Movlamov, Dean of Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Turkmenistan, thanking the First Lady Samina Arif Alvi for her participation. "Today's event shows that Pakistan stands for peace, development and progress."





23 MARCH

A DAY OF COMMITMENT

PAKISTAN DAY OBSERVED IN DUBAI

Pakistan day was observed here today in the Consulate General of Pakistan, Dubai. The event was inaugurated by Consul General of Pakistan, H.E. Ahmed Amjad Ali with Flag hoisting and playing the National Anthem. Messages of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out on the occasion, says a press release received here today from Dubai. On the occasion, the Consul General felicitated the Pakistani Community in UAE and recalled the struggle and sacrifices of the Muslims of the sub-continent under visionary leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. "It was on this day in 1940 that Pakistan Resolution was adopted. Through this resolution the Muslims of the subcontinent expressed unwavering resolve to carve out a separate homeland for themselves wherein they could lead their lives in peace and harmony. Today we pay tribute to our forefathers for their struggles and sacrifices in creation of our homeland",

said the Consul General. Appreciating the role and contribution of overseas Pakistanis, the Consul General said that almost 1.6 million Pakistanis live in UAE, making them the second largest expatriate community outside Pakistan. They have contributed immensely through their dedication, hard work and commitment to the development of Pakistan and of the UAE. "I assure all Pakistanis living in Dubai and Northern Emirates that the Government of Pakistan fully recognizes the potential and important role being played by Pakistani Diaspora in the development and progress of Pakistan. Pakistan Consulate General in Dubai will continue to work for the betterment of our community and keep the flag flying high of our beloved country", said Ahmed Amjad Ali. "On this occasion of Pakistan Day, I would also like to thank our generous hosts, the United Arab Emirates, with whom we enjoy time-tested brotherly relations",



PAKISTAN DAY OBSERVED IN KABUL

The ceremony to celebrate Pakistan Day was held today at the premises of Pakistan embassy at Kabul in which a large number of Pakistani diaspora participated to commemorate the sacrifices of the Muslim community of the sub-continent, says a press release received here today from Kabul. The ceremony was commenced with the recitation



of Holy Quran followed by national anthem and flag hoisting by H. E. Mr. Mansoor Ahmad Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan. The messages of the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan were also read out on the occasion. The Ambassador, on this occasion highlighted the sacrifices rendered by our forefathers for achieving a separate homeland. He paid homage to our elders

who took part in the independence struggle.

He further said that Pakistan was achieved after great struggle and immense sacrifices and it was the responsibility of the present generation to work for the development, stability and unity of the motherland.

PAKISTAN DAY OBSERVED IN AZERBAIJAN

To commemorate Pakistan National Day, the Ambassador of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Bilal Hayee held a virtual flag hoisting ceremony on Tuesday, March 23, 2021. Pakistani community members, officials of host government and members of diplomatic corps attended the ceremony. Messages of the President and Prime Ministers on the occasion of National

Day were conveyed by the Ambassador.

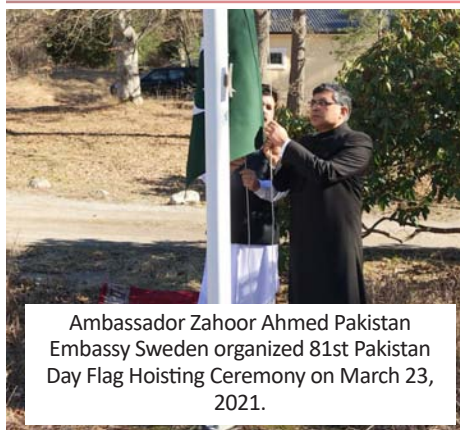
Due to COVID-19 pandemic and its allied restrictions the physical gathering in connection with National Day celebrations could not be held at Pakistan embassy, therefore, alternatively the ceremony was held virtually. Pakistan Paindabad Long-Live-Pakistan



Celebrations in Pakistani Missions Abroad



Pakistan Embassy Kuwait Flag hoisting ceremony in connection with "Pakistan Day" - 23 March 2021



Ambassador Zahoor Ahmed Pakistan Embassy Sweden organized 81st Pakistan Day Flag Hoisting Ceremony on March 23, 2021.



Flag hoisting ceremony held at the Embassy of Pakistan in Doha on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan Day.



Ambassador of Pakistan to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg Zaheer A. Janjua Hoisting Pakistan's flag on the occasion of Pakistan Day in Brussels on 23rd March 2021 Ceremony on March 23, 2021.



Pakistan Embassy Ukraine organized 81st Pakistan Day Flag Hoisting Ceremony at the Chancery.



Pakistan's National Day reception held in Colombo.



Virtual Commemoration of Pakistan Day organized by Pakistan mission to the UN, New York.



Consul General of Pakistan in Hong Kong, Bilal Ahmad Butt addressing to Pakistani community on the occasion of National Day of Pakistan in Hong Kong on March 23, 2021.



PAKISTAN DAY OBSERVED IN TOKYO, JAPAN

The National Day of Pakistan was celebrated at the Embassy of Pakistan, Tokyo with zeal, fervor and enthusiasm. The ceremony commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran followed by the National Anthem of Pakistan, says a press release received from Tokyo. Ambassador Imtiaz Ahmad hoisted the national flag whilst the audience recited the National

Anthem. The Ambassador read the messages of President and Prime Minister of Pakistan.

The Ambassador in his remarks paid homage to the father of the nation Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and all the other great leaders of the freedom movement who paved the way for the creation of Pakistan. He reiterated that

Pakistan had been achieved after rendering innumerable sacrifices, hence, it was imperative upon all Pakistanis to strive for promoting peace, progress and unity in Pakistan.

In the end prayers were offered for the prosperity of the country and for those affected by pandemic.

PAKISTAN DAY OBSERVED IN TURKEY

The National Day of Pakistan was marked in Turkey at an impressive ceremony at Pakistan Embassy in Ankara today. The Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey, Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi, raised the Pakistan flag to the tune of the National Anthem in the presence of the Embassy officials and media, says a press release received here today from Turkey. Messages of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out on the occasion.

Ambassador Syrus Qazi in his remarks stated that 23 March was an important milestone in the heroic struggle of the Muslims of South Asia when our forefathers made the historic decision to have a separate homeland. Seven years after the Pakistan Resolution of 23 March 1940 was adopted, Pakistan became an independent and sovereign state under the inspiring leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The Ambassador expressed gratitude to Turkey for sending Turkish band 'Mehter' (Ottoman Janissary Band) as well as aerial aerobatic team "Solo Turk," that will participate



in the Pakistan Day celebrations on 25 March.

Both these team had won the hearts of all Pakistanis through its unique performance in the past. In Turkey, "Atakule," one of Ankara's landmarks, its tallest tower and best lit building, is showing messages of Pakistan-Turkey solidarity during the nights on 22 and 23 March. Atakule is situated on Jinnah Road that also



has Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's monument right opposite to it. Moreover, all the three bridges in Istanbul on the Bosphorus linking Asia with Europe would be illuminated in Pakistan flag colours this evening. Ambassador Syrus Qazi and Mayor of Keçiören Municipality of Ankara Turgut Altınok jointly unveiled the plaque of a renovated memorial forest for 2014 APS Peshawar terrorist attack victims.

PAKISTAN DAY OBSERVED IN WASHINGTON D.C

A simple yet dignified flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC, this morning, to commemorate Pakistan Day, says a press release received from Washington D.C. Ambassador Asad M. Khan raised the Pakistan flag at the Embassy courtyard. The messages of the President of Pakistan, H.E. Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister, H.E. Imran Khan were read out in which they congratulated the nation, paid tributes to the founding fathers, expressed solidarity with the people of Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir and urged the nation to remain strong and united in overcoming the Coronavirus. The ceremony concluded with a special prayer for the prosperity of Pakistan and safety of all Pakistanis in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic. The ceremony was organized in line with local health guidelines and was also live streamed on Facebook.



PAKISTAN DAY OBSERVED IN VIENNA

Ambassador Aftab Ahmed Khokher hoisted Pakistani flag in a simple ceremony to mark the Pakistan day. After the national anthem, Ambassador Khokher read out messages of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan. Ambassador Khokher said that Pakistan Day is commemorated to pay homage to the founding fathers of Pakistan whose services and sacrifices



led to the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent. It was a day for reaffirmation of our resolve to make Pakistan an economically stronger and prosperous country.

Ambassador Khokher also stressed that Pakistan would continue to extend political, moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people

in their just struggle for the right of self-determination. The resolution of Jammu & Kashmir Dispute would complete the implementation of partition plan for the creation of Pakistan, he said. The Ceremony was held in a Covid safe environment keeping in view the restrictions of the local government.

PAKISTAN DAY OBSERVED IN LONDON

National Day of Pakistan was marked by a flag hoisting ceremony at the Pakistan High Commission London today. In view of the COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings, the ceremony was live streamed on Mission's Facebook page which was virtually joined by a large number of Pakistani diaspora and British friends of Pakistan, says a press release received here today from London. High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan hoisted the national flag. Messages of the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan were also read out on the occasion. Extending his heartiest felicitations to the Pakistani community, the High Commissioner shed light on the importance of the National Day of Pakistan. He said that

23 March 1940 marked not just the launch of our national struggle for independence and self-determination, but also the beginning of our journey as a nation to realize our national aspirations. He paid glowing tributes to the Quaid-i-Azam, Allama Iqbal and other founding fathers, who, through their unwavering resolve and visionary leadership, created Pakistan. Giving an overview of the state of affairs of Pakistan, the High Commissioner said that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, Pakistan was set to continue to march ahead with confidence and conviction as a responsible member of the world community, a global bridge-builder and peace-maker, and a geo-economic hub for the vast Asian hinterland.





Pakistan to continue to take steps for Strengthening Greater Regional connectivity more effective and responsive to the regional needs: Asad Qaiser

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan is striving to secure peace and stability through mutual efforts. Being the biggest victims of terrorism, Pakistan was determined to root out the menace. Pakistan had rendered numerous sacrifices in the fight against terrorism and had successfully turned the tide against it. Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser expressed these views while addressing the 4th Conference of Speakers of Parliaments on “Countering Terrorism and Strengthening Regional Connectivity” in Antalya, Turkey according to a message received from Antalya, Turkey.

Speaker Asad Qaiser while addressing the Conference said that immense security threats are being faced by the Muslim Ummah due to growing Islamophobia in the west. He said that a joint strategy should be devised and enhanced connectivity should be made to tackle this issue besides bringing out the true image of the religion of peace.

The Speaker reiterated that Pakistan would continue to take steps towards greater regional connectivity and making the Conference of the Speakers of the Parliaments on Countering Terrorism and Strengthening Regional Connectivity more



effective and responsive to the regional needs.

Terming connectivity as one of the foundation stones of the regional peace and prosperity, the Speaker highlighted the progress being made by Pakistan under the flagship China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

He said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), was a game changer not only for Pakistan but the entire region and it only became possible because of Pakistan's untiring efforts of

achieving peace in the region. Speaker also said that Turkey's efforts for maintaining peace are commendable and holding such conferences are mandatory for peace and stability in the region.

While highlighting the atrocities by Indian forces in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K), the Speaker called on the international community to address the prevailing grave human rights and humanitarian situation in IOJ&K as well as to uphold the inalienable right to self-determination of the Kashmiris.

On the sidelines of the Conference, the Speaker Asad Qaiser was called on by Speaker of Turkish Parliament Prof. Dr. Mustafa Şentop in Antalya. Strategies to strengthen the existing Parliamentary ties between both the countries were discussed in the meeting.

The Speakers agreed on enhancing parliamentary exchanges between both the parliaments for further cementing the existing bilateral ties. They also agreed for enhancing bilateral economic cooperation in diverse sectors. He appreciated Turk cooperation for in energy and infrastructure development sectors in Pakistan.

Speaker Asad Qaiser appreciated Dr. Mustafa Şentop for hosting this important regional parliamentary moot.



Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad participates in the ceremony for receiving the first consignment of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) against COVID-19



The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad, Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta participated, on 13/3/2021, in the ceremony of receiving the first consignment of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) against Coronavirus (COVID-19), which were presented as a gift by the Government and People of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Government and People of the Republic of Iraq. The Ambassador delivered a speech on this occasion, expressing the Iraqi government's thanks and appreciation to the People and Government of Pakistan for this historic stance,

which will strengthen the bonds of bilateral relations between the two friendly countries. From Pakistani side, Dr. Khalid Hussain Memon, Special Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Middle East Affairs, and Lt. General Akhtar Nawaz, Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan Army, the donor of that aid, participated in the said event and expressed their pride in the bilateral relations between the two countries, considered that aid as a token of love and assistance from the Pakistani People to the friendly Iraqi People.





Heart of Asia conference- Istanbul Process held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan

The 9th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (HoA-IP) is taken place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi leading the Pakistani delegation.

Apart from the foreign minister, the Pakistani delegation includes Foreign Secretary Sohail Mehmood, Pakistan's Ambassador in Tajikistan Imran Haider and senior officers of the Foreign Office.

Foreign Minister Qureshi highlighted, the positive efforts of Pakistan for the Afghan peace process and Pakistan's support for Afghanistan's development within the regional framework at the conference.

On the sidelines of the conference, Qureshi will also hold consultations with key regional and international partners.

Qureshi, in a conversation with APP on the sidelines of the conference, said that the world knows Pakistan's stance on Afghanistan and regional politics. World knows Pakistan's stance. Pakistan's sacrifices and efforts for peace are not hidden," said the foreign minister. He added that Pakistan was focusing on the future of this region.

"We believe if there will be peace and stability here then our wish of regional connectivity will go forward and that will benefit Pakistan and the region," said Pakistan's top diplomat.

During his visit to Dushanbe, the foreign minister will have bilateral engagement with the Tajik leadership. Besides holding talks with Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhriddin, Foreign Minister Qureshi will have interaction with other Tajik dignitaries and review the entire



gamut of bilateral relations.

Pakistan highly values its close fraternal ties with countries in Central Asia. Pakistan's relations with Tajikistan are firmly rooted in common faith, shared history, and geographic proximity. There is a mutual interest in developing close cooperative ties in all areas. Pakistan hopes that the return of peace and stability in Afghanistan would further strengthen its historic links with Central Asia, including Tajikistan.

The Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process was launched in 2011 and is an important platform to promote peace, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan through regional cooperation, confidence-building measures (CBMs), and dialogue.

"Pakistan attaches high importance to this Process and has been a regular contributor to the advancement of its objectives. Pakistan is the lead country for Disaster Management and Agriculture Development CBMs under the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process," said the Foreign Office.

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi called on all parties attending the 9th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process in Tajikistan to join forces and increase the fight against "terrorist organizations like Al-Qaida, ISIS and the ETIM until they are completely eliminated".

He also stated that "foreign troops should withdraw from Afghanistan in a responsible and orderly way, so as to prevent the various terrorist forces from ramping up and creating trouble".

He noted that he believes all parties attending share a strong desire and firm resolve to advance peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. Wang said with the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan standing at a crucial juncture, there is a rare, historic opportunity for a



political settlement of the Afghan issue.

“In this sense, the theme of this Conference, ‘Strengthening Consensus for Peace and Development’, is most fitting and meaningful. Peace is an urgent priority and a prerequisite for development; development is a perpetual pursuit and a guarantee for peace.”

He said the Istanbul Process involves all of Afghanistan’s neighbors and major countries in the region, as well as many international players supportive of the Process in line with this “China expects all parties to deepen cooperation in the following three areas:

“First, sustaining the momentum of peace talks and reconciliation in Afghanistan.

“The Afghan issue can only be resolved by political means, and the future of Afghanistan should be kept in the hands of the Afghan people.”

Wang said the Afghan people must stay confident and patient, and strive for broad-based, inclusive and durable peace through sincere dialogue and negotiations. International supporting parties should abide by the “Afghan-led, Afghan-owned” principle, put aside self-interests, uphold fairness and justice, and contribute more positive energy to the peace and reconciliation process, he said.

Second, he said while Afghanistan has made big strides in economic and social development

The Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process, initiated in 2011, is an important platform to promote peace, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan through regional cooperation, confidence-building measures (CBMs), and dialogue

in recent years, “it lacks internal drivers of growth”.

“Currently, the implementation of the China-Afghanistan MOU on Belt and Road cooperation is well underway, and China has provided several billion yuan in grant to Afghanistan.”

He also noted that China had helped during the COVID-19 pandemic, and that it will soon provide free vaccines to Afghanistan.

His third point was on terrorism which he said was a serious challenge for countries in the



region and a common enemy of humanity.

“It will be ill-advised to follow double standards in counter-terrorism, as they will backfire at the end of the day. All parties need to join forces and double down on fighting terrorist organizations like Al-Qaeda, ISIS and the ETIM until they are completely eliminated.

“Foreign troops should withdraw from Afghanistan in a responsible and orderly way, so as to prevent the various terrorist forces from ramping up and creating trouble. In this context, China will continue to strengthen coordination and deepen cooperation with all other parties concerned,” he said.



HEART of ASIA - ISTANBUL PROCESS

In conclusion he noted that China will continue to do its best to support, mediate and facilitate Afghanistan's peace and reconciliation process.

Mirwais Naab, deputy foreign minister, called on the regional states to work on cease fire in Afghanistan.

"International terrorist groups and drug traders seriously harm the peace efforts. I would like to call on all regional and international colleagues especially those influential on Taliban to work on a lasting cease fire in Afghanistan and meaningful negotiations," Naab said Monday at the opening of the conference.

"Peace will last long only when the peace talks focus on an independent, united and democratic Afghanistan where all Afghans men, women, youth and minorities see themselves in decision making."

Naab said that Afghanistan can pave the ground for a new horizon of connectivity in the region and economic expansion.

Khosrow Nazeri, Tajikistan deputy foreign minister said that the region supports Afghan peace process.

"From our viewpoint, long lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan needs real assistance to remove economic and social problems," Nazeri said.

"We ask the government of Afghanistan and Taliban to continue negotiations for national reconciliation. Tajikistan and regional colleagues support a productive intra-Afghan dialogue."

The Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process, initiated in 2011, is an important platform to promote peace, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan through regional cooperation, confidence-building measures (CBMs), and dialogue. Pakistan attaches high importance to this Process and has been a regular contributor to the advancement of its objectives. Pakistan is the lead country for Disaster Management and Agriculture Development CBMs under the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process.



Afghan President Ashraf Ghani met with Pakistan's Foreign Affairs Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi



Afghan President Ashraf Ghani met with Pakistan's Foreign Affairs Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on the sidelines of the 9th Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process ministerial meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. During the meeting, which took place at the

Tajikistan Presidential Palace in Bustan Sarai, in Dushanbe, Ghani first inquired about the health of Prime Minister Imran Khan who is recovering from COVID-19.

The meeting however, focused largely on the Afghan peace process. Qureshi stated Pakistan

supports the desired goal of achieving peace in an independent, united and democratic Afghanistan. Qureshi meanwhile condemned the increase in violence in Afghanistan, and said Pakistan fully supported a reduction in violence and a ceasefire in Afghanistan.

Foreign Minister Qureshi met with Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi meets with Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov on the sidelines of the 9th Heart of Asia Istanbul Process Conference in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

During the meeting, bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest, including promotion of cooperation in various fields, were discussed. The Foreign Minister congratulated the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan on Nowruz.

Referring to the visit of the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan to Pakistan in January this year, the Foreign Minister stressed the need for joint efforts to achieve the goals set for the promotion of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. On the occasion, Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that the launch of direct flights between Pakistan and Azerbaijan would help in boosting bilateral cooperation and tourism in various fields.

The two Foreign Ministers also discussed in detail the regional situation, the Afghan peace process and the situation in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The two Foreign Ministers agreed to continue mutual consultations on the promotion of bilateral cooperation.





Foreign Minister Qureshi met with Turkish Foreign Minister on the sidelines of 9th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu on the sidelines of the 9th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of the Asia – Istanbul Process in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. During the meeting, the two Foreign Ministers discussed myriad dimensions of bilateral relations -- including political and diplomatic engagement, economic cooperation, defence ties, and collaboration in education and cultural fields. Views were also exchanged on the regional situation. Recalling Turkish Foreign Minister's visit to Pakistan in January 2021, Foreign Minister Qureshi highlighted excellent bilateral relations between the two countries, based on shared history and commonality of views. He underlined that the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) had transformed bilateral relations into strategic partnership. Foreign Minister Qureshi reiterated appreciation for

Turkey's principled and steadfast support on the issue of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, which has been a source of strength for the Kashmiri people. During the meeting, the two Foreign Ministers evaluated the latest developments in the Afghan peace process.

Foreign Minister Qureshi briefed his counterpart on Pakistan's consistent support for and positive contributions to the Afghan peace process. Underlining that there was no military solution to the Afghan conflict, the Foreign Minister stressed that an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement was the only way forward. The Foreign Minister added that the progress achieved since the beginning of the U.S.-Taliban Peace Agreement and the commencement of the Intra-Afghan Negotiations in Doha should be preserved and further built upon to lead the process to its

logical conclusion. The Foreign Minister also cautioned against the role of "spoilers", both within and outside Afghanistan, who did not wish to see return of peace and stability in the region. Expressing concern on the high level of violence, Foreign Minister Qureshi stressed the imperative for the Afghan parties to work for reduction in violence, leading to ceasefire. The two Foreign Ministers also exchanged views on the proposed meeting on Afghanistan in Turkey. Highlighting that Turkey was instrumental in establishing Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (HoA-IP), Foreign Minister Qureshi stated that Pakistan valued this process to advance the shared goals of peace, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan and the region. The two Foreign Ministers agreed to remain in close contact and maintain the momentum of high-level exchanges between the two countries.

Pakistan, Tajikistan stressed the need for greater cooperation in different avenues of bilateral relation: FM Qureshi

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that there were a lot of opportunities present in furthering relations between Pakistan and Tajikistan in different avenues and stressed the need for greater cooperation between the two countries.

The foreign minister was addressing a press conference with his Tajik counterpart, Sirajuddin Mehruddin, at Tajikistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dushanbe as part of his visit to attend the 9th Heart of Asia — Istanbul Process Ministerial Conference.

Qureshi thanked his Tajik counterpart for a "great meeting" on a broad range of issues concerned with bilateral ties and said both had agreed to tap unexplored areas particularly "trade, tourism and people-to-people engagement".



106th Anniversary of Canakkale Victory & Martyrs' Day commemorated in the Embassy of Turkey in Pakistan

The 106th anniversary of Çanakkale Victory & Martyrs' Day commemorated and 100th anniversary of İstiklal Marşı celebrated with the ceremony held in the Embassy of Turkey, with the cooperation of Pak-Turk International Schools and Colleges and attendance of Federal Education Minister of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Shafqat Mahmood.

H.E. Mr. İhsan Mustafa Yurdakul Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in Pakistan said in his speech that We as a Nation, commemorate the 106th anniversary of the Canakkale Victory (also Known as Gallipoli Battle) with great proud and excitement and on again remember each and every hero of it with respect and gratitude.

The Canakkale Victory is a glorious victory which was made by our ancestors who challenged the entire world when all the odds were against them, brought to heel the most advanced militaries of the era, and changed the course of history.

Canakkale is the place where a nation, whose history is full and glorious victories, woke up from its century-old sleep, was reborn from its own ashes and monumentalized the spirit of unity and solidarity.

Canakkale is also a symbol of our allegiance as the Turkish nation to our homeland, independence and the sacred values that make us Turks.

Hundreds and thousands of heroes, who without blinking an eye- accepted to sacrifice their lives for the survival of their homeland and people, inscribed the saying, "Canakkale is impassable," in the history with their stunning struggle.

It was our faith, self-sacrifice and values of our thousand-year-old civilization that brought our Nation victory on the battlefield where the most striking examples of battlehood, solidarity, affection and unity took place.

The victory, which- despite all the negative circumstances was achieved through faith, resolution and live of the country, also led to the strengthening of the spiritual struggle that would achieve victory in our war of independence, The torch lighted in Canakkale brighten our path during our fight for independence and

establishment of the Republic of Turkey.

Our Republic was built on such great self-sacrifice and great struggles as the Battle of Canakkale and the War of Independence.

The biggest responsibility that falls to us in order to duly defend our country, which is our heroic ancestors' legacy to us is to feel in our hearts today the spirit of excitement and resolution felt in the battle of Canakkale.

We, as the grandchildren of the martyrs of Canakkale, will by no means compromise on our Independence, future and freedom.

We stand up today to the games sought to be played against our country and to the treacherous plans aimed at our people with this determination, and tirelessly work shoulder to shoulder with all our citizens from men and women to the young and the old- to build a bright future.

With these thoughts, I commemorate the anniversary of the Canakkale Victory and remember with mercy and gratitude all our martyrs and heroes, first and foremost Ghazi Mustafa Kamal Atatürk, who entrusted these lands to us as a sacred homeland, on the occasion of March 18th Martyrs' Day

May they rest in peace.





Conference titled “Significance of peace and trust in modern world” was held in the MFA of Turkmenistan

By Mian Fazal Elahi

A press-conference titled “Significance of peace and trust in modern world” was held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan in a hybrid format. The event was dedicated to the 30th anniversary of Turkmenistan’s Independence, to the 25th anniversary of the permanent Neutrality of the country as well as to the announcement of the year 2021 as the Year of Peace and Trust.

The press-conference was attended by the editors-in chief of the national printed editions, representatives of the foreign media, accredited in the country and heads and representatives of the national media. Heads and representatives of the authoritative foreign broadcasting organizations, as well as about 80 journalists

from the information agencies of 18 countries of the world participated to the press-conference by means of videoconferencing.

The speakers from Turkmenistan and foreign countries set out their vision of the notions peace and trust, which today are very important as never before.

They highlighted the role of mass media in promotion of these values on national, regional and international levels.

The participants of the press-conference highlighted timeliness of the proclamation by the UN General Assembly the year of 2021 as the International Year of Peace and Trust.

In this context the participants expressed the success and efficiency of the foreign and domestic policy of Turkmenistan conducted under the wise leadership of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov

during independence years.

At the press-conference the speakers picked up Turkmenistan’s success during independent years in political, economic and cultural-humanitarian fields.

It was underlined the important position of Turkmenistan in the sphere of promotion of peaceful and trustful relations in the region and beyond.

The participants expressed to the Turkmen side their gratitude for the organization of this event.

Representatives of International media confirmed their interest to work in close contacts with Turkmen colleagues for further strengthening of bonds of friendship and mutual understanding among the countries and peoples.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs: Qatar Has Not Hesitated to Fulfill Its Role and Humanitarian Duty

By Monitoring Desk

HE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani underlined that while the State of Qatar attaches priority for maintaining the health all citizens and residents, and while it continues its efforts at the national level to address the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic, it has not hesitated to fulfill its role and humanitarian duty at the regional and international level.

Addressing the virtual Meeting of Heads of State and Government on the International Debt Architecture and Liquidity and Financing for the Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond, hosted by Canada, HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said that the State of Qatar has offered urgent medical aid to about 88 countries to help them confront the pandemic, noting that the governmental and non-governmental aid which the State of Qatar has provided since the beginning of the pandemic reached more than \$256 million.

In this context, HE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs noted that the State of Qatar signed a Core Contribution Agreement amounts to \$10 million with the World Health Organization on March 16, 2021 in recognition of its pioneering role, aiming at supporting its 13th General Program of Work and the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator initiative. In addition, the State of Qatar allocated a total contribution of \$20 million to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (Gavi) to support the international efforts aiming to facilitate equitable access to vaccines, treatments and diagnostics for all people around the world.

Based on its commitment to the partnership with the international community, the State of Qatar has continued to provide initiatives and contributions that that alleviate the burdens of common crises and challenges. The State was keen on allocating a large part of its development aid to the developing countries and the least developed countries, HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister



of Foreign Affairs added.

HE said that the exceptional circumstances the world is going through today threaten to undermine the development gains achieved in the past, and highlight the importance of deepening interdependence between countries and adhering to the

**The State of Qatar
has continued to
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principle of cooperation and partnership. This will not be possible without devoting special attention to the needs and priorities of the developing countries, in particular the least developed countries. HE expressed pride that Doha will host the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in January 2022, looking forward to an active participation and welcoming all to Doha.

He expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to Canada and Jamaica, and the United Nations, for their appreciated efforts in holding this important meeting, and valued their important initiative for financing development in the period of the pandemic and beyond, given its importance in facilitating a rapid and comprehensive global response in such exceptional phase, and addressing the dangerous negative repercussions of the pandemic.

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs noted that the pandemic continues to be a priority at the top of the global agenda due to the heavy damage it inflicts on various sectors in all countries, placing huge financial burdens, reducing the financial space and exacerbating the debts in many countries.

He stressed that the changing global landscape at the present time should be a crucial point on the road to building a more sustainable and comprehensive global economic model and enhancing the ability of countries to withstand future crises. This can only be achieved through increased investment in all sectors that meet the needs of societies, doubled support and international cooperation, and liquidity provision.

Qatar's non-discriminatory minimum wage comes into force, applying to all workers, of all nationalities, in all sectors, including domestic workers

Legislation adopted last year provided a six-month transition period for employers to prepare for the new minimum thresholds. Qatar is the first country in the region to introduce a non-discriminatory minimum wage, which is part of a series of historical reforms of the country's labour laws. In addition to the minimum monthly basic wage of 1,000 Qatari riyals QAR (275 USD), the legislation stipulates that employers must pay allowances of at least QAR 300 and QAR 500 for food and housing respectively, if they do not provide workers with these directly.

More than 400,000 workers or 20 per cent of the private sector will benefit directly from the new law. "This wage increase will also improve the lives of a large number of family members in the workers' countries of origin who rely on

the remittances sent every month," said Max Tuñón from the ILO Project Office in Qatar. To ensure compliance with the minimum wage, the Government is enhancing the detection of violations, enacting swifter penalties and further strengthening the capacity of labour inspectors.

The minimum wage legislation was adopted following a comprehensive analysis carried out by the Government of Qatar and the ILO, in consultation with national and international experts and workers and employers from different sectors of the economy. The legislation also established a Minimum Wage Commission that will review the impact and application of the minimum wage, and propose adjustments, in consultation with different government bodies, experts, workers and employers.

This law follows other major reforms, including the dismantling of the kafala or sponsorship system. In particular, workers are no longer required to obtain an exit permit to leave the country, or a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to change jobs. These measures will likely make Qatar a more attractive destination for global talent and investment. "Some obstacles still must be addressed for more effective labour mobility, but we've observed a large number of workers moving to new jobs. While 75 per cent of the workers who have applied to change jobs have already completed the process, the remainder are currently being processed", said Max Tuñón. "Companies across all industries have also benefited from being able to recruit workers locally, reducing the costs and risks related with cross-border recruitment."

Qatar's new minimum wage comes into effect



Qatar has introduced a new minimum wage of QAR 1,000 per month



The employer must additionally provide QAR 500 per month for accommodation and QAR 300 per month for food, unless these are provided by the employer



The minimum wage covers employees across all sectors of Qatar, including domestic workers



A Minimum Wage Committee will be formed and tasked with frequently studying and reviewing the minimum wage



مكتب الاتصال الحكومي
Government Communications Office



Japan provides 39 million USD for water supply system in Faisalabad

By Mian Fazal Elahi

The Government of Japan has agreed to provide grants worth 4.1 billion Japanese Yen (Equivalent to around USD 39 million / around PKR 6.2 billion) for improvement of water treatment plant and water distribution system in Faisalabad city, Punjab province.

Notes to this effect were signed and exchanged between H.E. Mr. MATSUDA Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan and Mr. Noor Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs in Islamabad and a Grant Agreement (G/A) on the details of implementation of the project was signed and exchanged between Mr. FURUTA Shigeki, Chief Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Pakistan Office and Ms. Syeda Adeela Bokhari, Joint Secretary (Japan/NGO/INGO), Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Before this grant project, JICA assisted Water and Sanitation Agency, Faisalabad (WASA-F) to formulate the Master Plan in 2019 targeting next 20 years of future water supplies, sewerage and drainage in Faisalabad. In this Master Plan project, pilot projects were conducted to improve water supply services by establishing management system of water distribution including activities such as developing DMA (District Metered Area), reducing NRW (Non-Revenue Water) and so on.

This grant project has been formulated based on the prioritized project listed in the Master Plan, aiming not only to increase the water supply capacity for the currently unserved 50,000 inhabitants, but also to expand the output of the pilot projects in the grant project's target area (Abudulah Pur and Madina Town No.2). In particular, the Old Jhal Khanuana

Water Treatment Plant will be renewed and the water transmission and distribution facilities will also be rehabilitated in Faisalabad city under grant aid cooperation. Furthermore, JICA is also planning to assist WASA-F through a new technical cooperation project for improving their management capacity.

Through this continuous assistance, WASA-F is expected to be a role model in Pakistan that can keep a virtuous cycle of 1) enhancing water supply service level, 2) improving customer satisfaction, 3) improving tariff revenue, and 4) improving financial condition of WASA-F for future investment leading further to better services. This "Faisalabad model" would become a replicable model for other cities in the future.

At the signing ceremony, Ambassador MATSUDA stated, "Supply of safe and ample water for the Pakistani people is one of the most important issues for the Imran Khan Administration, and this sector is also one of the strongest areas for Japan. We would like to continue to cooperate with Pakistan in the water and sanitation sector so that

when people talk about water and sanitation development assistance, they think of Japan. For Pakistani people, Japan is known as "the Country of Rising Sun"; but, from now on she aspires to become a "Source of Clean Water"."

Mr. FURUTA Shigeki while speaking at the ceremony said "I hope that the grant aid project will be successful not only as a project, but as an important milestone for giving an impact for reforming water supply management in Punjab and in Pakistan in the future".

Ambassador MATSUDA and Mr. FURUTA emphasized the importance of water supply services and Mr. Noor Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs expressed his deepened appreciation for Japanese high quality and continual support for the water and sanitation sector in Pakistan.

Through this grant aid, the Government of Japan and JICA will continue to assist water supply services conducted by the Government of Punjab and the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan.





Preparedness in hybrid warfare, need of hour: President

By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said to effectively counter enemy's attacks, aproactive approach towards hybrid warfare was equally important, besides conventional preparedness of Armed Forces. The President expressed these views while addressing at the certificate award ceremony of AERON 2021 Workshop on Aerospace and National Security, held here at Pakistan Airforce (PAF) Headquarters.

The first-ever AERON workshop with 36 participants including parliamentarians, civil servants and journalists, focused on contemporary challenges, strategic autonomy and economic independence.

President Alvi said with global transformation in combat tactics, a strategy based on technical advancement, is vital to address national

security challenges. He mentioned that a paradigm shift in warfare has increased the threats of use of virus bombs and digital attacks on information network that required a constant vigil and alertness. He pointed that intellectual powers, including companies like Google and Facebook, has gained influence even on States, world Parliaments and the United Nations.

President Alvi said the kaleidoscope of world politics is ever-changing with new security alliances in the making and emphasized on preparedness by the country at all levels. He said Pakistan is ready to counter any nefarious designs by its enemies with its Armed Forces well prepared to defend the country's frontiers. He said Pakistan has emerged as the most resilient nation after rendering immense sacrifices in the war against terrorism.

The President lauded the readiness of

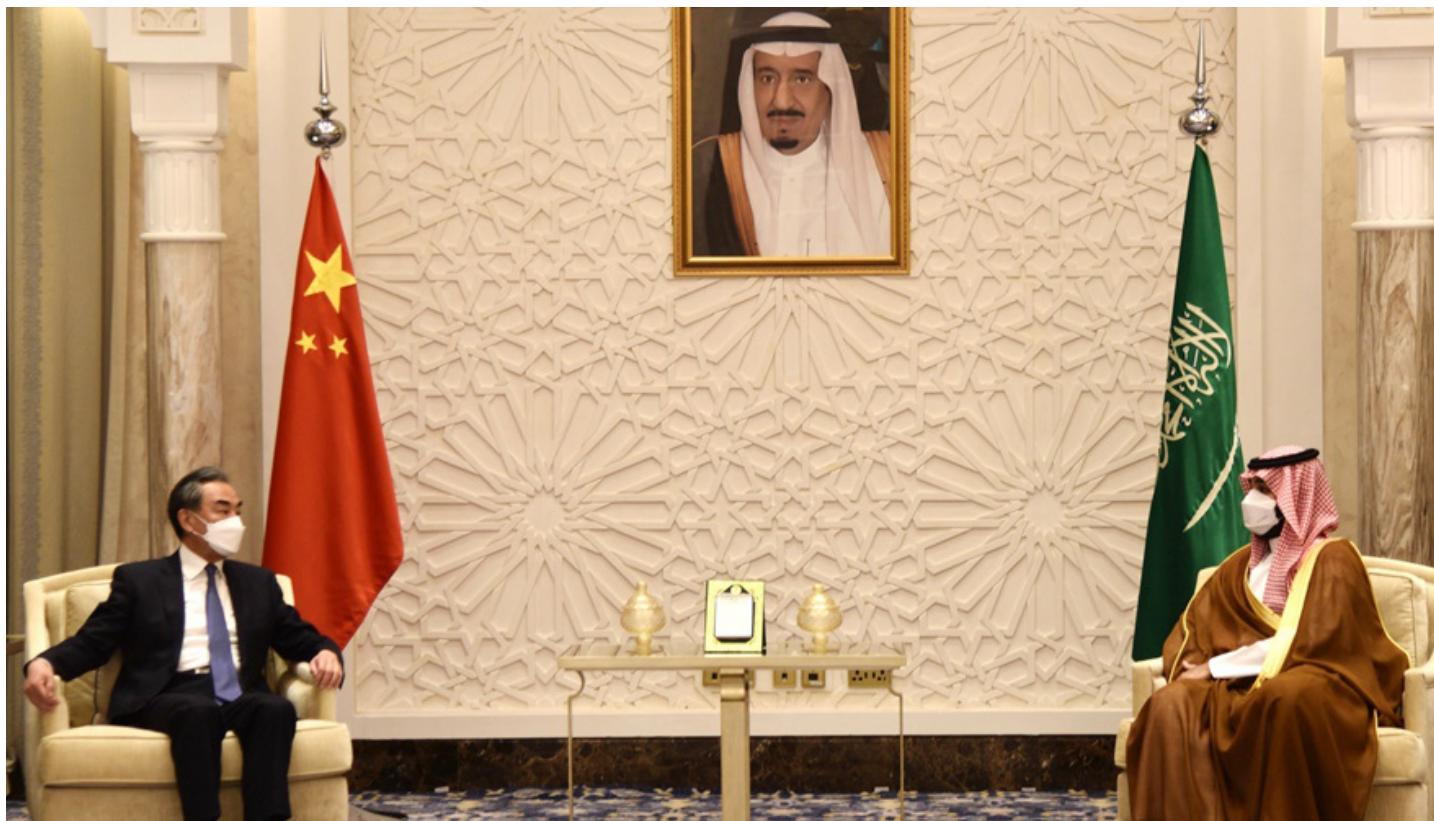
Pakistan Air Force which has always proved itself second to none while protecting the aerospace borders of the country.

He recalled that the valour demonstrated by the PAF falcons in countering the enemy's airstrike at Balakot in 2019 made the nation proud. Dr Alvi quoted a few poetic verses of national poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal that gave the nation an inspiration to remain steadfast and determined by shunning despondency.

Commandant Air War College Institute, Air Vice Marshal Zulfikar Qureshi said PAF is ready to deal with national security challenges, may it traditional or non-traditional. He mentioned that the capacity of aerospace power is whole of a national effort including economic stability and strong industrial base.

Later, President Alvi awarded certificates to the participants of the workshop.





China, Saudi Arabia vow to oppose interference in other countries' internal affairs

By Bilal Zafar

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud agreed to oppose any interference in the internal affairs of other countries and defend the interests of developing countries.

Wang, who just began his six-nation tour, said advancing ties with Saudi Arabia, an important strategic partner of China in the Middle East, is a priority for China's Middle East policies.

He will later visit Turkey, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Bahrain. China supports Saudi Arabia in safeguarding its sovereignty, national dignity, security and stability, and opposes interference in Saudi Arabia's internal affairs under any pretext, said the Chinese foreign minister.

China staunchly supports Saudi Arabia's efforts to explore and find a path of development that fits its own conditions, said Wang, adding that China is ready to better integrate the development strategies between the two countries to help Saudi Arabia attain the goals of Vision 2030.

He also expressed China's strong support to Saudi Arabia for playing a greater role in the region, while pledging to work together with the Saudi side to promote peace, stability and development in the Middle East.

China appreciates Saudi Arabia's firm support for China on the issues related to the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Taiwan, Wang said.

He underlined the need for the two countries to strengthen unity and coordination to safeguard the international system with the United Nations at the core and the international order based on the international law, oppose any interference in the internal affairs of other countries, reject unilateral bullying actions, and defend the common interests of developing countries.

The Chinese diplomat said the two sides can give full play to the role of the China-Saudi Arabia High-Level Joint Committee, which should take the lead in strengthening bilateral cooperation in traditional areas, such as trade, investment and infrastructure, as well as the emerging fields, including artificial intelligence, 5G, big data and aerospace technologies.

The two countries should also step up cooperation and exchanges in countering terrorism and eliminating extremism, Wang said. China is willing to work together with Saudi Arabia to speed up the free-trade negotiations between China and the Gulf countries to reach an agreement at an early date, Wang noted, adding that China and Saudi Arabia should jointly make good preparations for the upcoming China-Arab Summit and build a China-Arab community with a shared future.

Mohammed said China is a world power with significant influence, stressing that its revival is inevitable. The rise of China is conducive to global peace, stability and prosperity, as well as a more balanced global development.

Saudi Arabia, which attaches great importance to its comprehensive strategic partnership with China, is willing to continuously enhance bilateral cooperation in crude oil, petrochemical, nuclear energy and other energy fields, and expand it into new fields such as 5G, telecommunication and digital technologies, the crown prince said.

The two countries will also boost anti-terrorism and security cooperation to uplift the bilateral ties to a higher level, he said. Saudi Arabia is willing to make joint efforts with China to push forward the free-trade negotiations between China and the Gulf countries in order to clinch a deal sooner, he said.

Saudi Arabia firmly supports China's legitimate position on the issues related to Xinjiang and Hong Kong, opposes interfering in China's internal affairs under any pretext, and rejects the attempt by certain parties to sow dissension between China and the Islamic world, Mohammed told Wang.

Mohammed added that Saudi Arabia is ready to join hands with China to uphold the goals and principles of the UN Charter, and safeguard regional and global peace and stability.



Chinese and Saudi FMs pledge cooperation on economy and security

By Bilal Zafar

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud in Riyadh on Wednesday during which both sides pledged to work together on economic issues and expressed solidarity on matters of sovereignty.

Wang said he viewed the two countries as comprehensive strategic partners and that relations are continuing on a positive trajectory. Given geopolitical shifts in the Middle East and changes in U.S. policies in the region, China-Saudi Arabia relations have gained in prominence over recent years.

Wang stressed the importance to both sides of communication, safeguarding common interests and contributing to the development of world peace and stability. China supports Saudi Arabia in safeguarding national sovereignty, security and stability, as well as playing a greater role in international and regional affairs, he said.

He also criticized those who sought to interfere in the country's internal matters. Politicians in the U.S. and European Union have called for action against Riyadh following the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

A trial in the Kingdom concluded the murder, which took place in its embassy in Turkey, was perpetrated by a group of security service operatives acting without authority from the government.

Prince Faisal responded that international law clearly prohibited foreign powers from attempting to influence domestic affairs in other countries.

Wang said that China is willing to strengthen cooperation between the Belt and Road Initiative and Saudi Arabia's "Vision 2030," a project aimed at modernizing Saudi Arabia and taking advantage of its geographical position between three continents. Both sides pledged to work together towards a free trade area with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

Trade, investment, infrastructure 5G, artificial

intelligence, big data are all areas where the two sides can further their collaboration, Wang said.

China also expressed its support for a Saudi Arabian initiative, unveiled this week, to

China supports Saudi Arabia in safeguarding national sovereignty, security and stability, as well as playing a greater role in international and regional affairs

resolve the conflict underway in Yemen, which is causing an additional humanitarian crisis amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Wang Yi speaks on China's foreign policy and external relations

By Monitoring Desk

State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi answers questions about the country's foreign policy and external relations at a press conference on Sunday during the fourth session of the 13th National People's Congress, China's top legislature.

The press conference, which begins at 3 pm, is virtual at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, in line with COVID-19 containment measures.

Here are some highlights:

On 'head-of-State diplomacy'

The biggest highlight in China's foreign relations has been "head-of-State diplomacy", Wang Yi said.

Through innovative "cloud diplomacy", President Xi Jinping has championed solidarity in the world's fight against COVID-19, and pointed the way forward for the international community to jointly fight the virus, Wang said.

On the COVID-19 pandemic

China will continue working with other countries in unrelenting efforts to completely defeat the COVID-19 pandemic, Wang Yi said.

China has carried out its largest emergency humanitarian action since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, making contributions to the anti-coronavirus efforts of the world, Wang Yi said.

On China-Russia relations

In the face of the once-in-a-century pandemic, China and Russia have stood shoulder to shoulder and worked closely to combat "both the coronavirus and the political virus," Wang said. China and Russia should be each other's strategic support, development opportunity, and global partner. This is both an experience gained from history and an imperative under the current circumstances, Wang said.

On CPC leadership

Facts have proved that the leadership of the Communist Party of China is the biggest political advantage of Chinese diplomacy and that leadership will offer fundamental support for China's diplomatic agenda to keep securing



more victories, Wang Yi said.

Wang said that China's diplomacy is a people-oriented diplomacy led by the CPC, and the Party set the direction for China's diplomatic agenda.

The original inspiration and mission of the CPC - to seek happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation - determines the responsibility of China's diplomacy, he said.

On China-Africa relations

Helping African countries contain the COVID-19 pandemic and bring their economies back on track is the top priority of the China-Africa cooperation, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.

China will always support developing countries, Wang Yi said.

China has started to provide COVID-19 vaccines to 35 African countries and the African Union Commission, Wang Yi said.

On 'patriots administering Hong Kong'

Any country in the world will take allegiance to the motherland as a basic political ethic that must be observed by public officials or those who run for public posts, and so does Hong Kong, he said.

Hong Kong is a special administrative region of China. One cannot talk about loving Hong Kong without loving its motherland, he said, adding that love for the country and for Hong Kong is completely consistent.

Hong Kong enjoyed no democracy during colonial rule. Since its return to the motherland 24 years ago, no one is more concerned about Hong Kong's democratic development and wishes Hong Kong to remain prosperous and stable than the central government, he said.

On China-US relations

Wang said it is normal for China and the US,

two countries with different social systems, to have differences and disagreements. "What matters most is to manage them effectively through candid communication to prevent strategic miscalculation and avoid conflict and confrontation."

Wang said China hopes the US can remove its unreasonable restriction on bilateral cooperation as soon as possible, and refrain from artificially creating new ones.

"We are willing to work with the US and set China-US relations on a new path of healthy and steady development," he said.

On Taiwan question

The two sides of the Taiwan Strait must be and will surely be reunified, which is the trend of history and the collective will of the entire Chinese nation, Wang said, adding the one-China principle is the political foundation of the China-US relationship, a red line that should not be crossed.

On the Taiwan question, there is no room for compromise or concession from the Chinese government, he said.

"We would hope to see a clear departure from the previous administration's dangerous practice of 'pushing the red line' and 'playing with fire', and we hope that the Taiwan question will be handled prudently and properly," Wang said.

China stresses UN's core status

The UN is not a club for big or rich countries. All countries enjoy equal sovereignty and no country is in a position to dictate international affairs, Wang said.

He also urged efforts to enhance the representativeness and say of developing countries in the UN to better reflect the common aspiration of most countries.

China, EU not systemic rivals

The China-Europe relationship is equal and

open, and not targeting any third party or controlled by anyone else, Wang Yi said on Sunday. China never intends to divide relations between Europe and the United States, Wang said, adding that the country is glad to see the European Union uphold multilateralism and remain devoted to coordination and cooperation among major countries.

China opposes 'vaccine nationalism'

China opposes "vaccine nationalism," rejects any "vaccine divide" or any attempt to politicize vaccine cooperation, Wang said.

More than 60 countries have authorized the use of Chinese vaccines.

China has provided and is providing COVID-19 vaccine aid free of charge to 69 developing countries in urgent need, while exporting vaccines to 43 countries.

On China-Arab relations

China will work with Arab states in solidarity, pursue common progress and make good preparations for a China-Arab States Summit, Wang Yi said on Sunday.

In the past year, relations between China and the Arab States have continued to make progress amid various challenges, Wang said, adding their joint fight against the COVID-19 pandemic has set a good example for international cooperation.

On multilateralism

Building small circles in the name of multilateralism is in fact "group politics," multilateralism with one's own interests taking precedence is still unilateral thinking, and "selective multilateralism" is not the right choice.

True multilateralism means openness and inclusiveness instead of closeness and exclusion. It means equal-footed consultation instead of supremacy over others, Wang said.

China's WTO accession

Wang said the past two decades have taught China four important lessons: We must stay committed to the fundamental policy of opening-up; we must stay committed to the principle of win-win cooperation; we must stay committed to the right direction of economic globalization; and we must stay committed to the central role of the WTO.

"China has injected energy into economic globalization, and facilitated the optimization of global industry chains and resources," he said.

On China-Japan relations

China and Japan should remain focused without being distracted by any single event to make the bilateral relations more mature and stable.

China and Japan should support each other in hosting the upcoming Olympic Games this year and next year.

China hopes the Japanese society would truly embrace an objective and rational perception of China, so as to solidify public support for long-term progress in China-Japan relations.

'Xinjiang genocide' claim a thorough lie
The so-called claim of genocide in Northwest

China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region is preposterous, which is a rumor fabricated with ulterior motives and a thorough lie, Wang Yi said on Sunday.

Some western politicians chose to believe in the lies cooked up by a few instead of listening to the voice of 25 million Xinjiang residents of various ethnic groups, Wang said, adding that they chose to dance with the clumsy dramas by a few anti-China forces instead of acknowledging the progress in Xinjiang.

On China-ASEAN relations

Wang said that China stands ready to develop an even closer community with a shared future with ASEAN as the two sides celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral dialogue relations this year.

China will continue to prioritize efforts to meet vaccine demand from ASEAN and further consolidate mutual beneficial cooperation and see that China's new development paradigm is better align with the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, he said.

On the Belt and Road Initiative

China's commitment in supporting the Belt and Road Initiative has not changed, and the country will continue to work with stakeholders to advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, Wang Yi said.

COVID-19 may have changed the world, but the need for Belt and Road cooperation has not subsided, he said.

"As we pursue a new development paradigm, we will explore better pathways for Belt and Road cooperation and offer greater opportunities to BRI partners," he added.

On new development stage

China will create a better business environment, pursue opening-up at a higher level, and work with various countries to accelerate the building of an open world economy, Wang Yi said.

China in the new development stage is like an express train with greater driving force and load capacity accelerating towards a new goal, he said.

On China-India relations

China stands in a firm position to solve border disputes through dialogue and consultations and at the same time is determined to safeguard its own sovereign interests, Wang Yi said. Border issues are not the whole of China-India relationship, Wang said, noting that what happened again proves that initiating confrontation will not solve the problem, and that returning to peaceful negotiation is the right way forward.

On climate change

Even though China and the US and the European Union are in different stages of development and face different challenges, they share the same mission in coping with climate change, he said.

Wang urged enhanced communication and coordination between the three sides and that they play a leading role in the international

community, he said, adding that China welcomes the US' return to the Paris Agreement and expects that the US will shoulder its responsibility and make its due contribution, he added.

On Iran nuclear issue

China hopes the United States will show sincerity on the Iran nuclear issue, take actions as quickly as possible, including removing unjustified unilateral sanctions and lifting the "long-arm jurisdiction" on third-party entities and individuals, Wang Yi said.

At the same time, he said, Iran should resume compliance with the Iran nuclear deal and shoulder its responsibility of nuclear non-proliferation, Wang said.

On South China Sea

The only intention of some Western countries, including the United States, is to stir up troubles in the South China Sea in the name of so-called free navigation and undermine peace in the South China Sea and disturb regional stability, Wang said.

He called on China and ASEAN countries to continue to remove distractions and press ahead with Code of Conduct consultations and continue with the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea.

On Myanmar tensions

Relevant parties in Myanmar should maintain calm and exercise restraint, address their differences through dialogue and consultation within the constitutional and legal framework, and continue to advance the democratic transition, Wang Yi said.

"The immediate priority is to prevent further bloodshed and conflict, and ease and cool down the situation as soon as possible," Wang said.

On China and Latin America

China is providing COVID-19 vaccines to 12 Latin American and Caribbean countries, Wang Yi said on Sunday.

"China and Latin American and Caribbean countries have stood alongside and supported each other in COVID-19 response and economic recovery," he said. "Our cooperation best illustrates the saying that 'a bosom friend afar brings a distant land near'."

On objective coverage of China

China hopes to see and welcome more journalists in the mold of Edgar Snow in this new era among foreign journalists, said Wang Yi.

Wang said he hopes that foreign journalists will not apply any filter to their camera, whether one of beauty or gloomy, when reporting on China.

"Truthful, objective and fair stories will always appeal to people and can stand the scrutiny of history," he said. "However the world changes, the media should stand by their professional ethnics."

Activities of Chinese Ambassador

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Nong Rong met with H.E. Usman Buzdar, Chief Minister of Punjab. Both side had a good discussion on pragmatic cooperation and I am with full confidence to expect CPEC make more progress in Punjab.



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Nong Rong had a friendly meeting with H.E. Shujaat Hussain, Ex-PM of Pak, President of PML-Q and H.E. Pervaiz Elahi PML (Q), Speaker of Punjab Assembly. Had a good review of China-Pak friendship & it is our joint duty to uphold our All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership from generation to generation.



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Nong Rong had very constructive discussions with Ms. Sania Nishtar, SAPM on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection. We should further develop CPEC projects to achieve industrialization of Pakistan at an earlier date, which may help to get rid of poverty in a fundamental way.



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Nong Rong visited Challenge Textile Company and glad to know the successful story of how a private Chinese investor grows into the 87th largest exporter in Pakistan.



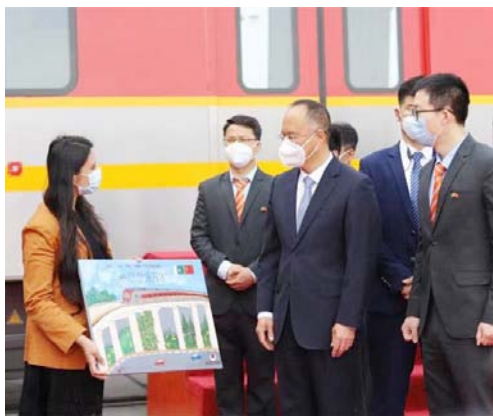
Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Nong Rong had a fruitful meeting with Hassan Daud Butt, CEO of KP-Board of Investment & Trade & SEZA. Agreed to enhance the industrial cooperation and expedite the work for the Rashakai Economic Zone.



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Nong Rong visited the Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line Project which is a remarkable project under CPEC ambassador further said all great efforts & hard work of builders need no words to describe when standing in the Converter station. Hope its testing process will go smoothly & the project will function as soon as possible.



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Nong Rong glad to witness the first 10 million ridership of Lahore Orange Line Metro. It is a fantastic experience to take the train and enjoy the convenient, fast, safe and comfortable public transportation system.



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Nong Rong attended the opening ceremony of Haier HNR Home Appliance Testing Laboratory. Hoping the Haier-Ruba Economic Zone plays a leading role in promoting industrial cooperation between the two countries.





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

It is universally acknowledged that one of the huge challenges the world faces is the eradication of poverty, which has become a common goal for all humanity. As the largest developing country in the world, China, through its own persistence and struggle, has won a complete victory in the fight against poverty on the occasion of marking the first centenary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC) by accomplishing the arduous task of eliminating extreme poverty, thus working another miracle in the annals of history!

Over 40 years since China's reform and opening-up, more than 700 million Chinese people have successfully shaken off poverty. Especially in the past eight years, the number of people in China lifted out of poverty has reached averagely more than 10 million per year, equal to the population of a medium-sized country. So curious as to what has dramatically elevated the livelihood of the formerly poverty-stricken Chinese people, the world community wishes to decipher the very code behind China's success in poverty alleviation.

Unarguably, it is the strong leadership of the CPC that has played the most fundamental role in achieving China's success in poverty alleviation. Since its founding in 1921, while sticking to its original mission of seeking happiness for Chinese people and achieving national rejuvenation, the CPC has strived to serve the people and rely on the people at every stage of development.

Generations of top leaders of the CPC have deeply cared about its people. As President Xi Jinping once said, "During my work of more than 40 years at various levels of Chinese governments, successively from that of the county, to the municipal, the provincial and finally the central, poverty alleviation has always been my focus which consumed most of my energy." After the 18th National Congress of the CPC in 2012, President Xi Jinping called on the whole CPC and people throughout the country to participate in the cause of

eradicating poverty under his leadership, and led the battles against poverty most largest and most fierce in human history, trying with the spirit of hammering nails to get the work concerning poverty eradication thoroughly implemented. In the process, millions of cadres and ordinary CPC members responded to the call actively, and worked in the front line for the projects of poverty alleviation, among whom more than 1800 comrades sacrificed their lives for this great cause!

In view of its national conditions, China insists on eliminating the root of poverty by abiding to the law of poverty reduction and by means of sustainable development. The development since the founding of New China, especially the rapid development since the reform and opening up, has laid a solid material foundation for poverty reduction. For more than 40 years, China has made unremitting efforts to promote industrialization, urbanization and agricultural modernization. In the last mile of poverty alleviation, China adheres to the ideas of targeted poverty alleviation and development-oriented poverty reduction, in order to achieve a transfer in strategies from resorting to others to relying on itself. In addition, such attempts of empowering the people by building up their determination, helping them acquire knowledge, along with efforts of highlighting input in education are made to block intergenerational transmission of poverty.

China has benefited from the political advantages of the socialist system that can coordinate all resources to complete key national undertakings. It also advanced the initiative that those who get rich first should help others lagging behind. China has pooled a lot of financial, human and material resources on the main battlefields of poverty alleviation, established a top-down working mechanism from the central to the very grassroots level, the big system of collecting assistance from different regions, sectors, industries, enterprises or other sources in the society for this noble cause. In the past eight years, the financial and social assistance from nine developed provinces and cities of eastern China to less developed regions alone have reached over 100.5 billion yuan.

So far no other country in the modern world can lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty in such a short time like China, nor ever one did in history. This achievement belongs to China, and to the world as well. With these efforts, China has contributed much to the accelerated process of poverty reduction in the world, accounting for more than 70% of the global poverty reduction population, achieving 10 years ahead of schedule the poverty reduction goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by all United Nations Member States. Under the new context, China will effectively combine its efforts of

consolidating and expanding the achievements of poverty alleviation with its new policy of rural revitalization to cement the outcome of poverty alleviation and contribute more sustainable development of the rural areas.

Eliminating poverty is the common mission of mankind. President Xi Jinping has repeatedly called on the international community to pay active attention to people's rights of subsistence and development in developing countries, and make joint and unremitting efforts to build a poverty-free community with a shared future for mankind with common development. While promoting its own poverty reduction process, China has provided much assistance to developing countries within its capacity. For instance, by setting up "China-UN Peace and Development Fund" and "South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund", China have actively used multilateral and bilateral channels to help international cooperation in poverty reduction. China has carried forward the "Belt and Road Initiative", making new contribution to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. According to the estimation in a report of the World Bank, thanks to the "Belt and Road Initiative", 7.6 million people would get rid of extreme poverty, and 32 million would walk out of the shade of moderate poverty. China will continue its unswerving support to developing countries in eradicating poverty through economic development and improvement of people's livelihood, to inject new impetus into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partner. China takes Pakistan as a priority in its foreign relations. Both countries pay high attention to poverty alleviation. Prime Minister Imran Khan himself has repeatedly emphasized learning from China's experience. He said that with determination and commitment Pakistan can do the same for its people. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. China will further promote practical cooperation in various fields between the two countries, actively share experience in poverty reduction, adhere to high-quality development of the CPEC, and focus on supporting Pakistan's industrialization and urbanization. China will also continue to deepen cooperation in education, vocational training and agricultural cooperation.

During President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan, he said, "When brothers work together, their sharpness cuts through gold." I believe that with the joint efforts of two sides, China-Pakistan cooperation will achieve greater success for betterment of the well-being of the people of the two countries, and help build a closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era.



70th Years of friendship, & counting

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

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi attended a virtual ceremony on March 2 to formally commence the anniversary celebrations.

China-Pakistan ties have developed into an outstanding model of relations between countries with different social systems, histories and cultures over the past seven decades.

Since diplomatic relations were officially established in 1951, the friendship between the two countries has remained rock-solid no matter how the regional and international landscapes have evolved. They have always supported each other on issues involving their respective core interests and major concerns, and forged an ironclad bond.

It is under the careful cultivation of the leaders of the two countries that the friendship between China and Pakistan has grown into a towering tree with vitality and deep roots. President Xi Jinping made a historic visit to Pakistan in 2015, promoting bilateral relations to the level of All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership. Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has visited China three times since taking office, and has held four meetings with President Xi, fully demonstrates that the Pakistani government has put China at its foremost and central position in developing foreign relations.

During China's fight against the COVID-19 at the beginning of 2020, Pakistan immediately donated medical materials to China, and all walks of life in the country voiced their support for China and opposed politicizing the pandemic and stigmatizing China.

When COVID-19 cases surged in Pakistan, groups of Chinese medical experts as well as batches of medical supplies have been sent to assist the country. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is proceeding uninterrupted, with no jobs cut and no staffs withdrawn, which has helped stabilize Pakistan's economy and promoted people's livelihoods.

In order to support Pakistan's fight against

the second wave of the pandemic, the Chinese government and the Chinese military each donated 500,000 vaccine doses to Pakistan. Pakistan was the first country to receive COVID-19 vaccines donations from both the Chinese government and military.

The past 70 years has proved that China-Pakistan friendship and cooperation are not only in the fundamental interests of the two countries and peoples, but also conducive to maintaining regional and world peace, stability and development.

The two sides should continue to firmly support each other.

China will continue to develop its relations with Pakistan from a strategic and long-term perspective, and give Pakistan priority in diplomacy. China will never forget Pakistan was one of the first countries to recognize the People's Republic of China, and was among the countries backing China's efforts in restoring its lawful seat in the United Nations, and provide valuable assistance in China's reform and opening-up.

The Chinese side will maintain high-level exchanges with Pakistan, always support Pakistan in safeguarding its national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and help it play a more constructive role in international and regional affairs.

Since the CPEC was launched, China has become Pakistan's largest trading partner for six consecutive years and its largest source of investment for seven consecutive years. The CPEC has brought \$25.4 billion in direct investment to Pakistan and created 75,000 jobs for the country at its peak. It is a demonstration of high quality development under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative.

China will continue to further develop the economic corridor linking the two countries, vigorously support Pakistan's industrialization, help increase employment and expand exports, and accelerate its integration into the international industrial chain.

As the protocol of the second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement has come into effect, the trade liberalization between the two countries has been greatly improved, and China stands ready to deepen economic and trade cooperation with Pakistan.

China will provide greater convenience

for Pakistan's exports to China, strive to narrow the trade deficit, and seek balanced development of bilateral trade.

Both sides should join hands to address security risks. The security interests of China and Pakistan are closely related. The two countries have continuously deepened cooperation in fields such as defense, security and anti-terrorism, making great contributions to regional and international peace and stability.

China will continue to support Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts by helping the country improve its anti-terrorism and security capabilities and ability to better address non-traditional security threats. China will also provide reliable security guarantees for economic cooperation and mutual development between the two countries.

China will build a bridge of friendship and partnership between the two peoples. The cooperation in the fields of art, broadcasting, film and television, publishing and sports is progressing well. A series of activities, such as the Year of Friendly Exchanges between Pakistan and China in 2015, and the Year of Sister-City Exchanges in 2019, have all contributed to people-to-people exchanges.

More and more Pakistani students are studying in China, and many of them have become the backbone of China-Pakistan friendship. Both countries will host more wonderful and various cultural exchanges, strengthen ties at the levels of provinces and cities, continue to support cooperation in higher education, and boost cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

This year is a milestone for both sides. For China, it marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China and is the first year of China's 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25). For Pakistan, the country is making every effort to develop its economy and realize Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision of "Naya Pakistan", which provides the two countries with new opportunities to promote their cooperation.

It is believed that with the joint efforts of the two sides, the China-Pakistan All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership will surely reach a new height, and forge ahead in building a China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

The author is the Chinese ambassador to Pakistan. The author contributed this article to China Watch, a think tank powered by China Daily.

Pakistan values its bilateral ties with Italy and desires to further expand multifaceted cooperation in diverse fields: Chairman Senate

Italian Ambassador Andreas Ferraris called on Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at the Parliament House and exchanged views on matters of bilateral interests besides exploring ways and means for multi-sectoral cooperation.

The Italian Ambassador congratulated Chairman on being re-elected as Chairman of the Upper House of the Parliament. Welcoming the Ambassador, the Chairman Senate observed that Pakistan values its bilateral ties with Italy and desires to further expand multifaceted cooperation in diverse fields. Italian Ambassador said that vast investment opportunities in the country will be utilized for mutual benefit of the people of two sides.

The Italian envoy felicitated Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, on being re-elected as Chairman of the upper house of the Parliament. He also conveyed well wishes on behalf of the Prime Minister of Italy, the Parliament and especially the President of the Italian Senate and the people. Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani underlined the need to further enhance cooperation and institutional support within the parliamentary spheres between the two countries. The Chairman said that Pakistan and Italy have a wide scope to inflate cooperation on international forums.



Sheworks on the ramp at Rozana Fashion Show

UN Women Pakistan in collaboration with Sheworks hosted “Rozana” Fashion Show held on 12th of March at the UN Women Country Office in Islamabad.

In line with International Woman’s day celebrations the United Nations Women office in Islamabad hosted the “Rozana” Fashion show showcasing the finest hand embroidered collection for ladies from Sheworks & Sabah Pakistan; along with an exquisite collection for men by Mohataram.

This fashion show broke away from tradition, by curating designs made by artisans from rural communities of Pakistan and offering a prestigious line up of models, who represented the crème de la crème of the diplomatic community.

Rozana Fashion show models included the EU Ambassador – H.E. Androulla Kaminara; the Canadian Ambassador – Ms. Wendy Gilmore; the Maldivian Ambassador –Farzana Zahir- Ms. Lina Mousa; Rebekah Bell – FAO (Food & Agriculture Organization) Representative from Australia to Pakistan , the Deputy County representative – Ms. Jacqui Ketunuti and the Head of devel-



H.E. Androulla Kaminara –EU Ambassador to Pakistan fashioning a SheWorks creation on the ramp



Anna Ostby- Spouse of Resident Representative UNPD Pakistan dressed in SheWorks



Farzana Zahir Ambassador of Maldives to Pakistan adorned in SheWorks Kurta



Ms. Rebekah Bell – FAO (Food & Agriculture Organization) Representative from Australia to Pakistan dressed in Sheworks

opment at High Commission of Canada- Mr. Chris Khug to name a few. “We were extremely elated to be invited by UN women to participate in Rozana Fashion show; it gave us an opportunity to exhibit our work and also share our brands story, for us this is a labor of love, focusing on functional design whilst highlighting traditional techniques of hand embroidery and aesthetic appeal in our work. We look forward to many more opportunities and collaborations.” says Samina Mahmud, Founder of SheWorks

UN women gave a voice and platform to the artisans who have created the intricate designs, artisans present at the show from Bhawalpur were Zareena Bibi from Wazir Wali, Tasleem Bibi & Rubeena Bibi from Jan Muhammad; and Faiza Bibi

Nosheen Bibi & Rubina Bibi came from Haripur district KPK, Faiz Buttry Village. They were invited to share their inspiring personal journey as artisans with the audience.

The Rozana Fashion show was instrumental in supporting and highlighting homegrown fashion brands, Sheworks which is a Social enterprise for change based out of Islamabad and works with artisans from South of Punjab; Sabah Pakistan a non profit organization based in Haripur district – KPK and Mohtaram the men’s brand of fashion.



Jacqui Ketunuti – High Commissioner Maldives walks the ramp wearing SheWorks

Ample sports strengthen youth's mental and physical ability, Isphanyar Bhandara

Sports build character and personality in young people and strengthens their mental abilities

The Chief Executive Murree Brewery Company Mr. Isphanyar Bhandara says that sports help in developing the mental and physical abilities of the youth. This builds their character along with improving patience and courage in their personalities, because self-confidence in a person can play an important role in the country's development. He added

that the players are assets of the nation and play an important role in promoting sports for the formation of a healthy society. He expressed his views while talking to reporters after distributing prizes in the successful team at the 117th MP Bhandara Memorial Polo Cup Final in Rawalpindi.

Eight teams that participated in the pilot event were:

In the final ASC Iqbal Team scored 6 goals to beat PAF team by 5-1/2 goals. Ambassador of Sweden, H.E. Henrik Persson was the Chief Guest of this event. He appreciated the efforts of the Murree Brewery team for the promotion sports event went on to say that the inaugural M.P. Bhandara Memorial Polo Tournament was held in 1904.





Serena Hotels hosted a Women's Day Breakfast and Crafts Bazaar



Serena Hotels hosted a Women's Day Breakfast and Crafts Bazaar to acknowledge the trailblazing women of society and to provide support and representation to women social enterprises. Wife of the President of Pakistan Samina Arif Alvi was the chief guest at the occasion which was attended by prominent women leaders from politics, sports,

healthcare and charities as well as other segments of society including journalists and members of the Diplomatic corps and their spouses.

An exhibition of social enterprises for women empowerment as well as organisations working to support persons with disabilities and social justice was set up which

included a colourful crafts bazaar. The exhibitors included the Pakistan Foreign Office Women Association, Behbud Crafts, Indus Heritage Trust, Mashal Association, Andaaaz, Rozan, Nomad Gallery, Care for Special Persons Foundation, Aga Khan Economic Planning Board for Pakistan and Pakistan Air Force Women's Association.





Diplomats called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ

Her Excellency Mrs. Androulla Kaminara – Ambassador of European Union (EU), Her Excellency Ms Wendy Gilmour – Canadian High Commissioner & Her Excellency Ms. Lis Rosenholm, Ambassador of Denmark called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security and enhanced bilateral cooperation with European Union (EU) and Canada came under discussion. COAS said that Pakistan values its relations with EU countries & Canada and we earnestly look forward to enhance mutually beneficial multi-domain relations based on common interests.

The visiting dignitaries also appreciated Pakistan's role in regional stability, especially the Afghan Peace Process. All sides pledged to play their role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation at all levels.



Ukrainian Ambassador to Pakistan called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS)

His Excellency Mr. Markian Chuchuk, Ukrainian Ambassador to Pakistan called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ, today (March 31st, 2021).

During the meeting matters of mutual interest, regional security and enhanced bi-

lateral & defence cooperation came under discussion.

COAS said that Pakistan attaches great importance to furthering bilateral relations with Ukraine in all domains.

The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's sincere efforts for bringing peace

and stability in the region, especially the Afghan Peace Process.

Both sides reiterated the commitment to expanding bilateral engagements through structured forums and regular exchanges, particularly with respect to defence cooperation.



Dr. & Mrs. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig hosted dinner reception in honor of Dr. & Mrs. Farhan Essa, District Governor Rotary Int'l at BAIGS, attended by Muhammad Raheem Awan Secretary Law & Justice Commission, Naveed Shaikh Commissioner Karachi, Roshan Ali Shaikh Secretary SWD, S.M.Muneer, Ishtiaq Baig, Shahid Hussain Dy. DG IB, Shahid Tata, Irfan Malik Corporate Head NBP, Dr. Imtiaz Hashmi, Dr. Irfan Jeeva, Dr. Hafiz Shaikh, Dr. Asif Arain, Shamim Alvi, Jamshaid Zahidi, Akram Wali Mohd, Majyd Aziz, Tanvir Hussain, Shamas-ur-Rehman & Omair Baig along with their spouses.



Hanif Jewellers opens an astounding new flagship store in Islamabad

Hanif Jewellery and Watches has launched a magnificent new space. The Islamabad Flagship store is a wholesome treat as it invites you to Experience Pure Art. Previously having two stores already present in both Serena Hotel and Marriot Hotel in the Capital, this new store that has opened in the F6 Supermarket ambitions to offer a bespoke experience. Hanif has been a prominent name in the jewelry making business since 1978 and have been the pioneers in creating masterpieces each time. With exemplary quality and unmatched class in both jewellery and watches, each bit that is constructed shows seamless craftsmanship

and dedication. With a zest of bringing newer and better things every time, three generations later, Hanif Jewellers is set to give Islamabad a hint of what exquisite perseverance is.

From the feel to the look of the store, it aims to focus on every customer and makes sure that each piece of art that is sold is handled with care, personalization and warmth. Talking about this new venture, Zeeshan Hanif, CEO Hanif Jewellers said, "We initially started with the largest jewellery store of Pakistan in Lahore on M.M.Alam, after the successful establishment of our business we included

13 Swiss Watch brands in our portfolio by exclusive representation of Bovet, Louis Moinet, Franck Muller, Carl-f-Bucherer, Graham, Chronoswiss Cueryo y Sobrinos, Artya, Louis Erard, Armand Nicolet, EPOS, Swiss Military and TF Est. 1968 and also expanded our business by opening three more stores, two in Islamabad and one in DHA Y-Block Lahore. Accessing the outgrowing reach for our customers in the region we decided to open a standalone store in Islamabad with our entire collection of gold jewellery, diamonds and Swiss watch brands to cater to our customers."





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