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




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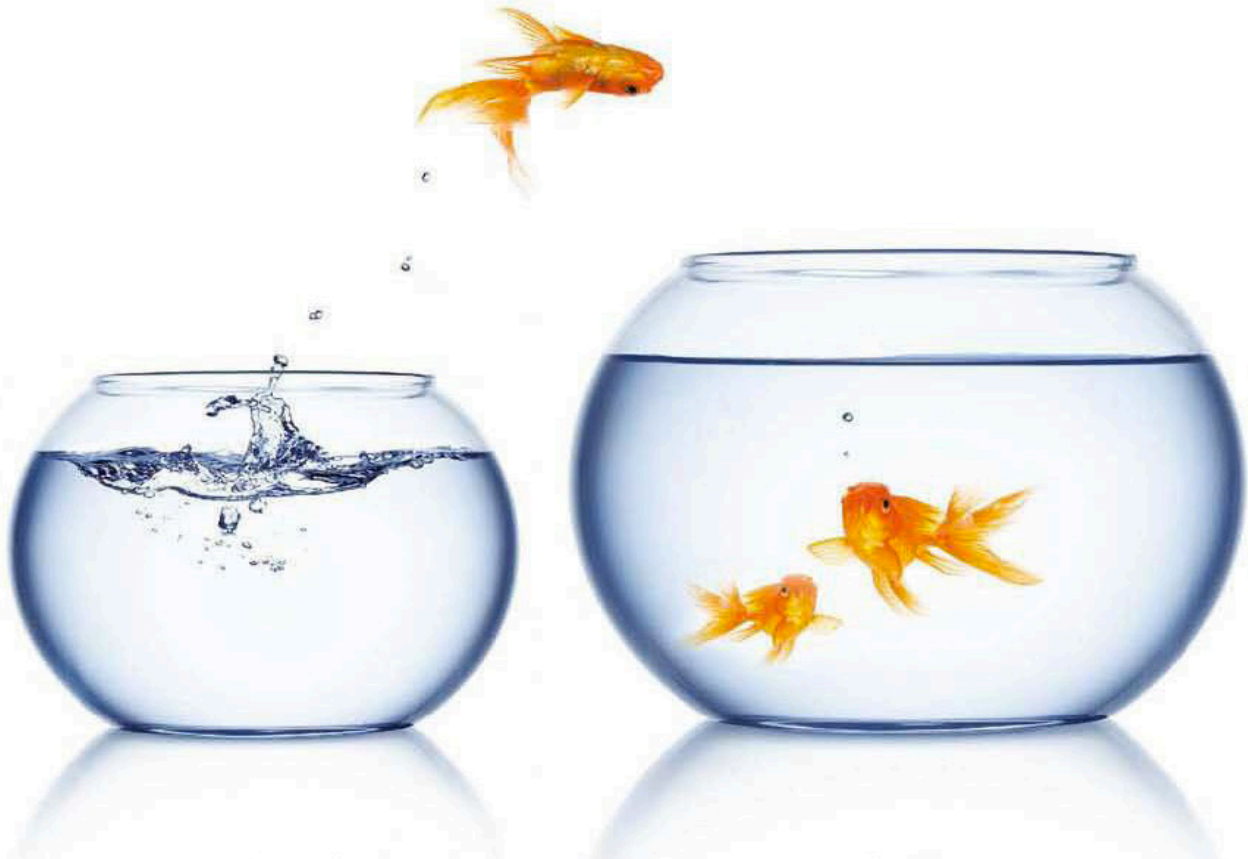
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## Pakistan highly values its relations with Kenya

President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan highly values its relations with Kenya and wants to further increase the bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, economy and defence for the mutual benefit of two countries. He underlined the need for enhanced engagements at high political and military levels to further boost mutual cooperation. He stated this during a meeting with visiting Chief of Defence Forces of Kenya, General Robert Kariuki Kibochi, who called on the President, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today.

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## Participation of the Foreign Minister of Pakistan in a panel discussion at the Antalya Diplomacy Forum

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi participated in a high-level panel discussion on 'Regional Cooperation in Asia' along with the Foreign Ministers of Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in Antalya Diplomacy Forum on 19 June 2021. Foreign Minister Qureshi highlighted the challenges being faced by Asia in form of unresolved disputes, tensions induced from within and without, renewed arms race, containment policies, unilateralism, poverty, COVID-19 and climate change. The Foreign Minister called for a renewed focus by Asian countries on geo-economics and underlined the three pillars of Pakistan's policy: regional connectivity, development partnerships, and peace and prosperity.

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## P4G Seoul Summit unites world leaders for inclusive green recovery, serves as stepping stone for next climate COP

The 2021 P4G Seoul Summit wrapped up its two-day meeting on May 31 with world leaders affirming their commitment to an inclusive green recovery and carbon neutrality. During the first multilateral climate summit hosted by the Republic of Korea, leaders from developed and developing countries discussed measures to respond to climate change and reaffirmed the expansion of support for green growth in developing countries and their commitment to the goal of the Paris Agreement (to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050).

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## Xi, Putin announce extension of friendship treaty ahead of CPC centenary

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin jointly announced the extension of the China-Russia Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation on Monday, three days ahead of the centennial of the Communist Party of China (CPC), while Putin congratulated Xi on the CPC's centenary and expressed hopes for enhanced China-Russia inter-party exchanges.

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## New transmission line under CPEC to help stabilize Pakistan's power system

Pakistan's Energy Minister Hammad Azhar said here Friday that the  $\pm 660\text{kV}$  Matiari-Lahore high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will bring stability to the power system of the country.



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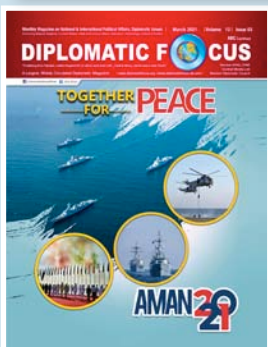
May 2021



April 2021



March 2021



Mian Fazal Elahi

**F**or Pakistan, regional peace and stability remain key to realizing the collective goals for a better future. Pakistan is committed to multilateral collaboration to achieve peace and stability in the region.

With the exception of the resilient Afghans themselves, no people have paid a higher price for the conflict in Afghanistan than the people of Pakistan. Through decades of conflict, Pakistan has dealt with the responsibility of taking care of more than 4 million Afghan refugees. Guns and drugs have also flowed into Pakistan. The wars have disrupted economic trajectory and radicalized fringes of our own society.

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

When President Trump wrote to Prime Minister in late 2018 to ask for Pakistan's assistance in helping the United States achieve a negotiated political settlement in Afghanistan, Pakistan had no hesitation in assuring the president that Pakistan would make every effort to facilitate such an outcome and Pakistan is the only country who did its best and took the Taliban on table talks.

Delegations from the Afghan government and the Taliban finally sat down in Doha, Qatar, to begin negotiations toward a political settlement that would bring the war in Afghanistan to an end. But by bringing home US troops from Afghanistan, and leading Nato and allied forces out of the country, the US president, Joe Biden, is acting on his campaign trail argument that American "forever wars" distract from more pressing issues at home. While the effect of the withdrawal will be felt most keenly in Afghanistan, where there are justifiable fears that the Taliban are poised to reclaim power.

With the latest military setback, the Afghan government has increased its reliance on regional militias. The growing dependence on the warlords is seen as a sign of the government's desperation. A US intelligence report says the Ghani government in Kabul could collapse within six months of the US withdrawal. That could further aggravate the power vacuum and lead to the fragmentation of the country along ethnic lines, with dire consequences for the entire region.

What is most alarming is the prospect of the disintegration of the Afghan army and the trained soldiers joining different warring factions. Although the Biden administration assured President Ghani during his visit to Washington last week of continued US financial, political and moral support, that may not be able to save Afghanistan from the looming civil war. It could be an unending war with no winner.

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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## Pakistan rolls out plans to tap global green financing avenues

By Bilal Zafar

Pakistan has initiated work on a number of green financing instruments, buoyed by widespread global investor interest in the country's first green bond floated in the international market.

A Pakistani utility company on May 27 launched the country's first-ever U.S. dollar-denominated green Eurobonds, seeking \$500 million for environmentally friendly projects to enhance the clean energy share in the country's power generation mix, which relies heavily on fossil fuels - particularly coal.

"The green bond was six times oversubscribed ... which shows there is a global appetite for a country that has economic stability and as well as green credibility," Climate Change Minister Malik Amin Aslam told Reuters.

The South Asian nation, which is the host country of the UN's annual World Environment Day on June 5, is one of the most

vulnerable countries in the world to climate change, and has been hit hard by extreme weather events including devastating floods.

It is now looking to become a major player in the global green financing market.

Aslam said Pakistan plans to further tap the green bond avenue for building and transport financing.

Pakistan on Thursday also completed its first assessment for blue bonds, an financing instrument that raises capital from global investors for projects that protect ocean ecology and related industries, such as fisheries and eco-tourism.

For this, Aslam said that Pakistan had launched its first blue carbon estimation, aided by the World Bank.

He said the World Bank had estimated the country's new plantation projects - including planting 10 billion trees over the next few years - if nurtured successfully would be worth \$500 million by 2050.

The World Bank, he said,

had used conservative estimates for carbon pricing, and the valuation could go up to \$2.5 billion.

Pakistan on Thursday also released a joint statement with Canada, Britain, Germany and the United Nations Development Programme outlining its push to establish a "Nature Performance Bond" to provide the country with accelerated access to

development financing and debt relief in exchange for meeting ecosystem restoration targets.

"The nature bond is chartering totally uncharted territory," Aslam said. The bond will be developed by a consortium of financial advisers, and is in its initial stages.







## Pakistan's commitment to further expand economic, political and cultural relations with all friendly countries

By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Dr Arif Alvi has urged the international community to take serious note of the recent incidents of illegal selling of Uranium in black market in India as such radioactive material can fall into the wrong hands endangering human lives and security of the nations. He deplored that such an important incident had been ignored in the international media. He reiterated Pakistan's principled stance that it would not allow USA to use its bases against Afghanistan. The President made these remarks during an interactive session with the military officers from 12 foreign countries, who are currently undergoing National Security Workshop Course at National Defence University, at Aiwan-e-Sadr,

Addressing the participants of the course, the President highlighted Pakistan's success story against the war on terror, saying the Armed Forces and the Law Enforcement Agencies of the country had successfully defeated terrorism. He stated that Pakistan had paid heavy cost while fighting the war on terror as it lost over 70,000 people, besides suffering economic losses to the tune of about \$150 billion. Regarding

Afghanistan, he informed the participants that Pakistan was making serious efforts to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan as it would be the major beneficiary of a peaceful and stable Afghanistan.

The President added that Pakistan was the biggest sufferer of the prolonged conflict in Afghanistan that adversely affected its economy as well as security of the country. He said that Pakistan, from the very beginning, had advocated for a negotiated settlement of the Afghan imbroglio as war was no solution to any dispute that increased human sufferings and miseries.

The President briefed the participants about the achievements of the country, stating that the Prime Minister Imran Khan took a compassionate and smart decision by not enforcing total lockdown during the pandemic and provided emergency cash relief, under the Ehsaas Program, to over 15 million families to save them from poverty and hunger.

He went on to say that Pakistan successfully handled the pandemic due to the cooperation of religious leaders and media as well as the entire

nation which showed exemplary discipline during the pandemic. The President apprised that Pakistan was moving in the right direction and was poised to become a geo-economic hub of the region by utilizing its special geo-economic location to boost regional trade and encourage economic integration. He said that Pakistan was focusing on the development of IT sector and taking practical measures and training its youth to enhance IT exports.

He stated that his country was closely working with China to promote regional connectivity and economic cooperation among countries of the region. Replying to questions of the participants, the President said that Pakistan would not permit USA to use its bases against the brotherly country (Afghanistan). He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to further expand and consolidate economic, political and cultural relations with all friendly countries, particularly countries of the region. The participants lauded the hospitality extended by the Government during their stay in Pakistan. They appreciated the social and economic achievements of the Government, particularly the successful handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.







## Imran Khan: Pakistan is ready to be a partner for peace in Afghanistan, but we will not host U.S. bases

By Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan

Pakistan is ready to be a partner for peace in Afghanistan with the United States — but as U.S. troops withdraw, we will avoid risking further conflict. Our countries have the same interest in that long-suffering country: a political settlement, stability, economic development and the denial of any haven for terrorists. We oppose any military takeover of Afghanistan, which will lead only to decades of civil war, as the Taliban cannot win over the whole of the country, and yet must be included in any government for it to succeed.

In the past, Pakistan made a mistake by choosing between warring Afghan parties, but we have learned from that experience. We have no favorites and will work with any government that enjoys the confidence of the Afghan people. History proves that Afghanistan can never be controlled from the outside.

Our country has suffered so much from the wars in Afghanistan. More than 70,000 Pakistanis have been killed. While the United States provided \$20 billion in aid, losses to the Pakistani economy have exceeded \$150 billion. Tourism and investment dried up. After joining the U.S. effort, Pakistan was targeted as a collaborator, leading to terrorism against our country from the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and other groups. U.S. drone attacks, which I warned against, didn't win the war, but they did create hatred for Americans, swelling the ranks of terrorist groups against both our countries.

While I argued for years that there was no military solution in Afghanistan, the United States pressured Pakistan for the very first time to send our troops into the semiautonomous tribal areas bordering Afghanistan, in the false expectation that it would end the insurgency.

It didn't, but it did internally displace half the population of the tribal areas, 1 million people in North Waziristan alone, with billions of dollars of damage done and whole villages destroyed. The "collateral" damage to civilians in that incursion led to suicide attacks against the Pakistani army, killing many more soldiers than the United States lost in Afghanistan and Iraq combined, while breeding even more terrorism against us. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province alone, 500 Pakistani policemen were murdered.

There are more than 3 million Afghan refugees in our country — if there is further civil war, instead of a political settlement, there will be many more refugees, destabilizing and further impoverishing the frontier areas on our border. Most of the Taliban are from the Pashtun ethnic group — and more than half the Pashtuns live on our side of the border. We are even now fencing this historically open border almost completely.

If Pakistan were to agree to host U.S. bases, from which to bomb Afghanistan, and an Afghan civil war ensued, Pakistan would be targeted for revenge by terrorists again. We simply cannot afford this. We have already paid too heavy a price. Meanwhile, if the United States, with the most powerful military machine in history, couldn't win the war from inside Afghanistan after 20 years, how would America do it from bases in our country?

The interests of Pakistan and the United States in Afghanistan are the same. We want a negotiated peace, not civil war. We need stability and an end to terrorism aimed at both our countries. We support an agreement that preserves the development gains made in Afghanistan in the past two decades. And we want economic development, and increased trade and connectivity in Central Asia, to lift our economy. We will all go down the drain if there is further

civil war.

This is why we have done a lot of real diplomatic heavy lifting to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table, first with the Americans, and then with the Afghan government. We know that if the Taliban tries to declare a military victory, it will lead to endless bloodshed. We hope the Afghan government will also show more flexibility in the talks, and stop blaming Pakistan, as we are doing everything we can short of military action.

This is also why we were part of the recent "Extended Troika" joint statements, along with Russia, China and the United States, unambiguously declaring that any effort to impose a government by force in Kabul would be opposed by us all, and also would deprive Afghanistan access to the foreign assistance it will need. These joint statements mark the first time four of Afghanistan's neighbors and partners have spoken with one voice on what a political settlement should look like. This could also lead to a new regional compact for peace and development in the region, which could include a requirement to share intelligence and work with the Afghan government to counter emergent terrorist threats. Afghanistan's neighbors would pledge not to allow their territory to be used against Afghanistan or any other country, and Afghanistan would pledge the same. The compact could also lead to a commitment to help Afghans rebuild their country.

I believe that promoting economic connectivity and regional trade is the key to lasting peace and security in Afghanistan. Further military action is futile. If we share this responsibility, Afghanistan, once synonymous with the "Great Game" and regional rivalries, could instead emerge as a model of regional cooperation.



## Pakistan highly values its relations with Kenya

By Bilal Zafar

President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan highly values its relations with Kenya and wants to further increase the bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, economy and defence for the mutual benefit of two countries. He underlined the need for enhanced engagements at high political and military levels to further boost mutual cooperation. He stated this during a meeting with visiting Chief of Defence Forces of Kenya, General Robert Kariuki Kibochi, who called on the President, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Talking to the visiting dignitary, the President said that Pakistan had initiated “Look Africa Policy”, under which Kenya was deemed as an important East-African country and desired to develop close relations with Kenya in the fields of political, economic and defence. He apprised General Robert Kariuki Kibochi about the potential of defence industry of Pakistan and emphasised the need for exchanging defence delegations to explore areas of interest. The President highlighted that the successful handling of Covid-19 pandemic by Pakistan spoke volumes of excellent discipline shown by the Pakistani nation. He stated that Pakistan’s contribution towards African stability was exemplary as Pakistan Army was the highest contributor of troops in UN Missions for Africa. General Robert Kariuki Kibochi appreciated the capability of defence industry of Pakistan and professionalism of Pakistan’s Armed Forces, particularly their role in maintaining peace and security in Africa. He underscored the need for increasing cooperation in the area of military training between the two countries. He also called for increasing military-to-military cooperation as the both countries had huge potential to expand cooperation in the field of defence.

General Robert Kariuki Kibochi, Chief of Defence Forces, Kenya, who is on official visit to Pakistan, called on General Nadeem Raza, Chairman



Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi. Matters of bilateral professional interest and further strengthening of security and defence cooperation between the two countries were discussed during the meeting. Both sides also deliberated upon prevailing international and regional security environment. General Robert Kariuki Kibochi lauded the professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged their sacrifices in fight against terrorism. Earlier, on arrival at Joint Staff Headquarters, a smartly turned out tri-services contingent presented ‘Guard of Honour’ to the visiting dignitary. Chief of Defence Forces Kenya, General Robert Kariuki Kibochi visited Naval Headquarters, Islamabad and called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi. Upon arrival at Naval Headquarters, the visiting dignitary was received by Chief of the Naval Staff. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Navy presented the Guard of Honour. Thereafter, the dignitary was introduced to the

Principal Staff Officers at Naval Headquarters.

Later, General Robert Kariuki Kibochi called on Chief of the Naval Staff in his office. During the meeting, various matters of maritime security, stability and mutual interest including bilateral collaboration were discussed. Chief of the Naval Staff highlighted Pakistan’s commitment in fight against terrorism and Pakistan Navy’s contributions for ensuring maritime security and peace in the region. The Naval Chief thanked the visiting dignitary for the hospitality afforded to Pakistan Navy Ship NASR on its recent goodwill visit to Mombasa. Both the dignitaries agreed on further enhancing mutual interactions in diversified military domains.

It is expected that the visit of Chief of Defence Forces Kenya shall further promote the existing bilateral cooperation between the two countries in general and the navies in particular.





## COMMANDER AZERBAIJAN NAVAL FORCES CALLED ON CHIEF OF THE NAVAL STAFF AT NAVAL HEADQUARTERS

**R**ear Admiral Subhan Bakirov, Commander Azerbaijan Naval Forces (ANF) called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad.

Upon arrival, Commander Azerbaijan Naval Forces was received by Chief of the Naval Staff. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Navy presented Guard of Honour. Thereafter, the dignitary laid floral wreath at the Shuhada's Monument and was introduced to the Principal Staff Officers at Naval Headquarters.

Later, Commander Azerbaijan Naval Forces called on Chief of the Naval Staff. During the meeting matters of mutual interest including bilateral collaboration and regional security were discussed. The visiting dignitary appreciated and acknowledged Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitments in support of collaborative maritime security in the region. Both the dignitaries agreed on further enhancing mutual interactions in diversified naval domains. A briefing was also given to the visiting dignitary on Pakistan Navy's roles & objectives and contributions toward peace and stability in the region. The dignitary is also scheduled to visit Karachi and Lahore to have interaction with Field Commanders of Pakistan Navy and visit Pakistan Navy Training institutes.

It is expected that the visit of Commander Azerbaijan Naval Forces will further enhance bilateral collaboration between the two countries in general and navies in particular.





## PAKISTAN NAVY SHIP SAIF VISITS KUWAIT

Pakistan Navy Ship SAIF visited Port Mina' ash Shuwaykh, Kuwait during Overseas Deployment. The ship is deployed to undertake Regional Maritime Security Patrol (RMSP) in Gulf of Aden, North Arabian Sea and Gulf of Oman to contribute in international efforts to ensure maritime security in region. Upon arrival at the port vicinity, PNS SAIF was welcomed by a Kuwaiti Navy Ship. On reaching the harbour, ship was warmly received by Ambassador of Pakistan in Kuwait H.E Syed Sajjad Haider and officials of Kuwaiti Naval Force. During stay at port, the Commanding Officer of Pakistan Navy Ship called on civil and military leadership of host country and matter of bilateral relations and navy to navy collaboration were discussed. After the port visit, a Passage Exercise was conducted among Pakistan Navy and Kuwaiti Naval Force. Pakistan Navy has always remained committed in maintaining regional peace and stability in Indian Ocean Region. Continuous deployments of PN Ships and participation in bilateral exercises is a practical manifestation of PN resolve in maintaining stability and order in maritime domain. Pakistan and Kuwait enjoy close diplomatic ties and cordial relations. The port visit will contribute in strengthening bilateral ties and enhance interoperability between the two navies.



## PNS SAIF PARTICIPATED IN PASSAGE EXERCISE WITH ITALIAN NAVY SHIP CARABINIERE IN GULF OF ADEN

PNS SAIF conducted Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Italian Navy Ship ITS CARABINIERE in Gulf of Aden. The aim of the exercise was to enhance interoperability and further strengthen bilateral relations between two navies. The Exercise included Maritime Interdiction Operations, Cross Deck Landings and various other serials which will enhance professional competence of men onboard and enhance cooperation among ships deployed in the region. PNS SAIF is presently on RMSP deployment at North Arabian Sea & Gulf of

Aden and is visiting Duqm, Oman in pursuance of cordial relations with regional countries.

Pakistan Navy has always remained committed in maintaining regional peace and security in the Indian Ocean Region and PN Ships are regularly deployed for conducting Maritime Security Operations in Gulf of Oman, North Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden. Participation of PN in bilateral/multilateral exercises is a manifestation of PN's resolve to contribute effectively in maintenance of peace, stability and order in the region.







## Chief of Army Staff (COAS) of Pakistan on an official visit of Republic of Azerbaijan

General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) on an official visit of Republic of Azerbaijan called on His Excellency Colonel General Eyvazov Vilayat Suleyman oglu, Minister of Internal Affairs of Azerbaijan, His Excellency Colonel General Elchin Guliyev, Chief of State Border Service (SBS) of Azerbaijan and His Excellency Colonel General Ali Naghi Oglu Naghiyev, Chief of State Security Service at Baku.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, bilateral defence & security cooperation, regional peace & stability and cooperation in energy, trade & connectivity projects between both brotherly countries were discussed. COAS

said the emerging geo-strategic paradigm in the region necessitates our close cooperation and collective response against common challenges. COAS also reiterated for increased mutually beneficial engagements at all levels and forums.

Regional security situation including recent developments in Afghan Peace Process and bilateral defence and security cooperation in various fields were discussed. COAS said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan share common values based on rich cultural, religious and historical affinities and have tremendous geo-strategic significance / potential for mutually beneficial and enhanced cooperation at all forums.

COAS also expressed Pakistan Army's desire to further enhance bilateral military cooperation and regional partnership between the two countries.

The dignitaries thanked COAS for Pakistan support to Azerbaijan at all international forums. The dignitaries also acknowledged high standards of professionalism of the Pakistan Army and contributions for conflict prevention in the region especially efforts for bringing peace in Afghanistan. Earlier on arrival at Ministry of Defence, COAS was also presented a Guard of Honour by a smartly turned out military contingent.





# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Country Director of the World Bank for Pakistan Mr. Najy Benhassine, called on President Dr Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan His Excellency Mr. Nong Rong called on Federal Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed in Islamabad



Federal Minister for Education Shafqat Mahmood Talking to British High Commissioner H.E. Christian Turner who called on him in Islamabad



UK's Minister of State for South Asia and Commonwealth Lord Tariq Ahmad call on Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed in Islamabad



H.E. Mr. Nicolae Gola Ambassador of Romania called on Ms. Zobaida Jalal Federal Minister for Defence Production at Rawalpindi



Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi held a meeting with UK's Minister of State for South Asia and Commonwealth Lord Tariq Ahmed in Islamabad



Muhammad Sualeh Ahmed Faruqi, Secretary Commerce in a meeting with H.E Mr. Ismatullo Nasredin, Ambassador of Tajikistan in Islamabad



Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging views with Ambassador of China to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Nong Rong at Naval HQ Islamabad



# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with the participants of 7th National Workshop on Balochistan at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



Chaudhary Fawad Hussain, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting in a meeting with H.E. Mr. Bernhard Stephan Schlagheck, Ambassador of Germany in Islamabad



Saudi Ambassador Nawaf Bin Saeed Al-Malki called on Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Omar Ayub Khan to discuss the bilateral economic relations in Islamabad



Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK Moazzam Ahmed Khan after his meeting with Deputy VC of Brimingham city University Prof. Julian Beer



Dr. Moeed Yusuf National Security Adviser in a Bilateral meeting with Mr. Nasrullo Mahmudzoda Secretary of Security Council of Tajikistan in Dushanbe



Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi, Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council, Special Representative to the PM on religious harmony called on Dr. Muhammad Bin Abdul Kareem Al Issa



Dr. Moeed Yusuf National Security Adivser in Bilateral meeting with Nikolai Platonovich Patrushev Secretary of the Security Council of Russia



Chaudhary Fawad Hussain Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting in a meeting with H.E. Mr. Kuninori Matsuda, Ambassador of Japan in Islamabad.





## PAKISTAN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN 2021

Foreign Minister's remarks

**M**inister for SAFRON, Sahibzada Muhammad Mehboob Sultan,  
Chairman NDMA, Lieutenant General Akhtar Nawaz,

UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Julien Harneis,  
Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this joint launch event of "Pakistan's Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for the year 2021." I wish to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of all stakeholders involved in the preparation of the HRP – both from the side of the Government, as well as the UN Country Team in Pakistan. I would start by paying tribute to the fearless frontline workers who are associated with the humanitarian response in various situations confronting the country, whether it is dealing with a natural disaster, or the health pandemic. The Government of Pakistan remains fully committed to the provision of basic necessities and services to all residents of the country, in all situations, without any discrimination. We are devising and implementing policies to make steady progress in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – notwithstanding the disruptions and challenges arising from climate-induced natural calamities as well as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The policies of our Government are guided by two important principles: "Inclusivity" and "Sustainability." We are striving to ensure that

our efforts take into consideration the aspects of efficient and effective response to humanitarian situations, followed by inclusive recovery and sustainable rehabilitation. I am pleased to note that the HRP that we are launching today is holistic, with a multi-sectoral approach, covering the areas of health, education, protection, food security, shelter, WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), and refugees.

This Response Plan is intended to strengthen Pakistan's capacity in the prevention, preparedness and response to disasters including through the provision of relief services by building cross-institutional and stakeholder linkages. The central message of "leaving no one behind" resonates loud and clear throughout the HRP, whether it is persons with disabilities, refugees, asylum seekers or any other vulnerable group. Gender and youth are two important stakeholders, and normally among the most vulnerable groups in any situation. These two categories are adequately factored into the Plan and appear as cross cutting themes throughout the HRP. An important take-away from the HRP is the co-relation between development and effective humanitarian response.

By supporting the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and efforts to achieve its Goals, we strengthen the resilience of the nation to respond to any emergency. Pakistan's HRP offers a good framework for international cooperation on SDGs. In line with our Government's vision, monitoring and accountability are also important pillars of the HRP, from project evaluation to the implementation stage. Excellencies, Since last year, the world has been confronted by a

common enemy – the COVID-19 pandemic. For many developed States, it might only be a public health emergency, but for the developing States, it is also a fight to save the people from hunger and poverty.

Pakistan has spearheaded initiatives such as the Prime Minister's Debt Relief Initiative, to enable developing countries to cope with this unprecedented challenge. Pakistan has also been advocating affordable and equitable vaccine procurement and distribution. Nationally, we have been following a multi-pronged strategy, focusing on the health as well as socio-economic aspects. A national coordination mechanism was established, which continues to guide our COVID-19 response, based on evidence and scientific methodology. We are following a people-centric approach. The Government undertook the largest cash disbursement scheme of its kind in the country's history under the Ehsas program, delivering Rs. 12,000 per household to over 15 million deserving families, supporting them to cope with the economic shocks of the virus. Last year, a "Pakistan Preparedness and Response Plan" for COVID-19 was launched.

We are thankful to our international partners for showing solidarity with us and supporting that Plan. It helped us in mitigating the health and other socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. We are presently undertaking efforts for universal vaccination, without any discrimination – a daunting challenge – but our resolve remains unequivocal. We are confident of achieving our goal of vaccination for all. Excellencies, Climate Change poses an





existential threat to humankind. Whilst Pakistan remains one of the low carbon emitters, we are faced with climate risks not of our making. Pakistan is ranked 5th most climate vulnerable country according to Global Climate Risk Index. As part of efforts to counter Climate Change, Prime Minister Imran Khan's billion tree tsunami project was implemented in KP province, which has been internationally recognized as a best practice.

We are now endeavouring to plant 10 billion trees across the country. Pakistan was the proud global host of the World Environment Day 2021, celebrated in Islamabad on 5 June 2021. We see it as recognition of Pakistan's strong credentials based on our swift transition towards a "clean and green Pakistan" through a well-articulated climate change and environmental agenda consisting of a number of flagship initiatives on the ground. As part of their international commitment, the developed countries and international financial institutions should support our efforts for mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction. We are aiming at forging partnerships in the field of agriculture, health, renewable technologies, building resilience of the host communities and businesses, and strengthening institutional capabilities to predict and respond to emergencies. Excellencies, Before turning to Afghan refugees, I want to commend UN High Commissioner Grandi for his personal commitment to the cause. Pakistan's story of caring for refugees is shaped by the humane values of our people; the values of generosity, compassion

and hospitality in the face of serious economic and other challenges. When refugees came knocking, we opened our hearts and homes for them. Inclusive treatment has been granted to all categories of Afghans during the pandemic as well, with full access to hospitals, doctors, paramedics and medicines. Based on our belief that "no one is safe until everyone is safe", our vaccination drive is fully inclusive, catering for Pakistani and non-Pakistani citizens alike, including Afghan refugees. The scale of the protracted Afghan refugee situation requires revalidating the principle of "responsibility and burden sharing." There is a need for renewed commitments and pledges to bridge the gap between the rising number of refugees and the dwindling resources available for their protection and well-being.

We must unite to help the refugees and find durable solutions for their early and orderly repatriation. Excellencies, The HRP offers an action plan to manage humanitarian situations as well as work for the achievement of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. It entails reinforcing existing partnerships, forging new ones, and encouraging support of the international community for our national efforts. I want to also add my deep appreciation for the Resident Coordinator, Mr. Julien Harneis, and his team, especially the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, for their close coordination with the Government of Pakistan in devising this comprehensive Response Plan. I thank you all for your participation.

## The Special Envoy of Iran's Foreign Minister for Afghanistan Mohammad Ebrahim Taherian Fard calls on Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan



Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Iran's Special Envoy on Afghanistan Mohammad Ebrahim Taherian Fard on Thursday met here and discussed the Afghan peace process besides the security situation in the region.

In a meeting held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qureshi said Pakistan considered peace in Afghanistan essential for the region's peace.

The foreign minister stressed that Pakistan always supported the notion that there was no military solution to the Afghan problem.

He said a sustainable Afghan-led and Afghan-owned political solution through a comprehensive dialogue was the best option to resolve the conflict.

He mentioned that the unrest in Afghanistan had affected both Pakistan and Iran, and said that

rising violence could strengthen "spoilers".

Qureshi emphasized that the Afghan factions must take immediate steps to make the Afghan peace process fruitful through dialogue.

He said peace in Afghanistan would help boost trade activity, repatriate Afghan refugees and help regional stability.

He also conveyed the best wishes of the Pakistani leadership to the newly elected President of Iran Syed Ibrahim Raisi.

Iran's Special Envoy on Afghanistan Mohammad Ebrahim Taherian Fard thanked Foreign Minister Qureshi and expressed desire for joint efforts for peace in Afghanistan.

The two sides also discussed Pak-Iran bilateral relations and other areas of interest.



# Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan during virtual Speech at Asia-Pacific High-Level Conference on the Belt and Road Initiative



**F**oreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi Wednesday called for unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation among countries for post-pandemic economic recovery, besides finances for developing countries to enable them achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

“Our fruitful cooperation in combating COVID-19 for timely economic rebound would require sharing experiences and best practices for diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19; enhancing the availability, accessibility and affordability of vaccines through joint research and production and improving developing countries’ access to vaccines,” the foreign minister said addressing the Asia and Pacific High Level Video Conference on Belt and Road Cooperation.

He said the timely economic recovery would also require preferential financing from multilateral development institutions for developing countries which could only be done through robust multilateral policy measures and broad-based cooperation.

Additionally, he said there was a need to mobilize the finance needed by developing countries to recover from the COVID-19 induced recession and to restore them on the path to

achieve the SDGs by 2030.

Developing countries should also be able to borrow from the markets at the prevailing low interest rates available to developed countries, he added.

Calling the high level conference “a timely initiative”, the foreign minister appreciated China for hosting the event and said since the outbreak of COVID-19, post pandemic economic recovery and green sustainable development remained the priorities of Belt and Road partner countries.

He said the countries of Asia and Pacific were moving ever closer to the center-stage of global affairs, while “we continue to face common and mounting challenges such as climate change, COVID-19 induced inequalities, and non-traditional threats, to name just a few.”

He said the apart from the medical catastrophe, the COVID-19 also has a far-reaching political, social, and economic impact on the globe.

“The pandemic has led to economic slowdown, bankruptcies, financial fissures, job losses and disruption in global supply chains. It has indeed tested the resilience of the existing global economic system and restructured the ways in which the economic and social problems

must be conceived and addressed,” Qureshi remarked.

He told the participants that in order to fights the pandemic effectively, the government of Pakistan followed a ‘smart lockdowns’ policy and adopted the three-pronged strategy focused on ‘Saving Lives, Securing Livelihoods, and Stimulating the Economy’.

“To target the vulnerable segments of the population, the government disbursed Rs. 203 billion to 15 million families through its ‘Ehsas Emergency Cash Program’. We have launched a vaccination drive that will cover 70 million people by December 2021. In this regard, 12 million vaccine doses have been administered to over 9.5 million citizens,” Foreign Minister Qureshi said.

He said earlier this month, Pakistan began production of Chinese made vaccine, underscoring the resilience of our industrial supply chains and China’s growing role in fostering international cooperation in healthcare.

He said Pakistan’s efforts to contain and reverse the worst effects of COVID-19 had been enormously helped by China for which the government and people of Pakistan profoundly





grateful.

Qureshi said the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic were a great opportunity not only to rebuild better, but also greener.

“The developed countries must fulfill their commitments under the Paris Agreement to support developing countries in their climate action and to mobilize 100 billion US Dollars annually in climate finance as they have promised,” he said.

He said Pakistan has launched the ‘Green Economic Stimulus Initiative’ as a part of its efforts. This stimulus has already generated 85,000 green jobs-a number we plan to increase by another 100,000 by the end of this year.

The foreign minister told the conference that Pakistan had launched one of the most ambitious afforestation and reforestation drives in the world. The country has already planted one billion trees and mangroves out of a target of 10 billion.

“Our mangrove cover has expanded three-folds in the last ten years. We exceeded our target in the first phase of Bonn Challenge 2020 of restoring more than 865,000 acres of degraded landscapes in our Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. We have now voluntarily pledged to restore nearly 2.5 million acres by 2023, including in urban areas,” he added.

He said Pakistan had also hosted this year’s World Environment Day, when “United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 – 2030”

was also launched.

The foreign minister said in wake of emerging global and regional environment, Pakistan has recalibrated its priorities from geo-politics to geo-economics.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), complements Pakistan’s renewed efforts of geo-economic shift with emphasis on economic integration and regional connectivity, he added.

“We have to think in the long-term, keeping in mind the best interest of our future generations. We are ready to join hands for win-win outcomes. Our success lies in cooperative

multilateralism and partnership. Let Asia Pacific and BRI partners take the lead. Pakistan is willing to work with all members to advance our shared objectives,” the foreign minister urged.

The foreign minister endorsed President Xi Jinping’s declaration of making COVID-19 vaccine a global public good, dispel notions of stigmatization, and reject vaccine nationalism.

He also called for making collective endeavors to ensure equitable and affordable supply of vaccine to developing countries. “Therefore, we fully endorse the initiatives for ‘Belt and Road Partnership on COVID-19 Vaccines Cooperation’ and ‘Belt and Road Partnership on Green International Development’ being launched today.”







## Participation of the Foreign Minister of Pakistan in a panel discussion at the Antalya Diplomacy Forum

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi participated in a high-level panel discussion on 'Regional Cooperation in Asia' along with the Foreign Ministers of Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in Antalya Diplomacy Forum on 19 June 2021. Foreign Minister Qureshi highlighted the challenges being faced by Asia in form of unresolved disputes, tensions induced from within and without, renewed arms race, containment policies, unilateralism, poverty, COVID-19 and climate change. The Foreign Minister called for a renewed focus by Asian countries on geo-economics and underlined the three pillars of Pakistan's policy: regional connectivity, development partnerships, and peace and prosperity. Highlighting the potential of Asia in the 21st Century, Foreign Minister Qureshi drew attention to the possibilities of cooperation that existed on the continent. He emphasized that connectivity and greater regional integration in form of trade and investment would pave the way for a successful Asian century. In this context, he noted that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative, offered great opportunities for the countries of the region. Foreign Minister Qureshi stressed the need for promotion of a rules-based global order. In his remarks, he also laid out five steps to promote greater regional cooperation in Asia: - Focus on sustainable development; - Focus on poverty alleviation; - Engagement with the international community and international financial institutions for debt relief for developing countries in Asia in order to provide them with fiscal space to deal with the challenges; - Arresting illicit financial flows out of Asia gained from proceeds of crime and corruption; - Tackling climate change. During the discussion, the Foreign Ministers on the panel called for increased multilateralism to deal with the challenges faced by Asia and agreed on the need for a renewed focus on transit and connectivity projects in the region.



Foreign Minister Qureshi is on an official visit to Turkey to participate in the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, where several global political leaders, and diplomats have gathered for discussions on important thematic global issues. The theme of the Forum is 'Innovative Diplomacy: New Era,

New Approaches'.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi and the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President (HR/VP) of the European Commission Josep Borrell met on the sidelines



of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum in Turkey on June 18. The two leaders discussed the entire spectrum of Pakistan-EU relations as well as global and regional situation, including the Afghan peace process and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The Foreign Minister underscored that Pakistan-EU relations had further strengthened with the implementation of the Strategic Engagement Plan (SEP), signed in June 2019. He maintained that the SEP had ushered in a new era in bilateral ties and provided a solid architecture for multi-dimensional cooperation. Emphasizing the importance of bilateral trade, the Foreign Minister highlighted that GSP Plus had been a mutually beneficial undertaking and played an important role in the growth of trade between the two sides. He reiterated Pakistan's firm commitment towards the GSP Plus preferential trade regime and effective implementation of the twenty-seven related international conventions. The two leaders also exchanged views on the Covid-19 Pandemic. Appreciating the EU's support, the Foreign Minister delineated the steps taken by Pakistan to effectively tackle the situation. The Foreign Minister also briefed on Pakistan's progress towards the comprehensive implementation of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Action Plan and sought the EU's support in the review process. The Foreign Minister emphasized that at a time of rising Islamophobia, racism and populism, the international community must show a common resolve against xenophobia, intolerance and incitement to violence on the basis of religion or belief. In the regional context, the Foreign Minister briefed on Pakistan's vital contributions to the Afghan peace process and stressed that the conflict could only be settled through an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned political process. Both sides urged all Afghan factions to seize the historic opportunity presented by the current peace process to settle the conflict through political means. The Foreign Minister emphasized the need for continued engagement of the international community after withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan. The two sides agreed to cooperate in facilitating the peace process, resettlement of Afghan refugees, preserving the socio-political gains of the past two decades and supporting Afghanistan post-withdrawal. The Foreign Minister also briefed the HR/VP on the continued precarious human rights and security situation in IIOJK and the latest moves by the Indian government to perpetuate its illegal occupation. He urged the EU side to take note of the systemic and gross human rights violations in IIOJK and play its role for resolution of the dispute in accordance with the UNSC resolutions and the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. EU HR/VP Borrell shared his concern on the prevailing situation in the IIOJK. The two leaders agreed to continue to maintain high level engagement to further strengthen Pakistan-EU relations. EU HR/VP Borrell extended an invitation to the



Prime Minister of Pakistan for a working visit to Brussels. The Foreign Minister reiterated invitation to the High Representative to visit Pakistan. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's meeting with the Foreign Minister of Qatar on the sidelines of Antalya Diplomacy Forum, 18 June 2021 Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with Foreign Minister of Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani on the sidelines of Antalya Diplomacy Forum on 18 June 2021. The two Foreign Ministers exchanged views on the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries and on the evolving developments in the region. They agreed to continue engaging on matters of mutual interest. Foreign Minister Qureshi acknowledged the constructive and supportive role played by Qatar in the Afghan peace process and reiterated Pakistan's support for Intra-Afghan negotiations. Both Foreign Ministers discussed the current status of the Afghan peace process and agreed to continue playing a facilitating role. Pakistan and Qatar enjoy close, cordial ties based on mutual trust and understanding. The bilateral relationship is broad-based and multifaceted, covering diverse fields including political, trade, commercial, defence, people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges.

Foreign Minister, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, met with Head of Jamiat e Islami Afghanistan Salahuddin Rabbani on the sidelines of Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF) on 19 June 2021. Recalling the visit of Mr. Rabbani in September 2019 for the Third China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Trilateral Foreign Minister's Dialogue, the Foreign Minister highlighted the importance of continued engagement at all levels between the two countries. The Foreign Minister underscored that Pakistan attached importance to all ethnic and political groups in Afghanistan. The Tajik community has been an important part of Afghanistan's social and political fabric. He underlined Pakistan's policy of strengthening across the broad engagement with Afghan political leadership and making concerted efforts to help Afghans reach a negotiated political settlement.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi held a meeting with his Malaysian counterpart Mr. Hishammuddin Hussein on the sidelines of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF) on 19 June 2021. The two Foreign Ministers exchanged views on a wide range of issues of mutual interest including bilateral ties covering political, trade and economic matters, as well as cooperation at the United Nations, OIC, ASEAN and other multilateral fora. Foreign Minister Qureshi emphasized the importance of close cooperation to overcome challenges brought by Covid-19. Both Foreign Ministers discussed best practices in this regard. While emphasizing Pakistan's commitment to inter-faith harmony, Foreign Minister Qureshi briefed his Malaysian counterpart on Pakistan's efforts to confront

Islamophobia in the world. He underscored the need for formulating a common strategy to counter this menace especially at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the United Nations with support of other countries. The two Foreign Ministers agreed on keeping the positive momentum in the political relations, deepening mutually beneficial trade and economic ties, expanding cultural relations, promoting tourism and people-to-people exchanges. They also agreed to remain engaged on issues of common interest, both bilateral and multilateral.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with Palestinian Foreign Minister Dr. Riyad Al Maliki on the sidelines of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum on 18 June 2021. During the meeting, Foreign Minister Qureshi reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause and underscored the importance of two-State solution based on pre-1967 borders under the relevant UNSC resolutions for sustainable peace in the region. He also expressed strong concerns on the latest Israeli strikes against Gaza after the recent ceasefire. Foreign Minister Maliki briefed Foreign Minister Qureshi on the latest situation in Palestinian Occupied Territories. He also conveyed deep appreciation on behalf of the Palestinian President and people of Palestine to the Foreign Minister for proactively taking up the case of Palestine at the UN General Assembly during the recent Israeli aggression against Gaza. Both Foreign Ministers exchanged views on rising Islamophobia and agreed on the need for evolving a joint strategy to counter discrimination against all religious faiths, particularly against Muslims. Foreign Minister Qureshi also extended an invitation to Foreign Minister Maliki to visit Pakistan. Foreign Minister Maliki accepted the invitation and responded that he looked forward to visiting Pakistan in the near future.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi had a bilateral meeting with his Kyrgyz counterpart Mr. Ruslan Kazakbaev on the sidelines of Antalya Diplomacy Forum on 18 June 2021. Foreign Minister Qureshi spoke highly of the historical relations between the two countries and their deep cultural linkages. The two sides reviewed bilateral ties in diverse areas including political, economic, commercial, defence and security. Issues related to the welfare of Pakistani students and expatriate community were also discussed. Both sides expressed satisfaction at their ongoing collaboration at various regional and international fora. The Foreign Minister elaborated Pakistan's efforts for enhanced engagement with Central Asian countries to build a result-oriented, sustainable and long-term partnership through its "Vision Central Asia" policy. He also highlighted the aspect of regional connectivity and integration as its important components and underlined shortest access to the sea for Central Asian states through Gawadar and Karachi ports. The two Foreign Ministers agreed to remain in close

contact to further strengthen joint efforts for enhanced cooperation in all spheres of common interest.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi had a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov on the sidelines of Antalya Diplomacy Forum on 18 June 2021. The two Foreign Ministers held fruitful discussions and exchanged views on various bilateral issues of mutual interest including the increased high-level engagements between both sides. The virtual Summit between Prime Minister Imran Khan and the President of Uzbekistan H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev held on 14 April 2021 was also appreciated as it provided an excellent opportunity to review bilateral ties. Recognizing the need to pursue greater regional connectivity, the two Foreign Ministers discussed the importance of the landmark Trans-Afghan railway initiative from Uzbekistan to Pakistan. Foreign Minister Qureshi highlighted that peace and stability in Afghanistan was essential to reap the dividends of Pakistan's emphasis on geo-economics. He briefed on Pakistan's vital contributions to the Afghan peace process and stressed that the conflict could only be settled through an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned political process. Both sides agreed that all Afghan parties needed to seize the historic opportunity presented by the current peace process. The Foreign Minister highlighted Pakistan's "Vision Central Asia" policy, and its commitment to enhance engagement with Central Asian countries to build a result-oriented, sustainable and long-term partnership.

Foreign Minister, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, met with Chairman, Afghan High Council for National Reconciliation (HCNR), Abdullah Abdullah, on the sidelines of Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF) on 18 June 2021. Recalling the successful visit of Mr. Abdullah Abdullah in September 2020, the Foreign Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's policy of maintaining the broad engagement with Afghan political leadership to forge deeper mutual understanding on the bilateral relations and the Afghan peace process. The Foreign Minister highlighted Pakistan's meaningful contribution to facilitate the direct talks between U.S. and Taliban as well as the Afghan parties. He reiterated that it was now up to the Afghan leaders to seize the historic opportunity afforded by the Intra-Afghan Negotiations for an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive settlement. He urged the Afghan leaders to expedite progress in Intra-Afghan Negotiations for lasting peace in Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister added that the progress in the Afghan peace process was critical to reduce space for spoilers, who did not wish to see return of peace in the region. He underscored that negative statements and blame game only served to vitiate the environment and strengthen the hand of spoilers who wished to derail the peace process.



# Minister of Foreign Affairs Shah Mahmood Qureshi holds Virtual Meeting with Elected Pakistani American Council Officials



By Bilal Zafar

**F**oreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Thursday crediting the Overseas Pakistanis for the record foreign remittances this year said that Pakistani American community was very close to the heart of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

“Imran Khan even before becoming the Prime Minister had received very encouraging response from the Pakistani Americans during his fundraising campaigns as a common Pakistani,” he added.

The Foreign Minister expressed these views during a virtual meeting with elected Pakistani Americans including the members of Pakistani American Council, City Mayors and Deputy Mayors.

Pakistan Ambassador to the United States Asad Majeed also attended the virtual meeting held through video-link.

The Foreign Minister felicitated Pakistani Americans over their electoral successes and said that he always felt proud of the successes of Pakistanis in the United States and their contribution for the country and community.

He also expressed his pleasure over the fact that a number of Pakistanis in UK were part of the British Parliament and they as well as the Pakistani Americans were raising their voice for the cause of Kashmir.

The Foreign Minister apprised the Pakistani Americans of the government’s efforts and intent to give the right of vote to the Overseas Pakistanis and enabling them to play their role in Pakistan’s political system and decision making.

He also updated the Pakistani Americans about the government’s achievements on economic front despite the challenges of COVID-19 and dealing with pandemic situation through



effective strategy including that of the smart lockdown.

The Foreign Minister said that the present government was transforming the center of its foreign policy from geo-political to geo-economics.

He also apprised the Pakistani Americans of the government’s measures to facilitate the Overseas Pakistanis in redressal of their problems including through the establishment of PM Portal, FM Portal at Foreign Office as well as the instructions given to Pakistani Missions abroad to hold regular online Kachehris for expatriates.

The Foreign Minister further said that elected Pakistani Americans can also play important role in further strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and US.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Shah Mahmood Qureshi holds Virtual Meeting with Elected Pakistani American Council Officials (24.06.21)

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Thursday crediting the Overseas Pakistanis for the record foreign remittances this year said that Pakistani American community was very close to the heart of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

“Imran Khan even before becoming the Prime Minister had received very encouraging response from the Pakistani Americans during his fundraising campaigns as a common Pakistani,” he added.

The Foreign Minister expressed these views during a virtual meeting with elected Pakistani Americans including the members of Pakistani American Council, City Mayors and Deputy Mayors.

Pakistan Ambassador to the United States Asad Majeed also attended the virtual meeting held

through video-link.

The Foreign Minister felicitated Pakistani Americans over their electoral successes and said that he always felt proud of the successes of Pakistanis in the United States and their contribution for the country and community.

He also expressed his pleasure over the fact that a number of Pakistanis in UK were part of the British Parliament and they as well as the Pakistani Americans were raising their voice for the cause of Kashmir.

The Foreign Minister apprised the Pakistani Americans of the government’s efforts and intent to give the right of vote to the Overseas Pakistanis and enabling them to play their role in Pakistan’s political system and decision making.

He also updated the Pakistani Americans about the government’s achievements on economic front despite the challenges of COVID-19 and dealing with pandemic situation through effective strategy including that of the smart lockdown.

The Foreign Minister said that the present government was transforming the center of its foreign policy from geo-political to geo-economics.

He also apprised the Pakistani Americans of the government’s measures to facilitate the Overseas Pakistanis in redressal of their problems including through the establishment of PM Portal, FM Portal at Foreign Office as well as the instructions given to Pakistani Missions abroad to hold regular online Kachehris for expatriates.

The Foreign Minister further said that elected Pakistani Americans can also play important role in further strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and US.



## Ambassador of Qatar calls on Ambassador of Saudi Arabia



## Ambassador of Qatar in Pakistan, called on Prime Minister of Pakistan



## Ambassador of the Republic of Korea calls on Minister for Defence Production



The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea H.E Mr. Suh Sangpyo called on Federal Minister for Defence Production, H.E. Ms. Zobaida Jalal at her office in Islamabad on 01st June 2021. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, enhanced bilateral & defence cooperation were discussed. H.E Mr. Suh Sangpyo expressed Korea's keen desire to explore new avenues in the mutual relationship with Pakistan in all sectors, particularly in defence, economy and education sectors. Both reiterated the commitment to enhance Pak-Korea bilateral relationship.







## AMBASSADOR OF NEPAL CALLS ON FOREIGN MINISTER SHAH MAHMOOD QURESHI

**F**oreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi received the Ambassador of Nepal, Mr. Tapas Adhikari, in his office today. The entire spectrum of the bilateral relations was discussed during the meeting. The Foreign Minister reaffirmed the importance of strong relations between the two countries and underscored the need to further enhance cooperation in all areas of mutual interest. Foreign Minister Qureshi conveyed condolences on the loss of lives in Nepal due to Covid-19 and

commended the effective measures taken by Nepal to contain the virus. The Foreign Minister said that Pakistan stands with Nepal in its efforts to deal with Covid-19 pandemic and will extend all possible support in this context.

Foreign Minister Qureshi conveyed his felicitations to the Honorable Mr. Raghuraj Mahaseth on assumption of the office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs. Foreign Minister also expressed gratitude

for the assistance extended by the Government of Nepal for the smooth evacuation of stranded Pakistani nationals from Nepal on 31 May 2021. The Ambassador reciprocated the warm sentiments and expressed his desire to work for further deepening the bilateral relations. He also thanked the Government of Pakistan for the Covid-19 related assistance. The Foreign Minister wished peace and prosperity for the brotherly people of Nepal.



# Bridging the world to evolve solutions for Climate Change



By H.E. Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi

Climate change poses an imminent threat to the earth inhabitation, and became an issue the global community must address together to find solution for this growing challenge, which threatens the existence of life on the orb, and I am confident that a collectively solution with global partnership is not so far to reach.

I feel honored to represent UAE, a country which historically been at the forefront of implementing, groundbreaking renewable energy programs, reducing carbon emissions, and working with multilateral organizations to shape a more sustainable future for the Middle East region and world.

And also pleased to be stationed in the Islamic Republic Pakistan, a country which leadership has better understanding of the climate change, I admired the Prime Minister Imran Khan initiative of "billion tree tsunami" in a bid to combat global warming as such initiatives will definitely impact the global endeavor in this field.

The UAE under the direction of its wise leadership and being host of International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has made great efforts in climate change domain, and secured a prominent position as a regional and global catalyst of environmental and climate action, as the UAE was the first to ratify the Paris Agreement and the first to launch a climate change plan that guides our mitigation and adaptation measures in the region, and considered a leader in developing renewable energy solutions and advancing

EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
ISLAMABAD



سفارة  
الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
إسلام آباد

their deployment worldwide, as well as a premier convener and facilitator of climate and environmental conversation.

UAE successfully proved itself as preferred platform for number of regional and international events, and while celebrating its Golden Jubilee UAE will be hosting the Expo 2020, Also through hosting leadership platforms such as Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week and the World Government Summit, it mobilizes concerted efforts to ensure a better, greener, and more sustainable future.

In continuance of mobilizing its expertise for climate change globally and regionally, the UAE has formally submitted its bid to host the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2023.

His Highness Sheikh Abdulla Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of UAE stated "Our vision means that we are also supporting international action. We have committed over \$ 1 billion dollars of grants and low-interest loans for renewable energy projects in some 70 countries, and billions of dollars in humanitarian relief for climate disasters. We are a major investor in international commercial renewable energy projects, and we are the proud host country of the IRENA".

It is pertinent to mention that UAE began initial investments in the renewable space fifteen years ago and placed a bet on nascent technologies that have made sound business sense over time. Today, the UAE operates three of the largest and lowest cost solar plants in the world.

UAE is the first country in the Middle East to operate zero carbon nuclear power, Masdar has made a significant contribution to the UAE's renewable energy targets, playing a key role in expanding

the country's renewable energy portfolio 400 percent in the last ten years. In total the UAE has invested in renewable energy ventures with a total value of around US\$16.8 billion across 70 countries.

The Foreign Minister added "Climate Change impacts are already being felt and the window for action is narrowing. The UAE recognizes that every country must join the effort to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the harsher world they are creating. A combination of global partnership and domestic policy will be necessary". His Highness emphasized "this has been the UAE's Own Experience at home and in international partnerships, and we believe it can be transformative for climate ambition. Our country has a long history of working with other countries and the private sector to position industry and the overall economy for growth under carbon constraints".

Given the cultural and geographical convergence, I am of the view that the UAE and Islamic Republic of Pakistan with shared views on Climate Change have a broader horizon with vast opportunities for cooperation and coordination to benefit from successful experiences in the field of renewable energy and climate change initiatives.





# Saudi Embassy snatches the Championship Cup at Gerry's Diplomatic Football League



The final matches of Gerry's Diplomatic Football league concluded after some thrilling and dramatic matches in Islamabad between the top teams of the League.

The team of the Saudi Embassy won the last crucial and decisive match against Brazil United, scoring 6-3 goals to become the crown champions with a total of 24 points. Brazil United dropped from the second spot to third position with 19 points on the table. The Arab Tent won against Kazakhstan Embassy in the last minutes of the match by 5-4 goals and grabbed the second position in the Gerry's League with 21 points. The German Embassy took the fourth position with 16 points, while the Kazakhstan Embassy took fifth place and the Europe Team came last in the League.

At the last day of the Gerry's League, H.E. Mr. Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia graced the occasion with his presence as chief guest. He was accompanied by Ms. Agnes Pompos, Head of Missions' Relation and Communications of Gerry's Visa, representative of the title sponsor of the League.

The distinguished guest, H.E Mr. Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki lauded the efforts made by Sanjrani Oxen Enterprises and the title sponsors Gerry's for reviving football in Pakistan and especially for the diplomatic community. The Ambassador congratulated the Saudi players for winning the Diplomatic League for the second consecutive time since its beginning and appreciated the skills and enthusiasm all other participating teams.

Following the first six matches where each team played one match against every other team, Brazil United remained unbeaten and occupied the top spot, while the team of the Saudi Embassy stood at third spot behind second placed Arab Embassy. The last two weeks brought a lot of excitement and a renewed zeal from the victorious teams as they turned around the results of the Gerry's Diplomatic League.

Mubasher Sanjrani, the Organizer of the Gerry's Diplomatic Football League and Top Scorer of the League with 28 goals appreciated Gerry's for being the title sponsors and making the event possible, and also thanked Marriot Hotel Islamabad, Leisure League and other sponsors for their contribution and promotion of the League.

Ms. Agnes Pompos, representative of Gerry's said it was very important for the company to support events such as the Gerry's Diplomatic League in order to promote health and outdoor activities, especially during the times of the COVID pandemic. Ms. Pompos appreciated the enthusiasm of the players and the commitment of the organizers.

The Diplomatic community had a great experience in Gerry's Diplomatic Football League and players cherished the efforts of the organizers for providing a wonderful platform to spread the message of healthy sports activities in Pakistan. There were a total of six teams representing more than 16 nationalities in Gerry's Diplomatic Football League.







# Biden pledges US support to embattled Afghanistan leaders

By M. Bilal Zafar, Monitoring Desk

United States President Joe Biden met with Afghan leaders Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah at the White House on Friday to demonstrate a continuing US commitment to Afghanistan as US troops withdraw.

“The partnership between Afghanistan and the United States is not ending,” Biden said in an Oval Office meeting with Ghani and Abdullah.

“It is going to be sustained, and you know, our troops are going to be leaving, but our support for Afghanistan is not ending,” Biden said.

The bulk of about 4,000 US soldiers now in Afghanistan will be moved out in the next two weeks, and the US expects to remove American and coalition commanders by July 4, ahead of schedule, according to The Associated Press.

In brief remarks in front of media at the top of the meeting, Biden praised Ghani and Abdullah for their “difficult jobs” and their efforts to “bring about unity among Afghan leaders across the board”.

“The Afghans are gonna have to decide their future, what they want. And it won’t be for a lack of us being help,” Biden said.

Ghani offered thanks to American troops and their families for sacrifices in the Afghanistan

over the past 20 years but suggested the war-torn country now stands on the precipice of civil war.

“It is a choice of values, the values of an inclusionary system or exclusionary,” Ghani said, adding that Afghan government forces were pushing back Taliban fighters from

contested areas.

“We’re determined to have unity, coherence, a national sense of sacrifice and will not spare anything,” Ghani said.

“You will see that with determination, with unity, and with the partnership, we will





overcome all odds.”

Ghani and Abdullah had met earlier on Friday with House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and officials of the CIA to discuss the hand-off from US forces and future contingency plans.

“We’re very encouraged and satisfied that this partnership is taking place,” Ghani said at the White House.

Amid heightened security, Ghani was scheduled to give remarks at a media conference in Washington, DC, after the White House meeting with Biden.

Biden had set a formal deadline for the withdrawal of US and foreign forces from Afghanistan by September 11, the 20th anniversary of the US invasion following the al-Qaeda attacks on New York and Washington, DC.

About 650 US soldiers will remain in Afghanistan to provide security for the US and international diplomats in Kabul after the main American military contingent completes its withdrawal, US officials told the AP.

Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen has told Al Jazeera in an exclusive interview that the armed group has the “right to react” if the US keeps troops in Afghanistan after September 11, when the withdrawal is due to complete.

“If they stay here, then I think it is a kind of continuation of the occupation. They have violated and we fully have the right to react,” Shaheen said.

Several hundred additional US troops will remain at the Kabul airport, potentially until September, to assist Turkish troops providing security there in what the US officials described as a temporary move until a more formal Turkey-led security operation is in place.

Turkey has 500 soldiers in Afghanistan already as part of the NATO deployment and they will be reassigned to protect the airport, Turkey’s defence minister has said.

Biden and Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had discussed the airport security arrangement when the two met in Brussels on

the sideline of the NATO summit earlier in June.

Biden holds a “fundamental belief” that “after 20 years, it’s time to bring our troops home”, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said on Friday in advance of the meeting.

“We are doing that in an orderly and timely fashion,” Psaki told reporters at the White House.

Fighting between Afghan government forces and the Taliban has increased in recent weeks as the Taliban intensified attacks on Afghan security forces and police raising prospects of a renewed civil war.

Since May, fighters affiliated with the armed group have taken over swaths of territory surrounding provincial capitals. The Taliban advances have raised alarms at the UN and among top US officials.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken, meeting his French counterpart in Paris on Friday, said the Taliban’s attacks are not in keeping with the framework for peace negotiations the US had agreed with the armed group.

“We’re looking very carefully at the situation on the ground in Afghanistan,” Blinken told reporters at a media conference in Paris.

“We’re also looking very hard at whether the Taliban is at all serious about a peaceful resolution of the conflict,” Blinken said.

“We continue to be engaged on the diplomacy but actions that would try to take the country by force are of course totally inconsistent with finding a peaceful resolution,” he said. As the withdrawal nears conclusion, the Biden administration is preparing to evacuate potentially thousands of Afghan translators, drivers and aides who worked for the US.

“We have identified a group ... who have served as interpreters and translators – as well as other at-risk categories – who have assisted us. They will be relocated to a location outside of Afghanistan before we complete our military drawdown by September,” Psaki said on Friday. (Courtesy by Aljazeera)

## US forces leave Afghanistan’s Bagram airbase after 20 years



By Monitoring Desk

After nearly 20 years, the United States military has left Afghanistan’s Bagram airbase, the epicenter of its war to remove the Taliban and hunt down the al-Qaeda perpetrators of the 9/11 attacks, two US officials have said. The airbase was handed over to the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces in its entirety, they said on Friday on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information to the media, The Associated Press reported.

One of the officials also said the US top commander in Afghanistan, General Austin S Miller, “still retains all the capabilities and authorities to protect the forces”.

At its peak, Bagram airbase saw more than 100,000 US troops pass through its sprawling compound 50km (30 miles) north of capital, Kabul.

An Afghan official said the base would be officially handed over to the government at a ceremony. The withdrawal from the airbase is the clearest indication that the last of the 2,500-3,500 US troops have left Afghanistan or are nearing a departure, months ahead of President Joe Biden’s promise that they would be gone by September 11.

It was clear soon after the mid-April announcement that the US was ending its “forever war,”

that the departure of US soldiers and their estimated 7,000 NATO allies would be nearer to July 4, when the country celebrates its Independence Day.

Most NATO soldiers have already exited Afghanistan as of this week.

Announcements from several countries analyzed by The Associated Press show that a majority of European troops left with little ceremony – a stark contrast to the dramatic and public show of force and unity when NATO allies lined up to back the US invasion in 2001.

The US has refused to say when the last of its soldiers would leave Afghanistan, citing security concerns, but also the protection of Kabul’s Hamid Karzai International Airport that is still being negotiated. Turkish and US soldiers currently protect the airport.

The US will also have about 6,500 troops in Afghanistan to protect its sprawling embassy in the capital. Their presence it is understood will be covered in a bilateral agreement with the Afghan government.

The US and NATO leaving Afghanistan come as Taliban fighters make strides in several parts of the country, overrunning dozens of districts and overwhelming the beleaguered Afghan Security Forces. (Courtesy to Aljazeera)

# Ending the ‘forever war’

**L**AST week, President Joe Biden declared the end of what is described as America’s ‘forever war’ in Afghanistan. The announcement came nearly two decades after President George W. Bush had initiated hostilities. Declaring that the US had long ago accomplished its mission, Biden said all the troops would be withdrawn from Afghanistan by Sept 11.

That would also mark the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on America that led to the start of the longest war the world’s greatest military power has been fighting. Biden said there was no longer any justification — if there ever was — to continue fighting an endless war. He maintained that America went to war with clear goals and that those objectives have been achieved. But it’s not clear what those objectives were.

This may not be an admission of defeat, but neither is it a declaration of victory. It’s the humbling of the most powerful superpower on earth. After fighting for nearly two decades, the US is finally exiting an unwinnable war. Three American presidents since 2001 — George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump, and their respective commanders — were not able to make good on their promises to win in Afghanistan, described as the “graveyard of empires”.

Tens of thousands of Afghans were killed in the war that cost close to a trillion dollars. Since 2001, over 775,000 US troops have been deployed in Afghanistan. A false perception was created that the US was winning the war when that was not the case.

It is an irony of history that yet another superpower was forced to face ignominy in Afghanistan.

Ironies abound in the US war that turned into a multi-generational one. Many analysts agree that the war could have ended far more quickly with far less human and financial costs. The rise of the Afghan Taliban that became a formidable insurgent force also owed itself to America’s imperial hubris.

Weeks after the US forces invaded Afghanistan in October 2001, the Taliban reached a surrender agreement with the newly appointed Afghan president Hamid Karzai in Kandahar that would have allowed the leaders of the ousted regime to go home. “The Taliban are finished as a

political force,” Mullah Zaeef, the Taliban ambassador in Islamabad declared. “I think we should go home.”

Under the agreement the Taliban abandoned the city — Kandahar — where the Taliban movement had originated and that was its stronghold. The relinquishing of Kandahar signalled the end of Taliban control of the country. But then the US intervened and stopped Karzai from making any deal with the Taliban leadership.

America’s desire for revenge ended any possibility of a peace deal. The then secretary of defence, Donald Rumsfeld, rejected any negotiated end to the conflict. It brought an end to the efforts to win the war by negotiation. For the Bush administration, every Taliban was a terrorist and had to be annihilated. Many Taliban leaders who had surrendered and returned to their villages were later arrested and some of them were sent to Guantanamo prison.

In fact, the US didn’t have any understanding of the country when it went to war in Afghanistan in order to punish the perpetrators of the Sept 11 terrorist attacks. The ouster of the Taliban regime was not much of a problem for the mightiest military power on earth. For Washington, the Taliban had been defeated. But that was not the case.

By 2005, the insurgency had spread to large parts of the country. That was the beginning of what was described as the second American-Afghan war that the US forces could never win despite the massive surge of troops under the Obama administration which had come to power in 2009. It was an unwinnable war but there was no realisation in Washington about the deteriorating battlefield situation. It was the American hubris that would not accept that it was an unwinnable war. Moreover, there had been fundamental disagreements on the objectives of the US operation in Afghanistan within successive US administrations. For some, it was turning Afghanistan into a democracy; for others it was about bringing a cultural change in the country. President Biden says that the main objective of clearing Afghanistan of Al Qaeda and other terrorist organisations that posed a direct threat to the US had long been achieved particularly after the killing of Osama bin Laden.



By Zahid Hussain

But it took 10 more years and thousands of more lives for an American leader to recognise this fact. It is not just Biden; his predecessor Donald Trump too had accepted the futility of the ‘forever war’. The February 2020 Doha agreement with the Taliban had laid the ground for the complete withdrawal of American forces.

In what could be termed as a remarkable twist of fate, some 18 years after the start of the war US officials sat across the table to negotiate peace with the same insurgent leaders they had once declared as terrorists and sought to annihilate. Many in the Taliban negotiating team were former inmates of the infamous Guantanamo prison. America faced the awkward reality of having to accept some insurgent leaders who it had listed as terrorists and pursued relentlessly for years with its entire military might.

It is an irony of history that yet another superpower was forced to face ignominy in Afghanistan. While the Russian forces pulled out in 1989, a decade after invading Afghanistan, the Americans were mired in the war there for two decades.

President Biden’s announcement has certainly not come as a surprise. Although there are still some elements in the United States — particularly its military establishment — who are sceptical, the decision has received overwhelming support. It may be true that the absence of an agreement between Afghan warring sides on a future political set-up has rendered the situation uncertain.

But an indefinite deployment of American troops won’t help improve the situation. In fact, the presence of foreign forces has been the basic cause of conflict in Afghanistan. Regardless of who the adversary was at any point, two generations of Afghans have known only war. Now it will be left for Afghans to decide about war and peace in their country.

The writer is the author of *No-Win War — The Paradox of US-Pakistan Relations in Afghanistan’s Shadow*. (Courtesy to Dawn)





By Rehman Malik

# Afghanistan situation needs world attention



Former Interior Minister and Chairman Institute of Research and Reforms said that situation was worsening in Kabul by every passing day and anti-Ashraf Ghani groups were inching towards zero mile of Kabul.

He said General Abdul Rashid Dostum had left Kabul. He said that Haqqani group was re-emerging as the strongest one and the ethnic card can be dangerous if played at this time.

In a statement, he urged the world to play a role for peace in Afghanistan. He said that the Afghan nation, from a child to an old man have been suffering for ages, and children born during the beginning of the war have now become grandparents while continuously suffering tragedies and miseries.

Malik said that since the US has announced the withdrawal of troops without a well-framed strategy, the people of Afghanistan are fearful of a possible eruption of civil war. He said that peace in Afghanistan means peace in Pakistan as we are direct victims of the Afghan-USSR war followed by the growth of the Taliban, Al Qaeda, and Daesh which have been eroding our system.

He said that currently Taliban control 52 percent of the territory of Afghanistan and the remaining are partly controlled by both the government and the Taliban. The leadership council of the Taliban, known as the Rahbari Shura, makes

decisions for all “political and military affairs” of the Emirate, he added. He said that the Taliban and various ethnic groups are within a radius of 20 to 25 kilometres and Kabul stands encircled, creating fearful nights for the general public.

The former Interior Minister said that Taliban members stop every passing car and question their link to the government and if they find any, they hand them over to their courts, which is creating unrest. The Taliban believe victory is theirs and they feel they have won the war against America and are confident that they will have control over the capital within the next few months, he said.

Malik said that the US does not need any bases in Pakistan or Afghanistan but needs bay permission for warships to cover the range for their cruise missiles to any target in Afghanistan which will once again bring Afghanistan under fire. The anti-American group will once again start their terrorist activities and we will be back to square one once again, he apprehended.

The Chairman of IRR said that Pakistan will have to plan its strategy as it is no more a secret that Indian influence has crept into Afghanistan and it is giving \$1 billion annually for its lobbies to help them keep a strong foothold.

He said that in addition, senior leaders of the Northern Alliance are regularly visiting India

to seek guidance from the Modi government. He said that a power-sharing arrangement would be beneficial in Afghanistan for every stakeholder and Pakistan cannot afford to have a pro-Indian, single-faction government.

He emphasized that Pakistan needs to make an effort before the fall of Kabul to avoid the complete control of the government in the hands of this faction as the national government can be neutral to bring peace back to Afghanistan and keep better relations with its neighbors.

Senator Malik further said that Pakistan is the most critical regional player when it comes to ending the war in Afghanistan and the role of Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa has been appreciated by all stakeholders including the US.

He advised that the US must consider working to establish an interim government in Afghanistan representing all factions. He urged that India must be kept away from this withdrawal strategy to avoid its negative role while Pakistan, China, Russia, and Saudi Arabia may be taken on board as observers of peace.

He concluded that Afghan nation including Taliban must consider to get united to bring peace and all the groups must follow the policy of give and take to avoid division.

# Looming Afghan civil war

**W**ITH the revival of armed regional militias to stop the Afghan Taliban offensive, Afghanistan is edging towards a new civil war. Headed by old mujahideen warlords, these armed bands are fighting along the Afghan government forces in some areas, but in many cases they are defending their own regional fiefdoms.

It appears that we are returning to the 1990s following the downfall of the Najibullah government when several mujahideen groups fought each other, plunging Afghanistan into a devastating civil war and killing thousands of Afghans. Those events saw the rise of the Taliban movement, which swept away warlord rule and established the so-called Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. But the warlords returned to power after the American invasion. The withdrawal of the foreign forces and the looming threat of a Taliban takeover compelled them to raise their own forces. They don't seem to have much faith in government security forces to protect them. Some three decades later, the same former mujahideen commanders are once again arrayed against their old nemesis.

Most prominent among them are Abdul Rashid Dostum, Ismail Khan and Ata Muhammad — the same old faces that symbolise four decades of conflict in Afghanistan. The Taliban offensive in northern Afghanistan in recent weeks has been a major reason behind the revival of the militias representing different ethnic groups, particularly the Tajik and Uzbeks.

Over the past weeks, the insurgents have achieved some spectacular successes in the region that has never been considered their stronghold. The Taliban have generally been seen as a Pakhtun-dominated movement, with eastern and southern Afghanistan as their main support base.

In recent weeks, the Taliban have achieved some spectacular successes.

The Taliban have overrun many northern districts and have besieged some major towns. They now control major roads leading to Mazar-i-Sharif. In many areas, Afghan government soldiers have abandoned their posts without any fight. In some cases, the soldiers have joined the insurgents. The Taliban now control the main border crossing with Tajikistan, a main trade route.

While these militia movements have helped reinforce the government forces fighting the Taliban in many northern districts, they have

also strengthened the warlord fiefdoms, thus weakening the authority of the government in Kabul. These armed groups are nominally aligned with the Afghan government and their organisation could further fracture the war-battered country along ethnic lines and empower regional strongmen.

Some analysts, however, contend that these militias may eventually serve as the last line of defence, with the security forces unable to counter the Taliban onslaught. But there is also the question of whether these ragtag armed groups can stand their ground against a more committed enemy. Many believe it could be a repeat of the events of the late 1990s when local strongmen were swept away by rampaging Taliban forces.

For many analysts, the Taliban's success in the north has not come as a surprise. While consolidating their military and diplomatic gains, the Taliban have also sought to secure the support of communities it had fought in the past in order to present themselves as a national movement. The Taliban had traditionally relied on ethnic Pakhtuns, but made a clear shift to recruit members of other ethnic groups with a view to expanding their area of influence.

Over the years, the insurgent group made significant inroads into the non-Pakhtun belt in northern Afghanistan and inducted several Tajik and Uzbek commanders in its ranks, giving them more operational autonomy. The non-Pakhtuns assumed important positions in the Taliban leadership and held key posts in the provinces.

The changing ethnic profile of the group was evident in the fact that non-Pakhtuns now constituted a quarter of the Taliban leadership council and its various commissions. Members of ethnic minorities were also handed out senior positions as provincial and district shadow governors and zonal commanders. By inducting Shia Hazaras, the Taliban wanted to make themselves more acceptable by presenting themselves as a multiethnic, multi-sect force in order to make themselves more politically acceptable.

As an example, the Taliban appointed a Shia ethnic Hazara as its shadow district chief before the intra-Afghan peace talks. The hard-line Sunni Taliban had been previously blamed for persecuting the minority group during its stint in power. The Hazaras largely inhabit the central Afghan provinces.

Moreover, the Taliban also exploited the



By Zahid Hussain

fissures in northern Afghanistan to win over tribal chiefs who felt marginalised by the government in Kabul in terms of political representation. Some of them had joined the Taliban for protection since they could not rely on the Afghan security forces anymore. The Taliban approach has benefited the group as several minority ethnic groups joining them.

The Taliban also leveraged the peace deal with the US to their advantage in order to woo regional ethnic groups. With the withdrawal of US forces, joining the Taliban had once again become a serious option for many people and groups in Afghanistan. While internal discord has further weakened the Kabul government's position, the Taliban have shown a greater degree of pragmatism. Some warlords and power groups have reportedly struck separate deals with the insurgents, which has further weakened the Kabul government's position amid the American pullout.

With the latest military setback, the Afghan government has increased its reliance on regional militias. The growing dependence on the warlords is seen as a sign of the government's desperation. A US intelligence report says the Ghani government in Kabul could collapse within six months of the US withdrawal. That could further aggravate the power vacuum and lead to the fragmentation of the country along ethnic lines, with dire consequences for the entire region.

What is most alarming is the prospect of the disintegration of the Afghan army and the trained soldiers joining different warring factions. Although the Biden administration assured President Ghani during his visit to Washington last week of continued US financial, political and moral support, that may not be able to save Afghanistan from the looming civil war. It could be an unending war with no winner.

The writer is the author of *No-Win War — The Paradox of US-Pakistan Relations in Afghanistan's Shadow*. (Courtesy to Dawn)



# Precarious Afghan Situation



By: Zubair Ahmad

US and Nato troops withdrawal from Afghanistan is underway after a two decades of long war what many political commentators and experts call as ‘an unwinnable war’, that costed estimated lives of 241,000 people as a direct result of the war. In the wake of 9/11 attacks, US ventured into Afghanistan to extirpate al-Qaeda-mastermind of the September 11, 2001 attacks- and called it ‘war on terror’. Of aforementioned deaths, 71,344 were innocent civilians. US itself had to invest dollars in trillion. Pakistan had to bear the burden of millions of immigrants who fled their country to escaper war. After the Doha agreement, newly elected US President Joe Biden announced a complete withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan. The exiting process is underway. But, due to the failure of the Afghan stakeholders, especially Taliban and Afghan government, to reach to a political power-sharing settlement, stability and peace in war-torn country is bleak post US exit. Taliban has always been reluctant to accept the Afghan government and called it a puppet of US. However, Kabul is also not willing to compromise their power. Kabul is wooing the local warlords and anti-Taliban nationalists to help cope up with insurgents. This ended in a failure of all stakeholders to reach to a democratic power-sharing rapprochement.

With the foreign troops withdrawal, violence and chaos is spurting. Pro-government nationalist movements have also raised weapons to fight along with government forces against Taliban. Whereas, Taliban is seizing key districts in Afghanistan as government forces flee. Their march through northern Afghanistan gained momentum overnight with the capture of several districts from fleeing Afghan forces. After the Biden’s announcement, Taliban’s most significant gains have been in the northern half of the country, which is known as a traditional stronghold of the US-allied strongmen who helped defeat them in 2001. Afghan forces who earlier depended on US-Nato forces to fight against insurgents are now

becoming weaker and fleeing and surrendering is what they have options left. According to some reports, even the majority of the districts were left to Taliban without any fight.

Conflict and violence is looming across the country given such developments. Most shockingly, the fall of the Panjwai district in the southern province of Kandahar comes just two days after US and NATO forces vacated their main ‘Bagram airbase’ near Kabul, from where they led operations for 20 years against the Taliban and its al-Qaeda allies. Taliban have captured the district police headquarters and governor’s office building. Now questions arises is: how will the US protect its collaborators in Afghanistan? Thousands of Afghans who assisted the US are concerned for their safety as US forces prepare to withdraw. According to US perspective war is coming to an end, thereafter leaving those Afghans feeling more threatened by the prospect of Taliban attacks with exit approach? US have offered a Special Immigration Visa for which as many as 18,000 applicants with at least 50,000 family members have been waiting for their documents to be prepared. But approvals have been slow and a recent coronavirus outbreak at the US embassy in Kabul has delayed them even further. So, it remains to be seen that will they have a future in the US or will they continue to live under the threat of the Taliban.

As Taliban made huge advances across the country, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani begins to visit to US. There are fears that already-demoralized Afghan security forces will be swiftly overrun when the remaining American troops withdraw. The Taliban has claimed to control more than 80 of the country’s 421 districts and captured Afghanistan’s main Tajikistan border crossing. President Ghani has appointed a new armed forces chief and defense minister in recent days, but experts say it is never going to help. As far as political situation is concerned, insiders and officials paint a portrait of Ghani as increasingly friendless, out of touch and isolated in the presidential palace in the heart of the heavily bunkered Green Zone.

Ghani is pressing Taliban to accept a role in some sort of interim unity government until elections can be held. But the Taliban, emboldened by their battlefield gains, appears to have little interest in further negotiations and are intent on taking full control and restoring Afghanistan to an emirate ruled by religious elders on Islamic principles. Given this situation and the scenes we are watching now resemble those witnessed after the USSR withdrawal and also the US withdrawal from Vietnam decades ago. This time around, a grim situation and real risk is imminently looming in Afghanistan with many experts indicating towards a full-blown civil war and chaos than ever before. And this, of course, will inevitably impact the entire region, including Pakistan. From security challenges to exodus of immigrants to rise of violence will be some fallout in Pakistan if Afghan implodes again. Given this, Pakistan has closed off its borders with Afghanistan, making it clear it does not wish to be involved in further conflict and chaos. This is a great position adopted by Pakistan given the degree to which Pakistan has suffered as a result of its involvement in Afghanistan in the past, in support of US and in support of anti-USSR groups in the country.

The US has completely failed during its two decades’ presence in Afghanistan and now since it is exiting; it has no clear strategy to make sure stability in this country. Rather, US is leaving it in a more precarious situation leaving country on a brink of civil war. Though, US President Biden has spoken up offering some ‘hovering’ support from the air, he also gave a statement saying, the Afghans have to defend themselves on their own. This clearly smacks of US indifference towards the catastrophe and disaster looming Afghanistan post its complete withdrawal.

Given the fact that Afghanistan’s implode will have repercussions more than ever before to the world entirely, this should be the point of concern for all engaged in Afghanistan and the world powers on priority bases to avoid civil war.



## The International Media Forum with the participation of political scientists and journalists was held in Ashkhabad

The International Media Forum “Regional Dialogue with the Participation of Political Scientists and Journalists” was held in a hybrid format in the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

The Forum was attended by political scientists, rectors of the higher educational institutions, heads and editors of information agencies and leading media of the country, representatives of foreign media accredited in the country, heads and representatives of the diplomatic missions and representative offices of the international organization working in Turkmenistan, Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization, Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States (Turkic Council), heads and representatives of the leading media and broadcasting companies of the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Georgia, Republic of Korea and others. In general, more than 100 journalists from 29 countries participated to the Media Forum by videoconferencing.

Speakers Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization H.Soleimanpour, Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States B.Amreyev noted that this Forum, without a doubt, was one of the important events, designed to reaffirm the aspirations of Turkmenistan to further strengthen stability and peace, socio-economic

prosperity, as well as the development of diplomatic relations with the countries of the world and good neighborly relations in the region.

The Minister of Industry and Natural Resources of the Astrakhan region of the Russian Federation D.Afanashev, Director General of the international news network “Russia Today” A.Nikolov, Director of International Relations of the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) Wansoo Kim, Director General of the television channel “TRT-AVAZ” S.Sarikaya, Chairman of the National State TV and Radio Company of the Republic of Belarus I.Eismont, the Head of Turkmen-Austrian society N.Berger and others delivered their speeches in the format of videoconferencing.

During his speech, Deputy Chairman of the ITRC “Mir” V.Kazarezov told about the exclusive interview of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to the Interstate Television and Radio Company “Mir”, as well as about the plans of the ITRC “Mir” to the 30th anniversary of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Expressing confidence that this dialogue will serve as an important platform for exchange of views on further intensification of cooperation in the region, the Chairman of National TV and Radio Company of Uzbekistan A.Hajayev informed about the interaction between the

State Committee of Turkmenistan for Television, Radiobroadcasting and Cinematography and National TV and Radio Company of Uzbekistan.

In his video address the Director of “Tatmedia” Press and Mass Media Agency of the Republic of Tatarstan of the Russian Federation A.Salimgarayev underlined that the high level of close interaction between Turkmenistan and the Republic of Tatarstan of the Russian Federation in the sphere of media is the important vector of partnership in the context of the policy of the development of multi-sided dialogue conducted by the sides.

In his speech by means of videoconferencing the Editor-in-chief of the “News Day Georgia” magazine of Georgia A.Otinashvili noted that the Neutrality of Turkmenistan is a natural, objective factor in a positive move of the regional processes in attaining of a lasting peace and stability in this part of the world and fulfillment of development goals.

During their presentations at the Forum, Rector of International University for the Humanities and Development E.Aydogdiyev, Rector of the Institute of Telecommunications and Informatics of Turkmenistan N.Kuliyev, Chairman of the State News Agency of Turkmenistan M.Gazakbayev, Chairman of the State Committee of Turkmenistan for Television, Radiobroadcasting and Cinematography A.Ashyrov, Editor-in-chief of “Turkmen Dunyasi” newspaper B.Myradov.





# UK to help Pak mainstream valuing Natural Resources into Policymaking

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam has said that the earth's natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, which collectively make up our planet's core natural capital, is now at risk of fast depleting because of over-exploitation the resources. "However, sustainable use of the natural capital, which actually provides the foundation for sustainability of the life on earth and overall socioeconomic development of current and future generations, is vital to its sustainability for generating ecosystem services for the lasting human well-being," he said while addressing a high-level regarding signing of 'Letter of Support on Natural Capital Accounting (NCA)' between the British High Commission Islamabad, UK Statistics Authority and the Ministry of Climate Change held here on Thursday. The Prime Minister Imran Khan's aide Malik Amin Aslam and the British Higher Commissioner in Pakistan Dr. Christian Turner witnessed the signing ceremony held here in the climate change ministry on Thursday. Both sides pledged to work together to introduce the concept of the natural capital accounting system and its implementation for conservation and protection of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems. Malik Amin said that provisioning services are outputs of ecosystem services which include food, fuel and water. Besides, cultural and aesthetic services are the recreation, tourism and spiritual benefits humans derive from natural spaces. Finally, supporting services enable the functioning of all ecosystem services and include habitat and genetic diversity. Thus, regulating services through their accounting and efficient use helps make the planet livable for humans, and include carbon sequestration of forests and the

moderation of extreme events such as the role of mangroves in flood and storm surge mitigation, he added. "All of these services that nature provides, which we often take for granted, are in various stages of degradation and they continue to be at risk of fast depleting," he cautioned. The PM's aide highlighted the persistent invisibility of natural capital has resulted, by large, from the reality that ecosystems services and biodiversity benefits have historically not been quantified according to dollar values and it can be extremely challenging to value these benefits in such terms. As a result, natural capital is often undervalued or neglected in decision-making, which contributes to more biodiversity loss, and ultimately impacts human well-being. For example, infrastructure and road development projects have historically been carried out with little to no attention to the short- or long-term impacts of these activities on natural ecosystems and biodiversity, he added. "Therefore, to ensure long-term human well-being, decision-makers across all economic sectors, such as transportation, agriculture, and energy, the world must recognize importance of the interconnectedness between economic activities and ecosystems as highlighted in global strategies and goals for development and biodiversity. These include the Sustainable Development Goals, which are currently being elaborated, and the Aichi Targets," said. Malik Amin Aslam, however, said that Prime Minister Imran Khan-led incumbent government is very much aware that the accounting of natural capital is of unprecedented significance as far as achieving the sustainable management of natural resources in context of their contribution to socioeconomic development and its implications is concerned. "However, support

of the UK government in assisting Pakistan for framing and implementing of policies and programmes for natural capital accounting is of paramount importance. Because, the UK is globally recognized as one of the global leaders in development of natural capital accounts systems/procedures and their integration into policymaking," the PM's aide told the event participants. He hoped that the agreement between British and Pakistani governments would go a long way in boosting latter's capacity to mainstream natural capital accounting into policymaking at social, economic, environmental, energy and food security levels as well as enhancing the country's climate resilience.

Addressing the ceremony, British High Commissioner Christian Turner highlighted the diversity and importance of the Pakistan's natural resources and their vitality for sustainable socio-economic and environmental development. He said: "Pakistan's natural biodiversity is one of its greatest assets. Climate change threatens that, and the water supply on which the country depends. This UK assistance will help Pakistan manage its natural assets efficiently and attract much-needed finance." While speaking, UK Development Director Annabel Gerry, who signed the letter of support on behalf of the UK government vowed to extend all-out technical support in implementing the Natural Capital Accounting concept in Pakistan to help protect and conserve the country's natural resources while feeding the national socio-economic development in a sustainable way. She said, 'With this technical capacity Pakistan will be able to apply Natural Capital Accounting methods and to value its natural assets accurately.'





## Report on illegal transfer of population to IIOJ&K launched

Centre for Law and Security (CLAS) in collaboration with the Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Secretariat Islamabad organised a report launch and a panel discussion on the Illegal Transfer of population to Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K) and International Law at Kashmir House, Islamabad, says a press release.

The panel discussion focused on India's violation of international law, lawfare options for Pakistan and the initiatives the Pakistani Government has taken with regards to Kashmir.

The President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Masood Khan was the chief guest of the event. The panel comprised of Chairperson of the Parliamentary Special Committee on Kashmir Shehryar Khan Afridi, Advocate Supreme Court Ahmer Bilal Soofi, Ambassador (r) Riaz Khokhar, Senator Walid Iqbal, Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan Sobia Kamal Khan, Executive Director CLAS Rehman Azhar and Chairman Advisory Board CLAS Chaudhry Faisal Mushtaq.





Welcoming remarks were delivered by Faisal Mushtaq who mentioned the previous conference held by CLAS on illegal transfer of population in IIOJK in January 2021. He said that the conference served as a platform for insightful discussions and conclusive recommendations. He emphasized on the need to advocate for the rights of the Kashmiris and the crimes committed by India in IIOJK.

The panel discussion was moderated by Executive Director CLAS Mr. Rehman Azhar. The discussion started with Ahmer Bilal Soofi who stated that no one has a more documented legal position besides Kashmir because of the UN Resolutions. He mentioned that India's moves are against their own Constitution. He mentioned that Pakistan has a very strong case against India regarding Kashmir. He praised the team of CLAS and their report.

Ambassador Riaz Khokhar while discussing the recent meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with pro-India Kashmiri leaders called it a public relations stunt. He further stressed that Pakistan has a strong legal case however, the international community sides with India. He noted that CLAS and its work is educating people regarding Kashmir and international law.







## P4G Seoul Summit unites world leaders for inclusive green recovery, serves as stepping stone for next climate COP

The 2021 P4G Seoul Summit wrapped up its two-day meeting on May 31 with world leaders affirming their commitment to an inclusive green recovery and carbon neutrality. During the first multilateral climate summit hosted by the Republic of Korea, leaders from developed and developing countries discussed measures to respond to climate change and reaffirmed the expansion of support for green growth in developing countries and their commitment to the goal of the Paris Agreement (to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050).

Major countries such as the U.S., U.K. and Germany expressed their determination to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their countries and the world, and support sustainable growth in developing countries. During the Leader's Dialogue on May 31, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry noted that to get to net-zero emissions by 2050, three things need to be accomplished -- an end to carbon-intensive fossil fuel use, the dissemination of clean energy technologies, and major investments in such technologies. He said the U.S. will double its public climate financing to developing countries by 2024.

During the Leader's Session on May 30, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that no government can achieve a green industrial revolution alone and that international cooperation is imperative to create massive funds for climate response. He added that the U.K. will support the transition to a green

economy through R&D investment and technology development. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that Germany is making efforts to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 and promised to faithfully fulfill its commitment to the international climate fund.

Leaders and top-level officials from Bangladesh, Vietnam and other countries said they will accelerate green growth and actively participate in global efforts for carbon neutrality. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh said the country adopted a 100-year sustainable development plan called Delta Plan 2100. She added that Bangladesh focuses on upholding

the interests of countries vulnerable to climate change and promoting regional adaptation solutions. Vietnamese Prime Minister Phạm Minh Chính emphasized the need to strengthen capacity and improve conditions to respond to climate problems. He also expressed Vietnam's willingness to cooperate for an inclusive green recovery, calling for a more harmonious approach in which developed countries continue to take the lead in mitigating emissions and all stakeholders participate in such efforts.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang commented that for sustainable green development, international cooperation is essential, especially support to





resolve difficulties faced by developing nations. China will contribute to a low-carbon, green recovery through its pledge to go carbon neutral by 2060 and organizing the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the U.N. Conference of Biological Diversity, he added.

The Seoul Declaration, adopted as the result of the P4G Seoul Summit, manifested the solidarity and resolve of the participant countries. The Declaration pronounces their commitment to overcome the COVID-19 crisis through a green recovery, limit the increase of the Earth's temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius, accelerate an energy transition away from fossil fuels, address marine plastics issues, and achieve Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

The Declaration was endorsed by 38 participant countries, including Korea, the U.S., Japan and China, and by nine international organizations including the World Economic Forum (WEF), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA), and Bruno Oberle, Director-General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), also expressed their support for the Declaration in their private capacities.

President Moon Jae-in expressed his appreciation for the leaders in Twitter posts on June 3, after the close of the summit. In his tweet to U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for

Climate John Kerry, Moon said, "We welcome the return of American leadership in responding to climate change. 'Getting to net zero by 2050 is an incredible economic opportunity.' I agree with your remark and look forward to strengthened collaboration between Korea and the U.S. in our fight against climate change." In a tweet to Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), he said, "The three points you highlighted have enriched our discussion session," referring to her remarks that a successful green transformation requires the world to embrace carbon pricing, green public investments and a just transition for the most affected.

The P4G Seoul Summit enhanced public-private collaboration with the participation of leaders and representatives of scores of nations, international organizations, companies and civil society groups. In Korea, the P4G Seoul Summit Preparatory Office organized various events for climate change response and sustainable growth, in collaboration with 23 companies, public institutions and non-governmental organizations including IKEA Korea, Jeju Province Development Co., SK Telecom, Samsung Electronics, Hyosung T&C, Coupang, Pulmuone, Pleatsmama, Tree Planet, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Daelim Museum.

Yoo Yeon-cheol, the Executive Director of the P4G Seoul Summit Preparatory Office said, "The summit is very meaningful for climate change response in that developing and developed nations got together to discuss their plans for green cooperation and express their commitment." "Through the summit, which is

the first-ever multilateral climate summit to be hosted by Korea, Korea greatly contributed to climate change response and the dissemination of the new green paradigm. Also, this event will become an opportunity to go beyond climate change discussions centered around developed nations and drive an inclusive green growth that engages everyone," he added.

P4G (Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030) was launched in September 2017, led by Denmark, as a global initiative to accelerate the response to climate change and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through public-private partnerships. Of the 17 SDGs set out by the United Nations in 2015 with the aim of achieving them by 2030, P4G specifically targets five objectives related to climate change (food and agriculture, clean water, clean energy, sustainable cities and circular economy). Twelve countries – the Republic of Korea, Denmark, the Netherlands, Vietnam, Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Indonesia and South Africa – as well as international organizations (including the World Economic Forum and the Global Green Growth Institute) and private companies participate in the summit. P4G - is a consultation group consisting of governments, companies and civil society organizations, - puts an emphasis on action-oriented public-private cooperation, - is composed of middle-power countries (playing the role of a bridge between developing countries and developed countries) - seeks to build a sustainable business model (a bridge between development and investment).



The Second P4G Summit was held on the 30th and 31st of May, 2021 hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea in its capital, Seoul. Government leaders and top officials from 46 countries including Pakistan and heads of 21 international organizations, along with representatives from business sector and civil society, took part in the conference.

The P4G (Partnering for Green Growth and Global Goals 2030) is a global initiative aimed at facilitating public-private partnership to tackle climate change and achieve Sustainable Development Goals. This year due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, the Summit was held virtually and mustered international solidarity required to build back better and greener from the COVID-19 crisis and be a stepping stone for the success of the 2021 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26).

Minister for Climate Change and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Mr. Malik Amin Aslam participated in the leaders' session of the Summit by delivering a video message. He showcased Pakistan's Green Stimulus Package, a commitment to green growth through 'Ten Billion Trees Plantation Initiative', expansion of protected areas and 'Recharge Pakistan' project, which will provide up to 185,000 green jobs for youth. The Minister also mentioned that, focusing on the green growth, Pakistan has set



up the Ecosystem Restoration Fund, launched its first green Eurobonds and consulted with other countries on a debt-for-nature swap.

The two-day Summit engaged world leaders in dialogues on Inclusive Green Recovery from COVID-19, Efforts of the International Community to Achieve Carbon-Neutrality by 2050 and the Efforts to Strengthen

Climate Action and to Facilitate Public-Private Partnerships through Inclusive Green Recovery. At the end of the Summit, the leaders adopted the Seoul Declaration, calling for the engagement of governments, businesses and civil society as part of “collective solutions” to global climate change and to achieve green recovery for current and future generations.

## Satrang Gallery and Serene Arts is an initiative of Serena Hotels that is dedicated to supporting and promoting the artists and artisans of Pakistan

Satrang Gallery is delighted to present “Borrowed Feathers,” an exhibition of Imran Hunzai and Nizakat Ali Depar. At a time when the preservation of depleting eco-systems, and the natural balance in the environment is increasingly paramount, this exhibition presents a series of paintings and sculptures of birds and beasts. The exhibition considers the damaging impact of human behavior, including over expansion and greed,

as we encroach further and further upon the natural world. Imran Hunzai models and weaves industrial wire into recognizable forms of animals known for their magnificence such as a wolf, a horse and a bull. Hunzai's animals have been moulded into signature stances, further highlighting the grandeur of the animal. The wire sculptures are 3D versions of the line, which is the foundation of every artwork. Nizakat Ali Depar explores the concept of

anthropomorphism through his paintings – his depictions highlight the signature human qualities which are frequently assigned to certain animals. Commenting on the socio-political situation around him, the artist switches the coats of animals with one another, thereby highlighting the disguises and instability of human behavior. Borrowed Feathers is an important reminder of the sacredness of all life, and the dire need to protect it.







## Palestinian ambassador grateful to Pakistan for supporting cause of freedom

**M**ian Fazal Elahi CEO/Editor/Publisher/ of Diplomatic Focus met Palestinian Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Ahmed Ameen Rabei in Islamabad.

Ambassador of Palestine in Pakistan Ahmed Rabei expressed gratitude on behalf of Palestinians for Pakistan's "courageous efforts to support our cause for a free and independent State of Palestine".

The ambassador also conveyed his heartfelt gratitude for the remarkable efforts of Pakistan to condemn Israeli atrocities carried out against unarmed Palestinians while urging the international community to take concrete and immediate steps for the resolution of the Palestine issue.

"Your efforts are greatly appreciated for speaking up and pushing for an emergency session of the OIC meeting and the UN General Assembly to hold ceasefire, de-escalation and an end to atrocities," a press release of the Palestinian embassy quoted the ambassador as saying.

"Pakistan played an important role in steering the discussion and building a consensus.

"This historical act will be remembered, not only by the Palestinians, but the entire world, and it will be a history to remember for generations," read the statement.

He said that they would not forget the observance of May 21 as Palestinian solidarity day across Pakistan which was declared by the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the decision of the parliament passing a unanimous resolution, condemning Israel's systematic oppression of the people of

Palestine and demanding the UN probe the human rights violations.

The ambassador further said he is extremely grateful to all the people of Pakistan for their unwavering support to the Palestinians and the message of unity which strengthened and encouraged their spirits and gave a boost to the morale of the beleaguered Palestinians.

"Although the war on Gaza ended but our struggle to get our freedom continues. InshaAllah by working with our Pakistani brothers side by side we will free Palestine and we will all pray together in Al-Aqsa Mosque in Al-Quds Al-Shareef, the capital of Palestine," Rabei said.

Mian Fazal Elahi expressed solidarity & support to our Palestinian brethren as they face unprecedented Israeli brutality. No other people have shown the kind of resilience that Palestinians & Kashmiris have in the face of barbarity





# Ceremony of diplomatic football league

The Gerry's Diplomatic Football League closing ceremony was organised Friday Evening at Marriot hotel Islamabad. Different awards were distributed among the participating embassies teams who participated with their diplomats and local staff in the football league. The ceremony was attended by different ambassadors Julius Kibet Bitok, Nigerian High Commissioner; Nicolaus Keller, Austrian Ambassador; Dr. Bernhard Schlagheck, German ambassador; Irena Gancheva, Bulgarian ambassador; Olyntho Vieira, Brazilian ambassador; Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, president Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Aneel Saeed, Assistant Commissioner Islamabad; Maj Gen Sikander Haroon Pasha, Agnes Pompos, Head of Missions' Relations and Communications at Gerry's Visa, Maurizio

Romani, GM Marriot Hotel among many other DHM's, diplomats and business community were present. The Diplomatic League title sponsor was Gerry's and closing ceremony Marriot Hotel Islamabad among many other sponsors. The Saudi Embassy Team were declared the crown champions of the league with 24 points, Arab tent Team were in the second position with 21 points while the Brazilian United Team secured the third position with 19 points. Total six different Embassies team participated and represented more than 16 different nationalities in the league. The Top scores award was given to Mubasher Sanjrani from brazil united Team and the best player award was given to Sultan from the Saudi Team. Special awards were also presented to Hamza Shafqaat, deputy commissioner and to

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, president ICCI for their support and promotion of sports activities in Islamabad. To make the event memorable especially performances was performed by 'Dhool' band which is popular 'Sufi' rock music. The diplomats and guest were amazed by the performance and joyfully enjoyed the music. Gerry's Diplomatic Football League is the only platform that provides a healthy activity and brings people from different parts of the world closer through the lovely game football for a joyful time, especially for diplomatic community residing in Pakistan to shows them the soft image of our country Pakistan. In the end awards were distributed among the sponsors of the league who contributed to make the league successfully.









# UK Pakistan Business Awards International 2021

United Kingdom and Pakistan share a healthy and historical relationship over many years. Both countries are known to get more compatible with the passage of time. UK Pakistan Business Council, an organization based in United Kingdom with chapters in both Pakistan and UAE, strive to create a vast International business network through existing businesses, entrepreneurs, sharing knowledge and trading information. Moreover, we prioritize bilateral trade and facilitate the ties between both countries.

Our Principle is to 'Serve and Connect

Businesses for Prosperity, Resources and Success'. The Advisory Board of UKPBC provides feasible guidance to all aspects of businesses in various locations. The Advisory Team of UKPBC continues its efforts to create opportunities by expanding and enhancing trade and economic clog between the two countries.

UKPBC have taken an initiative to create futuristic vision and provide a platform not only for business opportunities but also an excellent place for social interaction and networking. UKPBC are in sequence of releasing our own business magazine 'UK Pakistan Business Times'.

We will encompass an enormous spectrum of articles, information and useful material by well-known seasoned and knowledgeable entrepreneurs in their respective field of businesses. Hence, if you're looking to spread out and promote your business worldwide UKPBC is the Best place for you. In contrast, our advisory team can provide your business maximum exposure through our interactive platform. So join us today and take advantage of our networking space. We are charmed to take your business onboard.











## Serena Hotels have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with World Wide Fund for Nature–Pakistan

Serena Hotels have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with World Wide Fund for Nature–Pakistan (WWF-Pakistan), and the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme

(AKRSP) with the aim to further the common objectives of climate mitigation, climate adaptation, land degradation, food security, biodiversity conservation and enhancing

community resilience in view of Pakistan's needs, and to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).





# Pakistan's prolific mountaineer, whom Serena Hotels has been supporting under Adventure Diplomacy

Pakistan's prolific mountaineer, whom Serena Hotels has been supporting under Adventure Diplomacy, was celebrated for

his recent ascent of Mount Everest at a glittering reception at Serena Hotels. Sirbaz is on Mission 14 to become the first Pakistani to scale the top

14 over 8000 m peaks in the world. He departs to scale Gashebrum 1 and Gashebrum 11. 7 peaks done, 7 peaks to go!





# Diplomatic Focus hosted a dinner reception

**R**BI Media Minds and Diplomatic Focus hosted a dinner reception in the honor of outgoing envoys and welcome the new appointed Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Honorable chief guest Mr. Mushahid Hussein Syed, Honorable Dean H.E Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassadors, heads of Missions, High Commissioners, and members of Islamabad chamber of commerce other prominent dignitaries grace the occasion.

The RBI Media Minds (Print/ Electronics Media Production House) is an interactive professional print and electronic media organization appeared on the horizon of mediated world in 1991 with the publication of its bi-language (Urdu and English) Monthly Overseas which got much popularity both nationally and internationally among all age groups. This journey continued with the publication of Daily Tameer in March 1995, Daily 12-o'clock, Daily Pakistan Journal International and then Bi-language (English, Arabic) monthly Magazine "Diplomatic Focus" in March 2010, another achievement of RBI Media Minds groups of Publication. Within the short period of time organization has become the symbol of success in the mediated world and has set precedents for its successive media organizations. Now the organization is looking forward to discover new horizons in the mediated world.

Diplomatic Focus Magazine is playing an important role in enhancing the bilateral





relations between Pakistan and other countries of the world. In today's era, the importance of diplomatic relations has been increased two-folds. And this is what esteemed magazine has been doing for last one decade. It also enjoys great reputation in the journalistic world and considered one of the best among the many magazines

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said AFGHANISTAN is heading towards a full-blown civil war, following the US-led troop pullout and, with Pakistan fearing the inevitable fallout of that slide into chaos, USA intelligence agency shares the report with media. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed explains that Pakistan has no favorites in Afghanistan. Pakistan always supports the peace process in Afghanistan and Islamabad has been trying to Afghan Taliban for a peacefully negotiated political settlement with the Afghan Government. Building close cooperative relations with Afghanistan is a high priority of Pakistan's foreign policy and a vital component of our vision of a "peaceful neighbourhood." Pakistan continues its efforts for forging a friendly and good-neighbourly relationship with Afghanistan, on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Former interior minister, chairman Institute of Research and Reforms Rehman Malik has said Afghan Taliban are being trained for modern weapons which could prove a threat to the region in upcoming days.

"Passing out parade for the newly-trained Taliban recruits was organised at an undisclosed place in a very impressive ceremony attended most likely by Mullah Yaqoob - the son of Mullah Omar. It is yet to be known who is behind the training of Taliban recruits and what their targets are," he said in a statement Saturday. Ex-senator Rehman Malik said unfortunately with every passing day tension in Afghanistan is increasing which needs world attention.

Malik while making some shocking revelations said Taliban have occupied more than 80% of Afghanistan which could prove a threat to the region in the days to come. He revealed that Taliban have got their military and weaponry training and this is to be seen who are behind the training and providing them with modern weapons. He said in the very near future Taliban will be possessing jets. He said it is yet to be seen were those Indian training elites who trained Taliban in Afghanistan, some central Asian country or someone else.

He said peace in Afghanistan means peace in Pakistan and no country could be concerned





about stability and peace of Afghanistan more than Pakistan. He said Pakistan is a direct victim of the Afghan-USSR war followed by the growth of the Taliban, al-Qaeda, and Daesh which have been eroding our system. "The changing situation in Afghanistan should be of great concern for all of us in Pakistan," he said. He said we need national unity when it comes to Pakistan's national security being the backbone of the state.

Malik said since the situation in Afghanistan directly impacts Pakistan and situation is worsening in Afghanistan, therefore, calling a meeting of Parliamentary Committee on National Security was the need of the hour. He said he was hoping for the formulation of a doable comprehensive strategy to cope with future challenges after the US withdrawal from Afghanistan. Former interior minister said we have made countless sacrifices in the war on terror in terms of sacrifice of more than 70,000 lives of troops and civilians with huge devastation to our basic infrastructure and economic damages. He said today we have to think about why despite numerous sacrifices we are facing global isolation and being sidelined from Afghan issue.

He said from a reliable source it was learned that US is leaving its weapons and jeeps along with keys in Afghanistan and question rises that why the ammunition and jeeps were not destroyed or taken away. "War strategists are worried that who will be the target of Taliban who were now well-trained and equipped with modern weapons, he added. He said this is no secret that India's Intelligence Agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) is working in collaboration with Afghanistan's intelligence agency, National Directorate of Security (NDS) to escalate tension at Pak-Afghanistan border. "In the future, the Taliban could be a threat to Pakistan, China, and Iran and they are no longer ours, they belong to India," he further added.

He said who came forward to energise the Taliban to enhance their military power and to use them against all those who are against their ideology and for their own interests in the region. He said it looks that Taliban will be now trained and installed under the flag of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and the time will tell whether they will operate independently or be used with Western remote control. Mr Elahi again come to stage and sum up event with his concluding remarks. After that remarks awards of Excellence were distributed in recognition of the services of the ambassador to enhancing bilateral relation between Pakistan and their respected countries.





# Satrang Art Gallery – Left A Mark

By Haroon Shuaib

**L**eft A Mark, a group show of some recent work by renowned artists including Ameen J, Faizan Naveed, Humayun Memon, Madyha Leghari and Sana Durrani opened at Satrang Art Gallery, on May 26, 2021.

Like all other facets of life, art too went through a phase of existential panic in wake of the pandemic. Galleries struggled to stay afloat and art sales dwindled. Exhibitions were few and far between and most of the activity was either virtual or just plain non-existent. Now that the country is hopefully emerging from the third wave of the pandemic, thankfully less scathed than so many others, 'Left a Mark' is a good omen for the Capital's art scene.

Satrang Art Gallery has been at the forefront of providing a platform for art promotion in the heart of Islamabad with a mission to support and promote arts and artisans, particularly young contemporary artists. Full marks to 'Left a Mark' curator Zahra Khan for taking the brave and timely initiative of revising the exhibition culture; sure to help bring back a sense of normalcy to the life of art aficionados of Islamabad.





# Xi, Putin announce extension of friendship treaty ahead of CPC centenary



By Monitoring Desk

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin jointly announced the extension of the China-Russia Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation on Monday, three days ahead of the centennial of the Communist Party of China (CPC), while Putin congratulated Xi on the CPC's centenary and expressed hopes for enhanced China-Russia inter-party exchanges.

The extension of the treaty - a vivid example of a new type of international relations - and such frequent interactions between the top leaders of the world's two major powers are also widely seen as a direct response to doubts in the West over China-Russia relations as the US seeks to align its allies to confront them both, and even split the ties, Chinese experts said.

The joint statement was made during talks between the two heads of state via video link on Monday.

The treaty aligns with both countries' fundamental interests, echoes the themes of the times of peace and development, and is a vivid example of fostering a new type of international relations and building a community with a shared future for humanity, Xi said.

"China and Russia have injected positive energy into the international community and set an example of a new type of international relations through their close cooperation, as the world is entering a period of turbulence and change and human development is confronted with

multiple crises," the Chinese President said.

The 5,000-word joint statement issued by China and Russia with some new descriptions about China-Russia relations echoed the fact that the bilateral ties have reached their best period.

Russia needs a prosperous and stable China while China needs a strong and successful Russia and the two sides see each other as partners of priority in order to deepen the coordination and cooperation in various domains including politics, security, military, trade, cultural exchange and international affairs, according to the statement.

The joint statement also expressed a common stance on arms control issues. Both sides expressed opposition to the unilateral sanctions and to some countries using the excuse of "democracy" and "human rights" to interfere in other countries' internal affairs, showing mutual respect to the political system and path they chose.

The latest meeting was the second interaction between the top leaders of the two countries in six weeks after they witnessed the groundbreaking ceremony of a bilateral nuclear energy cooperation project on May 19.

The frequent interactions between top leaders of the two countries showed deepening mutual trust and delivered a heavy blow to Western attempts to split China-Russia friendship with the timing carrying on a special significance shortly after the Biden-Putin talks and before the CPC celebrates its centennial. Such high-level mutual trust distinguishes the China-

Russia relationships from that of others, especially from the Western bloc, and this relationship can be adjusted in accordance with the needs of the time, experts said.

Significance of the timing

Putin congratulated Xi on the CPC's centenary and said Russia has valued exchanges with the CPC in history and hoped to enhance inter-party exchanges with it. He also expressed hope that under CPC leadership, China will make new achievements in social development and play more important role in international affairs.

Xi also thanked Putin and various sectors from Russia for expressing congratulations on the centenary of the founding of the CPC, reiterating that China firmly supports Russia to take effective measures in safeguarding the country's long-term stability.

The online meeting coincided with the 20th anniversary of the signing of Russia-China Treaty on Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation, according to a statement from the Kremlin. The treaty was initially signed by former Chinese leader Jiang Zemin and Putin on July 16, 2001.

Against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and hostility from the West, Xi and Putin's video meeting shows the two countries' resolve to deepen bilateral ties and work together to safeguard global strategic stability, according to Chinese experts.

The meeting between Biden and Putin on June 16 ended with no significant breakthroughs, though it had shown that US-Russia tensions



have eased a little bit. But the global focus has been on whether this meeting will change the course of China-Russia relations as the US media speculated whether the Biden administration could successfully divide the Russia-China partnership - a growing threat to Washington, some analysts have said.

The timing of this online meeting shows that the two leaders attach great importance to the bilateral ties and high-level strategic partnership, Yang Jin, an associate research fellow at the Institute of Russian, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times.

"As Russia's top leader, Putin is sending sincere greetings to Xi, who is also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, which shows China-Russia ties would be deepened without being affected by other great power ties, Yang said.

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on June 1 said that the treaty has shaped a new type of major power relationship between China and Russia in the past 20 years.

"The two sides have always taken mutual support as the fundamental way to get along with each other, mutual benefit and win-win cooperation as the core principle of cooperation, China-Russia friendship as the most precious thing to be passed on from generation to generation, and safeguarding peace as their paramount international responsibility," Wang said.

At the time of signing the treaty, both Russia and China faced issues of transition in complicated international relations. Long before the 9/11 terror attacks, wars happened in the Middle East, including the Gulf War. After 9/11, the US and the West had ramped up interference in the Mideast and caused regional turmoil. Russia has faced great pressure from the West, including the NATO's expansion to the East as well as the scramble for sphere of influence in Central and Eastern Europe, Yang noted.

China also faced challenges on development and security, especially in the security field - how to defend its western regions and deal with problems in the South and East China Seas.

Under this background and based on mutual needs, China and Russia signed the treaty. The equality not only contains mutual respect of each other's political position, but also respect of each other's choices. "These have contributed to the smooth and stable development of China-Russia ties and it has been 20 years since the signing of the China-Russia treaty, and the two have set a good example for building a new type of major power relations to the international community," Yang said.

## Foreign leaders send congratulatory messages on CPC's 100th founding anniversary



Leaders of foreign political parties and governments have been extending warm congratulations on the upcoming 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

In messages addressed to General Secretary Xi Jinping of the CPC Central Committee or to the CPC Central Committee, they spoke highly of the great development and progress China has achieved in its various causes since the CPC was founded 100 years ago, especially since the 18th CPC National Congress under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Xi at the core.

Those achievements, they added, have not only completely changed the future of the Chinese people and the Chinese nation, but also made significant contributions to the cause of human progress. Russian President Vladimir Putin extended his sincere congratulations on the centenary of the CPC, noting that China has made great new achievements in such fields as economic, social as well as scientific and technological development, and is playing an important and constructive role in solving major international problems and addressing global threats and challenges. Inter-party exchanges are an important part of the Russia-China comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination, added Putin, saying he is confident that the United Russia party and the CPC will continue their constructive dialogue.

He also wished Xi new achievements in leading the causes of the Party and the country.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi noted that the CPC successfully led China to achieve national independence and lay the foundation for building a modern China.

Under Xi's leadership, the CPC has made a series of major achievements, including the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, which have demonstrated the CPC leadership's commitment to delivering on its promises and the Chinese people's firm resolve, he added.

Egypt, he said, is ready to work with China to further enhance their comprehensive strategic partnership and usher bilateral relations into a broader future.

Joao Lourenco, Angolan president and president of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola, noted that China has made important contributions to Angola's development in various fields, and especially has provided a great deal of valuable assistance for Angola's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

He added that his country is willing to work with China to continuously deepen the unity, friendship and cooperation between the two parties and nations.

Denis Sassou Nguesso, president of the Republic of the Congo, said that his country is ready to work with China to consolidate and deepen the existing partnership and friendly cooperation between the two countries, and jointly implement the outcomes of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.



# China holds art performance to celebrate CPC centenary

An art performance was held in Beijing on Monday evening in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Party and state leaders Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji, Han Zheng and Wang Qishan joined about 20,000 people to watch the performance, titled "The Great Journey," at the National Stadium.

Xi and other Chinese leaders walked onto the rostrum, waving to the people amid applause and cheers. With fireworks rocketing into the sky, displaying the number 100 over the stadium, the performance unveiled its curtain.

The epic show, divided into four parts, depicted how the Chinese people, under the leadership of the CPC, have carried out revolution, construction and reform over the past 100 years.

It extolled the fact that under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core since the 18th CPC National Congress, socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, and China is embarking on a new journey of fully building a modern socialist country. After the performance, all the audience rose to chorus the song "Without the Communist Party, There Would Be No New China." Important foreign friends, diplomatic envoys and representatives of international organizations in Beijing, and foreign experts were also invited to the event.





# Unparalleled Belt and Road Cooperation



By Nong Rong

On June 23, the Asia and Pacific High-level Conference on the Belt and Road Cooperation was successfully held. It was attended by political leaders from 29 countries, and representatives from six international organizations including the United Nations. Chinese president Xi Jinping delivered written remarks. State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi presided over the meeting. H.E. Foreign Minister Qureshi addressed the function. The conference, where attending parties vowed to enhance efforts to jointly fight the pandemic and boost the green economy for a sustainable recovery, is regarded as a signal to show Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the 2013-born framework, has endured the test of COVID-19 and continues to be vigorous in buttressing regional economies hit hard by the pandemic. As an influential and popular initiative, the BRI has withstood the test of times, with distinguished characteristics. First, the BRI is not meant for geopolitics, nor for competition, but for practical needs for development. As President Xi Jinping points out, the BRI aims to carry on the Silk Road spirit and co-build an open platform for cooperation to generate new driving forces for the development of all countries. Therefore, by the time China realized the infrastructure and energy sectors were the major obstacles for many developing countries, while could not be solved due to lack of fund. China has committed itself to investing in the BRI countries to meet their urgently needed projects. Take the energy projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for example. They now stand a quarter of Pakistan's power supply, and become the guarantee of the wellbeing of the people and the functioning of the economy. Second, the BRI is not a slogan, but an endeavor that yields tangible results and progress. Over the past eight years, the BRI has evolved from vision into reality, and brought

about enormous opportunities and benefits to countries around the world. Trade between China and the BRI partners has exceeded 9.2 trillion US dollars. Direct investment by Chinese companies in countries along the Belt and Road has surpassed 130 billion US dollars. A World Bank report suggests that when fully implemented, the BRI could increase global trade by 6.2 percent and global real income by 2.9 percent, and give a significant boost to global growth. Third, the BRI is built for connectivity, not for confrontation or isolation. We have launched a large number of pragmatic cooperation projects to benefit the public, and established the multi-dimensional and comprehensive connectivity partnership. To date, up to 140 partner countries have signed documents on Belt and Road cooperation with China. The BRI is beyond the scope of transportation connectivity, and has become the bridge for trade, commerce and people-to-people connectivity, thus serving as the world's broadest-based and largest platform for international cooperation. Fourth, the BRI is world-oriented, instead of driven by political blocs. It follows the philosophy of openness, inclusiveness, and win-win cooperation, and sticks to the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits. The BRI and its core value have been written into the relevant documents of the United Nations, the G20, APEC and other regional organizations, and has become the most well-received international public good. Take CPEC as an example, various activities have already been held in many places around the world to promote CPEC third-party cooperation, such as Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, and Singapore. Fifth, the BRI sets its goal high, that is for a better life, and sets its standard high, that is for green development. According to a World Bank study, the BRI could help lift 7.6 million people out of extreme poverty and 32 million

people out of moderate poverty. It could boost trade by 2.8 to 9.7 percent for the BRI countries, and increase the global real income by 0.7 to 2.9 percent. The BRI is also striving to build a community of harmony between humanity and nature, and has launched a series of green action initiatives, including green infrastructure construction, green energy, green transport and green finance. To create a just and reasonable global environmental governance system through eco-environmental cooperation, now becomes the feature of the BRI. The above-mentioned characteristics are all embodied in the development of CPEC, the pilot project of the BRI. With our joint efforts, 46 CPEC projects have been completed or under construction, with a total investment of US\$25.4 billion, and bring about 75 thousand job opportunities at its peak. Against the backdrop of Covid-19, the CPEC projects strictly complied with the SOPs and went on smoothly without suspension, withdrawal of people, or any layoffs of workers. Look forward to the future, as Foreign Minister Qureshi pointed out on the Asia and Pacific High-Level Conference on Belt and Road Cooperation, "we must seize this opportunity to transform our economies into ones that are development-oriented and environmentally sustainable". China and Pakistan should enhance cooperation in promoting high-quality development of CPEC, give more focus to industry, agriculture, and ICT sectors, so as to enhance export competitiveness, increase export and tax revenues, and achieve sustainable development with better production capacity. We should also jointly put forth the Initiative for Belt and Road Partnership on Green Development to inject new impetus into building the green CPEC, and step up cooperation in areas like green infrastructure, green energy and green finance, and set a new pilot for high-quality development under the BRI framework.



# Ceremony marking CPC centenary begins at Tian'anmen Square

## Marking 100 Years of Communist Party of China

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang announced the beginning of a ceremony marking the centenary of the Communist Party of China at Tian'anmen Square in Beijing on Thursday morning.

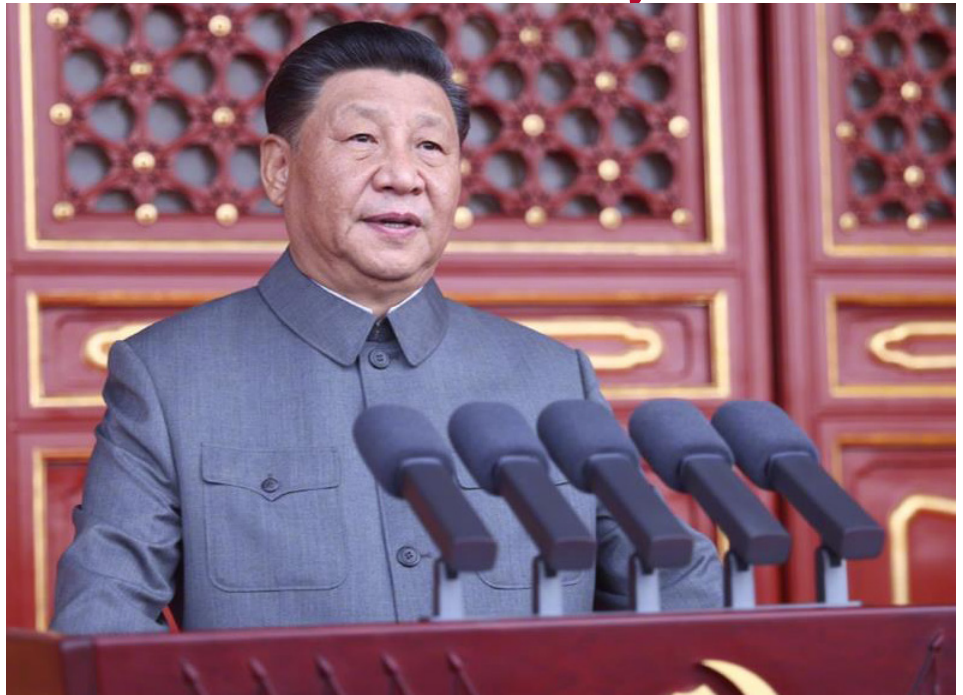
Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, arrived at Tian'anmen Rostrum at the heart of Beijing on Thursday morning for the ceremony.

Xi started to deliver an important speech at the event. Xi said that the CPC has united and led the Chinese people over the past 100 years for one ultimate theme – bringing about the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Xi said that the CPC and the Chinese people, through tenacious struggle, have shown the world that China's national rejuvenation has become a historical inevitability.

They have shown the world that the Chinese nation has achieved the tremendous transformation from standing up and growing prosperous to becoming strong, Xi said. Xi summed up the four great successes achieved by the CPC in the past century.

- The Party unites and leads the Chinese people in fighting bloody battles with unyielding determination, achieving great success in the new-democratic revolution.
- The Party unites and leads the Chinese people in endeavoring to build a stronger China with a spirit of self-reliance, achieving great success in socialist revolution and construction.
- The Party unites and leads the Chinese people in freeing the mind and forging ahead, achieving great success in reform, opening up, and socialist modernization.
- The Party unites and leads the Chinese people in pursuing a great struggle, a great project, a great cause, and a great dream through a spirit of self-confidence, self-reliance, and innovation, achieving great success for socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.
- Xi said that the firm leadership of the CPC must be upheld.
- The leadership of the Party is the defining feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics and constitutes the greatest strength of this system, Xi said.



- It is the foundation and lifeblood of the Party and the country, and the crux upon which the interests and wellbeing of all Chinese people depend, he added.
- Xi said that any attempt to divide the Party from the Chinese people or to set the people against the Party is bound to fail.
- "The more than 95 million Party members and the more than 1.4 billion Chinese people will never allow such a scenario to come to pass," Xi said.
- Xi said that the Party must uphold and develop

socialism with Chinese characteristics.

- Xi said as we have upheld and developed socialism with Chinese characteristics and driven coordinated progress in material, political, cultural-ethical, social, and ecological terms, we have pioneered a new and uniquely Chinese path to modernization, and created a new model for human civilization.
- He said China welcomes helpful suggestions, but will not accept sanctimonious preaching.
- "We are eager to learn what lessons we can from the achievements of other cultures, and





welcome helpful suggestions and constructive criticism,” said Xi.

- “We will not, however, accept sanctimonious preaching from those who feel they have the right to lecture us,” he said.

- Chinese people will never allow any foreign force to bully, oppress, or subjugate us, said Xi.

- “Anyone who would attempt to do so will find themselves on a collision course with a great wall of steel forged by over 1.4 billion Chinese people,” said Xi.

- “We have never bullied, oppressed, or subjugated the people of any other country, and we never will,” Xi said.

- China has always worked to safeguard world peace, contribute to global development, and preserve international order, Xi said, calling for continuous efforts to promote the building of a human community with a shared future.

- The image China presents to the world today is one of a thriving nation that is advancing with unstoppable momentum toward rejuvenation, Xi said.

- The CPC is rallying and leading the Chinese people on a new journey toward realizing the second centenary goal, Xi noted.

- “It is certain that with the firm leadership of the Party and the great unity of the Chinese people of all ethnic groups, we will achieve the goal of building a great modern socialist country in all respects and fulfill the Chinese Dream of great national rejuvenation,” Xi said.







# 中国共产党与世界政党领导人峰会 CPC AND WORLD POLITICAL PARTIES SUMMIT



## *Xi urges world political parties to shoulder responsibility for pursuit of people's wellbeing, progress of mankind*

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Chinese leader Xi Jinping urged political parties in the world to shoulder their responsibility for the pursuit of people's wellbeing and progress of mankind.

Xi, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chinese president, called on political parties to strengthen cooperation to tackle global challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, inequality, terrorism, and climate change.

Addressing the CPC and World Political Parties Summit via video link in Beijing, Xi took swipes at practices of seeking technology blockade and decoupling, politicizing the pandemic, "political manipulation for the purpose of sabotaging the development of other countries," and practices of "seeking hegemony by way of group politics."

The cloud summit, which gathered leaders of more than 500 political parties and organizations from over 160 countries, was convened as human society has "once again found itself at a historical crossroads" that leads to either hostile confrontation or mutual respect, seclusiveness and decoupling or openness and cooperation, zero-sum game or win-win results. "The choice is in our hands and the responsibility falls on our shoulders," Xi told party leaders.

### RESPONSIBILITY OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Political parties, as an important force behind human progress, need to set the right course forward and shoulder their historical responsibility to ensure the people's wellbeing and pursue the progress of mankind, Xi said.

Xi called on political parties to shoulder the responsibility to steer the course by shaping the shared future for mankind, and to build consensus by upholding and promoting the common values of humanity.

"With a strong sense of responsibility for the future of all mankind, we need to champion on the common values of humanity, foster broad-minded tolerance toward the understanding of values by different civilizations, and respect the explorations of different peoples," he said.

Political parties need to shoulder the responsibility to promote development by bringing greater benefits to all peoples in a fairer manner, Xi said.

Noting that all countries and nations are equally entitled to development opportunities and rights, Xi said political parties should face squarely up to major problems such as wealth gap and development divide, with particular attention and care given to underdeveloped countries and regions and impoverished people.

He urged political parties to jointly oppose the practice of seeking technology blockade and

divide as well as decoupling.

Calling for more cooperation in addressing global risks and challenges, Xi said in the face of the pandemic, political parties should work together to close the "immunization gap," and must oppose the practice of politicizing the pandemic or attaching a geographical label to the virus.

Xi also called on political parties to shoulder the responsibility to improve governance by enhancing the capacity to ensure people's wellbeing.

"The judgement on whether a country is democratic or not should be made by their people, not by a handful of others," he said.

### CPC CONTRIBUTIONS TO WORLD

It is the unswerving goal of the CPC to run China's house well, ensure a happy life for more than 1.4 billion Chinese people, and promote peace and development of all mankind, Xi said. Xi said the CPC will unite and lead the Chinese people in pressing ahead with the Chinese-style modernization to make new contributions to humanity's search for ways to modernize.

There doesn't exist a fixed model for the path to modernization, and the path that suits a country will serve it well, he said.

"Cutting one's feet to fit the shoes will lead nowhere," he added.

The CPC will unite and lead the Chinese people in taking comprehensive steps to deepen





## 中国共产党与世界政党领导人峰会 CPC AND WORLD POLITICAL PARTIES SUMMIT



reform and opening up to make new contributions to shared development and prosperity of all countries of the world, Xi noted.

Xi said the CPC will shoulder its responsibility as a major political party in a major country to make new contributions to improving the well-being of mankind.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, all the 98.99 million rural residents living below the current poverty line in China have been lifted out of poverty, enabling the country to meet the poverty reduction target set out in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule.

The CPC is willing to contribute more Chinese solutions and Chinese strength to the poverty reduction process worldwide, Xi said.

The country will spare no effort to support international cooperation against COVID-19 and to enhance the accessibility and affordability of vaccines in developing countries, and will contribute more to the global fight against climate change, he added.

Xi said the CPC will actively improve global governance to make new contributions to humanity's joint response to common challenges.

"We should stand opposed to the practice of unilateralism disguised as multilateralism and say no to hegemony and power politics," he said.

"China will never seek hegemony, expansion or sphere of influence," he added.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, also president of the African National Congress, and 20 other leaders of political parties and organizations spoke at the summit. They agreed with Xi that political parties should shoulder the responsibility for the people's wellbeing, and said they are willing to work with the CPC to build a better world.

Wang Huning, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, and other senior CPC officials attended the summit.

Over 10,000 representatives of political parties and various circles attended the event.

## 中国共产党与世界政党领导人峰会 CPC AND WORLD POLITICAL PARTIES SUMMIT





# Statement of the Prime Minister of Pakistan at “CPC AND WORLD POLITICAL PARTIES SUMMIT”

His Excellency Mr. Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, President of the People's Republic of China, Distinguished Leaders, Representatives of the Political Parties, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, It is a great privilege to share my thoughts today at this 'CPC and World Political Parties Summit.' On behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan, I would like to convey our heartfelt felicitations to His Excellency President Xi Jinping and the Chinese people on the 100th anniversary of the Communist Party of China. I am confident that our discourse in this Summit would shed new light on the role of political parties in advancing the well-being of people. Founding of the CPC in 1921 was a seminal event in world history. The vision of the CPC leadership ignited the spirit of the Chinese Nation and encouraged them to wage an epic struggle for liberation from foreign occupation. Chairman Mao Zedong, and subsequently Deng Xiaoping, guided the Chinese people in reclaiming national dignity, self pride, self respect and China's rightful place in the world.

For decades, the CPC's spirit instilled new vigor and hope beyond China's borders. It inspired peoples of colonized nations and contributed to the end of colonialism. CPC's astonishing success rests in the people-centric approach of its inclusive development philosophy. It remained committed to serve the people and prioritize their well-being and interests. CPC's achievements of all-round national development, poverty alleviation, anti-corruption campaign, and nation-building, are truly remarkable. It is something we hope to emulate in Pakistan. Excellencies, CPC's achievements have opened new vistas of thought for political parties across the world. CPC has proven that attainment of political power is primarily meant for bringing a transformation in the lives of people and making them masters of their own destiny. Indeed, political parties can only enjoy public support and legitimacy if they continue to serve the people selflessly. President Xi's visionary leadership has played a pivotal role in China's transformation and continued rise. His people-centric philosophy has made a critical difference as China has eliminated extreme poverty, one of the greatest achievements in the history of mankind, and achieved CPC's goal of building a 'moderately prosperous society'.

Pakistan supports China's efforts to safeguard world peace, contribute to global development, and preserve international order. President Xi's vision of shared prosperity, through BRI, has made a major impact on global sustainable



development, thus proving his credentials as a world statesman. Under President Xi's stewardship, China has achieved major success in the 'people's war' against the COVID-19 pandemic. President Xi's declaration of making the COVID-19 vaccines a global public good is reflective of his compassion and fairness. Excellencies, CPC's mission of 'Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese nation' and PTI's vision of 'Naya Pakistan' reflect the respective aspirations of the people of our two countries. I formed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf 25 years ago on the principles of accountability, transparency, meritocracy and Islamic Welfare to break the vicious cycle of elite capture, corruption and nepotism. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf remains committed to its original mission of establishing rule of law and setting up a society that is humane and compassionate.

***CPC's achievements of all-round national development, poverty alleviation, anti-corruption campaign, and nation-building, are truly remarkable***

Today, the Ehsaas Program launched by PTI government last year, is one of the leading social protection programmes in Asia. In its second phase, we envisage to provide social protection to 8 million of our poorest citizens. We have made Universal Health Coverage a priority in our health sector reforms. Under the 'Ehsaas Sahulat' program we aim to provide free

of cost health insurance initially to the families living below the poverty line, and subsequently to families that are in the provinces governed by PTI. Our 10 Billion Tree Tsunami project reflects our commitment to countering environmental degradation and reversing biodiversity loss. We are ready to contribute more than our share to protect this invaluable planet and help it heal from centuries of neglect.

In the wake of emerging global and regional environment, Pakistan has recalibrated its priorities from geo-politics to geo-economics. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of BRI, complements Pakistan's renewed efforts of this geo-economic shift with emphasis on economic integration and regional connectivity. Moreover, in line with my government's Green Vision, which aligns perfectly with President Xi's vision for green China, turning CPEC into green CPEC is a priority for Pakistan. Our abiding friendship with China and the CPEC complement this vision of peace for ourselves and for others, and shared prosperity and common development for our region and the world.

Pakistan and China are 'iron brothers.' We support each other on issues of our respective core interests. In an era of complex and profound changes at global and regional level, our 'All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership' remains a strong anchor for peace, progress and prosperity. This year also marks the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. Our two nations are celebrating this historic milestone in a befitting manner. I am confident that the year 2021 would provide new vigor and vitality to our time-tested friendship. Excellencies, We must join hands to advance the noble cause of peace and development, welfare of our peoples, and building 'Community of Shared Future for All Mankind.'





## Pakistan PM launches mega development projects in Gwadar

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday launched several development projects in Gwadar – Pakistan's port city and rising investment destination in Balochistan.

The premier performed the groundbreaking of phase two of the Gwadar Free Zone (GFZ) 2,200 acres as well as Gwadar expo centre, Henan agriculture industrial park and three factories.

During his one-day visit to Gwadar, Khan also inaugurated phase one of the Gwadar Free Zone, reviewed the progress on various projects, and witnessed the signing of a number of memorandums of understanding (MoUs). The accords included the implementation agreement of 1.2 million gallons per day desalination plant and a solar project as the provision of basic facilities including electricity, water and health are the prime focus for the government.

Addressing at the launch ceremony, Khan said the new projects would open up new avenues of opportunities for regional trade with Gwadar as its hub. The Gwadar International Airport would encourage regional trade and boost economic activity. "Gwadar will connect with Central Asia", offering a range of opportunities for the socio-economic development under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for Pakistan and the whole region, he said.

The future of Pakistan prosperity is linked to development in Balochistan, he said. The Rs730 billion development budget for Balochistan by the federal government is aimed at improving the quality of life in the province with a focus on health, education and job and ensuring uniform development across Balochistan.

### Manufacturing hub

Speaking at the event, Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong said the development in Gwadar was the result of cooperation between the governments of Pakistan and China, adding that Beijing would offer full support to Islamabad for economic development. Chinese companies are keen to collaborate with Pakistan in the fields of machinery manufacturing, household appliances, food processing, leather and textiles to develop a manufacturing centre.

The high-profile event was attended by Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong, Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Chief Minister Balochistan Jam Kamal Khan, Planning Minister Asad Umar, Minister for Defence Production Zubaida Jalal, Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Zaidi and Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry.

Several Gulf countries, Egypt and Kenya have expressed their commitment for cooperation and investment in Gwadar city, according to

Pakistani officials. Chairman Gwadar Port Authority Naseer Khan Kashani briefed the ambassadors of different countries on the facilities offered to investors particularly at Gwadar Free Zone.

Development continuing at a swift pace Chairman CPEC Authority Lt. Gen (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa says the CPEC has put Balochistan on the path of progress and prosperity. Compared to the first phase of the Gwadar Free Zone, which comprised 60 acres of land, the second phase would be an enormous project spread over 2,200 acres. Around 46 enterprises were engaged in phase-I of the free zone, while 12 new factories were being set up of which three had been completed. The traffic at Gwadar port was increasing every day and last year the trade volume increased up to 60,000 metric tonnes of cargo and the cargo volume is expected to increase at a higher pace in the coming days.







## New transmission line under CPEC to help stabilize Pakistan's power system



Pakistan's Energy Minister Hammad Azhar said here Friday that the  $\pm 660\text{kV}$  Matiari-Lahore high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will bring stability to the power system of the country.

Addressing the transmission ceremony of the project held simultaneously in Islamabad and China's Beijing through video link, Azhar said the project will enhance the transmission capability in Pakistan and bring relief to consumers.

The project has brought new technology to Pakistan and will evacuate power from power plants located in Sindh to northern load centers to meet their energy needs, the minister added.

"The CPEC is of utmost importance for Pakistan. It will enable the country to enhance industrial production, upgrade energy and communication infrastructure and improve connectivity within the region," he said.

Speaking at the ceremony in Beijing, Zhang



Jianhua, head of China's National Energy Administration, said the Matiari-Lahore transmission line is the first large-scale transmission project of the CPEC, which will become the backbone transmission channel of the new structure of the Pakistani power grid after being put into commercial operation, providing a solid assurance for power transmission in the south and power supply in the north of Pakistan.

Speaking at the event in Islamabad, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong said the CPEC has entered a new phase of high-quality

development focusing on industrial, agricultural and socio-economic cooperation. He said the Matiari-Lahore project will contribute to the stable power supply in Pakistan and promote the industrialization of the country.

The construction of the Matiari-Lahore transmission project started in December 2018, and around 7,000 jobs had been created for the locals during the construction period. The project is expected to be put into commercial operation later this year and can transmit electricity of over 30 billion kilowatt-hours annually.





## Friendship tree planted in Pakistan to mark 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties with China

A friendship tree was planted here at the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs in on Thursday as part of the ongoing celebrations to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

The tree was jointly planted by Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong, according to the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On the occasion, Qureshi said that the year 2021 marked the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC), and lauded the Chinese leadership and the CPC for lifting over 700 million people out of extreme poverty in a short span of 40 years, the foreign ministry said in a statement.

He also praised the Chinese leadership for spearheading the Chinese nation's efforts for peace and development, it added.

"The year 2021 also marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China," the foreign minister said, adding that unrelenting efforts of the successive generations of the people and

leadership have transformed this relationship into an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

Also on the occasion, the Chinese ambassador announced that China donates 7,000 saplings to Pakistan as a response to Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's proposed Clean and Green Pakistan Movement and "10 Billion Tree

Tsunami Program."

wide range of events are being held in Pakistan and China to celebrate the landmark 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.





## Ambassador of the People's Republic of China called on Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue

Ambassador of the People's Republic of China H.E. Nong Rong called on Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Mr. Shaukat Fayaz Ahmed Tarin here on Monday at Ministry of Finance. Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue while extending a warm welcome to H.E. Mr. Nong Rong stated that Pakistan and China enjoy long-term, broad based and multi-dimensional relationship. Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue expressed the commitment of the present government to further strengthen economic relations with China. He briefed the Chinese Ambassador about the measures introduced in the recent budget for ensuring inclusive and sustained economic growth in the country. Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue expressed hope that not only Chinese government but the Chinese entrepreneurs would also like to enhance their investment in the field of finance, industry

and agriculture development of Pakistan. Finance Minister and Chinese Ambassador both agreed to take the bilateral relations to next level in order to ensure sustained economic growth. Federal Minister for Finance briefed the Chinese Ambassador that increase in exports was the top most priority of the Government. He particularly referred to the budget proposals which would specifically promote exports in the long run and usher in growth in the economy. His Excellency Nong Rong informed about the progress of Chinese investments in CPEC related projects. He expressed the desire of the present Chinese Government to invest more in all sectors to lift the economic standing of Pakistan. He re-affirmed the commitment of Chinese Government to overcome any obstacle in deepening the bilateral ties between the two countries. Federal Minister for



Finance & Revenue conveyed full assurance on behalf of the Government of Pakistan to extend complete support in enhancing the level of economic cooperation between the two brotherly countries. He stated that Government of Pakistan would provide full facilitation to the Chinese companies in Pakistan to ensure long term and sustainable foreign investment in the country,

which would lead to economic growth, peace and prosperity for Pakistan. Minister for Finance & Revenue stressed upon the need for economic uplift of the entire region and emphasized that Pakistan is willing to play its role in this endeavor. Both sides agreed to hold regular review meetings to ensure fast track implementation of ongoing projects.

## CHINESE AMBASSADOR CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER SHAH MAHMOOD QURESHI

Chinese Ambassador Mr. Nong Rong called on Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today. During the meeting, views were exchanged on China-Pakistan bilateral relations, CPEC, 70th anniversary of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations and vaccine cooperation between the two countries. The Foreign Minister underscored that Pakistan and China were iron brothers. He highlighted that, with joint efforts of successive generations and leadership, this relationship had transformed into 'All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.' Both countries needed to further expand this relationship to realize closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in New Era, he added. The Chinese Ambassador briefed the Foreign Minister about upcoming events to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. Foreign Minister Qureshi expressed satisfaction that both countries had planned a series of events, spread over the entire year, to celebrate this historic milestone in a befitting manner. The Foreign Minister appreciated China's consistent support to Pakistan in its fight against COVID-19. He further underlined that China's provision of vaccine had been instrumental in saving precious human lives and controlling the pandemic in Pakistan. Foreign Minister Qureshi maintained that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was



a transformational project and it remained the Government's number one priority. The Foreign Minister maintained that CPEC had contributed to Pakistan's national development and stressed that Pakistan remained committed to making CPEC a High-Quality Demonstration Project of BRI. The Chinese Ambassador underscored that inauguration of Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) was a major development. He maintained

that it would give more confidence to Chinese investors and companies. He emphasized that, during the second phase of CPEC, both sides would jointly work on key areas of industrialization, agricultural cooperation, job creation and socio-economic development. There was agreement on both sides to ensure expeditious completion of CPEC projects.





Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Nong Rong had a good discussion with H.E. Mr. Tomas Niklasson Special Envoy of the EU for Afghanistan, and H.E. A. Kaminara Ambassador of EU to Pakistan. China believes that the fundamental way to overcome the challenge is to unswervingly promote the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan.



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Nong Rong met with Chairman of Senate H.E. Mr. Sadiq Sanjrani. Both sides exchanged views on parliamentary cooperation & Gwadar development. Expect to implement more social-economic cooperation in Balochistan.



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Nong Rong said it is an honor to participate in inauguration ceremony for issuance of commemorative coin of 70th Anniversary of Sino-Pak Diplomatic Relations with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Governor State Bank Dr. Reza Baqir. A good reflection of 70 years of unique friendship and cooperation!



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Nong Rong met with Madam Sherry Rehman, Vice Chairman PPP & Senator Rabbani Ex Chairman Senate, Mr. Farhatullah Babar and Faisal Karim Kundi at the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad. The friendship between CPC and PPP is time-tested and will last forever.





# Diplomatic Focus hosted dinner reception

**D**iplomatic Focus has become one of the most consistent magazine for more than one decade. Editor /Publisher/ CEO of Diplomatic Focus Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi hosted a dinner reception in the honor of newly appointed Ambassadors to Pakistan. Honorable dean of Diplomatic corps heads of missions, ambassadors, high commissioners, other prominent dignitaries also graced the occasion. The diplomatic Focus has been instrumental in helping the two countries increase the trade volume, and abolish barriers. Mian Fazal Elahi said "Newly appointed Ambassadors to Pakistan are going to contribute their valuable services for strengthening Pakistan relations with their countries throughout their tenure here in Pakistan and we hope that as ambassador they will deliver more efforts to strengthen the relations of Pakistan with other countries".





# CPC plays a vital role in China's socio-economic development & the world

The Communist Party of China (CPC) plays a vital role in China's socio-economic development and the world can learn lessons from CPC's work and initiatives, Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong said at a ceremony organized by Pakistan China Friendship Association Khyber Chapter at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House, Islamabad on June 29. Ambassador Nong encouraged more interaction to learn from each other's experiences and to promote mutual understandings among people in both countries while appreciating the gesture of goodwill from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. He said the Chinese side will work further

to advance people-to-people and cultural exchanges so as to help build a China-Pak community of shared future. He later distributed Friendship Awards among people from various walks of life from the province for their contributions to promoting and strengthening of bilateral relations during the decades.

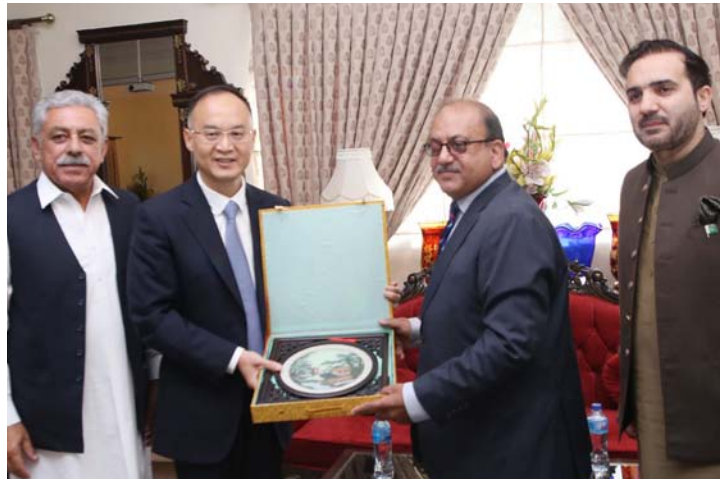
Earlier Deputy Chairman Senate of Pakistan Mirza Muhammad Afridi expressed his greetings to China on the successful 100th years of the CPC and lauded its role in China's development.

He appreciated the idea of more understanding of Chinese development in all walks of life and

shared his experiences in China over the years.

Also, the Deputy Chairman Senate encouraged the expansion of sister cities and parliamentary exchanges between the countries, including more Chinese delegations to visit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Yousaf Ayub Khan, president of PCFA Khyber, said at this opportunity of celebrating 100 years of CPC and 70th anniversary of the establishment of Sino-Pak diplomatic relation, there should be further awareness of Chinese leader Xi Jinping's landmark Belt and Road Initiative.





# Middle Powers in the Post-Pandemic Era

Seonjou kang (IFANS)

## International Trends

Recently two phenomena have stood out in international relations. One is interstate relations fracture; and the other is transnational challenges. Since 2010s, rivalry between the United States and China has been a central feature of the international system, and the recent COVID-19 pandemic has intensified it. Intensified US-China competition, more aggressive use of geopolitical influence and growing nationalism are fueling shifts from a rules-based to a power-based global order. And transnational challenges spare no country. No individual country, regardless of governance and wealth, is perfectly equipped to address the mounting economic and environmental risks alone.

## Middle Power Diplomacy

In this geopolitical context, it is critical that middle powers exercise leadership to restore global stability and cooperation. Without middle powers' influence, geopolitical fragmentation and economic fragility will increase further, and disruption will become more frequent, and progress on shared goals will be delayed.

Middle powers are loosely defined as countries that rank in the top-30 global economies with more or less \$1 trillion GDP and pose minimal military threat to their neighbors. Middle powers are states that lack superpower status but have the potential to forge a more stable, sustainable and cooperative balance of power, individually or collectively.

Middle powers have played influential roles in international relations. Middle powers often champion inclusivity, predictability, and multilateralism in the international system. Middle powers also provide critical support to international institutions. Many institutions of the post-World War II architecture have weakened over the past two decades, and gaps remain in the international space to be filled with innovative collaborations. Where transnational challenges lack successful global governance structures, middle powers could lead inclusive partnerships in order to earn back trust where it has declined. Or they could facilitate governance building around shared goals through ad hoc and informal arrangements among countries.

## MIKTA

MIKTA represents an informal arrangement of middle powers with shared goals. MIKTA was formed in 2013 as a G20 offshoot. Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia agreed to take their medium-sized resources and direct





them towards big goals, such as strengthening multilateralism, supporting global efforts for stability and prosperity, and facilitating pragmatic and creative solutions to global and regional challenges.

When the five countries decide to come together under the rubric of MIKTA with a common goal, they could do so because the global environment opened space for them to shape international relations to a certain degree. At that time, national capabilities were diffusing from west to east and from north to south, and negotiation and cooperation still remained a default option in addressing transnational challenges. Thus, certain expectations were extended onto MIKTA's potential contribution to the maintenance and expansion of the post-World War II rules-based international order.

However, it did not take long before such expectations turned out to be misplaced. From 2017, MIKTA's attention and activism shifted inward and impactless. There were a couple of factors for this downturn. First, structurally, the global order became less hospitable to influence from the middle due to great power competition between the United States and China. There was no benign hegemon to encourage middle powers' entrepreneurial efforts. Unlike in the past, the United States started to see international relations in strict zero-sum terms. The other great power, China, was also proven uninterested in working with middle power countries. This practically shut down windows for middle power activism and discouraged MIKTA from initiating and forging cooperation for global issues.

The other factor for the downturn was with MIKTA itself. MIKTA as a whole was not equipped with ideational and resource commitment. Without clear and compelling ideas and

resources to support them with, it was hard for MIKTA to make breakthroughs in global issues and play a role in bringing major stakeholders together.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic suddenly descended upon us. International relations will look much different from the pre-pandemic era. Among other things, the coronavirus pandemic has increased uncertainty about leadership. The pandemic has inflicted damage on the leadership of the United States and China. China's trustworthiness is in doubt, and on the other hand the United States' willingness to lead the world is in question. While it remains to be seen how the United States and China will restore their respective leadership, the post-COVID19 world likely opens window for MIKTA to practice middle power entrepreneurship. Especially, if the United States and China choose to mix cooperation and competition in their relations, MIKTA would be able to play a bridging role in global issues. Further, of the two great powers, the United States is more likely to reach out to MIKTA, because the United States has a vested interest in preserving the post-World War II international order.

There is one caveat about the future of MIKTA in the post-pandemic era though. While an opportunity for MIKTA looms on the horizon in the post-pandemic era, it depends on MIKTA's own readiness to utilize such opportunity. An array of preparations must be executed on the part of MIKTA to harness the opportunities produced by the coronavirus pandemic. MIKTA's preparations for the post-COVID19 international relations involve three elements. First, there is a need for Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia to renew their commitment to MIKTA as a group. Domestically, the economic downturn is accelerating a greater

pivot inward for the MIKTA countries as they seek to maintain domestic political and social stability. Such economic pressures and concomitant deepening nationalism could result in the MIKTA countries' unwillingness or inability to contribute to global issues. Second, the five MIKTA countries then need to apply resources, establishing an organizational platform for their actions. This may mean that MIKTA moves from being a stand-alone consultation body to anchoring to a multilateral institution. Lastly, MIKTA needs to set up a strategy for building common understanding with key actors on global issues by investing resources and ideas for a sustained period of time. The future of MIKTA in the post-pandemic era will depend on how well the MIKTA countries go through this exercise.

**Middle Power Diplomacy in the Post-Pandemic Era** A new middle-power moment may have arrived with the Covid-19 pandemic. The deepening of geopolitical fault lines may constrain middle powers' capacity to cultivate connection with a diverse set of partner countries based on mutual values and maximizing efficiencies. At the same time, paradoxically, demand from the world for middle powers' entrepreneurship may rise than ever before because of the awareness that weakened middle powers could lead to more uncertainty and lagging progress on shared global challenges of our time and future generations. Thus, if numerous middle powers can sustain their diplomatic efforts in the post-pandemic era, they will, to a certain extent, be able to shape the post-pandemic international order. It will be in middle powers' interest to forge multilateral partnerships among themselves and make sure that the post-pandemic international order reflects shared but clearly defined responsibilities across countries.





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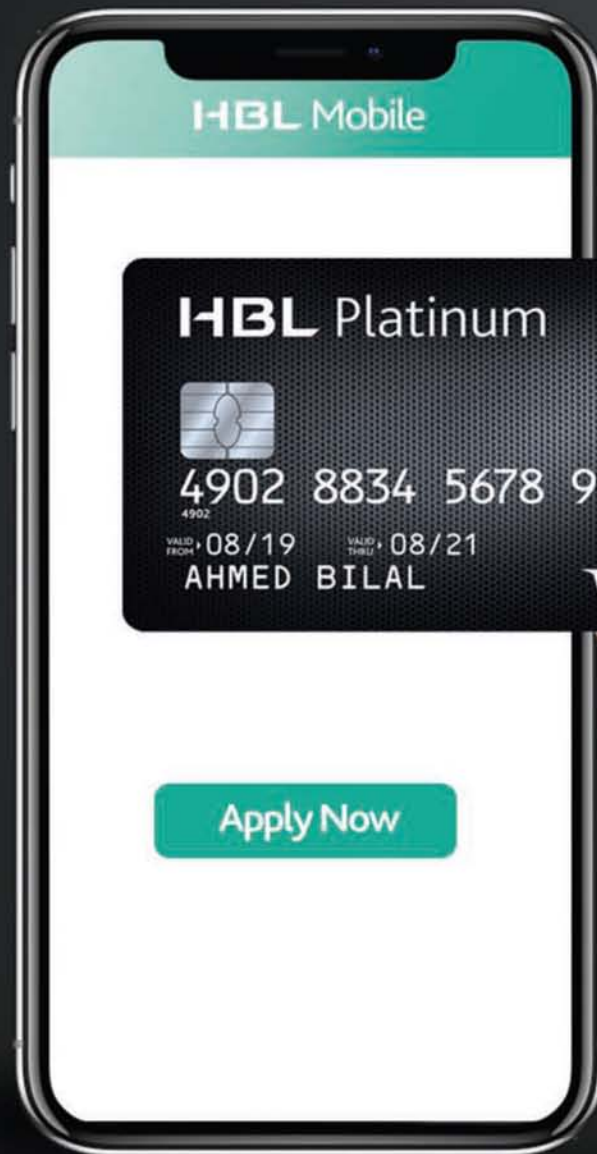
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# To an unprecedented year.








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