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*Peaceful  
Afghanistan  
means a  
peaceful region  
in general and  
a peaceful  
Pakistan in  
particular:  
(COAS) General  
Qamar Javed  
Bajwa*



**PAKISTAN & GERMANY**  
*were closely coordinating on regional issues*

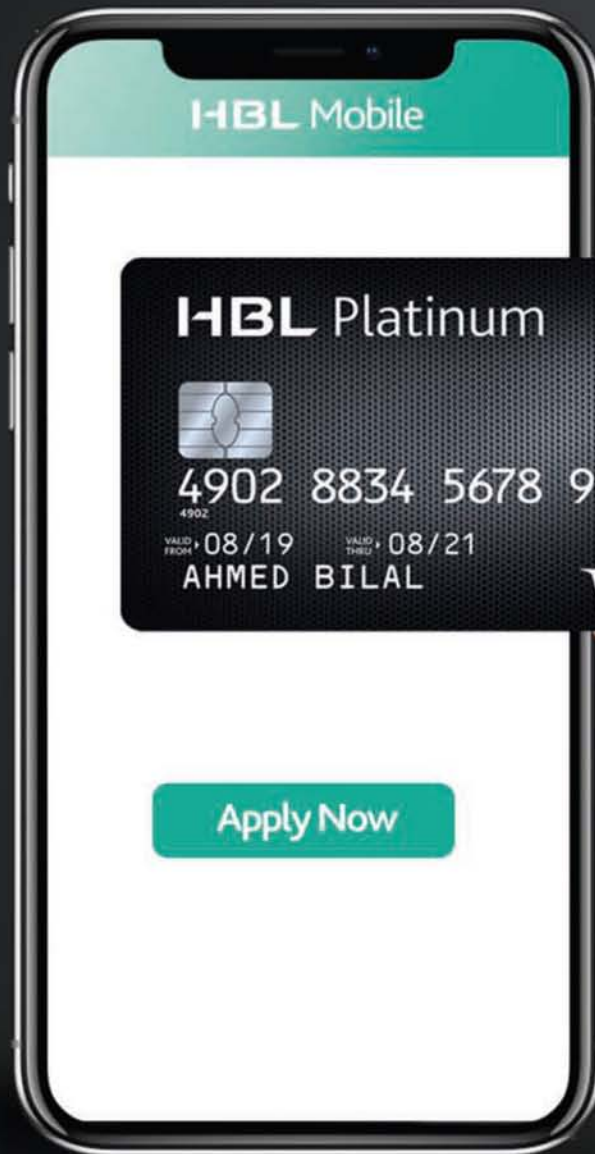


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
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**09 Message from President Dr Arif Alvi on the occasion of 75th Independence Day**

I wish to share in the happiness of my fellow countrymen on the auspicious occasion of the 75th Independence Day of Pakistan. This day reminds us to pay rich tribute to the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and leaders and workers of the Pakistan Movement who created a separate homeland for the Muslims of the Indian sub-continent.

**22 Pakistan and Germany were closely coordinating on bilateral and regional issues**

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. Views were exchanged on the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan-Germany bilateral relations. The Prime Minister recalled his conversation with Chancellor Merkel, in which the two leaders had fruitful exchange of views on the Afghanistan situation. The Prime Minister underscored that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan was vitally important for Pakistan and the region. The Prime Minister stressed that at this pivotal moment in Afghanistan's history, it was important for the international community to remain in support and solidarity with the Afghan people.

**31 Afghan delegation calls on Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Shah Mahmood Qureshi in Islamabad**

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Monday said Pakistan considered all segments of Afghanistan important in shaping the final destiny of their country. The foreign minister stated this as he received political leaders from Afghanistan here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the call, the foreign minister shared Pakistan's perspective on the latest situation in Afghanistan, the Foreign Office said in a statement.

**42 Taliban hail victory after last U.S. troops leaves Afghanistan**

Celebratory gunfire resounded across the Afghan capital on Tuesday as the Taliban took control of the airport following the withdrawal of the last U.S. troops, marking the end of a 20-year war that left the Islamist group stronger than it was in 2001. Shaky video footage distributed by the Taliban showed fighters entering the airport after the last U.S. troops flew out on a C-17 aircraft a minute before midnight, ending a hasty and humiliating exit for Washington and its NATO allies.

**48 Pakistan considered Iran a close neighbor and important country**

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi called on President of Iran, Seyed Ibrahim Raisi in Tehran. The Foreign Minister was accompanied by Special Representative for Afghanistan Ambassador Muhammad Sadiq, Pakistan's Ambassador to Tehran, Rahim Hayat Qureshi and senior officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Foreign Minister conveyed heartfelt felicitations to President Raisi from Pakistani leadership on victory in presidential election and receiving Parliament's endorsement on Cabinet.



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Mian Fazal Elahi

**C**elebratory gunfire resounded across the Afghan capital as the Taliban took control of the airport following the withdrawal of the last U.S. troops, marking the end of a 20-year war that left the Islamist group stronger than it was in 2001.

An image from the Pentagon taken with night-vision optics showed the last U.S. soldier to step aboard the final evacuation flight out of Kabul - Major General Chris Donahue, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division. America's longest war took the lives of nearly 2,500 U.S. troops and an estimated 240,000 Afghans, and cost some \$2 trillion.

More than 123,000 people were evacuated from Kabul in a massive but chaotic airlift by the United States and its allies over the past two weeks, but many of those who helped Western nations during the war were left behind.

U.S. President Joe Biden defended his decision to stick to withdrawal deadline. He said the world would hold the Taliban to their commitment to allow safe passage for those wanting to leave Afghanistan.

Biden has said the United States long ago achieved the objectives it set in 2001, when it ousted the Taliban for harbouring al Qaeda militants who masterminded the Sept. 11 attacks.

But he has drawn heavy criticism from Republicans and some fellow Democrats for his actions since the Taliban took over Kabul this month after a lightning advance and the collapse of the U.S.-backed government. Blinken said the United States was prepared to work with the new Taliban government if it did not carry out reprisals against opponents. Taliban spokesman Mujahid said the group wanted to establish diplomatic relations with the United States, despite the two decades of hostility. "The Islamic Emirate wants to have good diplomatic relations with the whole world," he said

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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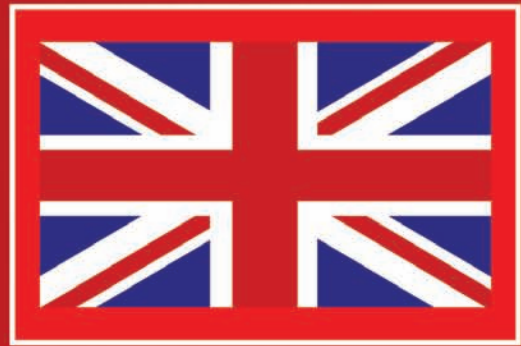
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***Message from  
Mr. Imran Khan,  
Prime Minister of  
Pakistan on  
Independence Day of  
Pakistan***

**A**s we hoist our national flag to mark Independence Day, we must reiterate the firm resolve to uphold our national values of unity, faith and discipline as envisioned by Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. We have surmounted monumental challenges during the course of our history to emerge as a united, peaceful and resilient nation. Even today, the changing regional dynamics along with some domestic issues continue to test our resolve. Like each time, we will also overcome these obstacles with our characteristic determination and come out stronger as a nation. Pakistan today can stand tall among the comity of nations. Our policies towards reviving the economy, handling the pandemic, and protecting the environment have received uni-

versal acclaim.

On this occasion, we should not forget our Kashmiri brothers and sisters in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) struggling for their right to self-determination under extremely adverse circumstances marked by illegal Indian occupation and unspeakable repression. Pakistan will continue to extend its full support to the Kashmiris in their just cause. Kashmiris are looking up to the international community to fulfil the promises made to them.

Pakistan has rendered immense sacrifices and paid a heavy price for instability on its Western border. We have consistently stressed that there is no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan. Pakistan

will continue to support a negotiated political settlement for durable peace and stability in Afghanistan. We want peace within and peace without, to pursue our socio-economic agenda. The Naya Pakistan has shifted its focus from geo-politics to geo-economics, with the well-being and welfare of our people as the topmost priority. Our government has undertaken every possible effort for the development and prosperity of Pakistan.

This country is undoubtedly a gift of Allah Almighty for us. I once again felicitate all Pakistanis, both inland and overseas, on this auspicious occasion. I urge you to play your part in making Pakistan a proud, prosperous and peaceful nation state.





## *Message from President Dr Arif Alvi on the occasion of 75th Independence Day*

I wish to share in the happiness of my fellow countrymen on the auspicious occasion of the 75th Independence Day of Pakistan. This day reminds us to pay rich tribute to the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and leaders and workers of the Pakistan Movement who created a separate homeland for the Muslims of the Indian sub-continent.

During this 74 years journey, Pakistan faced many challenges but it successfully overcame them with hard work, sacrifices and the support of the entire nation. Pakistanis are a brilliant and brave nation, that has made tremendous successes in various fields making the country distinguished from other nations. The world must appreciate the fact that Pakistan singularly fought a long-drawn war against terrorism and eventually defeated the menace. Similarly, the development of nuclear deterrence by Pakistan is a great achievement that has made the country's defence impregnable. Not to forget that Pakistan is a host to millions of Afghan refugees for many decades. Pakistan also won laurels worldwide for successfully

handling the Covid-19 pandemic. For this great achievement, I pay homage to doctors and paramedics, religious leaders, media, National Command and Operation Centre, Security Forces and the entire nation whose cooperation made it possible to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We have significantly improved all our macro-economic indicators which are now positively impacting the lives of the masses.

Despite these achievements, Pakistan is still facing many challenges on social and economic fronts, such as increasing population, lack of health and education facilities, stunted growth, malnutrition and various other diseases. It is encouraging to note that the government has taken certain steps for the empowerment of women and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) by providing them loans and skills to make them financially independent. Additionally, the Government has initiated various social welfare programmes under the flagship "Ehsaas Program" to provide education, health, and financial assistance to the impoverished

segments of society. However, we need to make more efforts for the facilitation and welfare of PWDs and the empowerment of women by ensuring the provision of their right to inheritance.

On this Independence Day, we also reaffirm our commitment to continue our moral, political and diplomatic support to the cause of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. I assure my Kashmiri brethren that Pakistan would continue to stand by them till the achievement of their right to self-determination in accordance with the United Nations Security Council's resolutions. I also urge the international community to play its role to compel India to stop committing human rights abuses against the innocent Muslims of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and fulfil its commitment to grant Kashmiris their right to self-determination.

Let's pledge to follow the ideals of the Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and work for the unity and prosperity of Pakistan. May Allah be with us all. Amen!

Pakistan Paindabad!





## ***Pakistan marks 75th Independence Day***

**R**allies, flag-hoisting ceremonies and fire-works across the country marked the 75th Independence Day of Pakistan, amid a significant drop in the coronavirus casualties that have wreaked havoc on global lifestyle and economies. The streets took on a festive green and white hue with buildings adorned with lights and other decorations in the national flag's colours. The day dawned with a 31-gun salute in capital Islamabad and a 21-gun salute in all the four provincial capitals, followed by change-of guards ceremonies at the mausoleums of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of South Asian nation, in the port city of Karachi, and Allama Mohammad Iqbal, the national poet, in northeastern city of Lahore. Similar ceremonies were also held in Pakistan administered Kashmir, state-run Pakistan Television reported. The main ceremony was held at the President Office where President Arif Alvi hoisted the national flag. Heads of the lower house National Assembly, and the upper house Senate, chiefs of the three armed forces, ministers, and senior government officials also attended the ceremony." Addressing the ceremony, he said, "today we realise the difficulties that were faced in the course of [Pakistan's] freedom," and paid tribute to the leaders of the freedom movement, including Allam Iqbal, Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Liaquat Ali Khan. "It is due to their sacrifices that we are here," he said.

The president said that over the past 74 years, "three wars were forced upon us". "There is an ongoing race for weapons in the region and Pakistan has been [deliberately] trapped," he said, adding that despite this challenge, Pakistan, which was essentially an agricultural country, managed to meet its food requirements and was now on the way to becoming an industrial country. He said the country was







also making advancements in the area of information technology.

Recounting Pakistan's accomplishments of the past years, he said when India conducted a nuclear explosion in 1974, Pakistan managed to create a nuclear deterrent within just seven years after that.

Moreover, the president said, Pakistan had been fighting terrorism after the situation worsened in Afghanistan. "We sacrificed around 100,000 lives and lost around \$150 billion, but came out [of that war] victorious." He lauded Pakistan's armed forces and police for bravely fighting terrorism and "setting an example". The president further stated that "we all are witnesses to [the actions] of nations that claim to be the champions of human rights".

"Compare them with Pakistan... they let refugee drown in seas and rivers but don't give them refuge. Pakistan, [on the other hand], gave refuge to 3.5 million refugees." He added that the nation had stood strong in the face of multiple challenges.

The president also appreciated the government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic and launching the Ehsaas programme, appealing to citizens to observe Covid-related standard operating procedures.

"Our success against the coronavirus is our strength," he said, adding that while the country battled the pandemic on the principles of welfare, its economy also progressed. He said Pakistan had the potential to become a developed country and encouraged citizens to work towards it.

The president also drew the attention of the international community towards India's atrocities in occupied Kashmir and expressed solidarity with the people of the valley. "They [the Indian government] is moving towards genocide," he said, adding that due to the influence of the "Hindutva ideology" in India, peace in the region was not possible.

President Alvi also called for peace in Afghanistan and said he was hopeful that peace would be restored in the country.







## *Pakistan and Turkey could further enhance bilateral ties in all sectors*

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan hosted President Dr Arif Alvi in Vahdettin Mansion in Istanbul on 15 August 2021. The Presidents were also accompanied by Turkish First Lady Emine Erdoğan and Pakistan's First Lady Mrs. Samina Alvi.

The two leaders held wide-ranging talks and discussed further strengthening of bilateral relations through implementation of the Strategic Economic Framework (SEF) that was signed in February 2020.

Both sides held detailed discussions on issues pertaining to Afghanistan. President Erdoğan discussed possible help of Pakistan in moving Turkish assets and people safely to Pakistan. President Dr Arif Alvi established contact with Prime Minister Imran Khan and thereafter President Erdoğan and PM Imran Khan are discussing issues of immediate concern arising out of evolving situation in Afghanistan. President Erdoğan stated that he looked forward to hosting the meeting of the 7th High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council in Turkey this year.

President Dr. Alvi apprised President Erdoğan about the deteriorating human rights situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and thanked him for Turkey's consistent support on the matter. President Dr. Alvi is visiting Turkey upon the invitation of President Erdoğan to participate in the launching ceremony of the first of the





four MILGEM corvettes for Pakistan Navy. The launching ceremony of the first MILGEM class corvette (PNS Babur) for the Pakistan Navy was held today at Istanbul Naval Shipyard (INSY). President of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi and President of the Republic of Turkey Mr Recep Tayyip Erdoğan graced the occasion as chief guests. Mrs Samina Alvi, the First Lady launched the warship with a prayer. Both Presidents also jointly performed steel cutting of Akhisar, the offshore patrol vessel for the Turkish Navy.

Addressing the ceremony, President Dr Arif Alvi said that both countries shared common objectives of promoting peace, stability and development in their respective regions. He highlighted that Pakistan and Turkey were further strengthening their cooperation across various spheres, particularly in defence, to deal with common challenges and new and emerging threats. Thanking Turkey for the construction of the PNS Babur within the timeline, the President emphasized that this project is a testimony of strong relations and expressed the hope that it would further boost defence collaboration between the two brotherly countries. President Dr Arif Alvi lauded Turkey's continuing support on the Kashmir dispute and reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support to Turkey on the Cyprus issue.

In his address, President Erdoğan said that Turkey and Pakistan brotherhood and friendship is deep-rooted in history and the people of Turkey have a special place in their hearts for Pakistan. He highlighted the enhanced collaboration between the two countries in various fields including defence production. He said despite the pandemic, Pakistan-Turkey bilateral trade is improving. He hoped that economic ties would further improve. President Erdogan stressed the need to closely work together to promote regional peace and stability including in Afghanistan.

Speaker of Turkish Grand National Assembly Mustafa Sentop, Turkish Vice President Fuat Oktay, Chief of the Naval Staff of Pakistan Admiral M Amjad Khan Niazi, along with senior Turkish defence officials, including Defence Minister Hulusi Akar, Chief of the Turkish General Staff General Yaşar Güler and Commander of Turkish Naval Forces Admiral Adnan Özbal also attended the ceremony.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Niazi in his remarks lauded the great achievement of the MILGEM project. Earlier, upon his arrival at the Istanbul Naval Shipyard, the President was received by Turkish President Erdogan and was presented a guard of honour. The contract for four MILGEM Class Corvettes for Pakistan Navy was signed in 2018. Under the contract, two ships were to be constructed at Istanbul Naval Shipyard and the other two at Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works. The induction of MILGEM warships in



the Pakistan Navy arsenal will augment Pakistan Navy's capability and contribute to its efforts towards maintaining peace and security in the Indian Ocean Region.

President Dr Arif Alvi has urged the Turkish businessmen to take advantage of the business-friendly environment of Pakistan and invest in Information Technology, mining, financial, industrial and tourism sectors as there existed great potential for cooperation between the two countries. The President made these remarks during meetings with the business delegations from leading Turkish companies, who called on him, at Istanbul, today. The delegation comprised of industrial groups as well as Chairmen/CEOs of Turkish companies from various sectors including energy, Information Technology, healthcare, and electronics.

The participants included Zorlu Energy, Arçelik, Eczacıbaşı Holding, Veripark, TUBISAD

(Turkish Informatics Industry Association), and Turkey-Pakistan Business Council (TPBC) of Foreign Economic Relations Board.

While highlighting Pakistan's focus on geo-economics, the President drew attention towards the investment-friendly environment in Pakistan and the measures taken by the Government to provide a conducive environment to the business community.

Various members of the delegation also briefed the President about their respective businesses and the potential projects that can be pursued to increase foreign investment in Pakistan in various sectors. Turkish businessmen offered their expertise and advisory support to help Pakistan increase its exports.

The delegations also apprised the President about the issues being faced by the existing Turkish investors in Pakistan and the President assured them of the early resolution of those issues.





## ***Pakistan and Iraq explores avenues of bilateral cooperation***

By Mian Fazal Elahi

### **M**eeting of Iraqi Foreign Minister, Dr. Fuad Hussein with his Pakistani Counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi:

Honorable Foreign Minister of Pakistan Mr. Shah Mahmood Qureshi has received the Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr. Fuad Hussein at the Pakistani Foreign Ministry on 11th of August 2021. A session of official discussions was held at the level of delegations, during which the Pakistani Minister expressed his country's hope that this visit would contribute to the development of bilateral relations and raise them to a level worthy of long-standing brotherly relations between the Pakistani and Iraqi peoples. The Pakistani Minister renewed the invitation extended to the Iraqi Prime Minister, Mustafa Al-Kadhimi, to visit Pakistan. The Pakistani Minister expressed his government's pride upon efforts of the Iraqi Governments in accomplishing and developing democracy in Iraq with reference to the upcoming elections in Iraq and the Pakistani government's hope for continued success. Both sides also discussed ways of cooperation to strengthen relations at all levels, especially political, military and commercial fields. For his part, the Iraqi Foreign Minister affirmed his country's keenness to develop relations with Pakistan in all fields and to overcome the period of cold relations between the two countries, which was for reasons outside Iraq's will, represented by its suffering from bureaucracy, in addition to its exhaustion and preoccupation with wars, which was a reason for its isolation from the world, and its distance from the international







and regional arena. Therefore, Iraq seeks to change the reality and work to restore its position with Pakistan in particular and with the countries of the region and the world. During the visit, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed on bilateral political consultations between the two countries.

**Meeting of the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Dr. Fuad Hussein with Honorable Dr. Arif Alvi, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:**

Honorable Dr. Arif Alvi, President of Pakistan has received the Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr. Fuad Hussein at the President House in Islamabad. During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways to strengthen and develop bilateral relations between the two countries in issues of common interest, the most important of which is the security aspect to achieve the common interest of the two friendly countries. The two sides affirmed their keenness to develop and consolidate bilateral and economic relations between the two countries. For his part, the Iraqi Foreign Minister stressed upon that Iraq is looking forward to building economic partnerships with a number of countries in the world in order to rebuild and rehabilitate infrastructure.



**Meeting of the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Dr. Fuad Hussein with Pakistani Prime Minister Mr. Imran Khan:**

Honorable Mr. Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Pakistan stressed, during the meeting, upon his country's keenness to strengthen and develop bilateral relations with Iraq in various fields, assuring that Pakistan values its relations with Iraq, and considers them fraternal relations based on common religious and cultural foundations. Prime Minister Imran Khan renewed his invitation to the Iraqi Prime Minister, Mr. Mustafa Al-Kadhimi, to visit Pakistan, expressing his hope that the visit would take place at an early date. For his part, the Iraqi Foreign Minister affirmed Iraq's desire to establish stronger relations



with Pakistan in implementation of the vision of the leadership of the two countries. He also highlighted Iraq's efforts to defuse tension in the region and enhance relations of cooperation between the countries of the region. Prime Minister Imran Khan also affirmed Pakistan's support for Iraq's efforts in

this regard.

**Meeting of the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Dr. Fuad Hussein with Arab Ambassadors accredited to Islamabad:**

On the sidelines of his visit to Pakistan, Foreign Minister Dr. Fuad Hussein has also met



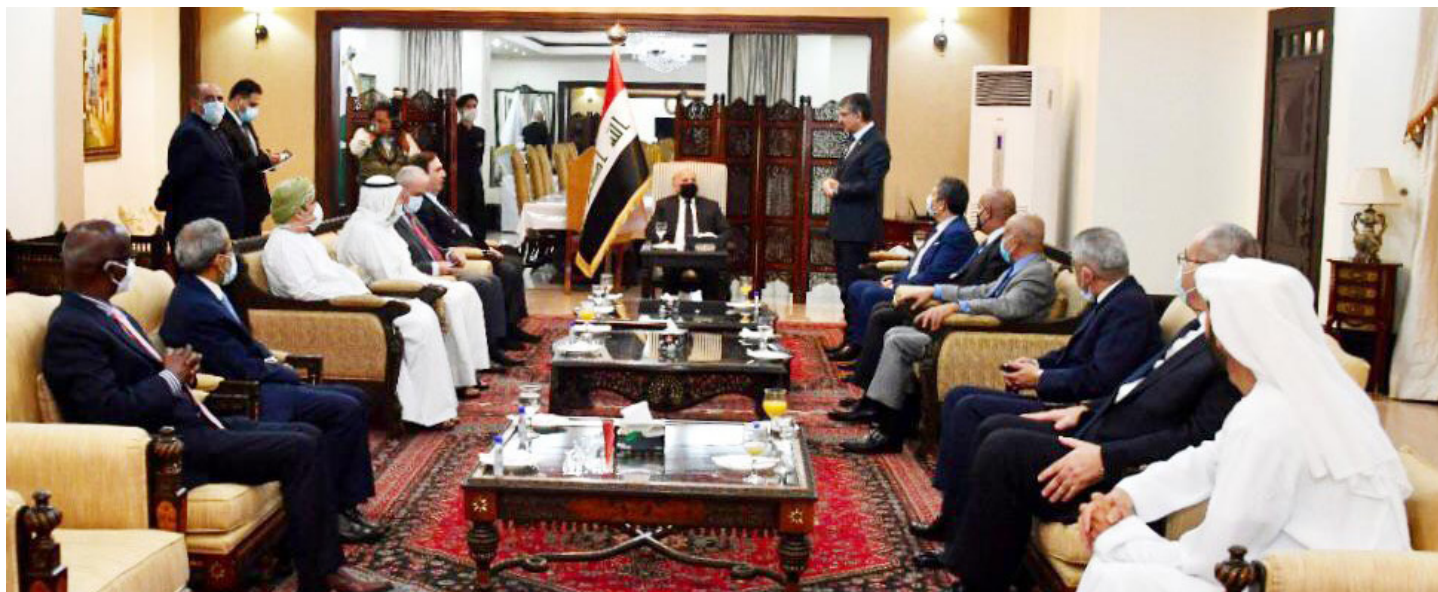
with Arab Ambassadors and Representatives of Diplomatic Missions in Islamabad. During the meeting, the overall developments in the Arab, regional and international arena were reviewed, and efforts made to reduce tensions throughout the region were supported.

***Pakistan offered Iraq to provide all possible assistance and cooperation in the fields related to defense and development***

Dr. Fuad Hussein stressed upon the need for more efforts and coordination between Arab countries to confront attempts to aggravate relations between the peoples of the region and creating atmosphere of tension, noting that Iraq faced ISIS terrorists who came from different countries of the world in defense of itself and on behalf of the whole world. The Minister indicated that Iraq will not allow it to be a battlefield, calling for the need to respect Iraqi sovereignty, and to stop violations, assuring Iraq's adherence to its sovereignty and strengthening it by maintaining coordination and communication with various parties and through diplomatic initiatives and endeavors. He also pointed out that the Iraqi government's preparations for holding the elections on scheduled dates, according to criteria and conditions that restore the Iraqi people's confidence in the feasibility of political participation. The Minister also re-







ferred to the meeting of Iraq's neighboring countries that will be held at the end of August 2021 in Baghdad.

**Meeting of the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Dr. Fuad Hussein with Pakistani Chief of Army Staff, General Qamar Javed:**

The Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr. Fuad Hussein also met with the Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan, General Qamar Javed Bajwa. During the meeting, which took place at General Headquarters of the Pakistani Army in the city of Rawalpindi, the two sides discussed issues and matters of common interest, bilateral cooperation and the regional security situation. General Bajwa praised the sacrifices of the Iraqi people in fighting terrorism, stressing upon that Pakistan attaches great importance to its friendly relations with Iraq. He offered to Iraq to provide all possible assistance and cooperation in the fields related to defense and development. For his part, the Foreign Minister praised Pakistan's positive role in supporting peace and stability in the region, especially the Afghan peace process, stressing Iraq's commitment to continue



also met with Ms. Zobaida Jalal, Minister of Defense Production of Pakistan in her office on 12/8/2021. During the meeting, Both sides discussed developments in bilateral relations in the field of military cooperation and the possibility of signing a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of military industries between the two countries during the expected visit of the Iraqi Prime Minister Mr. Mustafa Al-Kadhimi to Pakistan. The latest developments in the international and regional arena and issues of common interest have also been discussed.

**Meeting of the Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr. Fuad Hussein with the Minister of Religious Affairs, Mr. Noor-ul-Haq Qadri:**

The Foreign Minister Dr. Fuad Hussein has also met with Mr. Noor-ul-Haq Qadri, Minis-

ter of Religious Affairs of Pakistan, at the Ministry on 12/8/2021. Mr. Noor-ul-Haq briefed the Iraqi Minister on the work of the Ministry with regard to religious affairs and its role in the process of rapprochement between the various religious sects in Pakistan, in addition to an explanation of the Ministry's program with regard to organizing the Hajj and Umrah process. Mr. Noor-ul-Haq also expressed his country's desire to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Iraqi side in the field of organizing religious visits to the holy shrines in Iraq. For his part, Dr. Fuad Hussein affirmed Iraq's permanent welcome to the Pakistani visitors to the holy shrines in Iraq and his country's readiness to provide all the necessary facilities and help in solving the obstacles facing the visitors.

***Pakistan and Iraq  
affirmed keenness to  
develop and consolidate  
further bilateral and  
economic relations***

working with Pakistan to strengthen bilateral relations in various fields.

**Meeting of the Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr. Fuad Hussein with Pakistani Minister of Defense Production Ms. Zobaida Jalal:**

Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr. Fuad Hussein has





## *Peace a key to promoting regional trade, economic cooperation: President*

**P**resident Dr. Arif Alvi on Thursday highlighting the importance of connectivity for the promotion of regional trade said that peace was a key to achieve increased economic cooperation among the regional countries including the Central Asian Republics.

“Regional countries desire the promotion of trade and economic cooperation in the region for which peace is a must,” he said while speaking a dinner hosted by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) for diplomatic community here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The President also mentioned recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan rail project from Mazar-e-Sharif to Peshawar through Kabul and said the realization the project will provide a trade corridor for the promotion of regional trade.

He also described Kashmir dispute as a major obstacle in the way of promoting regional trade and said that resolution of this dispute was a must for sustainable peace in the region. The President said that the international community should come forward to

help resolve the Kashmir dispute, which had caused three wars between Pakistan and India, in accordance with the United Nations resolutions.

He said that owing to present government’s prudent economic policies including the measure for ease of doing business, Pakistan was on the path of economic recovery and had performed well despite the COVID-19 challenge, a fact also recognized at international level.

The President also mentioned the government’s successful strategy of smart lockdowns to protect the country’s poor segments from the negative economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said that by ensuring the provision of basic health and education facilities to the poor segments, measures for poverty alleviation, empowerment of women, skill-training of youth and helping the differently abled persons, the present government believed in inclusive uplift masses.

The President urged the business community to adopt the Islamic principles of truth and fair dealing in trade to achieve success in their business for bringing a good name for

the country.

He said that Pakistan a lot of potential in diverse areas of economy including Information Technology and tourism.

LCCI President Tahir Mazoor while speaking on the occasion appreciated the government’s economic vision and policies which led to realization of 3.9% GDP growth in FY 2020-21 including over 9% growth in Large Scale Manufacturing (LSM) sector and 8% growth in construction sector.

He said that owing to the government’s policies Pakistan was expected to achieve 6% to 7% GDP growth during the next two to three years time.

Ambassador of Turkmenistan and Dean of Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador Atadjan Movlamov in his remarks on the occasion lauded the role of LCCI in promoting regional trade and economic cooperation through enhanced contacts with the diplomatic community.

He said that foreign missions in Pakistan will continue to support the government as well as chambers in their endeavors for the promotion of trade in the region including the Central Asian Republics.







## President for further strengthening deep-rooted fraternal relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

By Mian Fazal Elahi

**P**resident Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan attaches utmost significance to its relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which are based on common faith and mutual respect. He stated that both brotherly countries had long-standing and deep-rooted fraternal relations which needed to be further strengthened for the mutual benefit of the two countries. He made these remarks while talking to the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) to Pakistan, Mr Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, and President of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), Dr Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today.

Welcoming the Ambassador and the President

of IIUI, President Dr Arif Alvi said that both brotherly countries enjoyed excellent relations and there existed great potential between the two countries to further enhance economic and cultural relations. He emphasized the need for bilateral exchanges at high levels that would bring the two countries further closer. He expressed the hope that the visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to KSA in May 2021 and the Saudi Foreign Minister's visit to Pakistan in July 2021 would further boost bilateral cooperation. The President thanked KSA for providing financial support to Pakistan that helped rescue the country from financial problems.

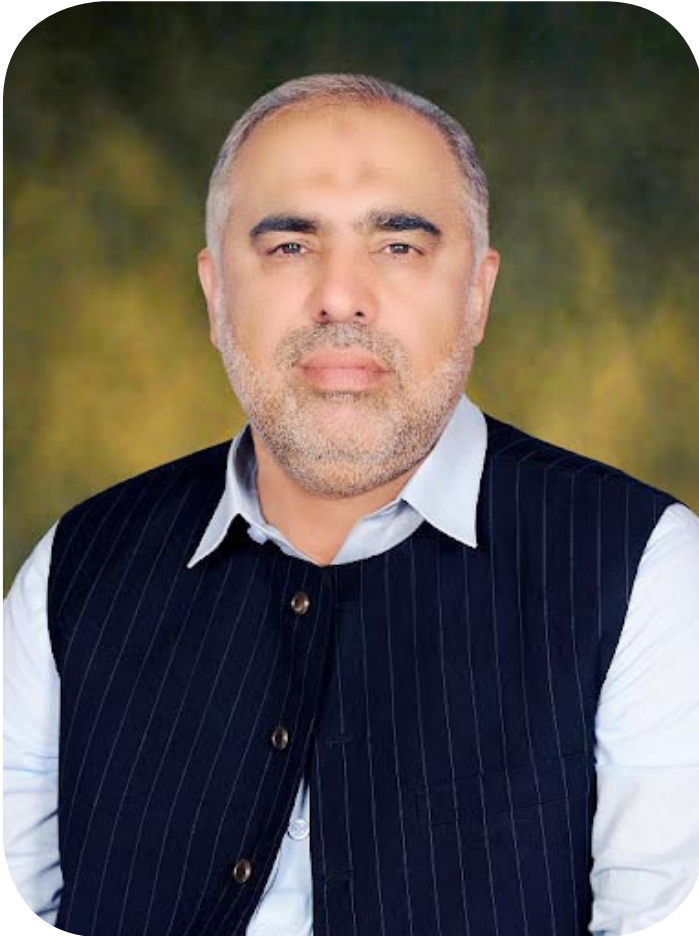
Dr Hathal Homoud Alotaibi briefed the President about the new strategic plan of the University aiming to improve governance and quality of education. He informed that the

University was establishing a new department to provide distance learning to students. The President also discussed the recently formulated policy by HEC focusing on the prevention of Drug and Tabaco abuse in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). He said that the policy would help prevent drug abuse in universities and provide a healthy and enabling environment to students. Appreciating the policy to facilitate the Students with Disabilities (SwDs), the President mentioned that it provided a waiver to SwDs from all institutional charges, including tuition fee, hostel fee and utility bills. He expressed that hope that the initiative taken by the HEC would help encourage the students with disabilities to continue their higher studies as well as eradicate the menace of drug abuse from the HEIs.



**General Fayyadh bin Hameed Al-Rowailly, Chief of The General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan in Islamabad**

# NA SPEAKER AND DEPUTY SPEAKER FELICITATES THE NATION ON THE EVE OF 75th INDEPENDENCE DAY



Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser and Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri congratulated the whole Nation on the eve of 74th 'Independence Day'. They said that this day reminds us of the struggle and sacrifices made by our forefathers for this homeland. They said that now it's our responsibility to take this mission forward and make this country a prosperous and progressive nation.

Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser urged the countrymen to pledge to work hard to lead country on the path of development, prosperity and progress.

He also asked the countrymen to utilize all their energies for the betterment of Pakistan. He said that inculcating the spirit of democratic norms and pluralism are must for enhancing national integrity. He also said that the whole nation success-

fully fought the battle of Corona Pandemic and hoped that nation collectively would continue to fight this pandemic. He said that on this day of independence we need to take cognizance of ever-changing climate issues and we all must take part actively in the plantation drive of the incumbent government.

Speaker Asad Qaiser said that Pakistan always stands with their Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) brethren and would continue to support them in their struggle for self-determination.

He said that Indian atrocities on innocent people of Kashmir is the test of conscience of the whole world.

He said that Indian hegemonic designs cannot suppress Kashmiri struggle for self-determination and the day is not far when people of Kashmir will be free from Indian suppression.

The Speaker said that the incumbent government resolved to materialize the dreams of social welfare state of our father of nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

He also remarked that public welfare and prosperity of the common people depends upon implementing the futuristic policies and government shall leave no stone unturned to make this country a prosperous nation.

On this occasion, Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri said that this day reminds us of huge sacrifices made by our forefathers for a separate homeland, in which Muslim could practice their religion easily without any restrictions.

He said that Pakistan was the blessing of Allah, and it was the responsibility of every citizen to play their role in the progress and prosperity of the country.



## President for strengthening bilateral cooperation with Australia in all areas of mutual interest

President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan attaches utmost importance to its ties with Australia and wanted to further strengthen bilateral cooperation with Australia in all areas of mutual interest. He emphasized the need to develop collaboration with Australia in the areas of education and vocational training that would help towards the socio-economic development of Pakistan. The President expressed these views while talking to the outgoing Spokesperson of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and High Commissioner-designate of Pakistan to Australia, Mr Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today.

Discussing various aspects of bilateral relations between the two countries, the President stressed that Pakistan and Australia had huge potential to increase trade and economic cooperation. He added that Pakistan wanted to enhance bilateral cooperation with Australia in diverse fields, particularly education, agriculture, trade, water management, mining and Information Technology (IT). He also underlined the need to attract Australian



investment to Pakistan, adding that the country had adopted business-friendly policies and had shifted its focus from geo-politics to geo-economics. Emphasizing the Government's appreciation of the positive role played by the Overseas Pakistanis, the President asked the High Commissioner-designate to work for the facilitation and welfare of the Pakistani diaspora in Australia and extend them all possible support and services. Noting the considerable number of Pakistani students in Australia, he highlighted the need

for further enhancement of educational cooperation between the two countries.

The President congratulated Mr Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri on his appointment as Pakistan's High Commissioner to Australia and asked him to play his role in further strengthening and diversifying Pakistan-Australia cooperation. He also appreciated Mr Chaudhri for the excellent discharge of his duties as Spokesperson of MoFA and expressed the hope that he would perform his duties as High Commissioner of Pakistan to Australia with the same spirit of dedication.



## Canada is one of the major development partners for Pakistan

By Bilal Zafar

Ms. Wendy Gilmour, the High Commissioner of Canada for Pakistan, called on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Mr. Shaukat Tarin here at the Finance Division. While extending a warm welcome to the Canadian High Commissioner, the Finance Minister stated that Pakistan has long-standing and multidimensional ties with Canada. Canada has a large number of Pakistani diaspora and people to people contacts contribute an important component of the bilateral relations. The Finance Minister said that Canada is one of the major development partners and stressed the need to further

strengthening business and economic linkages between the two countries. The Finance Minister briefed the Canadian High Commissioner about the recent economic developments and initiatives. The Finance Minister stated that enhancing revenue collection, boosting exports, increasing remittances and making the energy sector sustainable are the foremost priorities of the current government.

In addition to these, the government will promote agriculture, housing and SME sector while Kamyab Pakistan Program will be its signature project. The Minister added that for inclusive and sustainable growth, the government is preparing various short,

medium and long term plans in 14 priority areas and it is his firm belief that these plans will bring about a turnaround of the economy and establish it on a more sound footing.

The Canadian High Commissioner thanked the Finance Minister for his time and informed him that the Canadian Business Community sees great investment potential in wind-power generation, power transmission systems as well as mining sector in Pakistan. She stated that government's support in these areas will attract Canadian investors to bring their businesses to Pakistan. The Finance Minister assured the Canadian High Commissioner of his support for attracting investment in Pakistan.





## *Pakistan and Germany were closely coordinating on bilateral and regional issues*

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. Views were exchanged on the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan-Germany bilateral relations. The Prime Minister recalled his conversation with Chancellor Merkel, in which the two leaders had fruitful exchange of views on the Afghanistan situation. The Prime Minister underscored that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan was vitally important for Pakistan and the region. The Prime Minister stressed that at this pivotal moment in Afghanistan's history, it was important for the international community to remain in support and solidarity with the Afghan people. The Prime Minister underlined that urgent steps were needed to stabilize the security situation, address humanitarian needs, and ensure economic stability in Afghanistan. These would require sustained engagement with Afghanistan, he added. The Prime Minister underscored that both Pakistan and Germany should work closely for the promotion of shared interests relating to regional peace and stability. Foreign Minister Heiko Maas conveyed cordial greetings of Chancellor Merkel. While sharing Germany's viewpoint on the evolving situation in Afghanistan, he thanked for Pakistan's support and facilitation for Germany's evacuation endeavours from Afghanistan. Foreign Minister Maas also highlighted the celebration of 70th anniversary of establishment of Pakistan-Germany diplomatic relations during 2021. The two countries are holding a series of events to celebrate this milestone in a befitting manner.

Pakistan asked Germany and the international community to remain engaged with Afghanistan to avert any humanitarian crisis and economic collapse of the conflict-hit country. "This is a pivotal moment in Afghanistan's history. The international community must remain engaged," Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood





Qureshi said in a joint press conference with his German counterpart Heiko Maas, here at the Foreign Ministry.

The presser followed the delegation-level talks led by the two foreign ministers that focused on bilateral and regional issues and the situation in Afghanistan.

Qureshi said Germany must “use its influence to convince the international community for continuous engagement” with Afghanistan.

He said the exodus of refugees from Afghanistan in the current situation could not be avoided and therefore needed support from the world.

He said Pakistan had so far safely evacuated over 10,000 people from Afghanistan since August 15.

On formation of government in Afghanistan, he said as per the statements of the Taliban, it was expected to be announced after the U.S. troops completed their withdrawal.

Asked on solid evidence available on India’s financing and training of militant group Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP), he said Pakistan had been constantly warning the world to “beware of the spoilers of peace”.

“The international community has to discern the side, either of those who support peace or the ones who for their self-interest are committed to destroy region’s peace,” he said.

Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Germany in coming days would see if the Taliban fulfilled their commitments with the world.

“It remains to be seen if the [Afghan] government will be an inclusive one as we had demanded,” he said.

To a question on India’s terror funding in Afghanistan, he said in broader context, there was a need for formulation of a common strategy by neighbouring countries for continuation of development projects in Afghanistan.

He said Germany and Pakistan were closely coordinating on bilateral and regional issues, including Afghanistan.

He said the German government was grateful for cooperation and receiving information from Pakistan, being the immediate neighbour of Af-



ghanistan. Maas thanked Pakistan for successfully managing the evacuation of German na-

tionals and local staff and their safe airlift from Afghanistan.







## ***President Dr. Arif Alvi confers civil awards upon two Turkish dignitaries at a special investiture ceremony in Istanbul***

**T**he President conferred Sitara-e-Imtiaz upon Dr. Selami Kiliç for his services to Pakistan.

Dr. Selami participated in the relief activities after 2005 devastating earthquake in Pakistan. After the 2010 floods in Pakistan, Dr. Selami Kiliç helped establish a field hospital in Dera Murad Jamali and carried out damage and needs assessment surveys in various areas of Sindh and Baluchistan.

He was also at the forefront of the initiative to establish the Recep Tayyip Erdogan Hospital at Muzaffargarh.

The President Pakistan also conferred the award of Sitara-i-Quaid-i-Azam upon Prof. Dr. Celal Soydan, in recognition of his outstanding contribution in the field of Services to Pakistan.

Prof. Dr. Celal Soydan has made remarkable contribution for the promotion of Urdu language and literature in Turkey in his career spanning three decades.

Prof. Celal Soydan has written 20 books and published over two dozen articles and papers in Urdu and Turkish in various national and international journals.

Due to his efforts, the study of Iqbaliat in Turkey has been further enriched.

He has translated into Turkish language the classical works of Allama Iqbal such as Ar-mughan-e-Hijaz, Zarb-e-Kaleem, Bal-e-Jeb-reel, Bang-e-Dara, the Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam, etc.

He has played a prominent role in highlighting the special place that Iqbal had in his heart for Turkey, its people and its luminaries.





Prime Minister Imran Khan received a telephone call from Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen, today. The two leaders exchanged views on the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

The Prime Minister shared Pakistan's perspective, emphasizing the importance of ensuring safety and security as well as protection of rights of all Afghans. The Prime Minister also underscored the importance of working out an inclusive political settlement. The Prime Minister highlighted Pakistan's facilitating role in the evacuation of diplomatic personnel and staff of international organizations and others from Afghanistan, as requested.

The Prime Minister of Denmark thanked Prime Minister Imran Khan for Pakistan's support and assistance in their evacuation endeavours.



Prime Minister of Pakistan

**IMRAN KHAN**

RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM

Prime Minister of Denmark

**Mette Frederiksen**

**Two leaders exchanged views on the evolving situation in Afghanistan**

Prime Minister Imran Khan received a telephone call from German Chancellor Ms Angela Merkel. The two leaders exchanged views on the rapidly evolving situation in Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Imran Khan underscored the immense importance of a peaceful and stable Afghanistan for Pakistan and the region. The Prime Minister also stressed that safety and security as well as protection of the rights of all Afghans was critically important.

The Prime Minister underlined that an inclusive political settlement was the best way forward. The Prime Minister stated that Pakistan is reaching out to all Afghan leaders.

The international community must also stay engaged, particularly to support the people of Afghanistan economically. The Prime Minister added that Pakistan was facilitating evacuation of diplomatic personnel and staff of international organizations from Afghanistan. Bilaterally, the Prime Minister expressed satisfaction at regular high-level exchanges between Pakistan and Germany. He added that Pakistan looked forward to enhance collaboration with Germany in all areas of mutual interest.



PRIME MINISTER  
**IMRAN KHAN**

RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM

GERMAN CHANCELLOR  
**MS ANGELA MERKEL**



President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called Prime Minister Imran Khan today. The two leaders reviewed the rapidly evolving situation in Afghanistan.

The Prime Minister conveyed that Pakistan was extending facilitation in the evacuation of diplomatic personnel and staff of international organizations and others in Kabul, as requested.

The Prime Minister added that at the NSC meeting tomorrow the evolving situation would be further deliberated upon. The two leaders would consult again after the meeting with a view to coordinating their efforts.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to continue all efforts in support of an inclusive political solution in Afghanistan.



PRIME MINISTER  
**IMRAN KHAN**

RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM  
TURKISH PRESIDENT  
**RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN**

Views were exchanged on the unfolding situation in Afghanistan.

The Prime Minister highlighted the positive role of Pakistan in facilitating evacuation of diplomatic personnel and staff of international organizations and others from Afghanistan. The President of European Council Charles Michel thanked the Prime Minister for hosting evacuees in transit.

The Prime Minister shared Pakistan's perspective, stressing that a stable and peaceful Afghanistan was in the vital interest of Pakistan and the region.

The Prime Minister underscored the importance of ensuring safety and security as well as protection of the rights of all Afghans.

The Prime Minister underlined that an inclusive political settlement was the best course forward. He expressed the hope that the Afghan leaders would continue to work together to achieve that end. The Prime Minister reaffirmed that Pakistan will steadfastly support all efforts in this direction.

The Prime Minister underscored that stabilizing the security situation in Afghanistan was essential to preserve peace, effectively respond to any humanitarian challenges, and ensure economic well-being of the Afghan people in their country.

Prime Minister Imran Khan added that the current situation in Afghanistan required sustained engagement of the international community. It was vitally important to remain in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan and to extend support to them to ward off any



TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION BETWEEN

PRIME MINISTER  
**IMRAN KHAN**

THE PRESIDENT EUROPEAN COUNCIL  
**CHARLES MICHEL**

Views were exchanged on the unfolding situation in **Afghanistan**.

humanitarian challenges and ensure economic sustenance.

The Prime Minister added that Pakistan would continue to remain in close contact

with regional and international partners to promote shared objectives of peace, stability and development in Afghanistan, which would benefit the region and beyond.



Prime Minister Imran Khan received a telephone call from British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. The two Prime Ministers exchanged views on the latest situation in Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Imran Khan underscored the paramount importance of a peaceful and stable Afghanistan for Pakistan. He also stressed that ensuring safety, security and respect for rights of all Afghans was critically important.

The Prime Minister also underscored the importance of an inclusive political settlement in Afghanistan. The Prime Minister highlighted the positive role of Pakistan in facilitating evacuation of diplomatic personnel and staff of international organizations and others from Afghanistan.

The two Prime Ministers agreed to remain in contact with respect to the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

In the bilateral context, the Prime Minister highlighted the extensive measures taken by Pakistan to contain the Covid-19, noted that the relevant data had been shared with the UK side, and called for removal of Pakistan from the Red List.



Prime Minister of Pakistan  
**IMRAN KHAN**

RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM

British Prime Minister  
**Boris Johnson**

to discuss the latest situation  
in Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Imran Khan received a telephone call from Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin.

The two leaders exchanged views on the evolving situation in Afghanistan and bilateral relations.

The Prime Minister stressed that a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan was vitally important for Pakistan and regional stability. Besides ensuring safety, security and protection of rights of Afghans, an inclusive political settlement was the best way forward.

The Prime Minister underscored that the international community must stay positively engaged in support of the people of Afghanistan, to help address humanitarian needs and ensure economic sustenance.

The Prime Minister underscored the importance of coordinated approaches in addressing the evolving situation and noted that Pakistan attached high importance of the role of the Troika Plus format.

Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed satisfaction at the upward trajectory of Pakistan-Russia relations, with increased high-level exchanges and growing cooperation in diverse fields.

The Prime Minister reiterated the Government's resolve to strengthen trade relations as well as bilateral collaboration in energy sector, including early realization of the Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline Project.

The two leaders agreed to closely cooperate within the SCO for promoting regional peace and security.

The Prime Minister reiterated his invitation to President Putin to visit Pakistan.



TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION BETWEEN

PRIME MINISTER & RUSSIAN PRESIDENT  
**IMRAN KHAN & VLADIMIR PUTIN**

The evolving situation in **Afghanistan** and bilateral relations discussed

The two leaders agreed to closely cooperate within the SCO for promoting regional peace and security.



# G7 Leaders Statement on Afghanistan

Under the Presidency of the United Kingdom, we the Leaders of the Group of Seven met virtually to discuss the situation in Afghanistan. We were joined by the Secretaries General of the United Nations (UN) and NATO. We reaffirm our steadfast commitment to the people of Afghanistan, and support the UN Security Council statement of 16 August. We express our grave concern about the situation in Afghanistan and call for calm and restraint to ensure the safety and security of vulnerable Afghan and international citizens, and the prevention of a humanitarian crisis. We call for adherence to obligations under international human rights law, including the rights of women, girls, and minority groups, and that international humanitarian law is upheld in all circumstances. We honour the significant sacrifices made by the Afghan people, people of our own countries, and countless others, who have worked toward a more peaceful, just and secure future for Afghanistan.

The Afghan people deserve to live in dignity, peace and security, reflecting the last two decades of their political, economic and social achievements, in particular for women and girls. Afghanistan must never again become a safe haven for terrorism, nor a source of terrorist attacks on others. Working with partners, in particular NATO allies, we will continue to fight terrorism with resolve and solidarity, wherever it is found. Any future Afghan government must adhere to Afghanistan's international obligations and commitment to protect against terrorism; safeguard the human rights of all Afghans, particularly women, children, and ethnic and religious minorities; uphold the rule of law; allow unhindered and unconditional humanitarian access; and counter human and drug trafficking effectively. We call on all parties in Afghanistan to work in good faith to establish an inclusive and representative government, including with the meaningful participation of women and minority groups. We affirm our



enduring commitment to the people of Afghanistan, including through a renewed humanitarian effort by the international community. To this end we support the UN in coordinating the immediate international humanitarian response in the region, including unfettered humanitarian access in Afghanistan, and will contribute collectively to that response. As part of that, we will cooperate together and with neighbouring and other countries in the region on supporting Afghan refugees and host communities as part of a coordinated long-term regional response. We call on all partners of Afghanistan to support this effort and wider regional stability through multilateral channels. As part of this, our immediate priority is to ensure the safe evacuation of our citizens and those Afghans who have partnered with us and assisted our efforts over the past twenty years, and to ensure continuing safe passage out of Afghanistan. We will continue to coordinate closely on this, and we expect all parties to continue to facilitate this, and to ensure the safety of humanitarian and medical personnel, and other international service providers. We will cooperate together, and with neighbouring and other countries in the region hosting refugees, on a coordinated approach to safe and legal routes for resettlement.



We will work together, and with our allies and regional countries, through the UN, G20 and more widely, to bring the international community together to address the critical questions facing Afghanistan. As we do this, we will judge the Afghan parties by their actions, not words. In particular, we reaffirm that the Taliban will be held accountable for their actions on preventing terrorism, on human rights in particular those of women, girls and minorities and on pursuing an inclusive political settlement in Afghanistan. The legitimacy of any future government depends on the approach it now takes to uphold its international obligations and commitments to ensure a stable Afghanistan.





## PNS ZULFIQUAR VISITS JEDDAH & CONDUCTS NAVAL EXERCISES WITH ITALIAN & TURKISH NAVY

Pakistan Navy Ship ZULFIQUAR visited port Jeddah, Saudi Arabia as part of overseas deployment. Upon arrival at port, the ship was received by Pakistan Naval & Air Attache at Saudi Arabia and officials of Royal Saudi Naval Force (RSNF). During stay at port, RSNF Commander Western Naval Fleet Command Rear Admiral Yahya Bin Mohammad Al Asiri and Commander Western Naval Aviation Group Rear Admiral Mohammad Bin Saeed Al Ahmri visited onboard PN Ship and called-on Mission Commander Commodore Syed Rizwan Khalid. During the interaction, matters of mutual interest were discussed and contribution of Pakistan Navy to regional peace and maritime security were acknowledged by the visiting

dignitary. Mission Commander also conveyed well wishes from Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi for the people of Saudi Arabia in general and RSNF in particular.

Earlier to Jeddah port visit, PNS ZULFIQUAR separately conducted passage exercises with Italian Navy Ship VEGA & Turkish Navy Ship TCG GOKCEADA at Mediterranean Sea. The exercises encompassed Advanced Maritime Maneuvers including Maritime Interdiction Operations, Boarding and Force Protection drills. The exercises were aimed to enhance military cooperation through naval engagement and augment interoperability between the friendly navies.

During the Overseas Deployment, PNS ZULFIQUAR participated in Russian Navy Day Parade besides port visits and conduct of bilateral exercises with friendly countries in Europe and North Africa. Conduct of such deployments by Pakistan Navy Ships is a reaffirmation of PN's commitment and growing cooperation with friendly navies of the world. Furthering of naval diplomacy in the form of goodwill visits and naval exercises with friendly countries always remain in focus and such activities are planned round the year.

It is believed that operational deployments of PN Ships will further reinforce Navy to Navy relations and will go a long way in strengthening diplomatic relations with friendly countries.



PNS ZULFIQUAR conducted Naval Exercise with Turkish and Italian Navy in Mediterranean Sea





## Prime Minister receives delegation of Political Leaders from Afghanistan

**P**rime Minister Imran Khan received a delegation of political leaders from Afghanistan today.

***The Prime Minister underlined that no other country is more desirous of peace and stability in Afghanistan than Pakistan***

Welcoming the delegation, Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed strong support and solidarity for the fraternal people of Afghanistan, linked to the people of Pakistan through immutable

bonds of faith, history, geography, culture and kin-ship.

The Prime Minister underlined that no other country is more desirous of peace and stability in Afghanistan than Pakistan. The Prime Minister added that in the current situation, great responsibility rested on the Afghan leaders to work constructively together to lead Afghanistan on the path of sustainable peace, stability and development.

The Prime Minister underscored the importance of all sides working to secure an inclusive political solution. Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to a peaceful and stable Afghanistan, Prime Minister Imran Khan assured of Pakistan's steadfast support for efforts in this direction.

The delegation members thanked the Prime Minister for receiving them and

appreciated Pakistan's support for the peace efforts. They emphasized the multi-ethnic nature of Afghan society

***The delegation members thanked the Prime Minister for receiving them and appreciated Pakistan's support for the peace efforts.***

and the importance of an inclusive dispensation. The Afghan delegation also reiterated the desire to further strengthen the brotherly relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan.





## Afghan delegation calls on Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Shah Mahmood Qureshi in Islamabad

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Monday said Pakistan considered all segments of Afghanistan important in shaping the final destiny of their country.

The foreign minister stated this as he received political leaders from Afghanistan here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the call, the foreign minister shared Pakistan's perspective on the latest situation in Afghanistan, the Foreign Office said in a statement.

He expressed the hope that the Afghan leaders would take advantage of international support for peace and reconciliation and work together to deal with the evolving situation in Afghanistan in the supreme national interest of the country and according to the aspiration of people.

The foreign minister underlined that the region could not afford continued instability in Afghanistan which would impact negatively the objective of a peaceful and connected region.

He added that international community's continued engagement in the efforts for durable peace and stability in Afghanistan would be important as it was a shared responsibility.

Emphasizing that lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan was in Pakistan's interest, Foreign Minister reaffirmed that Pakistan will continue to play its constructive role to support a peaceful, united and prosperous Afghanistan. The delegation appreciated the invitation for consultation on the latest situation in Afghanistan. Pakistan's facilitative role was acknowledged by the political leaders.

The delegation emphasized multi-ethnic nature of the Afghan society and the importance of an inclusive political solution and underscored commitment to forge long-term relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan and to expand the fraternal ties in all areas.

The delegation of the Afghan leaders is visiting Pakistan in view of the evolving situation in Afghanistan







## Ambassador of the Republic of Korea paid a courtesy call on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue

By Monitoring Desk

**H**.E. Mr. Suh Sang-Pyo, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea paid a courtesy call on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Mr. Shaukat Tarin here at the Finance Division today. While extending a warm welcome to the H.E. Ambassador, the Finance Minister stated that Pakistan enjoys friendly relations with Korea and is looking forward to further strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Finance Minister thanked Korea for 3-year Framework Arrangement under which \$500 million are being provided for projects in IT, education and health. Both sides exchanged views on economic potential and stressed the need to further promote mutual trade and investment linkages.

The Finance Minister expressed the desire

of increasing exports to Korea. The Finance Minister briefed the Korean Ambassador about the recent economic developments and initiatives.

The current Government aims at achieving all-inclusive and sustainable economic growth with key focus on “bottom-up” approach.

The government has chalked out short, medium and long term plans to spur growth in key priority areas, he said.

Furthermore, the Government is coming up with a comprehensive policy for expansion of auto industry in Pakistan by increasing the production of cars, motorcycles, tractors etc.

The government is determined to encourage and incentivize foreign investors who are keen to undertake investment ventures in respective fields.

The government also stands committed to revive the business and industry that has

been hit hard due to Coronavirus pandemic. The ultimate focus of the government is employment generation, efficient resource mobilization and industrial growth, he added.

The Finance Minister welcomed plans by Samsung to start cell phone assembly in Pakistan and promised full facilitation in this regard.

The Korean Ambassador thanked the Finance Minister for his time and underscored the importance of people-to-people contact between the two countries.

He also highlighted potential for furthering cooperation in hydropower generation and stated that Korean companies are satisfied with the business environment in the country.

The Finance Minister affirmed full support and cooperation on the occasion.



## Pakistan and Turkey reiterate their desire to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest



Pakistan and Turkey have reiterated their desire to further strengthen and expand bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest, particularly defence. Both sides emphasized the need to work together to overcome the challenges being faced by the Islamic World. This was discussed during a meeting between President Dr Arif Alvi and the visiting Turkish Defence Minister, General (R) Hulusi AKAR, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today.

Welcoming the Turkish Defence Minister, the President said that Pakistan attached great importance to its ties with Turkey as both countries had a long history of fraternal relations, based on common faith, values and mutual trust. He stated that Turkey was a brother and great friend which had always supported Pakistan at difficult times. He thanked the Turkish leadership for supporting Pakistan at the inter-

national fora on issues of core national interest, such as the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, FATF and NSG. The President appreciated the increasing defence cooperation between the two countries and expressed the hope that the signing of the agreement on military training cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey, during the visit of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Pakistan in February 2020, would further enhance defence cooperation between the two sides. He reiterated Pakistan's continued support to Turkey on Cyprus.

The meeting also exchanged views over the current situation in Afghanistan. The President informed that Pakistan was making sincere efforts to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan as Pakistan would be the major beneficiary of peace which had suffered a lot due to prolonged war in the neighbouring country.

The President also highlighted the human rights

violations being committed by India against the Muslim population of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). He urged the international community to play its role to resolve the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions. He deeply thanked Turkey for supporting Pakistan's stance on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The meeting also underlined the need for unity among the Muslim countries to address the challenge of animosity against Islam.

General (R) Hulusi AKAR said that Pakistan was a brotherly country and Turkey wanted to enhance bilateral cooperation with Pakistan in various fields, particularly defence. He said that Turkey would continue to support Pakistan on Kashmir. The Turkish Defence Minister delivered an invitation to President Dr Arif Alvi from his Turkish counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to visit Turkey.

## President urges Turkish investors to take advantage of business-friendly environment of Pakistan

President Dr Arif Alvi has urged the Turkish businessmen to take advantage of the business-friendly environment of Pakistan and invest in Information Technology, mining, financial, industrial and tourism sectors as there existed great potential for cooperation between the two countries. The President made these remarks during meetings with the business delegations from leading Turkish companies, who called on him, at Istanbul, today.

The delegation comprised of industrial groups as well as Chairmen/CEOs of Turkish companies from various sectors including energy, Information Technology, healthcare, and electronics. The participants included Zorlu Energy, Arçelik, Eczacıbaşı Holding, Veripark, TUBISAD (Turkish Informatics Industry Association), and Turkey-Pakistan Business Council (TPBC) of Foreign Economic Relations Board.

While highlighting Pakistan's focus on geo-economics, the President drew attention towards



the investment-friendly environment in Pakistan and the measures taken by the Government to provide a conducive environment to the business community.

Various members of the delegation also briefed the President about their respective businesses and the potential projects that can be pursued to increase foreign investment in Pakistan in

various sectors. Turkish businessmen offered their expertise and advisory support to help Pakistan increase its exports.

The delegations also apprised the President about the issues being faced by the existing Turkish investors in Pakistan and the President assured them of the early resolution of those issues.



# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Speaker of the National Assembly of Niger, Mr. Seyni Oumarou, Called on President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Regional Vice President World Bank, South Asia Mr. Hartwig Schaefer called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Islamabad.



Federal Minister for National Food and Security Syed Fakhar Imam welcomed the Hungarian charge d' Affaires, Mr. Tivadar Takacs at his office Islamabad.



Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Malik Zaheer Abbas and UAE Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al-Zaabi discussing the possible joint efforts to rehabilitate the vulnerable community of the country, during their meeting in UAE embassy, Islamabad.



Nigerian High Commissioner designate Nigeria H.E. Mohammad Abelo Abioye calling on Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed in Islamabad.



Philippines Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Daniel Ramos Espiritu calling on Federal Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed in Islamabad to ask for assistance in evacuation of their citizens from Afghanistan.



German Ambassador H.E. Mr. Bernhard Stephan Schlagheck is calling on Federal Minister of States and Frontier Regions, Sahibzada Muhammad Mahboob Sultan in Islamabad.



H.E. Mr. Suh Sangpyo, Korean Ambassador to Pakistan called on Senator Syed Shibli Faraz, Federal Minister for Science and Technology in the Minister's Office, Islamabad.



# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Alzaabi, Ambassador of United Arab Emirates to Pakistan calls on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Mr. Shaukat Tarin at Finance Division in Islamabad



Call on H.E. Mr. Bernhrd Schlagheck, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany on Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Mr. Shaukat Tarin at the Finance Division



Defence Minister Mr. Pervaiz Khattak is Presenting a souvenir to Tajik Defence Minister Mr. Sherall Mirzo at Dushanbe, Tajikistan.



Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging views with Chief of South African National Defence Force, General Rudzani Maphwanya at Naval Headquarters Islamabad



Mr. Farrukh Habib, Minister of State for information and broadcasting in a meeting with Iona Thomas, acting Deputy High Commissioner and political counsellor at the British High Commission Islamabad



Defence Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Pervaiz Khattak is presenting a souvenir to Chinese Defence Minister Gen Wei Fenghe in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.



Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging views with H.E. Mr. Seyed Mohammad Ali Hossein Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan at Naval Headquarters Islamabad



Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Kuninori Matsuda calls on Secretary Board of Investment, Ms. Fareena Mazhar.



## Pakistan and Poland have huge potential in the areas of trade



President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan and Poland have huge potential in the areas of trade and both countries need to enhance business and economic cooperation for the mutual benefit of the two countries. He highlighted that Pakistan offered tremendous investment opportunities and investors from Poland should take advantage of the investor-friendly policy and better security environment of Pakistan. He stated this while talking to outgoing Ambassador of Poland to Pakistan, Mr. Piotr A. Opalinski, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Underscoring the

need for strengthening the cultural cooperation between the two countries, the President said that the two countries could enhance linkages through joint ventures on preservation and restoration of national heritage and exchange of cultural delegations and promoting people-to-people contacts. He expressed the hope that a number of Pakistani students, studying in the Polish institutions of higher learning especially in the field of engineering and technology, would help in strengthening the cultural ties between the two countries. He appreciated the role played by the Polish Oil and Gas

Company and its desire to expand business in Pakistan. The President congratulated Mr. Piotr A. Opalinski on the successful completion of his tenure as Ambassador and also appreciated his efforts in promoting trade and economic relations between the two countries. The Polish Ambassador praised the policies of the Government, saying that Pakistan is progressing amazingly and the youth should benefit of the emerging economic opportunities in Pakistan. He thanked the Government of Pakistan for extending him hospitality and taking care of him during his stay in Pakistan.

## Growing investment of Swiss multinational companies reflects their confidence in Pakistan: President



President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan highly values its relations with Switzerland which are based on mutual trust and cooperation. He highlighted that Switzerland was an important trade and investment partner of Pakistan and commercial relations between the two countries needed to be further enhanced for the mutual benefits of the two sides. He added that the growing investment of Swiss multinational companies reinforced bilateral ties and reflected their confidence in Pakistan. He made these remarks while talking to Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Switzerland, Mr

Aamir Shouket, who called on the President, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Underscoring the need for enhanced economic relations, the President urged the Ambassador-designate to encourage Swiss businessmen to make more investment in Pakistan as the environment for investment was very conducive due to the improved security situation and the investment-friendly policy of the government. He also stressed the need for increased engagements at the political level and asked the Ambassador to work for further improving bilateral cooperation with Switzerland. The President underlined the need to ac-

tively engage the Pakistani community in Switzerland to play their role in improving the image of the country. He urged Mr Aamir Shouket to work for image building of the country and highlight Pakistan success stories, particularly its role in the promotion of peace and reconstruction of Afghanistan, hosting of 3 million Afghan refugees for four decades and its successes against the war on terror. He congratulated the Ambassador-designate on his appointment to Switzerland and expressed the hope that he would make concerted efforts to further cementing and expand bilateral relations.



## Pakistan & Norway emphasized the need for enhanced economic and cultural relations

By Sharyar Fazil



President Dr Arif Alvi has emphasized the need for enhanced economic and cultural relations between Norway and Pakistan. He said that both countries had huge potential to boost trade and economic cooperation for the mutual benefits of the two sides. He made these remarks while talking to the outgoing Ambassador of Norway to Pakistan, Mr. Kjell-Gunnar Eriksen, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Talking to the Ambassador, the President said that Norway had been a strong partner for investment, trade and development cooperation. He added that the presence of a large number of Norwegian com-

panies in Pakistan was a testimony to growing trade relations between the two countries. He said that the collaboration between Nizam Energy and Norwegian Scatec Solar to build Solar Plant in Sukkur was a positive development that would encourage more Norwegian companies and investors to take benefit of the investors-friendly environment of Pakistan. The President also highlighted the brutalities being committed by the belligerent neighbour in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K) against the Muslim population. He emphasized that the international community needed to fulfil its commitment to grant the

people of Kashmir their right to self-determination in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions. The President thanked the Norwegian Government for restoring and conserving the historical heritage in Lahore.

He congratulated Mr. Kjell-Gunnar Eriksen on completion of his tenure as Ambassador and appreciated his efforts in promoting relations between the two countries in all fields, particularly in economic and cultural sectors by establishing linkages with the government officials as well as private sectors.



## Chinese Ambassador calls on the Prime Minister of Pakistan

Chinese Ambassador Mr. Nong Rong called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. During the meeting, views were exchanged on China-Pakistan bilateral relations, CPEC, vaccines and mutual cooperation in other sectors. Ambassador Nong Rong conveyed the cordial greetings from President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. He also conveyed felicitations on Pakistan's Independence Day. The Prime Minister warmly reciprocated the greetings of the Chinese leadership. The Prime Minister also appreciated China's

consistent support to Pakistan in its fight against COVID-19 and provision of vaccines including under the COVAX facility. The Prime Minister underscored that Pakistan and China were 'iron brothers' and no hostile forces would be allowed to undermine this 'iron-clad' friendship. The Prime Minister said that CPEC was a transformational project and both the countries should work closer to make CPEC a High-Quality Demonstration Project of BRI. He underscored the Government's resolve

for timely completion of CPEC projects. China-Pakistan cooperation in trade, commerce and investment, people-to-people contacts, and mining and natural resources was also discussed.

In the context of regional situation, the Prime Minister reiterated that there was no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan. The Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's resolve to steadfastly support efforts for a negotiated political settlement.





## Pakistan is committed to transform fraternal relations with Qatar into strong political and economic partnership

By Mian Fazal Elahi

**A**mbassador of Qatar Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Faisal Al-Thani called on the Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at the Parliament House on Thursday. Matters of bilateral significance, regional and international importance were discussed during the meeting. The Chairman Senate, while welcoming the Ambassador of Qatar, observed that Pakistan attaches high importance to its friendly relations with Qatar. The two countries have stood by each other in difficult times, he said. Sanjrani added that Corona Pandemic has created an extraordinary situation globally and regionally and a concerted effort is needed to control the Pandemic. The government of Pakistan is making every effort

to control the virus. The Chairman Senate highlighted the importance of adopting a joint strategy to sustain economic activities during the Pandemic. He said that the two countries have enjoyed an exemplary cooperation in the IPU, Asian Parliamentary Assembly and other important fora. "Bilateral cooperation at such forums shows mutual trust" he maintained

Chairman Senate stressed that Pakistan provides conducive environment for investment and there are vast investment opportunities especially in Gwadar. He emphasized Qatari investors can take advantage of investment opportunities in Pakistan. The Chairman Senate advised that investment in energy, infrastructure, mining and other sectors can boost economic activity. Sanjrani urged that the

ongoing atrocities and human rights violations by the Indian forces in occupied Kashmir have put the peace of the region at stake. The Chairman Senate said that Pakistan wants the Kashmir issue to be resolved in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and the resolutions of the United Nations. The Chairman Senate observed that Pakistan is committed to transform fraternal relations into strong political and economic partnership and has introduced the most investor friendly policies for business

The Qatari Ambassador assured that Qatar values its relations with Pakistan. The Ambassador of Qatar thanked the Chairman Senate for warm welcome in the Parliament. The Chairman Senate extended best wishes to the Ambassador of Qatar.

## Pakistan and Qatar discussed steps to boost agricultural trade

**F**ederal Minister for National Food and Security Syed Fakhar Imam welcomed the HE Ambassador of the State of Qatar, Sheikh / Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani. The two dignitaries discussed agricultural trade between the two countries.

Fakhar said that Pakistan has immense agricultural capacity which can allow Pakistan to increase its exports. Fakhar Imam said that cooperation amongst countries at every level needs to be increased if the world wants to move towards sustainable and nature friendly development.

He further stressed that the future is in the hands of the youth and hence their quality of education needs to be at par excellence. Fakhar welcomed and appreciated 10 fully covered scholarships offered by Qatar to the Pakistani students.

HE Ambassador of the State of Qatar, Sheikh / Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani on behalf

of Ministry of Municipality and Environment of the State of Qatar extended an invitation to Fakhar Imam to attend the "Horticulture Expo 2023 Doha".

He said that the motto of the summit is "Green Desert, Better Environment".

HE said that the aim of the exhibition is to inspire, encourage and benefit participating countries with innovative solutions to reduce desertification





## Ambassador of Portugal calls upon Federal Minister for Science and Technology



**A**mbassador Mr. Paulo Neves Pocinho called upon Federal Minister Shibli Faraz in his office. Focus of the meeting was to work on strengthening linkages in the field of Science and Technology between two countries. Shibli Faraz Said, "Portugal is a small but an important country and Pakistan and Portugal have a history of friendly relations.

We look forward to co-operation and joint ventures in the field of Science and Technolo-

gy." The Ambassador expounded that Portugal is currently focusing more in Science and Technological development and welcomes proposals related to Science and Technology and establishment of small to medium enterprises.

Portugal thus look forward to extensive engagement with Pakistan in the aforementioned areas.

"Increased co-operation in the field of Research and Development (R&D) will certainly

bring fruitful results", Said Shibli Faraz. Moreover, the Minister highlighted that the Government is interested in doing sustainable projects to benefit people for long duration. Thus, carrying the vision of Government forward, The Ministry of Science and Technology will play its due role to enhance cooperation with other countries in the field of Science and Technology to achieve greater benefits for the country.

## Enhancing Parliamentary Contacts would ensure mutual progress of Pakistan and Syria

**S**peaker National Assembly Asad Qasier said that Pakistan and Syria are inter-linked in mutual bond of Islamic brotherhood and common cultural traditions. He said that both countries enjoy commonalities of views on multiple regional and international issues. He also said that enhancing relations between both countries is vital for mutual prosperity and development. He expressed these views during his meeting with Syrian Charge-de- affairs in Pakistan Dr. Mazan Ubaid who called on him in the Parliament House today.

Speaker Asad Qaiser said that Pakistan desires to resolve all contentious issues including Kashmir and Palestinian issues as per UNO resolutions. He also said that peaceful Afghanistan is essential for regional peace and Pakistan always desires for peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan. He said that Pakistan wanted truly representative government as per aspirations of people of Afghanistan. He said that Islam is religion of peace and love and strictly abhor extremism and secretarianism. He also stressed on the need of unity among muslim countries to fight the



Islamophobic trend in the western world. He stressed the need for enhancing parliamentary contacts between both countries for mutual progress and development.

Syrian Charge-de- affairs in Pakistan Dr. Mazan Ubaid said that Syria values high its ties with Pakistan and is looking forward for enhancing mutual trade and business con-

tact. He said that in order to enhance trade between both nations, the option of direct flight operation between both countries is under consideration. He said that Syria has been facing the scourge of terrorism for more than a decade and Syria wanted to learn a lot from Pakistan for successful handling of this menace.



# Terrorism and Islamophobia

By Senator Rehman Malik

With every passing day, the world is getting a clear picture as to why only Muslim countries are under the menace of terrorism. There are 50 Muslim-majority countries with 45 Islamic countries and Islam has 1.8 billion adherents, making up about 24 percent of the global population. The statistical record of worldwide terrorism shows that almost every Muslim country has become the victim of terrorism irrespective of the fact whether it is in East Asia, South Asia, North Africa, the Sahel, or the Middle East. The question arises why it is so and why the West has been gunning for Muslim countries? Let me take the readers back in history and remind them what then US President Jimmy Carter (1977 to 1981) told Alexei Kosygin, then Premier of the Soviet Union (1964 to 1980); our actual enemies are the Muslims and there will be a war of civilisation. This is how planned propaganda started against Islam and its followers. The phrase of Islamophobia was floated after creating the impression that Muslims are extremists and breed violence. The incident of 9/11 in fact stamped the Muslim world as terrorist while there is no plausible explanation as to how the 9/11 accused remained in the US system and how were they ignored by the US security and intelligence system. It is still a mystery; how could two planes be flown into the famous twin towers of the World Trade Centre and how could they collapse this way? The accused were declared from the Middle East and none from Afghanistan or Pakistan was found involved; even then the US attacked Afghanistan and Pakistan was forced to allow its soil for logistics and be part of the 'War on Terror' that ended without any result, bringing further instability to Afghanistan and peace in the region.

In any case, Taliban leader Mullah Omar had offered to hand over Osama Bin Laden (OBL) to a third country for a fair trial but the US declined. The world witnessed how Abdul Khaliq, brother of Hamid Karzai was brought in and after his killing, Karzai was presented as a hero and installed as President and the war continued till today. It is worth noting that despite the spending of trillions of dollars, nothing was achieved out of it except destabilisation, destruction, and deaths. The entire Muslim Ummah is suffering and will continue to suffer in different forms and shapes like Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, Iraq, Turkey, Saudia and Yemen border conflict, Indonesia, Algeria, and Niger.

Has someone in the West demanded a UN commission for investigation into the strange and fast emergence of anti-Muslim Daesh which is now operating from Afghanistan and committing acts of terrorism in Pakistan with the connivance of RAW? In fact, Islamophobia is a term that has been created on purpose because Islam is currently the most dominant religion in Middle Eastern nations

as well as the fastest increasing religion in western countries as well. Most importantly, this is the religion to which 80 percent of global oil reserves belong; that is one of the other reasons to create Islamophobia to make a conducive environment for military interference by creating fear and hate against Muslims around the world which is going on. Two years ago in March 2019, I had written an article on Islamophobia, after a White terrorist, after carrying out an attack in a mosque of New Zealand was highlighted as a "Shooter" by western media instead of "Terrorist". The statements by different world leaders surprised me to wonder if these leaders have different meanings of terrorism—a different code for Muslims to demonise them and a different label for non-Muslims. We have seen that an isolated engineered act of terrorism by "a hired Muslim terrorist" would be used to condemn the whole peaceful Muslim community but this has never been the case with any act carried out by a white person involved in an act of terrorism. Needless to say, all such attacks are carried out with a predetermined agenda and are thus equally liable to be condemned in the same fashion. In spite of rapidly increasing white supremacist terrorism around the world, US media and political elites spend a considerable amount of time discussing alleged "Islamic terrorism" alone, which only adds fuel to the already increasing more propaganda of Islamophobia. This is well-thought-out propaganda created by the West in order to develop zero-tolerance and hatred against Muslims among people. The fight going on in Afghanistan is Muslim to Muslim and giving a good opportunity to the west to call Muslims extremists and promoters of violence. If the US was sincere to end the Afghan internal conflict then it should have ensured the end of violence and a civil war-free strategy before an exit.

It looks like the West may consider bringing its forces back to Afghanistan and it will begin another round of war and Pakistan will again be under the pressure of the 'Do More' syndrome as the UNSC recently presided by India and statement through the representative of Afghanistan has once again levelled their stereotype allegation of sponsoring of Taliban and alleging Pakistan for allowing Taliban sanctuaries which is totally a blame game by India whereas Pakistan is already facing the spillover of an internal fight in Afghanistan and Pakistan is the target of terror outfits like Daesh and other militant factions, as evident from the attacks on 14th July on Chinese nationals and attack in Quetta on 8th September.

These attacks are going to increase in Pakistan and our only fault is that we want a political solution in Afghanistan and moreover the west is upset because of our nuclear power. The indicators are that the Muslim bloc will continue to be in trouble as part of the west policy. The war in Afghanistan is not because of Pakistan but because of the attack



of the US on Afghanistan. Trouble in Afghanistan means trouble for Pakistan and now FATF may bring a new charge sheet alleging so-called support of Taliban and terrorist sanctuaries as UNSC under the Indian presidency has already levelled these charges against Pakistan whereas Pakistan representative was not there to have defended his country though Mr Munir Akram had demanded his presence as right. Interestingly the upcoming meeting of UNSC is being presided over by PM Narendra Modi and he is bound to spit more venom against Pakistan. The major attacks from the West and India will be on Pakistan and nobody is going to ask PM Modi as to why has the Kashmiri Muslims are in captivity under curfew for the last two years as these Kashmiris are Muslim. I hope the UN secretariat will place the following questions in the forthcoming meeting:

- Who attacked Afghanistan for the first time and subsequently created Jihadis?
- Who and how Jihadis were recruited, trained, and launched in the Afghan-USSR war?
- Who sponsored and financed Osama Bin Laden (OBL) and his associates?
- Who created ISIS/Daesh and what were the means of financing and strengthening a lethal terrorist organisation?
- Who created the concept of the Arab Spring to destabilise the Middle East?
- Who organised the coup in Turkey to overthrow an elected democratic government?
- How and who planted terrorism in Nigeria?
- Who is supporting Boko Haram in Niger?
- Who created unrest/terrorism in Niger—a poverty-ridden country?

The above questions are very necessary to be answered and these are very pertinent for the future peace process of the world. It is strange that all the holy four Divine books Quran, Torah, Zabur, and Injil teach faith in the oneness of God. If all the major religions have one faith and one God then why has the world failed to create peace and harmony in the world through interfaith harmony?

The views expressed are solely mine and do not necessarily represent the views of my party.

Senator A Rehman Malik

The writer is a PPP Senator, former Interior Minister of Pakistan, and Chairman of think tank "Global Eye" and Senate Standing Committee on Interior. He can be reached at: rmalik1212@gmail.com, Twitter @Senrehmanmalik



# Afghanistan to witness Brain drain



By Muhammad Talha Zubair

**B**rain Drain is inevitable in Afghanistan as people fleeing the country owing to security threat are mostly intellectuals, intelligentsia, engineers, school teachers, doctors and other skilled practitioners. The afghan people who have fled to other countries should come back to their country and serve their nation-as they have already served- once they see the peaceful environment as promised by the Taliban. Only this way Afghanistan can have peace and prosperity.

Brain Drain is Inevitable in Afghanistan as tens of thousands of people are still waiting to be evacuated by the US and its Allies.

Majority of the educated and skilled afghan nationals want to leave the country while one the other hand the US and its allies are taking the people along with them on priority whom they have trained over the two decade periods or who have got education and training in the allied/NATO countries and came back to Afghanistan.

This is certainly for a reason i.e. to give tough time to Taliban Government and ultimately will be disastrous for the socio-economic situation of the country. Over one hundred thousand skilled People are anticipated to leave the country.

The numbers may increase but majority don't have direct connections with the US

and its allies as not everyone has the same luxuries or the opportunities under twenty years of US occupation and rule under President Hamid Karzai or President Ashraf Ghani. These anticipated hundred thousand are assumed to have availed the special status or it would be right to say that they are counted ones.

Although Taliban has multiples times emphasized that they promise amnesty for all whom have either worked with or facilitated US and NATO in any role, still there is a report from United nations that states that Taliban are searching door to door for those who have worked for NATO and threatening their families.

There are incidents where the Taliban fighters on their own are killing such people for seeking vengeance who have cooperated with US and NATO. This create disparity between what is being said and what is being done. There is a communication gap between the Taliban leadership and the fighters on ground.

This raises very serious concern because if such more incidents of execution of happen, it will be enough to shatter the trust of people on Taliban which people are already finding very hard to have in the promises that Taliban are making.

These executions can be considered as an individual act but cannot be regarded as the policy of Taliban. Because, if it were a policy, Kabul would have witnessed a great blood-bath as half of the Kabul worked for the US.

Taliban have yet to form the government. Once they are done with the delegation of powers, they will desperately need skilled people to run the affairs of state. Owing to situation prevailing there, Taliban government will find it hard to sustain and retain the healthy minds.

This will create another challenge for the newly formed government. The people fleeing the country owing to security threat are mostly intellectuals, intelligentsia, engineers, school teachers, doctors and other skilled practitioners.

They are also the priority of the NATO embassies as an agenda to take them on board to give tough time to Taliban government by creating intellectual scarcity.

Taliban have very few numbers of skilled persons with them. Most of the person associated with Taliban are fighters and they will be accommodated in the line of defense and security. To run the social system of the country, experts and educated people are required. The war-torn country cannot bear a

societal disaster anymore. It needs people to help it grow and steer it in the right direction. It needs youngsters to stay there and serve the country who don't have any option of leaving the country but to stay.

The Taliban government should provide safety and security to the youngsters so that they may be productive and contribute in the national growth. This society, which has seen the wrath of war from past four decades, needs educators and practitioners to introduce this society to the modern-day world and its necessities.

The afghan people have right to explore the world and avail opportunities. For this the intellectuals have to play their role for uplifting the afghan nation and their identity. The minds of Afghanistan have to stay home and play their role in the transition that is coming.

Taliban Government also fears brain drain and it need minds that together make the backbone of the country. The impacts of brain drain on the society will be catastrophic.

Many people have become jobless and due to uncertainty and insecurity there are chances for the civil war. This is time where the people have to be patient and the government has to be generous in order to maintain the social fabric intact.

Afghanistan has been famous for being the "Graveyard of Empires". It is now the time when Afghanistan should become Empire in itself and "Engrave" itself as a prosperous, technologically advanced and moderate nation.

It is only possible when the son of soils will serve the motherland and will not flee to other countries.

The afghan people who have fled to other countries should come back to their country and serve their nation-as they have already served- once they see the peaceful environment as promised by the Taliban.

Moreover, Taliban government should abide by their promises made to afghan nation and should cultivate the environment of plurality and inclusiveness to fulfil the dream of peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan for everyone.

The writer is a public policy and political analyst. His academic careers spans over international relations and public policy & Governance. He has worked with several national and international think tanks. He can be reached at talha\_zubair91@hotmail.com and twitter @TalhaZubair91





## Taliban hail victory after last U.S. troops leaves Afghanistan

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Celebratory gunfire resounded across the Afghan capital on Tuesday as the Taliban took control of the airport following the withdrawal of the last U.S. troops, marking the end of a 20-year war that left the Islamist group stronger than it was in 2001.

Shaky video footage distributed by the Taliban showed fighters entering the airport after the last U.S. troops flew out on a C-17 aircraft a minute before midnight, ending a hasty and humiliating exit for Washington and its NATO allies.

"It is a historical day and a historical moment," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told a news conference at the airport after the departure. "We are proud of these moments, that we liberated our country from a great power."

An image from the Pentagon taken with night-vision optics showed the last U.S. soldier to step aboard the final evacuation flight out of Kabul - Major General Chris Donahue, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division. America's longest war took the lives of nearly 2,500 U.S. troops and an estimated 240,000 Afghans, and cost some \$2 trillion.

Although it succeeded in driving the Taliban from power and stopped Afghanistan being used by al Qaeda as a base to attack the United States, it ended with the hardline militants controlling more territory than when they last ruled. The Taliban brutally enforced their strict interpretation of Islamic law from 1996 to 2001, not least by oppressing women, and the world is watching now to see if the movement will form a more moderate and inclusive government in the months ahead.

Long lines formed in Kabul on Tuesday outside banks shuttered since the fall of the capital as people tried to get money to pay for increasingly expensive food. There was a mixture of triumph





and elation on the one side as the Taliban celebrated their victory, and fear on the other.

"I had to go to the bank with my mother but when I went, the Taliban (were) beating women with sticks," said a 22-year-old woman who spoke on condition of anonymity because she feared for her safety.

She said the attack occurred among a crowd outside a branch of the Azizi Bank next to the Kabul Star Hotel in the centre of the capital.

"It's the first time I've seen something like that and it really frightened me."

Thousands of Afghans have already fled the country, fearing Taliban reprisals. More than 123,000 people were evacuated from Kabul in a massive but chaotic airlift by the United States and its allies over the past two weeks, but many of those who helped Western nations during the war were left behind.

A contingent of Americans, estimated by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken at fewer than 200, and possibly closer to 100, wanted to leave but were unable to get on the last flights.

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab put the number of UK nationals in Afghanistan in the low hundreds, following the evacuation of some 5,000.

#### 'LOT OF HEARTBREAK'

General Frank McKenzie, commander of the U.S. Central Command, told a Pentagon briefing that the chief U.S. diplomat in Afghanistan, Ross Wilson, was on the last C-17 flight out.

"There's a lot of heartbreak associated with this departure," McKenzie told reporters. "We did not get everybody out that we wanted to get out. But I think if we'd stayed another 10 days, we wouldn't have gotten everybody out."

The departing U.S. troops destroyed more than 70 aircraft and dozens of armoured vehicles. They also disabled air defences that had thwarted an attempted Islamic State rocket attack on the eve of their departure. As the Taliban watched U.S. troops leave Kabul on Monday night, at least seven of their fighters were killed in clashes in the Panjshir valley north of the capital, two members of the main anti-Taliban opposition group said.

Several thousand anti-Taliban fighters, from local militias as well as remnants of army and special forces units, have gathered in the valley under the command of regional leader Ahmad Massoud. Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said the U.S. military was not concerned with images of Taliban members walking through Kabul airport holding weapons and sizing up U.S. helicopters.

"They can inspect all they want," he told CNN. "They can look at them. They can walk around. They can't fly. They can't operate them..." But he said that "the threat environment" remains high.



"We're obviously concerned about the potential for Taliban retribution going forward and we certainly, we saw it ourselves, are mindful of the threat that ISIS-K continues to pose inside Afghanistan."

ISIS-K is the Islamic State affiliate that claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing outside Kabul airport on Thursday that killed 13 U.S. service members and scores of Afghan civilians.

U.S. President Joe Biden defended his decision to stick to Tuesday's withdrawal deadline. He said the world would hold the Taliban to their commitment to allow safe passage for those wanting to leave Afghanistan. Biden has said the United States long ago achieved the objectives it set in 2001, when it ousted the

Taliban for harbouring al Qaeda militants who masterminded the Sept. 11 attacks.

But he has drawn heavy criticism from Republicans and some fellow Democrats for his actions since the Taliban took over Kabul this month after a lightning advance and the collapse of the U.S.-backed government.

Blinken said the United States was prepared to work with the new Taliban government if it did not carry out reprisals against opponents.

Taliban spokesman Mujahid said the group wanted to establish diplomatic relations with the United States, despite the two decades of hostility. "The Islamic Emirate wants to have good diplomatic relations with the whole world," he said. (Courtesy by Reuters)





## Taliban sweep into Afghan capital after government collapses



By Mian Fazal Elahi

The Taliban swept into Afghanistan's capital Sunday after the government collapsed and the embattled president joined an exodus of his fellow citizens and foreigners, signaling the end of a costly two-decade U.S. campaign to remake the country. Heavily armed Taliban fighters fanned out across the capital, and several entered Kabul's abandoned presidential palace. Suhail Shaheen, a Taliban spokesman and negotiator, told The Associated Press that the militants would hold talks in the coming days aimed at forming an "open, inclusive Islamic government."

Earlier, a Taliban official said the group would announce from the palace the restoration of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, the formal name of the country under Taliban rule before the militants were ousted by U.S.-led forces in the wake of the 9/11 attacks, which were orchestrated by al-Qaida while it was being sheltered by the Taliban. But that plan appeared to be on hold.

Kabul was gripped by panic. Helicopters raced overhead throughout the day to evacuate personnel from the U.S. Embassy. Smoke rose near the compound as staff destroyed import-

ant documents, and the American flag was lowered. Several other Western missions also prepared to pull their people out.

Fearful that the Taliban could reimpose the kind of brutal rule that all but eliminated women's rights, Afghans rushed to leave the country, lining up at cash machines to withdraw their life savings. The desperately poor — who had left homes in the countryside for the presumed safety of the capital — remained in parks and open spaces throughout the city.

Though the Taliban had promised a peaceful transition, the U.S. Embassy suspended operations and warned Americans late in the day to shelter in place and not try to get to the airport.

Commercial flights were suspended after sporadic gunfire erupted at the Kabul airport, according to two senior U.S. military officials. Evacuations continued on military flights, but the halt to commercial traffic closed off one of the last routes available for fleeing Afghans. Dozens of nations called on all parties involved to respect and facilitate the departure of foreigners and Afghans who wish to leave. More than 60 nations released the joint statement distributed by the U.S. State Department late Sunday night Washington time. The

statement says that those in power and authority across Afghanistan "bear responsibility — and accountability — for the protection of human life and property, and for the immediate restoration of security and civil order."

The nations' statement also says that roads, airports and border crossings must remain open, and that calm must be maintained.

Many people watched in disbelief as helicopters landed in the U.S. Embassy compound to take diplomats to a new outpost at the airport. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken rejected comparisons to the U.S. pullout from Vietnam.

"This is manifestly not Saigon," he said on ABC's "This Week."

The American ambassador was among those evacuated, officials said. He was asking to return to the embassy, but it was not clear if he would be allowed to. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss ongoing operations. As the insurgents closed in, President Ashraf Ghani flew out of the country.

"The former president of Afghanistan left Afghanistan, leaving the country in this difficult situation," said Abdullah Abdullah, the head of the Afghan National Reconciliation Council and a longtime rival of Ghani. "God should hold him accountable."





Ghani later posted on Facebook that he left to avert bloodshed in the capital, without saying where he had gone. As night fell, Taliban fighters deployed across Kabul, taking over abandoned police posts and pledging to maintain law and order during the transition. Residents reported looting in parts of the city, including in the upscale diplomatic district, and messages circulating on social media advised people to stay inside and lock their gates.

In a stunning rout, the Taliban seized nearly all of Afghanistan in just over a week, despite the billions of dollars spent by the U.S. and NATO over nearly 20 years to build up Afghan security forces. Just days earlier, an American military assessment estimated that the capital would not come under insurgent pressure for a month.

The fall of Kabul marks the final chapter of America's longest war, which began after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. A U.S.-led invasion dislodged the Taliban and beat them back, but America lost focus on the conflict in the chaos of the Iraq war.

For years, the U.S. sought an exit from Afghanistan. Then-President Donald Trump signed a deal with the Taliban in February 2020 that limited direct military action against the insurgents. That allowed the fighters to gather strength and move quickly to seize key areas when President Joe Biden announced his plans to withdraw all American forces by the end of this month.

After the insurgents entered Kabul, Taliban negotiators discussed a transfer of power, said an Afghan official. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details of the closed-door negotiations, described them as "tense."

It remained unclear when that transfer would take place and who among the Taliban was negotiating. The negotiators on the government side included former President Hamid Karzai, leader of Hizb-e-Islami political and paramilitary group Gulbudin Hekmatyar, and Abdullah, who has been a vocal critic of Ghani.

Karzai himself appeared in a video posted online, his three young daughters around him, saying he remained in Kabul. "We are trying to solve the issue of Afghanistan with the Taliban leadership peacefully," he said.

Afghanistan's acting defense minister, Bismillah Khan Mohammadi, did not hold back his criticism of the fleeing president. "They tied



our hands from behind and sold the country," he wrote on Twitter. "Curse Ghani and his gang."

The Taliban earlier insisted that their fighters would not enter people's homes or interfere with businesses and said they would offer "amnesty" to those who worked with the Afghan government or foreign forces.

But there have been reports of revenge killings and other brutal tactics in areas of the country the Taliban have seized in recent days. Reports of gunfire at the airport raised the specter of more violence. One female journalist, weeping, sent voice messages to colleagues after armed men entered her apartment building and banged on her door.

"What should I do? Should I call the police or Taliban?" Getee Azami cried. It wasn't clear what happened to her after that.

An Afghan university student described feeling betrayed as she watched the evacuation of the U.S. Embassy.

"You failed the younger generation of Afghanistan," said Aisha Khurram, 22, who is now unsure of whether she will be able to graduate in two months. She said her generation was "hoping to build the country with their own hands. They put blood, efforts and sweat into whatever we had right now."

Sunday began with the Taliban seizing Jalalabad, the last major city besides the capital not in their hands. Afghan officials said the militants also took the capitals of Maidan Wardak, Khost, Kapisa and Parwan provinces, as well as the country's last government-held border post.

Later, Afghan forces at Bagram Air Base, home to a prison housing 5,000 inmates, surrendered to the Taliban, according to Bagram district chief Darwaish Raufi. The prison at the former U.S. base held both Taliban and Islamic State group fighters.





## Pakistan and Tajikistan would benefit immensely from a peaceful and stable Afghanistan

By Mian Fazal Elahi

**F**oreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi called on President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon today in Dushanbe.

During the call, Foreign Minister Qureshi conveyed warm greetings from Prime Minister Imran Khan and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to strengthen relations in all areas of mutual interests.

On the regional security situation, the Foreign Minister shared Pakistan's perspective on the latest situation in Afghanistan. Highlighting that both Pakistan and Tajikistan would benefit immensely from a peaceful and stable Afghanistan in terms of enhanced economic cooperation and connectivity, the Foreign Minister underlined importance of coordinated approach to realise shared objectives of a connected region.

President Emomali welcomed Foreign Minister and concurred on coordinated approach on the evolving situation in Afghanistan. He said that he looked forward to receive Prime Minister Imran Khan at SCO Summit in September 2021 in Dushanbe.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met Foreign Minister of Tajikistan Sirojiddin Muhriddin at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan.

During the meeting, the two Foreign Ministers welcomed the frequent high level interaction which had led to further strengthening of bilateral relations and commonality of views on matters of mutual interests.

Foreign Minister Qureshi appreciated Tajikistan's leading role during its Presidency of SCO and remarked that Prime Minister



was keen to visit Tajikistan for the upcoming Summit in September 2021. The two Foreign Ministers also reviewed the latest developments in Afghanistan. Foreign Minister Qureshi apprised his Tajik counterpart of Pakistan's policy to support an inclusive political solution in Afghanistan and expressed hope that Afghan leaders would achieve a

workable solution. He also underscored the importance of continued international engagement as shared responsibility.

The Tajik Foreign Minister appreciated Pakistan's initiative to reach out to neighbours of Afghanistan for a coordinated approach. The two Foreign Ministers agreed to remain in close contact.



# VISIT OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN TO TURKMENISTAN



A delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan headed by the Foreign Minister of the country Shah Mahmood Qureshi visited Ashgabat.

On August 26, the head of MFA of Pakistan was received by the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. Conveying to the head of state the warm greeting of the leadership of Pakistan, Shah Mahmood Qureshi reiterated the commitment of the Pakistani side to strengthen political-diplomatic, trade-economic and cultural-humanitarian ties with Turkmenistan. The situation in Afghanistan and further steps on activation of regional interaction with the aim of maintaining peace and stability in

the region had been discussed.

In the same day, the meeting of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Shah Mahmood Qureshi in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan was held.

The parties noted with content that the two countries are united by friendly relations tested by time.

The diplomats exchanged views on a wide range of bilateral cooperation. In this regard, the importance of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project, construction of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) high-power transmission line and support of their implementation in fu-

ture by official Islamabad was emphasized.

Special emphasis at the meeting was made on the external policy cooperation and situation in Afghanistan. In this context, the diplomats confirmed the interest of Turkmenistan and Pakistan in the domestic stability and security of Afghanistan, as well as the wellbeing of the Afghan people.

The parties noted the necessity of establishing of regional dialogue taking into account the past experience of the two countries. At the same time, the Turkmen side declared its firm adherence to the principles of neutrality in the course of developing the processes of regional contacts on Afghanistan.







## Pakistan considered Iran a close neighbor and important country

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi called on President of Iran, Seyed Ibrahim Raisi in Tehran. The Foreign Minister was accompanied by Special Representative for Afghanistan Ambassador Muhammad Sadiq, Pakistan's Ambassador to Tehran, Rahim Hayat Qureshi and senior officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Foreign Minister conveyed heartfelt felicitations to President Raisi from Pakistani leadership on victory in presidential election and receiving Parliament's endorsement on Cabinet. He reiterated Pakistan's desire to work with Iran in all areas to further strengthen fraternal ties. Foreign Minister Qureshi thanked President Raisi for Iran's consistent support on Kashmir issue, specially from Supreme Leader. On the latest situation in Afghanistan, the Foreign Minister apprised President Raisi on Pakistan's perspective and underlined coordinated approach. He added that it was important for the neighbors of Afghanistan for continued consultations on the way forward as the peace in Afghanistan would lead to economic and political benefits for the region. Welcoming Foreign Minister Qureshi, President Raisi recalled excellent bilateral ties between the two countries. He appreciated Foreign Minister's visit for strengthening regional approach in the wake of situation in Afghanistan and expressed hope that Afghanistan would achieve peace and stability. Foreign Minister Qureshi extended invitation, on behalf of Prime Minister Imran Khan to President Raisi to visit Pakistan. President Raisi accepted the invitation.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with Dr. Amir Abdullahian today at





the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tehran. Special Representative for Afghanistan Ambassador Muhammad Sadiq, Ambassador of Pakistan to Iran, Rahim Hayat Qureshi and other senior officials accompanied the Foreign Minister. The Foreign Minister congratulated his Iranian counterpart on getting endorsement from the Parliament on his appointment. Reaffirming desire to enhance bilateral relations in all areas, the Foreign Minister remarked that Pakistan considered Iran a close neighbour and important country. In the bilateral context, the Foreign Minister recalled his previous visit to Tehran in April 2021, during which the two countries signed MoU on establishment of Border Sustenance Markets. Coupled with opening of new border crossing point, Foreign Minister Qureshi underlined that both the initiatives would improve livelihood of the people in the border region and facilitate movement. The two Foreign Ministers had extensive discussion on regional security situation. Foreign Minister Qureshi appreciated Iran's steadfast support on Kashmir issue, specially at the highest level. On the developing situation in Afghanistan, the Foreign Minister remarked that a coordinated approach was important for security, stability and inclusive political settlement in Afghanistan. Return of peace in Afghanistan would provide impetus to greater economic integration, regional connectivity and facilitate people-to-people linkages. Foreign Minister Qureshi reiterated invitation to Dr. Abdullahian to visit Pakistan. Dr. Amir Abdullahian warmly welcomed Foreign Minister Qureshi and reaffirmed Iran's policy to continue strong bilateral relations. He welcomed Foreign Minister's initiative to advance regional approach on Afghanistan for the mutual benefit of the region. Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi is the first Foreign Minister to meet Dr. Abdullahian, after his appointment as the Foreign Minister of Iran







## Pakistan and Uzbekistan keen to develop ties particularly in transport and connectivity

**F**oreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi called on President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

The Foreign Minister conveyed warm greetings from Prime Minister Imran Khan and referring to the Prime Minister's visit to Tashkent in July 2021, reiterated commitment to enhance bilateral ties in all areas of mutual interests.

Foreign Minister Qureshi apprised the President of Uzbekistan on the latest situation in Afghanistan and expressed hope that the Afghan leaders would work out an inclusive political solution which would lead to stronger trade and economic ties and strengthen linkages between the people in the region.

President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev welcomed the Foreign Minister and termed relations with Pakistan important. He remarked that Uzbekistan was keen to develop ties with Pakistan in all areas, particularly in transport and connectivity. He also concurred that regional connectivity, trade and economy will be further enhanced with the peace in Afghanistan. He also looked forward to meeting Prime Minister Imran Khan on the sidelines of forthcoming SCO Summit in Dushanbe next month to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Foreign Minister Qureshi is visiting neighbours of Afghanistan to discuss regional situation, particularly the latest situation in Afghanistan and evolve coordinated approach.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov, today in Tashkent.

Foreign Minister Qureshi exchanged views on ways and means with his Uzbek counterpart to intensify bilateral relations in all areas. The two Foreign Ministers agreed that in view of recent frequent high level exchanges, bilateral relations have transformed into a strategic partnership. It was decided to follow up closely the implementation of decisions, taken during the recent visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Uzbekistan.



During the meeting, regional security situation, particularly the evolving situation in Afghanistan came under discussion. Emphasising Pakistan's support for an inclusive political setup, the Foreign Minister remarked that peace in Afghanistan would bring stability in the region, promote trade and facilitate people to people linkages. It was therefore important that neighbours of Afghanistan coordinate closely on the situation in Afghanistan.

Welcoming the Foreign Minister, the Uzbek Foreign Minister highlighted upward trajectory in the bilateral relations. Foreign Minister Kamilov termed Foreign Minister Qureshi's visit important and timely in terms of close coordinated approach on Afghanistan.

The two Foreign Ministers agreed to continue consultations to advance shared objectives of a peaceful, prosperous and connected region.



## Turkmenistan provides its airspace for the evacuation

**T**he Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan informs about the following.

As is known, currently a number of countries have started to evacuate their citizens who are present in Afghanistan.

In this respect, Turkmenistan fulfilling its international obligations, including those originating from the international humanitarian law, provides its airspace for the transportation of the abovementioned category of persons by the aircrafts of foreign states.



## The Consul General of Turkmenistan in Herat city met with the head of the representation of the Taliban movement

**T**he Consul General of Turkmenistan in Herat city had a meeting with the head of the representation of the Taliban movement in Herat province.

During the consultations the parties discussed organizational and other matters, related to the activities of the Consulate General of Turkmenistan in the western zone of Afghanistan

At the meeting held in a friendly atmosphere, it was underlined that the historical and cultural community of the peoples of Turkmenistan and Afghanistan serves as a solid base for the development of good neighborly relations now and in the long term.



## The Consul General of Turkmenistan in Mazar-i-Sharif city met with the head of the representation of the Taliban movement

**T**he Consul General of Turkmenistan in the city of Mazar-i-Sharif met with the head of the representative office of the “Taliban” movement in the province of Balkh.

During the meeting held in a positive and constructive manner, a number of concrete issues were discussed in relation to the implementation of duties of the Turkmen consular organization in the Northern provinces of Afghanistan.

At the same time, it was noted that the relations between the peoples of two countries are brotherly and based on the principles of friendship and good neighborliness.





## Activities of Republic of Italy Ambassador H.E. Mr. Andreas Ferrarese to Islamic Republic of Pakistan



Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan H.E Mr. Andreas Ferrarese visited NHQ, & called on CNS Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi. During the Call-on the dignitaries discussed matters of mutual interest, bilateral collaborations and maritime Security in the region.



Italian Ambassador H.E. Mr. Andreas Ferrarese called on CAS ACM Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu in his office. Various matters of mutual interest and professional cooperation came under discussion during the meeting.



Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem met with Ambassador of Italy H. E. Andreas Ferrarese. Both sides had good exchange of views on issues of mutual interest.



# Italian envoy sees huge trade, investment opportunities with Pakistan

The Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese on said that there are vast opportunities for mutual trade and investment between Pakistan and Italy from which businessmen and traders of both the countries can reap the benefits.

Pakistani businessmen and traders move forward and work to promote mutual trade and economic ties between Pakistanis in Italy, he said.

Economic, trade and cultural relations between Italy and Pakistan are at an all-time high, he said this while hosting a dinner in honour of senior business leaders and Presidents of different trade chambers of the country at his residence.

While renowned business leaders including former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce, Zafar Bakhtawri, Chairman Federation Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) Capital Office Qurban Ali, President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Muhammad Nasir Mirza, President Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Umer Ashraf Mughal, President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sherbaz Ilyas Bilour and Abdullah Shad Abbasi participated on the occasion.

The Ambassador informed that Italy hosts the largest Pakistani diaspora in the European Union (EU) countries.

In FY 2020-21, workers remittances from Italy reached \$601 million which is an all-time high figure, he said.

It has made Italy, Pakistan's 7th largest destination for workers remittance globally and No.1 from the EU.

He said that there was huge trade potential in different sectors of the economy which needed to be explored and in this regard both sides were engaged in the dialogue process through the Pak-Italy Joint Economic Commission was the forum for bilateral economic engagements.

The Ambassador said that currently Italy was providing technical assistance in Agriculture and textiles up-gradation through modern machinery, value addition in agriculture, leather and marble sectors.

He said Pakistan was working to expand it to Agricultural items including dairy and livestock, olives and olive products, plastics, processed food and the construction sector in the Italian market.

Andreas Ferrarese was of the view that Italy wanted to start a new era of economic and trade cooperation with Pakistan through



transfer of technology and for upgradation of Pakistan's textile industry.

He said green economy, transfer of technology for the industrial sector including textiles and agro industry, construction sector, education and health are major areas of focus to extend the bilateral cooperation.

The ambassador said through the green economy, Italy wanted to cooperate with Pakistan for environment protection, circular economy, resource saving and management, ecosystem protection and recovery, water conservation and natural disaster prevention.

The Ambassador said that Italy has established the Italy-Pakistan Textile Technology Center (IPTTC) in Faisalabad at the National Textile University (NTU) to upgrade the local textile sector.

He said the training centre, which was the first of its kind for Italian textile machinery technology in Pakistan, was inaugurated in the recent past.

He said this project was financed by the Italian government to support the development of the local textiles industry, by equipping it with Italian machinery.

During fiscal year 2020-21, textile, leather, rice, ethanol, textiles articles, sets, worn clothing, cotton, apparel, crocheted, cereals, raw hides and skins, beverages and footwear was major areas of Pakistan export to Italy, he said.

As Pakistan's imports from Italy increased in these sectors included ships, boats, and

other floating structures, machinery, pharmaceutical products, aircraft, spacecraft, electrical, electronic equipment, organic chemicals, iron and steel, miscellaneous chemical products, optical, photo, technical and medical apparatus.

Replying to a question, he said currently, Italy was providing technical assistance to Pakistan in textiles, leather and marble sectors. He informed that dairy and livestock, olive and olive products, plastics, processed food and the construction sector were the areas where Italy could extend its cooperation with The new economic mission has been deployed in Pakistan to further promote bilateral trade and economic cooperation in different potential areas, he said.

Initially the new economic mission has been established in major cities of Pakistan including Karachi and Islamabad and later it would be expanded to other potential trade hubs to increase the economic and trade integration between Pakistan and Italy, he said.

He underlined the importance of promoting cultural connectivity to promote bilateral trade.

He said that he would also encourage exchange of students to further strengthen bilateral relations.

The senior diplomat said that Italy was committed to extend the cooperation of a diverse potential sector to enhance the bilateral economic and cooperation between Pakistan and Italy.



## 75th Pakistan Independence Day was celebrated in Hong Kong

75th Pakistan Independence Day was celebrated in Hong Kong with full zeal and zest. On the occasion flags of Pakistan and China were hoisted by Consul General of Pakistan. He also read Messages of The President and The Prime Minister of The Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Children performed on national songs and prayers were offered for the solidarity and prosperity of beloved homeland.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY  
Pakistan Paindabad



## Pakistan Independence Day Celebrated in Tehran

An official ceremony to mark the 75th anniversary of Independence of Pakistan was held at Pakistan House Tehran, today. Members of Pakistani community in Iran, officials of the Embassy, journalists and media representatives attended the ceremony. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and to ensure compliance with health guidelines, the ceremony was kept brief and a limited number of guests were invited, says a press release received here today from Tehran. The ceremony commenced with the playing of national anthem & hoisting of the national flag by Ambassador Rahim Hayat Qureshi. It was followed by reading out of Messages of President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan. Recalling the historical importance of the day, Ambassador Rahim Hayat Qureshi paid rich tributes to the founding fathers of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Dr. Allama Iqbal and other leaders who led the Pakistan movement and offered sacrifices for the creation of an independent Muslim state. While congratulating the Pakistani diaspora on Pakistan's Independence Day, Ambassador urged them to serve the country with dedication. Since independence, Pakistan has faced multiple challenges,



es, but by the grace of Almighty Allah and with the dedication and hard work of our citizens, our country has succeeded in overcoming the obstacles to continue its forward march as a modern and progressive state. The participants also expressed solidarity with the oppressed people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK), who continue to suffer from systematic persecution and human rights violations by the Indian occupation forces. Ambassador Qureshi called upon the international community to

take measures for the peaceful resolution of IIOJK dispute as enshrined in the relevant resolutions UN Security Council. Focusing on regional peace and security, the Ambassador stressed the importance of peaceful and negotiated settlement of Afghan conflict that was Afghan-owned and Afghan-led. Pakistan, being a victim of terrorism and cross border infiltration, was committed to playing a constructive role to facilitate dialogue among various Afghan factions.



## Independence Day celebrated at Embassy of Pakistan, Tokyo

To celebrate the 74th anniversary of independence, a simple but impressive ceremony was held at the Embassy of Pakistan, Tokyo. Ambassador Imtiaz Ahmad hoisted the national flag whilst the audience recited the National anthem of Pakistan. Besides officers, officials of the Embassy and their families, a large number of Pakistanis from all walks of life attended the ceremony. The Ambassador read the messages of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan. The messages firmly reiterated the nation's resolve to stand united and strive hard to overcome our present-day challenges and make Pakistan a self-reliant, economically vibrant and a progressive country, says a press release received here today from Tokyo. The Ambassador in his remarks stated that 14th August 1947, signified the emergence of an independent ideological State under the indomitable leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah who believed in following the principles of democracy, peace and friendship with all the nations of the world. The Ambassador underscored that this year's Independence Day carried immense importance and significance as the whole nation stood resolved to staunchly oppose the recent illegal acts of Indian Government to alter the internationally recognized disputed status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He added that the valiant people of IIOJK could not be deterred from their just cause by the ongoing brutalities and inhuman tactics unleashed by the Indian government and its security forces.

He added that Pakistan will continue to extend political, diplomatic and moral support to the indigenous struggle of the Kashmiri people for realization of their inalienable right to self-determination. The ceremony ended with special prayers for the well being of the people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and their emancipation from the atrocities and oppression of the Indian occupied forces.



## Pakistan's 75th Independence Day celebrated in Paris

Flag hoisting ceremony was held at Pakistan Embassy, France to commemorate the Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in simple yet dignified manner here today. Charge d'Affaires Mr. Abbas Sarwar Qureshi raised the Pakistani flag to the tune of national anthem in the presence of members of the Pakistani community, Embassy officials and their families, says a press release received here today from Paris. The messages of the President and Prime Minister were read out on the occasion. Both the leaders paid rich tribute to founding fathers for their vision, impeccable leadership and immense sacrifices of the Muslims of sub-continent to achieve a separate homeland. While expressing solidarity with the Kashmiri, the leadership underscored that we should not forget our Kashmiri brothers and sisters in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), struggling for their right to self-determination under extremely adverse circumstances marked by illegal Indian occupation and unspeakable repression. They reassured that Pakistan will continue to extend its full support to the Kashmiris in their just

cause. In his remarks Charge d'Affaires shed light on the inspiring life of Quaid-e-Azam and said that all Pakistanis need to work actively for the prosperity of their homeland in accordance with Quaid's vision. While highlighting the achievements of Prime Minister Imran Khan's government,

he said that timely and effective Covid-19 response strategy has been appreciated by the world. With the blessings of Allah Almighty Pakistan remained protected from the worst effects of the pandemic. He urged the Pakistani community in France to excel in all fields and project positive image of Pakistan through their conduct. Mr. Qureshi highlighted that Pakistan's positive contribution in promoting global peace and security. He also underscored the vibrant role Pakistan's women and youth are playing in the development and progress of the coun-



try. The event included poetry recitation by children and certificate distribution among the participants. On the occasion, the Embassy also arranged a photo exhibition showcasing the vibrant culture, landscape and history of Pakistan. While inaugurating the exhibition Charge d'Affaires said that Pakistan has immense potential for tourism and has been a welcome destination for tourists from across the world. The ceremony concluded with the prayer for continued progress of Pakistan.



## PAKISTAN HIGH COMMISSION SINGAPORE HOLDS INDEPENDENCE DAY FLAG HOISTING CEREMONY

A flag hoisting ceremony was held at Pakistan House, Singapore, to commemorate 75th Independence Day of Pakistan. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mission restricted the gathering to the High Commission's staff only, says a press release received here today from Singapore.

High Commissioner Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal hoisted the flag to the tune of National Anthem, followed by the messages of the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan read out by the Press Counsellor, Mr. Muhammad Saleem and Deputy High Commissioner, Ms. Farhana Asif, respectively. The messages reaffirmed the resolve to follow Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah's vision for addressing the challenges faced by the nation. The evolving focus of the Government from geo-politics to geo-economics to address complex



challenges of overpopulation, malnutrition, lack of basic services was particularly highlighted. The commitment to stand firmly behind our Kashmiri brethren in their struggle for the right to self-determination and commitment to sensitize the international com-

munity of grave human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K) were also reiterated. The ceremony ended with prayers for peace, prosperity and stability of the country and the region.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY MARKED BY FLAG HOISTING AT THE HIGH COMMISSION LONDON

The 75th Independence Day of Pakistan was marked by a Flag Hoisting Ceremony at the Pakistan High Commission London today, says a press release received here today from London. High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan hoisted the National Flag and the messages of the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out on the occasion. In his address to the community, the High Commissioner felicitated all Pakistanis on the Independence Day and prayed for the peace, prosperity and progress of the country. He paid glowing tributes to the Quaid-i-Azam, Allama Iqbal and other heroes of Pakistan Movement, who, through their unwavering resolve and visionary leadership created an independent state for the Muslims of the sub-continent. Giving an overview of Pakistan, the High Commissioner said Pakistan had successfully restored peace and stability in the country and now the focus of the national leadership was economic development and welfare of the people. He said Pakistan had long been seen through geo-strategic lenses but now was the time to look at the country afresh from its geo-economic importance. He added that Pakistan was moving forward and was poised to become a regional economic hub. On Pakistan-UK relations, the High Commissioner underscored the importance of historical and deep rooted bilateral ties, and said that growing bilateral trade and economic ties were another manifestation of our mutually beneficial relations. The High Commissioner commended the Pakistani diaspora for their vital role in the progress and development of



the UK as well as Pakistan and for bringing the two countries closer. He also urged the diaspora and British investors to take advantage of the investment opportunities in Pakistan, particularly in the tourism sector. Speaking about Covid-19 Pandemic, the High Commissioner shared with the community that under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, Pakistan had successfully coped with the first three waves of the virus and expressed confidence that the Government would be able to overcome the ongoing fourth wave as well. On Pakistan's retention in the UK's travel red list, the High Commissioner said he was fully aware of the hardships being faced by the community. He said he was in contact with all relevant authorities of the UK government and hoped that Pakistan would soon come out of the red list. The High Commissioner paid glowing tribute to the sacrifices of the

Kashmiri people living under the illegal occupation of India. He reiterated Pakistan's moral, diplomatic and political support to them for their just cause of self-determination. On behalf of the President of Pakistan, the High Commissioner conferred Sitara-e-Pakistan and Sitara-e-Quaid-i-Azam on Baroness Sayeeda Warsi and Yasmin Qureshi MP respectively. He said the civil award for both the distinguished ladies was recognition for their services to Pakistan and its people. The ceremony concluded with a national song presented by children and cake cutting by the High Commissioner and his spouse. Similar events were held at Consulates of Pakistan. On this occasion, a newly installed Cash Free Machine at the UBL branch of the High Commission was also inaugurated by the High Commissioner and Lord Zameer Choudhry.



## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATED AT PAKISTAN EMBASSY IN BELGIUM

The Independence Day of Pakistan was observed with patriotic zeal and spirit at the Embassy of Pakistan, Brussels today, says a press release received here today from Brussels. The national flag was hoisted by Pakistan's Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg, Mr. Zaheer A. Janjua at the Chancery building. The special messages of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out on the occasion. The Pakistani leadership in their separate messages paid glowing tributes to the sacrifices of Pakistan's forefathers. They reaffirmed their commitment to make tireless efforts to realize the vision of the founding fathers to make Pakistan a social welfare state on the model of Riyasat-e-Madina. The leaders also expressed solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K) and reiterated their resolve to extend all possible political, diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmiris in their just struggle for the UN guaranteed right to self-determination. In his message on the occasion, Ambassador Zaheer A. Janjua paid homage to the historic struggle of the Muslims of Sub-Continent for an independent homeland, where they could live their lives with complete religious, cultural and social freedoms. He stressed the importance of the vision of Quaid-e-Azam, Mohammad Ali Jinnah and poet-philosopher, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, who envisaged Pakistan to be a progressive, moderate and democratic country. Underscoring the importance of the role of Overseas Pakistanis, he urged the

Pakistan community living in Belgium and Luxembourg to make a firm resolve to undertake all possible efforts for the development and prosperity of the country. Ambassador Janjua also paid tribute to the brave Kashmiris, who are suffering under the Indian illegal occupation in Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that Pakistan would continue to extend all possible political, diplomatic and moral support in their just struggle for the right to self-determination, guaranteed by the UN Security Council Resolutions. A photo exhibition was also arranged on the religious diversity and tourism potential of Pakistan, which was highly appreciated by the participants. A wide segment of the Pakistani community living in Belgium and Luxembourg including women and children participated in the Independence Day celebrations. Keeping in view the COVID 19 pandemic, all necessary SOPs were observed during the ceremony.



## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATED AT PAKISTAN EMBASSY IN DHAKA

A flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka today to mark the nation's 75th Independence Day, says a press release received here today from Dhaka. While keeping in view Covid guidelines, a large number of Pakistanis in Bangladesh attended the ceremony. The official ceremony began with recitation from the Holy Qura'n following which high Commissioner Mr. Imran Ahmed Siddiqui hoisted the national flag to the tune of the national anthem. Messages by the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan for the occasion were read out by the Head of Chancery and Commercial Secretary. In his brief remarks, the High Commissioner recounted the sacrifices made by the leaders of the Pakistan Movement for the emancipation and welfare of the Muslims of South Asia. He paid glowing tribute to the vision and struggle of the founding leaders, including, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Quaid-e-Azam, Allama Iqbal, Sir Salim Ullah Khan, Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy and A.K. Fazlul Huq. The High Commissioner also drew attention to the sufferings of the Kashmiri people and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment



to their just struggle. The High Commissioner felicitated Pakistanis all over the world on the occasion while recalling the vision the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to develop Pakistan into a welfare state. To mark the Independence Day, the High Com-

mission organized an exhibition displaying rare photographs of the nation's founding Father and other leaders of the Pakistan Movement. Pakistan community members and other guests took keen interest in the photo exhibition and thanked the High Commission for organizing it.



## Japan provides US\$31.4 million for Maternal and Child Health Care Facilities in Sindh and US\$2.9 million for Human Resource Development Scholarship FY2021

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Japan has extended a grant assistance of JPY3,445 million (approx. US\$31.4 million) to Pakistan for the extension of maternal and child health care facilities in Sindh. Notes to this effect were signed and exchanged between H.E. MATSUDA Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan and Mr. Zulfiqar Haider, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, in Islamabad on August 31st, 2021. Subsequently, Grant Agreement was signed and exchanged between Mr. FURUTA Shigeki, Chief Representative of JICA Pakistan Office and Ms. Syeda Adeela Bokhari, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

New Maternal and Child Health Center will be established Under this project, a new maternal and child health center will be established at Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (LUMHS), Jamshoro, which is a public medical institution serving as the regional hub hospital in Hyderabad district. The maternal and child health center will have the departments of obstetrics and pediatrics, including a labor room, an obstetrics ward, a neonatal intensive care unit, a maternal and fetal intensive care unit, a laboratory and outpatient consultation rooms. In addition, around 120 items of medical equipment including newborn incubators and ultrasonic diagnostic device are to be installed.

The project is scheduled to be completed by August 2024. With the opening of the center, access to maternal and child health services in the area will be substantially improved. For example, three years after completion, the maternal and fetal intensive care unit will have nearly 100 patients and the neonatal intensive care unit will have more than 400 patients annually. In addition, the annual number of deliveries and outpatients will also increase significantly. As a result, local patients will not have to travel a long distance to Karachi.

Japan attaches importance to the health & medical sector in Pakistan. For decades, Japan has put a priority on the health sector in the economic and social development of Pakistan, such as enhancement of maternal and child health, polio eradication, routine immunization and counter-COVID-19 measures.

In the last decade prior to the project in Jamshoro, Japan has implemented the following projects in Karachi and Islamabad in terms of maternal and child health. The Project for the Extension of Intensive Care at Maternal and Child Health Care Centre and Children's Hospital in Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) (April 23, 2019, approx.\$33 million). The Project for the Improvement of



Child Health Institute in Karachi (December 21, 2012, approx. \$13 million). Furthermore, Japan has been supporting the Polio Eradication program in Pakistan since 1996. The grant and loan contribution from Japan has amounted to \$226.37 million.

As far as COVID-19 is concerned, Japan has extended a total of \$23.5 million in grant to Pakistan for supplementing its counter-COVID-19 measures as follows:

Feb 2020: Delivery of diagnostic kits

Apr-May 2020: Disbursement of a total of \$7.41 million to UNICEF, IOM, IFRC, UNHCR and UNOPS for providing hygiene items, training health workers, providing alternative learning opportunities etc.

Dec 2020: Grant Assistance of \$9.5 million to NDMA for procuring medical equipment. Mar 2021: Grant Assistance of \$6.59 million to UNICEF for improving vaccine cold-chain.

In addition to the above, Japan and Pakistan agreed on debt deferral amounting to ¥40 billion (approx. \$370 million) for making fiscal space to fight COVID-19 in Pakistan. Through JICA projects, personal protective equipment and masks were provided to PIMS, WHO Polio Laboratory (Islamabad), and immunization project workers in KP province.

Ambassador MATSUDA added, "Provision of health and medical service is the most basic human necessities in every country across the world. Among them, women and children are still in a vulnerable position, which is reflected in the high maternal and infant mortality rate in Pakistan. Japan will continue to provide assistance that will directly benefit vulnerable people in Pakistan." Mr.FURUTA also remarked, "A number of care facilities to treat mothers and babies with complications is very limited in Sindh. As a result, patients are concentrated in advanced medical facilities. This project will not

only alleviate the pressure of tertiary hospitals in Karachi and Hyderabad, but also open up opportunities for families from all over southern part of Sindh, with improved accessibility and better chances of saving lives."

Japan provides aid in human capitals

On the same day, the Notes and grant agreement for the the project of the Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) was also signed so that the fourth batch of the project to be commenced. The aforementioned grant aid is worth JPY312 million (approx. US\$2.9 million) which allow maximum 20 Pakistan Government officers to study in Japanese Universities to obtain Masters' or Doctoral Degree. The purpose of JDS is to strengthen the Government officers' administrative capacity through the study in Japan and to build a solid friendship as well as diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan.

The project started in 2018 in Pakistan and 51 persons in total have joined the project and started the Japanese Universities. JDS fellows are studying in the field either (1) Public Administration and Finance, (2) Energy policy, (3) Industrial Promotion, Investment climate and Trade, (4) Agriculture, Water Resources and Rural Development, and (5) Disaster Management. There are six Japanese partner universities and the fellows are studying with Japanese/International students from various parts of the world for two or three years depending on the type of the degree they wish to obtain.

As the application for this fourth batch will hopefully be starting from Autumn 2021, It is hoped that many officers who are willing to contribute to Pakistan in formulating and implementing social and economic policies for the development of the country, will actively apply for the project to make the best use of this opportunity.



# Afghan policy conundrum

By Zahid Hussain

**T**HE last American soldier left Kabul on Tuesday, bringing to an end the two-decade-long occupation of Afghanistan. The Afghan Taliban have already taken control of the war-battered country and most likely a new political set-up will take shape in the next few days. The seismic changes in Afghanistan over the last few months have jolted geopolitics in the region.

Despite the Taliban's control over almost the entire country the situation in Afghanistan is still fluid. There is deep anxiety in the region and beyond over the return of Taliban rule. More than any other country, it is Pakistan that should be most concerned. But there seems to be little understanding in the government about how to deal with the shifting sands across the Durand Line. The confused messaging on the Afghan situation will inevitably land us in dire straits.

It begins with the prime minister whose thoughtless remarks often cause diplomatic embarrassment. Last week, in a speech he implicitly called for recognition of the Taliban government against our stated policy of not going solo on the issue. One wonders whose policy that is anyway.

His premature assertion about the legitimacy of Taliban rule before the group has even formed a government has raised questions about our contradictory position. Not surprisingly, the statement has added to the confusion in our foreign policy that has become a hallmark of the PTI government. The disarray has never been so pronounced.

It's a free-for-all with ministers airing their own views on a sensitive foreign policy issue, often contradicting each other. The swift victory of the Taliban has generated euphoria and a sense of triumphalism among many of them. Some are even offering unsolicited advice to the Taliban on what the group should or shouldn't do. It's getting more and more bizarre.

Interestingly, the Taliban leadership appears more circumspect about their victory than our 'warrior' ministers. There is a mad race to claim credit for the change in Afghanistan to the point of embarrassment. In the lead is none other than our ubiquitous foreign minister whose penchant for appearing on TV channels several times a day and holding frequent press conferences is disconcerting. Discretion that is the essence of diplomacy is in short supply here. It's a lethal mix of populism and mediocrity that defines our current



approach to foreign policy. The evolving situation in Afghanistan has further highlighted our impetuosity in dealing with issues that require a more cautious and nuanced approach. There seems to be little grasp of the changing regional dynamics and its impending fallout.

Read: It must be learned that discretion is the art of diplomacy

There is some logic to speaking less when engaged in sensitive diplomatic negotiations. Every public utterance has some connotation that could adversely affect the environment. Unfortunately, that common sense is missing even among those who are expected to be professionally more astute.

Some off-the-cuff remarks by the national security adviser in recent media interviews have triggered unnecessary controversy. Surely there is always a danger of being misquoted and misrepresented and that is the reason for being more cautious in media interactions. Public retraction and clarifications make things worse.

It's certainly the most serious challenge faced by Pakistan on the national security and foreign policy front in recent times. But there seems to be a complete disconnect between the situation on the ground and our narrative. There seems to be no coherent strategy to deal with the emerging situation in Afghanistan and on how to reset our relations with global and regional powers in the midst of fast-changing geopolitics. The dramatic change in Afghanistan could open a window of opportunity but any misstep could also create serious problems for Pakistan.

There is a need to tread a cautious path. Indeed, the Taliban have virtually full control over Afghanistan and we must continue to

interact with them. But we should not make any hasty decision to recognise the new Afghan government. We must wait for things to settle down there before taking a collective decision on the issue with other regional countries. There are some valid concerns about militant organisations operating from Afghanistan that need to be raised with the Taliban. But that can be done more discreetly.

More importantly, we must treat Afghanistan as an independent state and refrain from taking any action or issuing statements that could be construed as interference in the country's internal matters. It should be left to the Afghans to support the kind of government they want. Some of the remarks made by federal ministers do not help in removing that impression.

Surely stability in Afghanistan is extremely important for Pakistan's national security. But we must also learn from history and not become a party to any power struggle in Afghanistan. We have paid a heavy price for our recklessness in the past. There is still a tendency to take the Taliban for granted. It would be a grave mistake to do so and could harm our future relationship with the new dispensation.

What is most important is to develop a national consensus on our policy on Afghanistan. But there has not been any such effort by the government. Ironically, it is the military which has taken the responsibility of briefing political leaders on developments. There has not been any debate in parliament on this critical national security and foreign policy issue. It would have been much better had the PTI leadership focused more on policy instead of spending time on media projections.

The end of America's 20-year war and the return of Taliban rule present new and more serious challenges for Pakistan, which has been a front-line state in the wars in Afghanistan over the last four decades. The country has borne heavy costs of the conflict spilling over into its territory.

It requires not only a clear policy direction but also skilful diplomacy to deal with the challenges. More importantly, much depends on how we communicate our policy to the outside world. Unfortunately, it has been a diplomatic disaster so far with confusing messaging.

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



## Activities of Chinese Ambassador H.E. Nong Rong to Pakistan



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Nong Rong enjoys the meeting with MPA Mr. Jan Mohammad Jamali & Senator Sana Jamali. Both sides had exchanged views on cooperation for the development of Balochistan and the well-being of local people.



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Nong Rong exchanged views with SAPM Climate Change Mr. Malik Amin Aslam on bilateral cooperation on ecological environmental protection. China highly appreciates Prime Minister Imran Khan's Clean and Green Pakistan Campaign and 10 Billion Tree Tsunami Programme.



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Nong Rong said during meeting with H.E. Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti that the best way to achieve harmony and progress is to benefit the people through inclusive development. We will work with Balochistan to push forward CPEC projects and pragmatic cooperation to this end.



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Nong Rong pleased to talk with LG (R) Javed Mahmood Bukhari, Rector NUST. Chinese Ambassador appreciate NUST's role in enhancing solidarity with China. More exchanges & cooperation between Pakistan & China higher education institutions are greatly encouraged to build China-Pakistan community with shared future.



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Nong Rong had a good meeting with Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Afridi & Senator Faisal Javed Khan. Both sides exchanged views on bilateral relations, media cooperation, climate change & modern agriculture. China and Pakistan committed to work for more pragmatic cooperation & bringing more benefit to the two peoples.





## Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan organized online Seminar for Young Media Professionals from Pakistan

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Nong Rong warmly congratulated on Opening of the online Seminar for Young Media Professionals from Pakistan. Chinese Ambassador said this is an innovative way to enhance media exchanges &

cooperation and enrich people to people contacts under the COVID-19 situation. Wish the Seminar a complete success!

Sponsored by Ministry of Commerce in collaboration with National Radio & Tele-

vision Administration, China & Senate of Pakistan, the Seminar is to build a platform for bilateral media exchanges & cooperation in joint celebrating 70th anniversary of China and Pakistan diplomatic relations.

## Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan called on COAS General Qamar Javed Bajwa



His Excellency Mr. Nong Rong, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interests, defence collaboration, progress on CPEC and regional security were discussed in detail. Visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's sincere

efforts for peace and stability in the region. He reiterated that China shall continue to support Pakistan as a strategic partner.



# To build a Community of Health for All



By Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong

**T**he once-in-a-century COVID-19 pandemic is still wreaking havoc, posing a great threat to the lives and health of people all over the world, and a big challenge to global public health. In the face of this common crisis for mankind, the international community needs solidarity and cooperation more than ever.

Regrettably, an unhealthy trend of politicization of the origin-tracing of the coronavirus by certain countries have seriously undermined the global combat against the pandemic, instigating the WHO Secretariat to unilaterally put forward a plan for the second phase of studies into the origins of coronavirus, without the consent of Member States. Many countries have raised concerns and voiced objection to the move. It is a shared belief that the plan is inconsistent with the resolution of the 73rd WHA, or the conclusions and recommendations of the China-WHO Joint Study of the Origins of the Novel Coronavirus. It failed to reflect the latest outcomes of global research and cannot serve as the basis for the second phase of joint origin studies.

70 countries have written letters, made statements or sent notes to the WHO Director General, stating that they welcome the China-WHO Joint Study of the Origins of the Novel Coronavirus and reject politicizing virus origin-tracing issue.

Over 300 political parties, social societies and think tanks in over 100 countries and regions have also submitted a joint statement to WHO Secretariat, calling for WHO to carry out global virus

origin-tracing research in an objective and fair manner. This is the legitimate appeal and voice of justice from the international community.

China has always taken an open, transparent, scientific and cooperative attitude on the issue of origin-tracing. China has taken the lead in cooperating with the WHO on origin-tracing, and has twice invited WHO experts in for origin-tracing studies, and opened the Wuhan Institute of Virology to international experts.

China is ready to actively participate in the origin-tracing studies in a truly scientific manner, meanwhile is firmly against the use of origin-tracing as a tool for political gain and an excuse to slander other countries.

As the largest developing country and a responsible member of the international community, China has always championed to the vision of building a global community of health for all, and supported global cooperation in the fight against the pandemic.

At the Global Health Summit in May this year, President Xi Jinping made an important address and clearly advocated unity and cooperation among the international community. President Xi promised that China will provide an additional 3 billion US dollars in international aid over the next three years to support COVID-19 response and economic and social recovery in other developing countries. China supports its vaccine companies in transferring technologies to other developing countries and carrying out joint production with them.

China proposed to set up an international forum on vaccine cooperation for vaccine-developing and producing countries, companies and other stakeholders to explore ways of promoting fair and equitable distribution of vaccines around the world.

As of July, China had provided more than 500 million doses of vaccines and its raw fluids to more than 100 countries and international organizations, equivalent to one-sixth of the current global production of COVID-19 vaccines, and contributed to the accessibility and affordability of vaccines in developing countries.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, China and Pakistan have worked hand in hand to help each other, setting a good example for global cooperation against the pandemic. China has made Pakistan a priority for vaccine aid and exports, providing more than 35 million doses of the vaccine to Pakistan as of July.

At 3rd Round of China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue held recently, the two sides agreed that the origin-tracing of the coronavirus is a scientific task, and should not be politicized. China also appreciates Pakistan's joint letter to the Director-General of WHO and the statement issued by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, stressing that virus tracing is a scientific task and clearly opposing the politicization of the origin-tracing of the coronavirus.

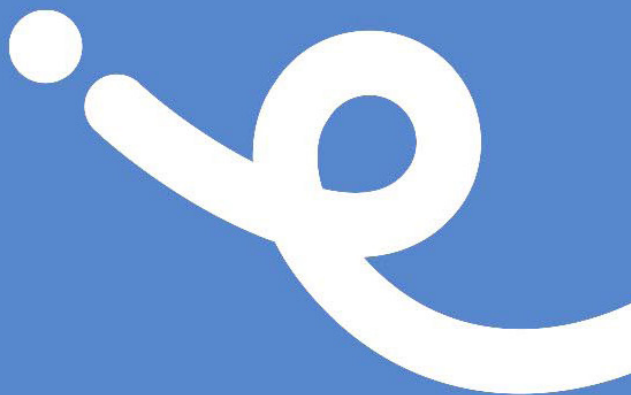
China will continue to meet the vaccine demand of Pakistan within all its capacity, and assist Pakistan in strengthening the national health system and tackling the disruptions of the pandemic to economic and social development.

On August 5, State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi will host the First Online Meeting of the International Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine Cooperation. Foreign ministers or competent ministers of relevant countries, representatives of the United Nations and other international organizations, and representatives of relevant enterprises are invited to the meeting.

It is really appreciated that my friend, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Mr. Asad Umar will attend the meeting on Pakistan's behalf. I firmly believe that the successful convening of the meeting will further promote international cooperation and the equitable access to vaccines around the world, and bring countries to work together to prevail over the pandemic.

As long as the international community stand together and help each other in times of difficulty, advance anti-pandemic cooperation unswervingly, and build a community of health for all at all our efforts, we will have more confidence to win a complete victory over the pandemic at an early date, and usher in a better future for the mankind!





## ***In implementation of the directives of His Highness, the Amir of the country, Qatar Fund for Development sends medical aid to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to combat the outbreak of the Corona pandemic***

In implementation of the directives of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of the state of Qatar.

A shipment of medical Aids was sent by Qatar Fund for Development On Wednesday, 18th August 2021, to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Carrying all kinds of health supplies, including 50 oxygen machines and medicines to tackle the Corona pandemic, arrived in coordination with the Embassy of the State of Qatar in Islamabad, Where the shipments were received at Islamabad Airport by officials from the medical wing of the Pakistani army.

The shipment will be delivered in stages, as this is the first batch and there will be more shipments of medical aid.

His Excellency Mr. Khalifa Al-Kuwari, Director General of Qatar Fund for Development, stated, "This medical aid of great importance comes to complement the great efforts made by the State of Qatar to combat the aftermaths of the outbreak of the Corona pandemic, which had a great impact on the world and created many difficulties at all levels, and out of the joint international responsibility.

The State of Qatar stands at the fore in contributing to the process of confronting this pandemic that threatens everyone. The State of Qatar, under its wise leadership, did not hesitate to assist brotherly and friendly countries to contribute in limiting and preventing the spread of the Pandemic. "

On this occasion, HE the Ambassador of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Saud bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani, stressed that while the State of Qatar has worked to fortify the internal situation and protect it from the pandemic and its various repercussions, it has not forgotten its humanitarian duty towards friendly countries as well, and the State of Qatar

**This medical aid provided by the State of Qatar to brotherly and friendly countries comes within the framework of the efforts made to combat the outbreak of the corona epidemic, which represents a common threat facing the whole world and based on the common international responsibility**

has affirmed its standing and solidarity with other countries.

The friendly country during the Covid-19 crisis and harnessed all efforts to provide support and assistance to it, noting that since

the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis, the State of Qatar has provided urgent medical assistance to about 80 countries in addition to various international organizations.

HE praised the distinguished bilateral relations between the two countries, and stressed that the State of Qatar attaches great importance to its relations with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, adding that this assistance confirms the strength of relations between the two countries and reflects the State of Qatar's standing and solidarity with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the government and people, expressing his hope that this assistance will contribute to Strengthening the efforts of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in protecting the Pakistani people from the epidemic.

The shipment was received at Islamabad Airport by the officials of Health Directorate of the Pakistan Army.

This aid is considered an implementation of the directives of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of the state of Qatar, which is delivered though several stages, as this is the first batch and there will be more shipments of medical aid.

This medical aid provided by the State of Qatar to brotherly and friendly countries comes within the framework of the efforts made to combat the outbreak of the corona epidemic, which represents a common threat facing the whole world and based on the common international responsibility.



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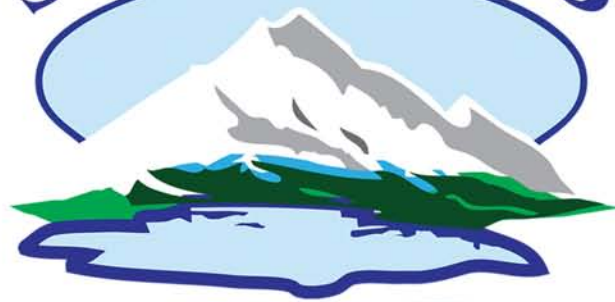
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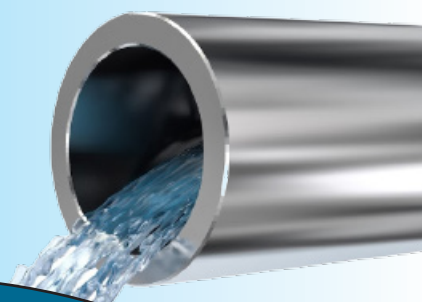
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# To an unprecedented year.








Hyundai would like to end the unprecedented year that has been 2020 with a message of thanks. Thank you Pakistan for showing us ever growing love and support since we arrived. We thank the Pakistani people for making the launch of the TUCSON highly successful. Thank you for your spirit, for not backing down in the face of the pandemic's many challenges and allowing us to host the first ever digital launch of a new car in Pakistan.

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