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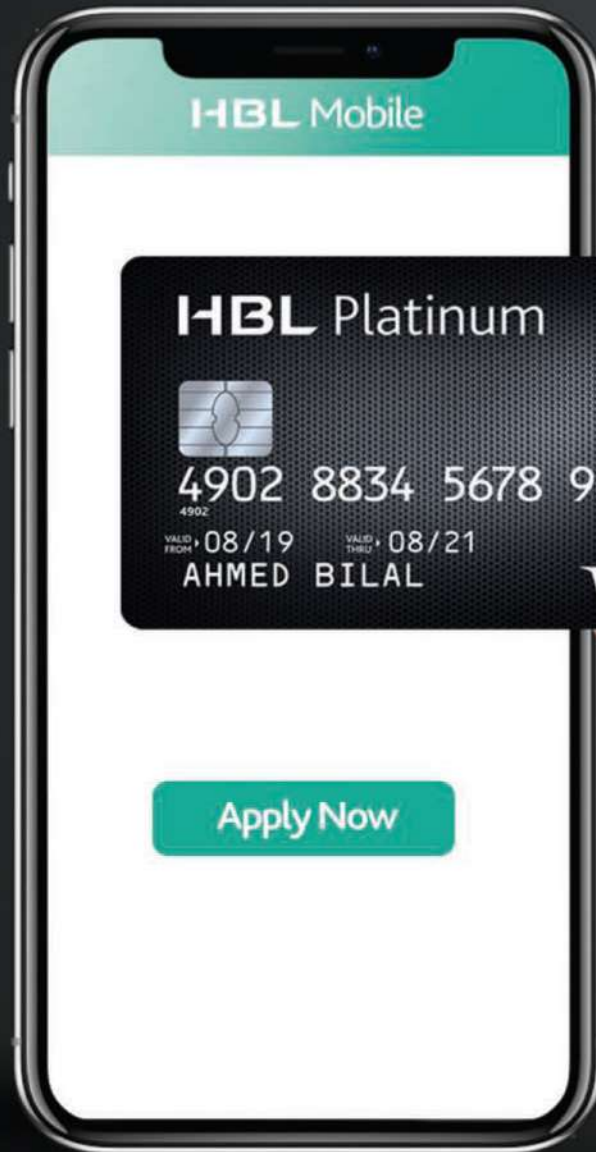


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to new heights

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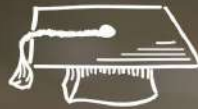


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



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10 Pakistan, Tajikistan vow to strengthen the cooperation to new heights

The Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Imran Khan paid an official visit to the Republic of Tajikistan on 16-17 September 2021 on the invitation of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Emomali Rahmon. He was received by Tajik Prime Minister Kokhir Rasulzoda at the airport. Prime Minister H.E. Imran Khan also participated in the Jubilee Summit of the Council of Heads of State of Shanghai Cooperation Organization besides his official visit.

28 Business environment in Pakistan is much better now: ambassador

Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese said that the business environment in Pakistan is much better now and that his country wants to further strengthen bilateral trade and economic relations with Pakistan to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. He said that the 21st century is the century of Asia and Italy wants to develop closer cooperation with Pakistan and help it to improve the competitiveness of its economy.

32 The first Pakistan-China technical vocational institute was inaugurated in Gwadar

The first Pakistan-China technical vocational institute was launched under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Gwadar. As an important project for public well-being under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Gwadar Technical and Vocational Institute was constructed by the China Harbor Engineering Company, to meet the urgent need of the locals in Gwadar and promote the sustainable development of the area.

38 Korea national foundation day and armed forces day celebrated in Islamabad

Thanked the Chief Guest Minister of Education and Professional Training, and ministers, Senators, Members of Parliament, Ambassadors, High Commissioners and distinguished guests. First of all, let me express my sincere gratitude to all the excellencies and distinguished guests here for the 4353rd National Day and the 73rd Armed Forces day of the Republic of Korea.

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 Editor/Publisher: Mian Fazal Elahi
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 Editor in Chief UK/EU Edition: Mian Assadullah
 Justin Plaza 3, 341London Road, Mit
 cham, Surrey-CR4 4BE
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 Web Developer: Muhammad Wajahat
 Chief Photographer: Ramzan Mughal

Copenhagen Denmark: Fazal Hussain 004540521485
 Email: fazal1955@hotmail.com
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 Sydney Australia: Bureau Chief Jeddah KSA
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 Vehari
 Mr. Muhammad Muzzammilullah Maan
 Brussels (Belgium)

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

Publisher

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

Karachi Office: Mobile: +92-331-5155515

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Our previous Issues



Mian Fazal Elahi

Prime Minister Imran Khan speaking at the 20th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of State meeting, held in the Tajik capital, said that addressing the threats to international and regional peace and security was vital for the regional organisation. He was optimistic that the web of rail, road, sea and air links across the SCO region would usher in a new era of enhanced trade, energy flows, and people-to-people exchanges, and added that this connectivity would contribute significantly to progress and prosperity in the region and beyond. The Prime Minister Imran termed the 20th anniversary of SCO an important juncture to reflect on its journey so far. In June 2017, Pakistan gained the permanent membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in its 16th Heads of State Summit in Astana. The SCO is the successor to the Shanghai Five, a mutual security agreement formed in 1996 between China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan. On 15 June 2001, the leaders of these nations and Uzbekistan met in Shanghai to announce a new organisation with deeper political and economic cooperation; the SCO Charter was signed on 7 July 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003. Rapid changes are seeing in the global economic, social and diplomatic landscape. The changing power structure is led by the changing economic landscape and powerhouses. China has appeared as a powerful economic player and has taken lead in refining the global economic and governance system. It is not a surprise as emerging powers always steer change in the existing system. However, the approach taken by China is different from others. It is trying to do so by building partnerships and by not creating fuss. It is building platforms, which should be beneficial for all the participants and contributors, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is one such platform. Being a member of SCO, Pakistan has an excellent opportunity to revive its economy with the help of the regional bloc, its platforms and member states. Central Asia provides an opportunity for two-way trade. Pakistan has the potential to export finished products and some agricultural commodities. On the other hand, it can benefit from energy and mineral resources of Central Asia.

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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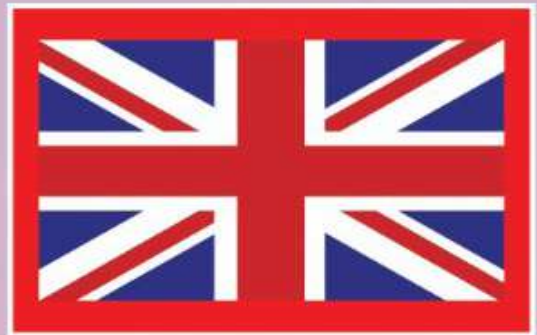
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New Envoys presented their credentials to President Dr. Arif Alvi

By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan attaches great importance to the promotion of trade, business and commercial co-operation with friendly countries under its new “geo-economics” policy.

He added that Pakistan wanted to promote connectivity, and regional peace and development by further expanding bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, economy, culture and tourism.

The President made these remarks while talking to the Ambassadors-designates of Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Azerbaijan, Kingdom of Thailand, and the High Commissioner-designate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who made separate calls on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Earlier, the Amba-

sador-designate of Kyrgyzstan, Mr Totuiae, Ulanbek Asankulovich, Ambassador-designate of Kazakhstan, Mr Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador-designate of Azerbaijan, Mr Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador-designate of Thailand, Mr Chakkrid Kraichaiwong, and High Commissioner-designate of Nigeria, Mr Abioye Mohammed Bello presented their credentials to President Dr Arif Alvi at a ceremony.

Congratulating the newly-appointed envoys, the President expressed the hope that they would play their role in further strengthening political, economic and cultural relations with Pakistan.

While talking to the envoys separately, President Dr Arif Alvi said that Pakistan’s unique geo-economic location offered tremendous opportunities

for transport, trade, transit trade and ICT connectivity to the entire region.

He observed that greater regional integration would help drive growth and socio-economic development in the entire region.

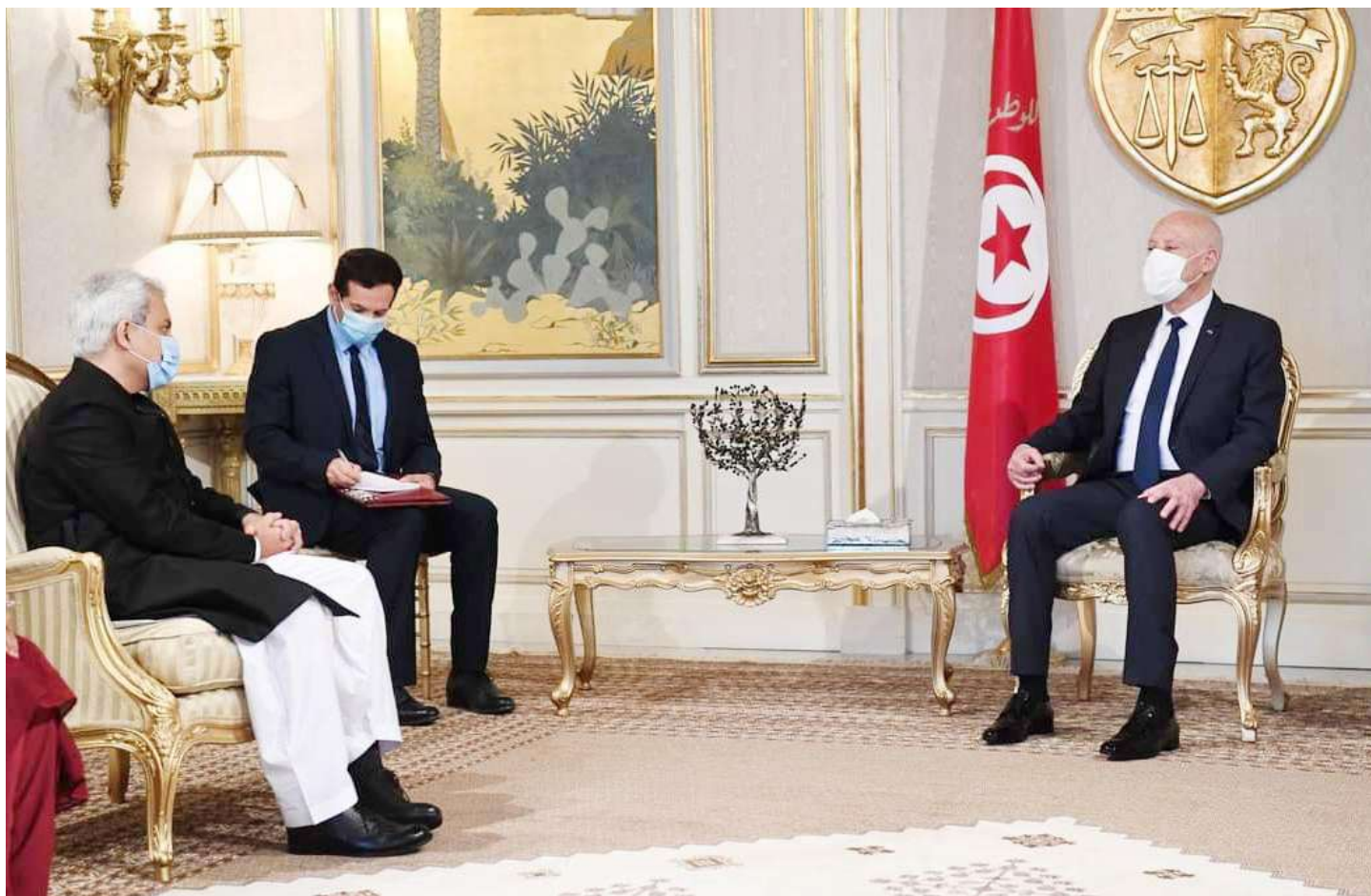
He also underscored the need to hold regular meetings of institutional mechanisms such as the Bilateral Political Consultations, Joint Ministerial Commissions, and Inter-Governmental Commissions, to further solidify bilateral relations with friendly countries.

The President expressed satisfaction over the existing level of bilateral cooperation and wished the envoys success for their assignments in Islamabad.



Pakistani Envoy presented his credentials to Tunisian President

Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Tahir Hussain Andrabi presented his credentials to Tunisian President H.E. Kais Saied. The official ceremony organized at Carthage presidential palace in the attendance of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Othman Jerandi. Ambassador Tahir Hussain Andrabi Conveyed greetings of President of Pakistan H.E. Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan. They discussed promoting Pakistan and Tunisia bilateral cooperation thru multiple & multi sectoral initiatives.





Pakistan, Tajikistan vow to strengthen the cooperation to new heights

The two sides signed MoUs/Agreement in multiple fields, which will provide a favourable legal framework for the promotion of multifaceted cooperation between the two friendly countries.

By Mian Fazal Elahi

The Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Imran Khan paid an official visit to the Republic of Tajikistan on 16-17 September 2021 on the invitation of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Emomali Rahmon. He was received by Tajik Prime Minister Kokhir Rasulzoda at the airport. Prime Minister H.E. Imran Khan also participated in the Jubilee Summit of the Council of Heads of State of Shanghai Cooperation Organization besides his official visit.

The premier conducted bilateral meetings, along with a high-level ministerial delegation that accompanied him, with other leaders on the sidelines of the SCO Summit during his two-day visit.

The two leaders had wide-ranging deliberations covering all aspects of the mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation, and regional and international issues of common interest during the tete-a-tete and delegation-level talks.

Prime Minister Imran Khan commended President Emomali Rahmon for hosting the Jubilee Summit of the Council of Heads of State of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and other events in Dushanbe during the SCO Chairmanship of Republic of Tajikistan.

Both leaders agreed to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Tajikistan in 2022 in a befitting manner.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction over the growing mutually beneficial political, trade, economic, scientific, technical, and cultural



cooperation between the two countries. They underscored the importance of following Joint Statement/Declarations signed earlier: Joint Statement “Towards Strategic Partnership for Regional Solidarity” between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan signed on 5 July 2017; the Joint Declaration “Strengthening the Pathway to Strategic Partnership for Regional Solidarity” between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan signed on 19 June 2018; and the Joint Declaration on “Next Steps to Build Strategic Partnership for Regional Solidarity and Integration” of 2 June 2021.

The two leaders, building on the previous understandings and given the strong desire of the two countries to further promote mutual cooperation in diverse areas, decided to upgrade the bilateral relations to the level of a long-term strategic partnership. They underscored that the strategic partnership aimed at ensuring the two countries’ security, mutual trust, countering the current global threats and challenges, enhancing regional stability, and expanding political, economic and humanitarian cooperation, would create a sustainable foundation for development of long-term relations between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

In this regard, the two leaders further agreed to work towards signing of a Strategic Partnership Agreement.

The leaders accorded particular focus on further strengthening of reliable and constructive high-level contacts, inter-parliamentary ties, defence and security relations between the two countries.

The two leaders underscored the importance of expansion of mutually beneficial economic and trade cooperation, improvement of investment and trade environment between the two countries and mobilization of direct investments, creation of joint ventures, increasing the volume of bilateral trade and



expansion of the list of commodities. In this context, they highlighted the need to bolster the activities of the Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation and decided to hold its next meeting in Islamabad in December 2021.

The two leaders agreed to regularly convene the meetings and follow up to the decisions of the permanent economic mechanisms for mutually beneficial cooperation, including the Joint Business Council of Tajikistan and Pakistan, and Joint Working Groups in multiple areas, in particular the Joint Working Group on Oil and Gas, Joint Working Group on Energy and Infrastructure, Joint Working Group on Education, Science and Technology and Joint Working Group on Tourism at the earliest.

The two leaders appreciated the fourth meeting of the Joint Business Council held on September 16, 2021 in Dushanbe. They noted with satisfaction the organization of an exhibition of the Pakistani goods in Tajikistan and the regular holding of “Made in Pakistan” exhibition in Dushanbe.

In the energy sector, the two leaders noted the need to establish mutually beneficial cooperation in the implementation of energy projects, including the construction of hydropower plants and transmission lines with mutual investment. They also reiterated their resolve for timely completion of the important “CASA-1000” power transmission project.

The parties expressed their readiness to expand cooperation in transport. They agreed to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation in transport infrastructure corridors for bilateral and transit trade between the two countries and creation of favorable conditions for the transportation of goods through the territory of respective countries. They particularly noted the importance of construction of railways and highways from Tajikistan to Karachi and Gwadar seaports of Pakistan and the need for integration of Tajikistan with regional transport projects.

The leaders stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation in industry. To this end, a proposal was made to establish Pakistani companies in the free economic zones of Tajikistan for the final processing of agricultural products, including cotton.

The two leaders attached particular attention to strengthening the scientific, technological, and cultural cooperation. The parties noted the need to further expand cooperation in health, pharmaceutical, medical, natural disaster management and emergency sectors, including through joint ventures in Tajikistan and Pakistan.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction with the steady development of cooperation



between Tajikistan and Pakistan in the fields of security and defense, and noted the importance of strengthening ties between the relevant authorities of the two countries. The Tajikistan side also recognized the importance of Pakistan's assistance in strengthening its military capacity.

The parties stressed the need for further expansion of cooperation in countering international terrorism, extremism, illegal migration, drug and psychotropic substance trafficking, transnational organized crime and other challenges at bilateral level as well as within the international and regional organizations.

The leaders also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest and agreed to work together to strengthen peace, stability and security in the region, particularly in Afghanistan. In this context, the Parties stressed that the importance of stability and socio-economic revival of Afghanistan is crucial for peace and security in the region. They reaffirmed the importance of implementation of regional and international infrastructure projects that would contribute to the sustainable development of the country.

The Prime Minister appreciated the valuable efforts of the Republic of Tajikistan for arranging the Ministerial Meeting of the "Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process" in Dushanbe on 29-30 March 2021 and holding the meeting of the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group at Ministerial level

on July 14, 2021.

The Republic of Tajikistan underscored the constructive role of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in countering international terrorism in the region, and efforts to support peace and stability in Afghanistan. The Tajik side appreciated Pakistan's initiative of convening virtual Ministerial Conference of six Neighbouring Countries of Afghanistan on September 8, 2021.

The two leaders reaffirmed their determination to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation at the global level and in the framework of the regional organizations, including the UN, OIC, SCO and ECO on all issues of mutual concern, including Islamophobia, interfaith harmony, sustainable development and climate change.

The two sides also welcomed and supported each other's candidacy to the non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council for the term 2025-2026 for Pakistan and 2028-2029 for Tajikistan.

The Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan supported the initiative of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan to proclaim the year of 2025 as the International Year of Glacier Preservation and welcomed the adoption of the UN General Assembly Resolution entitled "United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028".

The two sides signed MoUs/Agreement in multiple fields, which will provide a favorable legal framework for the promotion of multifaceted cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Pakistan and Tajikistan agreed to work together to strengthen peace, stability and security in the region, particularly in Afghanistan

The leaders recognized that the outcomes and agreements reached during the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan constitute a step forward in augmenting ties and in the development of a long-term strategic partnership between the two countries. They commended the strong trust existing between the two countries and reaffirmed that the strategic partnership between Tajikistan and Pakistan contributed towards promoting stability and security in the region.

The Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Imran Khan thanked the President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Emomali Rahmon and the people of Tajikistan for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended to him and his delegation during the official visit.





PM urges int'l community to stand in solidarity with Afghan people

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Italy's Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. Views were exchanged on the latest developments in Afghanistan as well as bilateral relations. The Prime Minister said that Pakistan had suffered enormously due to protracted conflict and instability in Afghanistan. As such, a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan was in the best interest of Pakistan as well as regional countries. The Prime Minister noted that, at this critical juncture, it was vital to stabilize the security situation in Afghanistan, take steps to consolidate peace, and preclude any mass exodus of refugees. In this context, preventing humanitarian crisis and stabilizing the economy were the most urgent priorities.

The Prime Minister stressed that the international community must stand in solidarity with the Afghan people, undertake positive engagement, and create incentives for ensuring sustainable peace, stability and economic development in Afghanistan. In the bilateral context, the Prime Minister stated that Italy was a vital partner for Pakistan and stressed the importance of enhanced collaboration in diverse areas, including trade and investments, defence, and people-to-people contacts.

The Prime Minister also highlighted that the large Pakistani diaspora in Italy constituted a strong bridge between the two countries. Foreign Minister Luigi Di Mario thanked Pakistan for the facilitation of its evacuation operations. He underscored Italy's commitment to enhance bilateral cooperation in diverse fields. The Italian Foreign Minister also conveyed invitation to the Prime Minister to visit



Italy. The Prime Minister extended invitation for Prime Minister Mario Draghi to visit Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi held talks with Foreign Minister of Italy Luigi Di Maio. The talks covered the latest developments in Afghanistan and bilateral relations. Foreign Minister Qureshi shared Pakistan's perspective on the evolving situation in Afghanistan. Stressing the importance of a peaceful and stable Afghanistan for Pakistan and the region, the Foreign Minister highlighted Pakistan's efforts for regional peace, security and stability. The Foreign Minister underlined that it was vital to support the Afghan people at this critical juncture.

He emphasized the importance of stabilizing the security situation in Afghanistan, preserving the peace, and preventing any mass exodus of Afghans as refugees. Foreign Minister Qureshi underscored the need for the international community to enhance engagement with Afghanistan with positive messaging and through constructive actions. In particular, he emphasized the imperatives of addressing the urgent humanitarian needs and ensuring economic stability of Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister also apprised the visiting Foreign Minister of his interactions with the leadership of the immediate neighbouring states of Afghanistan and efforts to evolve a coordinated approach. Noting Pakistan's facilitation of evacuation operations, the Foreign Minister reiterated support for Italy's endeavours. In the bilateral context, Foreign Minister Qureshi underlined the importance Pakistan attached to its relationship with Italy and affirmed the desire to further expand mutual cooperation in all fields. The Foreign Minister also expressed satisfaction at close cooperation between the two countries in the multilateral fora, including the EU and the UN.

The Foreign Minister invited the Italian Foreign Minister to visit Pakistan for the Second Ministerial Review under the Strategic Engagement Plan. Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio thanked Pakistan for supporting Italy's evacuation efforts and also noted the important role of Pakistan in support of efforts for regional peace and stability. He also expressed Italy's resolve to strengthen bilateral cooperation in diverse sectors including trade, investments, energy, higher education and people-to-people exchanges. Italy is home to one of the largest Pakistani diasporas in Europe. The two countries closely collaborate bilaterally, in the context of EU, and at the United Nations, especially on the issue of UN Security Council reforms. The Italian foreign minister appreciated Pakistan's role in the Afghan situation including



successful evacuation operations and efforts for regional stability, a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

The Italian FM, who is on an official visit to Pakistan, expressed these remarks during a meeting with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Monday. During the meeting, according to the ISPR,

matters of mutual interest, regional security, the current situation in Afghanistan and collaboration in humanitarian assistance for the war-torn country were discussed.

"Pakistan values its relations with Italy and we earnestly look forward to enhance mutually beneficial multi-domain relations based on common interest," General Qamar was quoted as saying by the ISPR.



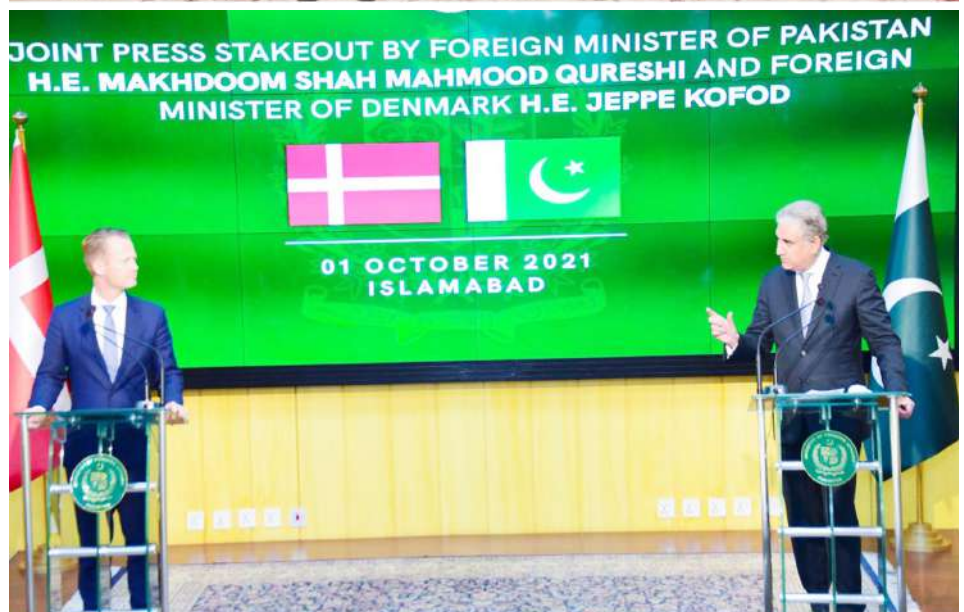
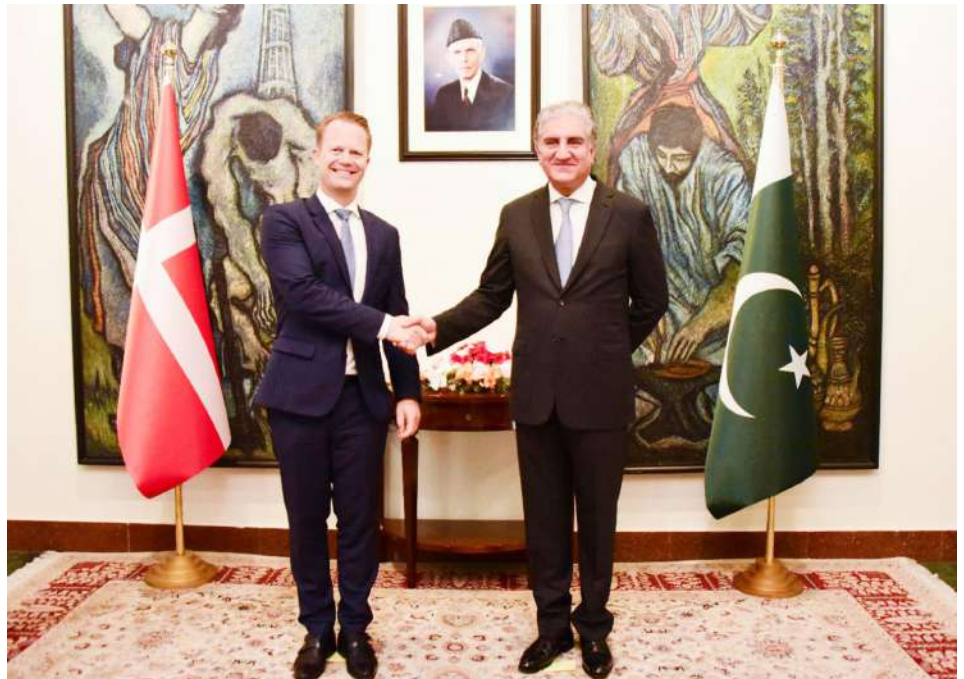
Danish Foreign Minister appreciated PM Imran Khan's 10 billion tree initiative

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Danish Foreign Minister Jeppe Kofod called on Prime Minister Imran Khan in Islamabad. The Prime Minister recalled his earlier conversation with Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen and said that they had a fruitful exchange of views on the situation in Afghanistan as well as bilateral relations. Prime Minister Imran Khan stated that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan was vitally important for Pakistan and the region. He stressed the need for international community's constructive engagement to prevent humanitarian crisis and economic collapse in Afghanistan and to help build durable peace and stability in the country. The Prime Minister underlined that an inclusive political structure was important for stability of Afghanistan.

The Prime Minister stressed that positive messages and constructive measures by the international community would help prevent instability and mass exodus of refugees. Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed satisfaction at the growing cooperation between the two countries. He added that Pakistan was committed to further diversify bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade and investment and renewable energy besides increasing people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

There was detailed exchange of views on Climate Change and the need for concerted efforts by the international community to mitigate its adverse effects. The Danish Foreign Minister appreciated Prime Minister's 10 billion tree initiative and a range of measures taken by Pakistan towards climate resilient development. The Prime Minister also underscored the significance of mobilizing scaled up and predictable international climate finance to support climate actions in the developing



countries. The Danish Foreign Minister conveyed gratitude of Danish Government for Pakistan's support and facilitation for evacuation of their nationals and others from Afghanistan. Foreign Minister Kofod also reaffirmed Denmark's commitment to further strengthen bilateral ties and briefed on cooperation between the two countries, including through the proposed Green Partnership Agreement.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi held wide-ranging talks with Foreign Minister of Denmark, Jeppe Kofod. Recalling their earlier telephone conversations, the two Foreign Ministers had extensive exchange of views on the latest developments in Afghanistan as well as on bilateral cooperation. The Foreign Minister noted that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan was in Pakistan's best interest as well as the region.

The Foreign Minister hoped that the new setup in Afghanistan would make concerted efforts for peace and stability as well as work towards the betterment of all Afghan people. The Foreign Minister emphasized the importance of international community to remain engaged with Afghanistan and support the Afghan people. There was an urgent need to provide assistance to prevent a humanitarian crisis and to take steps to ensure economic stability. Foreign Minister Qureshi also briefed the Danish Foreign Minister on his interaction with his counterparts from the European countries and said that the views on both sides were largely convergent.

The Foreign Minister apprised the Danish Foreign Minister of his regional outreach on the situation in Afghanistan and to evolve a coordinated approach. In the context of bilateral relations, Foreign Minister Qureshi reaffirmed the resolve to further expand the growing cooperation, particularly in the fields of trade and investment and renewable energy.

Foreign Minister Qureshi appreciated the ongoing energy cooperation with Denmark. Both Foreign Ministers looked forward to the early conclusion of the Green Partnership Framework Agreement between Denmark and Pakistan. The Foreign Minister also highlighted



the importance of high-level exchanges, parliamentary visits and enhanced people-to-people contacts for furthering bilateral ties.

The Foreign Minister said that Pakistan had facilitated the transit of more than 14,000 people from over 30 countries and international organizations. Foreign Minister

Kofod extended an invitation to the Foreign Minister to undertake a visit to Denmark, which the Foreign Minister accepted. Pakistan and Denmark enjoy longstanding friendly relations and diverse bilateral cooperation. A sizeable Pakistani origin community acts as a bridge between the two countries.





PM Imran Khan lauded the positive role of Pakistani diaspora in Spain

Foreign Minister of Spain, Jose Manuel Albares Bueno, called on Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The Prime Minister underlined the importance of a secure, stable and peaceful Afghanistan for Pakistan and the region. The Prime Minister added that the changed reality in Afghanistan required a change in the world community's outlook as well. He stressed that the well-being of the Afghan people had to be the utmost priority.

The Prime Minister added that urgent measures were required to address the humanitarian needs of the Afghan people and to ensure economic stability of the country.

The Prime Minister called for positive engagement of the international community to ensure the security situation in Afghanistan was stabilized, peace was preserved, and any mass exodus was precluded.

Foreign Minister Albares lauded Pakistan's efforts to facilitate the evacuation of nationals and personnel of diplomatic missions and international organizations. The Prime Minister assured Pakistan's continued support in this regard.

On the bilateral plane, the Prime Minister hoped that Pakistan-Spain relations would continue to be strengthened in all fields. The Prime Minister also lauded the positive role of Pakistani diaspora in Spain.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Spain and both sides would commemorate this milestone through spe-



cific events.

Foreign Minister of Spain Jose Manuel Albares on said his government would closely work with Pakistan on efforts towards peace in Afghanistan and for the region's future.

"We want to work very closely with Pakistan with a promise for the betterment of the region's future," the Spanish foreign minister said in a joint press conference with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

The foreign minister of Spain arrived here this morning to exchange views with the leadership on the latest developments in Afghanistan and ways to strengthen bilateral relations.

The two foreign ministers led the delegation-level talks focusing on regional situation and diverse areas of cooperation between their countries.

Foreign Minister Albares said Spain acknowledged the leverage of Pakistan on Afghanistan and therefore, desired to maintain a close collaboration with it.

"We both want the same thing – peace and stability in Afghanistan," he said.

The Spanish FM said his government would ensure the humanitarian assistance to reach the people of Afghanistan, adding that for this, "no condition would be made".

"The aim of the Spain government is to ensure that the population of Afghanistan gets humanitarian assistance immediately," he said.

He expressed hope that there would not be a spillover crisis in the region.

Foreign Minister Qureshi said as part of Pakistan's efforts to improve situation in Afghanistan, he held 24 interactions with his counterparts during last three weeks and visited six regional countries since August 16.

Also, Prime Minister Imran Khan held interaction with 13 global leaders on issue of Afghanistan.

He said Pakistan wanted the international community to remain engaged to achieve the common objectives of peace, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan.

He recalled that the opportunity for reconciliation in Doha was disrupted by spoilers, that did not allow the talks to reach a conclusion. "Had there been a progress on it, the thing would have been calmer," he said.

Qureshi stressed that the world must recognize the "new reality" in Afghanistan with the need for immediate focus on humanitarian crisis.

"The best way forward is the international engagement as opposed to isolation, which would not be helpful for Afghanistan and the region," he said.

He mentioned that Pakistani aircraft had transported food and medicine to the people of Afghanistan, with more to continue in future.



FM Qureshi said the economic collapse of Afghanistan would not suit the region and the Afghans.

"The availability of resources is important to promote economic activity and freeing of Afghan funds will not be helpful," he said.

The two foreign ministers expressed satisfaction over celebrating the 70 years of diplomatic relations, marked by strong partnership in diverse areas.

Foreign Minister Qureshi said Pakistan enjoys excellent bilateral relations with Spain, "reflecting the desire of both sides to further the cooperation in matters of peace and security".

For Spain being Pakistan's third largest trading partner in Europe, he expressed gratitude for its support to Pakistan on the GSP plus status and suggested early convening of the fifth round of bilateral consultation mechanism.

He urged the government of Spain to revise travel advisory for Pakistan in view of the changed situation of coronavirus pandemic. The Spanish FM termed Pakistan a "very important partner" for Spain and the European Union.

He said over 100,000 Pakistanis living in Spain were positively contributing to the country's economy, adding that "we are very happy to have them here".



PM Imran Khan shared concerns on the retention of Pakistan on the red list

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab called on Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Views were exchanged on the latest developments in Afghanistan as well as bilateral matters and regional and international issues. Recalling his telephonic conversation with Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the Prime Minister shared Pakistan's perspective on the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

The Prime Minister underlined the importance of a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan for Pakistan and regional stability.

The Prime Minister noted that it was critical to stabilize the security situation in Afghanistan, take steps to consolidate peace, and preclude any mass exodus. In this context, preventing humanitarian crisis and stabilizing the economy were the urgent needs.

The Prime Minister stressed that the international community should stand in solidarity with the Afghan people, undertake positive engagement, and create incentives for ensuring a peaceful, stable and inclusive polity.

The Prime Minister also cautioned against the role of "spoilers", both inside and outside Afghanistan, which could destabilize the situation.

The Prime Minister further sensitized the UK side on the gross human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), including the inhuman snatching away of the mortal remains of Syed Ali Shah Geelani, the senior Kashmiri leader.

On the bilateral plane, the Prime Minister inter alia noted the long-standing relationship and strong people-to-people ties between the two countries.

The Prime Minister shared concerns on the retention of Pakistan on the Red List, causing inconvenience to dual nationals.

Matters relating to climate change, peace and stability in South Asia, and global geopolitical situation were also discussed.





Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani called on Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan in Islamabad

P rime Minister Imran Khan called upon the international community to stand in solidarity with the Afghan people, engage positively, and create incentives to ensure sustainable peace, stability and economic development in Afghanistan.

He said Pakistan had and would continue to play its role for the economic uplift, humanitarian relief and assistance to Afghanistan. The prime minister was talking to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, who called on him here. During the meeting, views were exchanged on the developments in Afghanistan and diversifying Pakistan-Qatar relations. The prime minister conveyed warm regards to Amir of Qatar, a press release issued by the Prime Minister Media Wing here said.

He emphasized that it was vital to stabilize the security situation, prevent a humanitarian crisis, and stabilize the economy in Afghanistan. Highlighting that Pakistan had suffered enormously due to protracted conflict in Afghanistan, he underscored the importance of a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan for Pakistan and the region.

The prime minister lauded Qatar's role in support of the Afghan peace process. In the bilateral context, he reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to strengthen mutually beneficial ties

with Qatar.

The prime minister stressed the importance of enhanced collaboration in diverse areas, including trade and investment, energy, and enhancing people-to-people linkages.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Qatar acknowledged Pakistan's important role as well as efforts for regional peace and stability. He also underscored Qatar's commitment to maintain close contact with Pakistan on bilateral and regional matters.

Foreign Minister Qureshi holds talks with the Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar. Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi welcomed the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today and held delegation level talks that covered the latest developments in Afghanistan and bilateral relations.

Foreign Minister Qureshi stressed that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan was vital for Pakistan and regional peace and security. He outlined Pakistan's persistent efforts to promote this objective. The Foreign Minister highlighted Pakistan's assistance to the international community on account of evacuations in the wake of recent developments in Afghanistan. Foreign Minister Qureshi also apprised of Pakistan's extensive diplomatic outreach, including his inter-

action with more than 20 Foreign Ministers and the Prime Minister's consultations with a large number of world leaders. The Foreign Minister also appreciated Qatar's efforts in support of Afghan peace process.

Foreign Minister Qureshi underscored the vital importance of supporting the Afghan people, at this critical juncture, to avert humanitarian and economic crises. He emphasized the importance of stabilizing the security situation in Afghanistan, preserving the peace, and precluding any mass exodus.

Foreign Minister Qureshi urged the international community to enhance its positive engagement with Afghanistan through constructive actions. Re-emphasizing the imperatives of addressing the urgent humanitarian needs and ensuring economic stability of Afghanistan, he outlined Pakistan's continued efforts and reaffirmed the commitment to facilitate international efforts in this regard.

Discussing bilateral relations, Foreign Minister Qureshi reaffirmed Pakistan's fraternal ties with Qatar, based on shared faith, values and mutual respect. He expressed the desire to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in diverse fields. The Foreign Minister appreciated close collaboration between the two countries in the multilateral fora, including the OIC and the UN.

Foreign Minister Qureshi and the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani agreed to remain in close contact.

FM Qureshi briefed the UN Secretary General on the grave situation in Indian Illegally Occupied J&K



By Mian Fazal Elahi

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met UN Secretary General António Guterres at the UN Headquarters in New York.

The Foreign Minister briefed the UN Secretary General on the grave situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and presented a Dossier containing details of the gross, systematic and widespread human rights violations; war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocidal acts being perpetrated by Indian occupation forces; and illegal attempts to change the demographic structure of IIOJK in violation of UN Security Council resolutions and international law.

With regard to the situation in Afghanistan, Foreign Minister Qureshi urged positive engagement and requisite action by the international community to provide humanitarian assistance and financial support to Afghan people in order to promote peace and stabil-

ity in the country.

The Foreign Minister welcomed the High-Level Ministerial meeting on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan convened by the UN

Pakistan presented a Dossier containing details of the gross, systematic and widespread human rights violations; war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocidal acts being perpetrated by Indian occupation forces; and illegal attempts to change the demographic structure of IIOJK in violation of UN Security Council resolutions and international law.

Secretary General on 13 September 2021. He highlighted Pakistan's role in the evacua-

tion and relocation of UN and international staff, as well as establishment of a humanitarian corridor in support of the UN efforts for the delivery of relief goods through air and land routes to Afghanistan.

Foreign Minister Qureshi and Secretary General Guterres were of the view that urgent and unconditional humanitarian assistance as well as financial support should be provided to the Afghan people to prevent a humanitarian disaster or an economic collapse. The Foreign Minister suggested the implementation of a roadmap to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan.

The Foreign Minister underscored the need for stemming the rising tide of intolerance, discrimination, violence and Islamophobia. He also called for ending vaccine inequity and ensuring adequate financing for developing countries to enable them to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the accompanying economic crisis, and undertake climate-related actions.



Foreign Minister Pakistan met with Foreign Minister Netherlands

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi had wide-ranging talks with the visiting Foreign Minister of The Netherlands Ms. Sigrid Kaag. The talks covered the latest developments in Afghanistan and bilateral relations.

Underlining the significance of the visit, Foreign Minister Qureshi noted with satisfaction the strong momentum in Pakistan-Netherlands relations. Recalling their telephonic conversation of 21 August and the telephone call between Prime Ministers Imran Khan and Mark Rutte, Foreign Minister Qureshi shared Pakistan's perspective on the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

Stressing the importance of a peaceful and stable Afghanistan for Pakistan and the region, the Foreign Minister highlighted Pakistan's steadfast support for regional peace and security.

The Foreign Minister emphasized the importance of stabilizing the security situation in Afghanistan, preserving the peace, and preventing any mass exodus of refugees. The Foreign Minister underlined the need for the international community to remain engaged with Afghanistan with positive messaging and constructive actions.

In particular, he emphasized addressing the humanitarian needs and ensuring economic stability of Afghanistan. Noting Pakistan's facilitation of evacuation operations, the Foreign Minister assured support to The Netherlands' evacuation endeavours.

The Foreign Minister lauded growing bilateral cooperation in diverse fields. Underlining the high value Pakistan attached to its relations with The Netherlands, the Foreign Minister underscored the resolve to comprehensively upgrade the overall relationship.





Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on

27 September – Commemoration Day in the Republic of Azerbaijan

One year ago today, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan began responsive measures to counter another military provocation from the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia.

These measures were undertaken within the framework of the right to self-defense. They were in full compliance with the international humanitarian law in order to prevent another military aggression from Armenia, and to provide for the security of the civilian population. This marked the beginning of the 44-day Patriotic War.

The Patriotic War put an end to Armenia's nearly 30-year-long policy of aggression. Azerbaijan ensured its territorial integrity, and the fundamental rights of nearly one million displaced Azerbaijanis were restored. Azerbaijan, alone ensured the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions of 1993.

The end of the occupation of the Azerbaijani territories revealed the full extent of the illegal activities undertaken by Armenia for decades. This includes extensive mining; the deliberate

destruction and misappropriation of Azerbaijan's historical, cultural and religious heritage; plundering of natural resources; destruction of infrastructure; and other violations of international law. Evidence of Armenia's numerous war crimes was also revealed. In order to hold Armenia accountable for its breaches of international humanitarian and human rights law, Azerbaijan filed inter-state applications against Armenia in the European Court of Human Rights and International Court of Justice.

The Government of Azerbaijan is carrying out restoration and reconstruction works in the liberated territories and taking consistent steps to ensure the safe and dignified return of nearly one million of displaced Azerbaijanis, as well as the reintegration of these lands. The Government is also taking all necessary measures to ensure lasting peace, security and prosperity in the region in accordance with the Trilateral Statement of November 10, 2020.

The Patriotic War under the leadership of the

Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, President İlham Aliyev that ended with a victory of the brave Azerbaijani Army, opened a new era in the history of the Republic of Azerbaijan, established international justice and changed the realities in the region.

Azerbaijan is ready to normalize relations with Armenia, on the basis of strict observance of the principles of the international law, in particular sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of international borders. We call on Armenia to respect these fundamental principles to ensure peace, security and prosperity in the region and comply with its international obligations.

We commemorate with deep respect and esteem the memory of all our Martyrs who died for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan on September 27, which is celebrated as the Commemoration Day in our country by the order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Qureshi conveyed Pakistan's disappointment at the decision of ECB



By Mian Asadullah

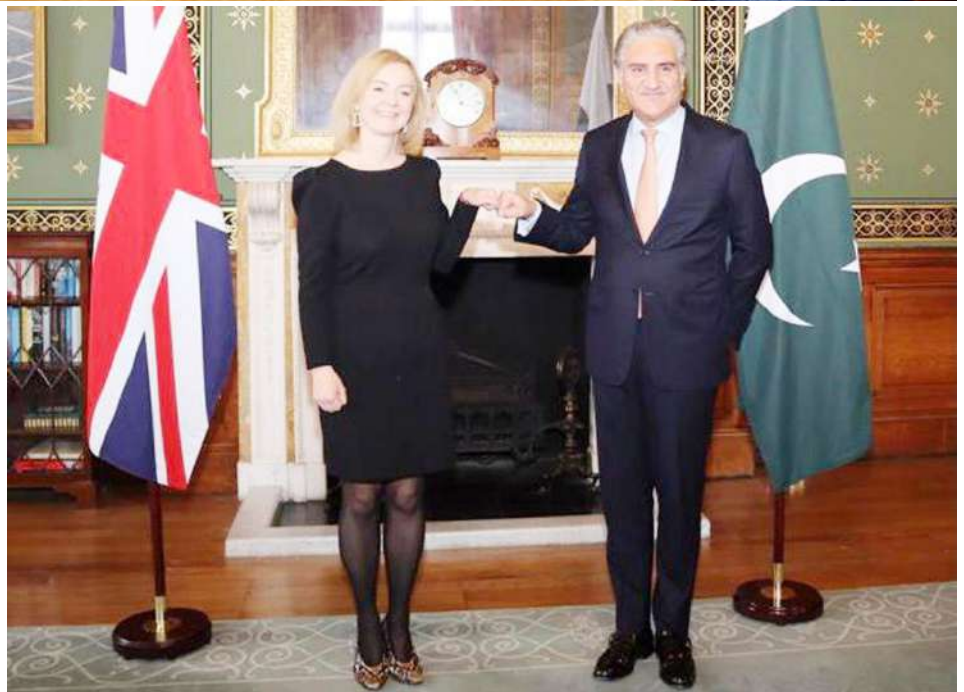
Foreign Minister of Pakistan H.E. Shah Mahmood Qureshi met his British counterpart, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Elizabeth Truss at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

The Foreign Minister felicitated Secretary Truss on her appointment, and said that he looked forward to working closely with her to put concrete shape to the mutual desire of the two sides to take the bilateral relations to the next level. It was agreed to work on roadmaps in multiple areas of mutual interest.

The Foreign Minister apprised his British counterpart of Pakistan's climate vulnerabilities. Despite contributing minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions, Pakistan had been among the most affected and was deemed one of the most climate vulnerable countries. He apprised Secretary Truss of the steps being taken by Pakistan for climate mitigation and adaptation including Prime Minister Imran Khan's ten billion tree tsunami initiative. Lauding Pakistan's climate credentials, Secretary Truss stated that the UK looked forward to Prime Minister Imran Khan's participation in COP-26 being hosted by the UK in Glasgow in November this year.

Foreign Minister conveyed Pakistan's disappointment at the decision of the English Cricket Board to cancel Pakistan tours. This had not only caused financial loss to Pakistan Cricket Board but also deeply disappointed millions of cricket fans.

In addition to detailed discussions on the entire gamut of bilateral relations, the two sides also discussed the regional situation. While lauding the recent debate in the British House of Com-



mons on the human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK), the Foreign Minister apprised his British counterpart of human rights violations being committed by the Indian occupation forces in IIOJK. He hoped that UK would play its due role in this regard. A Dossier documenting evidence of over 3000 war crimes perpetrated by the Indian occupation forces was also shared.

Foreign Minister Qureshi apprised his British counterpart of the situation in Afghanistan, and Pakistan's hopes and expectations from the dispensation in Kabul. Pakistan's immediate concern was to avert a humanitarian catastrophe. Pakistan had set up a humanitarian corridor and

was extending all possible assistance to support the Afghan people. Pakistan had also facilitated evacuation of a large number of foreign nationals and Afghans wishing to leave. Pakistan was willing to act as a hub for humanitarian support to Afghanistan. He urged the international community not to repeat past mistakes, and to engage constructively with the Taliban.

The Foreign Minister extended Secretary Truss an invitation to visit Pakistan in connection with the 5th review session of the Pakistan-UK Enhanced Strategic Dialogue, which she accepted. The meeting marks the second occasion within a month the two sides have met at the Foreign Ministers' level.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Filippo Grandi, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Prime Minister Imran Khan unveils plaque for Inauguration of CPEC 600 KV Matiari-Lahore HVDC Transmission Line at Islamabad.



Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi unveiled the plaque to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Argentina at Argentina Park, Islamabad.



Ambassador of Qatar in Pakistan H.E. Sheikh Saoud Abdul Rahman Al-Thani called on Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi at Ministry of Foreign Affairs Islamabad.



H.E. Yerzhan Kistafin, The Ambassador and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan called on the Federal Minister for Education, Professional training and National Heritage Shafqat Mahmood at Federal Education Ministry Islamabad.



Canadian High Commissioner for Pakistan H.E. Ms. Wendy Christine Gilmour calls on Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed.



H.E. Mr. Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul, Ambassador of Turkey called on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Mr. Shaukat Tarin, at the Finance Division Islamabad.



Speaker National Assembly Asad Qasir reiving Ambassador of Azerbaijan Mr. Khazar Farhadov at Parliament House.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood in a meeting with Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, H.E. Kuninori Matsuda in Islamabad.



Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi held a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar, H.E. Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani in New York on the 76th UNGA session.



H.E. Kuninori Matsuda, Japanese Ambassador calls on Mr. Omar Ayub Khan, Minister for Economic Affairs in his Office, for a farewell meeting in Islamabad.



Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi meeting with H.E. Mr. Alexander Schallenberg, Foreign Minister of Austria on the sidelines of the 76th UNGA session in New York.



Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi held a bilateral meeting with H.E. Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al Saud Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, on the sidelines of the 76th UNGA session in New York.



H.E. Mr. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Republic of Azerbaijan called on Ms. Zobaida Jalal, Federal Minister for Defence Production at Islamabad.



Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi held a bilateral meeting with H.E. Retno Marsudi, Foreign Minister of Indonesia, on the sidelines of the 76th UNGA session in New York.



Secretary board of Investment, Ms. Fareena Mazhar received Bulgarian Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Ms. Irena Gancheva at her office in Islamabad.



Business environment in Pakistan is much better now: ambassador

Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese said that the business environment in Pakistan is much better now and that his country wants to further strengthen bilateral trade and economic relations with Pakistan to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

He said that the 21st century is the century of Asia and Italy wants to develop closer cooperation with Pakistan and help it to improve the competitiveness of its economy.

He expressed these views while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He termed lack of awareness in the Italian business community about Pakistan as a problem for trade promotion, however, he said that efforts are being made to bring the Italian Trade Commissioner from Dubai to Pakistan that would help in addressing the issues and improving bilateral trade between the two countries.

He said that Pakistan should focus on value addition of its products and Italy can help it with its advanced technology in various fields including marble and tourism. He said that the Italian embassy is considering giving long-term business visas to prominent Pakistani businessmen on the recommendation of Pakistani chambers of commerce and industry.

He congratulated President ICCI and his team of the new office bearers and expressed good wishes for them.

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel



Munir, President, ICCI said that the bilateral trade of less than \$2 billion between Pakistan and Italy is not reflective of their true potential and urged that both countries to focus on developing strong business linkages between their private sectors to increase bilateral trade volume. He said that Italy has advanced technology and its technological cooperation with Pakistan in textiles, construction, marble, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, processed food, dairy, livestock and other sectors would enable our country to upgrade its industrial capacity and produce value added products for exports promotion.

He said that Pakistan has huge reserves of marble and granite and Italian technology would help it to produce value-added marble products and boost their exports. He said that Pakistan is

keen to promote its tourism sector and Italy's cooperation in this field would help Pakistan to develop a modern tourism infrastructure.

He said that Pakistan provides easy access to the Middle East, Central Asia and Southeast Asia and by investing in Pakistan, Italian companies can promote exports to many regional markets.

He said that Pakistan is establishing many SEZs under CPEC projects, which offers great incentives to foreign investors and added that Italian companies should explore JVs and investment in these SEZs.

He assured that ICCI would like to work closely with the Italian Embassy to explore new avenues of enhancing bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries.



Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan Visits Peshawar

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Ulanbek Totuiaev, was received by the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Mr. Shah Farman. Both discussed the matters of mutual interests.

On the working trip to Peshawar, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Mr. Ulanbek Totuiaev also met with the President of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mr. Sherbaz Ilyas Ghazanfar Bilour and the President of the Industrialist's Association of Peshawar Mr. Malik Imran Ishaq.

During the meeting, the parties discussed in detail the current state of trade and economic relations between the two countries and the prospects for their development. Ambassador U. Totuiaev informed the Pakistani side about the export and investment potential of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The parties also discussed a wide range of areas in the Chambers of Commerce and Industry and issues of enhancing mutually beneficial partnership between the business circles of the two countries, in particular in the pharmaceutical industry.

At the end of the meeting, the Embassy of Kyrgyzstan invited honorary members of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Peshawar to participate in the second Kyrgyz-Pakistani business forum in Bishkek, scheduled for the current year.





COMMANDER ROYAL SAUDI NAVAL FORCES CALLS-ON CHIEF OF THE NAVAL STAFF

Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces, Vice Admiral Fahad Bin Abdullah Al Ghofaily called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi at Naval Headquarters Islamabad.

Upon arrival at Naval Headquarters, the visiting dignitary was received by Naval Chief. A smart contingent of Pakistan Navy presented Guard of Honour to the Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces. The visiting dignitary was then introduced to Principal Staff Officers at NHQ.

Later, Vice Admiral Fahad Bin Abdullah Al Ghofaily called on Chief of the Naval Staff in his office, where discussions on professional matters and bilateral naval collaboration were held. Various avenues of cooperation between the two Navies were focused. A briefing on role and capabilities of Pakistan Navy was also given to the visiting dignitary.

The Admiral also highlighted Pakistan Navy's commitment and efforts for ensuring maritime security & stability in the region including Paki-

stan Navy's initiative of Regional Maritime Security Patrols (RMSP). Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces appreciated and acknowledged Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitments in support of collaborative maritime security in the region.

Both the dignitaries agreed to further enhance mutual interaction in diverse fields of training, mutual visits and defence collaboration. The visit is expected to strengthen the bilateral collaboration between the two Navies.

JOINT PAKISTAN NAVY ROYAL SAUDI NAVAL FORCES EXERCISE NASEEM AL BAHR - XIII COMMENCES AT KARACHI

Major joint Naval Exercise Naseem Al Bahr XIII between Pakistan Navy and Royal Naval Forces (RSNF) commenced at Karachi. The exercise is aimed to consolidate the existing strong bilateral relations between Pakistan Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Forces. The exercise includes joint conduct of maritime security operations across the traditional and non-traditional warfare domains thus enhancing interoperability between both the navies.

Earlier RSNF flotilla arrived at Karachi port and was warmly welcomed by senior PN and RSNF officers. Besides Naval ships of both Navies, aviation units including PN & RSNF helicopters embarked onboard ships and aircraft of RSAF will also participate in this exercise.

On first day of the exercise, various harbour evolutions were conducted to provide synergy in different naval operations. It also afforded

opportunity for both navies to conduct operational planning for the joint naval operations to be conducted in subsequent sea phase of the exercise.

During the first phase, various training exercises were organized onboard PN & RSNF ships and harbour facilities. The respective force Commanders of PN & RSNF closely monitored and supervised the training activities.



View of Royal Saudi Naval Forces ship HMS AL RIYAF arriving at Karachi Harbour to Participate in PN and RSNF Bilateral Exercise NASEEM AL BAHR XIII



14th Chief of the Naval Staff Amateur Golf Cup held at MGGC

By Mian Fazal Elahi

While expressing his confidence in the capabilities of national sports teams, President Dr Arif Alvi on Sunday urged players to focus on their performance in the field, so as to bring further laurels to the country.

Addressing a closing ceremony of DTA 14th Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Amateur Golf Cup at the Margalla Greens Golf Club, the President observed that sports always contributed to healthy activities, develop urge for competing and excelling while maintaining maximum performance. He also hoped that sports like golf would be promoted in the country, adding sports helped in learning different things about life.

The ceremony was attended by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi and a large number of civil and military dignitaries and participating golfers. Referring to the national cricket team, the President said the national players had experienced an era of bias in the past. The current Pakistan cricket squad had visited the United Kingdom during Covid-19 pandemic, he said while citing the cancellation of foreign teams' visit of Pakistan.

He said Prime Minister Imran Khan had rightly urged the national team to focus on performing in the field which was vital. The President further observed that Pakistani nation was



blessed with capabilities and talents. The national teams, he said, by keeping up their performance, dignity and self-ego, would bring more success to the country.

Dr Alvi also narrated a historical incident of the cricket world when West Indian star Vivian Richards pummeled England legendary bowler Bob Willis with his superb batting. He appreciated the Margalla Golf Club for maintaining a lush green environment by constantly planting trees.

He also shared his memories of Karachi golf club. He said the human beings are in the habit of looking for greenery and crave for getting a glimpse of natural scenery wherever they went.

He congratulated the prize winners for their well-earned success and commended the high standards of sports displayed by all the participants.

Dr Alvi, later, gave away trophies and awards among the winning players in the amateur, senior amateur and ladies categories. Major Saleem of Quetta Golf Club was given the winner's trophy for clinching the title.

Pakistan Navy has always actively pursued the cause of nurturing various sports activities and raise overall standards of sports at the national and international levels. The four-day long CNS Amateur Golf Cup is an annual feature of PGF and Pakistan Navy sports calendar.

The first Pakistan-China technical vocational institute was inaugurated in Gwadar



By M.Saeed Yousafzai

The first Pakistan-China technical vocational institute was launched under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Gwadar.

As an important project for public well-being under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Gwadar Technical and Vocational Institute was constructed by the China Harbor Engineering Company, to meet the urgent need of the locals in Gwadar and promote the sustainable development of the area.

H.E. Nong Rong, China's Ambassador to Pakistan, attended the inauguration ceremony through video link.

Speaking on the occasion, H.E. Rong said that the institute, which had been completed at a cost of \$10 million in only 20 months, was a sign of 70 years of Pak-China friendship.

He said that the institute had been equipped with the state-of-the-art machinery for imparting the best technical education and skills to the youths of Balochistan, especially of Gwadar.

The Chinese envoy said that the students would be not only provided free accommodation but also scholarships during training in the institute.

Addressing the ceremony, Chairman of the Gwadar Port Authority Naseer Khan Kashani expressed his gratitude to China for the grant



Nong Rong

@AmbNong

Congratulations to the successful completion of Pak-China Vocational and Technical Institute at Gwadar, the first successfully completed #CPEC project in Gwadar. A precious gift for China's 72nd National Day and 70th anniversary of China-Pakistan diplomatic relations!





of the project and to the Chinese engineers and workers who have completed this institute ahead of schedule despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chairman of the Gwadar Port Authority Naseer Khan Kashani said that Pakistan has benefited a lot from the energy and transport infrastructure projects under CPEC.

Kashani said that Pakistan has benefited a lot from the energy and transport infrastructure projects under CPEC, while the socio-economic projects of the Corridor are also very important for the South Asian country.

Mr. Zhang Baosheng, Chairman of the China Overseas Port Holding Company, said that the institute was an excellent institution not only for Gwadar but also for the entire region which would play a significant role in the region's development.

He said its establishment would play an important role in securing decent employment by imparting vocational training to talented youths. "Technical institutes play an important role in industrial development and the trained youths would have golden opportunities to get employment in Gwadar Port, Free Zone Industry and other projects of the CPEC," he added.

The technical and vocational institute has facilities for teaching and training and dormitories. The construction of the project started in January 2020.

General Officer Commanding 44 Div Major General Inayat Hussain, Rear Admiral Jawad Ahmed of Pakistan Navy, Chairman of Chinese company Kopak, Zhang Bausing, Commanding Officer 440 Brigade Brigadier Fahad Mansoor

H.E. Rong said that the institute, which had been completed at a cost of \$10 million in only 20 months, was a sign of 70 years of Pak-China friendship.

Kayani, Assistant Commissioner of Gwadar Raja Athar Abbas, students and teachers of Pak-China School also attended the ceremony.



Light Show Held at Great Wall of China to Celebrate 70th Anniversary of Pakistan-China Diplomatic Relations

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Monitoring

An exquisite and colourful light show was organised at the Badaling Section of the China's iconic Great Wall as part of the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

The event was jointly organised by the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing and People's Government of Beijing Municipality. The light show featured various formulations of laser lights and slogans to pay tribute to the seven decades of iron brotherhood between Pakistan and China.

A large section of the wall was specially lit in national colours of Pakistan and China. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Moin ul Haque said that light show at the historic Great Wall of China demonstrated iron-clad friendship between Pakistan and China.

Hailing the contributions of several generations of both countries to strengthen bilateral friendship, Ambassador Moin added that Pakistan and China were deepening bilateral cultural and people-to-people exchanges for bequeathing the finest traditions of friendly ties to the younger generations of the two countries. He said that as the token of special friendship to China, Pakistan made a humble contribution for the restoration of a section of the Great Wall in



1980s. "A plaque has been installed there is reminder of that small token of friendship which Pakistan presented to our brethren and sisters in China," he added.

Ambassador Moin remarked that the Great Wall of China will remain etched forever in memories of the two people as the vivid symbol of special ties between Pakistan and China in the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

"May Pakistan-China friendship enjoy longevity, strength and grandeur like the Great Wall of China," he said. Ambassador Moin appreciated the efforts of Yanqing District of Beijing Municipality and Beijing Foreign Affairs Office for organizing the event. The event was attended by the senior Chinese officials, citizens from all walks of life, Chinese students and representatives of media organizations.



Chinese books make debut at Riyadh Int'l Book Fair 2021

The Riyadh International Book Fair 2021 opened to the public with more than 500 books from China being exhibited.

On behalf of the Chinese publishing industry, the China Intercontinental Press is cooperating with its overseas partner, the Saudi Center for Research and Intercommunication Knowledge, participated in the book fair offline for the first time since the COVID-19 outbreak.

The books from China are written in Arabic, English, and Chinese, and were provided by more than 10 Chinese publishers, focusing on classic Chinese literature, social science, traditional culture, children's reading, and language learning. Some of them are Sino-Saudi Arabian Classics or the fruits of modern and contemporary literature translation and publication projects. More than 1,000 publishing houses from 30 countries participated in the event. The inter-

national book fair held by the Ministry of Culture of Saudi Arabia, which runs through Oct. 10 on an area of more than 36,000 square meters, is considered the largest book fair in the history of Saudi Arabia and an influential cultural event in the Gulf and the Arab region.





Ameer Khurram Rathore hails role of Pakistani diaspora in Canadian politics, public life

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan's High Commissioner-designate to Canada Ameer Khurram Rathore has lauded the role and contribution of Pakistani diaspora in the political and public life in Canada, says a press release received.

He said that the recent showing of the Pakistani diaspora in the electoral process in Canada, particularly the participation of nearly 30 persons in the electoral process and the election of six of them as members of Parliament, was a reflection of their laudable role and contribution to the politics and public life in Canada and he was sure the Pakistani community would further strengthen its role and identity as an engaged community in the social and political fabric of Canada in future.

He made this statement while addressing an online public forum held by the Pakistan High Commission Canada along with its Consulates in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver to address the issues and concerns of Pakistani Canadians with regard to various consular and public services.

Consulate General of Pakistan Toronto Abdul Hameed, Consulate General of Pakistan Vancouver Janbaz Khan and Consulate General of Pakistan Montreal Ishtiak Ahmed Aqil also attended the forum and answered questions of the community.

During the hour-long public forum, a broad range of issues including procedure for processing of succession or legal heir certificates, suggestions for always-on online banking, tax and other services for overseas Pakistan, mo-

dalities for increasing intake Pakistani students in fast-track visa processing facility of Student Direct Stream (SDS), organisation of Azadi Day and other national events at large, community level, proposals for bilateral aviation businesses, issue of taxation in case of using Roshan Digital Accounts (RDAs), renewal of NICOP, opening of NADRA facility in Toronto and updated directory of Pakistani businessmen and issue of job requirement or proof of income for opening Roshan Digital Account (RDA) were discussed. High Commissioner Ameer Khurram Rathore said he had set out to enhance the bilateral



He is sure the Pakistani community would further strengthen its role and identity as an engaged community in the social and political fabric of Canada in future: Pakistani HC

trade and commerce between Pakistan and Canada and increase the intake of Pakistani students in the Canadian universities and colleges

under the fast-track visa processing scheme of Student Direct Stream (SDS) offered by the Canadian government to only seven countries, including Pakistan.

He said the Pakistan High Commission Canada would arrange in November an online education expo bringing together educational institutions and educational consultants from Pakistan and Canada to create synergy in efforts for creating awareness of the SDS and draw interest and attention of the prospective Pakistani students to educational opportunities in Canada available under the SDS.

During the public forum, the community members were assured that the Government of Pakistan was striving to facilitate and streamline the provision of online NICOP and other services through NADRA and a NADRA facility would soon be opened in Toronto to provide on-the-spot facilitation to members of community.

30th anniversary of the State Independence of the Republic of Tajikistan celebrated in Islamabad

Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan H.E. Ismatullo Nasredin welcomed guests. Event was attended by representatives of the official authorities of Pakistan, heads of Diplomatic Missions accredited in Islamabad, cultural figures, media representatives and members of the civil society.





Korea national foundation day and armed forces day celebrated in Islamabad. Ambassador Republic of Korea Mr. Suh Sangpyo welcomed to the guests. Mr. Shafqat Mahmood Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training attended the event as chief guest. The event also graced by government official, members of the diplomatic corps, the private sector and civil society.



At the eve Ambassador Republic of Korea Mr. Suh Sangpyo delivered a speech and underlined the close and growing cooperation between Korea and Pakistan

Thanked the Chief Guest Minister of Education and Professional Training, and ministers, Senators, Members of Parliament, Ambassadors, High Commissioners and distinguished guests.

First of all, let me express my sincere gratitude to all the excellencies and distinguished guests here for the 4353rd National Day and the 73rd Armed Forces day of the Republic of Korea.

The first state of Korea, Gojoseon, was founded in 2333 BC, on 3rd October, and Korea celebrates the day as a Nation Foundation Day. So this year falls on 4353rd anniversary of the Republic of Korea. The diplomatic ties between Korea and Pakistan were established in 1983. Since then, relations of the two countries have increased rapidly in manifold areas. In particular, this year we have witnessed many concrete outcomes in our relations. In just a couple of minutes we watched a video clip on what has been done this year between Korea and Pakistan.

In Political area, last Wednesday, Korean 1st Vice Minister can't to Islamabad and held the bilateral Political Consultation meeting with Foreign Secretary. And in the current Afghan issues, Korea and Pakistan are closely cooperating with each other. A month ago, the two foreign ministers had a consultation by telephone and with full supports from the Pakistani government, 390 Afghan nationals were safely moved from Kabul through Islamabad to Korea. In economic area, Korean companies are in-



creasing investments to Pakistan. In hydro-power sector, already two hydropower plants are under operation producing electricity in Pakistan and the hydropower projects which account 2 billion in total are ongoing. In automobile sector, Korean mark cars, Hyundai and Kia, are locally produced. In mobile phone business, Samsung electronics are establishing an assembly line Karachi and once established as planned by December, the factory will produce 3 million units of mobile phones a year and creating 800 local employees. And some of Korea-Pakistan joint ventures are already in Special Economic Zone.

Culture is one of the sectors that have expanded the cooperation. Korea and Pakistan soon to conclude MOU to preserve and promote Gandhara Buddhist heritage, which includes 4 million USD grant. This MOU is expected to facilitate the Korean Buddhist tourism project which was discussed when the president of Jogye order (i.e. biggest Buddhist sect in Korea) came to Pakistan in 2019. Korean music, dancing and drama are also popular in Pakistan. So they could be in Korea with more contacts and cooperation.

Development cooperation is also expanding this year. When the Korean delegation from Ministry of Finance visited in July, Korea announced the provision of the Economic Development Cooperation Fund of one billion USD for 5 years starting from next year. This fund is a soft loan to assist developing countries. The previous EDCF was 500 million USD for the years. Now in terms of the committed volume of EDCF, the number is doubled up. Grant assistance from the Korean development agency, KOICA, is also active now, 5 projects ongoing amounting 40 million dollar and next year 2 more projects amount 15 million US dollar will be added up. In academic and research area, this year we harvested some concrete results. Based on the MOU between Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security of Korea IFANS and Islamabad Policy Research Institute of Pakistan IPRI, which had been inactive since the signing of MOU in 2011, the 1st seminar was organized in last June. In August, we signed a new MOU between Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security of Korea and Institute of strategic studies Islamabad ISSI.

We still have many areas to further expand our relations. For example, Senate and Parliament play key role for enhancing the bilateral relations, by giving an impetus and even make legislation for promoting relations. So strengthening cooperation between Parliaments of the two countries should be also an area of priority to the both countries.

I'm sure that relations between Korea and Pakistan will be even more strengthened in the years to come.

Korea Pakistan Dosti Zindabad!



ICCI delegation visits Balochistan to explore business opportunities



By Mian Fazal Elahi

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) leading a large delegation visited Turbat, Baluchistan in order to explore the business and investment opportunities for its members in the Special Economic Zone that has been planned for the area.

The delegation was representing various sectors including real estate & construction, IT, pharmaceuticals, steel, solar energy, edible oil, marble & granite and flour milling. Turbat is a huge area in which a new Special Economic Zone has been planned that offers lucrative incentives for investment.

During its visit, the ICCI delegation met with Naseer Khan Kashani, Chairman, Gwadar Port Authority, Maj. Gen Ahmad Bilal, Inspector General Frontier Corps (North) and other relevant authorities to discuss with them the possibilities of business and investment for private sector in Turbat and Gwadar. The delegation was informed that the District Administration

of Kech and the private sector are launching a Special Economic Zone, which is located on the crossroads of CPEC & Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). The Government of Pakistan has recently announced opening of new crossing sites at Pakistan Iran Border to increase bilateral border trade, which will supplement the efforts to generate socio-economic activities in Southern Baluchistan by establishing processing, packaging and manufacturing units. The said Special Economic Zone comprises Energy Park, Minerals & Materials Park, Metals Park, Food Park and Technology Park. The SEZ is likely to be functional in the next 6 months. It will open new avenues of prosperity and development in the area.

Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry thanked Chairman Gwadar Port Authority and Maj. Gen Ahmad Bilal, IGFC (North) for providing a comprehensive briefing to the ICCI delegation about investment opportunities in SEZs in Balochistan. He said that in terms of area, Balochistan is the largest prov-

ince of Pakistan with a lot of natural resources, therefore, it should be given more focus for business and investment promotion in order to harness its natural resources for the better economic development of the country and uplift the living standards of its poor people. He said that currently most of the products including dairy items are coming from Iran to Turbat and other areas of Balochistan, therefore, the Pakistani business community has a huge opportunity to supply local products to the people of these areas at competitive prices.

He emphasized that the government should provide more incentives and security to the business community for JVs and investment in SEZs of Baluchistan so that with the better growth of business and investment activities, this province could achieve more progress & prosperity and play a far effective role in the development of the national economy. He assured that ICCI would play a role to highlight the investment opportunities available in SEZs in Baluchistan to attract maximum investment in them.

Iran wants promoting digital markets with Pakistan to boost bilateral trade – Envoy

Iran and Pakistan have great scope to enhance trade relations and Pakistan should consider setting up digital markets with Iran to boost bilateral trade up to the potential of both countries. This was stated by H.E. Syed Mohammad Ali Hosseini, Ambassador of Iran while interacting with the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry along with Ms. Qadyanlo Commercial Attaché and Ms. Beheshti Secretary.

He said that foreign sanctions on Iran were a problem for trade promotion, therefore, establishment of Pak-Iran digital markets and joint border markets could be the better options to improve two-way trade volume. He said that Iran and Pakistan have agreed to set up 3 border crossing points that would help increase bilateral trade. The Iranian Envoy said that lack of better connectivity between the private sectors of Iran and Pakistan was one of the factors for low trade volume and stressed the need of close cooperation between Iran-Pakistan cham-



bers of commerce to develop strong business linkages between the private sectors of both countries. Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Pak-Iran bilateral trade was much lower than the actual potential and both governments should cooperate with private sectors to take it to higher levels. He was of the view that organizing trade fairs on reciprocal basis, holding chambers level zoom meetings during Covid-19 and promoting

exchange of students between the two countries would be helpful in strengthening trade and economic relations.

Fatma Azim Senior Vice President ICCI, Aslam Khokhar, Omais Khattak, Saeed Khan, Usman Khalid, Muhammad Shakir, Ali Akram Khan, Javed Iqbal, Sheikh Pervez, Khalid Chaudhry and others were also present in the meeting and shared useful ideas for promoting bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Iran.

30th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Kyrgyz Republic celebrated in Islamabad

A solemn reception organized by the Embassy on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Kyrgyz Republic was held at the Serena Hotel in Islamabad.

In speech, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Ulanbek Totuiaev greeted his colleagues in the diplomatic corps, as well as numerous Pakistani friends, with whose participation bilateral cooperation in political, economic, humanitarian and other spheres is developing and strengthening.

Ambassador U. Totuiaev informed on main achievements of the country's independence, highlighting the commitment of the Kyrgyz Republic to further intensify Kyrgyz-Pakistani cooperation.

The Ambassador expressed gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the support provided to Kyrgyzstan and expressed confidence that bilateral relations will consistently develop in the future, and the countries will remain not only reliable partners, but also good friends.

As the Honorable Guest of the event, the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Mr. Shah Farman, in his speech congratulated the Kyrgyz Republic on Independence Day and noted that Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan have close historical, religious and cultural ties.

Mr. Shah Farman assured that Pakistan, together with the leadership of Kyrgyzstan, is ready to reveal the enormous potential of bilateral cooperation and constantly bring interaction to a new level.

At the end of his speech, the Governor noted that "the seaports of Pakistan are always open for brotherly Kyrgyzstan".

As part of the evening, the guests of the reception got acquainted with a thematic photo exhibition and products of Kyrgyz manufacturers, as well as enjoyed the atmosphere of Kyrgyz hospitality, having visited inside a Kyrgyz yurt and tasted national dishes.

The guests were also shown videos about tourism and investment opportunities in Kyrgyzstan, booklets with information about Kyrgyz companies were distributed. The evening was accompanied by a concert program of Kyrgyz artists who specially arrived in Pakistan at the invitation of the Embassy. The event took place in a solemn and friendly atmosphere.



Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig hosted a dinner in honor of Gohar Ejaz on conferment of Doctorate degree. Ch. Muhammad Sarwar Chief Guest & S.M.Muneer was Guest of Honor, attended by Zubair Tufail, Khalid Tawab, Hanif Gohar, Yasin Malik, Kunwar Qutubuddin, Aamir Memon, Nasir Schon, Anwar Qureshi, S.M.Tanvir, Shamim Alvi, Shahid Hussain, Fawad Malik, Shamas ur Rehman, Ahmed Chinoy, Saleemuz Zaman, Dr. Fozia Hameed, Farukh Mazhar, Omair Baig, Kaukab Iqbal, Pervez Loser, Saman Abid, Yasin Sadiq, Aman Kassim, Noreen Baig, renowned TV personalities Hira & Mani, Hussain Thebo, Muneezay Moeen, Sana Qadir, Batool Zehra & others.



76th anniversary of the independence day of Indonesia celebrated

H.E. Adam M Tugio, the ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia hosted national day reception in Islamabad. It was the 76th anniversary of the independence day of

Indonesia. Apart from high definition videos running on projectors for the audience, the host had also organised a Karatay demonstration. It was quite a well-attended affair with

diplomats; officials, members from business community and Pakistanis from different walks of life all rubbing shoulders with each other.





30th Anniversary of Independence of Turkmenistan celebrated in Islamabad

Speech of

H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan

Honorable Mr. Syed Shibli Faraz, Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Excellencies, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends! Assalamualaikum and very good evening! First of all, I would like to express my deep appreciation to all of you for accepting our invitation and sharing with us this great occasion of 30th Anniversary of Independence of Turkmenistan.

30 years ago Turkmenistan has chosen the way of democratic, legal and secular development. In its foreign policy Turkmenistan has chosen the model, which has gained the name - Positive Neutrality. During the past period Turkmenistan has established a constructive relationship of cooperation with its neighbors and became a reliable ally and effective partner of the United Nations in the process of preserving and sustaining political stability in the region, developing good neighborly relations, friendship and cooperation.

The consistent implementation over the past historical period of the strategic course towards industrial and innovative development has ensured the economic independence of our state. Turkmenistan is carrying out a radical modernization of all sectors of the national economy to bring Turkmenistan to the level of the countries developed in political, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres. Turkmenistan builds new cities and villages, gas lines, highways, railways and big innovative industrial production complexes. A diversified economy has been formed in Turkmenistan, including such important sectors as the electric power, oil and gas in-

dustry, mechanical engineering, metallurgy, the chemical industry, construction, electronics, light and food industries, and pharmaceuticals. The strategic industry is the gas industry, which has natural gas production and processing sectors in its structure.

Dear Friends!

Turkmenistan and The Islamic Republic of Pakistan are connected by traditional historical ties of friendship. Pakistan is one of the important regional partners of Turkmenistan.

An excellent level of bilateral political relations has been achieved due to an active political dialogue established in a highest political level. This dialogue contributed to the preservation of the spirit of mutual understanding, support and mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields. It is necessary to state that positions of our countries on main issues of world politics are very close. Foremost among them are issues of ensuring peace, stability, security and sustainable development.

The employment of huge energy potential of Turkmenistan is one of the promising areas of bilateral cooperation. Today, Turkmenistan and Pakistan demonstrate the intent to use comprehensively existing resources, economic and intellectual potential that creates all prepositions for realization of big joint projects in different spheres.

Thus, the priority projects are the construction of the transnational TAPI gas pipeline, power transmission lines and fiber-optic communication on Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan route. The implementation of these important regional projects will open up new strategic



directions for energy flows, give an impetus to the economic development and contribute to an improvement of the population's standard of living in the region. It is also important that the implementation of these projects will contribute to strengthening peace and cooperation in the region.

Transport and transit sphere is also among priority vectors of the partnership. Motor and railways from Turkmenistan to Pakistan via Afghanistan are very promising. The shortest route to the Ocean for Turkmenistan lays through Pakistan, while Turkmenistan can be the gate to Central Asia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and other CIS countries for Pakistan. It opens new opportunities for transport communication in Asia – Europe direction, for activation of regional and interregional trade and economic relations.

Turkmenistan and Pakistan have huge potential in different spheres. One of them is great potential for a steadily increase in trade, mutual investment and productive contacts between the private business communities of the two countries.

I would like to express the confidence that traditionally friendly and fraternal Turkmen – Pakistani relations would continue to be developed for the common sake.

Thank you for your attention.

Turkmenistan-Pakistan dosti zenda baad!



Turkmenistan widely celebrated the 30th anniversary of Independence

Turkmen people greeted the 30th anniversary of the sacred independence of Turkmenistan with a special enthusiasm in the spirit of unity and cohesion. This anniversary year, proclaimed as the International Year of Peace and Trust at the initiative of Turkmenistan, has added new glorious pages to the historical record of Independent Neutral Turkmenistan.

The main celebration of the glorious 30th anniversary of independence was the festive parade held on September 27, in the Complex of the State Tribune, which was commissioned on the eve of the Independence Day of Turkmenistan.

The decoration of the current anniversary military parade was the march around the square of a group of horsemen - military servicemen on the "heavenly" Akhal-Teke horses which for centuries have been full participants of the national celebrations. Horses were at all times faithful friends and companions of Turkmen.

The center of the celebrations, held on September 28, was the International Akhal-Teke Equestrian Complex, which is not only an arena for equestrian competitions, but also a center of popularization and development of beloved national sport.

At the end of the festive races, having congratulated the winners, Leader of the Nation together with everyone else watched an air show with the participation of our brave military pilots.

A group of military aircrafts driven by Turkmen pilots appeared in the sky over the International Akhal-Teke Equestrian Complex



and demonstrated brilliant skills in aerobatics. In honor of the main holiday of the country salutes were given, which added to the feeling of pride among those present for the prosperous Independent Neutral Motherland.

These show flights of military pilots were a kind of manifestation of the centuries-old glory of Akhal-Teke horses, praised for

their outstanding qualities by such epithets as "heavenly" horses and winged "steeds".

Akhal-Teke horses still play a big role in the life of the nation, only now their mission is to ennoble their wonderful harmony, bring a healthy, strong spirit, strive for perfection, affirm lofty ideals and strengthen the sense of pride in our beloved Motherland.



Elderly ladies pose for a group photo during a Qipao (cheongsam) enthusiast gathering organised by Crystal Hu in Hong Kong, south China, in April of 2019.

Resurgence of Chinese fashion icon Qipao from bygone era in Hong Kong

By Yao Lan, Hong Xuehua

Dust motes fill up the air and fabric clippings scatter at a tailor's shop as a smiling, hunchbacked man, with a tape measure around his neck, opens an old-Shanghai picture album featuring the then fashionable ladies in Qipao.

Eighty-nine-year-old Leung Long-kong is little-known in China. But people around the world may have marveled at his works from director Wong Kar-wai's award-winning film "In the Mood for Love," in which 23 colorful Qipao made by Leung becomes the storyteller of the days when Qipao was still faddish on the streets of Hong Kong.

The Chinese fashion icon Qipao, after a century since it was born in Shanghai in the 1920s, has made its way through history from the hand of old craftsmen with deep-rooted Chinese culture.

BYGONE DAYS

"Cheongsam (or Qipao) used to be so popular, as people did not have many other options to buy western-style clothes," Leung told Xinhua, saying the dress was an everyday outfit among Hong Kong women, from the most ordinary ones to those upper-class ladies. "Now nobody is wearing them except on some grand and happy occasions."

Qipao, featuring a high collar and delicate cloth buttons on the front, originated in China's Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). In Hong Kong, it is more well-known as cheongsam, meaning "long gown" in Cantonese.

Leung came to Hong Kong from neighboring

Guangdong Province at the age of 13 before he started his apprenticeship, which seemed to be the only way to earn his daily bread back then. "I was too little to know what to do and it was so hard to make a living at that time," he said.

Finishing his three-year apprenticeship making Qipao and suits, Leung witnessed the gradual shift of Qipao from a dress of Manchu origin, a minority group in China, to its blending of Chinese and Western sewing skills in Hong Kong.

The unique dress, which used to have a high neck and straight skirt covering all the woman's body, except for her head, hands, and toes became more form-fitting, with a more revealing cut, shorter sleeves, and a high slit in the 1950s, after the traditional garment was brought to Hong Kong by a group of Shanghai tailors.

NOWADAYS

The glory days of Qipao in the 1950s and 1960s in Hong Kong waned in a time of fast fashion and mass production of ready-to-wear clothing.

"The old tailors have died one by one. I am one of the youngest ones who have been left," said another Hong Kong tailor Chun Cheung-lam, 74, who used to run more than five shops selling silk with handmade Qipao business in Hong Kong in the 1980s, while now there is only one still operating.

But Cheongsam is still a preserved tradition visible at formal occasions such as wedding ceremonies, movies, and Miss Hong Kong Pageant. It still serves as the school uniform

in more than 10 middle schools in Hong Kong.

"For decades, it was a tradition largely unique to Hong Kong, which kept the tradition alive," said Professor Liu Tik-sang at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology's Division of Humanities, saying the culture preserved in Hong Kong went back to the Chinese mainland with a modern twist after the reform and opening-up in the late 1970s.

The Hong Kong cheongsam-making technique has been inscribed in the Fifth National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage announced in June by the Chinese government with "outstanding historical and cultural value," according to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government.

For traditional craftsmen like Leung and Chun, fast ready-to-wear manufacturing can never compare with the subtly handmade clothes with precise measurements taken beforehand.

"One can tell who made the dress by examining its details. There is no need to make a logo," said Chun.

INHERITANCE

When many of the old hands at cheongsam-making are now in their sunset years with less than 10 senior tailors left in Hong Kong, both the old tailors and young designers are trying to figure out a way to pass on the legacy.

While Chun is still teaching cheongsam-making classes in schools, Leung, whose apprentices have either retired or left, can hardly resume the time- and energy-consuming task

given his age and health condition.

"The kids and grandchildren all want to learn while having little time and patience. A lot of people knocked on the door and said they are eager to learn, but we all declined," Leung's daughter Emba Leung told Xinhua.

To carry on the tradition, younger fashion designer Mary Yu, 41, who has been attending classes teaching knot buttons-making techniques, is trying to renew the design of cheongsam by taking cues from Chinese history and literature.

"I feel I should tap into Chinese culture and know more about the past. One should have an in-depth understanding of your culture in order to move on," Yu said. "Fashion design requires a profound knowledge of one's culture before visualizing it."

"After a period of wearing Chanel all the time, there will be a day when one looks back to traditional Chinese culture, whose subtlety, luxury and elegance have been inherited for thousands of years," she added. "It is about finding the stuff that exists in your genes and suits you best."

Yu set up her own Qipao brand in 2016 at Yue Hwa Chinese Products Emporium in Hong Kong's Kowloon district. Most of the clothes were made by tailors based in Shenzhen or Hangzhou in the mainland for lower costs and more traditional Chinese craftsmanship. In the constantly evolving fashion industry, Qipao is catching up with the times. Zippers, digital print patterns and new materials such as lace and denim were introduced among the new generation. More daring ideas like 3D printing Qipao have also come into reality. "For culture, we should innovate it to reflect our time, while holding on to some of the most basic elements such as knot buttons, the mandarin collar, and side slits," said Crystal Hu, president of the Royal Cheongsam Association in Hong Kong and a Qipao lover who owns over 200 Qipao in a variety of styles.

The clock hanging beside Leung's sewing machine ticks. On the working table lies an order book, with precise measuring numbers recorded and colorful cloth pieces sticking on the side as page markers.

Leung, the man with more than 70 years of experience working as a tailor, said, "Qipao, most importantly, should be form-fitting, with no wrinkles," when talking about his own criteria of a perfectly-made Qipao.

Yu said the vitality of Qipao derives from its capture of elegance and hidden beauty from Chinese women. "Beauty lasts forever. It is always there regardless of the passage of time." Enditem

Source: Xinhua

A model presents a Qipao (cheongsam) creation by fashion designer Mary Yu at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center in Hong Kong, south China, in September of 2021. (Xinhua)



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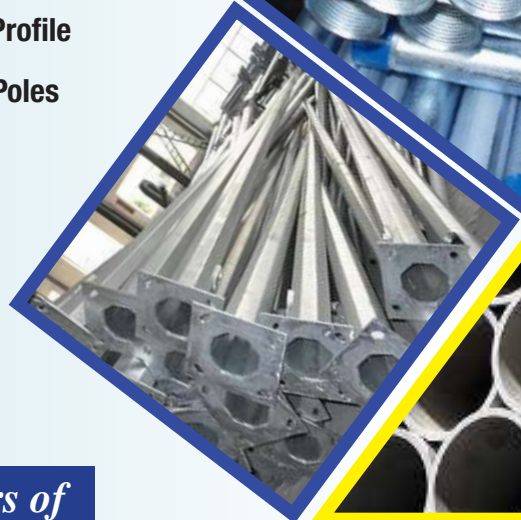


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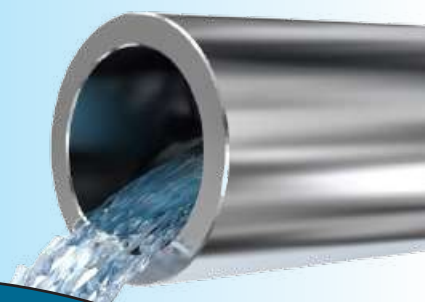
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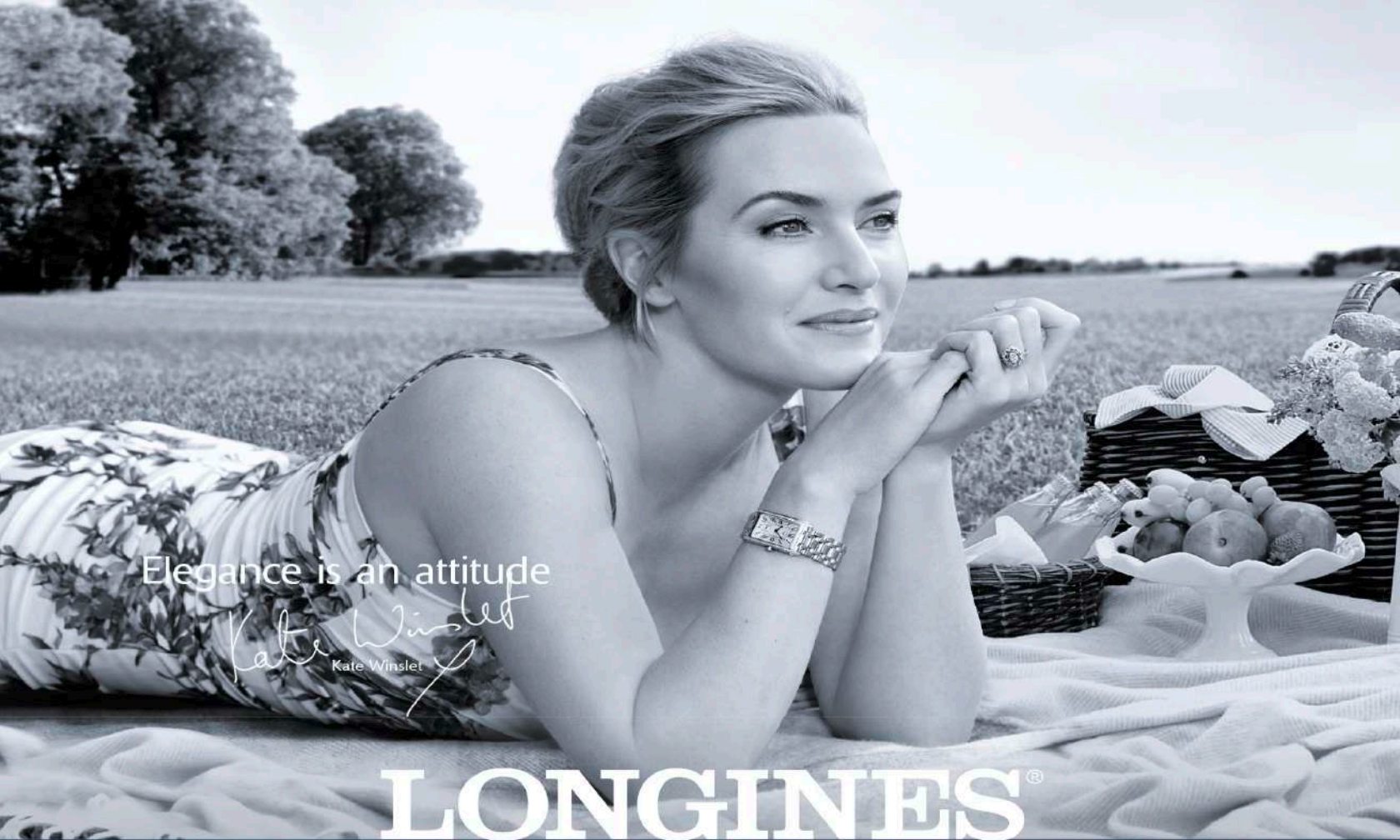
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An aerial photograph of a white Ford SUV parked on a dark, pebbly beach. The ocean waves are crashing onto the shore to the left of the car. A person is standing on the beach in the lower right, operating a camera on a tripod, filming the car. The car's license plate is 'HUP 520'.



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Beverly Centre, Jinnah Avenue:

Tel 051-2824751, 2824901

www.kahfintl.com

Email: kahf@kahfintl.com