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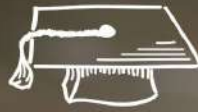


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09 Prime Minister participates in the Central and South Asia Regional Connectivity Conference in Uzbekistan

During his historic visit to Uzbekistan, Prime Minister Imran Khan, attended the inaugural session of the International Conference "Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity; Challenges and opportunities", today. The Conference has been organized by the Government of Uzbekistan under the special initiative of President of Uzbekistan Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev to deliberate on the prospects inter-regional cooperation in Central and South Asia for trade and transport connectivity.

14 FOREIGN MINISTER OF PAKISTAN MEETINGS ON THE SIDELINES OF SCO COUNCIL

Foreign Minister, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, met with his Kazakh counterpart Mukhtar Tileuberdi on the margins of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Dushanbe. During the meeting, the two Foreign Ministers reviewed entire gamut of bilateral relations. Foreign Minister Qureshi emphasised regular convening of various institutional mechanisms to tap true potential of bilateral ties. He also highlighted importance of working together on regional connectivity projects which would give a boost to bilateral as well as regional trade. The Foreign Minister also emphasised the need to facilitate trade through harmonising customs procedures.

32 Pakistan and Hungary hold the 5th Round of Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC)

The 5th round of Pakistan-Hungary Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) was held in Budapest today. The Pakistan side was led by Dr. Muhammad Tariq, Additional Secretary (Europe); while Laszlo Varadi, Deputy Secretary for State Cooperation with South led the Hungarian side. Mr. Muhammed Aejaaz, Ambassador of Pakistan to Hungary, also attended the meeting.

37 Chinese FM meets with Afghan Taliban's political chief

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met here with Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, political chief of Afghanistan's Taliban. The Afghan Taliban, as a critical military and political force in the country, is expected to play an important role in the peace, reconciliation and reconstruction process of Afghanistan, Wang said. He called on the Afghan Taliban to put their national interests first and foremost, hold high the banner of peace talks, establish the goal of peace, create a positive image and adopt an inclusive policy.

46 Reception bids farewell to Kyrgyz envoy

Tehreek Insaf Senator Chief Organiser Saifullah Khan Niazi has said that Kyrgyzstan is an important country for Pakistan and he would propose further steps to promote mutual cooperation with the Foreign Minister and he would raise his voice in every forum for the promotion of relations and mutual cooperation between the two countries. He made this remarks at a farewell dinner in honor of Kyrgyz Ambassador Erik Beishembiev hosted by Pakistan Central Asia Friendship Association, says a press release.

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Our previous Issues



Prime Minister Imran Khan participated the inaugural session of the International Conference “Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity; Challenges and opportunities”.

The Prime Minister highlighted the importance of regional connectivity as driver of economic growth and progress constituting an imperative for modern societies. He said that the two regions form a natural contagious landmass and having all the more reasons to reconnect with each other. The common geography, geo-economic dynamics, and cultural ethos favoured connectivity between the two regions for creating a win-win situation for all. He mentioned enormous natural and human resources potential and big consumer markets of the two regions, which could transform lives of their people.

Central Asian states are stable and growing economies, which offer big natural energy resources and a market of 80 million. Through creating greater economic activities, cost effective trade and more employment opportunities.

Pakistan attached high value to regional connectivity as it was an important policy plank of his government’s “Vision Central Asia.” Pakistan was signatory to a number of bilateral, regional and international traffic and transit agreements, including the TIR Convention and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. Pakistan was also ready to offer its Gwadar and Karachi seaports to Central Asia and beyond to connect with the Arabian Sea for trade and transit. The Prime Minister of Pakistan underlined the importance of resolving international conflicts and disputes in the regions in order to reap benefits of the peace. He urged for restoring peace and stability in Afghanistan, and resolving Jammu and Kashmir dispute for larger interest of the people of the two regions. The Prime Minister underscored that Pakistan will be most affected due to instability and insecurity in Afghanistan. It has always supported a comprehensive and inclusive negotiated political settlement in Afghanistan.

Pakistan sincerely facilitated the Afghan Peace Process and Intra-Afghan Negotiations. To blame Pakistan for the internal conflict in Afghanistan would be unfair. The President of Afghanistan and Foreign Ministers/dignitaries from more than 22 countries are attending the Connectivity Conference.

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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to bear the loss. Ameen!

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ



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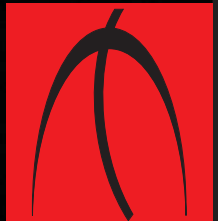
Mr. Ahmed Arif Nizami

Chief Editor "Pakistan Today" & CPNE President

Mian Fazal Elahi CEO/ Publisher of "Diplomatic
Focus" Magazine and on behalf of Diplomatic

Focus team wish to extend our heartfelt
condolences to the Family and friends over the sad
demise of Senior Journalist Mr. Ahmed Arif Nizami.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the departed
soul, his family and friends



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MR PRIME MINISTER

THE PROPOSED LAW BY THE MINISTRY OF
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PMDA is the most harsh attempt to muzzle the media/Press. Pakistan ranks as low as 145 on the World Press Freedom Index according to the report issued by *Reporters Without Borders*. This law will acutely damage Pakistan's image in the eyes of the international community.

1. The draft PMDA law seeks to wipeout all critical voices from the media through a system of coercive censorship.

2. In the manifesto of PTI you have committed yourself and your Govt to freedom of expression and a free media. A back tracking on this promise would damage Pakistan's claim of being a free democracy.

3. Mr Prime Minister under no circumstances should you be misled by the Ministry of Information. Please do not implement this black law.

4. Damaging the constitutional basis of democracy will irrevocably damage a free Pakistan.



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CENTRAL & SOUTH ASIA 2021

JULY 15-16, TASHKENT



Prime Minister participates in the Central and South Asia Regional Connectivity Conference in Uzbekistan

By Mian Fazal Elahi

During his historic visit to Uzbekistan, Prime Minister Imran Khan, attended the inaugural session of the International Conference “Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity; Challenges and opportunities”, today. The Conference has been organized by the Government of Uzbekistan under the special initiative of President of Uzbekistan Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev to deliberate on the prospects inter-regional cooperation in Central and South Asia for trade and transport connectivity.

Addressing the inaugural session, the Prime Minister highlighted the importance of regional connectivity as driver of economic growth and progress constituting an imperative for modern societies.

He said that the two regions form a natural contagious landmass and having all the more reasons to reconnect with each other. The common geography, geo-economic dynamics, and cultural ethos favoured connectivity between the two regions for creating a win-win situation for all.

He mentioned enormous natural and human resources potential and big consumer markets of the two regions, which could transform lives of their people. Central Asian states are stable and growing economies, which offer big natural energy resources and a market of 80 million.

Through creating greater economic activities, cost effective trade and more employ-



ment opportunities. He said that Pakistan attached high value to regional connectivity as it was an important policy plank of his government’s “Vision Central Asia.” Pakistan was signatory to a number of bilateral, regional and international traffic and transit agreements, including the TIR Convention and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. Pakistan was also ready to offer its Gwadar and Karachi seaports to Central Asia and beyond to connect with the Arabian Sea for trade and transit.

The Prime Minister also underlined the importance of resolving international conflicts and disputes in the regions in order to reap benefits of the peace. He urged for restoring

peace and stability in Afghanistan, and resolving Jammu and Kashmir dispute for larger interest of the people of the two regions. The Prime Minister underscored that Pakistan will be most affected due to instability and insecurity in Afghanistan. It has always supported a comprehensive and inclusive negotiated political settlement in Afghanistan.

Pakistan sincerely facilitated the Afghan Peace Process and Intra-Afghan Negotiations. To blame Pakistan for the internal conflict in Afghanistan would be unfair. The President of Afghanistan and Foreign Ministers/ dignitaries from more than 22 countries are attending the Connectivity Conference.



Pakistan, Uzbekistan pledge to boost ties in all sectors

On the invitation of President of Uzbekistan Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Prime Minister Imran Khan reached Tashkent for a two-day official visit today. The Prime Minister was received by the Prime Minister of Uzbekistan and high-level officials of the Uzbek government. The Prime Minister is accompanied by a high-level ministerial delegation including Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhary, Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Zaidi, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood, National Security Advisor Moeed Yousaf, and Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood. After Official reception ceremony, the Prime Minister held a one-on-one meeting with the Uzbek President during which both leaders discussed a wide range of subjects — including the historic and cultural ties between the two countries, the shared commitment to comprehensively upgrade Pakistan-Uzbekistan relations in all dimensions, the resolve to enhance bilateral trade and investment ties, the imperative to promote regional connectivity, and the desire to deepen cultural cooperation. In the regional context, the vital importance of peace and stability in Afghanistan was emphasized.

It was agreed to enhance bilateral consultations as well as coordination at the regional level. Later, the two leaders led their respective sides in delegation-level talks and reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations. They also exchanged views on key regional and international issues, including recent developments in Afghanistan. Both sides expressed satisfaction on the status of existing ties and cooperation at regional and international fora. The Prime Minister highlighted Pakistan's commitment to deepen Pakistan's engagement with Central Asia, with focus on strengthening trade, investment, energy, connectivity, defence and security, and people-to-people contacts. The Prime Minister recalled his earlier interactions with President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and noted the recent increase in high-level exchanges creating a strong momentum in the growth of bilateral relations.



The Prime Minister highlighted growing trade and transport links between the two countries and lauded the finalization of the Transit Trade Agreement (AUPTT). It was noted that bilateral trade had recently grown four-fold and had the potential to grow several fold through concerted efforts. The Prime Minister also highlighted that a large delegation of top Pakistani businessmen was visiting Uzbekistan and had held successful interaction with their counterparts. The Prime Minister expressed Pakistan's full commitment and support to Trans-Afghan railway project, which he stressed was of key importance in advancing the connectivity agenda.

The Prime Minister also underlined provision of sea access to Uzbekistan through Pakistani seaports. Speaking on situation in Afghanistan Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's support to a peaceful and stable Afghanistan as it was important for security, economic benefits and development of Pakistan, neighboring countries and beyond. The Prime Minister highlighted Pakistan's steadfast support for Afghan peace process and efforts to promote a negotiated political settlement. In the cultural realm, the common cultural heritage was highlighted and promotion of Ziyarat tourism between Pakistan and Uzbekistan was endorsed.

It was also agreed to produce a joint film on the life of Mughal Emperor Zaheer-udin-Babar. The delegation level talks were followed by signing a Joint Declaration on establishment of Strategic Partnership and MoUs/ Agreements in wide range of areas. The landmark Transit Trade Agreement was also signed by Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood from the Pakistan side and Deputy Prime Minister for Trade and Investment of Uzbekistan. After the prestigious ceremony, the two leaders jointly addressed the joint media stakeout. On 16 July, the Prime Minister will participate in the opening ceremony of the International Conference "South Asia-Central Asia Regional Connectivity-Challenges and Opportunities". The Conference will see a gathering of leaders from South and Central Asia aimed at discussing ways and means to increase connectivity between the two regions.

Joint declaration

1. On the invitation of H.E. President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev H.E. Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr. Imran Khan, paid an official visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan on July 15-16, 2021.
2. The leaders of the two countries exchanged views on the current status of bilateral relations in all areas of mutual interest and agreed to further strengthen their multifaceted ties in political, trade and economic, energy, communication, science and technology, education and cultural spheres. The two leaders also exchanged views on issues of international and regional significance including the situation related to COVID-19 and agreed to build further cooperation in this regard.
3. Reaffirming their commitment to

strengthening fraternal ties, based on religious, cultural and historical commonalities, the leaders expressed satisfaction at the continued progress in bilateral relations and announced the establishment of a strategic partnership for mutual benefit of the two countries and nations. 4. Noting that Pakistan was among the first countries to recognize the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 1991, the leaders congratulated each other on approaching the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two brotherly countries and agreed to celebrate it in a befitting manner.

5. The leaders agreed to expand multifaceted bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest and stressed the importance of closer coordination based on coinciding positions in the international arena. To this end, the leaders decided to use the existing political and economic mechanisms between the two countries, including consultations between Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

6. The leaders expressed satisfaction with the growing pace of inter-parliamentary cooperation and agreed on the regular exchange of parliamentary delegations to further deepen bilateral ties.

7. The Pakistan side highly appreciated the results of the visit of the parliamentary delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Islamabad in June 2021 to attend the 2nd meeting of ECO Parliamentary Assembly. The Uzbek side confirmed the invitation to the Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan Mr. S. Sanjrani to pay a visit to Uzbekistan.

8. The Prime Minister underlined the importance of structured engagement between Pakistan and Uzbekistan under the five pillars of Pakistan's "Vision Central Asia" policy i.e political, trade and investment, energy and connectivity, security and defence, and people-to-people contacts.

9. The Prime Minister also outlined his vision of "Naya" Pakistan embedded in values of social justice, education for all, peace, prosperity and economic development of the people.

10. The leaders expressed satisfaction at the level of bilateral cooperation within the framework of international organizations and reaffirmed their commitment to continue supporting each other in the UN, SCO, OIC, ECO and other international and regional forums on issues of mutual interest.

11. As members of the UN Human Rights Council, the Parties expressed their readiness for joint action to suppress violations of human rights and counter Islamophobia, as well as strengthening interfaith harmony.

12. The PM emphasized on the urgent need for peaceful resolution of all outstanding regional disputes and conflicts to fully utilize the enormous potential of connectivity between



Central Asia and South Asia.

13. The two sides noted with satisfaction that over the 20 years of its activity, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has taken a significant place in international and regional organizations, and contributed in promoting security, stability and sustainable development of the region.

14. The importance of further strengthening cooperation at the SCO and multifaceted cooperation between the member states were emphasized. In this context, the parties agreed to collaborate and support in promoting the initiatives of the two countries aimed at deepening interaction within the SCO.

15. The leaders discussed the security situation in detail in Afghanistan and the ongoing peace process. The parties stressed the necessity to resolve the conflict through Afghan-led and Afghan-owned political process through peaceful and inclusive negotiations resulting in comprehensive political settlement.

16. President of Uzbekistan highly appreciated the role of Pakistan in promoting the peace

process in Afghanistan and Pakistan's contributions to socio-economic development of Afghanistan. Prime Minister of Pakistan hailed Uzbekistan's efforts for the socio-economic reconstruction of Afghanistan through the implementation of a number of significant projects, the main one of which is the construction of the Termez-Mazar-i-Sharif – Kabul – Peshawar railway.

17. Both leaders expressed their readiness to maintain a regular dialogue and build constructive cooperation in the field of security and defence. Expressing satisfaction with the level of cooperation between the Defence Ministries, the leaders agreed to continue cooperation in conducting joint military exercises and trainings, as well as in the field of vocational training and the exchange of professional expertise between the militaries of the two countries.

18. The parties expressed their readiness to expand cooperation between the law enforcement agencies of the two countries, in particular, in the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking.

19. The leaders agreed that trade and economic cooperation is a key priority for strengthening the partnership between the two countries.

20. Recognizing the enormous economic potential to further build up mutually beneficial relations, the parties agreed to increase the volume of bilateral trade through diversification of trade, expansion of business contacts, exchange of trade delegations and simplification of the visa regime.

21. The parties welcomed the signing of the Agreement on Transit Trade as an important tool for expanding bilateral trade.

22. Both leaders noted the importance of regular meetings of the Joint Uzbek-Pakistan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic and Scientific and Technical cooperation.

23. The parties emphasized the role of the Joint Business Council between the two countries and agreed to establish direct business ties between Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the private sector. They also agreed to organize trade exhibitions and business forums on regular basis to promote bilateral trade.

24. The leaders recognized the necessity to create a more conducive environment for investors in the two countries, in particular, to encourage and facilitate joint investments, confirmed the existence of broad opportunities for cooperation in the fields of agriculture, pharmaceuticals, textile, leather and chemical industries, energy, and information technology and agreed to develop mutual cooperation in these sectors.

25. The parties highly appreciated the results of the Uzbekistan-Pakistan Trade, Investment and Connectivity Conference held on 15 July 2021 as instrumental in providing fresh impetus for



further development of trade, economic and investment ties between the two countries.

26. The leaders stressed the importance of regional integration and connectivity as a cornerstone of economic development and progress. In this regard, they welcomed the exchange of high-level visits in the areas of trade, railways, transport and aviation.

27. The two leaders reiterated their support for the Termez-Mazar-i-Sharif – Kabul – Peshawar railway project as an important initiative to create a rail link from Central Asia to the Arabian Sea through Afghanistan and the Pakistani seaports of Karachi, Gwadar and Bin Qasim.

28. The parties also welcomed the proposed expedition of representatives of the relevant ministries and departments of Uzbekistan and Pakistan along the route of the railway line in near future with appropriate security measures for the representatives of both sides.

29. The two leaders also recognized immense potential of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor for the benefit of the entire Central Asian region and beyond entailing greater connectivity and trade linkages through a network of transport, fiber optic cable, energy pipelines, and investment opportunities in its SEZs.

30. The two leaders welcomed the resumption of direct regular flights between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

31. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Prime Minister Imran Khan noted long-standing cultural, historical, religious and spiritual ties between the two countries. The leaders decided to further expand cultural ties and people-to-people contacts and welcomed proposals to develop cooperation between leading universities, research institutes, libraries and museums of the two countries, as well as to conduct joint research on the legacy of the Baburids.

32. The President of Uzbekistan highly appreciated the opening of Centers for the Study of the heritage of Alisher Navoi and Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur at the Punjab and Peshawar Universities of Pakistan and welcomed the establishment of cooperation with the Alisher Navoi and Babur Foundations in Uzbekistan.

33. The leaders reaffirmed to establish

cooperation in the tourism sector, in particular, and recognized spiritual/Ziyarat tourism as a priority area of common interest.

34. Both leaders expressed support for the joint initiatives and collective efforts of the OIC to promote a tolerant and enlightened Islam, welcomed the declaration of March 15th as International Day to combat Islamophobia, and agreed to work towards the designation of this Day by the UN General Assembly.

35. The parties, having highly appreciated the beginning of cooperation in academic and cultural research, agreed to early commencement of the work on the compilation of an Islamic Encyclopedia by Uzbek and Pakistani researchers and experts. They expressed confidence that the publication of this fundamental work will be a great contribution of Uzbekistan and Pakistan to the promotion of modern Islamic civilization and interfaith understanding and harmony.

36. The parties welcomed the signing of a number of important MoUs/Agreements, which will serve to further strengthen the comprehensive cooperation between the two countries in diverse areas.

37. The leaders expressed their conviction that the agreements reached during the visit will contribute to the further deepening of the bilateral strategic partnership and development of cooperation within the framework of multilateral formats. They agreed to continue high-level political dialogue in the future.

38. President of Uzbekistan Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev thanked Prime Minister Imran Khan for participation in the International High-Level Conference "Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity - Challenges and Opportunities (July 15-16 2021, Tashkent)."

39. The Prime Minister expressed gratitude to the Uzbek side for the cordial and warm welcome extended to the Pakistan delegation in Uzbekistan and invited the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev to visit Pakistan at a convenient time. Uzbek side accepted the invitation with appreciation. The dates of the visit will be agreed through diplomatic channels.

40. This declaration was signed on July 15, 2021, in Tashkent in duplicate in Uzbek and English.



President urges Islamic countries to work together to change the perceptions of the world regarding Islamophobia

By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Dr Arif Alvi has urged the Islamic countries to work together to change the perceptions of the world with regard to Islamophobia. He stated that Islamic countries were facing the challenges of terrorism and Islamophobia which could be overcome through close cooperation among them.

He made these remarks while talking to the visiting President of the Arab Parliament, Mr Adel bin Abdul Rahman Al-Asoomi, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Chairman Senate, Mr Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani was also present during the meeting.

Talking to the President of the Arab Parliament, the President informed that the people of Pakistan had a natural affinity with the people of Arab countries, due to our shared bonds of common faith and culture. He said that Pakistan attached great importance to its ties with the Middle Eastern countries and wanted to further strengthen relations with countries of the region in all areas of mutual interest.

He added that Pakistan's policy had shifted from Geo-politics to Geo-economics that focused on regional connectivity; development partnerships and socio-economic uplift, and peace within the region. The President highlighted that Pakistan was making efforts to promote peace in the region, particularly in Afghanistan. He also briefed the visiting dignitary about the measures taken by Pakistan against the COVID-19 pandemic.

The President apprised Mr Adel bin Abdul Rahman Al-Asoomi about the apartheid policies of the Modi-led BJP Government in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), saying that India was involved in the ethnic cleansing of Muslims of IIOJK by changing the demography of Kashmir and reducing the Muslim population through the Citizenship Act.



He reiterated Pakistan's support to the just cause of Palestinians and called for the establishment of a viable, independent and contiguous state of Palestine on the basis of internationally accepted parameters, with pre-1967 borders, and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

The President of the Arab Parliament said that Pakistan was an important country for the Arab world which had played a historical role in supporting the cause of Islamic Ummah. He underlined the need to work closely by the Islamic world to meet the challenges being faced by the Islamic countries.

He also emphasized the need for exchanging delegations to further cement ties between Pakistan and the Arab world. He said that the Arab Parliament supported Pakistan's stance on IIOJK. He also thanked the Government of Pakistan for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him during his stay in Pakistan. The President of the Arab Parliament, Mr. Adel Abdul Rahman Al Asoomi, along with a delegation, called on Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi. This is the first ever visit of a delegation from the Arab Parliament.

The Foreign Minister extended a warm welcome to the visiting delegation and exchanged views on key issues related to the Muslim Ummah. He

added that the shared bonds of faith, culture and common aspirations generated natural affinity between the peoples of Pakistan and the Arab world. The Foreign Minister apprised the delegation about the serious human rights situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

He stressed the importance of peaceful resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people. Foreign Minister Qureshi also reaffirmed Pakistan's principled position on Palestinian issue, stressing the need for a solution as per UN & OIC resolutions. The Foreign Minister further stressed the importance of peace and stability in the Middle East for Pakistan. The President of the Arab Parliament thanked the Foreign Minister for receiving the delegation. Mr. Abdel Abdul Rahman Al Asoomi appreciated the role Pakistan has played for the Muslim causes.

He also stressed the need for establishing more parliamentary linkages for better understanding of the issues. During the meeting, the two sides underscored the need for a collective approach by the Muslim Ummah to help resolve political, social and other issues confronting the Muslim world.



FOREIGN MINISTER OF PAKISTAN MEETINGS ON THE SIDELINES OF SCO COUNCIL

Foreign Minister, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, met with his Kazakh counterpart Mukhtar Tileuberdi on the margins of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Dushanbe. During the meeting, the two Foreign Ministers reviewed entire gamut of bilateral relations. Foreign Minister Qureshi emphasised regular convening of various institutional mechanisms to tap true potential of bilateral ties. He also highlighted importance of working together on regional connectivity projects which would give a boost to bilateral as well as regional trade. The Foreign Minister also emphasised the need to facilitate trade through harmonising customs procedures. The Foreign Minister briefed his Kazakh counterpart on Government's focus from geo-strategic to geo-economic approach which will greatly benefit the region.

The Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan concurred with Foreign Minister Qureshi on the need to convene regularly institutional mechanisms to advance bilateral relations. The two Foreign Ministers appreciated close cooperation at multilateral fora including SCO and CICA Summit. Discussing the evolving situation in Afghanistan, Foreign Minister Qureshi briefed the Kazakh Foreign Minister on Pakistan's perspective and its consistent support to the Afghan peace process. The two Foreign Ministers shared the view that the situation in Afghanistan was critical. It was extremely important to continue support to the Afghan peace process to avoid another cycle of civil war which would impact the region negatively.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi held bilateral meeting with Foreign



Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with Chinese State Councilor/ Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Dushanbe.



Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Muhammad Hanif Atmar in Dushanbe.

Minister of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov, on the sidelines of SCO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Dushanbe.

The two Foreign Ministers exchanged views on ways and means to enhance bilateral ties as well as discussed the regional situation. Recalling Uzbek Foreign Minister's visit to Pakistan and the virtual Summit at the leadership level, Foreign Minister Qureshi remarked that the continued interaction has injected new dynamism into the bilateral relations. The two Foreign Ministers discussed the forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister to Tashkent in the bilateral context and for participation in the international conference on connectivity.

It was agreed that close consultations was necessary for successful visit. The Uzbek Foreign Minister appreciated Pakistan's policy to pursue geo-economic goals which was aligned with Uzbekistan's foreign policy goals.

During the discussion, regional security including Afghanistan and human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir also came under discussion. Foreign Minister Qureshi briefed his counterpart of the rapidly transforming situation in Afghanistan and highlighted importance of consistent support to Afghan peace process as shared responsibility.

He underlined that the region could not afford repeat of civil war, leading to instability and fresh influx of refugees. The Foreign Minister expressed the hope that Afghan leaders, recognising the importance of international support for the Afghan peace process, would achieve a negotiated political settlement. Foreign Minister Qureshi is in Dushanbe, at the invitation of Tajikistan, to lead Pakistan delegation at the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting.

On the sidelines of SCO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Dushanbe, Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Hanif Atmar. During the meeting, views were exchanged on the latest developments in the Afghanistan and the way forward. Foreign Minister Qureshi reaffirmed Pakistan's consistent support to a peaceful and united Afghanistan, at peace with itself and with its neighbours.

In view of the withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan, the Foreign Minister urged the Afghan leaders to achieve a negotiated political settlement at the earliest, adding that such an outcome would bring peace, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan.

Foreign Minister Qureshi remarked that Afghan leaders should seize the historic opportunity and take advantage of international convergence on the final settlement of the Afghan conflict by working together an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive



Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mukhtar Tileuberdi in Dushanbe.



Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Dushanbe.



Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H.E. Abdulaziz Kamilov in Dushanbe.



Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi Called on the Prime Minister of Uzbekistan H.E. Abdulla Nigmatovich Aripov in Tashkent.

political settlement. The Foreign Minister expressed concern on high level of violence, which has resulted in innumerable loss of lives.

He emphasized immediate steps to decrease violence, leading to comprehensive cease-fire. Highlighting that negative statements could not cloud Pakistan's positive contribution to the Afghan peace process, and that blame game would not serve the region, the

Foreign Minister urged his Afghan counterpart to address all concerns through established institutional mechanisms, including APAPPS. He said that Pakistan looked forward to hosting review meeting of APAPPS in Islamabad at the earliest. Pakistan supports a peaceful and stable Afghanistan, which would yield mutual dividends and benefits in terms of peace in the region, economic prosperity and regional connectivity.

President Arif Alvi for boosting trade, economic and cultural relations with Iraq



President Dr Arif Alvi has underlined the need to boost trade, economic and cultural relations with the brotherly country of Iraq. He said that the two countries had huge potential to increase trade and economic co-operation for their mutual benefit. The President expressed these views while talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Iraq, Mr Ahmed Amjad Ali, who called on him, at Aiwane-Sadr, today.

While highlighting Pakistan's increased focus

on promoting regional connectivity, the President said that Pakistan's policy had shifted from geopolitics to geoeconomics and Pakistan was making earnest efforts to increase trade and economic relations with regional countries. He asked the ambassador-designate to further promote trade and cultural ties with Iraq by focusing on the establishment of air and sea linkages between the two countries. He emphasised that defence cooperation between the two countries needed to be further cemented

and also asked the envoy to work for the facilitation and welfare of the Pakistani diaspora and Zaireen in Iraq and extend them all possible support and services.

The President congratulated the envoy on his appointment as Pakistan's ambassador to Iraq and expressed the hope that he would play his role to further promote bilateral ties between the two countries.



President for enhanced engagements with Tajikistan in the areas of trade, defence, energy, tourism and culture

President Dr Arif Alvi has underlined the need for enhanced engagements with the Republic of Tajikistan in the areas of trade, defence, energy, tourism and culture. He said that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Tajikistan which were based on strong historical, religious and cultural links. He stated this during a meeting with the visiting Defence Minister of Tajikistan, Colonel-General Sherali Mirzo, who called on him, at Aiwane-Sadr.

Welcoming the Tajik Defence Minister, the President emphasised the need for exchanging economic and cultural delegations to expand the volume of bilateral trade as well as cement cultural linkages between the two sides. He added

that Gawadar port and CPEC offered enormous opportunities to regional countries and Tajikistan, in this regard, could benefit from the emerging opportunities by exporting its goods to foreign countries through the Gawadar port. He expressed the hope that the continued interactions between military and defence leadership of the two countries at the higher levels would further expand military cooperation.

The President also highlighted the brutalities being committed against the Muslims of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He said that India was involved in a hybrid war against Pakistan by using the soil of Afghanistan and supporting militants to carry out terrorist activities in Pakistan. Regarding Afghanistan,

the President said that Pakistan was making sincere efforts to promote peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan as a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan was not only in the interest of Pakistan but also of the entire region. He expressed the hope that the visit of the Tajik Defence Minister would further strengthen defence cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

Colonel-General Sherali Mirzo emphasized the need for further promoting military and defence relations for the mutual benefit of the two countries. He thanked the Government of Pakistan for extending a warm welcome and hospitality during his stay in Pakistan.

President for further expanding economic and trade relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) have underscored the need to broaden the spectrum of bilateral relations in all areas of mutual interests. Both countries reiterated their commitment to institutionalise bilateral relations so as to make enhanced progress in the areas of trade and economy. This was discussed at a meeting between President Dr Arif Alvi and the visiting Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, His Highness Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Welcoming the Saudi Foreign Minister, the President said that Pakistan highly valued its ties with KSA and wanted to further expand economic and trade relations with the brotherly country. He highly commended the vision of Saudi leadership, particularly the Vision-2030 and the "Green Saudi Arabia" and "Green Middle East" Initiative, recently launched by His Royal Highness Crown Prince. He thanked the leadership of KSA for taking care of the Pakistani community during the COVID-19 pandemic. The President congratulated the Saudi Government over the



successful organization of Hajj during the global pandemic. He also highlighted the atrocities being committed by India against the innocent Muslims of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). He urged the international community to put pressure on India to stop human rights violations and grant the Kashmiris their right to self-determination in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions. The President asked the visiting dignitary to convey his sincere wishes and warm regards to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz and Crown

Prince, His Royal Highness Mohammed bin Salman. He expressed the hope that the visit of Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud would further cement bilateral ties between the two countries. The Saudi Foreign Minister said that both countries enjoyed true brotherly relations and Saudi Arabia desired to maintain the existing momentum of bilateral cooperation. He added that the leadership of his country attached importance to its ties with Pakistan and wanted to further push forward economic relations between the two brotherly countries.



President for expanding defence cooperation between Pakistan and South Africa for mutual benefit

President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan and South Africa enjoyed excellent cooperation in the field of defence which needed to be further expanded for the mutual benefit of the two countries. He added that Pakistan wanted to further enhance trade, investment and defence relations with South Africa as there existed great potential for increasing cooperation in divergent areas. He said that Pakistan attached great importance to its ties with South Africa under its "Look Africa" policy and wanted to increase the frequency of exchanges at military and political levels to further cement bilateral ties. The President expressed these views while talking

to the visiting Chief of South African National Defence Force, General Rudzani Maphwanaya, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today.

The President highlighted Pakistan's strategy of "Smart Lockdowns" that successfully contained the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. He also shed light on the human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) being committed by the Indian Security Forces against the innocent Kashmiris. He said that India was involved in the ethnic cleansing of Muslims by martyring innocent Kashmiri Muslims and issuing domiciles to non-Kashmiris to change the demography of

the IIOJK. He also called upon the international community to play its role in implementing the UN Security Council resolutions to grant the people of IIOJK their right to self-determination.

General Rudzani Maphwanaya said that the Armed Forces of the two countries had good working relations which needed to be further improved for the mutual benefit of the two sides.

The President expressed the hope that the visit of the Chief of South African National Defence Force would help in further strengthening the ties between Pakistan and South Africa.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



The Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Nawaf Bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Maliki, Called on President Dr Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad



Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging views with H.E. Mr. Manuel Gimenez Rico Ambassador of Spain to Pakistan at Naval Headquarters Islamabad



Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan H.E. Nawaf Bin Malki calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Islamabad



H.E. Nawaf Bin Saeed Al-Maliki, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia called on Shafqat Mahmood, Federal Minister for Education, Professional Training & National Heritage in Islamabad



Ambassador of United Nations Arab Emirates (UAE) to Pakistan H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi called on Shafqat Mahmood, Federal Minister for Education, Professional Training and National Heritage in Islamabad



Uzbekistan's Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Oybek Arif Usmannov presenting a souvenir to federal Minister for Interior, Sheikh Rashid Ahman at a call on, Islamabad



Mr. Kunt Ostby, Resident Representative of UNDP called on Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Omar Ayub Khan in Islamabad



Federal Minister for Science and Technology Shibli Faraz in a meeting with Ambassador of Cuba Zener Javier Caro Gonzalez in Islamabad



Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Exchanging Views with Bulgarian Ambassador, Mrs. Irena Gancheva

By Mian Fazal Elahi

There are opportunities for co-operation in the economic and trade sectors. Bulgarian investors can benefit from Pakistan's investor-friendly policies, says Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani in his meeting with Bulgarian Envoy, Irena Gancheva, who called on him here at Parliament House today. During the call-on, matters of mutual interest, bilateral relations, and regional situations were discussed in detail. Views were also exchanged on regional and international issues.

"Pakistan and Bulgaria have traditionally enjoyed friendly and cooperative relations. Our Country adores and values its friendly relations with the Republic of Bulgaria", Sadiq Sanjrani maintained.

Sanjrani underlined that both countries share the commonality of views on regional and international issues. Pakistan and Bulgaria are partners in counter-terrorism, he further added.

The Chairman also comprehended Bulgaria's supportive role for Pakistan's greater access to European Union (EU) market." The two countries need to further cement ties at the parliamentary level. Exchanges of high-level delegations between

Bulgarian investors should benefit from investments opportunities in Gwadar, says Chairman Senate

Pakistan is an important country for Bulgaria; it wants to enhance its relations with Pakistan; further, H.E Irena Gancheva said.

the two countries will further bolster friendly relations", Sanjrani stressed.

During the meeting, the Chairman

of the Upper House also called for boosting the untapped areas for enhancing the cooperation between the two friendly countries, i.e. Agriculture, Information Technology (IT) and economics.

While hailing the economic potential of Gwadar, the Chairman underscored that Bulgarian investors should also benefit from investments in Gwadar. Furthermore, trade cooperation needs to be further enhanced, he said.

"Parliamentary diplomacy is substantial means of bringing nations closer together. Peace and stability are crucial for the development and prosperity of the region. Pakistan will continue to support and remain the partner of peace efforts in the region", he underlined.

The Bulgarian Ambassador stressed the importance of bilateral cooperation with Pakistan. Pakistan is an important country for Bulgaria. She added. Bulgaria wants to strengthen its relations with Pakistan; further, H.E Irena Gancheva maintained.

PM Imran Khan Talks to Delegation of Pak-Afghan Youth Forum in Islamabad

By M Bilal Zafar

Prime Minister Imran Khan says Pakistan wanted peace in Afghanistan more than any other country in the world as peace in the region will give Islamabad an access to the central Asian Republics.

The Prime Minister while talking to a delegation of Pak-Afghan youth forum said they have already signed an agreement with Uzbekistan for a railway line from Mazar Sharif to Peshawar, which will reach Pakistan via Afghanistan.

The meeting was aimed at presenting the government's view in response to the questions raised by the members of Pak

Afghan Youth Forum about Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations, Pakistan's efforts for sustainable peace in Afghanistan as well as the overall situation in the region.

The Prime Minister said that all the future economic policies of Pakistan depended on peace in Afghanistan.

He, however, added that recent statements from afghan leaders blaming Pakistan for afghan crisis was unfortunate because it was Pakistan which strived hard to convince Taliban first for talks with the united states and then with afghan government.

To another question, the prime minister said unfortunately there was a misconception

in Afghanistan, which was based on Indian Propaganda, that Pakistan was controlled by military institutions.

Imran Khan said that his foreign policy was based on his party's 25 years of manifesto, adding, he had a consistent view that there was no military solution of the afghan conflict, which could only be resolved through political means.

In reply to a question, he said India through its unilateral august 5, 2019 action violated the United Nations resolutions and changed the status of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.





Agricultural Cooperation between Pakistan and Korea

By Mian Fazal Elahi

A delegation of the Republic of Korea headed by the Rural Development Administrator (RDA), Mr. Hur Tae-woong called on the Prime Minister Imran Khan on August 3, 2021 at the PM Office. The high level representation from both sides included the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Mr. Suh Sangpyo, Foreign Minister Mr. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Mr. Jamshed Cheema, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Mr. Syed Fakhar Imam were present to discuss matters of Agricultural Cooperation.

The Aeroponic Potato Seed production, establishment of Technology of Fodder Crops and Chilli Production projects by the RDA were appreciated by the Prime Minister. The

Prime Minister assured of his government support for smooth implementation of the

Korea and Pakistan have agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the agriculture sector

projects. The SAPM apprised the Prime Minister on current outcomes and opportunities in agricultural cooperation between both countries.

The Prime Minister commended Korea-Pakistan Exchange and Cooperation on the advanced technical assistance through KOPIA in Pakistan and hopes for their further collaboration.

The opening ceremony of KOPIA Pakistan Center was held on August 4, 2021.

Two countries will work together on the development of customized technology in the fields of small agri-machinery, agricultural inputs, and protected agriculture, in order to modernize the agricultural sector of Pakistan. The bilateral cooperation will make a great contribution to support Pakistan's food security goals.



Dr Mirza Ikhtiar Baig former Advisor to PM on Textile & Hon. Consul General of Yemen hosted a dinner reception in honor of Senator Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani Leader of Opposition Senate of Pakistan, attended by friends & family members; Shamim Alvi, Shamas-ur-Rehman, Ahsan Soomro, Omair Baig, Dr. Ali Farhan, Murtaza Khokar & Khurram Chhapra with their spouses.



Symposium on Agricultural Technical Cooperation between Pakistan and Korea

The Prime Minister Office and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea jointly inaugurated the Symposium on "Agricultural Technical Cooperation between Pakistan and Korea" on August 3, 2021 at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. This symposium is co-organized by the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and Rural Development Administration (RDA) of the Republic of Korea. The symposium was attended by the SAPM on Food Security, Minister for National Food Security and Research, the RDA delegation from Korea and dignitaries from KOPIA, PARC and NARC. The symposium explored the ongoing and future cooperation between Pakistan and Korea including the

potato seed multiplication, and production and R&D of Chilli and Fodder Crops. RDA and PARC agreed to strengthen agricultural technical cooperation through the KOPIA-Pakistan Center. On the occasion, Mr. Hur Taewoong shared that KOPIA-Pakistan Center and the PARC will jointly develop locally-customized technologies to contribute to increasing farmer's income and developing Pakistan's agro-industry.

He mentioned that the two governments are opening a new chapter in agricultural technology cooperation. Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam appreciated the Korean RDA projects

and reiterated the support of the incumbent government for sustainable Agricultural development. He apprised the delegation on the Pakistan's agricultural industry and provided a positive outlook for future collaborations. The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Mr. Suh Sangpyo commented that Pakistan has unlimited potential with its young population and vast farmland. Pakistan's agriculture is expected go beyond domestic food self-sufficiency and contribute to the global food problem. He hoped that the symposium would lay a cornerstone in strengthening bilateral relations.



The K-Pop World Festival is an annual global music and dance competition

South Korean Ambassador H.E. Seo Sang-myung has said that South Korea would build a cultural corridor with Pakistan as both countries were tied in historic cultural bonds. The envoy expressed these views while addressing the participants of the preliminary round of 2021 Changwon K-Pop World Festival held here under the aegis of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea. The first of its kind event gave Pakistani fans and lovers of K-pop a

chance to show their talent. The K-Pop World Festival is an annual global music and dance competition, which is organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Korea in collaboration with the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS), one of Korea's leading television channels. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Seo Sang-myung appreciated the strong interest of the competitors and audience in K-pop, commonly known as a part of Hallyu or Korean waves. He

also underlined the global fever of K-pop which attracts young K-pop fans all around the world as well as in Pakistan. He further reiterated his commitment to promoting the bilateral cultural interactions between Korea and Pakistan to new heights in the days ahead. The event was quite successful, as the audience showed enthusiastic responses to the energetic performances.



NAVAL CHIEF CONFERRED WITH UAE's HIGHEST MILITARY AWARD

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi has been conferred with the highest Military Medal of the United Arab Emirates, during an impressive award ceremony held at UAE Embassy in Islamabad.

The Medal was conferred to the Naval Chief by His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Supreme Commander of UAE Armed forces in recognition of his outstanding professional services and efforts to enhance bilateral relations and cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi is the first Naval Chief to receive this Medal.



The 8th Japan-Pakistan Politico-Military Dialogue

The 8th Japan-Pakistan Politico-Military Dialogue was held virtually in Tokyo and Islamabad on June 29, 2021. Mr. KO-BAYASHI Kenichi, Director-General, Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and Mr. Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, Additional Secretary (Asia Pacific) who also serves as the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan represented respective sides. Officials of the two

countries from related Ministries and agencies also attended the dialogue.

In this dialogue, Japan and Pakistan exchanged opinions on the diplomatic and security policies of both countries, counter-terrorism measures, and the current regional security developments. Moreover, both sides confirmed that they would continue to deepen understanding and cooperation in the fields of security and defense between the two countries.

H.E. MATSUDA Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, recognizes Pakistan as an important country for the peace and stability in this region, therefore he highly values security dialogues between Japan and Pakistan. He also emphasized that Japan and Pakistan would continue to work together for strengthening cordial relationship between the two countries, through bilateral dialogues at various levels.



Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoy close fraternal relations, marked by close cooperation and mutual support

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) have underscored the need to broaden the spectrum of bilateral relations in all areas of mutual interests. Both countries reiterated their commitment to institutionalize the bilateral relations so as to make enhanced progress in the areas of trade and economy. This was discussed at a meeting between President Dr Arif Alvi and the visiting Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, His Highness Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Welcoming the Saudi Foreign Minister, the President said that Pakistan highly valued its ties with KSA and wanted to further expand economic and trade relations with the brotherly country. He highly commended the vision of Saudi leadership, particularly the Vision-2030 and the “Green Saudi Arabia” and “Green Middle East” Initiative, recently launched by His Royal Highness Crown Prince. He thanked the leadership of KSA for taking care of the Pakistani community during the COVID-19 pandemic. The President congratulated the Saudi Government over the successful organization of Hajj during the global pandemic. He also highlighted the atrocities being committed by India against the innocent Muslims of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). He urged the international community to put pressure on India to stop human rights violations and grant the Kashmiris their right to self-determination in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions. The President asked the visiting dignitary to convey his sincere wishes and warm regards to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz and Crown Prince, His Royal Highness Mohammed



bin Salman. He expressed the hope that the visit of Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud would further cement bilateral ties between the two countries. The Saudi Foreign Minister said that both countries enjoyed true brotherly relations and Saudi Arabia desired to maintain the existing momentum of bilateral cooperation. He added that the leadership of his country attached importance to its ties with Pakistan and wanted to further push forward economic relations between the two brotherly countries.

The Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Highness Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al Saud, called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. The Prime Minister extended warm welcome to the Foreign Minister and reaffirmed deep-rooted and historic bonds between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The Prime Minister conveyed cordial greetings for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques His Majesty King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The Prime Minister fondly recalled his visit to Saudi Arabia in May 2021. In line with the decisions taken on the occasion, the Prime Minister highlighted the assiduous follow-up and stressed the need for exploring new avenues of cooperation to further deepen bilateral relations in diverse fields. The Prime Minister particularly emphasized the need for strengthening the economic dimension of the relationship and taking steps for realizing the vast possibilities in the trade, investment and energy fields.

Prime Minister Imran Khan appreciated the work related to activation of the Saudi-Pakistan Supreme Coordination Council (SPSCC), which is the highest level platform designed to impart strategic direction to the development of Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations. The Prime Minister lauded the important role of Pakistan's community in Saudi Arabia in progress and development of the two countries. He underlined that the strong people-to-people linkages helped building solid foundations of bilateral cooperation. Noting the difficulties being faced by Pakistani nationals due to Covid-related travel restrictions, the Prime

Minister underlined the importance of timely measures for facilitation of their return to Saudi Arabia. The Prime Minister thanked for the administration of Covid vaccines to Pakistanis living in the Kingdom.

The Covid situation in the two countries and in South Asia was discussed. On the situation in Afghanistan, the Prime Minister underscored the need for constructive engagement among the Afghan parties for securing a negotiated political settlement, which was critically important for peace and stability in the region. Thanking the Prime Minister for the warm welcome accorded to the Saudi delegation, Prince Faisal underscored the importance that Saudi Arabia attaches to its strong relationship with Pakistan, based on bonds of brotherhood. He reaffirmed the resolve to take all possible measures to further strengthen the bilateral relationship under the strategic direction set by the Crown Prince and the Prime Minister. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoy close fraternal relations, marked by close cooperation and mutual support. Saudi Arabia is a member of OIC Contact Group on Jammu & Kashmir and steadfastly supports the Kashmir cause.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud arrived here Tuesday on an official visit. The Saudi Foreign Minister, visiting Pakistan at the invitation of Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, is accompanied by a delegation comprising senior officials of the Saudi government.

During the visit, the two Foreign Ministers will exchange views on the entire gamut of bilateral relations and regional and international issues.

The Saudi Foreign Minister will call on other dignitaries as well during the visit, Foreign Office said.

The visit of the Saudi Foreign Minister holds special significance in the backdrop of the recent visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Saudi Arabia in May 2021.

It will provide a timely opportunity to review progress in bilateral cooperation in line with the vision of the leadership of the two countries, the statement added. Pakistan and Saudi



Arabia have long-standing and historic fraternal relations, rooted deep in common faith, shared history, and mutual support.

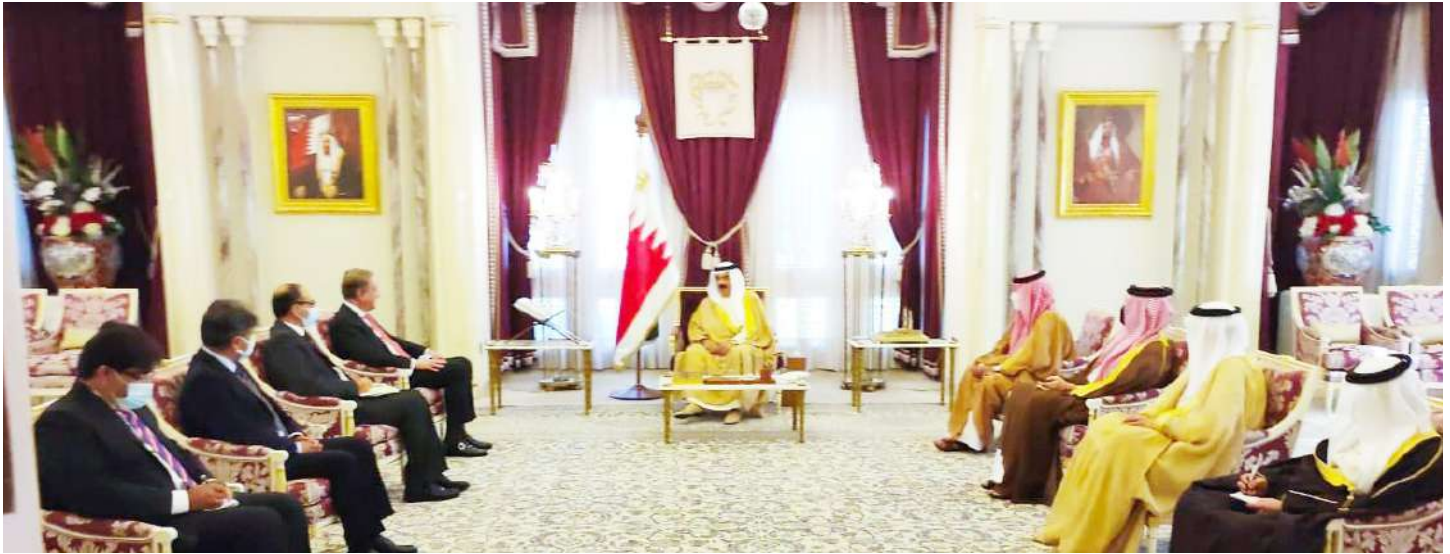
The relationship is marked by close cooperation in all fields and mutual collaboration on regional and international issues. Saudi Arabia is a member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir and had steadfastly supported the Kashmir cause, it added.

Frequent high-level visits were a key feature of the relationship that served to further deepen and broaden the relationship in myriad dimensions.

The visit of the Saudi Foreign Minister will reinforce the positive momentum in high-level exchanges and the deepening of bilateral cooperation in diverse fields, the statement maintained.

Senior high-level delegations held talks on relations, in the run-up to visit of the Saudi Foreign Minister. The key focus was on Saudi-Pak Supreme Coordination Council, the highest level platform to provide strategic direction to bilateral ties. Saudi side was led by Amb Eid Al-Thaqafi.





Bahrain reaffirms special ties with Pakistan

King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain on Thursday underlined that Bahrain valued its historic relationship with Pakistan and desired to further augmenting the bilateral relationship for mutual benefit. He also expressed appreciation for the contribution made by Pakistani expatriate community towards Bahrain's progress and economic development.

The King of Bahrain expressed these view during a meeting with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who called on in Manama. The Foreign Minister conveyed the warm regards of President Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan to His Majesty, as well as best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of Bahrain. His Majesty reciprocated the sentiments. Foreign Minister Qureshi said that Pakistan attached importance to its close relations with the Kingdom of Bahrain and remained committed to expand this relationship in all spheres of bilateral cooperation. He expressed deep gratitude to the Kingdom of Bahrain for hosting a large number of Pakistani citizens, according to a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Foreign Minister expressed gratitude for inviting Prime Minister Imran Khan as Guest of Honour at the National Day of Bahrain in December 2019 and decorating him with Bahrain's prestigious award "King Hamad Order of the Renaissance".

Thanking His Majesty for the generous gift of King Hamad Nursing University and Associated Medical Sciences Hospital in Islamabad, Foreign Minister Qureshi said that the facility would be a symbol of enduring friendship between the two countries.

He said that the project reflected the special and deep relations between the countries.



The Foreign Minister extended the invitation, on behalf of the President and Prime Minister, to His Majesty to visit Pakistan at the earliest convenience.

Pakistan and Bahrain enjoy traditionally close and fraternal ties, rooted deep in common faith and shared values.

Bilateral relations with Bahrain have been following an upward trajectory since Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain in December 2019, on the invitation of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Shah Mahmood Qureshi meeting with His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and Prime Minister in Manama Bahrain (29.07.21)

Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Bahrain Prince Salman Bin Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa in Manama on Thursday acknowledged Pakistan's close cooperation to Bahrain for the development of its defence and security capabilities.

The crown prince, who is also the Deputy Supreme Commander of his country, in a meeting with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in Manama also expressed appreciation for the contribution made by the Pakistani diaspora towards Bahrain's progress and economic development.

Foreign Minister Qureshi underlined the importance of strong political and security linkages to strengthen bilateral cooperation in areas of economy and trade, the Foreign Office said.

He also stressed exploring new areas of cooperation for the benefit of the peoples of the two countries.

On behalf of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the foreign minister conveyed sincere felicitations and

best wishes to the Crown Prince on his appointment as the prime minister of Bahrain. On close bilateral ties between Pakistan and Bahrain, the foreign minister underlined that the relations were deep-rooted in shared history and cultural affinities, that nourished through growing economic linkages and close people-to-people contacts.

The foreign minister extended the invitation, on behalf of the Prime Minister, to the Crown Prince to visit Pakistan at the earliest convenience. Pakistan and Bahrain remain committed to further augmenting the bilateral relationship for mutual benefit.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood



Qureshi met his Bahraini counterpart Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, on the margins of the 2nd session of Pakistan-Bahrain Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) held in Manama.

The Foreign Minister expressed his gratitude for warm hospitality extended to his delegation.

The two Foreign Ministers had a detailed discussion on entire gamut of bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The two sides agreed to continue working closely to further strengthen bilateral relations in all spheres, with a particular focus on trade, investment, energy, and culture, a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here said.

Recalling the traditionally close and fraternal bilateral ties, rooted deep in common faith and shared values, Foreign Minister Qureshi underscored the need to explore new areas of cooperation to further deepen the bilateral relations.

He highlighted shifting focus of the current Government from geo-politics to geo-eco-

nomics, with emphasis on building development partnerships and regional connectivity. Highlighting the human rights situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), the Foreign Minister reiterated Pakistan's principled position on peaceful resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute in line with the UNSC resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

The Foreign Minister also apprised on the evolving situation in Afghanistan and underlined Pakistan's earnest efforts for an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement.

He lauded the positive role of Pakistani expatriates in deepening the bonds between the two countries and also discussed matters pertaining to the welfare of Pakistani Diaspora in Bahrain.

The Foreign Minister of Bahrain extended warm welcome to Foreign Minister Qureshi and expressed the desire of the Government of Bahrain to further broaden and deepen bilateral engagement in diverse fields.

He also expressed appreciation for the role and contribution of the Pakistani expatriate community towards progress and economic development of Bahrain.



HE the Chief of Staff of the Qatari Armed Forces Lieutenant General (Pilot) Ghanem bin Shaheen Al Ghanem met with HE Chief of Army Staff of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan General Qamar Javed Bajwa. They reviewed the military relations and ways to enhance them.



HE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs of Qatar Dr. Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiyah met with HE Chief of Army Staff of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan General Qamar Javed Bajwa. They reviewed the military relations and ways to enhance them.



H.E. Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa, met with H.E. Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Counterterrorism and Mediation in Conflict Resolution of Qatar Dr. Mutlaq bin Majed Al Qahtani. During the meeting, regional and Afghan developments were reviewed.



Qatar Affirms Determination to Continue Working as Effective International Partner to Prevent Scourge of Terrorism

The State of Qatar reiterated condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever it is committed, and whatever its justifications may be, affirming its determination to continue working as an effective international partner to prevent the heinous scourge of terrorism.

This came in a pre-recorded speech delivered by HE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani at the opening session of the Second United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, as part of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week.

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs said, "Preventing and countering terrorism are areas that require the highest degree of international coordination and cooperation. In that regard, the United Nations plays a central role in revitalizing multilateral cooperation, as represented by convening this high-level conference. We look forward to this conference contribution in building on and developing the outcome of the First Conference in 2018 and the Virtual Week of last year."

"To ensure the effectiveness of our joint efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism, we must work on addressing the root causes of terrorism and to support programs and activities in integrated areas such as education, youth employment and countering extremist discourse. Nevertheless, such steps are not enough as the terrorist threat is a complex and evolving threat, and terrorists continue to exploit technological tools and international and emerging conditions, such as the coronavirus pandemic, to further their activities and at-

tacks," he added.

HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani noted, "In this context, the State of Qatar took the initiative and inaugurated in last December the International Hub on Behavioral Insights to Counter Terrorism as a program office of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) in Doha, funded by the State of Qatar. We look forward to the International Hub becoming a resource center at the international level and to contribute to the collection and exchange of experiences and research."

HE the Minister of Foreign Affairs added, "I would also like to note the opening this month in Doha of the United Nations Program Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism, which will contribute to the development of legislative models on the rights of victims of right-wing extremism and to activating the role of parliaments in countering terrorism and extremism."

"Work is also being done in the State of Qatar to harness the field of sports to counter terrorism through the International Center for Sport Security," he explained.

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs underlined, "The State of Qatar is committed to the integrated implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy through its four pillars, as well as the relevant international instruments and Security Council resolutions."

His Excellency pointed out, "The State of Qatar has updated its national legislation and regulations related to counterterrorism, anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism, and prepared a national strategy in

this regard. The State of Qatar also actively participates in international mechanisms for coordinating efforts to counter terrorism and its financing, in addition to cooperation between national entities and committees in the State of Qatar and relevant agencies from friendly countries. The State of Qatar also maintains continuous cooperation and communication with many relevant United Nations bodies, especially the Counterterrorism Executive Directorate and the UNOCT."

"In this regard, we commend the central leadership and ongoing diligent efforts by the UNOCT to strengthen its field presence which ensures impactful and effective implementation of programs," he continued.

HE the Foreign Minister added, "We affirm the State of Qatar's commitment to its partnership with the UNOCT, as a major contributor and a partner in implementing pioneering projects that would achieve tangible results, such as the Global Program on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets, the Countering Terrorist Travel Program and the First Annual Forum for Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance which will be convened jointly with UNOCT in Doha in October."

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs concluded, "I would like also to express the appreciation of the State of Qatar for the tireless efforts and unremitting endeavours made in preparation for the conference and other activities of the Second United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week. I welcome the consensus reached on the General Assembly resolution on the Seventh Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy."



Pakistan and Hungary hold the 5th Round of Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC)

By Monitoring Desk

The 5th round of Pakistan-Hungary Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) was held in Budapest today. The Pakistan side was led by Dr. Muhammad Tariq, Additional Secretary (Europe); while Laszlo Varadi, Deputy Secretary for State Cooperation with South led the Hungarian side. Mr. Muhemmed Aejaz, Ambassador of Pakistan to Hungary, also attended the meeting.

The exchange of views covered the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, including matters relating to political, economic and trade, culture, defence and people-to-people contacts. The two sides also reviewed recent developments in bilateral relations and explored the way forward to enhance cooperation in diverse fields. A review of regional and international issues of mutual interest such as the situation in Afghanistan and IIOJK was part of the parleys.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the current pace of cooperation after the Hungary-Pakistan Trade and Economic Window (HPTWE) launched in March 2021, and the first Hungary-Pakistan Business Forum inaugurated by the two Foreign Ministers,

as well as the subsequent visit of Foreign Minister Peter Szijjártó to Pakistan in April 2021. Both sides expressed the desire to further strengthen cooperation in economic and trade, investment, industry, agriculture, water resource management, information technology, energy, industry, healthcare and pharmaceutical, sports, culture, education and parliamentary exchanges. Dr. Tariq emphasized the importance of regular high-level exchanges in boosting linkages in areas of mutual interest. The Additional Secretary also highlighted the steps taken by the Government of Pakistan to attract international tourism and bring foreign investment into Pakistan.

The Additional Secretary briefed the Hungarian side on Pakistan's positive role in facilitating the peace efforts with the aim of promoting an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement in Afghanistan through an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led process. The Additional Secretary also apprised the Hungarian side about the grave human rights violations being committed by India in IIOJK, underlined that India had vitiated the atmosphere by taking the illegal and unilateral step of 5 August 2019,

and stressed that the onus was on India to create an enabling environment for engagement and result-oriented dialogue.

Dr. Tariq called on Minister of State for Public Administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Dr. Csaba Balogh, and underscored the commitment of Pakistan's leadership to further deepen relations with Hungary in diverse areas.

Besides, the Additional Secretary also met with Deputy State Secretary for Cultural Diplomacy, Mr. Marton Schoberil and exchanged views on promotion of cultural relations between the two countries. Subsequently, the two sides signed an MoU on 'Cultural Cooperation' between Pakistan and Hungary for the Years 2021-2023.

Pakistan-Hungary bilateral relations are historically marked by friendship, cooperation and similarity of views on many important issues. Pakistan and Hungary have maintained close collaboration at international fora, especially at the UN. Pakistan is firmly committed to further expanding and developing mutually beneficial cooperation with Hungary in all areas of mutual interest. Both sides agreed to hold the next round of BPC next year on mutually convenient dates.



5th Round of Bilateral Political Consultations between Pakistan-Belarus

The 5th round of Pakistan - Belarus Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) was held today at Minsk. The Pakistan side was led by Dr. Muhammad Tariq, Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe) while Mr. Nikolai Boresivich, Deputy Foreign Minister led the Belarus side. Ambassador of Pakistan, Sajjad Haider Khan and Ambassador of Belarus in Islamabad also attended the meeting.

Talks between the two sides were focused on the whole range of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest. The Additional Secretary thanked the Belarus side for receiving him despite the COVID-19 pandemic. They expressed satisfaction at the steadily growing cooperation between the two sides in diverse areas, especially the recent interactions between the two governments including the recent visit of Ms. Zubaida Jalal, Minister for Defence Production, to Minsk.

The two delegations discussed progress on implementing various agreements/MoUs signed between the two countries in diverse fields. Both sides agreed on the importance of high level exchanges as well as enhancing collaboration in economic & trade, agriculture, industry, science & technology, information technology, education, culture, tourism and defence sectors. It was also agreed to expeditiously conclude the Agreements/MoUs currently under process. The Additional Secretary highlighted Pakistan's focus on ensuring economic security through leveraging its geo-economic location, building development partnerships, and pro-

moting regional peace and security.

The Additional Secretary apprised the Belarusian side of Pakistan's positive efforts in facilitating Afghan peace process with the aim of promoting an inclusive and broad-based political settlement with emphasis on Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process. The Additional Secretary highlighted the human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and stressed that Indian actions of 5 August 2019 had vitiated the atmosphere and the onus was on India to create an enabling environment for engagement and result-oriented talks. The Additional Secretary stressed the importance of solution of the Jammu and Kashmir issue in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions.

Pakistan and Belarus enjoy cordial relations based on commonality of views on issues of regional and global importance. The two coun-



tries have been closely collaborating at international fora, especially at the UN. Consultations ended with both sides agreeing to hold the next round on mutually convenient dates in Islamabad.



The development of cooperation of Turkmenistan and Russia is in priority



A meeting was held in the Turkmen capital with the delegation of the Russian Federation headed by the Chairman of the Committee for External Relations of Saint Petersburg Ye. Grigoryev, who arrived to Turkmenistan on a working visit.

The Turkmen side at the meeting was represented by the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov and the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Chairman of the Supreme Control Chamber of Turkmenistan Serdar

Berdimuhamedov.

As is known, cooperation of Turkmenistan with the regions of the Russian Federation steps out as one of the important mechanisms of bilateral relations. In this context, the positive dynamics of the development of Turkmen-Russian relations which are of strategic character is highlighted.

During the talks, the parties have noted the perspectives of collaboration in the fields of trade, digital technologies, innovative economy and interaction among commercial structures of the two countries.

The parties have also noted the efficien-

cy of regular meetings of representatives of state and private sectors of national economies of Turkmenistan and Russian Federation. It was also mentioned that the economic interaction of the two countries involves wide range of spheres, beginning from energy sector, covers perspective directions in the industry, transport sector, infrastructure construction and others.

Within the framework of the visit Russian delegation have also held a number of meetings with the heads of the line ministries and departments.

Ambassador of Turkmenistan presented his credentials to the President of the Republic of Poland

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Turkmenistan to the Federal Republic of Germany Berdimurad Redjepov presented his credentials to the President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda at the Belvedere Palace in Warsaw as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Turkmenistan to the Republic of Poland (with the residence in Berlin).

During the ceremony, the Ambassador of Turkmenistan conveyed warm greetings and best wishes to the President of the Republic of Poland on behalf of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

During the meeting, President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda expressed gratitude for the warm words on behalf of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and addressed, in turn, his best wishes for peace and prosperity to the President and the people of Turkmenistan.





Turkmen-Moroccan political consultations on the level of external policy agencies of Turkmenistan and the Kingdom of Morocco were held

The Turkmen-Moroccan political consultations in the format of a videoconference were held.

The Turkmen delegation was headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov, while the Moroccan side was led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco Nasser Bourita.

During the consultations, the parties discussed a wide range of issues of bilateral cooperation in political-diplomatic, trade-economic and cultural-humanitarian spheres.

The effectiveness of the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov to Morocco in March of 2020, in accordance with the instructions of the President of Turkmenistan on the necessity to expand the constructive ties with the countries of the African continent was underlined.

The parties noted the importance of bilateral agreements signed during the mentioned visit and agreed to intensify the dialogue on finalizing the additional documents in the area of external policy cooperation, transport, education, science and others.

The Ministers expressed consent with the level of cooperation between the external policy agencies of the two countries, as well as underlined the efficiency of collaboration in the framework of international structures, primarily the United Nations. An exchange of views took place on the pressing issues of regional and global agenda.

During the consultations, the interest of two countries in the development of trade-economic ties was emphasized. The oil and gas, chemical, textile and processing industries, as well as tourism and agriculture were named among the priority vectors of collaboration. In this

regard, the possibilities of creating a joint commission on economic cooperation were considered. The parties highlighted the importance of organizing the meetings between the profile ministries and departments of two countries with the participation of the representatives of business circles for the advancement of the given process.

Also, the opportunities of expanding the cultural-humanitarian relations were discussed. The significance of widening collaboration and exchanging expertise on the area of medicine and healthcare was emphasized.

Upon the completion of the talks, the parties signed the Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco for 2022-2023.



China and Pakistan enjoyed “All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership”

Pakistan and China have reaffirmed their resolve to further boost bilateral cooperation in various fields for the mutual benefit of the two countries. Both sides emphasized the need for making collective efforts to promote peace, prosperity and development in the region. This was discussed at a meeting between President Dr Arif Alvi and the Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Mr. Nong Rong, who called on the President, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. The meeting also underlined the need to enhance cooperation in the field of Information Technology.

Talking to the Ambassador, the President said that China and Pakistan enjoyed excellent relations and the “All-weather Strategic Cooper-

ative Partnership” between the two countries would further take the bilateral relationship to new heights. He stated that both time-tested friends had always stood by each other through thick and thin. The President reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to “One-China Policy” and firm support to China on core issues of its national interest, such as Taiwan, Tibet, Hong Kong and the South China Sea. He appreciated China’s support for Pakistan’s core national issues such as Jammu and Kashmir dispute, NSG & FATF. He also thanked the Chinese government for providing support to Pakistan in containing the COVID-19 pandemic.

The President underlined that Pakistan was committed to the timely completion of the

CPEC project that had huge potential to contribute to the socio-economic development of Pakistan. He stated that certain hostile players were not happy over the project and were trying to sabotage it but they would not succeed as both the iron brothers were strongly committed to implement the project. Offering condolences to the Government of China and the bereaved families who lost their dear ones in Dasu, the President underscored that the security of Chinese nationals, working in various projects in Pakistan, was the highest priority of Pakistan and the Government was making all-out efforts for their protection and security.



His Excellency Mr. Nong Rong, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan had a productive meeting with Minister of Interior Mr. Sheikh Rasheed on the protection of the Chinese nationals, institutions & projects in Pakistan. Both sides agreed to further improve security protection & work together to build a strengthened and upgraded security cooperation mechanism.



Chinese FM meets with Afghan Taliban's political chief

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met here with Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, political chief of Afghanistan's Taliban.

The Afghan Taliban, as a critical military and political force in the country, is expected to play an important role in the peace, reconciliation and reconstruction process of Afghanistan, Wang said.

He called on the Afghan Taliban to put their national interests first and foremost, hold high the banner of peace talks, establish the goal of peace, create a positive image and adopt an inclusive policy.

The sudden withdrawal of forces by the United States and NATO from Afghanistan marks the failure of the United States' Afghanistan policy, and Afghan people now face an important opportunity to stabilize and develop their own country, he said.

Wang urged all factions and ethnic groups in Afghanistan to stay united, truly implement the "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned" principle, promote the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan to achieve substantive results as soon as possible, and independently establish an inclusive political structure in line with Afghanistan's own national conditions.

China, as Afghanistan's largest neighbor, always respects Afghanistan's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, sticks to not interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs and adopts the friendly policy in view of the entire Afghan people, he said.

"Afghanistan belongs to the Afghan people, and the country's future and destiny should be in the hands of its people," he added.

The East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), an international terrorist group listed by the UN Security Council, poses direct threats to China's national security and territorial integrity, and it is the common responsibility of the international

The Afghan Taliban, as a critical military and political force in the country, is expected to play an important role in the peace, reconciliation and reconstruction process of Afghanistan, Wang said

community to fight against it, he said.

Wang called on the Afghan Taliban to draw a clear line from ETIM and other terrorist groups, and resolutely and effectively crack down on them, so as to remove obstacles and create fa-

vorable conditions for regional peace, stability and development.

Baradar expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to visit China.

"China has always been a trustworthy friend of the Afghan people," he said, expressing appreciation for China's fair and positive role in the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan.

The Afghan Taliban, with sincerity for achieving peace, is willing to work with all parties to establish an inclusive political structure in Afghanistan that is accepted by all Afghan people and protects human rights as well as the rights and interests of women and children, Baradar said. Baradar said that the Afghan Taliban would absolutely not allow any forces to do anything harmful to China in Afghanistan's territory.

Baradar said that the Afghan Taliban held that Afghanistan should develop friendly relations with neighboring countries and the international community.

The Afghan Taliban hoped that China would be more involved in Afghanistan's peace and reconstruction process, and play a bigger role in the country's future reconstruction and economic development, Baradar said, adding that the Afghan Taliban would make its own efforts in creating a favorable investment environment.



China stands ready to work with Pakistan to promote the building of a closer community of shared future in the new era

State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi of the People's Republic of China and Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan held the third session of the Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue in Chengdu, capital city of Sichuan Province, China. The two sides exchanged views on bilateral strategic, economic and security cooperation, COVID-19 pandemic, peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan and international and regional issues of mutual interest, and reached consensus to collectively take measures to safeguard their common interests and promote peace, prosperity and development in the region.

Both sides recalled that the enduring Pakistan-China friendship has reached the momentous milestone of the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations, being enthusiastically marked in the two countries with holding of more than hundred celebratory events throughout this year, demonstrating warmth and deep sentiments of their unshakable fraternal bonds. In further strengthening their All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and together charting course for the Pakistan-China Community of Shared Future in the New Era, both sides are committed to firmly implementing the consensus reached between their leaders, enhance mutual strategic trust, strengthen all-round cooperation, maintain momentum of high-level exchanges, further advance Belt and Road partnership, promote bilateral relationship to a

higher level, and delivering greater benefits to both countries and the two peoples.

Extending felicitations to the Chinese side on the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China, the Pakistani side recognized CPC's immense contributions for the Chinese people, for China's stellar rise at the world stage, and its unrivalled achievement of lifting 800 million people out of poverty. The Pakistan side wished the Chinese government and people greater success in achieving the goal of socialist modernization in 2035 and building a modern, prosperous, beautiful, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious socialist country in 2049, under the inspiring and visionary leadership of the CPC, with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core.

Both sides reviewed with satisfaction their close cooperation in successfully controlling the spread of COVID-19, cooperation in protective and medical equipment, vaccine development and ensuring early post-pandemic economic recovery. The Pakistan side thanked China for its steadfast support to the vaccination drive in the country, and setting up of vaccine finish facility at the National Institute of Health in Islamabad. Chinese side expressed its resolve to continue assisting Pakistan in strengthening its national health systems and dealing with adverse socio-economic impacts of the pandemic.

Both sides believe that the study of origins of the SARS-CoV-2 is a matter of science, and should not be politicized. The joint report of

the WHO-convened global study of origins of the SARS-CoV-2, published this March, has drawn an authoritative and scientific conclusion of related issues. This joint report should be recognized, respected and preserved, and should be treated as the basis of the WHO next stage of the origin tracing study as well. We hope that the WHO can, together with international community, defend the scientific and serious study of origins of the SARS-CoV-2 and oppose the actions to politicize the issue, and safeguard the favorable atmosphere for global cooperation against the Covid-19 pandemic.

Offering condolences on the loss of precious lives caused by torrential rains and flooding in Henan province, the Pakistan side expressed hope that with strenuous efforts of the Chinese government, normalcy would be restored soon and affected people would return to their homes.

Both sides vehemently condemned the terrorist attack in Dasu which caused loss of precious lives and injuries to the Pakistani and Chinese workers. The Pakistan side conveyed its profound condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families, emphasized that the sacrifices of Chinese nationals would not be in vain, and that China-Pakistan partnership would emerge stronger through this test. The Pakistan side promised to ensure medical treatment, care and comfort of the injured. Both sides expressed their firm resolve to expose the culprits and their reprehensible designs through the ongoing joint investigation, give exempla-

ry punishment to the perpetrators, ensure comprehensive safety and security of the Chinese projects, nationals and institutions, and prevent recurrence of such incidents. Both sides agreed on continuing their unyielding support on issues concerning each other's core national interests. The Chinese side reiterated its firm support to Pakistan in safeguarding its territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence, independently choosing a development path based on its national conditions, striving for a better external security environment and playing a more constructive role on international and regional affairs. The Pakistan side reiterated its commitment to the "One China Policy" and firm support to China on core issues of its national interest, such as Taiwan, Xinjiang, Tibet, Hong Kong and South China Sea. Both sides underscored that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has entered the new phase of high-quality development, greatly contributing to the socio-economic development in Pakistan. The two sides will continue to firmly advance the construction of CPEC, ensure timely completion of under-construction projects, focus on economic and social development, job creation and improvement of people's livelihood, and further strengthen cooperation in Industrial Park, infrastructure development, science and technology, medical and health, agriculture, human resources training, with the aim to continuously unleash the great potential of CPEC to make it a hub of regional connectivity. Both sides agreed on the need to build Health, Industry, Trade, Digital and Green Corridors. Both sides reviewed with satisfaction the remarkable achievements of CPEC. The two sides look forward to convening the 10th JCC meeting to jointly promote the high-quality development of the CPEC and move forward the high-quality construction of BRI.

Both sides reviewed their cooperation on regional and international issues at multi-

lateral forums such as the United Nations, Shanghai Cooperation Organization and ASEAN Regional Forum, and agreed to deepen coordination and cooperation to safeguard mutual interests and uphold principles of fairness and justice. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and support for multilateralism, free trade and win-win cooperation.

Both sides underscored that a peaceful, stable, cooperative and prosperous South Asia was in the common interest of all countries. Both sides agreed on the need to settle disputes and issues in the region through dialogue on the basis of equality and mutual respect. The Pakistan side briefed the Chinese side on the deteriorating situation in Jammu & Kashmir, including its concerns, position and current urgent issues. The Chinese side reiterated that the Kashmir issue is a dispute left over from history between India and Pakistan, which is an objective fact, and that the dispute should be resolved peacefully and properly through the UN Charter, relevant Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements. China op-

poses any unilateral actions that complicate the situation.

Stressing that peace and stability in Afghanistan is vital for socio-economic development, connectivity and prosperity in the region, both sides called on all Afghan stakeholders for comprehensive ceasefire, and work together in earnest to achieve broad-based and comprehensive, inclusive, negotiated political settlement. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to facilitate and support "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned" peace and reconciliation process for the early realization of a peaceful, stable, united and prosperous Afghanistan, which would firmly combat terrorism and live in harmony with its neighbours. Both sides reaffirmed their support for the peaceful reconstruction of Afghanistan, their readiness to expand economic and trade ties, and support Afghanistan in enhancing its capacity for independent development.

Both China and Pakistan reaffirmed their firm resolve to further strengthen their time-tested and All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership with fresh dynamism and vitality.



Meeting of the Ambassador Hamid Abbas Lafta with the new Ambassador of Pakistan to Baghdad



H.E. Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta, the Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad has received, the newly designate Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Baghdad, Mr. Ahmed Amjad at the Embassy Headquarters.

The two sides had friendly conversation about bilateral relations that exist between the two brotherly countries. They discussed ways to achieve fruitful cooperation and communica-

tion between the foreign ministries of both countries. As Mr. Hamed Abbas indicated the depth of the relations that link the two countries and that he looks forward to promoting those relations to broader horizons by moving forward on the path of cooperation and the solid friendship relations that bind the two Missions of both countries. For his part, the Pakistani Ambassador expressed his happiness for assuming the assignments of his new posting as

Ambassador of his country in Iraq, he has all the love and respect for it and for its People.

During the meeting, several files and topics of common interest, especially those related to the development of bilateral cooperation and joint coordination, have been discussed by setting up a mechanism that would organize the process of visits of Pakistani visitors to the holy shrines in Iraq, especially since the month of Muharram is at the doors.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad meets the Special Secretary for Middle East Affairs in Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Ambassador Hamid Abbas Lafta met with Dr. Khalid Maimon, Special Secretary for Middle East Affairs at the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The two sides discussed the bilateral relations between the two countries, stressing upon the upcoming visit of the Iraqi Foreign Minister to Pakistan and preparations for it.

The two sides discussed a number of files related to the Mission's work, coordination and cooperation in various fields, including the issue of the religious visit to Iraq.

The two sides stressed upon the need to activate the Iraqi-Pakistani Joint Commission and to prepare for the signing of two Memorandums of Understanding in the field of political consultations, and the issue of exemption from entry visas for holders of diplomatic, service and special passports.



The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad receives the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates

H.E. Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta, the Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad, has received the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates in Islamabad Sheikh Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al Zaabi at the embassy headquarters. During the meeting, both sides reviewed the relations between the two countries, the regional situation, especially what is going on in Afghanistan and its impact on all countries. His Excellency indicated that the United Arab Emirates is an important partner, and is linked with Iraq with common factors that can be invested to achieve the interests of both sides.



The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad receives the Ambassador of Sultanate of Oman

H.E. Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad has received, H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Omar Al Marhoon, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman in Islamabad, at the Embassy headquarters.

The two sides have exchanged words of welcome and courtesy, reviewed the friendly relations that bind the two brotherly countries and ways to strengthen and develop bilateral relations to serve the interests of the two countries and achieve reconciliation between the two Peoples.

The regional situation and latest developments in the region have also been discussed, in addition to the situation and diplomatic relations in the Pakistani arena and ways to develop them, especially in light of the Corona pandemic and the restrictions it imposes on public relations.



The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad receives the Chairman of the Parliamentary Security and Defense Committee



H.E. Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta, the Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad, has received Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of the Parliamentary Security and Defense Committee, at the embassy headquarters. Various issues that fall within the tasks of security and defense and enhancement of the work of institutions have been dis-

cussed.

Both sides also discussed the current security incidents in Afghanistan and their impact on the regional and international situation, and Pakistan's mediating role in resolving this deterioration.

The Ambassador expressed his country's desire to enhance joint cooperation between the two countries, and to benefit

from Pakistani skills, especially in the military aspect, in accordance with common interests.

At the end of the meeting, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed expressed his pride in strengthening cooperation to serve the two friendly peoples.

Envoy asks business community to focus on Morocco for boosting exports to North Africa



The Pakistani business community should focus on Morocco for boosting exports to North African countries as African region offers great potential to Pakistan for promoting trade and economic relations. This was observed by Hamid Asghar Khan, Pakistan's Ambassador to Morocco while interacting with entrepreneurs during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

Hamid Asghar Khan said that Pakistani business community should increase its presence in Morocco to capture better market share in the North African region. He said that businessmen of Morocco were also interested in JVs in Pakistan, especially in agriculture, fertilizer and other sectors.

He emphasized the importance of Morocco and North African markets for Pakistan for improving trade and exports. He said that ICCI and other trade bodies in Pa-

kistan can play an important role in connecting the members of the business community with Moroccan counterparts for strong business linkages that would help in boosting trade relations and assured that his embassy would extend all possible co-operation in realizing these goals.

Speaking at the occasion, Fatma Azim, Senior Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that Pakistan have the potential to export many products to Morocco and other North African countries including rice, pharmaceuticals, textile products, surgical instruments, fruits, rickshaws, motorbikes and emphasized that Pakistan and Morocco should focus on direct flights and set up strong air links to strengthen trade relations and people-to-people contacts.

She said that the Embassy of Pakistan in Morocco should conduct market study

reports and share them with chambers of commerce & industry in Pakistan so that our exporters could exploit all the available business opportunities in Moroccan market. She said that both governments should facilitate frequent exchange of trade delegations and organize single country exhibitions to explore all untapped areas of trade promotion.

She emphasized that linkages between the businesswomen of both countries should be strengthened to boost bilateral trade in women related items.

Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI, Mian Shaukat Masud former President ICCI, Aslam Khokhar, Muhammad Shakir and Hafiz Bilal Munir, Executive Members ICCI also shared useful ideas for improving bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Morocco.

Dinner reception in honour of Ambassador of Poland

A farewell reception was arranged in honour of outgoing ambassador of Poland Piotr A. Opalski, who is returning Warsaw

after staying for a long period in Islamabad. He also served here as a diplomat about a decade ago. The host of reception highlighted the services

of the outgoing ambassador who took remarkable initiatives to enhance cooperation between the two friendly countries.



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Dinner reception hosted by Chairman Founder Group ICCIM Akram Farid

Secretary Information UBG Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Former President FPCCI Abdul Rauf Alam, Secretary General during a dinner hosted by Chairman Founder Group ICCIM Akram Farid in honor of Patron inche

United Business Group SM Munir. UBG Tafari Bakhtawari, Former President FPCCI Zubair Ahmad Malik, Former President ICCI Khalid Iqbal Malik, Ejaz Ahmad Abbasi, Former Vice President FPCCI Karim Aziz Malik, Vice President

ICCI Abdul Rahman Khan, Tahir Abbasi, Sohail Hussain Malik, Malik Saghir and other seniors are present to grace the occasion.



Reception bids farewell to Kyrgyz envoy

Thehreek Insaf Senator Chief Organiser Saifullah Khan Niazi has said that Kyrgyzstan is an important country for Pakistan and he would propose further steps to promote mutual cooperation with the Foreign Minister and he would raise his voice in every forum for the promotion of relations and mutual cooperation between the two countries.

He made this remarks at a farewell dinner in honor of Kyrgyz Ambassador Erik Beishembiev hosted by Pakistan Central Asia Friendship Association, says a press release. Kyrgyz Ambassador Erik Beishembiev said in his address that he has spent more than four years in Islamabad and that he is grateful for the hospitality and the best impression of the Pakistani people.

He said that our region is rich in oil, gas, mineral and water resources and we also want to benefit from these resources for Pakistan and the region, so that the countries of the region benefit from each other's resources. He said that currently 10,000 Pakistani students are studying in Kyrgyzstan.

Air links between the two countries will be restored in September this year and direct flights from Kyrgyzstan will come to Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad.

He said that Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan would come closer by rail and road under China's BRI project. He said that a two hours journey is required for travel between Kyrgyzstan and Kashgar.





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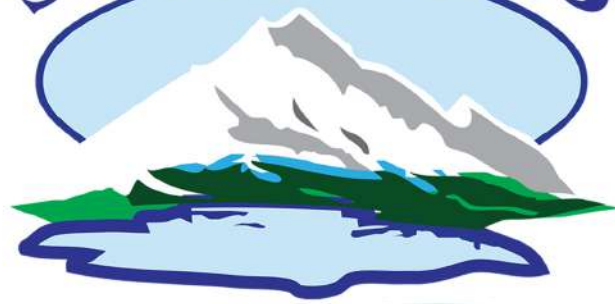
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