

# DIPLOMATIC FOCUS

"Publishing from Pakistan, United Kingdom/EU & will be soon from UAE, Central Africa, Central Asia & Asia Pacific"

Member APNS, CPNE  
Central Media List

A Largest, Widely Circulated Diplomatic Magazine

| [www.diplomaticfocus.org](http://www.diplomaticfocus.org) | [www.diplomaticfocus-uk.com](http://www.diplomaticfocus-uk.com) |

Member Diplomatic Council

[f /diplomaticfocusofficial](https://www.facebook.com/diplomaticfocusofficial) [/dip\\_focus](https://www.instagram.com/dip_focus)



**H.E. Mr. Nicolaus Keller**  
Ambassador of Austria to Pakistan



“ PAKISTAN IN ANY  
CASE, LIKE THE OTHER  
NEIGHBORING STATES,  
WILL BE A KEY PLAYER  
IN THE FUTURE OF  
AFGHANISTAN ”



PAKISTAN  
& SPAIN  
have 70th  
Year of Relationship

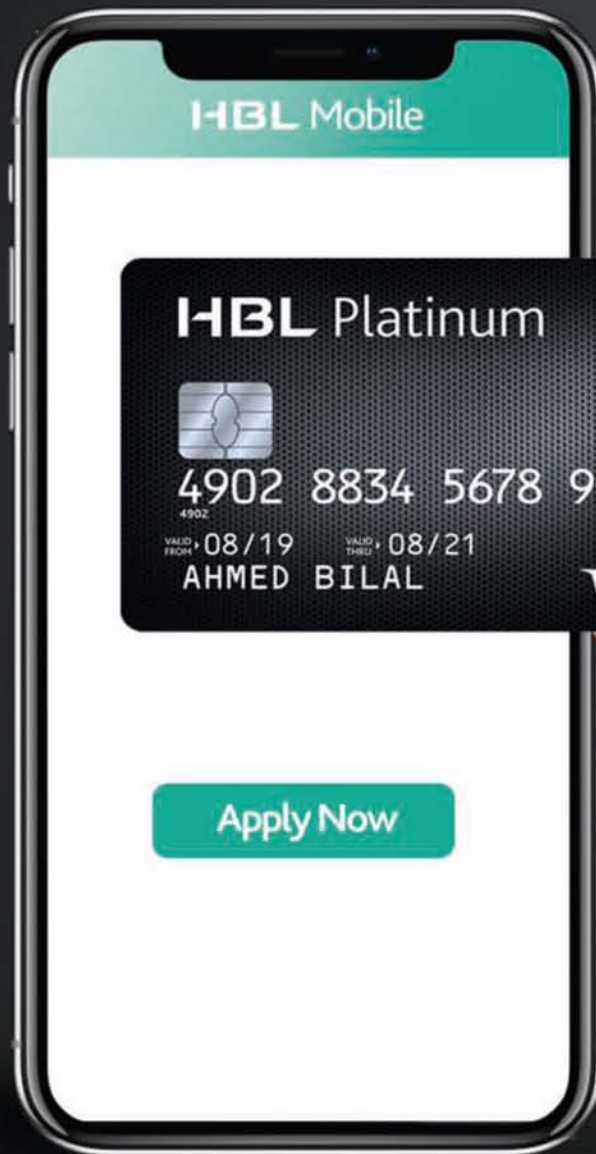


**H.E. Mr. Manuel Duran Gimenez-Rico**  
Ambassador of Spain to Pakistan

No paperwork, no branch visits.  
Your credit card is 4 taps away!



**HBL CreditCard**  
The Most Rewarding Experience







MILLENNIUM  
EDUCATION



MILLENNIUM  
ROOTS SCHOOLS



TMUC  
THE MILLENNIUM  
UNIVERSAL COLLEGE

A world of learners  
where children gain a  
passport to the world



SCHOOL  
WITH A  
DIFFERENCE



CONTACT US



Head Office: No. 80, Street 1, NPF Society, Sector E-11/4 Islamabad 44000, Pakistan



Tell: 051 2375201 - 6 Cell: 0331 5060561



TME.PakistanOfficial



[www.millenniumschoools.edu.pk](http://www.millenniumschoools.edu.pk)



[info@millenniumschoools.edu.pk](mailto:info@millenniumschoools.edu.pk)



# CUSTOMIZED STITCHING




**Book An Appointment**  
**+92 42 111 789 456**






**or whatsapp at**  
**+92 345 4037778**



**UNI WORTH | BLACK**  
Worth Wearing!

 | [www.uniworthblack.com](http://www.uniworthblack.com)

   [uniworthblack](https://www.facebook.com/uniworthblack)

**LAHORE**

PC Hotel | Emporium Mall | MM Alam Road | Packages Mall

**ISLAMABAD**

Beverly Center | Centaurus Mall

**SIALKOT**

V-Mall

**MULTAN**

ChenOne Tower

**FAISALABAD**

Serena Hotel





*Centennial Collection*



08



14



20



28



60

## 08 President inaugurates Pakistan Pavilion in Dubai Expo 2020

President Dr Arif Alvi said Pakistan was a beautiful mix of different cultures, ethnicities and civilizations, and stressed the need for projecting its positive image as a peaceful country.

## 14 PM Imran Khan Meets the Crown Prince and PM of Bahrain

Prime Minister Imran Khan had a meeting with the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin Hamad bin Isa al Khalifa in Riyadh on the side-lines of the "Middle East Green Initiative" Summit.

## 20 2nd Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan's Neighboring Countries

The Foreign Ministers of the Neighboring Countries of Afghanistan, including Islamic Republic of Iran, People's Republic of China, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan + the Russian Federation, held a meeting in Tehran on 27 October 2021.

## 28 Pakistan in any case, like the other neighboring states, will be a key player in the future of Afghanistan

The Republic of Austria is a great country having candid relations with Pakistan on diplomatic fronts. Like its vibrant culture, its values matter the most to them. Pakistan is proud of having great diplomatic, political and historical ties with Austria.

## 60 South Korea & Pakistan Sign MoU

The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Mr. Suh Sangpyo met with the Secretary of the National Heritage and Cultural Division of Pakistan, Mr. Asif Hyder Shah and both sides extended their felicitations on the recent signing of a significant MoU aimed at the preservation and promotion of the rich Gandhara Buddhist Heritage of Pakistan between the Cultural Heritage Authorities of both countries.



# Contents



**RBI Mediaminds**  
**Group of Publications**  
Electronic & Print Media Production House

- 08 President inaugurates Pakistan Pavilion in Dubai Expo 2020  
10 PM Imran, Saudi crown prince vow to boost 'fraternal ties'  
12 PM Imran heaps praise on KSA's 'idealistic' climate initiatives  
13 Saudi-Pakistan Investment Forum discusses boosting trade  
14 PM Imran Khan Meets the Crown Prince and PM of Bahrain  
15 Pakistan, Iran vow 'unified response to terrorism'  
16 Pakistan desires durable peace in Afghanistan: FM  
17 Mark NAZAROV: Turkmenistan's Observer Status in Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States is Relevant and Promising  
18 Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens  
20 2nd Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan's Neighboring Countries  
22 Registry needed to save every 8th woman from breast cancer: Samina Alvi  
23 Breast Cancer Panel Discussion at Serena Provides Information and Hope  
24 Commander US NAVCENT Meets Naval Chief  
25 In meeting with NATO delegation, Pakistan urges world to positively engage with Afghanistan  
26 Serena Hotels hosted a high-profile reception to honor Pakistani Mountaineer Sirbaz  
27 Serena Hotels hosted the unveiling of a coffee table book titled "Embroidered Dreams" by the Behbud Association  
28 Pakistan in any case, like the other neighboring states, will be a key player in the future of Afghanistan  
32 Pakistan and Spain have 70 years of relationship  
36 A walk through Spain launched  
38 Successful 70 Years of Pakistan & Germany Diplomatic Relations Celebrated!  
40 Azerbaijan celebrates 30th anniversary of restoration of Independence  
42 Azerbaijan Embassy in Pakistan marks 1st anniversary of the "44-day patriotic war" of Karabakh liberation  
43 Pakistan pavilion at the Dubai Expo 2020 attracted more than 100,000 visitors  
44 Indonesian Batik: Intangible Cultural Heritage  
45 A Roundtable conference to discuss "New Uzbekistan-New Elections" jointly organized by Embassy of Uzbekistan to Pakistan  
46 Great Pakistan's footballs & gloves from great Thai rubber & latex  
47 Logo of 70th anniversary of relationship between Thailand and Pakistan launched  
48 Ceremony in remembrance of H.M. King Rama V  
49 Thai envoy visited to Lahore Chamber of Commerce  
50 Ambassador of Iraq receives the Ambassador of KSA and the former President Mr. Asif Ali Zardari  
51 NA Deputy Speaker affirmed his readiness to cooperate with the embassy in order to strengthen and develop bilateral relations  
52 Ambassador MATSUDA expresses gratitude to the Government and the people of Pakistan for extending their support and cooperation  
53 Ground Breaking of PIMS Maternal and Child Health Center Expansion  
54 Japan provides equipment worth USD 6.59 million for Pakistan's COVID19 response  
55 Pak Army prepared to defend national sovereignty: COAS  
56 Japanese envoy greets PJCA office-bearers  
57 Ambassador MATSUDA congratulates PJLF  
58 U.S. is running out of everything to contain China  
59 The G20 and the means to climate safety  
60 South Korea & Pakistan Sign MoU  
61 British Kashmiris stage anti-India protest  
62 RCCI discussed issues with Indonesian Envoy  
63 President Baburi Forum visited Uzbekistan monitored the 6th Presidential Election  
64 No civilisation in world superior to others: Chinese President  
65 China: Contributor to World Peace, Development  
66 China launches its longest crewed mission to new space station  
67 CPEC & New waves of propaganda  
68 China-Pakistan Center inaugurated in Qingdao  
69 More Chinese agricultural technologies to help Pakistan  
70 Mr. & Mrs. Mian Fazal Elahi Editor/Publisher/CEO of "Diplomatic Focus" Islamabad hosted a dinner reception

Group Chairman/CEO:	Mian Fazal Elahi
Chief Editor Hon:	Mian Akhtar Hussain
Editor/Publisher:	Mian Fazal Elahi
Executive Editor:	M Bilal Zafar
Group Editor:	Saeed Yousafzai
Associate Honorary Editor:	Zanib Arshad
Director Marketing:	Mian Furqan Akhtar
Editor in Chief UK/EU Edition:	Mian Assadullah Justin Plaza 3, 341London Road, Mit cham, Surrey-CR4 4BE Mian Mubeen Akhtar
Editor Germany, EU Edition:	Rana Bilal Ahmed
Office Manager:	M.Shahbaz Nawaz, RN Scanner
Creative Art Director:	Sharyar Fazil
Art Director:	Ali Haider
Designer:	Muhammad Wajahat
Web Developer:	Ramzan Mughal
Chief Photographer:	

Copenhagen Denmark	Fazal Hussain 004540521485 Email: fazal1955@hotmail.com Bureau Chief Australia, Newzealand
Javed Iqbal Butt	

## Board of Advisors

General (R) Talat Masood, Ambassador (R) Tassaduq Hussain, Ambassador (R) Arif Mehmmod, Mr. Kanwar Muhammad Tariq, Ambassador(R), Mr. Tariq Hyder, Ambassador(R) Fozia Nasreen, Ambassador(R) Javed Hassan, Maria Sultan, Kanwar Muhammad Dilshad (EX-Federal Secretary)Chaudhry Faisal Mushtaq (Thagma-e-Imtiaz), Dr. Mirza ikhtiar Baig (Thagma-e-Imtiaz), Shoukat Paracha, Malik Yousaf Ali, Ex-Ambassador, Mian Anwar-Ul-Haq Ramay, Ex-Parliamentarian, Ilyas Ahmed Chaudhry, CR Shamsi, Fozia Shahid, Mateen Haider, Captian (R) Wasif, Mian Mahmood Hon: Council General Republic of Moldova

## Bureau Office

Qaisar Masood	Muhammad Athar
Northern Virginia	Georgia
Israr Masood	M. Jamil Rathore
Sydney Australia	Bureau Chief Jeddah KSA
Rana Salman Shahid	Cell: +966-502583608
Vehari	
Mr. Muhammad Muzzamilullah Maan	
Brussels (Belgium)	

## Printer

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

## Publisher

Mian Fazal Elahi, House No 263-C, Street 87, Sector E-11/2 Islamabad.

Tel: +92-51-2163092, 2163070

Mobile: +92-345-5565552, +92-322-5565552

Email: mianfazalelahi@gmail.com, diplomaticfocus.isb.pk@gmail.com

www.diplomaticfocus.org

Karachi Office: Mobile: +92-331-5155515

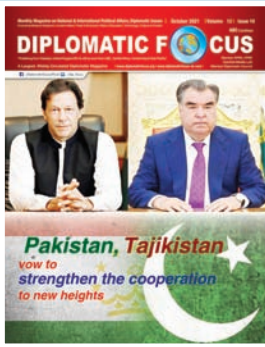
## Price

Pakistan	Rs.1200	Middle East	50 Saudi Riyal
UK	£ 8	Schengen State	€10
Chinese Yuan:	75	Canada:	\$15
USA:	\$12		

*Published from Islamabad*

## Our previous Issues

October 2021



September 2021



August 2021



July 2021



June 2021



Mian Fazal Elahi

Saudi Arabia has announced to provide 4.2 billion USD worth of assistance to Pakistan to support its economy. The assistance was announced after Prime Minister Imran Khan's three-day visit to Saudi Arabia during which he held talks with Saudi Prince Mohammad bin Salman in Riyadh. "Saudi Arabia's announcement supports Pakistan with 3 billion US dollars as deposit in Pakistan central bank and also financing refined petroleum products with 1.2 billion US dollars during the year," Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry said in a tweet. PM Imran Khan thanked Prince Salman for the aid when the country's economy was facing difficulties. "I want to thank HRH Prince Mohammad bin Salman for supporting Pak with \$3 bn as deposit in Pak's central bank & financing refined petroleum product with \$1.2 bn. KSA has always been there for Pak in our difficult times in now when world confronts rising commodity prices (sic)," he tweeted. During the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan were accompanied by other cabinet ministers, including Adviser on Finance Shaukat Tarin. Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations are very special and are now 75 years old. The relationship is historic, strategic and fraternal, based on common religion and excellent people to people relations. It is the second financial assistance package that the kingdom has extended to Pakistan in the past three years, aiming to help the country manage a brewing external sector crisis. The kingdom had extended a similar package valuing at \$6 billion in October 2018 to provide a breathing space to Pakistan before the country went to the International Monetary Fund for an extended loan facility. Saudi Arabia's support package of \$4.2 billion for Pakistan's economy is an affirmation of the close relations between the two countries. Saudi Arabia's decision to aid Pakistan will help to improve bilateral relations and provide temporary relief to the Pakistani economy.

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.

Annual Subscription of  
**Diplomatic Focus Rs. 1200/ Year (Including Courier Charges)**  
 For Further detail Email: [diplomaticfocus.isb.pk@gmail.com](mailto:diplomaticfocus.isb.pk@gmail.com)

 <b>RBI Mediaindus</b> Group of Publications Electronic & Print Media Production House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Publications</li> <li>■ Documentaries</li> <li>■ Films</li> <li>■ Events Managements</li> <li>■ Events Shots</li> <li>■ Advertising</li> <li>■ Telefilms</li> <li>■ Cultural Affairs</li> <li>■ Dramas</li> <li>■ Modeling</li> </ul>	  
--	--	----------



# Doriva

360.UK



PREMIUM RANGE



**Doriva 360.uk**  
93 Peascroft Road Stoke on Trent,  
United Kingdom  
00447926561399  
email:sales@doriva360uk.com  
www.doriva360uk.com

Distributed by:  
**M. Furqan & Co.**  
PCSIR Staf Society, LAHORE - PAKISTAN  
0300-8427101

# President inaugurates Pakistan Pavilion in Dubai Expo 2020



***President Dr Arif Alvi and Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Rashid Al Maktoum reiterated the resolve to further solidify the multifaceted bilateral relationship.***

By Mian Fazal Elahi/ Monitoring

President Dr Arif Alvi said Pakistan was a beautiful mix of different cultures, ethnicities and civilizations, and stressed the need for projecting its positive image as a peaceful country.

In an interaction with media persons after the formal inauguration of Pakistan Pavilion here at the Dubai Expo 2020, the president said the country was innovating a future of immense opportunities for growth. The president said Pakistan Pavilion was the true depiction of cultural coexistence and gave the 'best flavour of Pakistan' for the outside world. He lauded the work of artists who turned the pavilion into a mega piece of art.

Earlier, the president along with Begum Samina Alvi inaugurated the Pakistan Pavilion, themed as 'Hidden Treasure.' The president visited different sections of Pakistan Pavilion and appreciated the creative display of the pavilion showcasing the unexplored riches of the country.

He interacted with artists Rashid Rana and Nisar Malik, and curator Noor Jahan Bilgrami for the beautiful artistic mélange of culture, history and craft.

A large number of Pakistani expatriates gathered

outside the pavilion to cheer President Alvi and raised the slogans of Pakistan Zindabad (Long live Pakistan).

Meanwhile, President Dr Arif Alvi and Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Rashid Al Maktoum reiterated the resolve to further solidify the multifaceted bilateral relationship. In a meeting held here at the Leaders Pavilion at Dubai Expo 2020, the two leaders reaffirmed to strengthen the existing close fraternal relations between

Pakistan and the UAE in diverse fields.

President Alvi said Pakistan and the UAE enjoyed close fraternal relations, rooted deep in common faith, shared history and cultural affinities.

The two leaders reviewed prospects of growing bilateral relations on all fronts while discussing a number of regional and international issues of interest. The president congratulated the Vice Minister and Prime Minister of the UAE on the





successful inauguration of Dubai Expo 2020. He lauded the tremendous efforts of the UAE government and Expo Management Team for organising the world's most diverse and widely participated exposition, which will remain open for six months.

Felicitating Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid on the ongoing golden jubilee celebrations of the UAE, the president acknowledged the role of the UAE's visionary leadership that helped transform the UAE into a hub for regional trade, transport, logistics, technology, and tourism.

The President and Sheikh Maktoum exchanged views on issues of bilateral and regional interest, including the situation in Afghanistan. The president also apprised the UAE Prime Minister on the continued and blatant violations of fundamental human rights of the Kashmiri Muslims by the Occupying Indian Armed Forces in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K).

The President also expressed gratitude to the leadership and people of the UAE for hosting 1.6 million Pakistanis in the UAE. He underlined that Pakistani expatriates in the UAE continued

***President Alvi said Pakistan and the UAE enjoyed close fraternal relations, rooted deep in common faith, shared history and cultural affinities.***

to play an important role to strengthen the bilateral bond and contributed significantly to the development of the two countries.







## PM Imran, Saudi crown prince vow to boost 'fraternal ties'

**Saudi financial assistance: PM Imran Khan thanks Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman**

By Mian Fazal Elahi/ Monitoring

Prime Minister Imran Khan met with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on the sidelines of the Middle East Green Initiative (MGI) Summit in Riyadh and discussed bilateral ties among other matters including Afghan crisis.

A statement issued by the PM Office said the prime minister paid tribute to the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz in the progress and development of the kingdom.

He also lauded the crown prince for the 'Saudi Vision 2030', aimed at transforming the socio-economic development of the kingdom in the 21st century.

While discussing bilateral ties, the prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's deep fraternal relations with Saudi Arabia and highlighted the significance Pakistan attached to its strategic ties with the kingdom.

He also expressed gratitude to Saudi Arabia for its steadfast support to Pakistan at every crucial juncture.

"The two leaders agreed to further strengthen bilateral cooperation across all fields," read the official statement.

The premier warmly congratulated the crown prince on successfully organising the MGI Summit on climate change. He added that the moot clearly demonstrated the commitment of the Saudi leadership to take tangible steps for effectively tackling the challenge of Climate Change.





He noted that the Saudi Green Initiative and the Middle East Green Initiative aligned closely with Pakistan's Climate Change Initiatives – 'Clean and Green Pakistan' and the 'Ten Billion Tree Tsunami'. He reiterated Pakistan's support in the implementation of these green initiatives.

On the latest developments in Afghanistan, PM Imran stressed the importance of active and constructive engagement of the international community to help alleviate the sufferings of the Afghan people. He expressed concern about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and hoped that the international community would take urgent steps to prevent a humanitarian crisis and economic collapse in Afghanistan.

The two leaders, the statement said agreed to closely coordinate efforts to address these challenges.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are bound in a fraternal relationship marked by mutual trust and understanding, close cooperation, and an abiding tradition of supporting each other, read the communiqué.

Prime Minister Imran Khan thanked Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman for supporting Pakistan with \$3 billion as a deposit in the State Bank of Pakistan and \$1.2 billion worth of oil supplies on deferred payments.

In a tweet, he said Saudi Arabia has supported Pakistan in difficult times, including now when the world confronts rising commodity prices.

***Saudi Arabia has always been there for Pakistan in difficult times, says PM Imran Khan***

The prime minister thanked Saudi Arabia after the kingdom agreed to provide \$3 billion deposits in order to shore up the country's foreign exchange reserves.

During the recently held visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan along with other cabinet ministers, including Adviser on Finance Shaukat Tarin, Saudi Arabia agreed to extend all-out support to Pakistan.

Tarin and Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar will address a press conference today to brief the media about more details.

Minister for Information Fawad Chaudhry made the announcement on Twitter about the agreement reached with Riyadh.

"Saudi Arabia announced support to Pakistan with 3 billion dollars as deposit in Pakistan central bank and also financing refined petroleum products with 1.2 billion dollars during the year," he tweeted.



Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar said that the facility will help ease pressures on trade and forex accounts as a result of global commodities price surge.

Earlier, the prime minister, accompanied by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Energy Minister Hammad Azhar and Special Assistant on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam, was warmly received by Madina Deputy Governor Prince Saud bin Khalid Al-Faisal upon

arrival at the airport.

Later, the prime minister proceeded to Masjid-e-Nabawi and Roza-e-Rasool (Peace Be Upon Him) for Ziarat. Photographs released by the Prime Minister Office on its Twitter handle showed Premier Imran praying in Masjid-e-Nabawi.

This is the second visit of the prime minister to Saudi Arabia this year. He earlier visited the kingdom in May 2021.





## PM Imran heaps praise on KSA's 'idealistic' climate initiatives

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring

Prime Minister Imran Khan has heaped praise on Riyadh for launching initiatives to combat climate change, saying “greening Saudi Arabia is idealistic and romantic”.

He said this while addressing a launching ceremony of the Middle East Green Initiative (MGI) Summit in the Saudi capital Riyadh, hosted by Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman.

“Greening Saudi Arabia is idealistic, romantic and all my praise with you... we will share our experience of planting two and a half billion trees in Pakistan,” the premier remarked while thanking the crown prince for inviting Pakistan to the summit.

PM Imran divulged the number of initiatives taken by his government to tackle climate change in the country. “Our target is planting 10 billion trees... 10 per cent of the countries are responsible for 80 per cent of world emissions.”

The premier lamented that Pakistan is among the 10 most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change. He said before the world takes any action, Pakistan has taken scores of measures to cope with the effects of global warming and climate change. “We will shift 60 per cent of all our energy into clean energy by 2030... we have already shelved coal power projects and no new coal power plant will be established.”

PM Imran said by 2030 Pakistan is aiming to shift 30 per cent of its transport to electric vehicles to cut greenhouse emissions. It may be recalled that “Green Saudi Arabia” and “Green Middle East” initiatives were launched by the crown prince in March 2021, aimed at protecting the nature and planet.

Moreover, the premier said Pakistan is also focused on nature-based solutions. “Pakistan is the only country where mangroves cover is

growing which absorb the highest amount of carbon emission.”

PM Imran said his government had planned to plant 1 billion more mangrove trees by 2023. The number of national parks, he said, had been increased by 50 per cent during his tenure and his government also provided 85,000 “green jobs” during the Covid-19 crisis in an attempt to increase the green cover of the country.

The premier went on to say that Pakistan has collected \$500 million through ‘green bonds’ to finance hydroelectric power projects.

“Humanity faces probably one of the biggest crises. Unfortunately, this crisis was quite visible 20 years ago but somehow everyone was in self-denial... no one believed that this would affect us once you alter the nature,” the premier remarked.

PM Imran said glaciers are melting at a fast pace and all countries including India and Pakistan will face water shortage if drastic measures are not taken. Prior to PM Imran address, the Saudi crown prince launched the Middle East Green Initiative which he said aimed to invest 39 billion riyals (\$10.4 billion) to reduce carbon emissions in the region and protect the environment.

Mohammed bin Salman said the kingdom,



which is the world's top oil exporter, would contribute 15% of the funds and would work with other states and development funds on the funding and execution of the initiatives.

“As part of the kingdom's leading role in developing energy markets, it will work to establish an investment fund for carbon circular economy solutions in the region and an initiative to offer clean energy solutions to help feed more than 750 million people worldwide,” he said.

Saudi Arabia would work to establish a regional carbon capture and storage centre, a regional early storm warning centre and a regional cloud seeding programme, he added.







## ***Saudi-Pakistan Investment Forum discusses boosting trade and investment partnerships***

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Agency

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan urged the Saudi companies and entrepreneurs to benefit from Pakistan's strategic location as well huge investment potential in diverse areas of economy including housing and construction for mutual benefit.

He particularly mentioned the mega development projects of Ravi City and Central Business District in Lahore and said it was the right time for Saudi investors to benefit from these projects. Imran Khan was addressing the Saudi-Pakistan Investment Forum organized in cooperation with Ministry of Investment.

Besides Minister of Investment Eng. Khalid Al-Falih, the forum was also addressed by Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Advisor on Finance Shaukat Tarin and Pakistan Energy Minister Hammad Azhar. The forum was attended by senior representatives of leading Saudi companies and entrepreneurs as well as Pakistani businessmen.

Al-Falih, stressed at the forum the sound and strong Saudi-Pakistani relations at all levels, noting that the strategic partnership between the two countries is based on trust and a common vision for the regional and international security. He said that the two sides can enhance efforts to promote and solidify economic and investment relations, taking into account their human capital, talents, natural resources, and distinct geographical locations.

Al-Falih underlined the Kingdom's hosting of more than two million Pakistanis working in the Kingdom, as well as the existing trade and investment bonds between the two countries, adding that the forum today provides an opportunity to explore ways to deepen investment cooperation in a way that promotes the development and economic diversification for both sides. The minister also said that the Saudi companies participating in the forum's activities Monday are looking forward to exploring and expanding investment opportunities in Pakistan in the fields of energy, petrochemicals, construction, information

and communication technology, finance, manufacturing, logistics, and transportation, among others.

"Investment comes at the core of the Kingdom's ambitious 2030 vision to promote growth and economic diversification, achieve sustainability, and provide opportunities for the Saudi young men and women. "Therefore, Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman launched recently the National Investment Strategy, to create conditions and develop the business environment to make investment attractive to local and foreign investors," Al-Falih said. Prime Minister Khan highlighting the close and historic ties between the two nations said that Pakistan-Saudi relations transcend all other relations due to people to people contacts. Whichever government comes to power in Pakistan, it does not affect Pakistan-Saudi relations, he added. The Pakistani prime minister praised the efforts made between the two leaderships to enhance joint investments and expressed his support to Saudi companies to invest in Pakistan.

The prime minister stressed the importance of engaging the private sector to fortify the economic relationship. He hoped that the private sectors of the two countries would take full advantage of close and cordial bilateral relations to realize the untapped potential in the fields of trade, business and investment. The prime minister emphasized that Pakistan offered a strong and large consumer market of over 220 million, with an ever-expanding middle class. He highlighted the government of Pakistan's liberal and investor-friendly policies. He underlined that the government was committed to providing an enabling environment to strengthen the investor-friendly dispensation in the country.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi focused on Pakistan's shift from geo-politics to geo-economics; Adviser on Finance highlighted economic resurgence of Pakistan; and Minister for Energy outlined the vast opportunities in the energy, agriculture, livestock and other key sectors. The forum's agenda also

included several speeches by several Pakistani officials, in which they discussed the economic environment in Pakistan and the stimulation of Saudi investments to achieve more growth and prosperity per the vision and ambitions of the two countries.

Meanwhile, several leading companies in Saudi Arabia shared with the participants their investment capacity and potential to invest inside and outside the Kingdom. The forum was also preceded by the inaugural meeting of the Pakistan-Saudi Business Council.

According to Radio Pakistan, Pakistani and Saudi businessmen have expressed the confidence that Pakistan-Saudi Investment Forum being held in Riyadh will help investors exploit investment opportunities in each other's countries. Speaking on the sidelines of the forum, they said both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoy excellent relations and the investment moot will help further strengthen them. They pointed out that under Saudi Vision 2030, there are great investment opportunities for Pakistani investors in different sectors.

They were also appreciative of the policies introduced by Prime Minister Imran Khan for facilitation of investors in Pakistan.



# PM Imran Khan Meets the Crown Prince and PM of Bahrain



By Mian Fazal Elahi, Agency

**P**rime Minister Imran Khan had a meeting with the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin Hamad bin Isa al Khalifa in Riyadh on the side-lines of the “Middle East Green Initiative” Summit.

The two Prime Ministers expressed

***Prime Minister Imran Khan underlined that Pakistan and Bahrain have historic and deep-rooted fraternal ties.***

satisfaction at the close cooperation between the two fraternal countries in diverse fields. They discussed a range of issues of bilateral

importance and also exchanged views on the latest developments in Afghanistan. Prime Minister Imran Khan underlined that Pakistan and Bahrain have historic and deep-rooted fraternal ties. Recalling his visit to Bahrain in December 2019, the Prime Minister stressed the importance of regular high-level exchanges to further reinforce the growing momentum in bilateral relations.

The Crown Prince underlined that Bahrain deeply valued its relationship with Pakistan and was committed to upgrade it in all dimensions. Prime Minister Imran Khan stressed that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan was of crucial importance for Pakistan and the region.

He added that sustained and positive engagement of the international community was critical for preventing a humanitarian crisis, averting an economic collapse, and supporting long-term development and stability in Afghanistan.

The Prime Minister also underscored the importance of release of Afghanistan's

frozen assets to help the Afghan people. The two Prime Ministers agreed to strengthen cooperation in myriad fields and maintain close consultation on all issues of mutual interest.

Prime Minister Imran Khan renewed his invitation to His Royal Highness Prince

***Prime Minister Imran Khan renewed his invitation to His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin Hamad bin Isa al Khalifa for visit to Pakistan.***

Salman Bin Hamad bin Isa al Khalifa for visit to Pakistan. The Crown Prince conveyed his resolve to undertake the visit at the earliest opportunity.



# Pakistan, Iran vow 'unified response to terrorism'

By Monitoring

Pakistan and Iran agreed to further enhance bilateral defence cooperation and work together for regional peace and a unified response to terrorism, a common enemy to both countries. The development came as Major General Mohammad Bagheri, the Chief of General Staff (CGS) of the Iranian Armed Forces, held separate meetings with the civilian and military leadership.

During Major General Mohammad Bagheri's meeting with the prime minister, several issues of bilateral interest, including the latest situation in Afghanistan came under discussion, according to the statements issued by the media wings of the military as well as the Prime Minister's Office. The prime minister emphasised the need for continued close coordination between Pakistan and Iran, including through the platform established last month by the six neighbouring countries of Afghanistan. Imran stressed that both Pakistan and Iran had direct stakes in peace and stability in Afghanistan. Pakistan wished to see a peaceful and stable Afghanistan with a sustainable economy and promoting connectivity, Imran said, according to a press release issued by the Prime Minister's Office Media Wing.

Sharing Pakistan's perspective on the latest developments in Afghanistan, the prime minister underscored that the international community must remain positively engaged, provide urgently needed humanitarian assistance, and take steps to prevent the economic collapse of the war-torn country. He also stressed the need for unfreezing Afghanistan's financial assets to help support the Afghan people at this critical juncture, especially before the onset of winter. He underscored the importance of national reconciliation and inclusive political settlement in Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Imran welcomed the visiting dignitary and highlighted an upward trajectory in engagement between Pakistan



and Iran. He underscored Pakistan's commitment to enhance the close bilateral trade relations. The prime minister recalled his meeting with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in Dushanbe on the margins of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, which had imparted further impetus to bilateral cooperation. While describing the Pakistan-Iran border as a border of 'peace and friendship', the Prime Minister noted the agreement on the establishment of border sustenance markets and stressed that the operationalisation of these markets would facilitate livelihood in the region. "The opening of two additional border crossing points in the last one year has further facilitated in regulating the movement on both sides," he added. He appreciated Iran's support on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Meanwhile, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement that the top Iranian military officer, accompanied by a high-level delegation, visited the General Headquarters (GHQ), during which he also held a one-on-one meeting with the army chief. On arrival, the Iranian CGS was presented guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army. The visiting dignitary laid floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada and prayed for the Martyrs of Pakistan," the ISPR said. A wide range of issues, including the Afghanistan situation, regional security, and border management

particularly fencing along the Pakistan-Iran border was discussed during the meeting between the two officials.

"Pakistan and Iran are two brotherly countries and our close cooperation is vital for regional peace and stability," Gen Qamar was quoted by the ISPR as saying in his meeting with Maj-Gen Bagheri. The Iranian CGS expressed his desire to further strengthen the bilateral military-to-military ties, particularly in counterterrorism and training domains. During the delegation-level meeting, the visiting dignitary was given a comprehensive regional security appraisal and operational update, besides briefing on the training regime of the Pakistan Army, including collaboration with friendly countries and conduct of various joint military exercises.

**Borders of friendship**

Maj Gen Bagheri separately called on JCSC Chairman Gen Nadeem Raza at the Joint Staff Headquarters. The ISPR said that they deliberated on various areas of mutual interest, bilateral cooperation including defence and security, counterterrorism, and the regional environment with reference to Afghanistan. They dilated upon measures to enhance the level and scope of military engagements between the two countries and pledged to continue to forge deeper ties. Both sides highlighted that common borders should be "borders of peace and friendship". Gen Nadeem said that in pursuit of closer military and strategic cooperation, both the countries shared a common perception on all national and international issues. He added that the visit of the top Iranian general marked a new stage in strengthening the bilateral military, defence, and security ties. Maj-Gen Bagheri lauded the professionalism of the Pakistani armed forces and acknowledged their sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. Earlier, upon arrival at Joint Staff Headquarters, a smartly turned-out tri-services contingent presented 'guard of honour' to the visiting dignitary, the ISPR said.







## Pakistan desires durable peace in Afghanistan: FM

**Qureshi meets Afghan leadership; announces Rs 5b assistance; steps to ease trade, movement**

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi completed his first official visit to the Afghan capital since the Taliban takeover in August. FM Qureshi, leading a high-level delegation, reached Kabul to hold talks with Afghan officials on bilateral relations and ways to strengthen cooperation.

The foreign minister also held a meeting with Afghanistan's interim Prime Minister Mullah Hassan Akhund in Kabul where a range of issues including trade between the two countries were discussed. Briefing media on his first Kabul visit here in Islamabad, Qureshi said the two sides held detailed talks on cross-border movement and trade, and that a Taliban delegation would visit Islamabad in the coming days to finalise the resolution of issues.

Foreign Minister Qureshi also announced that Pakistan will give humanitarian assistance worth Rs5 billion to Afghanistan. "Pakistan will continue providing humanitarian aid to Afghan people," he said. FM Qureshi said Afghan officials raised concerns over border movement with the Pakistani delegation, adding that the government also decided elimination of the gate pass at its Tokhram border with Afghanistan in order to facilitate the movement of Afghan people to Pakistan. "The federal government has lifted mandatory PCR test condition for Afghan people.

The Pakistani government also decided to launch on arrival visa facility for Afghanistan citizens," said Qureshi, adding that visa fees will be eliminated by December 31. Earlier in the day, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi held a meeting with Afghanistan's interim Prime Minister Mullah Hassan



Akhund in Kabul. Foreign Minister, who is also accompanied by Director General (DG) of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Lt General Faiz Hamid, met acting Afghan Prime Minister Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund and discussed matters of mutual interest including bilateral and economic ties. During the meeting, Qureshi said that Pakistan desires permanent peace and stability in Afghanistan and it will continue to help Afghan brothers on humanitarian grounds.

He said Pakistan is determined to help Afghan brethren on humanitarian grounds. He said Pakistan wants to enhance bilateral trade with Afghanistan. Shah Mahmood Qureshi said visa facilities to Afghan citizens, especially the business community, opening up of new border points, and facilitating movement are steps

taken by Pakistan to facilitate the people of Afghanistan. He expressed Pakistan's resolve to play a constructive role, in collaboration with Afghanistan's neighbouring countries, for peace and stability in the region.

During the meeting, views were also exchanged on matters of bilateral interest, enhancing cooperation in economic sector, including trade and commerce, as well as various options to bring the Afghan people out of the economic crisis.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi Thursday met with the leadership of Afghanistan's interim government wherein he announced in-kind assistance of Rs 5 billion besides announcing multiple measures to ease border movement and trade.





## Mark NAZAROV: Turkmenistan's Observer Status in Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States is Relevant and Promising

Free expert Mark Nazarov shared the opinion on the accession of Turkmenistan to the Turkic Council as an observer, reports Gündogar News internet news portal on October 14, 2021.

In his opinion, Turkmenistan's membership in the Turkic Council is relevant and promising.

The neutral status of independent Turkmenistan gives it all the rights and opportunities to enter non-military international organizations. Turkmenistan, over the past decade, has been actively using such opportunities to participate in tackling different global issues. For example, Turkmenistan is an observer member of the Commonwealth of Independent States, but this in no way prevents it from taking an active part in the activities of this organization.

The invitation to Turkmenistan from the Turkic Council to take part in its summit of the Heads of State, which is planned to be held in November 2021, is a testimony to the growth of our country's influence in international affairs of the Central Asian and Middle East regions, strengthening of economic ties with neighboring countries.

Throughout the years of independence, Turkey has been one of the leading economic partners of Turkmenistan, and in recent years, economic ties have significantly strengthened with other members of the Turkic Council – Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan. For example, in the last year alone, the volume of

foreign trade turnover between Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan has more than tripled.

It is necessary to highlight the matters of strengthening and developing transport and logistics ties between the members of the Turkic Council, where many issues are even difficult to discuss without the presence of Turkmenistan,

***The Turkic Council does not have a military component and is not directed against anyone, but serves as another instrument for strengthening trust and economic cooperation between the participating countries.***

which plays a central role in many logistics chains. These are gas pipelines to the West and East from Turkmenistan, filled primarily with Turkmen gas, railways and highways passing through the country. The route of the One Belt - One Road project, which is being successfully implemented, passes through all the countries of the Turkic Council and its successful implementation largely depends

on the discussion and adoption of many joint decisions.

Turkmenistan also contributes to solutions in transport-logistics and import-export tasks within the framework of forums of the Caspian countries and the SCO. These issues are significant for all countries of the Central Asian region to resolve interregional ties. Each of these forums, as well as the Turkic Council, facilitates decision making on these issues. At all forums, Turkmenistan offers mutually beneficial conditions and in no way chooses paths that cause damage to other countries.

In addition to economic and transport-logistics ties, common cultural values play an important role in the Turkic Council. The cultural cooperation presently forms the basis of Turkic integration: the understanding that all the peoples of the Turkic Council and Turkmenistan have a common history, language and traditions, and their preservation and enhancement is possible only through joint efforts, makes the idea of common Turkic interaction so relevant today.

The Turkic Council does not have a military component and is not directed against anyone, but serves as another instrument for strengthening trust and economic cooperation between the participating countries. Therefore, the participation of Turkmenistan as an observer in the Turkic Council is quite relevant and promising.



# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



The outgoing Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Mr. Kuninori Matsuda, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Korean Ambassador Mr. Suh Sangpyo at Parliament house, Islamabad.



Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Totuaiev Asankuiovich called on Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser.



Head of Iran-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group Mr. Ahmed Amirabadi Farahani called on Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser.



Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser receiving Ambassador of Bahrain Mohamed Ebrahim Mohamed Abdul Qader.



H.E. Mr. Oybek Usmanov, Ambassador of Republic of Uzbekistan called on Ms. Zobaida Jalal Federal Minister for Defence Production at Rawalpindi



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood in a meeting with H.E. Mr. Andrei Metelitsa, Ambassador of Belarus in Islamabad.



Group Photo of the Speakers and Participants of a Webinar held at Pakistan Embassy Tokyo.



# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Ambassador of China Mr. Nong Rong called on Deputy Speaker National Assembly Qasim Khan Suri in Parliament House, Islamabad.



Saudi Ambassador Mr. Nawaf Bin Said Malki calls on SAPM Malik Amin Aslam at his office in the Climate Change Minister at Islamabad.



H.E. Mr. Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia called on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Mr. Shaukat Tarin at Finance Division in Islamabad.



H.E. Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan called on Ms. Zobiaida Jalal Federal Minister for Defence Production at Rawalpindi



Ambassador of Pakistan to Japan, Imtiaz Ahmad held a meeting with Governor of Gumna Prefecture, Mr. Ichita Yamamoto at the Governor house Tokyo, Japan.



British High Commissioner H.E. Christian Turner called on Federal Minister for Energy Muhammad Hammad Azhar at Islamabad.



United States Charge D Affaires, Angela Aggeler called on the National Security advisor Dr. Moeed Yusuf in Islamabad.



Mr. Omar Ayub Khan Federal Minister for Economic Affairs courtesy call with H.E. Mr. Nong Rong, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan in Economic Affairs division, Islamabad





Joint Ministerial Statement of the

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan's Neighboring Countries

By Monitoring, Agency

The Foreign Ministers of the Neighboring Countries of Afghanistan, including Islamic Republic of Iran, People's Republic of China, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan + the Russian Federation, held a meeting in Tehran on 27 October 2021.

The meeting was inaugurated by His Excellency Mohammad Mokhber, the Vice-president of the Islamic Republic of Iran who gave a comprehensive speech on Afghanistan situation. The video message by His Excellency Mr. Antonio Guterres the Secretary General of the United Nations was then screened in the opening.

Next, the honored foreign ministers gave their speeches on Afghanistan concerned matters. The meeting was then closed by approving the ministerial joint statement.

Following the talks and discussions in an atmosphere of confidence, multilateral understanding and constructive approach,

### The Foreign Ministers:

- **Noting** that situation in Afghanistan has changed fundamentally and stressing support for the national sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, and non-interference in its internal affairs;
- **Recalling** the universally accepted principles of international law in particular the Afghan people's right to decide on their own future

independently, and respecting the aspiration of the Afghan people for realizing durable peace, hope to see an Afghanistan enjoying stability, development, prosperity and harmonious relations with its neighboring countries;

- **Expressing** deep concern over complicated security, governance, socio-economic, humanitarian situation in Afghanistan;

- **Agreeing** that countries primarily responsible for the difficulties in Afghanistan should earnestly deliver on their commitment, and provide Afghanistan with urgently needed economic, livelihood and humanitarian assistance to help realize a stable transition of

the situation in Afghanistan;

- **Noting** that an inclusive and broad-based political structure with the participation of all ethno-political groups is the only solution to Afghanistan issues;
- **Expressing** the strong support of neighboring countries of Afghanistan to achieve peace, stability and national reconciliation in the country and encouraging all parties, including Taliban to continue political dialogue and consultations for the solution of the outstanding issues, and future development of the nation;
- **Emphasizing** that international and regional organizations in particular the United





Nations agencies and relevant members of the UN Security Council should abide by their responsibility for political settlement of Afghanistan issues, rendering support to Afghans to develop the socio-economic infrastructure and providing economic and humanitarian assistance;

- **Taking with great concern** into consideration the deteriorating economic situation in Afghanistan and urging the international community to provide humanitarian assistance on urgent basis;

- **Condemning** with strongest term the terrorist attacks in all shapes and forms including those against ethnic and religious groups particularly the recent terrorist attacks on mosques;

#### **Declare the followings:**

1. Support a durable and realistic settlement of differences through dialogue and negotiation among relevant parties for achieving national reconciliation, lasting political solution and formation of an inclusive government;

2. Call on the relevant Afghan parties to implement modest and prudent internal and external policies, return to the normal order of the society as soon as possible, realize the effective operation of government agencies, provide basic public services to people, take actions to improve people's livelihood and protect the fundamental rights of ethnic groups, women and children in Afghanistan;

3. Take note the assurances and commitments of relevant responsible Afghan parties to the international community that the territory of Afghanistan will not pose any threats to the neighboring countries and will not be used by criminal, terrorist and separatist groups, and cut ties with all kinds of terrorist groups, strike and eliminate them in a decisive manner;

4. Call on the Afghan relevant parties to abide by their all undeniable responsibilities, take friendly approach toward neighboring countries and respect recognized universally accepted principles of international law and fundamental human rights and protect the safety and legitimate rights of foreign nationals and institutions in Afghanistan;

5. Encourage the relevant Afghan parties to confront various threats and challenges including terrorism, drug smuggling and human trafficking, crack down on organized crime and other criminal acts originating from Afghanistan and taking into consideration the terrorism threats and counter-terrorism effectiveness in Afghanistan, discuss through bilateral or multilateral channels the possibility of restarting counter-terrorism cooperation with Afghanistan in due course;

6. Call on the relevant parties of Afghanistan and the international community to address



the root causes of refugees and forced displacement in Afghanistan to avoid any destabilizing activity that would deteriorate the situation and cooperate to bring a permanent solution for the protracted situation of Afghan refugees;

7. Call on the international community and donor countries to provide continued, adequate and proportionate financial support to the host countries of Afghan refugees, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and other neighboring countries of Afghanistan;

8. Call on the international community to further provide Afghanistan with more urgent humanitarian assistance including food, medicines, winter utilities etc., to prevent humanitarian crisis and refugee wave in Afghanistan, and prevent new shock to neighboring countries and the international community;

9. Call on the international community to take concrete actions to provide Afghanistan with

help against COVID-19, and curb the spreading of the virus;

10. Start the function of the mechanism of regular meetings of Special Envoys (representatives) for Afghanistan affairs as well as regular meetings of the representatives of Embassies in Kabul at an early date (as mentioned in the first round of foreign minister's meeting joint statement) to jointly promote and hold consultations on details of relevant cooperation regularly for more concrete achievements;

11. Reiterate call on international community to remain positively engaged with Afghanistan and develop long term roadmap to advance the agenda of political engagement, economic integration and regional connectivity;

The Foreign Ministers appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the second round of the meeting and agreed to hold the third round in 2022 in China.





## Registry needed to save every 8th woman from breast cancer: Samina Alvi

By Monitoring, Agency

**B**egum Samina Alvi, wife of President Dr Arif Alvi said every eighth woman in Pakistan was at the risk of suffering from breast cancer and stressed the need for an urgent plan of action to reduce the growing number of such patients.

Addressing at an awareness walk on breast cancer held here at the National Institute of Health (NIH), she said establishing a national cancer registry was need of the hour to formulate effective policies in line with the accurate database on the disease, including breast cancer.

Begum Alvi said early diagnosis was the best way to check breast cancer instead of the expensive and painful treatment at later stages of the disease.

She said in Pakistan with 0.1 million new cancer patients every year, breast cancer among topped the list of various forms of the disease.

She emphasized on raising mass awareness in the society to shun taboos affiliated with breast cancer.

Begum Alvi said a healthy woman could positively contribute to the society and advised the women to practice self-diagnosis, which could save precious lives.

She said though October was marked across the country as the breast cancer awareness month, however stressed that the message needed to be spread

persistently throughout the year.

She urged the women parliamentarians to play a strong role in highlighting the issue in their constituencies and sensitize the people.

Samina Alvi said she would visit all provinces in the current month to raise awareness among girls and women at schools and colleges about the breast cancer.

Dr Faisal Sultan, Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Health said the government was making efforts to strengthen the primary care centres to treat cancers of

different kinds including breast cancer.

Dr Nosheen Hamid, Parliamentary Secretary on Health said lack of awareness was the main reason behind the alarming death rate of 98 per cent in patients with breast cancer in the country.

Later, Begum Alvi led the awareness walk along with Executive Director NIH Major General Aamer Ikram, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Andleeb Abbas, doctors, researchers and women from all walks of life including the breast cancer patients.







## Breast Cancer Panel Discussion at Serena Provides Information and Hope

By Mian Fazal Elahi

An informative panel discussion titled “Breast Cancer Awareness – Early Detection Saves Lives’ was held at Serena Hotels in collaboration with Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Center (SKMCH&RC), to mark the October Breast Cancer Awareness Month or ‘Pinktober’.

The event was held as part of Raabta, a public diplomacy initiative of Serena Hotels, which aims to facilitate conversations and public discourse about important issues of national concern. The discussion was moderated by broadcast journalist Sidra Iqbal and featured a senior Oncologist from SKMCH&RC Dr. Umme Kalsoom Awan, and a number of breast cancer survivors who came forward to share their experience and dispel misconceptions about the disease.

First Lady Samina Arif Alvi addressed the occasion via video call and urged the audience to take time out for regular checkups, yearly mammograms and self-check routine in order to catch the early onset of the disease. She appreciated the set up of facilities by the Government for screening and early detection at public and private health facilities all over the country, and also expressed thanks to Serena Hotels for the yearly participation in Pinktober activities in order to change mindsets and inform citizenry.

Co-founder and curator of Raabta, broadcast journalist Sidra Iqbal said in her opening remarks that Pakistan has one of the highest incidences of breast cancer in the world, with 40-50 thousand women being diagnosed yearly.



She pointed out that if detected at early stages, the cancer patient has a much better chance of full recovery as opposed to late detection. She said that it was heartening to see the Breast Cancer Awareness campaign spearheaded countrywide by Mrs. Samina Arif Alvi over the past three years, with the cooperation of the Government, healthcare workers and other stakeholders, which is leading to increased early stage screenings and saving lives.

The breast cancer survivors on the panel spoke about the taboos, misconceptions and emotional upheaval faced by patients in our society and shared messages of hope and inspiration for fellow patients and their families. They appreciated the support and treatment facilities at SKMTH&RC and highlighted the problems faced by the underprivileged section of the society when facing the emotional and financial impact of battling breast cancer.

“Being diagnosed with breast cancer is not the end of the world, you have to have willpower and social support to face it,” remarked Ms. Sadaf Tufail, a survivor from Islamabad.

“As women, we often consider ourselves the last priority, however we need to realise that if we don’t care for ourselves we cannot care for others,” said Ms. Humaira Shazia, a marketing professional Lahore who had overcome breast cancer. Another survivor, Humaira Imtiaz, Senior Manager Curriculum at Beaconhouse Head Office, shared her journey from shock to denial, and urged women to be more supportive of those battling this disease.

Dr. Umme Kalsoom shed light on the risk factors of breast cancer, some of which are modifiable, like exercise and healthy diet, and some that she termed non-modifiable, like genetics. She urged the women and men to adopt healthy lifestyles and undertake regular check-ups.



## Commander US NAVCENT Meets Naval Chief

Commander of US Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) Vice Admiral C.B Cooper II called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad.

During the meeting, matters related to maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region and mutual interest including bilateral naval collaboration were discussed.

Pakistan Navy has been a regular contributor to the Combined Maritime Forces since 2004 and has also commanded Multinational Combined Task Forces 150 & 151, eleven and nine times respectively.



Commander US Navcent Vice Admiral Charles Bradford Cooper II being briefed by Commandant PNA during his visit to Pakistan Naval Academy, Karachi



Commander US Navcent Vice Admiral Charles Bradford Cooper II addressing the cadets during his visit to Pakistan Naval Academy at Karachi



Commander US Navcent Vice Admiral Charles Bradford Cooper II calls on Commander Karachi Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami at Karachi



Commander US Navcent Vice Admiral Charles Bradford Cooper II calls on Commander Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Karachi



Members of Senate Standing Committee on Defence in a group photo with Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi during visit to Naval headquarters, Islamabad.



## *In meeting with NATO delegation, Pakistan urges world to positively engage with Afghanistan*



**T**he Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Sohail Mahmood, urged the international community to remain positively engaged with Afghanistan to avoid humanitarian crises and preclude mass exodus from the country.

The statement came during a meeting with a delegation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), led by Senior Civilian Representative to Afghanistan, Ambassador Stefano Pontecorvo.

Per a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the foreign secretary shared Pakistan's perspective on the latest developments in the region and stressed the importance of a peaceful and stable Afghanistan.

The foreign secretary also highlighted Pakistan's facilitative role in the evacuation of the diplomatic personnel and staff of the embassies and international organisations from

Afghanistan.

Ambassador Pontecorvo thanked the Government of Pakistan for the assistance extended to the NATO allies in their evacuation endeavours.

The visit of the NATO delegation is part of the outreach to Pakistan. Pakistan values its relations with NATO, which are based on shared interests of peace and stability in the region, the statement said.

## *Pakistan and Germany Signed Debt Service Suspension Initiative*

**T**he Government of Germany, through KfW (the German Development Bank) and the Government of Pakistan, represented by the Ministry of Economic Affairs signed an agreement for the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI Phase-II) for Euro 26.213 million.

The signing of this agreement coincides with the forthcoming celebrations for the 60 years of Pakistan-Germany development cooperation. KfW maintains an active portfolio of more than Euro 600 million Financial Cooperation with Pakistan in the fields of energy and climate, governance, and training and jobs creation for sustainable economic growth.

Following the original request of the Government of Pakistan for a time-bound suspension of debt service in order to mitigate

the health, economic and social impact of the COVID19-crisis, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Treatment of the Debt Service was signed on 9 June 2020 in Paris.

Signing of the DSSI will contribute to the much-needed relief to the Government of Pakistan to strengthen its economy in view of the challenging financial conditions faced under the Covid-19 situation. In September 2020 the Government of Germany, through KfW, had already provided a debt suspension facility to



the Government of Pakistan through the DSSI Phase-I, amounting to Euro 52.766 million.

The Government of Germany is also in the process of providing another debt suspension facility (DSSI Phase-3) to the Government of Pakistan for which matters are currently under discussion.



**Serena Hotels hosted a high-profile reception to honor Pakistani Mountaineer Sirbaz Khan, who has become the first Pakistani in history to summit 9 of the world's highest 14 peaks measuring over 8000m high. Serena Hotels has been supporting Sirbaz's expeditions under its Adventure Diplomacy initiative, which aims to foster adventure sports in the country and provide a supportive environment for the nation's talented sportspeople to flourish.**






*Serena Hotels hosted the unveiling of a coffee table book titled “Embroidered Dreams” by the Behbud Association in a stylish ceremony held at Islamabad Serena Hotel. The event, graced by the First Lady Mrs. Samina Arif Alvi as Chief Guest, featured the unveiling of a stunning 10 feet high display of the launched book, and a crafts fashion show as well as book auction. Government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, foreign dignitaries, corporate and business sectors attended the launch.*







**H.E. Mr. Nicolaus KELLER**  
Ambassador of the Republic of Austria  
to  
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

**Exclusive Interview by Mian Fazal Elahi**

*Pakistan in any case, like the other  
neighboring states, will be a key player  
in the future of Afghanistan*



**T**he Republic of Austria is a great country having candid relations with Pakistan on diplomatic fronts. Like its vibrant culture, its values matter the most to them. Pakistan is proud of having great diplomatic, political and historical ties with Austria.

Diplomatic Focus finds the opportunity to interview the Ambassador of Austria, H.E. Mr. Nicolaus KELLER and Mrs. Nicolaus.

Before going into the series of questions, we would like to welcome His Excellency and thank him for giving us valuable time.

**DF. Your Excellency! First of all we are grateful to you and your Mrs. Keller for your time. After this, we would like to hear from you on how did you find Pakistan and its atmosphere generally?**

Throughout the past three years as Ambassador of Austria to Pakistan, I experienced a most positive atmosphere. It is rooted in the rich culture and history as well as in the legendary hospitality of the people of Pakistan. Even under challenging conditions due to the Covid-19 pandemic the country managed to keep its good atmosphere.

**DF. Excellency! If you could please tell us how you did find people of Pakistan in terms of caring and hospitality?**

To be honest, I really appreciate the big hospitality. Your people are respectful, friendly, and warm-hearted. That counts for all provinces of Pakistan from Sindh to Gilgit Baltistan and Punjab to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. I



Afghanistan, even if there are many challenges ahead.

**DF. Excellency! Ties between Pakistan and Austria are now 65 years old, how do you see the future?**

The past 65 years have seen many ups and downs in both the development of Austria and Pakistan. Nevertheless, our bilateral ties remained strong and friendly up until today. I see a lot of potential in the strengthening of our cooperation in field of culture and business and I am very optimistic about prosperous future relations.

**DF. What areas have you been here and what place you like the most here in Pakistan, Sir?**

The first part of the question is easy to answer as I managed to visit nearly all provinces of Pakistan and have another year to see the rest. The second part is more difficult as most of the places I visited were interesting in their own way. If I have to choose one specific place, I would perhaps choose the junction of three mountain ranges, namely the Himalaya, Karakorum, and Hindukush located close to Gilgit. It is a breathtaking spot of the world showing us the majesty of the nature.

**DF. Your Excellency! Austria has a great**

**education system, what do you think how Pakistan and Austria could cooperate in this field?**

The opening of the Pak Austria Institute of Applied Science and Technology in September 2020 has been a milestone in the cooperation of our two countries in the field of education. It has underlined the potential in this field and should not be the end but rather the beginning of deeper cooperation in the field of education, especially when it comes to educating a skilled labor force.

**DF. Your Excellency! Austria has great economy, how can both the countries mutually utilize its economic strengths?**

One area where Austrian know-how and quality could be used for the good of Pakistan

*Let me say thank you to all the people of Pakistan who became friends and colleagues during these past years!*

was welcomed as a friend in your country from the very beginning. Let me say thank you to all the people of Pakistan who became friends and colleagues during these past years!

**DF. Recently America withdrew from Afghanistan, how do you see this and what would the impacts be, Your Excellency?**

After 20 years America realized that their operation and efforts in building state structures was not leading to the expected results. From my point of view it is too soon to predict which impacts the American withdrawal from Afghanistan will have. Pakistan in any case, like the other neighboring states, will be a key player in the future of Afghanistan. We all work and strive for a prosperous and peaceful

*Pakistan for me is an extraordinary experience. I was lucky to accompany the Ambassador to beautiful places of Pakistan*



is of course the renewable energy sector. Your country shows immense potential for hydro or solar energy which could be utilized with the experience of Austrian companies like e.g. Andritz Hydro. Pakistan would not only benefit from high quality and long term life cycles, but also from value creation through local employment. On top, a certain knowledge transfer for future projects can be anticipated.

**DF. Your Excellency! What kind of opportunities you see here for investment and would you suggest Austrian people to come over here and make investments here in Pakistan?**

Pakistan is a market with a lot of opportunities. I would suggest Austrian investors to have a look into companies that are exporting and that experience problems in scaling up and internationalizing their business. The most promising way of investing in Pakistan is to find a strong local partner to cooperate with.



analyze Austrian SMEs which are providing high quality products.

**DF. Your Excellency! Pakistan has great and beautiful locations, scenic places, how much is the potential for tourism here in Pakistan and how can we boost this sector up?**

From my point of view, tourism in Pakistan has a promising future and could become an important contributor to the country's GDP. However, up until today the potential is untapped. The sector could be boosted up by following certain steps. Firstly, tourism should be declared a priority in the development of Pakistan's economy. Secondly, local investors should be incentivized to invest in the sector through an attractive business environment. Finally, conditions for international companies leading the field of tourism development should be encouraged to get active in the market.

**DF. Your Excellency! You know that there are demands for energy everywhere in the world, how do you think can Pakistan and Austria collaborate in the energy sector?**

The demand for energy is rising worldwide and recently prices have increased significantly. This

does not only put a burden on the industry, but also impacts average households. It is important to keep an eye on the development of the energy market, especially because the global energy mix is getting shaped more and more by renewable sources of energy which can

*It is true that diplomatic life creates quite some challenges. As a spouse it helps to connect with others in a similar situation.*

*We all should do everything to curb the impact of climate change, since the next generations deserve it.*

**DF. Your Excellency! What are great opportunities for Pakistani investors there in Austria?**

Pakistani investors should have a look into the thriving start-up landscape in Austria. Innovative business models are being created in fields such as finance or education. Investors less eager for early-stage investing could

put additional pressure on the grid. Austria and Pakistan could collaborate not only on issues like the development of renewable energy sources but for instance also on grid stability. I believe that everyone can actually contribute to energy stability by actively trying not to waste energy in everyday life and for example keep AC at reasonable levels or off or switch off lights or





equipment when not being in the room; I do this myself every day.

**DF. Your Excellency! What areas you think are vital and easy where Pakistan and Austria could make mutual venture to benefit its people?**

As mentioned before, I strongly believe in stronger cooperation in the field of tourism and renewable energy. Additionally, I see potential in the agriculture sector as well as in the field of waste management. The latter is of particular importance as it has direct impact on clean environment and health of the population. Austria is providing innovative and leading solutions for it. To date you cannot dispose of batteries properly in Pakistan; therefore I personally bring them back to Austria after use or use rechargeable ones.

**DF. Excellency! What is the great potential you think here in Pakistan upon which the government can focus to make more and more advantage out of it?**

The government should further stress the importance of education and as a consequence skilled labor force as the backbone of strong export oriented industries. Skilled employees can boost the export potential of small and medium enterprises and contribute significantly to the country's economic performance. Additionally, foreign direct investments should be attracted actively to further increase export potential. A key factor at least for European investors is in this regard ease of doing business.

**DF. Your Excellency! What general message**

**would you like to give to the government and people of Pakistan?**

***The government should further stress the importance of education and as a consequence skilled labor force as the backbone of strong export oriented industries.***

I encourage the government and the people to continue working on an economically prosperous Pakistan which is built upon a well-educated labor force as well as durable and mutually beneficial international partnerships. And maybe most important, we all should do everything to curb the impact of climate change, since the next generations deserve it.

Now Few questions from Madam...

**DF. Madam, your husband is a busy person, how do you manage things?**

It is true that diplomatic life creates quite some challenges. As a spouse it helps to connect with others in a similar situation. IFWA is an association for foreigners, female and male,

in Pakistan's capital. This group is supportive in any upcoming questions as where to find specific medical help, where to buy fabric or find a carpenter; also they offer language conversation groups, weekly hikes and children's activities. So foreigners get to meet each other and can explore the host country together.

**DF. Madam, what country have you found the most beautiful so far and where you think you have spent the best of you time in diplomatic services?**

Pakistan for me is an extraordinary experience. I was lucky to accompany the Ambassador to beautiful places, Lahore and Karachi of course but also magical necropolises in Sindh, fabulous shrines, palaces and orange farms in Punjab, the adorable bazaars and Sethi house in Peshawar or the charming villages of the Northern area. I hiked for quite some days in Chitral and Hunza and as an Austrian I learned that the range of Hindukush and Kharakoram is just another scale. Getting to know other cultures surely is an eyeopening and appreciating experience. I wish I could invite all those back who had offered tea to us!

**DF. What social services you want to deliver and if any message you want to give to Pakistanis?**

Pakistan has a rich culture and history and I wish your country continuous success in promoting this fact internationally.

Thanks Your Excellency and dear Madam for giving us time.





***Exclusive Interview***  
***by Mian Fazal Elahi***

***Pakistan  
and Spain  
have 70  
years of  
relationship***



**H.E. Manuel Duran Gimenez-Rico**  
**Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to Islamic Republic of Pakistan**



It is a great opportunity and honor for “Diplomatic Focus” to have talk with H.E. Manuel Duran Gimenez-Rico, Ambassador of Spain to Pakistan.

First of all, we are very thankful to for your time in your busy schedule. Indeed, your views will be valuable and interesting for our readers.

**DF: Excellency! Tell us a bit about yourself. Since when are you here in Pakistan? How has been your experience so far?**

Well, I joined Foreign Service in 1992 and have been to many countries since then. I had served in Denmark and South Africa, and many more. I have been here in Pakistan since the end of 2018. I found Pakistan, especially its people, very amazing. Pakistani society is very diverse, and I think that is the beauty of the nation. There are different languages, diverse cultures and a beautiful landscape. I found many similarities between Pakistan and Spain.

**DF: Excellency! What can you tell us about Spain's history? How has Spain evolved since Iberians, Basques and Celts, the new Spanish Constitution of 1978 and the restoration of Democracy?**

If you can go back to the Greeks and Romans, they are parts of our cultural heritage apart from Iberian, Basques, and Celts, but do not forget the Arabs. They were also in our country for 800 years. Francisco Franco took over Spain in 1939, and the dictatorship continued till his death in 1975. After his death, Spain transitioned into Democracy. Finally, it became a constitutional monarchy after the Constitution of 1978.

**DF: Excellency! Tell us about your system of Governance? Spain is now composed of 17 autonomous communities and two autonomous cities with varying degrees of autonomy thanks to its Constitution; how are all these governed?**

The system of Governance is quite similar to that of Pakistan. You have a bicameral system; you have regions that have parliaments, so it is highly similar, and you have these many languages. Each autonomous region reproduces the system we have in the central parliament of Spain. People vote for the candidate, and a parliament is elected, and the parliament elects the government.

**DF: Excellency! What measures has Spain taken to uphold the principles of Democracy?**

Recent democratic history of dates back to 1978. Spain is parliamentary under the Constitution of 1978. The people approved this Constitution through a referendum. There is the protection of fundamental rights in the Constitution. Along with many others, due to vote and right to contest has been granted to everyone through constitutional provisions. These basic political guarantees strong Democracy in any country,



so is the case of my country.

**DF: Excellency! It will be worth if you share some information about Education system in Spain?**

It is already quite good that it is free. There is also freedom for private schools. One is free to take their child to a German school, for example, to have a private bilingual education because the government of Spain is not going to pay for education in German, French, and English. Still, the government is trying to ensure that every region can project their history and language appropriately. The instruction has been transferred to these autonomous communities. Even if there is a central syllabus, there is a minimum that every school in Spain has to comply with. The different regions can create their syllabus and can make a difference in their education system. The most important thing is that everyone has the right to education, and it's compulsory in Spain. Education is essential for the development and growth of a nation. It has attained a central place in deciding the fate of any country. The progress and growth of Spain are linked with education.

**DF: Excellency! Health Sector and impact on it due to Covid-19? Are measures taken to control it?**

Covid-19 very badly hit Spain, but measures were taken immediately to prevent the spread of the pandemic. Spain has taken remarkably similar steps as taken by other countries to control Covid-19. First, there were confinements and use of preventive measures, i.e. use of a mask. Secondly, after introducing the vaccine, tremendous efforts were made to carry out a vaccination drive. As of now, almost 80% of people have been vaccinated. Thirdly, new hospitals were also created that

were very specific in dealing with Covid. Finally, doctors and nurses did a great job during hard times. The medical profession in Spain has been heroic, as you may have seen on TV that people of Spain went out in balconies to applaud medical workers. Unfortunately, people died, but figures are shallow now.

**DF: Excellency! What about the Tourism sector in Spain?**

The tourism industry is 12% of the GDP of Spain. My country is the second most visited place after France by tourists. Eighty-two million people visited Spain before Covid. After the spread of the pandemic tourism industry was badly impacted, there was a massive decline in outside visitors, so we explored local tourism. I

***Flamenco is just one form of music popular in Spain and well known across the world. However, there are so many others that existed before flamenco. Some of the movements in dance are similar to Sindhi music and dance in Pakistan.***

saw a significant number of local visitors when I visited Hunza last month here in Pakistan. We must examine our country. Barcelona is a beautiful city with attractive architecture and beautiful beaches. I am from Madrid, and I



think Madrid is a little jewel. Pakistani people need to know more about it. It is the Golden Triangle of Museums. Madrid is best known to world for museums i.e Museo Del Prado, Museo del Prado and Reina Sofia. I suggest Pakistani people discover need more to explore about Madrid. For Muslim heritage, you have Cordoba and other southern parts of Spain. North of Spain includes the Basque country, which is green and mountainous land that is not well known to Pakistanis. North-West of Spain is a most visited destination for Catholic pilgrims. The Camino de Santiago is a network of pilgrims that attracts a large number of tourists.

**DF: Excellency! Climate change is the hot topic now a days. Your comment.**

We are suffering from climate change like everybody else. I mean, we recently had snow storming in Madrid and around. It badly affected the city's functioning because it was covered in snow, and it had never been in that way. There has been a flood as well in the country. Well, climate change has affected Spain too. Climate change is the responsibility of every state and every individual living on the planet Earth. Spain has signed several treaties relating to controlling climate change. In addition, Spain is working with European Union countries to prevent climate change.

**DF: Excellency! Are ethnicities present in Spain?**

Different cultures having different languages make Spain unique. One of the world heritage of our country is the Basque language which is entirely different from other languages that exist in the world. But, of course, there are other languages as well. There are six official languages. They are preserved because of are official languages. Different autonomous regions in Spain make a great effort to keep the native language. Languages are taught at schools, and there are academies to preserve the languages as well. Royal Academy of Spanish Language is one such academy that supervises precisely the evolution of language.

**DF: Excellency! About the Religion in Spain?**

Spain is a non-confessional state, and of course, there is the freedom to profess the religion of one's choice in Spain. Catholicism is the most practiced religion in the country, but the state is irreligious.

**DF: Excellency! What have been the influences of your culture? How would you describe it? Spanish Art? Francisco Goya, Joaquín Sorolla, Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dalí, Juan Gris and Joan Miró. Does their legacy live on in the new generation? What have been the influences of Spanish Music and dance? Media? Importance in current world dynamics? The Spanish cinema and its evolution?**

Films by directors like Segundo de Chomón,



Florián Rey, Luis García Berlanga, Carlos Saura, Julio Medem, Isabel Coixet, Alejandro Amenábar, Icíar Bollain and Brothers David Trueba and Fernando Trueba. Actresses as Sara Montiel or Penélope Cruz are among those who have become Hollywood stars.

***I think that we always say that Spain excels in sports because of individual people. Football is indeed the most popular game in Spain.***

We are a mixture of so many things that is why we are different in filmmaking. Historically, there was a campaign by the Ministry of Culture which branded as Spain is different. It became a part of our upbringing. Every film director reflects what has been happening in Spain at other times.

**DF: Excellency! Spanish Music and if classical and folk music is still popular?**

Flamenco is just one form of music popular in Spain and well known across the world. However, there are so many others that existed before flamenco. Some of the movements in dance are similar to Sindhi music and dance in Pakistan. In the field of classical music, Spain has produced a number of noted composers such as Isaac Albéniz, Manuel de Falla and Enrique Granados and singers and performers such as Plácido Domingo, José Carreras, Montserrat Caballé, Alicia de Larrocha, Alfredo Kraus, Pablo Casals, Ricardo Viñes, José Iturbi, Pablo de Sarasate, Jordi Savall and Teresa Berganza. In Spain there are over forty professional

orchestras, including the Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona, Orquesta Nacional de España and the Orquesta Sinfónica de Madrid. Major opera houses include the Teatro Real, the Gran Teatre Del Liceu, Teatro Arriaga and the El Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia.

**DF: Excellency! Spanish Cuisine. How similar is it to Pakistani food?**

Food in Spain is not spicy, but there are many similarities with Pakistani food. For example, one of our dish very much similar to Biryani in Pakistan. Spices are not common in my country, but the flavor is there.

**DF: Excellency! Sports in Spain. What are the most popular?**

I think that we always say that Spain excels in sports because of individual people. The government also sponsors sports. Football is indeed the most popular game in Spain. Basketball, tennis, cycling and polo are also widely played. There are many names as well who maintained a perfect reputation in different sports and games competitions. There are Olympic champions. Rafael Nadal, the world-renowned tennis player, is also from my country. He is such a master of tennis that sometimes, I feel that he is not from our planet.

While varieties of football had been played in Spain as far back as Roman times, sport in Spain has been dominated by English style association football since the early 20th century. Basketball, tennis, cycling, handball, futsal, motorcycling and, lately, Formula One are also vital due to the presence of Spanish champions in all these disciplines. Today, Spain is a significant world sports powerhouse, especially since the 1992 Summer Olympics hosted in Barcelona, which stimulated a great deal of interest in sports in the country. In addition, the tourism industry has led to an improvement in sports infrastructure, especially for water sports, golf





and skiing.

Rafael Nadal is the leading Spanish tennis player and has won several Grand Slam titles, including the Wimbledon 2010 men's singles. In north Spain, the game of pelota is viral. Alberto Contador is the leading Spanish cyclist and has won several Grand Tour titles, including two Tour de France titles.

**DF: Excellency! What are the different Sectors of the Spanish economy?**

Spain's capitalist mixed economy is the 16th largest worldwide and the 5th largest in the European Union, and the Eurozone's 4th largest.

**DF: How would you categorize Spanish foreign policy? What are the focal areas?**

My country has embassies all across the world. European Union and Latin America are the main focus of our foreign policy areas. NATO is also an essential pillar of our foreign policy. Spain also works in close collaboration with United Nations and its allied agencies and organizations. Now, we are looking towards Asia as well for relations as we do in Latin America.

**DF: Excellency! How bilateral relations between Spain and Pakistan developed since diplomatic relations have been established between both countries? What are the priority areas for Spain as far as Pakistan is concerned?**

We are one of the first countries to recognize the new country, the new nation. Pakistan and Spain have 70 years of relationship. There have been no ups and downs. The relationship between the two countries has been perfect, and we are working hard on making it even better because it is not yet the way we would like it to be. Politically we had the visit of a foreign minister for the first time in history, which is a milestone because from now on, I can feel the effect of that visit, and I can see a very different relationship between the two countries from the moment our minister visited.

**DF: Excellency! Economic cooperation between Pakistan and Spain?**

We are working hard to increase trade and bilateral commercial relations. After the GSP plus status of Pakistan, Spain has become one of the leading importers of Pakistani textiles. Right now, we import more than we export to Pakistan. We ship olive oil and food products to Pakistan. I would also like to export technological developments to Pakistan. Pharmaceutical companies are also interested.

**DF: Excellency! Sectors of cooperation between the two countries?**

There are trade and commercial relations between the two countries. Politically both the countries have a perfect relationship. However, there is a need for extending cultural ties between the two countries.

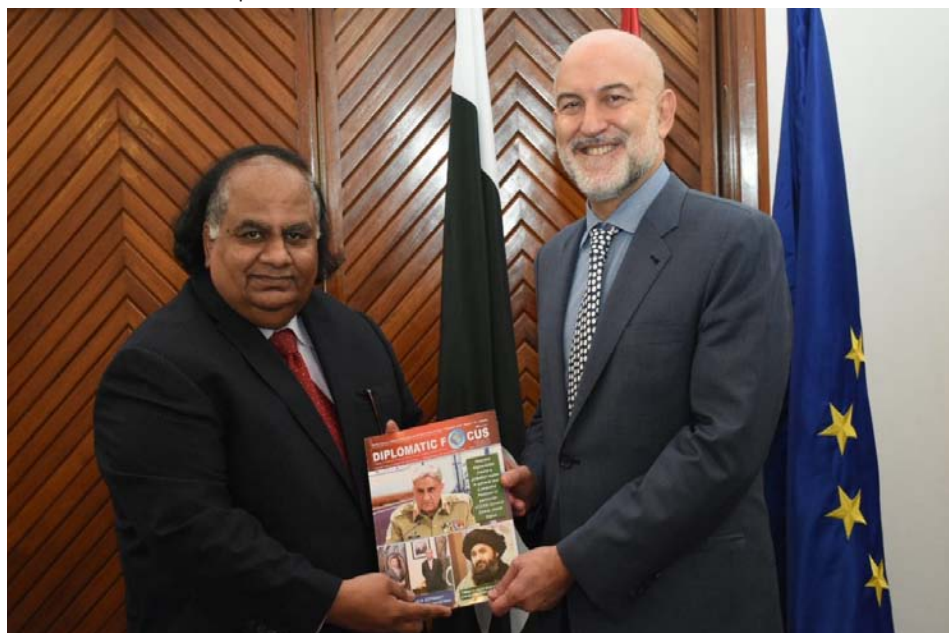
**DF: Excellency! Tell us about People to people contact like Exchange of Visits and Avenues of cooperation that could be explored.**

Tourism is one area where I think there is a need for more cooperation between the

two countries. There is a lot of potential for tourism in Pakistan. Spain can help and support exploring and utilizing the tourism potential of Pakistan because Spain is a well-experienced country as far as tourism is concerned. Spain made a great effort in boosting tourism in the country. I mean, Barcelona was not the way it is now. Beaches in Barcelona did not develop decades ago but government-sponsored tourism in the country. There is a need to teach hospitality in Pakistani schools, and we are experienced in it.

**DF: Excellency! Any message for Pakistani readers?**

I want to tell everybody to visit my country. Of course, there is Barcelona and Madrid, but many other places are worth visiting, i.e. Seville and Majorca. Why you do not go to Valencia, go beyond the easy way and try to discover the Canary Islands and the Balearic Islands. That is what I would like Pakistanis, and one essential thing is to learn Spanish. It is the second most spoken language.





## A walk through Spain launched

The coffee table book *A Walk Through Spain* was formally launched at the Spanish embassy. Author Ammar Haider Zaidi presents the book to the chief guest of the event Federal Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry. Federal Ministers Ali Zaidi, Hammad Azhar, former Minister Zulfi Bukhari and host Manuel Duran Ambassador of Spain, and Deputy Head of Mission of the Spanish embassy are also seen in the pictures.











## Successful 70 Years of Pakistan & Germany Diplomatic Relations Celebrated!

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Successful 70 Years of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Germany Celebrated in Islamabad. It was a great joy celebrating 70 years of friendship - and as a real live event. Chief Guest of the eve was Foreign Minister H.E. Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

On October 15, 1951, the two newly-formed countries concluded a brief correspondence on a typing paper. Pakistan and the-then, West Germany, mutually agreed to set up diplomatic missions.



# 70 Years!

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring

The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised a Public Talk titled, "Celebrating 70 Years of Pakistan-Germany Relations," on October 21, 2021. H.E. Bernhard Schlagheck, Ambassador of Germany to Pakistan was the Guest Speaker for the event.

In her introductory remarks Dr Neelum Nigar, Director, CSP, said that Pakistan and Germany have enjoyed seven decades of close and diverse relations based on mutual respect and cooperation. Germany has also provides development support to Pakistan mainly centred on renewables, climate protection, business, and health care.

While in his welcome Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI said that Germany is an extremely important country and it's Pakistan's biggest trading partner in







Europe. There has been a recent boost in the people-to-people contact between Pakistan and Germany which has helped relations to enhance further. Ambassador Chaudhry called Europe a resilient continent and said people would like to know where it stands with regards to changing geopolitical situation in the Indo-Pacific. The Guest Speaker Ambassador Schlagheck in his talk said that Germany and Pakistan are engaged in high level bilateral visits which shows the level of trust between the two countries. Both countries are relatively young as both gained independence within two years of each other.

On the recent development in Afghanistan, Ambassador Schlagheck said that Germany is appreciative of Pakistan's assistance in the Doha Process and in securing safe passage for its nationals from Afghanistan. He further said that there are several areas in the political sphere where the two sides can work closely; Afghanistan being one of them. On Pakistan's GSP+ status, Ambassador Schlagheck stated that after 2023 Pakistan's status will be revaluated according to the new conventions and emphasised that Pakistan needs to make efforts to address certain challenges in this regard.

Later, an interactive session was held which was moderated by Ambassador Chaudhry. At the conclusion, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood



Chairman BoG, presented ISSI's memento to Ambassador Schlagheck.

A ceremony was also held in Karachi to mark the 70 years of successful diplomatic bilateral relations between two friendly countries, Germany and Pakistan.

On October 15, 1951, the two newly-formed countries concluded a brief correspondence on a typing paper. Pakistan and the-then, West Germany, mutually agreed to set up diplomatic missions. To commemorate the start of bonhomie between the two friendly countries, on October 15, 2021, the German Consulate General and the MoFA camp office in Karachi celebrated the 70th anniversary of successful bilateral relationship between Germany and Pakistan. Throughout the past seven decades, both the countries developed the full spectrum bilateral relations.

In addition to the main event organised in Islamabad by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) along with the German Embassy, the German Consulate General and the MoFA camp office in Karachi held a ceremony, "where it all began", since Karachi was the capital until 1958. To mark this auspicious day, Saqib Rauf, Deputy Chief of Protocol, Camp Office, Karachi, received the Consul General, Holger Ziegeler, accompanied by Ms Birgit Kuhlmann, Deputy Head of Mission, and Ms Maren Dick, Head of



Consular Affairs.

Both the German Consul General and the DC Protocol highlighted the importance and large bandwidth of the bilateral relations. They emphasised the fact that Germany has maintained a local diplomatic presence during all this time, serving the provinces of Sindh and Balochistan in economic spheres, cooperation in culture, development, and the consular services.

They expressed the firm hope that the both sides will continue the friendship in the future and encouraged the younger generation to participate more actively in the friendly exchanges between the two countries. Plaques were exchanged between the two representatives as token of remembrance of the occasion.

Earlier this year, to mark this important milestone, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi visited his German counterpart Heiko Maas in Berlin in April 2021, who soon afterwards reciprocated the gesture in Islamabad.

The fine art of naval diplomacy came into play where PNS Zulfiqar visited the port of Hamburg in August, and recently in September, the German Frigate Bayern performed a partnership visit to Karachi.





# Azerbaijan celebrates 30th anniversary of restoration of Independence

Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser was the chief guest on this occasion. He, along with Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov and other diplomats have cut the cake.









## Azerbaijan Embassy in Pakistan marks 1st anniversary of the “44-day patriotic war” of Karabakh liberation

**A**ddressing a news conference in Islamabad, Azerbaijani Ambassador H.E. Khazar Farhadov thanked Pakistan for standing with his country on the Karabakh issue, saying his nation will always remember its true friends. Earlier in a photo exhibition, the ambassador briefed reporters about the destruction of Azerbaijani territories during occupation.







## ***Pakistan pavilion at the Dubai Expo 2020 attracted more than 100,000 visitors***

By Mian Fazal Elahi/ Monitoring

**T**he Pakistan pavilion at the Dubai Expo 2020 attracted more than 100,000 visitors over a period of just 18 days, making it one of the busiest pavilions of the mega event since it started on October 1.

The announcement was made in a tweet on the Pakistan pavilion's official Twitter account on Thursday.

"The 18th of October marked our 100,000 visitors' milestone. On this joyous event, we would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to the team who [have] operated round-the-clock behind the scenes to bring such an abundant flow of visitors," the tweet said.

"We are extremely happy to announce that the pavilion received more than 100,000 visitors during the first 18 days of October," he said, adding that the "pavilion has attracted the attention of visitors through its spaces and activities that reveal 'the hidden treasure' of Pakistan".

According to the Gulf News report, around 8,000 guests visited the pavilion on the first day of the event and the footfall was recorded at 55,000 in the first week of October.

"The pavilion reached 120,000 visitors in just three days of reaching its first milestone [of

100,000]," the report said, adding that the response had been exceptional particularly on weekends.

One of Pakistan's leading visual artists, Rashid Rana, is the visionary behind the game-changing design of the pavilion's façade that has taken both the Expo organisers and visitors by storm.

***One of Pakistan's leading visual artists, Rashid Rana, is the visionary behind the game-changing design of the pavilion's façade that has taken both the Expo organisers and visitors by storm.***

Rana's design draws inspiration from the diversity that Pakistan has to offer.

This artistic intervention titled 'Unity of All that Appears' comprises 24,000 seemingly identical but all, in fact, unique pieces, fractionally different from each other in size and colour but welded together in harmony.

"The transition between seasons and the unity among characteristic groups within the country are the driving force behind the design," Rana explained.

The construction of the pavilion and its internal displays was funded by a trust, which was formed to raise the required finances through private donations. The exterior is the first point of contact and Rana's design has truly succeeded in drawing in the crowd who leave the pavilion mesmerised after an engaging, multi-sensory inner journey, principally curated by Noorjehan Bilgrami, a noted multi-disciplinary artist, curator and educationist best known for her tireless work in reviving traditional crafts of Pakistan.

Under the theme 'The Hidden Treasure', with an inviting façade and an immersive walk-through experience, the pavilion aims to showcase Pakistan's vast opportunities in tourism and commerce and investment to the expected 25 million global audiences.

The Dubai Expo 2020 kicked off on October 1 — a year late due to the Covid-19 pandemic — and will run until March 31, 2022.



## ***Indonesian Batik: Intangible Cultural Heritage***

**B**atik day celebrated in Islamabad. In three-day exhibition, showcased batik textiles and fabric, celebrated the shared intangible cultural heritage between Pakistan and Indonesia. The exhibition jointly organised by the Indonesian embassy and Batik Studio, Islamabad, at the Centaurus Mall. Indonesian Ambassador H.E. Adam Tugio inaugurated the event in the presence of President of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) Mehwish Sohail and Batik Studio Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mohsin Qamar.





## *A Roundtable conference to discuss “New Uzbekistan-New Elections” jointly organized by Embassy of Uzbekistan to Pakistan and Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad.*

**H**.E. Aybek Arif Usmanov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan in his opening remarks stated that people to people contact is very significant for regional connectivity. Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director, CGSS stated that CGSS has taken several initiatives to promote Central & South Asia connectivity. Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi CEO/Editor/Publisher presented special issue of “Diplomatic Focus” a prestigious magazine of the diplomatic community in Islamabad.





# Great Pakistan's footballs & gloves from great Thai rubber & latex

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

**H**.E. Mr. Chakkrid Krachaiwong, Ambassador of Thailand to Pakistan, visited Forward Sport, one of the largest exporters of ball and sport equipments in Pakistan. The footballs with the logo of 70th anniversary of relations between Thailand and Pakistan were produced in celebration of the auspicious occasion at this advance factory. The company has produced ball for giant companies including Adidas to be used in global football competitions including World Cup and Eufa Champion's League. Those balls were produced with good quality Thai rubber and latex.

Later, the team visited a glove factory of Motolux Company which also uses materials imported from Thailand. Working together, Thailand and Pakistan can mutually benefit the global community.



## Thai-Pak friendship on the street!

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

**T**hai Ambassador to Pakistan tasted local grilled corns and also exchanged a nice conversation and gifts with a friendly local vender who makes Pakistan snack.

This touched our hearts and is a good testimony of great hospitality of Pakistani people for their guests.







## Logo of 70th anniversary of relationship between Thailand and Pakistan launched

By Mian Fazal Elahi

The official launching of the logo of 70th anniversary of relationship between Thailand and Pakistan ceremony was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of both countries. On the occasion, the Foreign Ministers of respective countries delivered their speeches on long-standing ties between

the two countries in all dimension.

H.E. Mr. Chakkrid Krachaiwong, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Darm Boontham, Director General of Department of South Asian, Middle East and African Affairs as well as Thai diplomats in Thailand and Pakistan have also participated in the virtual event alongside with Pakistan

high-level officers and colleagues led by H.E. Mr. Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, the Deputy Foreign Secretary and Spokesperson, to celebrate the event together.

The 70th commemorative logo will be used and displayed as a symbol of long-lasting relationship in various planned events designed to celebrate the auspicious occasion.

## Thai-Pak 70th Anniversary Green Cycling

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

The Royal Thai Embassy in Islamabad, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan and Islamabad Cycling Association, hold a cycling event under the theme of "Green Cycling" in celebration of the day of 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Thailand and Pakistan.

The cycling event was also aimed at supporting Pakistan's Green and Clean Initiative to combat the ongoing global warming. The participants included high-level officers from both sides as well as Islamabad Cycling Association. Thai side was led by H.E. Mr. Chakkrid Krachaiwong, Ambassador of Thailand to Pakistan while Pakistani side had H.E. Mr. Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, the Additional Secretary and Spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry of Pakistan, as a leader.





# Ceremony in remembrance of H.M. King Rama V

By Mian Fazal Elahi

The Royal Thai Embassy in Islamabad organized a ceremony in remembrance of His Majesty King Chulalongkorn (Rama V). Ambassador Chakkrid Krachaiwong led Team Thailand in Pakistan and their spouses, to the ceremony which underlined His Majesty's significant contribution towards the development and the modernisation of the Siamese nation through a series of reforms of the political and administrative system, the nationwide development of infrastructure and public facilities, as well as the abolition of slavery system in the country.



## Ceremony in remembrance of H.M. King Rama IX

Ceremony in remembrance of H.M. King Rama IX and donation as a tribute for the occasion.

The Royal Thai Embassy in Islamabad organized a ceremony in remembrance of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great.

Ambassador Chakkrid Krachaiwong led Team Thailand in Pakistan and their spouses, to the ceremony which was held to mark the fifth anniversary of the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great who has worked tirelessly for the well-being of all Thais during His 70-year reign.

After the event, Embassy's Officers provided essential commodities including masks to the Pakistani staff of the embassy on the occasion.





## Thai envoy visited to Lahore Chamber of Commerce



**H**.E. Mr. Chakkrid Krachaiwong, visited Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and discussed with Mr. Mian Nauman Kabir, the president of the

chamber, on trade and investment between Thailand and Pakistan.

During the meeting, both sides gave an

important on matters of mutual benefits including FTA Thai-Pakistan negotiations, Halal products, Thai Festival in Lahore etc.

## Thai investments in Lahore support jobs and create quality products

**T**he Royal Thai Embassy team visited Charoen Pokphand (CP) office in Lahore. CP is the largest Thai investment in Pakistan. Six Thai and roughly 500 Pakistani employees are working together to offer products including high quality chicken's feed and egg as well as popular "CP Five Star" fried chicken in Lahore.

The company has continuously organized charity events to support local people in need.

Later, the team went to the Lahore-based office of AMG-Thaiunion Feedmill company, a Thai-Pakistan joint venture, which has been running business in livestock and aqua feed. The company said that they are planning to expand their investment in Pakistan in the near future.

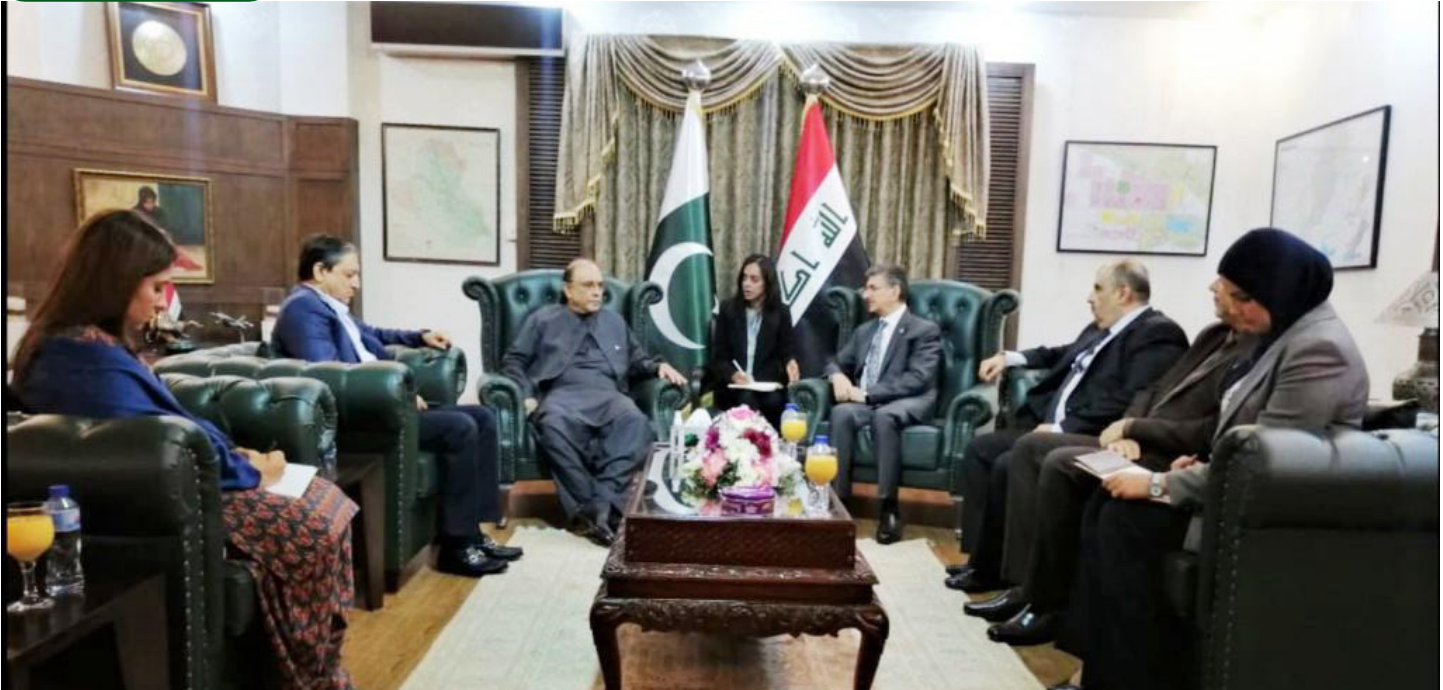


## Thai boxing in Pakistan!

**A**mbassador of Thailand H.E. Mr. Chakkrid Krachaiwong and his team visited Pakistan MuayThai Federation in Lahore. During the visit, Ambassador joined strong Pakistani youth in practicing MuayThai skill which is a good exercise. The visit has encouraged them to continue their training and fight for their dreams.







## Ambassador of Iraq receives the Ambassador of KSA and the former President Mr. Asif Ali Zardari at the embassy headquarter

By Mian Fazal Elahi

**H**.E. Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad, has welcomed H.E. Mr. Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Islamabad, at the Iraqi embassy headquarters in Pakistan. During the meeting, both sides discussed topics and issues of common interest between the two countries in the Pakistani arena related to diplomatic relations and the necessity of activating the Arab group in Pakistan to consolidate the growing Arab-Pakistani relations.

H.E. Ambassador Hamid Abbas Lafta, Head of the Iraqi Mission in Islamabad, has welcomed Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, leader of the

***Mr. Asif Zardari expressed his happiness for the good reception, stressing upon the depth of brotherly relations and the common Islamic and historical bonds between the Iraqi and Pakistani Peoples in historical terms.***



Pakistan People's Party (Former President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan) and received him at the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Pakistan on October 25, 2021.

Mr. Asif Zardari expressed his happiness for the good reception, stressing upon the depth of brotherly relations and the common Islamic and historical bonds between the Iraqi and Pakistani Peoples in historical terms. Both sides also discussed political and economic issues happening on the Iraqi-Pakistani

arena through the role of political parties in drawing future plans in both countries. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Saleem Mandviwalla, the former Deputy Chairman of the Pakistani Senate, and Mrs. Palwasha Khan, the current Member of the Pakistani Senate.

Mr. Asif Zardari concluded his meeting with words of thanks and gratitude to His Excellency for the role of the Iraqi Embassy in facilitating and mitigating the consequences for Pakistani visitors of all sects visiting religious shrines in Iraq.





## NA Deputy Speaker affirmed his readiness to cooperate with the embassy in order to strengthen and develop bilateral relations between the two countries

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Agency

**H**.E. Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta, the Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad, met with Honorable Mr. Qasim Khan Suri, Deputy Speaker of the Pakistani National Assembly at the Pakistani Parliament building. Mr. Khan expressed his deep thanks to His Excellency Ambassador Hamid Abbas for the facilities provided to Pakistani visitors during the Arbaeeniya visit of Imam Hossein, peace be upon him. He affirmed his readiness to cooperate with the embassy in order to strengthen and develop bilateral relations between the two countries.

*Mr. Khan expressed his deep thanks to His Excellency Ambassador Hamid Abbas for the facilities provided to Pakistani visitors during the Arbaeeniya visit of Imam Hossein, peace be upon him.*

Mr. Suri also praised the Iraqi government's role in the success of the electoral process in Iraq, wishing the Iraqi Government and the Iraqi People further progress and prosperity. Deputy Speaker National Assembly Qasim Khan Suri has said that Iraq and Pakistan enjoy cordial relations based upon common religion and cultural values. He said that Parliament to Parliament contacts of both countries would enhance relations between both nations.

Deputy Speaker National Assembly Qasim Khan Suri said that Pakistan is a safe destination for investment in the field of Energy, Trade and Information Technology. He appreciated the proposed project of Iraqi Government for utilizing Pakistani refineries for their crude oil. He also thanked the Iraqi government for supporting hundreds of Pakistani workers who are in Iraq. He also applauded the courage and resilience of Iraqi people to face hardships and hard times. He also said that both countries have great opportunity to explore in the

sectors of trade, business and mutual contact.

Ambassador of Republic of Iraq H.E. Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta said that Pakistan and Iraq have great opportunities in terms of bilateral cooperation in fields of energy, transport, trade and business. He also appreciated Pakistan role for regional connectivity and peace. He said that Iraq values high its ties with Pakistan and is looking forward more cooperation in terms of trade and business.

### The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq receives former advisor to the Prime Minister, Sayed Zulfikar Abbas Bukhari



**H**.E. Mr. Hamid Abbas Lafta, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Islamabad, has received Mr. Sayed Zulfikar Abbas Bukhari, former Minister of State and Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, at the Iraqi Embassy in Islamabad.

The two sides discussed the developments of the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan's

effective role in the Afghan peace process and its endeavor to bring the Afghan parties together in order to achieve security and stability in it.

They also discussed ways to strengthen and develop bilateral relations between the two countries, with emphasis on activating the Iraqi-Pakistani Joint Commission.





## Ambassador MATSUDA expresses gratitude to the Government and the people of Pakistan for extending their support and cooperation during his tenure in Pakistan

I am leaving Islamabad upon completion of my 2 year and 10 month tenure here in Pakistan. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the support and kindness I have received from all of you during this period.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the movement of people and economic activities have been substantially restricted. Through this pandemic, however, the world, including Japan, has seen a dramatic shift of working styles, and more Japanese companies have come to utilize excellent human resources in Pakistan through the Internet. Pakistan, with a population of over 220 million, has great potential as a consumer market and a wealth of human resources, with over 60% of the population under the age of 30. If these are utilized efficiently, it will no doubt have a positive impact on the economies of both Japan and Pakistan.

On economic cooperation, we have engaged in improving Pakistan's economic and social infrastructure, especially in the five pillars in which Japan has strengths, water and sanitation, health, education, disaster prevention, and infrastructure development for export industries. We hope that such cooperation

with Pakistan will contribute to the expansion of bilateral economic relations, including the promotion of trade and investment in both directions.

Moreover, over the past two years and ten months, bilateral defence cooperation have been steadily enhanced with the aim of stabilizing not only Pakistan but the entire region. The participation of Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force's destroyer in multilateral maritime military exercise, AMAN21 organized by the Pakistan Navy for the first time in February this year is the best example. The ties between the Japan Self-Defense Forces and the Pakistan Armed Forces have also been further strengthened through the cooperation in evacuating Japanese and Afghan nationals working in the Embassy and JICA from Afghanistan to Japan.

I strongly believe that the seeds sown through the cooperation between the Embassy and the Government of Pakistan during my tenure will blossom in the near future. In particular, next year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan. I am sure that this

wonderful opportunity will lead to progress in cooperation between Japan and Pakistan in various fields such as politics, economy, culture, and national security. While both Japan and Pakistan are gradually overcoming the threat of the COVID-19 by the efforts of their governments and people, including the expansion of vaccination, I wish that the mutual visits of VIPs and exchanges of business-related people and tourists will become active at earliest possible timing, which will give momentum to strengthening the bilateral relationship.

The people of Pakistan have always welcomed me and treated me with great friendliness. The Japanese people in Pakistan also understand and support for the work of the Embassy. Once again, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you all. I wish for the further development of Japan-Pakistan relations in the future as a conclusion of my farewell address.

Japan Pakistan Dosti Zindabad!

Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan

MATSUDA Kuninori



## Ground Breaking of PIMS Maternal and Child Health Center Expansion



Construction of the extension of Intensive Care at Maternal and Child Care Centre and Children's Hospital was launched at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) in Islamabad. The grant assistance from Japan worth \$32 million (3.62 billion Japanese Yen) was signed in Tokyo two years ago.

On this special occasion, H.E. MATSUDA Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, expressed his respect to all those who worked hard to start this project amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to this, in this August, Japan extended another grant assistance of \$31.4 million to establish a new Maternal and Child Health Center at Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences in Hyderabad. Ambassador MATSUDA commented, "PIMS and Liaquat University are symbols of Japan's health

development assistance to Pakistan in the north and south of the country, respectively. I am sure that the two institutions will make a significant contribution to the improvement of maternal and child health as regional medical hubs."

Chief Representative of JICA Pakistan Office, Mr. FURUTA Shigeki also remarked, "The project has been long-awaited in order to respond to the growing needs of clinically high-risk perinatal cases from all over Pakistan. In this project, high quality medical treatment will be provided to severely ill mothers and children, accommodating 300 patients at Maternal Foetal Intensive Care unit, and 1,100 patients at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit a year."

According to the current plan, the construction will be completed in April 2023.



## Japan and Pakistan agreed on debt deferral of US\$200 million as the 2nd phase of G20 DSSI

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

The Governments of Japan and Pakistan agreed on debt deferral amounting to approx. US\$200 million on October 22, 2021, as the second phase of "the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)". Prior to this, both Governments agreed on the first debt deferral amounting to approx. US\$370 million on April 27, 2021, under the same initiative. The total amount of deferred debt has reached approx. US\$570 million, which will widen the fiscal space for the Government of Pakistan to restore its economy affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The concessional loans, subject to debt deferral, have been utilized for infrastructure development such as roads, tunnels, power plants and grids, irrigation, water supply, and drainage facilities in Pakistan from the early 1990s to the mid-2010s. These concessional loans have favorable conditions for Pakistan in terms of low interest rate, as well as long grace and repayment period. Under the second agreement, repayments for the debt and interest due between January 1 and June 30, 2021 will be rescheduled after December 15, 2022.

In addition to the debt deferral, Japan has also extended a total of US\$23.5 million in grants to Pakistan for supplementing its counter-COVID-19 measures as follows:

Feb 2020: Delivery of diagnostic kits,

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

Dec 2020: Grant Assistance of \$9.5 million to NDMA for procuring medical equipment; and

Mar 2021: Grant Assistance of \$6.59 million to UNICEF for improving the vaccine cold-chain.

Ambassador H.E. MATSUDA Kuninori, who is about to be transferred to the Japanese Embassy in Ukraine after nearly three years of his tenure in Pakistan, said, "I am aware that Pakistan's COVID-19 affected economy is on a solid recovery path, including the prospect of higher GDP growth. Next year, Japan and Pakistan are going to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. I strongly hope that a new chapter will be carved in the history of our friendship on the basis of Japan's development cooperation in the past decades."





## Japan provides equipment worth USD 6.59 million for Pakistan's COVID19 response

### UNICEF procured equipment to strengthen cold chain optimization for vaccine storage

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Cold chain optimization equipment worth USD 6.59 million funded by the Government of Japan and procured through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for enhancing national capacity to store COVID-19, was today handed over to the Government of Pakistan. The Parliamentary Secretary on Health, Dr. Nausheen Hamid received the cold chain equipment from the Ambassador of Japan, H.E. Mr. MATSUDA Kuninori, in presence of the UNICEF Representative in Pakistan, Ms. Aida Girma, at a ceremony held in the National Emergency Operation Centre, Expanded Programme for Immunization (EPI).

"We greatly value the significant contributions made by Japan during the last 70 years of its diplomatic relations with Pakistan," said Dr. Nausheen Hamid. "Over the years, our two countries have partnered in various sectors including health, education, power and many other. I affirm our strong desire to further deepen and broaden our bilateral ties with Japan."

"The Expanded Programme for Immunization in Pakistan has a strong cold chain system that is considered the backbone of the programme as it handles and stores massive quantities of vaccines inclusive of all kinds of COVID-19 vaccines. It is, however, important to know that the cold chain system can be risky in countries which have extreme

temperatures and the power supply is unreliable. I am grateful to the Government of Japan for providing this cold chain optimization equipment for vaccine storage and ensuring quality check as it would definitely strengthen our existing system," she added.

The equipment procured through funds from Japan, include power generators, voltage regulators and temperature monitoring devices which will enhance vaccine storage capacity of EPI, especially at provincial and district level where power outage and voltage fluctuation is frequent. The new equipment would help to ensure optimum temperature control at storage facilities thus maintaining the efficacy of the Covid-19 vaccine.

Japanese funds will also be used for strengthening the capacity of health care staff to handle the cold chain equipment. Japan has extended a total of \$23.5 million grant assistance to Pakistan for its counter-COVID19 measures including provision of hygiene items, medical equipment, and training of health care staff. Speaking at the event, Ambassador MATSUDA stressed that Japan has prioritized the health sector as part of its development cooperation policy for Pakistan for decades, including Maternal & Child Health, Polio Eradication, Routine Immunization and Counter-COVID-19 measures. He expressed his hope to open a new area of cooperation in the future partnership between Japan and Pakistan in the health sector, suggesting that tackling

diabetes could be one of the candidates.

"I am looking forward to seeing a new chapter added to the friendship between Japan and Pakistan on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries next year," the ambassador said.

As part of COVID 19 pandemic response UNICEF has been assisting the Government of Pakistan in procuring CoVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX facility. It has also procured cold chain, laboratory and personal protective equipment and handed over to the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination.

"Today's ceremony reinforces the high level and longstanding support of the Government of Japan to UNICEF in its efforts to procure vaccines and essential equipment for strengthening immunization services in Pakistan," said Aida Girma, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan.

"May it be routine immunization or the large-scale COVID-19 vaccination drive, storage of vaccines at optimum temperature is essential to maintain their efficacy and effectiveness. The cold chain support equipment being handed over to the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination today, will help in making vaccines available to people across the country, especially the marginalised and those living in hard to reach areas, Ms. Girma said."



# Pak Army prepared to defend national sovereignty: COAS

By Monitoring, Agency

**C**hief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa said Pakistan Army was prepared to defend territorial integrity and sovereignty of Pakistan against all odds.

The Army Chief visited Bahawalpur and witnessed training activities of formation at Asrani and Khairpur Tamewali (KPT), said an ISPR news release here received.

Interacting with the troops, the COAS emphasized on realistic training in line with the emerging threats and challenges to defeat nefarious designs of our adversaries.

The mechanized troops demonstrated battle drills involved in the operational cycle of the formation including offensive manoeuvres.

The COAS also witnessed field firing of different weapon systems at KPT ranges. It included integrated firepower display

of various components including Armour, Mechanized Infantry,

Artillery, Air Defence, ATGMs duly supported by Pakistan Air Force and combat aviation.

The COAS appreciated high standards of training and operational preparedness of the formation.

Earlier, on arrival, COAS was received by Corps Commander Bahawalpur Lieutenant General Khalid Zia.

## Closing ceremony of Pakistan-Morocco Bilateral Joint Exercise – 2021 was held at NCTC

**C**losing ceremony of Pakistan-Morocco Bilateral Joint Exercise – 2021 was held at National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Pabbi said in a press release by ISPR. During the exercise, Special Forces of Morocco and Pakistan practiced various drills involved in counter terrorism operations including cordon and search, compound clearance, close quarter battle, fast roping, rappelling and combat medics.

This is the first ever joint exercise between



the two countries. The training was aimed at sharing mutual experience in counter terrorism domain, rehearsing / adopting

best practices and enhancing cooperation between the two armies.



## NATO civil representative appreciated Pakistan's role in Afghan situation including successful evacuation operations and efforts for regional stability

**H**.E Mr Stefano Pontecorvo, Senior Civil Representative NATO called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ, said in a press release by ISPR.

During the meeting, matters related to mutual interest, peace and stability in the region and Afghanistan situation were discussed. COAS said that there is a need for global convergence on Afghanistan to avoid humanitarian crisis.

The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role in Afghan situation including successful evacuation operations and efforts for regional stability. He also assured to enhance cooperation with Pakistan on Afghanistan and regular engagement by the NATO countries for all bilateral issues.



## H.E. Kuninori Matsuda, Japanese Ambassador paid a farewell call to COAS

**H**is Excellency Mr Kuninori Matsuda, Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan paid a farewell call to General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ, said in a press release by ISPR.

During the meeting matters of mutual interest, bilateral cooperation in various fields, overall regional situation and peace & stability in the Afghanistan were discussed. COAS thanked Ambassador for his services and appreciated his contributions for fostering strong ties between the two countries and support towards defence / security cooperation and stance on Afghan situation.

The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role in Afghan situation including successful evacuation operations and pledged to keep working for better relations between the two countries.





## Japanese envoy greets PJCA office-bearers

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

**H**.E. Mr. MATSUDA Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan administered the oath of newly elected office-bearers of Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association (PJCA) Islamabad. An oath taking ceremony to this effect was held at the official residence of the Ambassador, with a limited number of attendees as a precaution against the coronavirus pandemic.

*The friendship between our two nations is based on mutual trust, cooperation and understanding: Ambassador of Japan*

Justice (R) Ali Nawaz Chowhan has been unanimously elected as the new President of Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association (PJCA) Islamabad by the members of its executive committee where as Mrs. ORITA Toshiko and Prof. Dr. Nusrat Ara Majeed were elected as Vice Presidents.

Ambassador MATSUDA, while speaking on the occasion, congratulated the newly elected office-bearers of PJCA Islamabad and expressed his good wishes for their future endeavors to further deepen the cultural interactions and most importantly people-to-people contacts

between Japan and Pakistan.

“The friendship between our two nations is based on mutual trust, cooperation and understanding. I believe that cultural relationship, in particular, can significantly contribute to further deepen the existing mutual trust and understanding between Japan and Pakistan”, said the Ambassador.

The Ambassador expressed his hope that PJCA and other such organizations in Pakistan would step forward and join the Embassy of Japan to commemorate the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan next year in a befitting way.

Justice (R) Ali Nawaz Chowhan, the newly-elected President of PJCA Islamabad, while

expressing his views on the occasion, thanked the Ambassador for taking time to grace the oath taking ceremony of the recently elected executive committee members of the association. While assuring his association's cooperation to further strengthening the cultural relations between the two countries, President PJCA stated that the new team of PJCA Islamabad will do its best to promote the cultural ties between Pakistan and Japan with close cooperation of the Embassy of Japan in Pakistan.

Since PJCA Islamabad was formally inaugurated in 1972, the organization has been playing an important role in the promotion of friendship and cultural relations between Japan and Pakistan.







## Ambassador MATSUDA congratulates PJLF for publishing Urdu translation of Japanese novel “Genji Monogatari-The Tale of Genji”

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

H.E. Mr. MATSUDA Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, has appreciated and extended his congratulations to Mr. Khurram Sohail, President of Pakistan-Japan Literature Forum (PJLF), for publication of the Urdu translation of the classic Japanese novel “Genji Monogatari-The Tale of Genji” which was written one thousand years ago by a famous female novelist in Japan.

Ambassador MATSUDA expressed these views while speaking at an introductory session of the book which was held at his official residence and was attended by a limited number of guests as a precaution against the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ambassador, while commending the tireless efforts of Mr. Sohail and the late Mr. Baqar Naqvi for making this project a reality over a 5-year project, stated that translation of such a classic Japanese novel must have been a challenging task for the duo that eventually turned out to be an excellent gift for the Pakistani readers to understand the Japanese culture and aristocratic society through this literary masterpiece.

While appreciating the rich literary and cultural heritage of both Japan and Pakistan, the Ambassador said literature and heritage of any nation are so much significant as they help us to understand each other, respect each other



and we all need to work together to pass on this rich heritage and literature to our future generations.

Mr. Khurram Sohail, President PJLF, in his remarks, expressed his gratitude to H.E. the Ambassador for sparing his precious time to host this introductory session of the book at his residence. He hoped that the Urdu translation of this Japanese novel will prove to be a milestone in further promoting Pakistan-Japan’s cultural and literary relations in future.

He informed that during his visits to Japan he was delighted to see that the Japanese scholars and researchers had translated the works of icons like Ghalib, Faiz, Munta and Iqbal into Japanese language and that gave him the motivation to translate classic Japanese novel

“Genji Monogatari-The Tale of Genji” into Urdu language.

Mrs. Sadia Rashid, President, Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association Sindh, while speaking on the occasion appreciated the efforts and hard work of Mr. Khurram Sohail underscored the need of more collaboration between Pakistan and Japan in the field of literature in order to make the people of two countries to understand each other’s culture and literary achievements.

It is pertinent to mention here that Genji Monogatari-The Tale of Genji is a masterpiece of Japanese literature by Murasaki Shikibu which was written over one thousand years ago and considered as one of the world’s oldest novels.



# U.S. is running out of everything to contain China



By Bobby Naderi

**T**he irony is real. The United States government cannot instigate forever a culture of fear and ratchet up tensions and distrust between its Western allies and China.

In yet another blow to President Joe Biden administration's policymakers, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said that Britain will not "pitchfork away" investment from China despite ongoing differences with Beijing over the issues of human rights and Hong Kong.

Ahead of the Global Investment Summit in London, Johnson said that the world's second largest economy will continue to play a "gigantic part" in UK economic life for years to come.

To understand the situation, the U.S. is running out of everything to contain China, including allies with a "special relationship," because they are not buying its geopolitical mess and anti-China demands.

It further shows how much more China has on hand to offer and how much its trade and investment partners in the West are willing to take.

This isn't to say that challenges don't exist. Johnson insisted that London would not be "naïve" about allowing China access to the UK's critical national infrastructure such as nuclear power or the 5G communications network.

However, Western trade with China has continued to grow and expand, including UK trade, in spite of all the difficult conversations.

Many Western governments are equally not willing to get themselves deeply involved in Washington's parochial squabbles in the South China Sea, because it escalates tensions and

imperils the peace and stability of the strategic region, and with that, the much-needed Chinese trade and investment.

In other words, Western governments do not want to become entangled in America's petty spats, nor do they want to antagonize China just to give cold comfort to the U.S.

Those are also cautionary reasons why the U.S. should avoid being involved in China's internal affairs. The U.S. has to learn to find the right balance between defending its own version of human rights and promoting national interests.

Given the murky and toxic politics of the Biden administration, however, it might not be an easy task to disengage in the midst of a growing naval presence in the South China Sea. It's an absurdity on its face, as the colonialist effort to do so persists.

Given the reality of a multipolar world in which many states compete for influence in global markets, this is hardly a new game.

In truth, consecutive U.S. administrations have frequently stood in the way of European governments trying to expand relations with China while increasing their diplomatic and commercial activities. This is a grave and unacceptable violation of the EU's laws and procedures, and a breach of the principle of sovereignty — often advancing American interests at the expense of European ones.

We can still remember vividly how the U.S. signed AUKUS to sell nuclear-powered subs to the Australians without consulting the EU first. It underscores that the U.S. doesn't respect the EU's position and interests, nor does it accept its role as a co-equal of anyone.

With brutal clarity, this is about maintaining America's global primacy, convincing its

European partners that they need not aspire to a greater role, and discouraging them from challenging U.S. leadership or seeking to change the established political and economic order.

All in all, the EU's governments stand to win like the UK if they also uphold multilateralism and envision a stronger relationship with China amidst the pandemic and a large array of global crises. With the Chinese and EU economies more than ever inter-connected, Brussels stands to win if it remains committed to dialogue and understands the interests and concerns of its largest trading partner.

China sticks to its agreements and has no intention to become the EU's "systemic rival," as that doesn't benefit anyone.

It only prolongs the disruption of the ratification process of the China-EU Comprehensive Agreement on Investment. And that is exactly what the beltway in Washington will hope for.

The barely veiled implication is that although the British PM has welcomed investment from China, no combination of bilateral trade and investment, even if carried out, would prove sufficient to end the global economic crisis and the pandemic — not as long as the EU continues to prioritize trade competition with China over planetary survival.

Together with China, instead, the EU can defend multilateralism and respond to the challenges such as the pandemic and climate change on a planet that, these days, seems to stand every chance of going down.

**Bobby Naderi is a London-based journalist, guest contributor in print, radio and television, and documentary filmmaker. The article reflects the author's opinions and not necessarily the views of Diplomatic Focus. Courtesy to CGTN**



# The G20 and the means to climate safety

By Jeffrey D. Sachs

The philosopher Immanuel Kant famously said that, “Whoever wills the end also wills ... the indispensably necessary means to it that is in his control.” Put simply, when we set a goal, we ought to take the actions needed to achieve it.

This is an essential maxim for our governments, and it should guide G20 leaders when they meet in Rome at the end of October to confront the climate crisis.

The world set a goal in the Paris climate agreement: to keep global warming within 1.5 degree Celsius of pre-industrial levels. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has explained why this is a valid goal.

To go higher than 1.5 degrees Celsius would jeopardize life on the planet with a potential multi-meter rise of sea level, the collapse of critical ecosystems, and the release of methane from thawing permafrost, possibly triggering runaway warming. Yet the world’s current trajectory implies a catastrophic 2.7 degrees Celsius increase in global temperature.

Earlier this year, the International Energy Agency showed the technological pathway to achieve the 1.5 degrees Celsius target. We must decarbonize the world’s energy system by mid-century. This is feasible, by shifting from fossil fuels to renewable energy and green fuels in power generation, transport, buildings, and industry. Beyond that, we also need to stop deforestation and restore degraded land on a massive scale.

So far, governments are failing miserably to do their part. In the inimitable words of Greta Thunberg, they need to move beyond “Blah, blah, blah.” They must will the means to decarbonization.

First, governments need to plan the energy system and land-use changes to mid-century. With just 28 years left to 2050, and facing the need for a massive overhaul of energy systems and land-use practices, governments must plan the necessary public investments and policies.

And they must gain acceptance and support for those plans by subjecting them to public scrutiny, debate, and revision.

Second, governments must regulate. As the IEA wrote clearly in its report, there is no need or justification for new fossil-fuel investments. Period. We have enough proven fossil-fuel reserves. No country should get a pass on ending new exploration and development of fossil fuels.

Third, governments must finance - at scale - zero-carbon infrastructure, such as national and regional renewable-energy power grids (for example, linking the European Union, North Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean, and the Middle East), as well as electrification of transport and buildings.

Fourth, rich-country governments must help finance poorer countries’ efforts to make the needed investments. Rich countries have long promised to do this, but have failed to mobilize even the rather pitiful \$100 billion a year – a mere 0.1 percent of world output – they first pledged in 2009.

Fifth, developed countries should compensate the developing world for the climate damages they have already wrought and which will intensify in the future.

The United States has emitted 25 percent of carbon-dioxide emissions dating back to 1751, despite having less than 5 percent of the global population. Countries all over the world are suffering massive climate disasters as a result of U.S. energy malfeasance. Yet the U.S. and other major historical emitters have offered nothing in compensation for the damages they are causing.

Lastly, the world’s rich people, responsible for the preponderance of fossil-fuel use in their own countries and on a global scale, need to pay their fair share of the costs of climate adjustment. Yet, by and large, the richest people escape fair taxation, as shown once again in the Pandora Papers and a ProPublica report on tax avoidance.

There is some good news. Many governments are taking some steps in the right direction. The EU is in the lead, with the European Green Deal, which pledges the EU to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Japan and South Korea have also pledged to reach net zero by 2050, and President Joe Biden is trying to bring the U.S. in line. China, Indonesia, and Russia have set a net-zero target of 2060, which is heartening but can and should be accelerated.

Yet major emitters such as Australia, India, and Saudi Arabia have not made any such pledge, and the U.S. is showing signs of another massive political failure to tackle climate change, despite Biden’s efforts. Since ratifying the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992, the U.S. Senate has blocked any action to implement the treaty and the Paris climate agreement.

This track record of world-threatening inaction now looks set to continue. In the past few



days, the U.S. Senate has been busy gutting Biden’s signature budget legislation of its most important climate policies. All 50 Republican Senators and a handful of Democrats led by Joe Manchin of West Virginia are opposing Biden’s “clean-power plan” to decarbonize the U.S. energy sector.

The remarkable thing about American corruption is how blatant it is. The oil and gas industry spent \$140.7 million on the 2020 elections (donating 84 percent to Republicans) and \$112 million on lobbying last year. An ExxonMobil lobbyist was recorded confiding that Manchin is the industry’s “kingmaker” in Congress.

Biden’s hold on power is so weak, and the corruption of the U.S. Congress so entrenched, that the president cannot even face down a small-state senator from his own party, who should be shamed and derided for his devotion to Big Oil.

The G20 governments have a moral imperative to adopt the means to achieve the globally agreed goal of climate safety. Their countries account for roughly 80 percent of global output and carbon dioxide emissions. An agreement among these governments – followed by specific actions, including facing down the corruption in their own countries – can change the global trajectory on climate change.

Many G20 governments are ready to act, and they should call out the laggards. The U.S. should be put on notice that America’s failed response is intolerable to the rest of the world. And the same message should be conveyed to Australia, India, and Saudi Arabia. There can be no tolerance for climate corruption and impunity in a world on fire.

Jeffrey D. Sachs is a professor at Columbia University and the director of the university’s Center for Sustainable Development. He is also the president of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. The article reflects the author’s opinions and not necessarily the views of Diplomatic Focus. Courtesy to CGTN





## South Korea & Pakistan Sign MoU

### For the Preservation and Promotion of Gandhara Buddhist Heritage

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Mr. Suh Sangpyo met with the Secretary of the National Heritage and Cultural Division of Pakistan, Mr. Asif Hyder Shah and both sides extended their felicitations on the recent signing of a significant MoU aimed at the preservation and promotion of the rich Gandhara Buddhist Heritage of Pakistan between the Cultural Heritage Authorities of both countries.

The Ambassador indicated that within the framework of the MoU, the focus will be on the preservation of the rich Buddhist Heritage of Pakistan by providing capacity building opportunities and enhancing people to people

***Korea will be granting \$4 million under this agreement***

exchanges for those working in this field and also on the promotion of Buddhist Tourism from Korea to Pakistan as it was initially discussed during the visit of the President of Jogye Order in 2019. The Ambassador further added that Korea will be granting \$4 million under this agreement.

Mr. Asif thanked the Ambassador and the Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea for its tireless support to the preservation of Buddhist Heritage of Pakistan and assured that the Pakistani side will accelerate their efforts to achieve the desired outcomes of the MoU.







## British Kashmiris stage anti-India protest

By Monitoring, Mian Asadullah

**T**hehreek-e-Kashmir, UK, held an anti-India and pro-Kashmir freedom protest outside the Indian Consulate in Birmingham.

Hundreds of Kashmiris, Pakistanis and global human rights activists attended the protest.

The protesters gathered to express solidarity with the Kashmiris.

They raised slogans like “Stop killings in Kashmir”, “We want freedom”, Indian army out” and “Free Kashmir.” The protesters condemned the rising arrests and killings of civilians in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

On the occasion the President of TeK, UK, Raja Fahim Kayani said that extrajudicial killing of five civilians in fake encounters was the worst kind of human rights violations in IIOJK.

“Indian forces detained more than 1,500 Kashmiris in two days during the first week of October and levelled false charges against them under one of the India’s blackest laws, Public Safety Act (PSA). The recent crackdown in IIOJK was the biggest ever over decades.

The Indian government used the same black law to arrest youth. The PSA was also declared “as a black law” by Amnesty International in 2010 and under this law anyone can be sent to jail for two years without any trial,” Kayani added.

He further said that Kashmiris across the globe and in UK will continue to raise the voice to condemn the continued state terrorism in IIOJK.

“Life has been made so miserable for the Kashmiris in IIOJK. There are more women victims than men as most Kashmiri mothers lost their sons, brothers and husbands in fake encounters of the Indian troops.

Disappearances of Kashmiri youth at the hands of Indian troops left thousands of widows and half widows in IIOJK.

The Indian troops are enjoying impunity since Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) known as license to kill and molest women was implemented in 1990s to suppress Kashmiris political struggle.

Kayani urged the world to unite against India and focus on the atrocities being committed by Indian troops in IIOJK since 1989.

At the moment minorities, especially Pundits are being killed by Indian troops to give plebiscite struggle a bad name aimed at defaming Kashmiris political struggle at global level.

The President of TeK, Europe, Muhammad Ghalib addressing the protesters said that it was time to remind the United Nations their role against India’s Hindutva fascist regime and if they continue to keep silence on the issue, India’s Hindu supremacist ideology will become more dangerous for minorities and oppressed

people of Indian occupied Kashmir.

Kashmiris need to educate the world how to deal with India by exposing it to save humanity and their political rights, Ghalib added.

He said overseas Kashmiris across the globe, Europe and in UK will continue to raise voice against the Indian state terrorism in IIOJK.

Mr Gilbert from Stop the War Coalition, Khawaja Muhammed Suleiman, founding member of TeK, UK, Mufti Abdul Majeed Nadeem, Vice President of TeK, UK, Qamar Abbas, President of TeK, Birmingham, Azam Farooq, General Secretary of TeK, Midlands, Maulana Muhammad Sajjad, Sardar Muhammed Aftab advocate, Vice President of TeK, UK, Muhammad Ikram, former Vice President of TeK, Spain, Yousaf Farooq, President of TeK, Youth, UK, Rana Rabnawaz, President of TeK, West Midlands, Dr Khurram Bashir, Vice President of Pakistan Coordination Council, Raja Javed Iqbal, Chairman Haroonia Mosque, Naila Azmat of Stop the War Coalition, Khawaja Muhammed Arif, famous Kashmiri poet, Muhammad Munir, Vice President of TeK Birmingham, Qari Tayyab and other political leaders also strongly condemned the extrajudicial killings of Kashmiris by the Indian forces and the arrest of over 1500 Kashmiris on false charges in one of the biggest ever-crackdowns in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.





Dr. Arif Alvi, The President of Pakistan, Federal Minister for Privatization Mohammed Mian Soomro, , RCCI President Ch Nadeem A. Rauf, Group leader Mr. Sohail Altaf, Mr. SM Naseem and Award Winners in a group photo after the RCCI 1st Tax Payers Awards Ceremony at Awan-e-Sadar Islamabad



Dr. Arif Alvi, The President of Pakistan, Federal Minister for Privatization Mohammed Mian Soomro, RCCI Top Executives, Group Leaders, Former Presidents and Executive Committee pose for a group photo after the awards ceremony at Awan-e-Sadar, Islamabad

## ***RCCI discussed issues with Indonesian Envoy***



**P**resident RCCI Ch Nadeem A. Rauf along with Senior Vice President Mr. Asim Mahmood Malik ,Vice President Mr. Tallat Awan and Former President Mohammad Nasir Mirza paid a visit to Indonesian Embassy Pakistan and had a meeting with Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan Mr. Adam M. Tugio and discussed the various issues on bilateral trade.



# President Baburi Forum visited Uzbekistan monitored the 6th Presidential Election

By Muhammad Saeed

President of Baburi Forum Islamabad Muhammad Ramzan Mughal visited the Republic of Uzbekistan to monitor of the 6th Presidential Election. He visited numerous polling stations and observed no irregularity in the entire electoral process and termed it fair, free and transparent.

Being prominent activist of multiculturalism and historic ties he personally met with H.E. Mashrabov Zokirjon, Chairman of the foundation, professor Babur International Public Foundation Uzbekistan. During the detailed meeting matters of mutual interest were thoroughly discussed. In this connection, for the further strengthening of bilateral relations in terms of joint publications, research projects, exchange of scholars/experts, joint projects of dissemination of soft image of Uzbekistan through the cultural and historic perspectives a MOU was also signed.

Mr. Ramzan President of Baburi Forum emphasized on the close liaison for forming the corridor of knowledge between two prestigious institutes. He stressed the need to have regular exchange of information sharing, befitting propositions in terms of webinars, seminars and conference to highlight the splendid services of the great Zhaeer Ud Din Babur in the fields of literature, architect, history, administration, connectivity, war strategy and above all humanity.

He further stated that Babur was the most captivating personality in the oriental history. He said that Babur created one of the most powerful empires in the history of the East and was the first one to establish a connection with



the soil of Pakistan.

On his part, H.E. Mashrabov Zokirjon, Chairman of the foundation, professor Babur International Public Foundation Uzbekistan appreciated sincere and devoted efforts of his counterpart Mughal to highlight the remarkable achievements and services of Baburi Forum Islamabad. He shared lots of mutually beneficial projects which would be pursued in the days to come. Series of plans were discussed and eventually finalized in this direction.

He further said Babur was a man of extraordinary qualities. He was a leader, a soldier, an architect and an administrator. He said that Zaheer ud Din Babur was a lover of nature and he was

the best in generating loyalty and devotion amongst his followers.

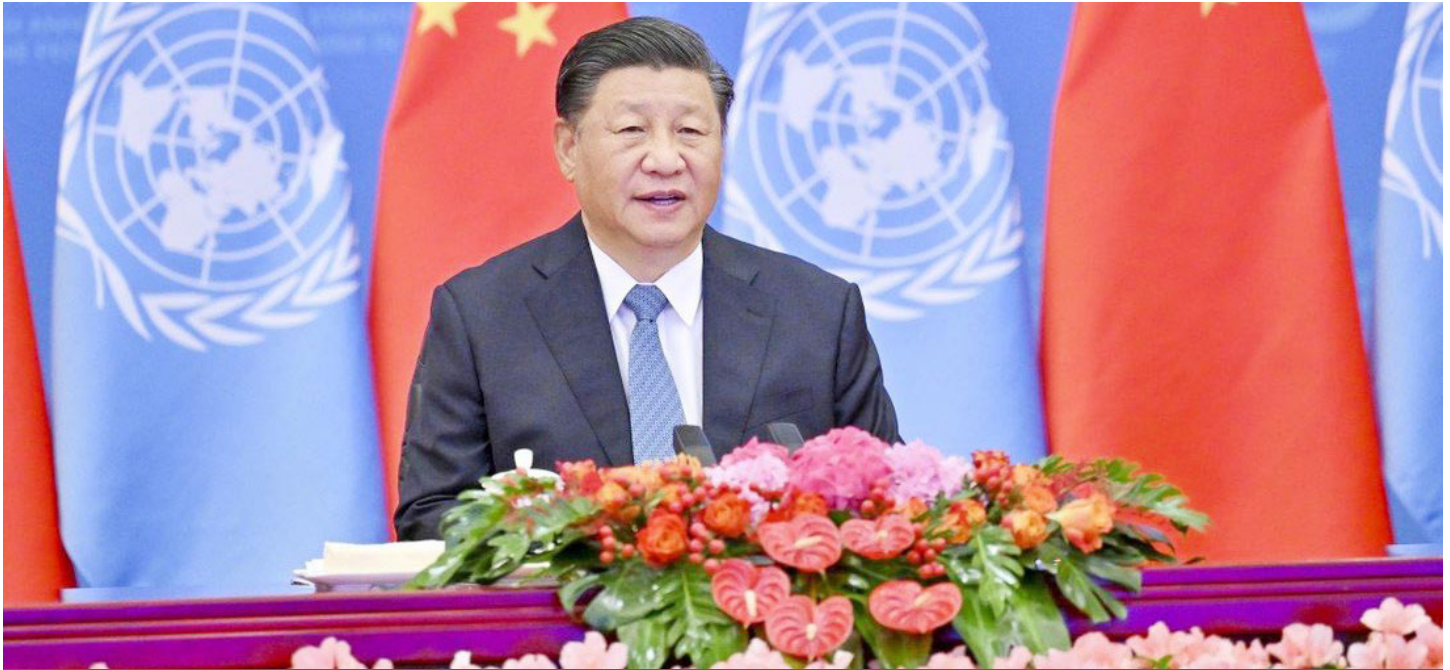
Both sides termed this meeting a milestone and agreed to work jointly for the further strengthening of educational and cultural cooperation.

During his visit to personally met with Deputy Mayor of Tashkent and discussed future projects which would provide win-win propositions for both the countries in the days to come.

He also met with Deputy Governor of Andjan Region and discussed different aspects of Babur life, services, and achievements and also plans for mutual cooperation.







## No civilisation in world superior to others: Chinese President

By Monitoring

Chinese President Xi Jinping said no civilisation in the world is superior to others and opposed the current trend of western countries of hegemony and power politics.

Speaking at the event of UN 50th anniversary via video link, the Chinese President said, "We shall be firm in opposing all forms of hegemony and power politics, as well as all forms of unilateralism and protectionism."

***"China will remain committed to the path of reform and opening-up and always be a contributor to global development. China will stay committed to the path of multilateralism and always be a defender of the international order,"***

He added that no civilisation in the world is superior to others.

"Every civilisation is special and unique to its region. Civilisations can achieve harmony only through communication and can make progress only through harmonisation," he said.

"To build a community with a shared future for mankind is not to replace one system or civilisation with another."

Talking about the challenges faced by the world, he said that the international community is confronted by regional disputes as well as global issues such as terrorism, climate change, cybersecurity and biosecurity.

"Only with more inclusive global governance, more effective multilateral mechanisms and more active regional cooperation can these issues be addressed effectively."

He urged the international community to cooperate and work together to address the various challenges and global issues facing humanity.

"Countries around the world should put their people front and centre and strive to realise development with a higher level of quality, efficiency, equity, sustainability and security," said the Chinese President

On China's commitment

President Xi said that his countries will stay committed to the path of peaceful development and always be a builder of world peace.

"China will remain committed to the path of reform and opening-up and always be a contributor to global development. China will stay committed to the path of multilateralism

and always be a defender of the international order," he said.

On China's development and contributions

Talking about his country's development, President Xi said that during the past five decades, China witnessed peaceful development and its commitment and

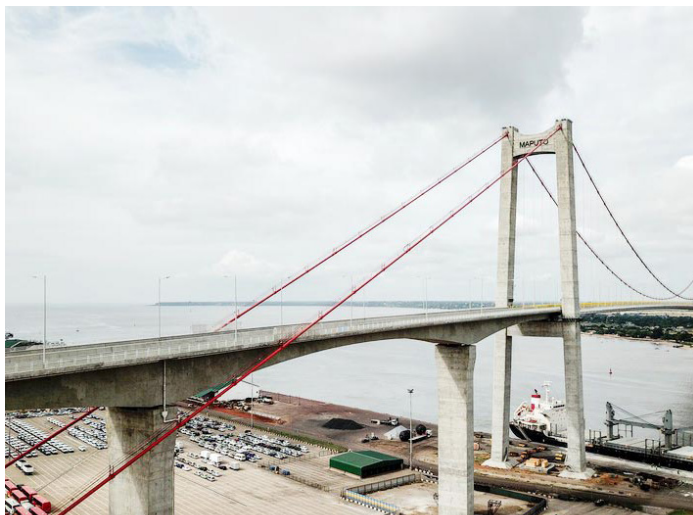
***"We shall be firm in opposing all forms of hegemony and power politics, as well as all forms of unilateralism and protectionism."***

dedication to the welfare of all humanity.

"Chinese people have always safeguarded international fairness and justice and made major contributions to world peace and development," he said.

"Chinese people have always upheld the authority and sanctity of the United Nations and practised multilateralism, and China's cooperation with the UN has deepened steadily over the past 50 years."





# China: Contributor to World Peace, Development

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Agency

**F**ive decades ago, On Oct. 25, 1971, the UNGA at its 26th session adopted Resolution 2758 with an overwhelming majority to restore all the rights of the PRC and to recognize the representatives of its government as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations opening a new era of interaction between the Asian country and the world body.

Yet, from the 1950s to the early 1970s, the third world -- mainly comprising newly independent countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America -- gradually took shape and became a significant force in the world. The profound transformation of the international landscape eventually broke the blockade of the United States and its allies, making the restoration of China's lawful seat in the UN a historical inevitability.

Recalling the "historic meeting" in 1971, former Chilean President Ricardo Lagos Escobar, who was a member of his country's delegation to the 26th session of the UNGA, said restoring China's lawful seat strengthened the role of the world body and increased its representation at the global level.

"There was a sense that we were going to have a more realistic UN, more in line with what the world is, and in that sense, there was a feeling that the UN was being strengthened as the true place where international issues must be resolved," Lagos said.

That echoes the view of former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. With the restoration of China's lawful seat, "the United Nations became a universal organization in terms of its size and contents," he told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Over the past five decades, China -- the world's largest developing country and a permanent

member of the UN Security Council -- has proven to be a staunch supporter of the noble cause of the UN.

To help preserve world peace, China, holding high the banner of peace, development and win-win cooperation, has been committed to taking objective and just positions, resolving differences through dialogue and consultation, and the principle of non-interference in internal affairs of other countries.

Since 1990, it has dispatched over 50,000 peacekeepers to nearly 30 UN peacekeeping missions. It is the second largest funding contributor to UN peacekeeping operations and has contributed more peacekeepers than any other permanent member of the Security Council.

In terms of development, China has also made indelible contributions. By eliminating absolute poverty in China, it has met the poverty eradication target of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule, which stands as an enormous contribution to global poverty reduction and sustainable development endeavors.

Committed to common development, Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward in 2013 the Belt and Road Initiative, which has now become the largest platform for international cooperation, and is playing a significant role in keeping the world economy afloat against the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the spirit of building a community with a shared future for mankind, China has also been working tirelessly to advance international cooperation against such major threats as climate change. It has pledged to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

During the past five decades, China has not only



made outstanding achievements in promoting its own political and economic development, but also "been actively engaged in the noble cause of peace and development in many places around the world," Ban said.

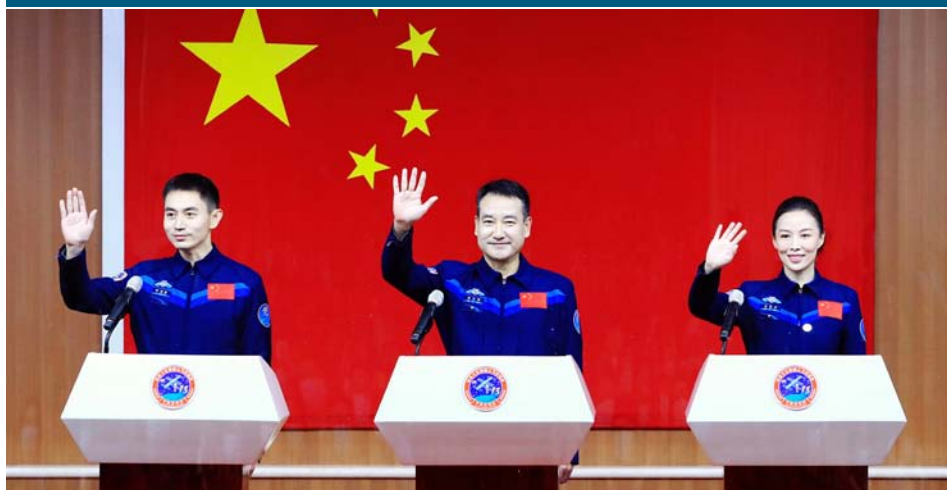
"China has stood with pride and contributed to the international community," commented Abdulla Shahid, president of the 76th session of the UNGA. "China has played a very, very important role in multilateralism and strengthening the United Nations."

China has always been a staunch supporter and practitioner of true multilateralism over the past 50 years. In a newly published position paper, China says it believes that international affairs should be addressed through consultation by all, and that the future of the world should be decided by all countries together.





# China launches its longest crewed mission to new space station



By Mian Fazal Elahi

After the launch of its longest crewed mission to a new space station, China's space agency declared it a success and said the crew members "were in good shape", according to Xinhua.

China launched the manned spaceship Shenzhou-13 early in the morning on October 16, sending three astronauts to its space station's core module Tianhe on a six-month mission. The spaceship has docked successfully with the radial port of the core module Tianhe, according to the China Manned Space Engineering Office (CMSEO).

The three blasted off shortly after midnight (1600 GMT) from the Jiuquan launch centre in north western China's Gobi desert, state-run news agency Xinhua said, with the team expected to spend six months at the Tiangong space station.

After the launch, the China Manned Space Agency declared it a success and said the crew members "were in good shape", according to Xinhua.

The mission twice as long as its 90-day predecessor will set up equipment and test technology for future construction on Tiangong.

Mission commander Zhai Zhigang, 55, a former fighter pilot who performed the country's first spacewalk in 2008, said the team would undertake "more complex" spacewalks than during previous missions.

The astronaut team includes military pilot Wang Yaping, 41, who will become the first woman to visit the nation's space station, after previously becoming China's second

woman in space in 2013. The other team member is People's Liberation Army pilot Ye Guangfu, 41.

A previous record-breaking space crew making the first mission to Tiangong returned to earth in September after three months on the space station.

China's heavily promoted space programme has already seen the nation land a rover on Mars and send probes to the moon.

Tiangong, meaning "heavenly palace", is expected to operate for at least 10 years.

Its core module entered orbit earlier this year, with the station expected to be operational by 2022.

The completed station will be similar to the Soviet Mir station that orbited Earth from the 1980s until 2001.

The long mission is set to "expand China's technological boundary" and verify the space station system's capacity for a longer duration of human occupation, Chen Lan, an independent space analyst at GoTaikonauts, told AFP.

"I don't think it is very challenging, as China's technologies (are) quite mature, though anything in space is always challenging," Chen said.

Space race

Saturday's blast-off came shortly after China launched its first solar exploration satellite into space, equipped with a telescope to observe changes in the Sun.

The Chinese space agency is planning a total of 11 missions to Tiangong through to the end of next year, including at least two more



crewed launches that will deliver two lab modules to expand the 70-tonne station.

China's space ambitions have been fuelled in part by a US ban on its astronauts on the International Space Station, a collaboration among the United States, Russia, Canada, Europe and Japan.

The ISS is due for retirement after 2024, although NASA has said it could potentially remain functional beyond 2028.

Chinese space authorities have said they are open to foreign collaboration on the space station, although the scope of that cooperation is as yet unclear.

The country has come a long way since its first satellite in 1970.

It put the first Chinese "taikonaut" in space in 2003 and landed the Chang'e-4 robot on the far side of the Moon in 2019 -- a historic first.

China became the second nation to land and operate a rover on Mars in May.

Astronauts on the Tiangong space station will have separate living spaces, exercise equipment and a communication centre for emails and video calls with ground control.





By Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Unfortunately, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been again severely criticized in the country and around the world since the conclusion of 10th Pak-China Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC). Ironically, a series of anti-CPEC news items, articles and commentaries have created “infertile” debate. However, Prime Minister Imran Khan again termed it “guarantor” of Pakistan’s economic future and emphasized to start its phase-II as soon as possible. Whereas, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar “demystified” the domestic and international propaganda and assured that despite complex challenges, CPEC projects are on the right track and meeting deadlines. He confirmed the expansion of CPEC which has attracted more and more investments beyond industrial estates. In this connection, even Foreign Ministry of China “extended” its support for the early initiation of CPEC Phase-II. Somehow, there has been a new “surge” in anti-China/BRI/CPEC media campaigns in the world and the country too. It has certain “flaws” and “factual” errors which need to be rectified as soon as possible.

On the 72nd National Day of China, the Daily Dawn published an editorial titled “transparency needed” which purposefully malign China’s investments in One Belt & One Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC terming the both debt trap and full of hidden debts. It referred to a report prepared by the US-based research lab AidData on the composition of Chinese loaning for infrastructure projects under the CPEC. It called for greater transparency in the projects being executed here since 2015. Moreover, it also raised serious concerns about the effects and consequent so-called negative outcome of CPEC financing on the country’s macro-economy along with operationalization of projects and its repayment schedules. Frankly speaking, this so-called research report has been dominated by “geopolitics” and not geo-economy because of the US and West China containment policy. Even basic principles of “genuine” research methods and modules have not been properly followed and intentionally selected data was slanted against China. Moreover, it is primarily based on presumptions, self-inserted parameters, self-defined procedures and self-centered policies to tarnish Chinese regional and global investment

## CPEC & New waves of propaganda

especially under the BRI & CPEC.

Even basic laws of financial accounting, manuals of credit management, SPOS of financial management, misinterpretation of state’s sovereign guarantees, misperception of international law and last but not the least, basic procedures of mutual exchange, discussion, ratification and finalization of any MOU/agreement/contract was ill connived. The authors of this so-called research report could not establish any direct correlation between the two independent variables and deliberately associate different causes of default, meltdown of economies, political instability and social disharmony with Chinese loans which is not true. In this connection, the government of Pakistan has been assuring the high levels of “transparency” and “openness” in the CPEC projects and claiming no “hidden debt”. Nevertheless, the PTI, when in opposition, had demanded complete transparency in CPEC investments. But now the incumbent government does not have an issue with the ongoing projects of CPEC which is a good omen. Rather it has been rigorously persuading the completion of CPEC Phase-I and start of Phase-II in the country which shows its “viability”, “vibrancy” and “victory”.

The said newspaper surprisingly projected that the government has so far done nothing to make public the costs or conditions of the CPEC deals with China’s government, companies and banks, keeping the matter strictly under wraps just as its predecessor had done. Thus it tried to spread doubts in the minds of readers and main stakeholders about the actual utility, importance and financial viability of CPEC projects. It is seemingly not a wise move because some matters should not be judged on the “canvas” of only “commercialism”. In this connection, CPEC is a matter of the country’s future socio-economic prosperity, energy upgradation, massive industrialization, green energy, eradication of poverty, generation of new jobs, immense social development, agricultural revolution and last but not the least, greater regional connectivity. According to this newspaper, the said report has successfully collected scattered data and information to show the hidden costs of CPEC, especially its potential impact of Chinese loans for the power and transport infrastructure on Pakistan’s economy. The so-called tall claim of this report is sub-standard, factious and fictional. On the contrary, the CPEC projects of energy and transportation are contributing to the macro-economy of the country. Both have immense socio-economic multiplier effects. Moreover, the main emphasis of the report is on hidden costs of CPEC which is untrue, un-factual and false. CPEC energy projects have substantially

increased energy production and consequently reduced load-shedding. Moreover, the inclusion of numerous hydropower projects has now ratified its energy mix. In this context, nine out of 22 energy projects had been completed, while five mega electricity projects in Thar, Kohala, Azad Pattan and others were in the pipeline. After completion of all the projects, Pakistan would not only become self-sufficient in energy with addition of 17,000 MW electricity will be connected to the national grid which will also be able to export it.

CPEC transportation projects have successfully reduced distances and further enhanced spells of development. It has minimized time and transport cost too. Thus its various projects of transportation have revolutionized the concept of inter-provincial and inter-city connectivity in the country. The federal government allocated Rs23 billion for 17 projects of CPEC under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) 2021-22 which vividly reflected its strategic importance and utility for the people, industry and overall development of Pakistan. According to the report, most Chinese loans for CPEC schemes consist of expensive commercial loans which have been disbursed inappropriately as 40 percent of Chinese loans have been disbursed in a way that complicates its segmentations and left no distinction between private and public debt.

On the other hand every project is properly “financed”, “documented” and “guaranteed” by the state of Pakistan under sovereign guarantee in case of default. Conversely, the CPEC loans sanctioned for the infrastructure projects were advanced on much lower the rates charged by the international lending agencies. Thus US study of terming Chinese loans as “Higher Interest” does not have any credibility. Being a prominent regional expert of CPEC & BRI, this scribe suggests that there is an urgent need to protect the Chinese workers, engineers, technicians and investors working on different ongoing projects of CPEC. Thus mutual or joint Pak-China security cooperation is the need of the hour. Formation of real corridors of knowledge, media, marketing, advocacy, advertising, research and last but not the least, a counter-propaganda comprehensive media campaign should be urgently executed in the country. Senses of economic nationalism should be preferred over advertising compulsions. Ours is the age of national narratives which is being disseminated through innovative media outlets should be prioritized. In this regard, the club of pseudo intellectuals should not be left on the mercy of foreign investors to plough their seeds of hatred, bigotry and disharmony against the ongoing projects of BRI & CPEC. **Courtesy to Pakistan Observer**





## China-Pakistan Center inaugurated in Qingdao

*The project covers an area of 1.93 hectare, with a construction area of nearly 100,000 square meters, total investment of about RMB 1.3 billion and a construction period of three years*

By Monitoring

The commencement ceremony of the China Pakistan Center project located in Shanghai Cooperation Organization Demonstration Area (SCODA) was held at Jiaozhou, Qingdao in China. After the completion of the project, it will give full play to the advantages of SCODA, promote industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China, expand the trade quota, facilitate two-way investment, and strengthen non-governmental exchanges between the two countries in culture, education, sports, tourism, etc. The China Pakistan Center project is led by Pakistan China Center, Qingdao Tourism Group and contracted to be built by SCO (Qingdao) International Business, Travel and Culture Exchange Center Co., Ltd. The project covers an area of 1.93 hectare, with a construction area of nearly 100,000 square meters, total investment of about RMB 1.3 billion and a construction period of three years.

The project will cover Pakistan Visa Service Center, China-Pakistan Talent Training Center, China-Pakistan Enterprise Headquarters Base, International Sister City Commercial Plaza, High-end Pakistani Ethnic Customs Hotel and so on, which will also coordinate the establishment of Pakistan Talent Center, Product Exhibition and Exchange Center, Two-way Cultural Tourism Education and Exchange Center, China-Pakistan Cross-border E-commerce Exchange Center, Financial Center, Investment Center, Business Associations, Enterprise headquarters, etc, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. The launching ceremony was chaired by Meng Qingsheng, Deputy Director of the Management Committee of SCODA. On the occasion, Liu Jianjun, Party Secretary of Jiaozhou,



congratulated China Pakistan Center project on its official commencement and highlighted that, "China Pakistan Center is the model project of this year's series of cooperation." With the launch of the project, we sincerely invite Pakistani guests and business friends to Qingdao to negotiate settlement in the SCODA, and to participate in the construction and operation of the China Pakistan Center project and the Pakistan International Communication Hub.

"We will work together to create a new platform for "Belt and Road Initiative" international cooperation and make positive contributions to building a community with a shared future for mankind." In his speech, Moin ul Haque, Pakistan Ambassador to China, thanked the Qingdao Municipal Government and the SCODA for their efforts and contributions to the project. He also expressed his hope that the project can be completed at an early date and play a greater role in developing economic and trade exchanges between the two countries and strengthening the friendship between the two people.

Wang Zihai, Director of Pakistan China Center, Pakistan's Honorable Investment Counsellor introduced the main functions and significance



of the China Pakistan Center project, as well as the project launch, establishment, land replacement, formalities, start-up and other specific preparatory work. Furthermore, a tripartite cooperation agreement was signed by the representatives of Pakistan China Center, Habib Bank of Pakistan, Beijing Branch, Qingdao Xinquan Plastic Machinery Co., Ltd, Qingdao Lulu Agricultural Machinery Equipment Co., Ltd, Qingdao Shanghe Jiuyuan recycled Fiber Co., Ltd.

The three parties agreed to jointly promote the development of two-way investment and trade between China and Pakistan. With the strong support of Pakistan China Center, Pakistan Habib Bank and Qingdao Shanghe Jiuyuan Recycled Fiber, Qingdao Xinquan Plastic Machinery, Qingdao Lulu Agricultural Machinery Equipment will have joined forces to promote the relevant industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Taking SCODA as the center, the three parties will cooperate to promote the landing of the industrial project to invest in Pakistan by Qingdao Shanghe Jiuyuan Recycled Fiber, Qingdao Xinquan Plastic Machinery, and Qingdao Lulu Agricultural Machinery. —APP



## *More Chinese agricultural technologies to help Pakistan*



***“China-Pakistan cooperation in cultivating rice, corn, soybean, sugarcane and other crops has yielded fruitful results and play the important role in promoting development of our bilateral relations and deepening friendship between our people”***

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Zhao Lijian said that as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) entered the second phase, there will be more Chinese agricultural technologies flowing into Pakistan. “China-Pakistan cooperation in cultivating rice, corn, soybean, sugarcane and other crops has yielded fruitful results and play the important role in promoting development of our bilateral relations and deepening friendship between our people,” he said.

Addressing the launching ceremony of “Kisan (farmer) Portal” for the farmers under Pakistan Citizen’s Portal in Islamabad, Prime Minister Imran Khan said that Pakistani farmers have to learn new techniques to boost productivity like China. Prime Minister Imran Khan stated that CPEC has included the agriculture sector in its umbrella and there is also a training programme.

CPEC will boost the agriculture sector. Agriculture is part of CPEC (second phase). In response to PM Imran Khan Remarks, Zhao Lijian said, “As the CPEC enters the

second phase, there will be more Chinese agricultural technologies flowing into Pakistan which means huge potential in our agricultural cooperation.”

Terming China and Pakistan as all weather strategic cooperative partners, he remarked that the agricultural cooperation is an

***“We will continue to uphold the Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness, inclusiveness, mutual learning and the mutual benefit,” : Zhao Lijian***

integral part of CPEC an important pilot project of Belt and Road Initiative.

“We will continue to uphold the Silk Road

spirit of peace and cooperation, openness, inclusiveness, mutual learning and the mutual benefit,” he said.

China would remain in close communication with Pakistan in the work to form efficient practical cooperation mechanism to promote socio economic development and improve people’s well being to build an even closer China-Pakistan community with shared future in the new era, he said.

It may be mentioned here that Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam has also stated that Pakistan has to adopt Chinese technology for abundant agriculture-food.

“Pakistan can be successful like China by adopting their technology and discipline,” he remarked while speaking as chief guest at an event in connection with World Food Day (WFD) jointly organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R) in Islamabad.



***Mr. & Mrs. Mian Fazal Elahi Editor/Publisher/CEO of “Diplomatic Focus” Islamabad hosted a dinner reception in the honor of envoys at their residence in Islamabad.***





***The Italian Embassy in Islamabad arranged a lecture entitled “Sustainable Architecture, Architectural and Cultural Identity” in Islamabad. Professor Marco Casamonti and Professor Silvi Fabi were the speakers. Both architects discussed their experience in the field of architecture worldwide.***

#### **Profile of Prof. Arch. Marco CASAMONTI**

**M**arco Casamonti graduated from the University of Florence and since 2001 he is Full Professor in

Architectural and Urban Design at the University of Genoa. He carries on an intensive work of deepening and critical reflection on the themes of architecture, publishing essays and writings and through lectures and conferences. Since 1997 he has been the editor-in-chief of Area, an international magazine on Architecture and Design Arts. In 1988, he founded Studio Archea which includes Laura Andreini, Silvia Fabi and Giovanni Polazzi.

Currently the Firm has more than 180 architects operating in the offices of Florence, Rome and Milan. Thanks also to the collaboration with partner companies in Tirana, Beijing, Dubai, Sao Paulo and Moscow the studio has realized works of Architecture, Design, Interior Design and Graphic Design all over the world.

Marco Casamonti with his Studio has participated in many of the most important national and international architectural competitions and consultations, obtaining numerous awards and prizes among which, in 2018 he was announced as winner of the international invitational competition for the planning and development of the new Rublyovo-Arkhangelskoye urban expansion district in Moscow.

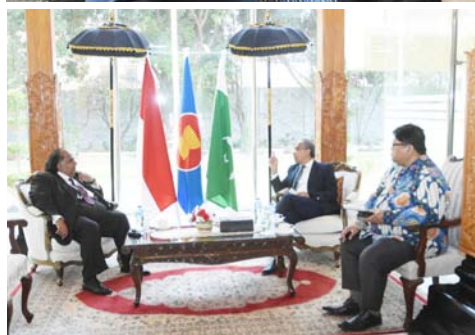
Among their main works are included: the Public Library in Nembro (Bergamo), the enlargement and renovation of the Perfetti Van Melle site in Linate near Milan, the new Antinori Winery in the Chianti Classico in San Casciano Val di Pesa (Florence), the Yanqing Expo Grape near Beijing, the Li Ling World Ceramic Art City in China, the Colle Loreto residential complex in Lugano, Switzerland, and the renovation and transformation of the former Magazzino Vini in Trieste where Eataly is hosted, the renovation and refurbishment of La Valletta Central Market in Malta.

Currently under construction, among others, are the redevelopment of the Seaside Square in Durrës, Albania, the new Training Centre for ACF Fiorentina, in Florence; the Thermal Wellness Centre in Ponte di Legno (Brescia), as well as the Hope Square building, the new office building in Taipei and residential buildings in Cancun, Mexico, in São Paulo, Brazil, and in Russia. In November 2019 the New National Stadium of Albania in Tirana was inaugurated and recently the renovation and refurbishment of the new Hotel Universe in Lucca for the Marriott Group was completed – Autograph Collection, as well as the construction of The Veil in Astana (Nur-Sultan), Kazakhstan, which hosts restaurants, shops, and a boutique hotel, complete with Spa.





*Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi Editor/Publisher/CEO met the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Adam Mulawarman Tugio to discuss matters of mutual interest. They also discussed the current bilateral relations level between the two brotherly countries. Mr. Elahi briefed H.E. Mr. Adam Mulawarman Tugio about the role of “Diplomatic Focus” playing in promotion of bilateral relations of Pakistan with other countries. He also shared the views that “Diplomatic Focus” will continue its role to promote the people to people contacts and cultural ties.*







# freeline MOVERS

PACKING, SHIPPING & FREIGHT FORWARDING



**Our strength is "thinking in the box" !!!**

*At Freeline Movers, we do not replicate the mainstream just for the sake of it but  
value your possessions by handling them with an extra care & responsibility  
because we know, they are your life.*

*When the whole world is thinking out of the box,  
"we think in the box"*

*To reaffirm our commitment that we really care !*



[www.freelinemovers.com](http://www.freelinemovers.com)





**MURREE BREWERY**

ISO 9001, 14001, 45001 & HACCP Certified Company

**A NEW WAY TO**  
*Freshen Up* **YOUR DAY !**

**- Trendy drink for trendy people -**



**f** murreebrewerycompany

 [www.murreebrewery.com](http://www.murreebrewery.com)



UKAS is a member of Registrar of Standards (Trading) Ltd.



# INVISIBLE BRACES

## Now in Pakistan

# DENTAL IMPLANTS



Dr. Abrar & Associates  
Dental Surgeons

6  
A



## Dr. Abrar & Associates

D E N T A L S U R G E O N S

House # 6-A, Ismail Zabeeh Road, (Service Road Parallel to Faisal Avenue) F-8/3, Islamabad.

e-mail: [abrar\\_associates@yahoo.com](mailto:abrar_associates@yahoo.com) | [www.drabrarassociates.com](http://www.drabrarassociates.com)

Ph: +92 51 228 7691 / +92 51 228 7692 | Fax: +92 51 228 7693





# Victory Pipe Industries (Pvt)Ltd.

## Product Category

- Mild Steel Pipe (M.S. Pipe)
- Galvanized Iron Pipe (G.I. Pipe)
- Scaffolding Pipe
- Square Tubes & Profile
- Steel Tubes and Poles
- Tube Well Pipe

THE PIPE YOU CAN TRUST

*Manufacturers of*

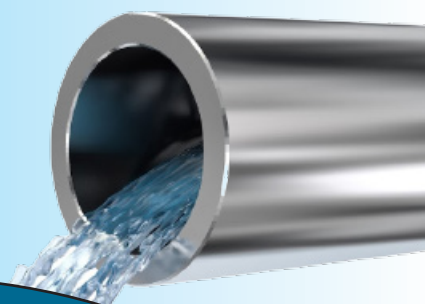
*M.S. & G.I. Pipes square Tubes & Tube Profile*

**0.5'' to 12'' dia**

BS EN 10255:2004  
(BS 1387:1985)

API 5L  
ASTM A53

EN39  
DIN



**Head Office Plot:** 54, Street: 1, Main Service Road I-10/3, Industrial Area, Islamabad. Pakistan  
**Factory:** Plot: 330, Street I-9/3, Industrial Area, Islamabad. Pakistan  
**Tel:** +92-51-4434384, 4434385, 8466888, **Fax:** +92-51-4434387  
**Email:** info@victorypipe.com.pk **Web:** www.victorypipe.com.pk



# To an unprecedented year.







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

Your spirit and passion inspires us every day and fills us with hope for the future. Our aim is to deliver, over and above our promise. Brace yourselves for an exciting and ever happening year in 2021.

#### Hyundai Nishat Motor (Private) Limited

1-B, Aziz Avenue, Canal Bank Road, Gulberg V, Lahore  
Phone +92-42-111 111 466, [www.hyundai-nishat.com](http://www.hyundai-nishat.com)  
[info@hyundai-nishat.com](mailto:info@hyundai-nishat.com)

   [hyundainishat](https://www.facebook.com/hyundainishat)  [www.hyundai-nishat.com](http://www.hyundai-nishat.com)  +92-42-111 111 466





Elegance is an attitude

Stefanie Graf

Andri Agassi

LONGINES®



HydroConquest

 **KAHF**  
INTERNATIONAL

**Official Sale & Service Centres:**

**KARACHI:**

Dolmen Mall, Clifton:  
Mansoor Tower, Clifton:  
Saddar:

**Tel 021-35293667-68**

**Tel 021-35820644, 35820707**

**Tel 021-35655081-84**

**ISLAMABAD:**

Beverly Centre, Jinnah Avenue:

**Tel 051-2824751, 2824901**

**LAHORE:**

Shop 2067, Packages Mall: Walton Road: **Tel 042-38914244**

**www.kahfintl.com**

**Email: kahf@kahfintl.com**