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




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**28 Remarks on Korean Night 2021 H.E. Suh Sangpyo, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea**

Good evening, I am glad to hold "Korean Night 2021", a cultural event that was not allowed due to the Covid-19 pandemic last year. Cultural exchanges are to widen the understanding of different people on different cultures and to make them get closer. Korea and Pakistan share, to some degree, commons and similarities in their cultures.

**58 Oman Celebrates 51st National Day of the Renaissanceground**

The Sultanate of Oman marked the 51st National Day of the Renaissance, the 18th of November Anniversary. The event comes around at a time when Omanis ponder about the achievements made so far and brace for further accomplishments, with firm resolve, under the astute leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik who pledged to hold high the banner of Renewed Renaissance, since he assumed power in the country on 11 January 2020.

**66 PFOWA held its Annual Charity Bazaar**

The Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) held its annual charity bazaar in Islamabad. The bazaar was inaugurated by First Lady Samina Alvi which was held in the lawns of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), where diplomats' families put up stalls to showcase their respective national and cultural diversity.

**74 Message of Ambassador Nicolae Goia on National Day of Romania 2021**

Dear Guests, friends, ladies and gentlemen! On 1st of December 2021 we celebrate the 103 years since the realization of our Great Union. One hundred and three years back, the century long ideal of national unity has been achieved, building the foundation of the modern Romanian state.



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Mian Fazal Elahi

President Arif Alvi very rightly pointed out while addressing the 15th Summit of the Heads of State of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, that despite having all elements for economic growth, the ECO region was amongst the least integrated regions in terms of trade and investment which necessitated unlocking of potential for an impetus to growth and development. With the combined population of about 500 million and equipped with vast natural and human resources, this region indeed has all the potential to contribute immensely to the generation of economic activity. However, unfortunately, one sees no visible progress towards that end regardless of the fact that its member states, mostly Muslim countries have excellent relations amongst themselves and the engagement amongst them is also frequent. ECO countries have to focus on transport corridors involving both rail and road projects in order to maximize mobility and connectivity not only within the region but the neighbouring regions and to reach international markets. This must be supplemented with simplifying visa and consular procedures so that the people and businessmen can easily move within the region. Doing so will also help promote tourism. Similarly, there is a great scope to enhance collaboration amongst the ECO countries in the areas of energy, industries and agriculture and benefit from each other's experiences and resources. To unlock this potential, the leadership really will have to go beyond the lip service and do the practical work to shape a better future for the current and coming generations.

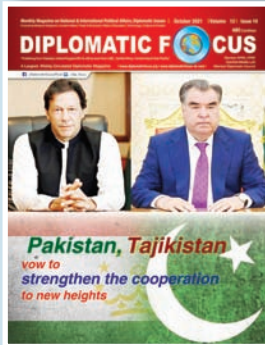
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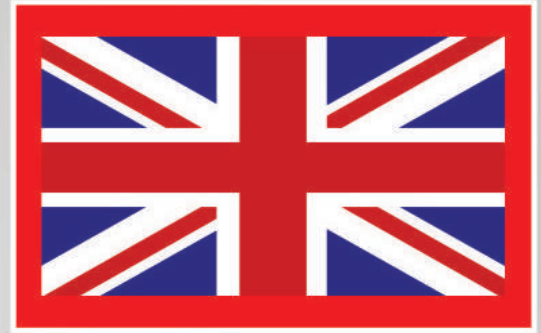
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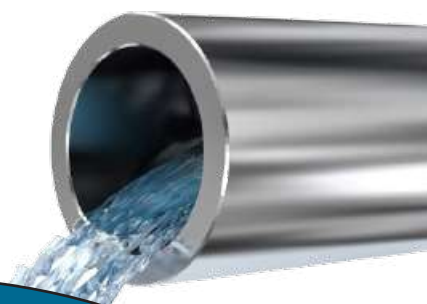
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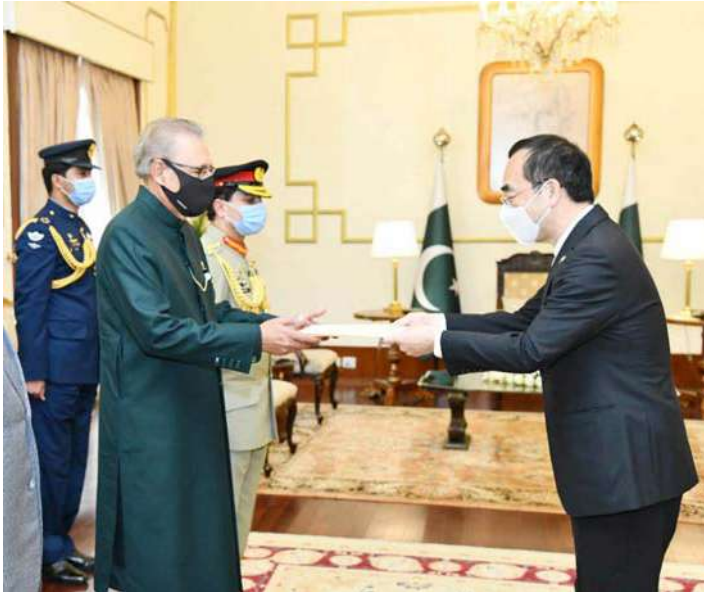
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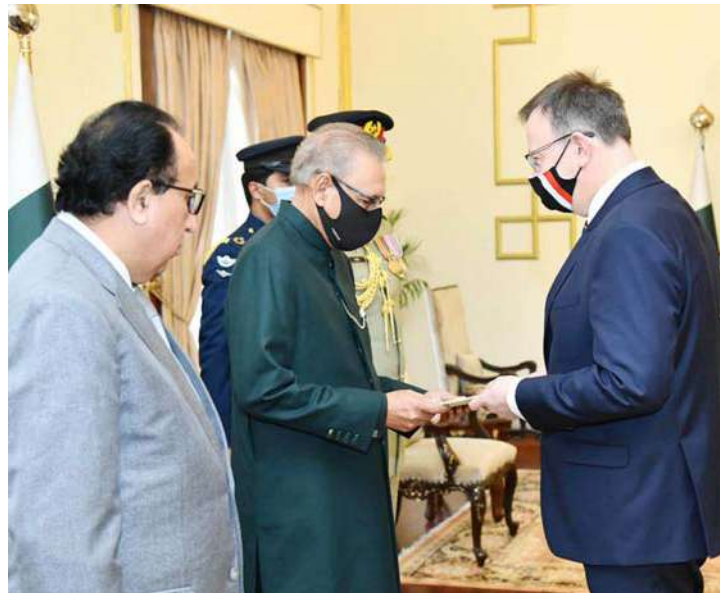
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## ***New envoys presented their credentials to President Dr Arif Alvi***



The Ambassador designate to Japan Mr Mitsuhiro Wada presenting his credentials to President Dr Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



The Ambassador designate to the Republic of Poland, Mr Maciej Pilsarski, presenting his credentials to President Dr Arif Alvi at Islamabad



The non-resident Ambassador designate of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Mr Ung Sean, presenting his credentials to President Dr Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



The Ambassador designate of the Kingdom of Norway, Mr Per Albert Ilsaas presenting his credentials to President Dr Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan offers enormous investment opportunities and foreign businesses should take advantage of the business-friendly policies of the country, especially in agriculture, Information Technology, telecommunication, energy, and tourism sectors. The President expressed these views while talking to the Ambassador designates of Japan, the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of Poland, and the non-resident Ambassador-designate of the Kingdom of Cambodia who separately called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Earlier, the Ambassador-designate of

Japan, Mr Mitsuhiro Wada, the Ambassador-designate of the Kingdom of Norway, Mr Per Albert Ilsaas, Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Poland, Mr Maciej Pilsarski, and the non-resident Ambassador-designate of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Mr Ung Sean, presented their credentials to President Dr Arif Alvi at a ceremony. The President congratulated the newly-appointed envoys and expressed the hope that they would play their role in further strengthening political, commercial, diplomatic and cultural relations with Pakistan. Talking to the Ambassadors-designates separately, the President highlighted Pakistan's desire to further expand bilateral trade and commercial cooperation with the friendly countries, saying

that the mutual trade needed to be taken to its fullest potential. He asked the ambassadors-designates to encourage the businesses of their respective countries to invest in Pakistan which is an attractive destination for investment. The President apprised the envoys about Pakistan's successful handling of the COVID-19 pandemic by introducing smart-lockdowns which led to the containment of the disease. He also highlighted the need to provide humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan which had been a victim of war for over 4 decades. The President expressed his best wishes for all the envoys for their new assignment in Pakistan and hoped that they would play their role to further cement bilateral relations during their tenures.

# YKDYSADY HYZMATDAŞLYK GURAMASYNYŇ 15-NJI SAMMITI

AŞGABAT, TÜRKMENISTAN, 2021-NJI ÝYLYŇ 28-NJI NOÝABRY

## THE 15<sup>TH</sup> ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION SUMMIT

ASHGABAT, TURKMENISTAN, NOVEMBER 28, 2021



## ASHGABAT HOSTED THE 15TH ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION SUMMIT

On November 28, 2021, on the Day of Formation of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the 15th Summit of the Leaders of the ECO Member States was held in Ashgabat under the chair of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

As is known, in 2021, Turkmenistan chairs the Economic Cooperation Organization. The chairmanship of our state was adopted on March 4 of this year at the 14th ECO leaders' Summit, which took place in Turkey online.

The Heads of state and government of the ECO Member States, in particular Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan, attended the Summit.

Before the start of the main session, a ceremony of joint photographing of the Heads of state and government of the ECO Member States took place.

Opening the 15th ECO Summit, the President of Turkmenistan warmly greeted the Heads of Delegations and gave the floor to the Chairman of the 14th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization, President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Then the participants of the ECO meeting elected the President of Turkmenistan as the Chairman of the 15th Summit.

Speaking at the Summit, the President of Turkmenistan voiced the priority areas of cooperation within the framework of the country's chairmanship in the Organization and stressed that the Turkmen side with good reason considers the holding of this forum as an important event designed to strengthen cooperation of the participating countries in the economic, trade-investment, and cultural-humanitarian spheres.

Stating the progressive dynamics of the dialogue between Turkmenistan and the ECO, the Head of the Turkmen state also noted the successful development of friendly, good-neighborly relations with each Member State of the Organization separately.

Speaking during the Forum, the Heads of State and Government of the participating countries, as well as the ECO Secretary General, emphasized that the current Summit has become an effective platform for making decisions on topical and key aspects of regional economic cooperation in the ECO space.

On the platform of the Organization, all

conditions have been created for the further development of multilateral regional cooperation for the socio-economic growth of the member countries, as well as the expansion of effective mutual cooperation in the field of trade, industry, transport and communications, agriculture, energy, health care, education, science and culture.

As is known, the ECO is currently a respected, authoritative international economic structure that has received recognition in the world and today's meeting is designed to further strengthen the relations of friendship, good-neighborliness and effective mutually beneficial partnership between all Member States, to determine the areas of joint work for the coming period.

Following the results of the 15th ECO Summit, the Final Document was adopted.

Then, the ECO awards ceremony took place, during which representatives of the Organization's Member States were awarded a special award from the Economic Cooperation Organization in the categories "science and technology", "economics", "history, culture, literature and fine arts" and "agriculture and the environment".



## A VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN TO TURKMENISTAN

**O**n November 27, 2021, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Arif Alvi arrived to Ashgabat on a working visit to participate on the 28th of November in the 15th Summit of the Heads of the Member States of the ECO. After the

official ceremony of receiving the High-Level Guest at Ashgabat International Airport, the bilateral meeting of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov with the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Arif Alvi took place, during which

the priorities of the further development of Turkmen-Pakistani relations in political, trade-economic and cultural-humanitarian spheres have been discussed.





## THE PRESIDENT OF TURKMENISTAN HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY AND TRANSPORT-LOGISTICS INTERACTION WITHIN THE ECO



During his speech at the 15th ECO Summit, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov also touched upon energy issues, highlighted the importance of expanding the transport and communication sphere.

“Among the priority directions of the ECO, Turkmenistan sees the development of cooperation in the transport and energy spheres,” the Head of state noted. He stressed that at present, these segments of the partnership objectively act as a defining trend in global economic growth.

In this context, the President of Turkmenistan voiced the need to consolidate joint efforts in this direction and gave examples of the phased

implementation of the construction of power transmission lines along the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan route, railways from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, as well as the advancement of the construction of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline.

It was noted that Turkmenistan pays special attention to the activation of transport and transit communication along the East-West and South-North lines. In particular, this is about the creation of transport corridors Uzbekistan - Turkmenistan - Iran - Oman, as well as Afghanistan - Turkmenistan - Azerbaijan - Georgia - Turkey.

In this regard, the President of Turkmenistan

proposed to study the use of logistics and infrastructure facilities in Turkmenistan itself in order to activate transport and transit communication between the regions of the Caspian basin and the Black Sea with access to the countries of Europe, the Middle East, and the Asia-Pacific region.

The President of Turkmenistan noted the importance of Afghanistan’s participation in these processes, which thus becomes an active subject, a valuable and integral participant in economic partnership. “We see this as a strategic prospect for Afghanistan, its role in regional and global processes, the most important condition for achieving peace, harmony and development on Afghan soil,” added the Head of Turkmenistan.





## **THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP IN THE ECO SPACE AND BEYOND IS HIGHLIGHTED**

**A**t the 15th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization, held on November 28, 2021, the Heads of State and Government of the participating countries reflected their vision of the ECO's work and highlighted the unique geo-economic role of the ECO, which has a positive effect on regional cooperation.

In his speech, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov highlighted the essence of interaction between the ECO Member States, united geographically, historically, as well as traditional customs and values. "Our peoples here have centuries-old traditions, valuable experience has been accumulated, which requires its revival, use and enrichment, taking into account modern realities," President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted.

He made a special emphasis on the further

intensification of trade and economic relations between the countries of this format, which is aimed at increasing the volume and diversification of trade. "In this regard, I consider it expedient to think about creating, on the principles of public-private partnership, specialized ECO business platforms, each of which, in its own direction, could purposefully work in the interests of developing and expanding trade relations between our countries," the Head of Turkmenistan emphasized.

The idea of creating effective mechanisms to ensure stable and dynamic growth of trade and investment partnerships has been put forward. In this regard, the expediency of establishing various forms of cooperation in such segments as the production of industrial goods, agriculture, and the service sector

was emphasized. In this context, the Head of state highlighted the importance of economic interaction with the use of high, primarily digital technologies, and the widespread use of electronic trading platforms.

Stating the importance of enhancing cooperation in medicine and health care, the President of Turkmenistan noted the advisability of establishing, within the framework of the ECO, systemic channels for the exchange of experience, methods and best practices in the field of combating dangerous infectious diseases. "Economic cooperation in the ECO space should be accompanied by the expansion of interaction in the cultural and humanitarian sphere," said President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.



## FM Qureshi addressing the 70th Anniversary of the Pakistan-Spain Diplomatic Relations says 'Pakistan and Spain has excellent bilateral and multilateral relations'

**H**onorable Ministers,  
Excellencies,

Dear guests and friends,

First and foremost I want to thank H.E. Minister Qureshi and his team for hosting this historical event and for choosing this privileged setting, a space that symbolizes the diversity of this land and its unparalleled beauty.

I also want to thank our generous sponsors who did not hesitate to help us make this celebration possible.

Equally, I want to thank my team, my Deputy Head of Mission Elena Gómez Aoiz and also her devoted team, for putting all the pieces together so that we can be here tonight. And last but not least, the artists, both Pakistani and Spanish who will delight us tonight with music, dance and images of Mother nature.

Today we are celebrating a very special anniversary: 70 years ago the friendship between Spain and Pakistan started by establishing in 1951 our first Embassy in Karachi, which was later moved to Islamabad. Since then, all my predecessors, and now myself, have been working with one goal in mind: strengthening the ties between our

countries and peoples, increasing contacts and trying to encourage Pakistani citizens to discover everything that Spain represents: We are an open, friendly country, with a long and rich history that connects us with the rest of the world. Spanish companies are innovative, vibrant and present world wide. Spanish culture is immense and diverse, the result of centuries of evolution and contacts with other peoples.

And I would like today to focus precisely on culture, since today's celebration will be a cultural event.

FIRST. The photos you have been able to admire on your way towards the stage, show Spain's natural heritage. Spain has 16 National Parks and 50% of all animals that you can find in Europe live in our country. 70 animal species are endangered, but Spain has for a long time designed specific policies to protect them and also their environment. I believe, Honorable Minister, that Pakistan and Spain share the same goal: preserving the environment and our natural resources and fighting against the effects of climate change.

SECOND. We have brought today, specially for this event, a flamenco group. Flamenco stands out as a the most vibrant example of our rich

cultural heritage, a mix of dance, singing and clapping. And the roots of flamenco lie here, in the subcontinent, in the ancient Rajashtan.

THIRD. A cultural event would not be complete without food. At the end of the show you will have the chance to enjoy one of our national dishes: paella, a mix of rice, chicken or fish and vegetables. It is not very different from your biryani or your pulao, but with a Spanish and Mediterranean twist. As you can see, even if 6,500 kilometres separate our two countries, culture brings us together and shows us how close we can be. People to people contact and more cultural exchanges will do the rest.

The excellent political relations that we currently enjoy, both bilateral and multilateral, will increase thanks to these efforts. Also the growing economic ties – with 1 billion dollars in trade volumen annually.

I hope this event will make you want to know more about Spain. I hope this 70th birthday will mark a new beginning in the friendship that bonds Pakistan and Spain.

And I wish this lovely couple many more years of happy marriage.

Thank you







## Ambassador of Spain address on 70th Anniversary of the Pakistan-Spain Diplomatic Relations

**H**onorable Ministers,  
Excellences, Dear guests and friends,

First and foremost I want to thank H.E. Minister Qureshi and his team for hosting this historical event and for choosing this privileged setting, a space that symbolizes the diversity of this land and its unparalleled beauty.

I also want to thank our generous sponsors who did not hesitate to help us make this celebration possible. Equally, I want to thank my team, my Deputy Head of Mission Elena Gómez Aoiz and also her devoted team, for putting all the pieces together so that we can be here tonight. And last but not least, the artists, both Pakistani and Spanish who will delight us tonight with music, dance and images of Mother Nature. Today we are celebrating a very special anniversary: 70 years ago the friendship between Spain and Pakistan started by establishing in 1951 our first Embassy in Karachi, which was later moved to Islamabad.

Since then, all my predecessors, and now myself, have been working with one goal in mind: strengthening the ties between our countries and peoples, increasing contacts and trying to encourage Pakistani citizens to discover everything that Spain represents: We are an open, friendly country, with a long and rich history that connects us with the rest of the world. Spanish companies are innovative, vibrant and present world wide. Spanish culture is immense and diverse, the result of centuries of evolution and contacts with other peoples.

And I would like today to focus precisely on culture, since today's celebration will be a cultural event.

FIRST. The photos you have been able to admire on your way towards the stage, show Spain's

natural heritage. Spain has 16 National Parks and 50% of all animals that you can find in Europe live in our country. 70 animal species are endangered, but Spain has for a long time designed specific policies to protect them and also their environment. I believe, Honorable Minister, that Pakistan and Spain share the same goal: preserving the environment and our natural resources and fighting against the effects of climate change.

SECOND. We have brought today, specially for this event, a flamenco group. Flamenco stands out as a the most vibrant example of our rich cultural heritage, a mix of dance, singing and clapping. And the roots of flamenco lie here, in the subcontinent, in the ancient Rajashtan.

THIRD. A cultural event would not be complete without food. At the end of the show you will have the chance to enjoy one of our national dishes: paella, a mix of rice, chicken or fish and vegetables. It is not very different from your biryani or your pulao, but with a Spanish and Mediterranean twist. As you can see, even if 6,500 kilometres separate our two countries, culture brings us together and shows us how close we can be. People to people contact and more cultural exchanges will do the rest.

The excellent political relations that we currently enjoy, both bilateral and multilateral will increase thanks to these efforts. Also the growing economic ties with 1 billion dollars in trade volumen annually. I hope this event will make you want to know more about Spain. I hope this 70th birthday will mark a new beginning in the friendship that bonds Pakistan and Spain. And I wish this lovely couple many more years of happy marriage.

Thank you





## “70 Years” of Diplomatic Relations between Spain and Pakistan Celebrated

The event titled “70 Years” was jointly organized by the Embassy of Spain and Ministry of Foreign Affairs to commemorate the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations (1951-2021) between

Pakistan and Spain, highlighted the milestones of the bilateral relations over the last 7 decades. The event held at the Pakistan Monument. A special stamp with images of Badshahi and Cordoba mosques will also be issued. Among

others, the event showcased photographic exhibition and included singing of national anthems of Pakistan and Spain as well as their respective cultural and musical performances.





# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Education Minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, Dr. Dareem Tabba, called on President Arif Alvi, at Awn-e- Sadr.



Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan H.E. Sheikh Saoud Abdulrahman Al-Thani calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Islamabad.



Secretary of the Security Council (National Security Advisor) of Uzbekistan Lt. Gen Victor Makhmudov calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Islamabad



Acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Mr. Amir Khan Muttaqi calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Islamabad



Special Representative and Envoys for Troika Plus (China, Russia, United States and Pakistan) for Afghanistan called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Islamabad



The Chairman of House of Foreign Affairs (HFAC), Congressman Gregory Meeks and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, and Non-Proliferation, Congressman Ami Bera called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Islamabad



OIC's Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir Mr. Yousef Aldoubeay, calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Islamabad



Secretary of the Security Council (National Security Advisor) of Uzbekistan Lt. Gen Victor Makhmudov, called on Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad



# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Mr. Yerzan Kistafin, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan at a Parliament House Islamabad



Federal Minister for Education, Professional Training, National Heritage and Culture Shafqat Mahmood holds one on one meeting with the Syrian Education Minister H.E Dr. Darem Tabba at his office in Islamabad



Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki called on Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser



Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan H.E Mr. Khazar Nadir Farhadov called on Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood at his office in Islamabad



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Nong Rong calls on Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar, SAPM to Explore Avenues of Collaboration in Poverty Alleviation in Islamabad



Mr. Daniel Slopper, Australian's Special Representative on the Afghanistan and H.E. Dr. Geoffery Shaw, Australian High Commission is calling on Federal Minister for State and Frontier Reion, Shaibzada Muhammad Mehboob Sultan in his office to discuss the current situation of Afghanistan.



Federal Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed along with Chinese Ambassador His Excellency Mr Nong Rong in group photo with officials of Foreign National Security Cell at NAP Secretariat



Andrei Metelista, Ambassador of Belarus to Pakistan called on to M. Shabbir Ali Qureshi for State, Ministry of Housing and Works in Islamabad



# Greetings from H.E. WADA Mitsuhiro Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan



**D**ear Pakistani Friends,  
Assalamu Alaikum,

I am WADA Mitsuhiro, newly appointed Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan. It is my pleasure to contribute to the development of Japan-Pakistan relations especially at this very important time and to work in this wonderful country which has a rich history, culture and also very warm-hearted people.

Next year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan since our cordial relationship began in 1952.

On this remarkable opportunity, I will sincerely pursue my duties to further develop the existing friendly relationships in various fields such as politics, economy, culture, and defence cooperation. Your kind support will be much appreciated.

I would like to revisit what we have accomplished in the past as long-time true friends and trusted partners. Development cooperation between

the two countries had started back in 1954 and to date, Japan has been the second largest donor for Pakistan on a cumulative basis after the United States.

We are committed to provide support to Pakistan for its socio-economic development and the effect of utilizing Japan's strengths toward the development of Pakistan and the region will continue.

Business cooperation is also a very important area for further development. In 2020, the amount of export of some Pakistani products including fresh mangoes, dates, salt and shrimps to Japan stood at a record high.

Moreover, Japanese companies located in Pakistan have established long-standing business relations with Pakistan and contributed to Pakistani economic development through large amounts of investment and employment.

Exchange of people in various fields has also promoted our relationship. Unfortunately, the movement of people and economic activities

have been restricted to a great extent in recent years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I, nevertheless, continue to devote myself to enhance people-to-people exchange by utilizing all possible means, including online. Here, a special notice should be made to the Pakistani athletes who competed at their best in the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games even during the COVID-19 situation in the summer of 2021.

Last but not least, my motto is as easily accessible and user-friendly embassy as possible. All our staff members, while listening to your feedback, will continue to make efforts in this regard. Our door is always open to any suggestions or requests you may have for us.

As Ambassador, I will work hard to further cordial Japan and Pakistan relationships. Let's invite you to make joint efforts for further strengthening the stable, vibrant and prosperous Japan-Pakistan relations. I appreciate your support and cooperation.

Japan-Pakistan Dosti Zindabad!

# Winter of discontent ahead

Last week's joint parliamentary session once again laid bare the non-consensual democracy in operation today, thanks to the ruling party that continues to act unilaterally.

The PTI government's insistence on pushing through an amendment to the Elections Act 2017 to provide for electronic voting machines (EVMs), in disregard of objections from the combined opposition and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) predictably produced chaotic scenes in parliament. The opposition too brought little credit to itself by its conduct. It had every right to reject the amendment, but tearing up agenda papers, shouting down the Speaker and staging a walkout was unnecessary.

The treasury benches got their way by bulldozing the electoral reforms bill. But it marks a pyrrhic victory. When a significant membership of parliament opposed the move, the amendment lacks both consensus and legitimacy. As its practicality is also in doubt its implementation in the near term is open to question.

The government has long wanted parliamentary approval for EVMs. Having secured this, formidable hurdles lie ahead. The ECP has already pointed to challenges in instituting this for the next election, now less than two years away. There are issues of capacity, acquiring a yet to be determined number of machines, training personnel and funding this huge enterprise.

Thus, simply pushing through a bill does not mean the ECP can easily execute this. More so as EVMs have not even been tested on a limited scale, for example in by-elections over the last year.

This also applies to granting the right to vote by internet to overseas Pakistanis. Arrangements for this too will be complex and again, it will be up to the ECP to determine when and how it will be able to implement this.

Meanwhile, the Speaker's role in helping the ruling party force a number of other bills, over 30 of them through the joint session without debate or deliberation was not only unprecedented but also damaged the credibility of an office that is obliged to stay neutral. Never before were a record number of bills read out in such a rapid-fire manner and then declared adopted by the Speaker after voice votes. This has gravely undermined parliament's role.

The political energy the government expended on this move at a time when there are more consequential challenges that merit urgent attention is baffling. Not only does it speak of official priorities being out of sync with public expectations but it also underlines how out of touch the ruling party seems to be with opinion on the 'street'. Public opinion is being shaped today by rising economic discontent as inflation bites and gas 'load-shedding' compounds public hardship with winter approaching.

Sensing how vulnerable the government is on this score the opposition has been mounting pressure with countrywide protests. Meanwhile, the PTI government's relations with the establishment remain strained as frustration grows with its lack of governance. Future support to 'bail out' the government is therefore hardly assured. This fraught environment will invite more trouble if government leaders don't take these varied challenges seriously and continue business as usual in their characteristic hubristic mode.

Confronted with these problems the government still decided to press ahead with laws that obviously do nothing to relieve growing public and political pressure. If anything, the coercive manner of its parliamentary move has left the country more politically polarised and the opposition even more adamant in mobilising people against the government.

The government's most immediate challenge is the economic situation which has imposed such suffering on people as they confront soaring prices and shortages of essential services and commodities.

While the government's economic managers have been holding out the promise of 'good news' there is little to suggest that the dire scenario will change for people in any significant way. Resumption of the IMF programme and securing the next tranche is of course necessary to avert a financial crisis.

But it will offer little to cheer for people whose cost of living is skyrocketing. Worse, shortages of essential daily-use commodities which reflect official mismanagement are also reinforcing public discontent with the government. For their part, official spokesmen have been shirking responsibility for the economic situation, blaming it on predecessor governments and offering hackneyed explanations about 'mafias' causing shortages.



By Maleeha Lodhi

As the near-term prospect for improvement in economic conditions and easing in inflation remains grim, this should urge the government to at least seek to defuse political fronts and close others which it has itself gratuitously opened. True it was able to cajole unhappy coalition partners to vote for the amendments but that hardly means it has removed their grievances. In fact, this only reinforced a familiar pattern of government leaders reaching out to allies at a time of urgent need but not paying any attention to them on an ongoing basis or meeting their demands. This suggests that the task of reconciling coalition partners will need the government's constant attention.

This is important given that dissent among political allies was so vocally expressed before the parliamentary session.

A key ally even threatened to part ways with the government. Even if coalition partners ultimately fell in line to support the government's legislation that doesn't detract from the reality that most of them are now seeking to distance themselves from the PTI with an eye on the general election. That itself reflects their reading that the ruling party is losing public ground and their association with it is becoming a political liability.

The PTI government's triumphal stance after securing the electoral reforms legislation may in fact blindside it to the need to address more pressing economic and political challenges. This of course would be a costly mistake. But its tendency to divert attention from these challenges by blaming either the opposition or 'mafias' for the country's problems indicates that it will continue with such tactics.

This would mean minimising what growing economic discontent can morph into especially with a desperate opposition whipping up public sentiment against the government. Navigating a winter of discontent requires a consensual political approach which so far, has eluded the government.

The writer is a former ambassador to the US, UK & UN. Courtesy to DAWN.



# Afghanistan at the Edge of Chaos



By M Alam Brohi

**T**he current precarious situation in Afghanistan carrying seeds of multidimensional crisis including famine, hunger, mass displacement of population, civil strife, anarchy, growth of terrorism, escalation of regional and international conflicts, adequately exposes the callous, heartless, and vengeful policy of the US-led west towards the innocent people of Afghanistan more than the Taliban regime. It also painfully reveals the lack of political and strategic will on the part of the regional countries including two major powers representing the emerging multi-polarity with vital national interests in peace and stability in Afghanistan to challenge the wrong approach of the West to save this war-ravaged country and the region from the brewing calamitous crisis.

The recent flurry of diplomatic initiatives witnessed in Moscow, Tehran, New Delhi, and Islamabad have not gone beyond clichéd press statements piously appealing to the international community for humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and calling upon the Taliban to fulfill their commitments for inclusive governance, women rights, girls education and freeing their land from the jihadist groups.

These initiatives failed to evolve a consensus to positively engage the Taliban in the region with a view to influencing their future policies by political mainstreaming, economic connectivity, and strategic cooperation. The announcements of piecemeal financial assistance by the UN and certain regional countries can address the social and economic misery in Afghanistan for some time but would fail to avert the looming catastrophic crisis.

All indications suggest the objective of the West's vengeful policy is to compound the difficulties of the Taliban in governance by withholding Afghanistan's assets and deliberately pushing the country into a chaotic condition to trigger anti-Taliban riots for regime change ala Syria and Libya.

The West is playing with fire that would engulf the entire region.

The West would not remain beyond the flames of this fire. Through this ominous approach, the US and its allies are hoping to enhance their leverage on the besieged rulers of Kabul.

They are, by default or design, striking a severe blow to the Taliban's ability to stem the growing strength of ferocious militant organizations including IS-K in the country which, as testified by Colin Kahl, Under Secretary of Defence to the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs can acquire the capacity to pose threats to the US within 6-12 months.

One wonders in bewilderment how the US leaders can have such an adversarial policy towards the Kabul regime in the presence of a brewing terrorist threat.

The scourge of terrorism kept surfacing in Afghanistan despite a strong presence of US and NATO forces and so-called democratic and inclusive regimes in the country for the past two decades threatening the neighboring countries and the Western world as well. The IS-K is avowedly an affiliate of ISIS consisting of its remnants.

After its mother organization was subjected to a crackdown by the US, the IS-K found a new sanctuary in Afghanistan and kept wooing other militant groups including the TTP and Arab, Uzbeks, and Uighur remnants of Al-Qaeda under the nose of the strong US intelligence network and the Afghan National Security Forces. During the chaotic withdrawal of the US from the country, the IS-K, in one of its deadliest suicide bombings near the Kabul airport, killed over 170 Afghans and 13 US soldiers. Since August to this day, IS-K has carried out over 60 attacks on Shia mosques and hospitals.

As late as November 2, it attacked Kabul's military hospital killing 25 people including a senior commander of the Taliban namely Hamadullah Rahmani. Its recent attacks in other cities have killed scores of innocent people. Emboldened by the adversarial US policy towards the Taliban regime, the IS-K has reportedly intensified efforts to strengthen its ranks by enlisting the disgruntled elements of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, Balochistan Liberation Army, East Turkestan Islamic Movement, Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, the Afghan national army, and panjsheri insurgents.

While militants of different hues are swelling the ranks of IS-K, the US-led West has tied the hands of the Taliban regime by starving it of necessary cash to pay state employees and stem the rapid spread of poverty and hunger in their country. This raises many questions about the designs of the US and its allies given the worsening security situation in the region. The US is exercising its leverage on the Taliban to accede to its demand for an "Over the Horizon" facility to air lord over the region.

The Taliban have been resisting US demand for this facility for the simple reason that it violates their country's sovereignty. Apparently, the 'over the horizon' facility would serve multi-purposes other than monitoring and attacking the movement of the militant organizations.

The prime purpose is to maintain the US dominance in the region and beyond enhancing its strategic leverage against Iran, China, and the Central Asian region where the West is wary of the growing Chinese and Russian influence.

The Taliban have made it clear that they have the capacity of defeating and eliminating the IS-K without any external help. However, the West is reluctant to trust the Taliban's capacity or it holds back because of the strategic consideration outlined above.

This gives credence to the assumptions that the US wants to use the IS-K as an instrument to advance its strategic interests in this region as ISIS was allowed to grow in strength as long as it was advantageously used to confront Bashar ul Asad regime in Syria and counter the Iranian influence in Iraq. Interestingly, the IS-K is not listed with the US as an entity of particular concern whereas the Taliban are very much listed as such.

President Donald Trump's administration cracked down against ISIS only when it grew into a monster losing perennial threats to the US strategic interests. Libya, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan are still tottering under one crisis after the other in the backdrop of the wrong US policies in the Middle East. Are we destined to witness a sorrowful repeat of such callous policy in Afghanistan? Apparently, it seems so to the utmost peril of the regional states.

The author was a member of the Foreign Service of Pakistan and he has authored two books. Courtesy to Daily Times.



# UK Visit of Senate Delegation from Pakistan

By Mian Asadullah

A six-member delegation of the Senate of Pakistan, headed by Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem, leader of the House in Senate of Pakistan, held a meeting with Deputy Secretary General of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Mr. Jarvis Matiya in London on 26 November 2021.

The other members of delegation included Senator Kauda Babar, Senator Fawzia Arshad, Senator Zarqa Suharwardy, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri and Senator Danesh Kumar. The two sides discussed prospects of enhancing cooperation and capacity building.

Senator Shahzad Waseem informed Mr. Jarvis that Pakistan was interested in development of strong linkages with CPA; and learning from the best practices of Commonwealth

Parliamentary Association.

Dr. Shahzad further emphasised that they would very much appreciate CPA's technical assistance in development and

The delegation conveyed about Pakistan's efforts and Prime Minister's drive on Climate Change.

implementation of Strategic Plan for Senate of Pakistan. The delegation conveyed about Pakistan's efforts and Prime Minister's drive on Climate Change.

They also urged CPA to work with Pakistan on issues related to gender equality, woman empowerment and mental health issues.

CPA Deputy Secretary General Jarvis Matiya was delighted to learn about parliamentary developments in Pakistan.

The CPA lauded Prime Minister Imran Khan's 10 billion Tree Tsunami Project and termed it a commendable success story.

The CPA dignitaries were extended invitation to visit Pakistan which they gladly accepted. Mr. Jarvis offered Pakistani delegation, CPA online Academy courses for Parliamentarians and sharing of CPA strategic plan for 2022





# Councillors Convention held at the Pakistan High Commission London

By Mian Asadullah

The Pakistan High Commission, London organized a Councillors and Mayors Convention at its premises on 27 November 2021. Around 100 British Pakistani Councillors and Mayors from across Greater London attended the Convention and made their voices heard on important issues pertaining to the British Pakistani community.

The purpose of the High Commission's initiative was to connect with the Pakistani community through their elected leadership and provide them with a platform for sharing ideas for the welfare of British Pakistanis and promotion of Pakistan-UK bilateral relations.

In his remarks, High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan thanked the Councillors and Mayors for their participation in the Convention, which he said, was part of his efforts to connect with the wider community and forge better understanding on issues of common interest.

The High Commissioner briefed the participants on the High Commission's efforts to promote Pakistan-UK relations with particular focus on enhancing cooperation in trade, education and health sectors. He also apprised them of Mission's continued efforts to raise awareness about the ongoing human rights abuses in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The High Commissioner gave an overview of improvements brought about in the Consular Services, especially the use of technology and online appointment system. He congratulated the community on the Government's decision



Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK, Moazzam Ahmad Khan addressing the Councillors Convention at the Pakistan High Commission London on 27-11-2021

to grant the right to vote to overseas Pakistanis. The High Commissioner urged the participants to open Roshan Digital Accounts (RDA) to benefit from various investment opportunities offered by this initiative.

While appreciating the contribution of 1.6 million British Pakistanis in progress and development of the UK as well as Pakistan, the High Commissioner said much more could be achieved with enhanced focus on education for youth, active role of women in various walks of life and enhanced political and socio-economic participation of the community.

During Q&A session, the Councillors and Mayors put forward useful suggestions for the betterment of the Pakistani community in the UK which were welcomed by the High Commissioner. The participants also identified the inadequacies and problems faced by the Pakistani community where collective efforts were required.

More such Conventions would be organised at four Consulates of Pakistan in Birmingham, Bradford, Manchester and Glasgow in coming months.



**Message of the  
Ambassador H.E. Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi,  
on the Occasion of**



**National Day of the  
United Arab Emirates**



On 2 December 2021, the UAE will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the union of the seven emirates. This occasion marks a sincere reflection of the federation's journey rich in monumental events and achievements, building on the foundation that was first laid down by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and his brothers, the fellow founding fathers. Today, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, follows in their footsteps, leading our nation in its journey towards the future.

Since its foundation on December 2, 1971, the UAE has followed the principle of promoting security, peace and sustainable development in various parts of the region and the world. Through his vision, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan - may his soul rest in peace - guided the UAE towards the adoption of a successful and active foreign policy based on balance, moderation, and non-interference in internal affairs of other countries, in acknowledgement of the role and responsibility the UAE holds at regional and international levels.

Today, under the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, our country continues its journey, emphasizing, deepening and developing this dimension through great contributions at various humanitarian, political and economic levels, inspired by these Policies are the thoughts, etiquette, and values of the rulers of the Emirates.

I feel blessed and honored to celebrate the golden jubilee anniversary of UAE in my second home the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, And gladly celebrating 50 years of PAK-UAE historical and friendly relations since 1971. And I am fully confident that under the visionary leadership of both countries this bond of brotherhood will further enhanced in various sectors and broader horizons.

Over the past 50 years, the UAE has moved rapidly from a pearl industry to a fully diversified modern economy that is now leading the world in technology, science, and sustainability. A hub for trade and logistics for centuries due to its unique position, the modern UAE has a global presence that focuses on innovation, technology, and education.

Founded on the values of tolerance, equality, inclusion, moderation, and generosity, the UAE stands for diplomacy over conflict, partnerships over unilateralism, and dialogue over confrontation.

The UAE believes that the most pressing



threats to human development, such as food insecurity, violent conflict, global health, and climate change, can be overcome through international cooperation, as we witnessed in the challenging covid-19 pandemic.

The opening of Expo 2020 Dubai on first of October 2021 marked the conclusion of five decades of achievements, marking the launch of the next fifty years strategic projects.

Expo 2020 is the largest economic and cultural event which happening for the first time in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia region, where 192 countries gathering under the theme "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future", and provides an ideal opportunity for every participating country to showcase their history, heritage and technology advancement.

The UAE is a resourceful and progressive nation that constantly seeks to better itself and the world around it. It is founded on the values of tolerance, equality, inclusion, moderation, resilience, and generosity. The UAE has developed a unique model that benefits the entire Middle East — one that empowers women, embraces diversity, encourages innovation, and welcomes global engagement.

The UAE Government is constantly working to enhance the economy's competitiveness and

sustainability and provide new investment opportunities, particularly in the fields of technology, space, food security, and medicine.

The vision for the next 50 years is to make the UAE the global capital of investment and economic creativity, an integrated incubator for entrepreneurship and emerging projects, and an advanced laboratory for new economic opportunities, as the UAE aims to consolidate its status on par with key economic players like Singapore, South Korea, and Switzerland.

UAE and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan rejoice a unique friendship that withstood various tests and the scope of our cooperation kept expanding with the passage of time and now covers various fields, as the eternal and strong bilateral relations between the two countries are based on brotherhood, mutual feelings of the two nations, historical depth, geographic neighborhood and common interests

Finally, I am honored to reaffirm that brotherly bonds between UAE and Islamic Republic of Pakistan will further enhanced to broader horizons, and wish Pakistan all the success with renewed commitment of cooperation and support.

# From tents to tallest building: UAE's 'remarkable' 50-year rise

**E**hab Fouad was a teenager when he marched in the parade marking the birth of the United Arab Emirates, which has gone from desert outpost to regional powerhouse in 50 years.

The retired civil engineer, now 64, vividly recalls December 2, 1971, when he proudly held aloft the photo of the oil-rich Gulf state's founding father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, and saw its new flag for the first time.

Fouad, who strode directly behind the flag-bearer, tears up when he remembers the Abu Dhabi parade and reflects on the decades that followed.

"Fifty years later, I feel special," said the Egyptian father of one.

"It was a remarkable journey for me, and a remarkable journey for this country," said Fouad, who lives with his family in Dubai, one of the country's seven emirates.

Foreigners make up 90 per cent of the UAE's population, which has grown to 10 million from around 300,000 when its emirates came

together to form a federation, even if its tough laws make most of them ineligible for citizenship.

Driven by major oil wealth, the former British protectorate has left behind its humble beginnings of tents and simple, mud-brick houses to become one of the biggest players in the Middle East, both economically and politically.

Dubai, a former pearling town and now a brash trade and financial centre, boasts a forest of skyscrapers including the world's tallest building, the 830-metre (2,723 feet) Burj Khalifa.

"Some people here used to build their houses from date tree branches, then mud bricks, and today it is all villas and towers," Fouad said.

## 'Activist foreign policy'

The late Sheikh Zayed "believed deeply in Arab nationalism, and worked to unite the seven emirates into a single federation", said Elham Fakhro, senior Gulf analyst at the International Crisis Group think tank.

"It remains the only functional system of federalism in the Arab world."

Among the world's top producers of crude, the UAE's rapid growth since the 1970s is linked closely to its oil and gas wealth.

However, Dubai, with scant oil resources compared to the capital Abu Dhabi, has blossomed as a financial, transport, tourist and media hub.

The Arab world's second-biggest economy behind Saudi Arabia also wields growing political influence, filling a space ceded by traditional powers such as Egypt, Iraq and Syria.

Since the Arab Spring uprisings of 2011, the UAE's increasingly assertive foreign policy has included taking part in wars, such as Yemen, and mediating in several conflicts in the Middle East and Africa.

It is also a beacon for many Arab youth fleeing conflict-ridden countries.

"The UAE has long been concerned about its





relative vulnerability, in a region where it is surrounded by larger, more powerful states,” Fakhro told AFP.

“Its policy following independence was relatively neutral, but since the Arab Spring it has adopted a more activist foreign policy that aims to shape events in the region to its favour.”

‘We cannot stand by’

The UAE, a staunch opponent of political Islam, has become something of a steward in the turbulent region.

Last year, it took the surprise step of recognising Israel, breaking with decades of Arab consensus that eschewed ties with the Jewish state.

“As a committed regional and international actor, we know we need to take on even more responsibility for the future direction of our region,” presidential adviser Anwar Gargash said.

“We have had numerous vacuums over the last decade... We cannot stand by and watch these vacuums filled by malign actors.”

Accusations by human rights groups of violations during its intervention in Yemen’s conflict, and in prosecutions of dissidents, have not stopped the Emirates becoming a magnet for investment.



The UAE has in recent years relaxed its laws to attract more investments, branding itself a “zero tax” haven.

It lifted a cap on non-local ownership, allowed full foreign control of business ventures, and offered long-term “golden” visas to investors and “exceptional talents” such as artists, doctors, engineers and scientists.

Known in the 19th century as the Trucial States, named after a maritime truce, the

seven emirates had been a British protectorate since 1892. But Sheikh Zayed, who ran oil-rich Abu Dhabi, the biggest and wealthiest of the emirates, saw an opportunity to slowly build a powerful state by joining its family-run neighbours under one flag.

On Thursday, golden jubilee celebrations will include an airshow, a floating theatrical performance on a mountain lake, parades, concerts and fireworks.





## Remarks on

# Korean Night 2021

**H.E. Suh Sangpyo, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea**



Good evening,

I am glad to hold “Korean Night 2021”, a cultural event that was not allowed due to the Covid-19 pandemic last year. Cultural exchanges are to widen the understanding of different people on different cultures and to make them get closer. Korea and Pakistan share, to some degree, commons and similarities in their cultures.

In the 8th century, two countries started cultural exchanges through Gandhara Buddhism. A Korean buddhist monk, Hyecho, visited to Swat and Chitral as a pilgrimage and introduced the Gandhara Buddhist arts to Korea.

Korean cuisine is not so different from Pakistan’s. Tastes of Pakistani cuisine are familiar to Korean cuisine and especially both people enjoy spicy food. In terms of language, Korea and Pakistan share some similarities as well. As an example, Korean language, “Hangul”, has the same order of words in sentence(subject-object-verb) with Urdu, the national language of Pakistan. Therefore, Urdu is a relatively comfortable language for Koreans to learn.

Recently, some of Korean culture, such as K-pop and drama, have become popular over the world. A Korean musical band, BTS, is now world-famous and well known to young Pakistanis as well.

In last September, BTS, as Korea’s special presidential envoys for future generations and culture, addressed and delivered a video performance at the UN General Assembly. In July this year, when the Korean embassy organized a K-pop festival, young Pakistani participants performed on the stage to showcase their talents and skills that could compete with Korean musical groups.

As for drama, “Squid Game”, a Netflix drama directed by a Korean movie producer, recently ranked top in Netflix charts of all the countries including Pakistan.

The games played in the “Squid Game” are Korean traditional games of children which are simple and don’t need heavy equipments for play. Even so, children in other countries love to play the games. This reaffirms that cultural exchange is the most effective ways to make different people friendly.

Today we had opportunities to play some Korean traditional games. I hope all the participants enjoy games and build friendship by playing the games together.

The embassy also invite Korean musicians and Pakistani K-pop dancers tonight. It’s my wishes that this Korean Night event can be a building block towards more solid cultural ties between Korea and Pakistan. Thank you.





## Korean Drama ‘Squid Game’ is the Biggest-Ever Series Launched, says Netflix

**S**quid Game is officially the most popular TV show in its initial debut that Netflix has ever released, according to the company.

The streamer said that the Korean drama has been sampled by 111 million members since its Sept. 17 premiere worldwide, over the span of less than a month.

That means “Squid Game” has been viewed by more people in its initial month of release than the previous No. 1 holder, “Bridgerton,” which Netflix said had been selected to watch by 82 million households in the first 28 days of release.

A big caveat: The proprietary metric that Netflix is using here is based on the number of accounts that picked a given title and streamed for at least 2 minutes.

That sheds no light on how many people watched even one full episode and includes those who checked it out to see what the fuss was about before turning it off.

The company more recently released, for the first time, a ranking of the Top 10 most-viewed originals shows and films by total hours viewed.

Still, “Squid Game” has captured gargantuan buzz and has consistently ranked as the No. 1 series titles in countries across the globe since it debuted, according to Netflix.

Two weeks ago, Netflix co-CEO and content chief Ted Sarandos said the show had a very

good chance of becoming the streamer’s biggest show ever.

“We did not see that coming, in terms of its global popularity,” Sarandos said at Vox Media’s Code Conference.

In the show, 456 debt-saddled contestants are mysteriously brought together on an island off the South Korean peninsula to compete in children’s games for a huge cash prize with literally life-and-death consequences.

Series creator and director Hwang Dong-hyuk

**“Squid Game” has captured gargantuan buzz and has consistently ranked as the No. 1 series titles in countries across the globe since it debuted**

told Variety he first conceived the idea for “Squid Game” in 2008 as a film.



But Korean studios passed because of its violent themes, and he went on to create several hit films before being able to revisit the project about 10 years later.

“When I started [writing ‘Squid Game’], I was in financial straits myself and spent much time in cafes reading comics including ‘Battle Royale’ and ‘Liar Game,’” Hwang said.

“I came to wonder how I’d feel if I took part in the games myself. But I found the games too complex, and for my own work focused instead on using kids’ games.”





## “Korean Night 2021” organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Islamabad.



The Korean Embassy in Islamabad organized the Korean Night at the residence of the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Mr. Suh Sangpyo on 25th Nov, 2021.

The event was attended by more than 300 high-level dignitaries including Minister MNFSR Syed Fakhar Iman, the heads of embassies and international organizations, and Pakistani officials, artists, and businessman.

The Student of National University of Modern Languages volunteered at the event as the Monitors in the Red suits, while embassy staff dressed in the 456 Protagonist uniforms projected the Squid Game themed event.

The event opened with an opening video consisting of game scenes from the Netflix series, “Squid Game”, and Green light, Red light game (mugunghwakkoch-ipieosseumida) was the first, followed by Sugar Candy(Dalgona) game. After a Korean chef demonstrated how to make Sugar Candy on stage, people played the game.

Ddakji-chigi (Ddakji is a folded piece of paper like a pasteboard.) was played as the last game. People participated in all games, and both children and adults enjoyed the game.

After the gaming session, the Ambassador of South Korea has given a welcoming speech, and the winner of a previous K-pop festival in Pakistan has shown K-pop dance.

For the last programme, “Jinspark”, a Korean performance team from Germany presented musical performances.





Jinspark is a musical duo that plays the Korean traditional instrument, Gayageum and modern instrument, Handpan. They Played "Gayageum Sanjo", "Stay with me"(K-drama, Goblin), and Squid Game OST.











## ***Korean Embassy Celebrates “KOREAN NIGHT 2021” in Lahore***

The Embassy of Korea in Pakistan organized the Korean Night at the Pearl Continental Hotel Lahore on the 26th of November, 2021. This event was held to celebrate Korean culture, art and its music under the theme of the Squid Game. The event was attended by around 120 high-level dignitaries including Consulate Generals, Honorary Consuls, Pakistani officials, artists and businessmen.

Korean students from high-schools in Lahore volunteered at the event as the Monitors, while embassy staff dressed in the 456 Protagonist uniforms projected the Squid game themed event.

The event is a testament to the growing interest in Korean arts and culture among Pakistanis and the world. The Ambassador commented that events like this reaffirm the cultural exchanges are the most effective ways to make different people friendly. The Ambassador wished that this event could be a building block towards more solid cultural ties between Korea and Pakistan.

The Korean Night opened with the Squid Games series opening video which is Netflix's most-watched series as of November 2021. The participants both young and old participated in the traditional Korean games including Dalgona, Ddakji and Jegichagi.

The Korean Embassy Chef Lee demonstrated







## Special Supplement on the occasion of Korea Night 2021 of The Republic of Korea

the Dalgona Candy making process on stage and then the guests volunteered to play the second Dalgona challenge in pursuit of prizes.

Ddakji/Ttakji was the second challenge where contestants competed with the card-board tiles and flipped the opponent tile to win the game.

Lastly guests played Jegichagi; the players kicked a jegi up in the air and kept on kicking to prevent from falling to the ground.

The players with the most consecutive kicks won the prizes. There was a K-Pop dance performance by the K-Pop Event 2021 Winners Dynamite Crew and the program ended with the musical duo 'Jinspark' performing with their traditional Gayageum and modern Handspan serenading the audience.





# K-drama

**Many K-dramas have been adapted throughout the world, and some have had great impact on other countries.**

South Korean dramas are gaining attention from around the world, recognized as an independent genre called K-dramas.

Korean dramas have been steadily loved around the world after “What Is Love” made a splash in China in 1997 and “Winter Sonata” was a big hit in Japan in 2002.

Dae Jang Geum (MBC), an epic TV series about royal cuisine, which aired between 2003 and 2004, was exported to 91 countries around the world including Japan, China, and Turkey. This drama expanded the scope of the Korean Wave into Korean food, fashion, and medicine while drawing global interest in Korean culture.

In 2013, TV dramas such as “My Love from the Star” and “That Winter the Wind Blows”, were loved by international fans, while in 2016, “Guardian: The Lonely and Great God” is a South Korean television series starring Gong Yoo in the title role with Kim Go-eun, Lee Dong-wook, Yoo In-na, and Yook Sung-jae. It was shown on the cable network tvN from December 2, 2016, to January 21, 2017. It was written by popular drama writer Kim Eun-sook.

A goblin who needs a human bride to end his immortal life, and an amnesia grim reaper who started a strange cohabitation with him. In front of them, a girl from “Fate to Die,” who claims to be the “Guardian Bride,” appears and takes place.

Similarly, “Descendants of the Sun” revived the Hallyu craze. Descendants of the Sun aired on KBS2 from February 24 to April 14, 2016 for 16 episodes. A blockbuster human melodrama that will capture the value of life through young soldiers and doctors dreaming of love and success in an extreme environment on an unfamiliar land.

The series was a major hit in South Korea where it drew a peak audience share of 38.8%. It received several awards, such as winning the Grand Prize in television at the 52nd Baeksang Arts Awards; and was named the Most Popular Show of the year by Korea Broadcasting Advertising Corporation. The show was broadcast across Asia where it was hugely popular and has been credited with a rise in tourism to Korea. The actors in the show also received international recognition.

In 2019, Netflix’s first original Korean drama Kingdom successfully gained international traction. The high recognition of its cinematography based on the well-

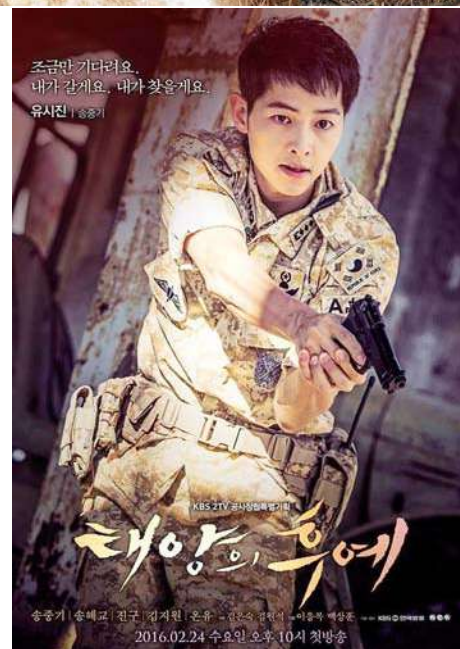
organized script and directing ability naturally led to the production of “Kingdom” Season 2 and the creation of a new genre called K-zombies. It is interesting that foreign viewers, using their social media, freely expressed their appreciation for the architecture and clothing styles of the Joseon dynasty, the background of the drama series. In particular, the growing curiosity about the Korean traditional hat for men called gat contributed to the increase in its sale on the global online shopping website Amazon.com.

As such, Korean dramas, recognized for their topicality and cinematography, have been expanding their fan base abroad in 2020. This is because they have benefited from the over-the-top (OTT) market, which has rapidly grown worldwide because of COVID-19.

“Crash Landing on You”, which aired in 2020, was premiered in 190 countries through Netflix. This drama is about a romance between a South Korean heiress of chaebol (conglomerate) and a captain in the North Korean Army. It caused a sensation in Asia, including Japan, where it reached the list of the top 10 most popular TV shows on Netflix in Japan for 10 weeks.

“Crash Landing on You” is a 2019–2020 South Korean television series written by Park Ji-eun, directed by Lee Jeong-hyo and starring Hyun Bin, Son Ye-jin, Kim Jung-hyun and Seo Ji-hye. It is about a successful South Korean businesswoman and chaebol heiress who, while paragliding in Seoul, South Korea, is swept up in a sudden storm, crash-lands in the North Korean portion of the DMZ, and meets an army captain in the Korean People’s Army who decides he will help her hide. Over time, they fall in love, despite the divide and dispute between their respective countries.

The series aired on tvN in South Korea and on Netflix worldwide from December 14, 2019,



to February 16, 2020. It is the highest-rated tvN drama and the third highest-rated South Korean TV drama in cable television history.



# K-movie

## Korean cinema is at the fifth largest in the world

The cinema of South Korea has become a large market in the world, with the increasing global success and globalization of the Korean film industry.

According to the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), the value of the cinema of South Korea in 2018 was USD 1.6 billion out of the global film market of USD 41.1 billion, placing the value of Korean cinema at the fifth largest in the world following North America, China, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

South Korea ranks first for attendance frequency per capita in the world, and Korean films take 51% of the local box offices.

Korean cinema, the history of which spans 101 years, has been recognized for its cinematic quality at international film festivals, and is currently being introduced widely around the world. Since 1961, when *The Coachman* became the first Korean film to win the Silver Bear Extraordinary Jury Prize at the Berlin International Film Festival, South Korean films have stood out at the most prestigious film festivals in the world, known as the Big Three: Berlin (Germany), Cannes (France), and Venice (Italy).

Films such as *Old Boy*, *Oasis*, *Burning*, and *On the Beach at Night Alone* won leading awards in major categories. Famous Korean film directors such as Bong Joon-ho, Im Kwon-taek, Lee Chang-dong, Park Chan-wook, Hong Sang-soo, and Kim Jee-woon are attracting attention in the global film industry.

In 2019, Bong Joon-ho became the first Korean director to win the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival for his latest film *Parasite*, which also won four leading awards at the Academy Awards in 2020. This has triggered more global interest in Korean films.

As *Parasite* took home the most awards at the Oscars 2020, winning four Academy Awards including Best Picture, Directing, International Feature Film, and Writing, world media began earnestly reporting about Korean films.

For example, the British newspaper, *Guardian*, recommended the film *The Handmaiden*, and Rotten Tomatoes, an American review-aggregation website for film and television, spotlighted *Poetry*.

Furthermore, South Korea also holds various international film festivals to enhance the status of its films, which serve as a driving force for the further development of the Asian film industry.

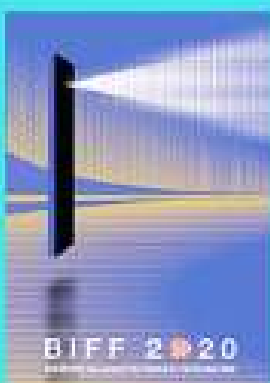
For instance, the Busan International Film Festival, the largest film festival in South Korea, the Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival, and the Jeonju International Film Festival attract attention from filmmakers around the world each year with a variety of concepts and programs.

In addition, South Korean films are gaining great popularity through OTT platforms. Specifically, *#Alive*, a South Korean zombie film released in

June 2020, is an example of successful Korean films introduced abroad through OTT media services. It topped the global movie charts in 35 countries two days after its release on Netflix.

*Minari* is about Korean American family moves to an Arkansas farm in search of its own American dream. Amidst the challenges of this new life in the strange and rugged Ozarks, they discover the undeniable resilience of family and what really makes a home.

### Film Festivals in South Korea



#### Busan International Film Festival

The Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) held every October since its inception in 1997 is one of the most significant film festivals in Asia. BIFF serves as a venue for introducing a new vision of Asian cinema, encompassing documentaries, animations, international film, independent film, and both South Korean and foreign films. It is also where Asian directors and actors/actresses are in the spotlight around the world.

[www.biff.kr](http://www.biff.kr)



#### Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival

The Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFFF) held every July since its launch in 1997. Besides its Asian Fantastic Film Festival, it also mainly presents South Korean and international horror, thriller, mystery, and fantasy movies.

[www.biff.or.kr](http://www.biff.or.kr)



#### Jeonju International Film Festival

The Jeonju International Film Festival (JJFF) was launched in 2000, at first every April or May in Jeonju, the home of traditional Korean culture. JJFF features low-budget independent films, most of which are evaluated as "challenging and creative national features."

[www.jeongufest.kr](http://www.jeongufest.kr)



#### Seoul International Women's Film Festival

The Seoul International Women's Film Festival (SIWFF) is the largest international women's film festival in Asia, and took place in April 1997 with the catchphrase "Take the world through Women's Eyes." SIWFF presents films that explore "women's reality from the women's perspectives" and strive to strengthen the literary autonomy and popularity of women's films.

[www.siwff.or.kr](http://www.siwff.or.kr)





Minari (at least on the surface) is typical story about immigration, growing into something and the eponymous 'American dream': The idea that one can make something of themselves. A small Korean family moves into a farmland in rural Arkansas. The father Jacob Yi hopes to escape a life of sexing chickens and raise a farm for himself.

Quite unlike Parasite, which dealt with a family using themes of deception and lies, Minari is a more heartfelt, sincere idea, born from the life of director Lee Issac Chung himself.

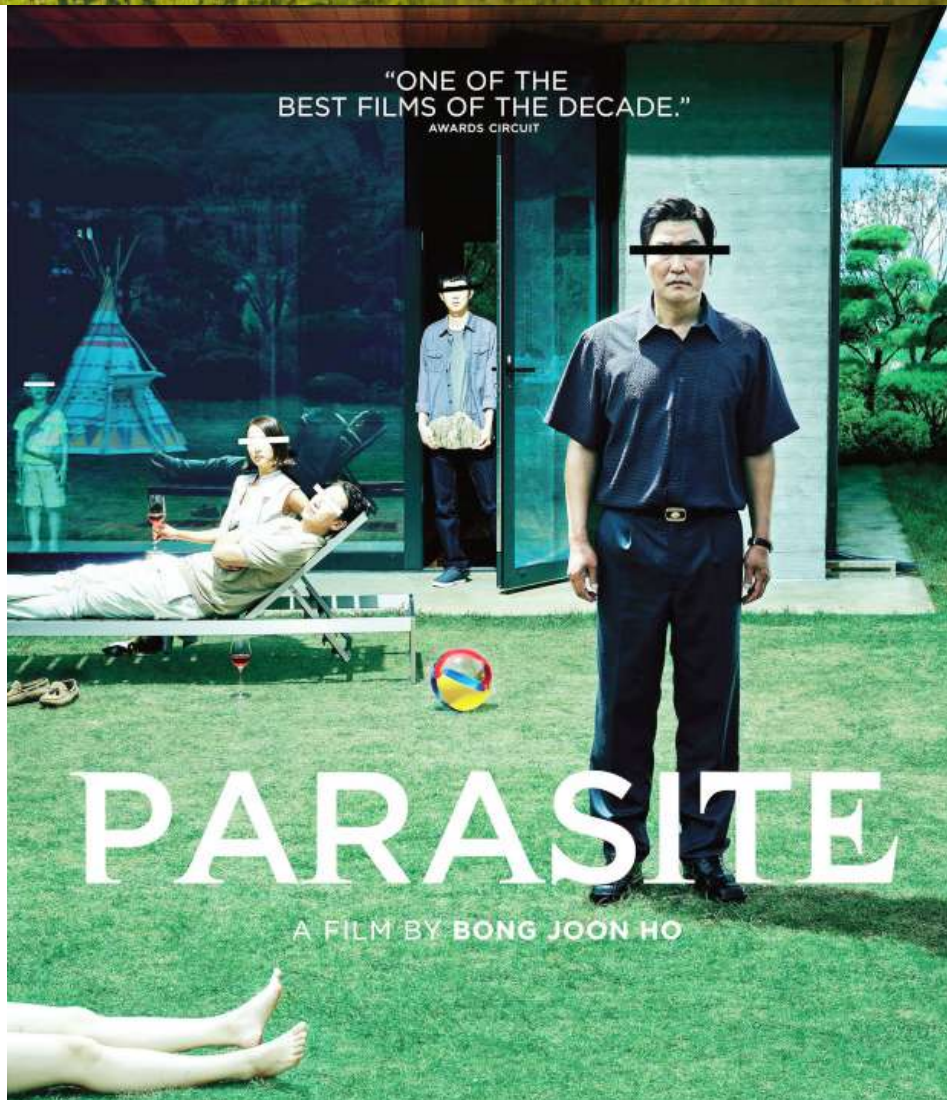
It's a very understandable ambition for someone like Jacob, who shows a clear dislike for his old job in his confrontations with his wife Monica and shows signs of seeking this greater calling.

For her part, Monica is visibly reluctant about new life, a problem compounded by the fact that their son, David, has a debilitating heart condition.

It's a fear that drives her throughout the film and yet, it is the thing that offers her some form of closure.

Director Lee Issac Chung's Minari has a subtle subtext delicately sewn in throughout its entire runtime.

Referring to both a plant featured prominently in it and to the cycle of life itself, Minari stitches together a potent, deeply personal tale about family and how hope may just be the thing you need in your life.







## *Korean Embassy in Islamabad organised K-Movie screening event*

On September 9, the Korean Embassy in Islamabad organised a K-Movie screening event at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) in cooperation with the Alumni of Global Korea Scholarship (GKS).

The movie titled “Little Forests” was played. In welcoming remarks, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea said that: “Congratulations on the hosting of this event, and as cultural exchanges between Korea and Pakistan are a very important premise for promoting diplomatic relations between the two countries, I hope this event will be a good opportunity for the people of both countries to understand each other.

Alumni of GKS scholarship students, students of the Department of Korean Language, diplomatic corps, journalists attended. In particular, this event is expected to help understand Korean culture in-depth as GKS alumni with experience in studying in Korea will present the history of Korean films and implications and lessons of screening films.

After congratulatory speech, presenters

discussed about the history of Korean Film Development, Review of the screened movie, and comparative analysis between Korean and Pakistani films.

The K-movie Seminar was an opportunity to introduce and discuss Korean culture in Korean films to Pakistani people, which

promotes understanding of Korean culture and especially raises interest in Korean food, the main theme of the movie.

The Korean Embassy plans to host similar events to solidify the friendly relations between Korea and Pakistan.







## ***A splendid performance that harmonizes excellent singing skills, stage manners and flashy dance moves***

**O**ne area that is growing more rapidly than any other is 21st century K-pop, or Korean pop music, which spans dance-pop, pop ballads, techno, rock, hip-hop, R&B, and so on.

K-pop is a generic term for popular music from South Korea, which was originally called gayo, meaning pop music. Recently, the term “pop,” which originally referred to British and American pop music, has been used to refer to popular music in other countries by adding it to the first letter of the country’s name, like “K-pop” of Korea.

For example, popular music in Thailand, Japan, and China is called T-pop, J-pop, and C-pop, respectively. In the same context, Korean pop music is called K-pop.

In the mid-2000s, idol groups such as TVXQ, Kara, Big Bang, Girls’ Generation, and 2NE1 gained explosive popularity in Asia including China, Japan, Taiwan, and Singapore, which consequently triggered global interest in K-pop.

In 2009, the girl group Wonder Girls became the first Korean singers to appear on the Billboard Hot 100 with the English variant of “Nobody.”

In 2012, as Psy’s “Gangnam Style” maintained its ranking as No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 for seven consecutive weeks and finally reached three billion views on YouTube, the K-pop craze began to spread around the world in earnest.

The worldwide success of “Gangnam Style” was followed by a surge of K-pop boy group, BTS. BTS topped the Billboard 200 chart in 2019 and won the Top Social Artist award for the third consecutive year at the Billboard Music Awards.

This attracted attention from the world, resulting in the global recognition of K-pop as a genre. After landing atop the Billboard 200 chart in February 2020, “Map of the Soul: 7” maintained high rankings for 23 consecutive weeks.

BTS has achieved various Guinness World Records titles, including a title for most viewers for a music concert livestream.

In August 2020, BTS made history by becoming the first South Korean act to top the Billboard Hot 100 with its first English-language song “Dynamite.”

The influence of K-pop is further expanding. In 2019, Best K-pop, was launched as a new category at the MTV Video Music Awards, an award show presented by the cable channel MTV to honor the best in the music video medium.

K-pop features remarkable feats of idol groups.

Among more than 150 idol groups active in South Korea, the representative ones include BTS, BLACKPINK, TWICE, EXO, Red Velvet, SF9, NCT, ITZY, MONSTA X, and more.

K-pop has special value in many areas and not just limited to music. The popularity of K-pop lies in a splendid performance that harmonizes excellent singing skills, stage manners, and flashy dance moves.

The songs and choreography of the idol groups for perfect performance are not built in a day or two. They are attributed to years of thorough planning in conjunction with systematic training programs and sweat during their trainee periods.

Active communication with fans also accounts for K-pop’s ever-growing popularity. Idol group members are devoted to real-time communication with their fans from around the world by means of social media, thereby







quickly building stronger intimacy and bonds with them.

Fans are contributing to the growth of the singers and, furthermore, K-pop through active fan club activities. Fans do not think of singers as just their stars.

Fans who have supported idol groups since their debut or early days watch them grow up to be adults from boys or girls, and feel like they are also growing together. This naturally leads to forming stronger bonds by sharing

satisfaction and rewards.

Recently, K-pop has been pursuing diversification. While the idol groups still play a pivotal role, indie pop musicians are constantly active in making their music careers.

Collaboration between idol groups and indie musicians has been done to explore genre diversification.

Idol stars such as IU, Sunmi, (G)I-DLE, BTOB, and Seventeen are moving a step forward as singer-

songwriters who create songs in person without relying on existing composers or lyricists.

In addition, major entertainment companies are developing and selling products such as idol goods through secondary content based on idol groups, thus maximizing the added value of K-pop.

The representative examples include books with graphic lyrics of BTS's "Butterfly" and BLACKPINK's AR avatar service. These provide K-pop fans with new joy and value.

## BTS: Korean boyband open UN general debate

The UN general debate opened with a pre-recorded performance from K-pop band BTS.

The group has been made Special Presidential Envoy for Future Generations and Culture by South Korea's president Moon Jae-In. More than 1 million people watched the U.N. General Assembly online, when K-pop band BTS took to the podium.

The pop band also delivered a speech, where they praised the younger generation's resilience during the pandemic, and urged the use of sustainable development.







## 2021 K-pop Festival in Pakistan

The 2021 K-pop Festival in Pakistan was successfully held at Lok Virsa in Islamabad. 8 teams which succeeded in the Preliminary round participated in the festival and 3 teams were awarded.

To comply with COVID-19 quarantine rules, the event was held safely at an outdoor concert hall that did not require separate ventilation.

In his congratulatory remarks, the Ambassador said "As friendship between the people of Korea and Pakistan is the basis for deepening diplomatic relations between the two countries, I hope this event will contribute to deepening friendship between the two countries, and even if it is a contest, I think it is a festival for everyone"

K-Pop clearly has a big following in Pakistan with incredibly loyal fans. For more than 15 years, K-Pop grew from a regional sensation to a cultural powerhouse that is now found everywhere from viral tracks on the Billboard Hot 100 charts to U.S. malls distributing the latest merchandise.

The phenomenon of the Korean Wave or Hallyu as it is called in Korean, is an umbrella term for Korean television dramas, fashion, food and music; the power of Korean culture encompasses the popularity of these facets and is interlinked with each other.

Owing to the exemplar attached to hard work and perfection in Korean society, the South Korean music industry is worth a whopping \$5

billion showcasing its multi-talented musical sensations as the best in their league.

It is thus evident why K-pop (or South Korean pop music) has quickly emerged as one of the most successful music genres in the world to date, with pop groups working tirelessly in studios to synchronise dance routines, practice their vocals to reach world-class perfection and offer a unique blend of melodious, addictive tunes that are taking the world by storm.

The rapid rise of social media has played a huge role bolstering these groups onto the world-stage as their intricately crafted pop-culture industry makes its way into the consumerist media.

Particularly emphasising the power of raw







talent, K-pop presents a uniqueness and depth to mainstream music that takes the viewer through a kaleidoscope of a sleek aesthetic and talent rarely seen anywhere else on the planet. And that's essentially what makes BTS and K-pop in its entirety, stand out from the crowd.

K-pop has taken on a whole new kind of sociopolitical significance, as South Korea proudly displays its best-known export before the world.

There are three things that make K-pop such a visible and unique contributor to the realm of pop music: exceptionally high-quality performance (especially dancing), an extremely polished aesthetic, and an “in-house” method of studio production that churns out musical hits the way assembly lines churn out cars.

A consensus among general K-pop fans around



the world regarding what they like about Korean pop music points to the music group's positive influence on the listeners.

K-Pop has evolved to be a widespread genre not only regionally, but across the globe as well. K-Pop itself, has been crafted with the goal of accessibility in mind.

Catchy Pop tunes incorporating bouncy beats, dance numbers, and positive lyrics sung by young idols has resulted in an approachable musical style that has successfully bridged cultures.

In addition, K-Pop's openness to incorporating local culture has transformed it from a Korean art form to a truly globalized cultural powerhouse, one that has managed to attract both foreign direct investment and soft power for the homeland.

As the interest in K-Pop continues to grow, it remains to be seen whether the global interest shown toward this genre is a fleeting trend or a more sustained movement.

Few predicted the global appeal of K-Pop and its rise in the West, and it will be equally difficult to determine if K-Pop can deepen its roots as a musical style.

That said, K-Pop has shown itself to be a catchy and resilient art form, solidifying its position as a genre that's increasingly popular worldwide.







## K-classic

**K-classic is as accomplished and dynamic as the country's history. While the nation's indigenous instruments share qualities with those in other countries, most notably in East Asia, each still boasts a singularity in sound and characteristics that attest to the uniqueness of Korean culture.**

**K**-classic is full of rich variety and makes use of a host of instruments not found elsewhere in the world.

The following three are among the most notable.

### Beat of Different Drum

Drums arguably take center stage in most forms of Korean music. The scores of Korean drum types vary from small and portable models to massive pieces that require mounting on poles, requiring drummers to strike their skins with both hands.

Percussion in Korean music, however, plays a considerably different role than it does in other cultures such as those in Sub-Saharan Africa or

Europe. In the West and Africa, drums provide the rhythm that drives a piece of music, or a beat. Traditional Korean music has no beat per se, though many modern artists of fusion music do create oft-bewitching beats using Korean drums.

Instead, Korean drums typically provide a form of punctuation or color to a piece of music, weaving in and out of the song at key moments rather than providing an ever-present beat.

The best example of this is pansori, a one-person lyrical opera that has the singer basically performing acapella and a lone drummer providing often unexpected and impromptu musical responses to the story.

Possibly the most iconic of all Korean drums is the janggu, the most distinctive Korean instrument of its kind thanks to its shape. Hourglass in form, this drum is designed for dynamic performances and versatility, with two heads that look identical but produce very different pitches.

Once you witness a drummer perform with one of these instruments, you will instantly understand the secrets of the instrument's lasting popularity.

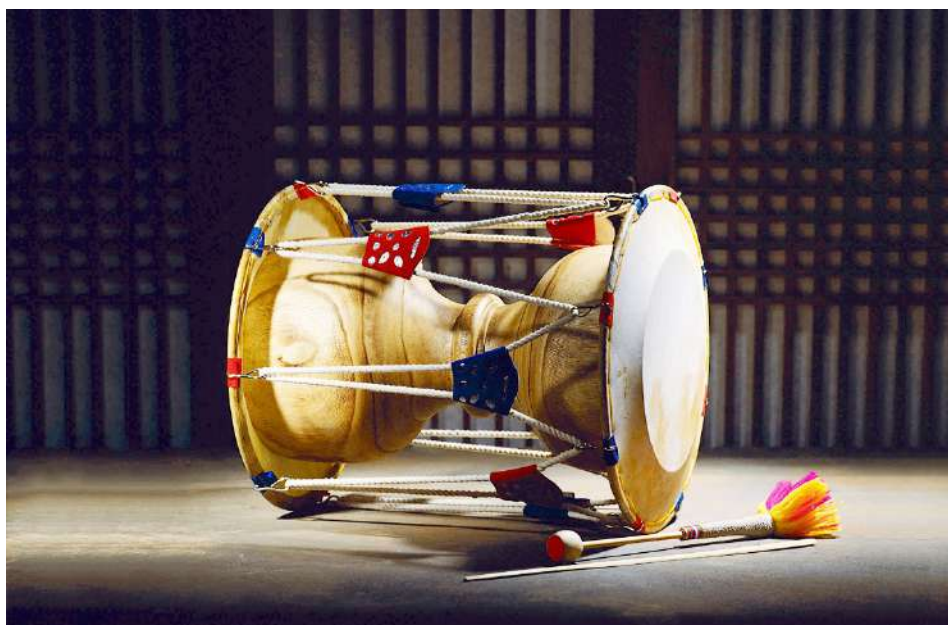
While most drums are designed to be played seated, this is every inch a dancer's instrument worn on a diagonal shoulder strap. And though most drummers elsewhere are traditionally male, the janggu is a truly unisex instrument.

Many male drummers play the janggu seated, as shown in the 18th-century painter Kim Hong-do's timeless work "Mudong (Dancing Boy)." But some female players incorporate the drum in breathless dance-drum performances, made more mesmerizing when performed in an ensemble.

Usually crafted from Paulownia trees native to Korea, this drum is designed to be light and played either with hands or bamboo sticks. They produce a range of sounds from gentle taps or clapping sounds to the kind of earthy boom expected from a Western bass drum.

### Superb Strings

The zither is the most iconic of all Asian instruments. Ask a Korean to name a Korean traditional instrument and the first name from their lips is the gayageum. Nothing quite expresses the soul of East Asian music like the







plucking of gayageum strings.

To the uninitiated, East Asian zithers can look similar as they are often finger-plucked by seated (usually female) musicians and crafted from varieties of Paulownia wood. Zoom in for a closer look, however, to notice a world of difference as the gayageum requires no pick to play it.

The gayageum also traditionally has 12 strings, one fewer than the Japanese koto. The Chinese guzheng traditionally has 16 strings and the Vietnamese dan tranh 14. Modern zither variations in all four nations have blurred this key difference, with some models equipped with up to two dozen strings.

The main difference is not seen but heard, however. The timber of the gayageum is in a class by itself, and the instrument can hit high notes but really comes into its own in lower bass notes, giving it more presence and body than other Asian zithers.

Little is known about the gayageum exact origins. The 12th-century historical work “Samguk Sagi (History of the Three Kingdoms)” claims the instrument was invented in the sixth century A.D. by a ruler of the southern kingdom of Gaya (an area that encompasses much of today’s Gyeongsangnam-do Province). But this is likely apocryphal and hard to verify.

Regardless, the instrument was an integral part of the Korean musical scene by the 10th century, when the Goryeo Dynasty took power. This period was something of an early golden age of Korean music, giving birth to gayageum models

like the now-defunct 15-string daejaeng.

The instrument’s second heyday came in the mid-to late Joseon Dynasty, peaking in the 1800s when sanjo music became popular.

This dynamic form of music features meshing a large selection of disparate and usually fast-paced melodies together, often with dramatic effect.

The genre’s popularity was so great that it led to the design of a narrower and streamlined gayageum with smaller finger spaces ideal for lightning-paced finger work.

Sanjo is arguably the best way to get immersed in gayageum music for a beginner in Korean music. Virtuoso musicianship is needed to perform the genre, which perfectly showcases the instrument’s distinctive sounds.

#### **Wind Power**

If the janggu and the gayageum are the heart of Korean music, wind instruments constitute the soul. Nowadays, the flute-like daegeum has grown almost ubiquitous, mainly because its often wistful tones are so well-matched with the silver screen.

Often the most melancholic or surging parts of Korean film soundtracks feature this instrument as a backing or solo instrument, particularly period dramas or movies.

Made from bamboo, the daegeum has as its first syllable *dae*, meaning “large,” distinguishing it from its smaller sister instruments, the *junggeum* (medium) and the smaller *sogeum* (small).

The daegeum, however, differs in that its size and girth make it harder to play for longer periods of time and is also the only one of the three with a buzzing membrane. All of these factors contribute to a deeper and bass-rich tone.

The daegeum’s origins are shrouded in mystery. Folkloric stories tell of how a sea-dwelling dragon explained to a seventh-century monarch how best to craft the instrument from a large stick of dried bamboo.

Yet archaeological records tell a different tale. One of the earliest daegeum-like instruments found by 18th-century builders is now housed in a museum in Gyeongju, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province.

It has never been dated but is made from jade rather than bamboo, and has twice as many air holes. Some say the item dates back to the Silla Dynasty (57 B.C. – A.D. 935), but this claim has never been substantiated.

What is certain, however, is that by the 12th century, the daegeum was found all over the Korean Peninsula.

Its popularity has never waned over the centuries despite a long and winding musical journey that has seen it used by court performers, sanjo players and most recently artists of fusion music.

Like the janggu and the gayageum, the daegeum is the sound of Korea’s past and present, and as Korean music continues to evolve, very probably its future.





# K-sport

Korean sports have taken an active part in the global arena over the past century, displaying Koreans' fighting spirit even in harsh environments. In addition, South Korea's hosting of successful international competitions has transformed the country into a sports powerhouse and increased its citizens' interest in the field.

South Korea continues to create sports-friendly environments to further its status as a sports powerhouse, with the vision to build a vibrant country where all people can enjoy sports.

Since ancient times, the Korean people has developed sports culture based on martial arts.

For example, the Rite of Heaven incorporated some physical activities, combinations of dancing and singing, and the Koreans of old enjoyed physical activities related to martial arts including archery, horse riding, Taekgyeon, ssireum (Korean wrestling), subak, and Chajeon Nori.

In addition, Koreans have developed physical strength and teamwork through various folk games.

In the late 19th century, modern sports were introduced when the Joseon dynasty opened up to the outside world.

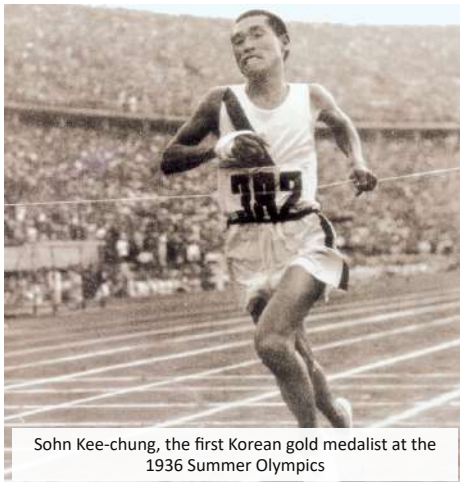
This served as an opportunity for the Korean Empire to establish laws and systems related to modern sports and sought to strengthen the people's minds and bodies by encouraging physical education, for example, making physical education a component of school curriculum.

Physical education was used as a tool for regaining national sovereignty under Japanese colonial rule.

At that time, limited PE activities were allowed to Koreans due to the colonial situations. However, the March 1st Movement aroused people's aspiration for national independence,



Son Heung-min is a forward for the British Premier League club, Tottenham Hotspur



Sohn Kee-chung, the first Korean gold medalist at the 1936 Summer Olympics

thereby further invigorating PE activities.

As a result, the Joseon Sports Council, the predecessor of the Korea Sports Council, was founded on July 13, 1920. It hosted and sponsored games composed of different events including the 1st All Joseon Baseball Tournament.

After that, as various sporting events were disseminated across the country, along with the emergence of professional athletes, public interest in sports began to increase.

Korean sports have played an active part in the international arena over the past century, displaying the fighting spirit, so-called the hungry spirit, even in poor conditions.

South Korea won two bronze medals at the London 1948 Olympic Games, and Yang Jung-mo received a gold medal in the featherweight

division of wrestling at the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal.

After that, South Korea ranked with sporting powerhouses in the 1980s. Since the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, it has shown great performances at the international multisport event with four consecutive top-10 finishes.

As successfully hosting the 1986 Asian Games and the 1988 Summer Olympics, South Korea was recognized as a host of international competitions.

Since then, it hosted the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan and the 2018 Pyeong Chang Winter Olympics, showing its capacity as a truly advanced sporting nation.

The performance enhancement of South Korean athletes in conjunction with various international sporting events held in South Korea has increased the people's interest in sports while contributing to the improvement of sports-for-all environments.



Ryu Hyun-jin, a South Korean professional baseball pitcher for the Toronto Blue Jays of Major League Baseball (MLB)





# COAS Pakistan Open International (G1) Taekwondo Championship organised in Islamabad

**T**aekwondo is the important element of K-sport and popular in all over the world. In this regard, COAS Pakistan Open International (G1) Taekwondo Championship was organised in Islamabad for the first time.

The Championship ended with win of Kazakhstan in Islamabad. Korean Embassy was also in the sponsor list of the event. The opening ceremony was marked by an exciting display of taekwondo show and enthralled the crowd with some exciting moves.

Ambassador Suh Sangpyo, Fahmida Mirza (Minister for Inter-Professional Coordination), Javad Iqbal Ramdady (Patron-in-Chief), Raja Nasir Ali Khan (Gilgit-Baltistan Minister of Sports and Tourism), and Jung Kook-hyun (World Taekwondo) attended.

About 450 athletes from 15 countries, including Egypt, Turkey, Afghanistan, and the UAE, participated.

At the opening ceremony, a number of political figures, journalists, diplomatic corps, and the general public attended.

The opening ceremony was held as a large-scale gathering event due to the easing of quarantine guidelines following the stabilization of COVID-19 in the host country and over 550 players, officials, technical referees and judges from different countries was the part of COAS Pakistan Open Taekwondo International Championship 2021.

Besides hosts Pakistan, Afghanistan, Albania, Nepal, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Oman, Egypt, Iran, Turkey, Morocco, United Arab Emirates (UAE),



El-Salvador, Croatia, and WT Refuge Team were in ring for 16 gold medals.

Kazakhstan has won the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Pakistan Open International Taekwondo (G-1) Championship 2021, claiming six gold medals at Liaquat Gymnasium, Pakistan sports Complex, Islamabad.

Croatia finished second with two golds, while Oman and Egypt took one gold medal each in

the international fixture.

Hosts Pakistan clinched two gold medals in the championship. Haroon Khan and Hamza Omer Saeed grabbed gold in their respective categories.

Pakistan lifted seven silvers and a dozen bronze medals in the G-1 International Taekwondo Championship 2021.











# E-sports: Transforming into an Advanced Sports Country

**K**orean pro-gamers are usually more skilled than the pro-gamers of other countries. This is mostly because of the difference in the amount of practice.

E-sports, also known as electronic sports, is a form of competition using video games. E-sports often takes the form of organized, multiplayer video game competitions, particularly between professional players, individually or as teams. E-sports has now become a mainstream activity for many South Koreans.

Starting with the first Starcraft Pro League in 2003, e-sports has long sought to be recognized as an official event in the South Korean sports industry. While South Korea is widely known as the home of e-sports, games, especially computer games. Although organized competitions have long been a part of video game culture, these were largely between amateurs until the late 2000s, when participation by professional gamers and spectatorship in these events through live streaming saw a large surge in popularity. By the 2010s, e-sports was a significant factor in the video game industry, with many game developers actively designing and providing funding for tournaments and other events.

The growth of e-sports in South Korea is thought to have been influenced by the mass building of broadband Internet networks. The Korean e-sports Association, an arm of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, was founded in 2000 to promote and regulate e-sports in the country. Minister of Culture, Sports, and Tourism Park Jie-won coined the term “e-sports” at the founding ceremony of the 21st Century Professional Game Association (currently Korean e-sports Association) in 2000. Furthermore, they played a major part in building the world’s first Esports stadium in 2005 in Yongsan. E-sports in Korea are now run like a professional sports franchise league. The format is set up in a very competitive style. As South Korea is known for its strong gaming culture, South Korean gamers dominate the e-sports scene worldwide. With the South Korean scene having a reputation of being extremely competitive, it naturally brings out the best and most dedicated players in the world.

The World’s first e-sports Academy “Game Coach Academy” is in Seoul for future pro-gamers. It is a government-accredited gaming camp. There are classrooms for students and teachers. South Korea now has the top e-sports ecosystems in the world. Gaming matches were even broadcast on multiple cable channels



in Korea. E-sports is now a multi-billion dollar industry and it is expected to grow even more post COVID.

Most of the e-sports events take place in Seoul. The League of Legends Champions Korea (LCK) took place at OGN Stadium. There are thousands of e-sports enthusiasts that travel to Korea every year to view e-sports events. The Korean government has taken notice and has plans to build five new e-sports arenas by 2022.

In the 21st century, e-sports are rapidly spreading as attractive cultural content. E-sports has been gradually recognized as official sports since 2018 when it was adopted as a demonstration sport for the 18th Asian Games, also known as Jakarta–Palembang 2018. South Korea is the most advanced IT

country in Asia due to the fastest digitalization since the IT industry was promoted in 1998.

Now, its e-sports industry has also developed rapidly. Founded in 2001, the Korea e-sports Association (KeSPA) has systematized the athlete management, rules, and competition methods, leading the popularization of e-sports.

Currently, South Korea has the largest number of world-class e-sports players and is recognized as home to e-sports. The portion of South Korea in the global e-sports industry is just 13.1%. However, it has world-class players, so the potential of e-sports in South Korea is highly regarded around the world.



**L**ee Sang-hyeok is a South Korean professional gamer, better known as “Faker.” He is widely regarded as the best ‘League of Legends’ player of all time. Lee was born and raised in Seoul and was an avid gamer even in his early years. His love for solving complex puzzles improved his analytical skills. He also designed maps for ‘Warcraft III’ and the ‘Multiplayer Online Battle Arena (MOBA)’ game ‘Chaos.’ In 2011, he was introduced to the intriguing world of ‘League of Legends’ and got addicted to it.

His love for the game also had him dropping out of high school. His extremely sharp gaming skills had him hired by ‘SK Telecom’ (SKT) in 2013. He was later selected to play for ‘SKT T1 K’ as a “mid laner” for the ‘League of Legends World Championship,’ and he never looked back after that. Lee has been honored with the best ‘League of Legends’ player award for almost every year. He has also consistently helped his teams to end up among the top three teams of each season.



# K-food



The Jeonju Bibimbap Festival is a traditional bibimbap festival held in Jeonju Hanok Village, Jeonju-si, Jeollabuk-do.



Bibimbap (mixed rice)



Bulgogi (marinated beef barbecue)



Japchae (stir-fried noodles)



Kimchi (fermented vegetables)



Ddukbokki (spicy rice cake)



Hoeddeok (sweet syrupy pancakes)



Sundubu-jjigae (soft tofu stew)

The Korean Wave is expanding into other cultural areas such as food and culinary traditions. Restaurants serving traditional Korean dishes began to open in the world's largest metropolises such as New York, London, and Paris, attracting praise even from the choosiest gourmets.

Kimchi, bulgogi, bibimbap, and other dishes loved by Korean people through many generations are now beginning to appear in homes around the world.

Chefs in some restaurants in the United States have combined traditional Korean dishes with Western traditions, creating the bibimbap burger, kimchi hotdog, and gochujang steak for New Yorkers.

Interestingly, Korean cuisine is recognized as a well-being diet, not just out of curiosity, but in line with the global trend in preferring healthy food. Korean cuisine consists of a properly balanced diet of carbohydrates, proteins, and fats and ensures a sufficient intake of vitamins and

minerals through vegetable side dishes. In recognition of these merits, the World Health Organization (WHO) selected Korean cuisine as a nutritionally well-balanced model in 2004.

USA Today, a US general-interest newspaper, selected kimchi, along with Vietnamese rice noodles and cabbage, in its prediction of most popular foods in 2020.

While Koreans and other Asians largely visited Korean restaurants in the past, locals now account for more than half of the customers at Korean restaurants.

A survey reported that bibimbap and bulgogi are the most popular dishes in Korean restaurants in Paris, and bibimbap, in particular, is further recognized as a vegetable-oriented well-being food.

Recently, more people have tried to make their own Korean dishes by following the recipes on Korean cooking channels on YouTube.





# K-Tourism (Local Festival)

Each region of South Korea has its own unique identity. This is because they have different traditions, specialties, and natural environments.

To further strengthen and widely promote regional content, its local festivals are revitalized.

Therefore, one of the effective ways to learn Korean culture and enjoy sightseeing at once is to participate in local festivals.

Festivals are held all year round due to the climatic characteristics for each season. The most famous spring festival is the Jinhae

Gunhangje Festival, which is held every April in Changwon, Gyeongsangnam-do when cherry blossoms are in bloom.

Held in Boryeong, Chungcheongnam-do, the Boryeong Mud Festival is a summer festival, also recognized as the largest foreigner-participating festival. The Andong Mask Dance Festival is a famous autumn festival, which is an exciting dance festival mainly focusing on various masks from around the world.

It is held every September in Andong, Gyeongsangbuk-do. When it comes to the winter festival, the Hwacheon Sancheoneo Ice

Festival is a well-known festival, which is held every January.

Other popular festivals are the Jeonju Hanji Culture Festival, Jeonju Bibimbap Festival, and Jinju Namgang Yudeung Festival.

Recently, other different festivals combined with modern culture are also gaining popularity, including Jarasum Jazz Festival, Jecheon International Music and Film Festival, Chuncheon International Mime Festival, and more.

## Boryeong Mud Festival

The Boryeong Mud Festival is a regional festival held based on Daechon Beach under the supervision of Boryeong-si, Chungcheongnam-do, Korea, and is Korea's most representative festival.

The festival was first held in July 1998 in Boryeong-si, Chungcheongnam-do to promote local tourist attractions including Daechon Beach.



## Gochang Green Barley Field Festival.

This festival is held every year in April amongst the beautiful green barley fields of the Gochang-gun region. The Gochang Green Barley Field Festival is the region's most popular festival and was visited by over 550,000 tourists in 2008. The festival celebrates the region's plentiful 'barley', and visitors can take part in activities such as making flutes out of barley and searching for hidden treasures in the barley fields. Also it is best known as a filming location of the popular K-DRAMA 'Guardian(The Lonely and creat God, Goblin)'



## Jinhae Cherry Blossom Festival

April is one of the best months to explore South Korea due to the gorgeous cherry blossom season. Trees covered in soft pink and white flowers ornate every region of the country. The blossoming starts in late March in the south and continues well into late April in the north.





## Jeju Fire Festival

Jeju Fire Festival is one of Jeju Island's biggest winter festivals. It is internationally known as the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism certified it as a recommended festival. During this festival wilted and old grass is burned off for the cattle and horses and to kill off any vermins. From late winter to early spring, local villagers would start fires on the field, this was one of the oldest stock farming skills. The main event will take place on March 14 when the volcanic cone will light up. Also, the main programs include performances, hands-on events, contests, a folk market, and opportunities to learn more about Jeju's seasonal folk culture and agricultural customs. You'll enjoy Jeju island even more once you attend this festival with the backdrop of Jeju's beauty.



## Seoul Lantern Festival

The annual Seoul Lantern Festival is a colorful festival of lights in South Korea that is one of the most popular festivals across Seoul. It is one festival celebrated in Seoul that you must see to experience the amazing sights!

Since its inception in 2009, it has become one of the iconic festivals of Seoul that takes place every November. The theme of the festival is different every year but the one thing that remains constant is the large number of paper lanterns and LED sculptures along the Cheonggyecheon Stream.



## Jeonju Bibimbap Festival

Bibimbap was one of the top three foods during the Joseon period and it is thought to be the most favorite Korean meal among foreigners. In particular, Jeonju bibimbap is considered one of the best foods in Korea.

It is a nutritious and healthy food comprised of rice with bean sprouts, one of 10 famous foods in Jeonju. Jeonju's bibimbap is decorated with five colors and with five flavors that come from 30 different ingredients including ginkgo, pine nut, chestnut, walnut and fresh seasonal vegetables. It has a balanced nutrition, packed with carbohydrates, fats, protein, vitamins, and minerals alike.

Jeonju's representative food is the center of Korea's delicious cuisine and its representative food is bibimbap. Jeonju Bibimbap Festival is held in the area around Jeonju Hanok Village and Korean Intangible Cultural Heritage Hall.





# PAK-ROK INFRASTRUCTURE BUSINESS FORUM 2021

**A**mbassador of the Republic of Korea H.E. Mr. Suh Sangpyo hosted Pakistan and Republic of Korea Infrastructure Business Forum 2021 in Islamabad to increase cooperation in infrastructure and provide a platform for networking between Korean companies and Pakistani companies and government officials.





# Royal Business Solutions (RBS) Diplomatic Football League (DFL)

Royal Business Solutions (RBS) Diplomatic Football League (DFL) opening and trophy unveiling ceremony held in Islamabad. The event was attended by ambassadors and diplomats along with other guests. The previous diplomatic league, Gerry's, was won by the Saudi embassy team after beating the team from the Brazilian embassy. Participating teams include Saudi United, Thailand A, Thailand B,

Golden Stars, Kazakhstan Team, Japan Team, RBS Diplomatic Team, Gerry's Team, Europe Team, Indonesian Team and the Malaysian Team.

The league is being organised by Mubasher Sanjrani, former international football player of Pakistan. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of RBS Adeel Riaz and general manager of Marriott Hotel David Richard and head of customer

care at Gerry's Fahad Jahangir were present on this occasion. During the event, uniforms were presented to participants along with their logos and in the end, the trophy was revealed. The event was appreciated by the diplomatic community and guests. The league has been sponsored by RBS powered by Gerrys along with Marriott Hotel, Comet Sports, Joshila and Alamco Duty free.



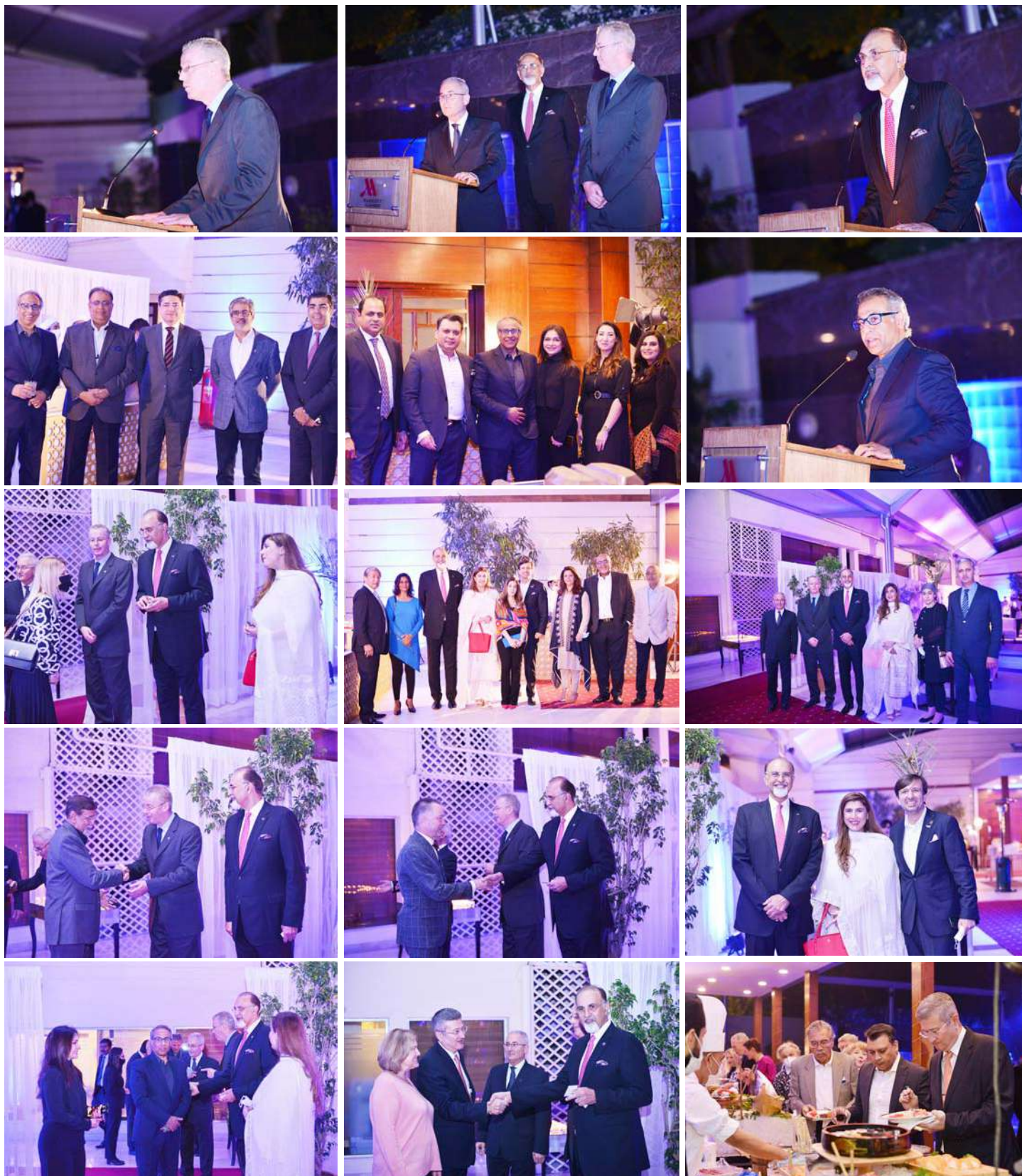


# Islamabad Marriott Hotel welcomes new GM, Executive Chef

Islamabad Marriott Hotel has appointed David Richard O'Hanlon as its new General Manager. The official introduction for the new General Manager was made by Haseeb Gardezi – Chief Operating Officer, Hospitality and Education Division, Hashoo Group, during the dinner

reception held at Islamabad Marriott Hotel. David has worked in the hospitality industry for more than 25 years in South Asia, SE Asia, Middle East, Eastern and Western Europe. Prior to joining Islamabad Marriott Hotel, he was the General Manager at BWH Hotel Group,

Thailand. Adding to this, Islamabad Marriott Hotel welcomes Metin Isci, from Turkey, as the new Executive Chef, who has over a 20-year experience of working in five-star hotels, including Istanbul Marriott Hotel.





# Serena Hotel hosted annual Adventure Hike on the Margalla Hills



The activity was organized by Serena Hotels under the banner of Adventure Diplomacy community initiative. Beginning at Trail 4, the trekkers traversed the Dhok Jevan Trail of the Margalla Hills National Park and were treated at the culmination to with

a sumptuous breakfast at a scenic picnic spot overlooking the Talhar Valley. Members of the Diplomatic Community, Government, Armed Forces, Corporate Sector and civil society of Serena participated in the hike in pristine autumn conditions. The embassies and missions

of Austria, Czech Republic, Spain, Switzerland, Netherlands, Yemen, and Maldives were represented. The chief guest was travel and adventure enthusiast, broadcast journalist, filmmaker and writer Wajahat S Malik.





## German Embassy organized one day Football Tournament for the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Germany and Pakistan



By Mian Fazal Elahi

As part of celebrating 70 years of diplomatic ties between Germany and Pakistan, the German Embassy held a Football tournament in Islamabad for underprivileged children and teenagers from the area of Islamabad.

Eight mixed teams competed throughout the day in a format of 7 vs 7 with rolling substitute. Equipments for the players were sponsored by Forward Sports.

The German Chargé d'Affaires, Dr. Phillip Deichmann, said:

"Germany and Pakistan have been enjoying a strong and stable friendship over the last 70 years. This friendship lives most vibrantly though people-to-people interactions – the most diverse, the better! This is why I am thrilled that today we can engage with young people, especially those who don't usually get to enjoy the limelight, and play some football. It is Germany's national sport, after all, and

today's enthusiasm on the field shows me that it is also quite popular over here".

The Football tournament ended with an award ceremony and was followed by dinner for everyone involved.







# China, Pakistan sign MoU in training medical and engineer personnel

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring

China and Pakistan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly build an international innovative community of medical device and value chain for the purposes of benefiting the human health, serving the 'Belt and Road' (BRI) initiative, and contributing to the development of a community of shared future for mankind.

According to China Economic Net, the signing ceremony was held in Shanghai at the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology (USST), which was attended by the Chinese and international medical associations.

Dr Muhammad Shahbaz President of China Pakistan Medical Association signed the MoU with the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology (USST).

Talking to China Economic Net (CEN), Dr Muhammad Shahbaz said that the purpose of this MoU is to jointly build an international exhibition centre for high-end medical equipment and innovation

achievements.

Each party can be given opportunities to display its innovative medical device projects and projects, in order to promote the alignment and application of innovative projects and products.

"Both parties shall share information, experience, knowledge in the field of medical devices and organize regular diversified activities to increase international communication in such important aspects as talent exchange, academic exchange, scientific research exchange, clinical and market application exchange" he added.

Shahbaz further said that both parties shall jointly organise various seminars, forums, and conferences; carry out various training, including special training, online training.

Both parties shall participate in the BRMDIA annual conference and Forum on "Belt and Road" Medical Device Innovation and Application, presenting the newest innovative projects and achievements to facilitate international cooperation.

"We shall make joint efforts to create an integrated industry cluster of medical device research, innovation, production, exhibition, distribution, application, and service aligned to international standard, and guide the development of high-end medical devices in the Yangtze River Delta region and countries along the Belt and Road", he mentioned.

Professor Liu, vice president of USST said that the Belt and Road Medical Device Innovation and Application will Alliance strengthen cooperation and international communication and docking, explore the technological innovation, product innovation, model innovation, and exert efforts to be important forces to promote the development of high-end medical equipment innovation in and out of China.

The Alliance has now 109 member units covering 20 countries (regions), including China, Singapore, Pakistan, South Korea, Malaysia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Romania, The Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Serbia, Israel, Italy, Sweden, Holland, Brazil, Canada, and the United States.





# Oman Celebrates 51st National Day of the Renaissance



The Sultanate of Oman marked the 51st National Day of the Renaissance, the 18th of November Anniversary. The event comes around at a time when Omanis ponder about the achievements made so far and brace for further accomplishments, with firm resolve, under the astute leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq who pledged to hold high the banner of Renewed Renaissance, since he assumed power in the country on 11 January 2020.

The Renewed Renaissance kicked off on a high note when His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq called upon the people of Oman to do their best to enrich domestic development and foster progress in all fields. This is considered one of the major principles of Renewed Renaissance in its quest to attain the supreme national objective of “making Oman the central point in all that we strive to achieve”—an objective whose salient features already materialized in terms of updated laws and refurbished programmes of action across all sectors.

In the beginning of this year, a Royal Decree No. 6/2021, promulgated the (updated) Basic Law of the State to serve as a basic pillar of continuous efforts to shape a better future for Oman and its citizens and to build a solid

ground for their Renewed Renaissance.

The Basic Law of the State comprises 98 articles “enhancing the institutions of the State, safeguarding its territorial unity and its social texture, protecting its cultural foundations and consolidating public rights, liberties and duties”.

The Basic Law of the State lays down a stable mechanism of transfer of rule, which reflects positively on political and economic aspects and affirms the principle of sovereignty

and independence of the judiciary. It also serves as a basis of rule in the State. It makes education compulsory till the end of the Basic Education stage. It establishes a scholarly method for thought, development of talents and encouragement of innovation—which all conform with Oman Vision 2040.

Articles (5) to (11) of the Basic Law of the State organize the mechanism of entitlement or succession to the throne in the Sultanate





of Oman and makes it more clear and straightforward. Article (5) states that “The system of rule is sultani and hereditary within the male descendants of Sultan Turki bin Said bin Sultan, in accordance with the following terms: Rule is handed down from the Sultan to his eldest son, then to the eldest son of the son, and henceforth, layer by layer. If the eldest son dies before assuming power, the rule shall pass down to his eldest son. If the deceased has brothers and in case the one entitled to the throne has no sons, the power shall be transferred to his eldest brother. If he (the deceased) has no brothers, the power to rule shall be transferred to the eldest son of his eldest brother. If the latter has no sons, then the rule shall be transferred to the eldest nephew of his other brothers, in accordance with age of the brothers. If the one entitled to the throne has no brothers or nephews, the rule shall be transferred to the uncles and then to their sons in accordance with the sequence indicated in the Second Clause of this Article. It is a condition that the Crown Prince to assume power shall be a Muslim and the legitimate son of the Omani Muslim parents”.

Article (6) regulates the establishment of a Guardianship Council in case the power to rule is transferred to an heir aged below 21 years. The Guardianship Council exercises the powers of the Sultan provided the Sultan appoints prior to his death. If the Sultan does not appoint a Guardianship Council before he dies, then the Ruling Family’s Council appoints a Guardianship Council comprising one of the brothers of the Sultan and two of (his cousins) sons of his uncles”.

Article (7) provides for the appointment of a Crown Prince under a Royal order in accordance with stipulation of Article (5) of the Basic Law of the State. The Royal order defines the powers and prerogatives of the Crown Prince, as well as the tasks delegated to him. It states that the Crown Prince shall be sworn in before the Sultan before undertaking the powers and tasks delegated to him. The oath shall be taken in accordance with Article (10) of the Basic Law of the State”.

The Sultanate of Oman stands out for its exclusive practice of Shura-based democracy, set up on solid grounds emanating from Omani life realities. Shura practice evolved through various stages till it developed into present-day “Council of Oman”, with its bicameral chambers— the “State Council” and “Shura Council”. Each stage saw the addition of systems and laws that reinforce the tradition of Shura and respond to the expectations of citizens. To this effect, His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik issued Royal Decree No. 7/2021 promulgating Council of Oman Law, which comprises 78 articles.

To contain coronavirus (Covid-19) that wreaked







havoc in countries of the world, the Sultanate of Oman formed a Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. The Supreme Committee has been taking 'moderate' decisions and precautionary measures that ensure the safety of citizens and residents, while at the same time catering to social and economic implications on this benign land.

The Supreme Committee is responsible for cooperation with the departments concerned and regulating social response. It worked for the procurement of internationally approved vaccines and oversaw the implementation of a national immunization campaign. This was commended by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik when he chaired the Supreme Committee's meeting on 18 August 2021 at Al Maamoura Palace in Salalah. His Majesty said that, "This improvement could not have happened had it not been for the appropriate decisions taken and the efforts exerted by the departments concerned in the Sultanate of Oman, albeit the health sector." His Majesty the Sultan lauded the "high sense of responsibility shouldered by all members of society through

abundance with the decisions and the measures set by the authorities concerned to safeguard public health—individuals and society at large".

The decisions resulted in the improvement of Covid-19 indicators in the Sultanate of Oman, which, the reports said, registered great decline in mortality, infection and hospitalization rates, while recovery from the disease reached 98.5%.

Meanwhile, the government accorded special attention to the ensuing economic impacts of Covid-19. The decisions, which took into account the fallouts of the pandemic on establishments and companies, included exemption from fines of some services. Special exemptions were sanctioned to small and medium enterprises and holders of Riyada Card for Entrepreneurs. This is in addition to a package of incentives for borrowers, individuals, banking institutions, financing and leasing firms.

The designation of a Youth Day in Oman (26 October) reflects the attention accorded to the young generation by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik. It asserts the leadership's deep conviction in the potential of youth in promoting the country's development.

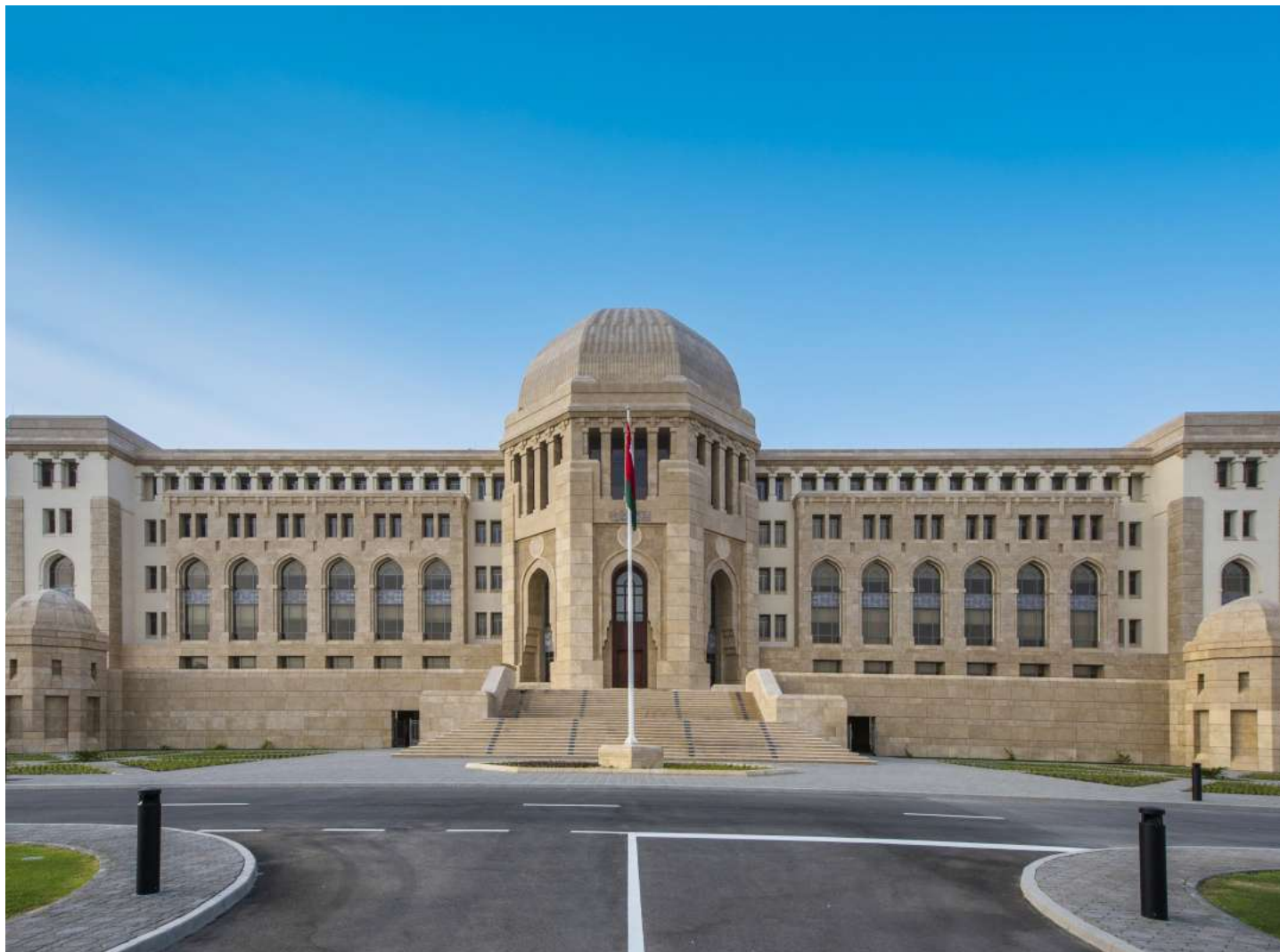
Speaking at a meeting of the Council of Ministers he chaired in October 2021, His Majesty the Sultan underscored the significance of devising a mechanism and for opening channels of communication with youth to explain all the requirements of the development process in all sectors. He gave directives to listen to youth and study their needs and aspirations. He also instructed governors and the authorities concerned to hold regular meetings with youth for this purpose. He advised the officials to raise issues of interest or concern to youth, listen to their opinions and help them perform the role expected of them in contributing to the comprehensive nation-building march.

Meanwhile, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, who presided over the Youth Day celebration last October, said that the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth launched a smart portal supplied with the latest techniques that make it a prime website for talented youth, artists and innovators.

The attention accorded by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik to Youth is also reflected in the Royal support to employment initiatives, a







set of which came around in May 2021, when coronavirus pandemic had its greatest toll on local and global economic conditions, leading to the shrinkage of the labour markets. The Royal attention resulted in the launch of an executive plan to provide more than 32,000 jobs.

His Majesty the Sultan also chaired a meeting of the Supervisory Committee of the National Employment Programme (NEP) on 5 July 2021. This placed employment in the realm of national priorities. His Majesty the Sultan reiterated the importance of the NEP when he presided over a Council of Ministers on 15 June 2021, during which he gave directives for “devising suitable solutions to provide jobs in all departments of the State (the public sector) and private sector firms, provide analysis of

jobseekers’ data and follow them up until they join the labour market”.

Omani women’s affairs take centre stage in the Renewed Renaissance thought of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, who has been keen that women enjoy their rights guaranteed by law and operate alongside men in different fields of national service. Attention to women is one of the “national fundamentals” of the country.

On the occasion of the International Women’s Day, celebrated last March, Her Highness The Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman, commended the great efforts exerted by women in Oman and the rest of the world while

building their nations, supporting their families and societies and contributing effectively to the management of human and global issues.”

HH The Honourable Lady addressed women on Omani Women’s Day this year. She said, “On the occasion of Omani Women’s Day, the 17th of October, we would like to express thanks and appreciation for every woman who advocates good deeds and elevates the values of tolerance, amity and benevolence. Our greetings go to every woman who contributes to building this dear country from her position as an active participant delivering her social, national and humanitarian duties in all fields.”

To mark the same occasion, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture,







Sports and Youth issued a ministerial decision announcing the establishment of Omani Women's Sports and Cultural Innovation Club. The move comes in implementation of the basic principles espoused by the Sultanate of Oman in the field of women's empowerment. It is a symbolic gesture to promote women's contribution to domestic development and to promote their role in sports and cultural fields.

Oman has been endowed with many bounties and a loyal people bound by bonds of love, collaboration and solidarity. This became crystal clear through public support to the efforts exerted by the government of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik in the aftermath of the recent tropical cyclone /Shaheen/ that made landfall in Oman on 3 October 2021. His Majesty the Sultan's response was prompt. He gave orders to form a ministerial committee for the assessment of the damage incurred to citizens' homes and properties in the governorates that took the brunt of the cyclone. The aim was to provide quick relief to the families and alleviate the impacts of the tropical condition.

Speaking on this occasion last October, His Majesty the Sultan affirmed that "the restoration of normalcy to public life and the supply of basic life needs to citizens tops our priorities" and he reiterated that "the ministerial committee comes under our direct supervision" and he pledged that he would follow up the tasks and achievements of the committee to ensure that the panel provides assistance as soon as possible.

This Royal response reflected positively through the persistent action undertaken by the ministerial committee in cooperation with sectors of the National Committee for Emergency Management (NCEM). As a result, the majority of services were restored at a

rate of 100%. Tenders were awarded for the maintenance of damaged roads and for building as many as 328 alternative houses for afflicted citizens. In the process, His Majesty the Sultan also gave orders to establish a National Fund for Management of Emergencies to address the aftermath of the recent cyclone and natural disasters that might happen in the future.

Nations attain their prime only through education, and this has been a principle espoused by Omanis since the outset of their blessed renaissance 50 years ago. His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik stressed that "attention to education figures high in the scale of national priorities". Accordingly, a motivating environment has been furnished for supporting the march of research and innovation. This translates into the allocation of a ministry mandated with higher education, research and innovation and the establishment of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences,

with branches in governorates of the Sultanate of Oman.

The university's articles of association were issued in June 2021. In the same month, the Council of Ministers approved the setting up of a branch for the university in the Governorate of Musandam. It comprises a number of specializations reflecting the Royal attention towards the development of the governorate and the realization of sustainable, comprehensive development there.

In the same context, the College of Duqm was established in September 2021 in the Governorate of Al Wusta at the Special Economic Zone in Duqm. The university is governed by the laws regulating universities and colleges in the Sultanate of Oman and the hopes attached on the National Research and Development Strategy 2040 in line with Oman Vision 2040.







Royal directives to set up six schools to the tune of RO 8,850,000 will raise the number of scholarly institutions to 2,430 schools, 11 government and private universities and 18 private colleges.

Under its Renewed Renaissance, Oman continued to accord attention to environment protection, both at the local and global levels. To this effect, His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik issued a Royal Decree last August (2021) to establish the Khor Kharfout Nature Reserve in the Governorate of Dhofar, taking the number of such sanctuaries to 21. The Sultanate of Oman also ratified many international agreements related to the environment protection and legislations for the same purpose at the local level.

The decline and fluctuation in oil prices and precautionary measures to address the impacts of Covid-19 affected the economies of many countries of the world. Since Oman is not isolated from the global community, it had to take measures to address the situation. These included the initiation of a medium-term Fiscal Balance Plan (2020-2023). Last April (2021), His Majesty the Sultan chaired a meeting of the main committee tasked with the National Programme for Fiscal Balance to follow up the progress of the programme in its second year. The programme was designed to bring down the general debt and to secure financial sustainability.

His Majesty the Sultan endorsed the initiatives submitted by the departments concerned in a bid to develop the schema of social protection. This affirms His Majesty the Sultan's follow-up of the conditions of citizens to ensure the sustenance of decent livelihood for them and to alleviate the fallouts of this challenging stage.







## Special Supplement on the occasion of National Day of Sultanate of Oman

The 10th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), the first leg in the executive plan of Oman Vision 2040, which is based on four axes comprising 14 'national priorities', 88 'strategic goals' and 68 performance indicators.

The Tenth Five-year Plan seeks to achieve a number of goals, among them "activating the economy, upgrading the efficiency of management of public finance, realizing balance among measures for rationalization of public spending, espousing disciplined financial expansion policies, accelerating the rate of implementation of major strategic projects and government-private partnership projects, attracting more direct foreign investments, visualizing growth trends based on expected oil price rate of \$48 per barrel during years of the plan and enhancing governorates' participation in achieving goals of Oman Vision 2040".

The plan targets average annual growth of 3.2% in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) through emphasis on promising economic sectors like converting industries of high technological content, agriculture, fisheries, fish farming, food and agriculture industrialization, transport, warehousing and logistics.

Total estimated revenues of the State Budget 2021 stood at RO 8.64 billion calculated on the basis of oil price rate of \$45.

The Governorates Development Programme, which emerged in implementation of Royal directives, will allocate RO 10 million to each governorate during the period of the Tenth Five-Year Plan (2021-2025)—at a rate of RO 2 million a year. The programme envisages the execution of 28 strategic programmes and it will contribute to the goals of Oman Vision 2040.

The Economic Stimulus Plan (ESP), endorsed by the Council of Ministers in March 2021 is based on five axes comprising incentives on taxes, fees and incentives for the improvement of the business and investment climate, incentives for small and medium enterprises, incentives for the labour market and recruitment, banking incentives aimed to rally efforts for the alleviation of Covid-19 impacts on the national economy and other incentives to promote economic recovery, back up economic activities and attract foreign investments.

These financial procedures, topped by the medium-term Fiscal Balance Plan, showed positive results, as Oman registered growth in total revenues by 22.6% and a 58% decline in deficit by the end of September 2021.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expected in a report issued in September 2021 that economic activities in the Sultanate of Oman will recover and that Oman will achieve 2.5% GDP growth in 2021 and 4.2% growth by 2023. The IMF also commended the measures undertaken by Oman while addressing the





fallouts of Covid-19, as well as the country's fiscal discipline and enhancement of business environment and support for stricken economic sectors.

The measures undertaken by Oman improved its credit rating in various agencies, including Moody's, which amended the Sultanate of Oman's rating from "negative" to "stable" in October 2021 (according to 3Ba rating).

Moody's expected that public debt in Oman vis-à-vis the GDP will decline from 80% in 2020 to 60% in 2024, as well as the decline of the annual government funding needs to GDP from 22% in 202 to 10%. Standard and Poor's also amended its future outlook for Oman from "stable" to "positive".

Meanwhile, Fitch pointed out last May that the Fiscal Plan contributed to the improvement of scenarios for Oman's financial position and expected a 6.1% decline of Budget deficit to GDP this year (2021). It also expected a 3.3% economic growth for Oman by next year (2022).

The government of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik created an investment-encouraging environment through legislations, ports, free zones and logistics, coupled with a unique strategic location in the meeting point of global commercial markets, political stability and security.

The ports of Duqm, Salalah and Sohar boast a range of advanced facilities that enabled them to achieve quick finalization of tasks and cut the distance between world ports. This is in addition to the free zones in Duqm, Al Mazyouna, Salalah and Sohar and upcoming Khazaen hub in the Governorate of South Al Batinah. Investment incentives like tax exemptions extending to more than 30 years and foreigners' 100% ownership of properties, among other incentives, add another fillip to the Oman's position.

The political and regional changes that happened during the Renewed Renaissance period proved that the Sultanate of Oman's foreign policy stands on firm grounds. Oman advocates principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, positive contribution to safeguarding international security, promoting common public interest through dialogue and understanding among countries and nations.

These principles were affirmed by Oman before the 76th UN General Assembly in New York last September. "Under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, the Sultanate of Oman pursues its commitment to the basic fundamentals of its foreign policy embodied in good neighbourliness, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, respect for international law and international charters and support for cooperation among countries.

Oman considers the settlement of disputes by peaceful means and through harmony and tolerance as a civilized conduct that leads to better and more lasting results than disputes can achieve".

Oman's persistent strive to serve global peace stem from its support for many initiatives and issues, like its backing to the positive developments emanating from Al Ula Summit in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Oman hailed the success of the efforts of reconciliation led by the State of Kuwait.

In international podiums, Oman continued to reiterate the legitimacy of the Palestinian cause and the demands of Palestinian people. It also supported the settlement of the Yemeni issue through comprehensive political settlement, working in line with initiatives of Saudi Arabia and the UN and US envoys. This is besides Oman's stand for peaceful handling of the Iranian nuclear file and Oman's continuous condemnation of all types of terrorism.

Under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, the Sultanate of Oman adhered to commitment to truthfulness and objectivity through its political stands enhanced by its original values of moderateness.

His Majesty the Sultan's visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in July 2021 and his meeting with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud is a strong evidence about the deep-rooted relations between the two countries.

This first visit of its kind culminated in the establishment of the Omani-Saudi Coordination Council and opened wide vistas of cooperation among the two countries in different fields, particularly economic areas.

The Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) and other

security and military departments earned the attention of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander. The development of the SAF covered all aspects due to their tangible role in defending this nation, protecting its territories and safeguarding its gains.

This Royal attention was symbolically demonstrated by the visits of His Majesty the Sultan to the 11th Infantry Brigade's command, Thumrait Airbase, the Royal Navy of Oman and the Sultan's Special Force.

The SAF saw major growth in all its military and technical sectors "so that these sectors could continue to be the strong bastions that defend and protect all territories of the country from end to end."

National days of countries constitute symbols of pride and dignity. In Oman, they are moments of contemplation in the past and the future of the country, a time to remember the Founder of Modern Oman and its Blessed Renaissance, the late Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Bin Taimour.

His memory pulsates in the heart of every Omani, man and woman, who incessantly pray for him in gratitude for his good deeds for the nation and its loyal people over 50 years. The achievements made by the late Sultan Qaboos are stark and manifest in every sphere of life.

He sowed and cultivated true faith in the people. From our past experiences, we have to derive new, strong will and firm resolve to work in full cooperation and collaboration rallying our resources and energies and exhibiting self-denial in performing our duty in a manner that facilitates all difficulties and overcomes all challenges as we embark on accomplishing our national missions for the good of Oman and its noble people.





# PFOWA held its Annual Charity Bazaar

The Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) held its annual charity bazaar in Islamabad. The bazaar was inaugurated by First Lady Samina Alvi which was held in the lawns of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), where diplomats' families put up stalls to showcase their respective national and

cultural diversity. The MoFA's signature event was intended to raise funds for its low-income employees' families in the fields of education, health, and social welfare. Stalls were set up by Embassies from a number of countries, including China, Turkey, Maldives, Belgium, Netherlands, Thailand, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, the

United Arab Emirates, the European Union, and many more, as well as by educational institutions and private firms. PFOWA, which was founded in 1947 on the recommendation of Begum Raana Liaquat Ali Khan by its first patron Shaista Ikramullah, is effectively carrying on the philanthropic heritage.







The stall of the Embassy of Italy organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad



The stall of the Embassy of Azerbaijan organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad



The stall of the Embassy of Bangladesh organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad







The stall of the Embassy of Bosnia organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad



The stall of the Embassy of Bulgaria organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad



The stall of the Embassy of Egypt organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad



The stall of the Embassy of Indonesia organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad







The stall of the Embassy of Iran organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad



The stall of the Embassy of Iraq organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad



The stall of the Embassy of Japan organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad



The stall of the Embassy of Jordan organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad







The stall of the Embassy of Kenya organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad



The stall of the Embassy of Kazakhstan organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad



The stall of the Embassy of Kyrgyzstan organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad



The stall of the Embassy of Maldives organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad



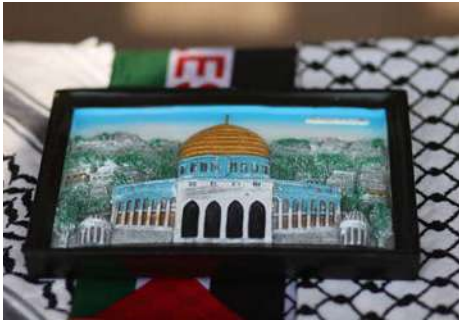




The stall of the Embassy of Nepal organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad



The stall of the Embassy of Palestine organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad



The stall of the Embassy of Syria organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad



The stall of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad







The stall of the Embassy of Thailand organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad



The stall of the Embassy of Turkey organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad



The stall of the Embassy of UAE organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad



The stall of the Embassy of Ukraine organized at the charity bazaar of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) in Islamabad





# National & Armed Forces Day of Bosnia & Herzegovina celebrated

**A**mbassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina H.E. Brigadier General (ret.) Sakib Foric hosted a reception to mark National Day and the Armed Forces Day of Bosnia and

Herzegovina in Islamabad. Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Syed Fakhar Imam was the chief guest. The event was attended by diplomats, Bosnian citizens, notable

personalities of the town and the Pakistanis who served in Bosnia.







# Message of

## Ambassador Nicolae Goia on National Day of Romania 2021

**D**ear Guests, friends, ladies and gentlemen!  
On 1st of December 2021 we celebrate the 103 years since the realization of our Great Union. One hundred and three years back, the century long ideal of national unity has been achieved, building the foundation of the modern Romanian state.

The anniversary of the Great Union has given us the opportunity to honour the memory of the sacrifices made for laying the foundation of new Romania which ultimately placed us in the midst of great European family. The end of the First World War and the armistice concluded in 1918, represents a crucial moment in the history of mankind causing deep changes both in international relations, and at socio-cultural level.

Like every year on this occasion I would like to emphasise that we, in Romania and in Europe, will always remember that 1,1 million soldiers from the subcontinent had fought courageously and heroically in different battle fields of the WWI and 60.000 of them, mostly from today Pakistani Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, had paid the ultimate price in defending the ideals of peace, freedom, liberty, dignity, democracy and fundamental human rights. Today we pay tribute and honour them as much as we honour our heroes!

More than 100 years after the Great Union, Romania reaffirms its attachment to the principles of international law, promotion of mutual respect and good understanding, to dialogue and to multiculturalism, values that are the basis of its international profile and external action.

Today, Romania is a security provider and enjoys unprecedented development, security and welfare. Our collective duty is to protect these values and secure them in the medium and long term, as well to prepare for challenges ahead. The key word of the Romanian European policy is union and with this call to unity we successfully exercised two years back our first ever mandate at the Presidency of the EU Council.

Romania takes every possible opportunity to show that our profound European vocation is



bringing a tangible contribution to a powerful, credible and inclusive Europe. We are attaching a great value to the idea of cohesion, a common European value, reflecting the imperious need for unity and cooperation among the EU Member States, as well as the need for more economic, social and territorial cohesion as enshrined in the EU Treaties.

The anniversary of the Great Union is a good reminder and an incentive towards Romania pleading for more unity at the European level. As a responsible member of the European Union, we fully proved our capacity to build consensus and find efficient and viable solutions for our common European future.

Pakistan represents an important partner for Romania in the South Asian region. We acknowledge Pakistan's efforts in fighting terrorism, militancy and radical extremism and hope that these endeavours will continue to be an important part of international war on terror.

In spite of these challenges, which obviously affected the advancement of many economic projects, we welcome the positive dynamics of the Pakistani economy, which are witnessing despite the obstacle created by the pandemic situation, a steady and robust economic growth, as well the opportunities created for the foreign companies interested in doing business in Pakistan.

We are eager to work with our Pakistani friends and partners for taking forward the bilateral agenda, as well as the cooperation within the EU-Pakistan framework and in multilateral formats,

especially in the UN.

I warmly welcome the spirit of Romania-Pakistan relations, characterized by friendship and collaboration and the new dynamism witnessed in the recent years with a result driven political dialogue reflecting a clear desire of both states for developing a pragmatic relationship in fields of mutual interests.

Maybe this as good a moment as any to deeply thank the Pakistani authorities for the valuable support we received in our operations to evacuate Romanians and other nationals from the war torn Afghanistan this summer. The empathy and solidarity shown by our Pakistani partners were exemplary and will never be forgotten.

We are living in a complicated period of mankind history, over the past two years the challenges the world is facing having multiplied many folds particularly by the Covid 19.

In the fierce battle with the pervert virus we have lost so many precious lives and there is so much pain and sufferings that we need solidarity more than ever before to win this absurd and illogical war and to have our lives back.

In concluding my short remarks, I would like to express my gratitude to all of you present here for so graciously accepting to respond to our invitation and celebrate together this glorious event in our history.

Many thanks to all those true friends who contributed in more than one way to the success of tonight reception. Thank you. God bless you all.





## General Nadeem Raza Visit to Romania

Following the invitation extended by Ltg. Daniel Petrescu, Romania's Chief of Defence, General Nadeem Raza, Chairman of Pakistan's Joint Staff Committee, paid a five-day visit to Romania, from 23th to 27th of August, 2021.

The program was attended by H. E. Mr. Niculaie Goia, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Romanian to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, with the Romanian delegation, and by H. E. Dr. Zafar Iqbal, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Romanian.

The high-ranking guest was welcomed with full honours, by his homologue, Ltg. Daniel Petrescu.

According to the press statement released by the Romanian Defense Ministry, during the official meeting the importance was underlined of strengthening the military bi-lateral relations, given Romania's NATO and European Union memberships, and Pakistan's being a liaison country between Central Asia and South Asia, along with the mutual support that the two countries have traditionally extended to each other within UN and other international bodies.

Present at the meeting, Mr. Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă, the Romanian minister of national defence, thanked General Nadeem Raza for the substantial support provided by Pakistan to the mission of repatriation from Afghanistan of Romanian nationals and nationals of other countries, saying this collaboration is another proof of solidarity and trust between the two countries.

Romania's Chief of Defence D. Petrescu and the Chairman of Pakistan's Joint Staff Committee N. Raza reviewed the way in which the armed forces of Romania and Pakistan can increase

the level of military co-operation. They also addressed the topics of technical and military intelligence co-operation, participation in joint training activities, including in emergency management specific to the armed forces, and training programmes provided through training centres and other forms of military education.

Ltg. D. Petrescu said that "the number of activities and meetings at the level of experts is intended to increase and the overall security environment improved by participating in stability missions under the UN aegis."

He conveyed the appreciation of the Romanian military for the professionalism of their Pakistani colleagues in the UN operations

in Mali, Congo and South Sudan, where our countries contribute personnel. Last but not least, he thanked General Nadeem Raza for the support we received on our mission to evacuate Romanian nationals from Afghanistan. After the withdrawal of Romanian troops from Afghanistan, good co-operation between Romanian and Pakistani armed forces have materialised in ensuring the protection of the Romanian personnel and equipment in Islamabad, and other forms of co-operation.

During its visit, the Pakistani delegation held meetings with officials of Romania's General Directorate for Armaments and the National Defence Industry.







# Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs meet with Pakistani Counterpart, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly

**A**s a follow-up of the phone talk on September 7, 2021, the Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Bogdan Aurescu had a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, on Friday, September 24, 2021, in New York, on the sidelines of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly.

On that new occasion the two ministers reviewed the very good state of bilateral political and diplomatic dialogue and discussed the prospects for the further enhance of relations between the two countries, highlighting their mutual commitment to capitalize on their development potential and by identifying new sectors of cooperation.

The heads of the two diplomacies stressed the need for further impetus in the diversification of economic and sectoral cooperation, starting from the successful examples of collaboration in strategic areas so far and agreed on a new session of the Joint Economic Commission and the preparation of a new round of political-diplomatic consultations.

In this context, Minister Aurescu recalled the invitation to visit Romania addressed to his counterpart, who reconfirmed his special interest for such a visit as soon as possible.

Also, the Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs highlighted the existing opportunities in terms of academic education for Pakistani students, a proposal received with interest by his counterpart.

Minister Bogdan Aurescu reiterated his thanks for the valuable support provided by R.I. Pakistan during the evacuation of Romanian and other nationals from Afghanistan, including



at-risk Afghan citizens.

Minister Bogdan Aurescu expressed the interest Romania attaches to an increased dynamics of EU-Pakistan relations, in the context of implementing the EU-Pakistan Strategic Involvement Plan, signed during the term of the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council.

In that context he reiterated Romania's firm support for the development of the relationship between R.I. Pakistan and the EU, including for

maintaining and capitalizing on the mechanism of the EU Generalized System of Preferences Plus for R.I. Pakistan.

For his part, Pakistani Foreign Minister Mahmood Qureshi appreciated the strong traditional friendly relations between R.I. Pakistan and Romania and highlighted that Romania is an important partner of Pakistan in the EU and internationally.

He also expressed the commitment of the Pakistani side to strengthen the bilateral relationship at all levels, and thanked Romania for its support within the European Union.

The two ministers had an in-depth exchange of views on the prospects for the situation in Afghanistan, agreeing that a collective international approach, including joint efforts by the EU and Afghanistan's neighbors, is needed to manage the negative effects of the situation.

They exchanged views on the latest developments in the Indo-Pacific region, including on the AUKUS partnership and its effects.

Both sides expressed appreciation for their good cooperation in international fora and highlighted the future prospects for cooperation in multilateral contexts.





# An Expectation in Excellence: From Romanian Craftsmanship to Pakistani Seamanship

**A**s a maritime nation with seaborne trade at the core of its economy, Pakistan embarked since several years on a campaign to modernize and develop naval forces able to protect credibly its national economic maritime interests and to safeguard the strategic interests of the country.

Currently, the Navy has 16 frigates, 5 submarines, 8 corvette, 44 petrol boats and three mine sweepers.

Pakistan Navy will be adding more than 50 vessels, including 20 major ships to its fleet as a part of an ambitious modernization plan to improve its defense capabilities.

Part of the effort is also the mostly fruitful co-operation with Galați Damen Shipyard, in Romania, where PNS Yarmook and PNS Tabuk were built.

The former has been commissioned to the Pakistan Navy during a ceremony held in Constanța Port, Romania, on 15th of February, 2020. Deputy-Chief of Naval Staff, Vice-Admiral Muhammad Fayyaz Gilani was the main guest at the commissioning ceremony.

According to a press release of Pakistan Navy,

Chief Naval Overseer (Romania), diplomats of friendly countries, senior management of M/s DAMEN Shipyards, Gorinchem and Galați and officials of Ministry of Defense Production, Pakistan attended the commissioning

ceremony.

In his speech Vice-Admiral Gilani underscored the importance of corvettes in the maritime domain. He said that induction of these



The induction ceremony of PNS Yarmook in the fleet was held at the Pakistan Navy Dockyard in Keemari Karachi, on July 13, 2020. This time, main guest was the Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi. In his speech, the Naval Chief said that the introduction of this vessel into the naval fleet would significantly enhance Pakistan Navy's capability to safeguard its maritime borders.

platforms would act as force multipliers in enhancing Navy's capability of safeguarding Pakistani maritime interests. He also praised the professional skills of Galați Damen Shipyard personnel and the delivery of such high-quality platforms in record time.

Three days earlier, Vice-Admiral Alexandru Mîrșu (now ret.) welcomed Pakistan's Navy official delegation, with Vice-Admiral Gilani at its head, at the headquarters of the Bucharest Naval Forces Staff. On the agenda were topics related to the development of co-operation between the two Navies in the field of training and in the field of naval military education. PNS Tabuk was commissioned to the Pakistan Navy on 13th of November, the same year. According to the official press release of Pakistan Navy, while expressing his views in the ceremony, the Commanding Officer of PNS TABUK underlined the importance of this project and laid emphasis on the additional set of capabilities added to the Pakistan Navy sphere of operations with the induction of these potent platforms. He emphasized the corvettes role to ensure forward presence and perpetual readiness in the area of operations, while being deployed



Vice Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Muhammad Fayyaz Gilani with Pakistan navy and DAMEN Shipyards and officials onboard PNS YARMOOK, during Commissioning Ceremony (F-271) at Contanta, on 15th of February, 2020





## TECHNICAL DATA

PNS Yarmook and PNS Tabuk are Romanian made state-of-the-art 2300-tonne corvettes, built on a multipurpose and highly adaptive platform of medium size and tonnage – Damen OPV 1900 (Offshore Patrol Vessel): hull-length - 90 m, maximum speed - 22 knots, full-load displacement - 1,900 tons.

The ships are equipped with latest electronic warfare, anti-ship and anti-air warfare platform, with cutting-edge self-protection and terminal defense systems. They are capable to perform a variety of maritime operations, transport helicopter and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) simultaneously; launching two high-speed Rigid-Hulled Inflatable Boats (RHIBs) at 11.5 meters and 6.5 meters simultaneously and can accommodate two Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) for special mission operations. The ships are built by Galați Damen Shipyard, a branch of the Dutch shipbuilder, which in 2017 signed a contract with Pakistan's Ministry of Defense Production for two multi-purpose OPVs.

on PN's initiative of Regional Maritime Security Patrols in the Indian Ocean Region. During his address he also underscored the professional competence and shipbuilding acumen of DAMEN Shipyards and showed confidence in prospects of future cooperation in delivering cutting edge naval technologies to Pakistan Navy. On December 6, 2020, PNS Tabuk visited Port Aksaz, in Turkey, on her return passage to Pakistan. The courtesy call aimed at strengthening bilateral ties, enhancing naval collaboration and interoperability with Turkish Navy. During stay at Port, Pakistan Navy Ship was extended warm welcome by Turkish Naval Authorities, said a press release. Commanding Officer of PNS TABUK called on Aksaz Naval Base Commander Rear Admiral I. Kurtulus Sevinc and discussed matters of mutual interest. Later, on departing the Port, PNS TABUK participated in a coordinated patrol exercise with Turkish Navy ships. The Admiral underscored that the new addition will contribute in promoting safe and secure maritime environment in the region. He further highlighted the importance of evolving geo-strategic environment in the region and need of a potent Naval Force to counter increasing maritime challenges, the press release cited. Afterward, the Naval Chief urged the officers and men of PNS TABUK to make full use of the combat potential of this modern warship in guarding the maritime interest of motherland. During his address he also acknowledged M/s DAMEN Shipyards (Romania) for their cooperation and delivering high quality platforms to Pakistan Navy.



On December 17th, 2020, ISPR released a statement confirming that induction ceremony of PNS TABUK was held at Pakistan Navy Dockyard. On the occasion, Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi graced the ceremony as main guest. The induction ceremony was attended by senior naval officers.



The ceremony was attended by Chief Naval Overseer (Romania), Ship's Crew and Senior Management of DAMEN Shipyards, Gorinchem and Galati.



# Peles Castle, the home of Romanian Royalty



**B**uilt in the 19th century according to the specifications of Carol I, Romania's first King, the Peleş Castle is an image of the monarch's aesthetic mindset, combining the German and Italian neo-Renaissance.

Peles is located near the town of Sinaia, in the Prahova County, and it is one of the most famous castles in Romania, maybe even more than Corvin Castle, Bran Castle, or the Rasnov Fortress. The blood ties between the members of the Romanian and the British royal families, the Russian dynasty and the royal families of Germany and Greece, as well as the Romanian Queen's tireless patronage of arts, have attracted to the castle the most resonant names of the 19th and early 20th century.

## History of Peles Castle

When King Carol I of Romania visited the location on which the beautiful castle now stands, he was amazed by the stunning scenery of the Carpathian Mountains that surround it.

The construction of Peles Castle was commissioned by King Carol, and on August 22, 1873, the foundations were laid in the form of a hunting house and a summer retreat for the Romanian royal family. The castle was designed by the German architect Johannes Schultz in a Neorenaissance style that combined numerous features of classic European styles.

Besides the castle, other constructions were erected, such as a power plant, the Economat Building, the royal stables, the guards' chambers, and the Foisor hunting lodge. Later

additions were also built between 1893 and 1914 by the Czech architect Karel Liman.

Peles became the first castle in Europe fully powered by locally produced energy, with the electric system being completed in 1884 and the central heating system in 1897. The castle was completed in 1914, and it remained a royal residence until 1947.

After the forced abdication of King Michael I, Peleş was seized by the Communist regime in 1947, together with all the properties of the royal family. In 1948 the whole estate

was closed, and numerous pieces of art were moved to the Art Museum in Bucharest. Peles Castle was then opened as a museum in 1953 by the communist regime, and it remained so until 1975 when it was closed again due to its advanced state of deterioration. Between 1975 and 1989, the castle was constantly renovated and was also used by the communist regime as a retreat for the heads of state that visited Romania. After the Romanian Revolution of 1989, the castle was once again opened to the public, and in 2007 it became the property of King Michael.







### Inside and around Peles Castle

The inner courtyard, with its medieval air, carries the tourists back in time. The Sovereigns' Gate opens the journey into the castle, and a monumental marble staircase leads up to the Hall of Honor, the official reception space that witnessed the presence of royal guests, from Emperor Franz Joseph to the Crown Prince of Japan. Peles Castle also hosted numerous artists such as George Enescu or Jacques Thibaud, that were the guests of Queen Elizabeth of Romania, the wife of King Carol I.

The impressive castle spreads over an area of 3,200 square meters, housing 160 rooms that impress through their beauty and sophistication.

The best known is the Great Armory Room, hosting some of the finest collections of arms and armor, with over 4,000 pieces of weaponry that were collected or received as a gift, mainly from Western and Eastern Europe, but also from other regions of the world.

The interior of the castle, especially the main hall, is beautifully decorated with sculpted wood and the stained glass windows make it a true symbol of elegance and royalty.

Another outstanding part of the castle, the Royal Library, is home to unique manuscripts decorated in gold. Many of the rooms of the castle are decorated so that they resemble the styles of various cultures from throughout the world. Due to its remarkable architecture and to the artistic value of the exhibits it houses, the castle is one of the elite monuments in Europe and in the world.

Throughout the year, the Peles Museum hosts several permanent and temporary exhibitions.

#### Ceramics exhibition

Peles Castle is hosting the ceramics exhibition, with over 5,000 pieces of faience, floor tiles, and porcelain gathered from the greatest European authors and ceramic centers of the 19th century.

It was established by Queen Marie between 1914 and 1927, with later pieces being purchased by the Peles Museum throughout 1970, from private owners as well as antique stores.

Among the pieces of art, the exhibition includes Chinese vases from the 18th and 19th centuries, Japanese pottery from the great workshops of Atari and Satsuma, Persian ceramics from the 17th and 18th centuries, and European art from throughout Paris, London, or Vienna.

#### Horology exhibition

Throughout his life, King Carol was widely appreciated for his punctuality.

The horology exhibition in Peles displays over 50



clocks of various styles and typology, from the private royal collection. It includes grandfather clocks, pendulum table clocks, fireplace clocks, alarm clocks, pocket watches, and more.

Most of them belonged to King Carol I, but the collection also includes pieces that belonged to Queen Marie, Carol II, and King Michael. Most of the clocks date back to the 19th century, but the collection also includes clocks from the 18th and 20th centuries.

Hidden underground passages and stairs that melt into the steep slopes of the mountain complete the majestic ensemble. Just as in fairy tales, lockers open up not into wardrobes, but into splendid suites. Exploring Peles Castle becomes as much an adventure as an aesthetic experience.

A Saxon influence can be observed in the interior courtyard facades that have rich and ornate the face work similar to northern Europe alpine architecture and allegorical hand-painted murals. King Carol insisted that Peles Castle should be welcoming to anyone who wanted to admire it closely and enjoy its royal atmosphere and lovely views of the mountains. Therefore, the castle's park and terraces surround it, with flowerbeds and fountains, turrets, pavilions, galleries and balconies concealed by ivy.

Thus, it is no wonder that many of those who visited Peles claim that it is one of the most beautiful castles in Europe.

#### Peles Castle in popular culture

The fairy-tale features of Peles Castle and its historical authenticity also designate it as a one of a kind setting for professional photo sessions and film productions. In fact, Peles Castle was chosen to represent the home of the eccentric billionaire Penelope played by Rachel Weisz in the film "The Brothers Bloom", released in 2009, also starring Adrien Brody and Mark Ruffalo.

The 2017 American Christmas romantic comedy film "A Christmas Prince" released on Netflix used Peles Castle as place for filming. A sequel, titled "A Christmas Prince: The Royal Wedding", was released in 2018 and another one in 2019, "A Christmas Prince: The Royal Baby".

#### Pelisor Castle

The younger brother of Peles Castle and part of the same complex is Pelisor Castle.

The construction was commissioned by King Carol I, and it was built between 1899 and 1902. It was meant to be the residence of the Romanian royals, King Ferdinand and Queen Marie. It was designed by a Czech architect in the Art Nouveau style, and it has several chambers, a chapel, and a golden room. Many of the artistic decisions regarding the design were made by Queen Marie, and she even helped decorate and paint it.





# Constantin Brancusi

Constantin Brancusi, one of the most influential sculptors of the 20th-century and a pioneer of modernism, called also "the patriarch of modern sculpture", was born in Hobita (Romania), on 19th February 1876. A passionate wood-carver, he produced numerous wood sculptures, often with a folk flavour, and he frequently carved prototypes for works later executed in other materials. He is best known for his abstract sculptures of ovoid heads and birds in flight.

Formal studies took him to Craiova School of Arts and Crafts, where he pursued his love for woodworking, graduating with honors in 1898 and then to Bucharest School of Fine Arts, where he received academic training in sculpture. He worked hard, and quickly distinguished himself as talented. He continued his studies in Munich, and École des Beaux-Arts in Paris and was invited to enter the workshop of Auguste Rodin. Even though he admired the eminent Rodin he left the Rodin studio after only two months, saying, "Nothing can grow under big trees". He continued

After leaving Rodin's workshop, Brâncuși began developing the revolutionary style for which he is known. His first commissioned work, The Prayer, was part of a gravestone memorial.

It depicts a young woman crossing herself as she kneels, and marks the first step toward abstracted, non-literal representation, and shows his drive to depict "not the outer form but the idea, the essence of things." He also began doing more carving, rather than the method popular with his contemporaries, that of modeling in clay or plaster which would be cast in metal, and by 1908 he worked almost

exclusively by carving.

In the following few years he made many versions of Sleeping Muse and The Kiss, further simplifying forms to geometrical and sparse objects.







His works became popular in France, Romania and the United States and in 1913 Brâncuși's work was displayed at both the Salon des Indépendants and the first exhibition in the U.S. of modern art, the Armory Show.

One of his major groups of sculptures involved the Bird in Space — simple abstract shapes representing a bird in flight.

The works are based on his earlier Măiastra series. In Romanian folklore the Măiastra is a beautiful golden bird who foretells the future and cures the blind.

In 1938, he finished the World War I monument in Târgu-Jiu (Romania) where he had spent much of his childhood. Table of Silence, The Gate of the Kiss, and Endless Column commemorate the courage and sacrifice of Romanians who in 1916 defended Târgu Jiu from the forces of the Central Powers.

Brâncuși spent most of his artist career in France and in 1952 he became a French citizen. He died on March 16, 1957, aged 81. He was buried in the Cimetière du Montparnasse in Paris.

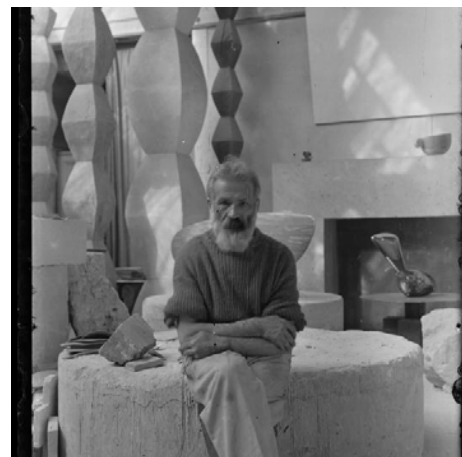
At his death Brâncuși left 1200 photographs and 215 sculptures. He bequeathed part of his collection to the French state on condition that his workshop be rebuilt as it was on the day he died. This reconstruction of his studio, adjacent to the Pompidou Centre, is open to the public nowadays. Brâncuși was elected posthumously to the Romanian Academy in 1990.

In honor of Constantin Brâncuși, 19th February, the birth day of the artist, was declared a national holiday in Romania and is celebrated as "Brancusi Day".

Brâncuși's works are housed in the National Museum of Art of Romania (Bucharest), the Museum of Modern Art (New York) and other museums around the world. The Philadelphia

Museum of Art holds the largest collection of Brâncuși sculptures in the United States.

A small copy of The Endless Column of Brancusi can be observed in the central part of Islamabad, to the Allama Iqbal – Mihai Eminescu Monument, a symbol of friendship between Romania and Pakistan.







# Winter holidays and Christmas traditions in Romania

Romania is a rich country when it comes to traditions and superstitions. Winter is a special season for Romanians, as it brings with it the most important religious holiday of the year and that is Christmas. New Year is also celebrated with great pomp. In big cities are organized Christmas Bazaars and there is the opportunity to enjoy fireworks and concerts with famous artists, whereas in the countryside can be found ancient ceremonies with traditional dances and songs.

## Nativity Fast

The winter traditions in Romania actually start in late autumn, with Nativity Fasting, practiced by the Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Churches, and similar to Advent, observed in Western countries. The 40 day before Christmas is a period of religious preparations for the great feast of Christmas. Religious people don't eat meat or other animal products during this period.

## Saint Nicholas

Saint Nicholas comes on December 6. He is the symbol of charity, protector of the poor and giver of good fortune. The tradition, mostly kept for children, is that in the night between December 5 and 6, St. Nicholas comes and places sweets and gifts in their shoes if they have been nice or places whips if they have been naughty. Children clean their shoes

properly and wait to find their desired sweets and toys in the coming morning.

## The pig's sacrifice

It's pretty tricky to present the pig's sacrifice tradition without raising some questions regarding animal rights or EU norms that pretty much oppose this practice. Nevertheless, this is a practice that exists from pre-Christian times when the sacrifice of animals on the winter solstice was part of a more complex ritual of asking the gods to bring back the light and the

sun.

Many superstitions still exist regarding this tradition, usually performed before Christmas, on the 20th of December, on the day of Ignat. Although it lost its ritual purposes, the pig's sacrifice is still a powerful practice in rural Romania, having very precise social and utilitarian implications for families in the countryside. It's also becoming a tourist attraction and one of the highlights of many winter holiday offers.







## Christmas

Of utmost religious relevance for the Romanians, Christmas (Crăciunul), is a get-together time, accompanied by both religious and secular customs. The Christmas tree is usually decorated on the 24th of December and lasts until the first days of January. Fir trees were considered sacred by the Dacians and had still have, in some parts of Romania—a very strong symbolic relevance at weddings and funerals. On the morning of the 25th everybody finds gifts under the tree. Christmas is also an opportunity for elaborate family meals. With fasting now over and the pigs slaughtered, pork is in abundance, accompanied by other traditional foods and drinks, such as the famous sarmale or cozonac.

Carols are probably one of the most joyous parts of the holiday and one of the best preserved winter traditions. Throughout December it is very common to have carol concerts held in most cities. The oldest Romanian carols are secular and talk about the family life, the village life, and old rituals, usually ending with good wishes, while the religious carols are newer and inspired by biblical and other religious texts. In the morning of the Christmas Eve, children are the ones who start caroling, with adults joining in later on. In the rural parts of the country the carollers are wearing their festive traditional clothes.

## The New Year

While the New Year's Eve is yet another reason for celebration, with hearty meals and all-night parties, it's the numerous ceremonies and superstitions related to the renewal of the year that draw the attention. Besides caroling, Plugușorul (The Plow) is probably one of the most renowned winter traditions. Groups of people go from house to house to wish friends and neighbors a fruitful new year, good weather and good luck, by reciting a lengthy fixed poem and being accompanied by noisy drums, whips, bells, and lots of shouting aimed at chasing away the bad spirits.

Similarly, Sorcova, Buhaiul, and other related songs and wishes, many accompanied by dances are truly original and appealing. Certain rituals (The Goat, The Bear, The Stag), performed by masked people, are magical ceremonials very similar to theatre plays and involve a main character (the aforementioned animals) that dies and then it's brought back to life, in a ceremony symbolizing the end of the present year and the beginning of a new one, and the purification of the soil for the following crops.

As it often happens, most of these customs especially the traditional caroling, the wishes and the rituals are best preserved in the countryside, where they are passed on from generation to generation.





## VINTAGE AND CLASSIC CARS SHOWCASED AT SERENA HOTEL, ISLAMABAD

**V**intage and Classic Cars Club of Pakistan (VCCCP), in collaboration with Serena Hotels, organized a car show titled “Heritage on wheels” with a large number of spectacular vintage cars on display on Tuesday afternoon at the Serena Business Complex lawn. As many as 35 vintage cars including from Karachi Lahore, and Islamabad were displayed at the show which was attended by a large number of car enthusiasts.





## PAKISTAN NAVY SUBMARINE HANGOR'S HEROIC ACTION IN 1971 WAR

By Rashid Nazir Choudhary

Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) HANGOR, a French Daphne class submarine, same commissioned in France on 01 December 1969, followed by two others of the same class. By 1971 four PN submarines (one Fleet & three Daphne) had arrived in Pakistan. The political situation in East Pakistan continued to deteriorate during that year. Things were heating up in East Pakistan and war clouds were visible over the horizon. In view of the increasing chances of war, the Pakistan Navy submarines undertook a few patrols to gather intelligence and picked up vital operational information for war time submarine operations. The patrols helped the crew to build confidence and to test their stamina and equipment under real wartime conditions. On 22 Nov 1971, when Indian Army crossed the International Border in East Pakistan, HANGOR under the command of then Commander Ahmed Tasneem later Vice Admiral sailed with full wartime load of Torpedoes and was off Bombay by 26 Nov. A defect in sea water circulating system developed which required docking the submarine to effect repairs. With consultation and support of officers and crew, the Commanding Officer of the submarine decided to take the risk. He, at night, kept the submarine at surface using deception tactics and with faith in God, managed to rectify the defect within 36 hours. He even managed to deceive an enemy warship which came close to it. Submarine would have come under attacks if the enemy ship had opened fire; such is the luck which favours the brave who takes risk.

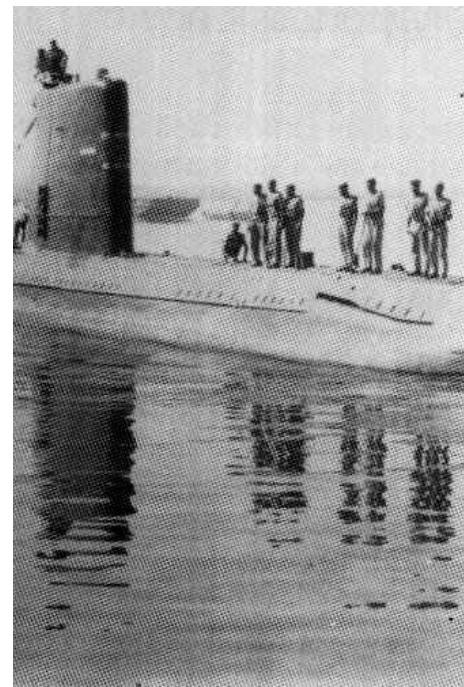


After rectifying the defect, HANGOR was returning to its station when Indian Fleet (8 ships) left Bombay and passed over the submarine, deployed in shallow waters. The targets were right in the periscope sights for a "Kill". But, as the hostilities had not yet opened, the Commanding Officer and his crew watched the prey move out of their grasp. It was an excellent opportunity for submarine to attack but hostilities were not broken. It must have been frustrating to see lucrative targets moving through the area and in range. Submarine was operating with sea conditions extremely favourable for ships to detect submarine. Similarly, sea was flat, calm and

any use of periscope, even for short duration, would be immediately picked up by enemy radars and was suicide for the submarine. So, the submarine was extra vigilant on its acoustic sensors. For 'HANGOR', the period of patience waiting reached a climax on the evening of 09 Dec. For the first time since the on-set of war, the enemy ship came in effective weapon range when she identified two enemy frigates some distance off 'Diu Head'. HANGOR assumed a state of full combat alert, with all aboard eager to join the battle. The Commander had no illusions about the risks involved in engaging "hunter-killer" frigates, especially equipped for anti-submarine warfare. In spite of the risks involved, he chose to close the enemy, determined to inscribe the name 'HANGOR' in the annals of Pakistan's history. The skipper Commander Ahmed Tasneem closed the two targets at shallow depth with caution, prudence and exercising all professionalism to avoid detection. Patience is probably the greatest virtue in submarine warfare. A high measure of it is required to lay in wait and to choose the right moment for attack. The key personnel devoted their undivided attention at their respective action stations to various tasks involved in getting a perfect "fix". Only a few necessary words were being uttered, as each member of the crew knew exactly what was expected of him.

Seconds ticked away, as all sonar information was fed into the Fire Control System. "HANGOR" was ready and at 1957 hours on 09 of December 1971 the sharp command "Shoot" rang out and the first torpedo sped away. The



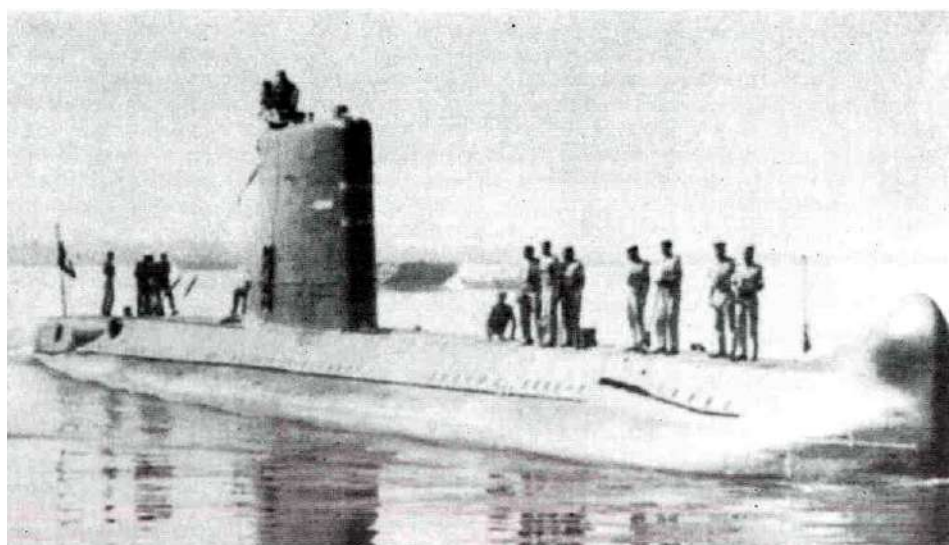


attacks and arrived in Karachi safely after the cease fire. Despite these potential hazards the morale onboard “HANGOR” never wilted. As a member of the crew put it, “The crew always felt that death would not matter so long as they succeed in destroying the enemy”. The ship’s crew was justifiably satisfied with their achievement under difficult conditions. They had supreme faith in their officers and men remained confident that they would succeed in out-witting the enemy. For their act of courage and devotion to duty, the officers and men of PNS HANGOR were decorated with a number of highest operational gallantry awards given to a single unit of Pakistan Navy. This is the highest number of operational gallantry awards given to a single unit of Pakistan Navy.

Celebrations of Golden Jubilee of Hangor is a sense of pride and tribute to war heroes who bravely thwarted the nefarious aims of the adversary and registered this oct as a historical lesson.

torpedo homed on to the target, passed under and did not explode. At 2014 hours “Shoot” was again ordered for the launch of the second torpedo. The sonar Operator concentrated on his headset with full attention. He tracked the torpedo with cool determination till it found its mark. As he listened, the headset was virtually ripped off by the deafening roar of a mighty explosion. The pressure wave rocked “HANGOR” and the detonation was heard clearly -by all onboard, who themselves immediately reacted with a resounding shout of “All ah o-Akbar”. The torpedo exploded under the magazine of INS KHUKRI and the huge explosion broke the ship in two and she sank in less than two minutes causing heavy casualties. KHUKRI was the ship of Squadron Commander, who went down with the ship. There was, however, little time for rejoicing as the other frigate, having located “HANGOR” started a counter attack and all minds turned to the task of meeting the threat. The enemy was approaching at speed, and was ready to commence firing anti-submarine mortars. Reacting instantly, “HANGOR” fired her third torpedo at 2024 hours “down the throat”. The ship on hearing the torpedo reversed course, increased speed to out run the torpedo. The enemy manoeuvre was, however, unsuccessful. The torpedo hit her at long distance causing severe damage.

Having achieved her spectacular success. “HANGOR” started evasive manoeuvres as the enemy was certainly going to react with the entire available ASW resources. For the next three days, Indian warships combed the vicinity of the scene of action and HANGOR was subjected to extensive depth charge attacks. Someone in the crew kept the count and according to him it came to be over 150 attacks during this period. An extensive air search combined with surface ships was conducted but with intelligent evasive action, the submarine managed to evade these







## A briefing dedicated to the international events with Turkmenistan participation was held at the Turkmen Foreign Ministry

By Mian Fazal Elahi

On November 16, 2021, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan a briefing was organized which was dedicated to the results of the visit of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to the Republic of Turkey where the Leader of Turkmenistan took part at the Eighth Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council), as well as to the issues of the preparation to the Summit of the Heads of the Member-States of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) under the chair of Turkmenistan, which is to take place on November 28 of the current year.

Heads and representatives of the local media and foreign journalists accredited in Turkmenistan took part at the press-briefing. Representatives of foreign mass media from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Austria, Belgium, Great Britain, India, United Arab Emirates, France, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Russia, Romania, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Ukraine also participated to the briefing by videoconferencing.

Having warmly greeted the participants of the briefing, the deputy head of the foreign political agency of Turkmenistan Vepa Hajiyev especially noted the importance of the current meeting from the point of view of all-round activation of international interaction of our country on authoritative platforms of regional and global significance.

He underlined that the main themes of today's briefing are the results of the working visit of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to the Republic of Turkey which took place on November 12 of the current year.

By highlighting the main vectors emanating from the speech of the Leader of Nation at the 8th Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council), V.Hajiyev underlined the significance of Turkmenistan's joining the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States as an observer.

It was specifically noted that the 8th Summit of the Turkic Council held in Istanbul marks a new milestone in the interaction of Turkmenistan with the Turkic-speaking states where there are broad opportunities for the joint work in such spheres as economy, trade, investments, ecology, science, education and some other perspective fields.

The briefing gave an opportunity to consider the key directions of work of the important regional structure – the Turkic Council which unites Turkic-speaking public, who has verified that the cultural values unite the peoples of the world and strengthen humanitarian dialogue between the countries.

During the second part of the briefing the participants got acquainted with the progress of the preparatory work to the 15th Summit of the Heads of the Member-states of the Economic Cooperation Organization under the

chair of Turkmenistan which will be held on November 28, 2021 in Ashgabat.

As is known, Turkmenistan as a country which chairs this year in the ECO and as a receiving state of the Summit of the Organization, conducts preparatory work on the very high level.

Within the framework of the main events the Meeting of the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Economic Cooperation Organization as well as the Business Forum of the member-countries of the ECO will be held.

In the meaningful speeches of the participants it was highlighted that the dynamic, consistent and innovational character of the peace-loving foreign policy strategy of our state constitutes the basis for the steady strengthening of international authority and the growth of its role in regional and global geopolitics.

Thus, the Meeting of the Leaders of the member-countries of the ECO, which will take place on November 28, on the Foundation Day of the Organization will be a good opportunity for the exchange of views on a broad range of issues, being the biggest final event of the chairmanship of Turkmenistan in this authoritative Organization.

The representatives of the mass media during the briefing received not only detailed information on the latest events in the international life of our state, presented by the speakers, but also the opportunity to ask their questions.





## Qatar Fund for Development sends a second Shipment of urgent medical aid to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

By Mian Fazal Elahi

A second shipment of medical aid sent by Qatar Fund for Development, has arrived in the sisterly Islamic Republic of Pakistan, to support the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to combat the coronavirus pandemic. The aid includes 3.4 tons of medical aid.

The shipments were received at Karachi Airport by His Excellency Mr. Mishaal bin Muhammad Ali Al Ansari, Consul General of the State of Qatar in Karachi, and Mr. Muhammad Salem Al Khawar, Third Secretary at the Consulate General of the State of Qatar in Karachi. The occasion was attended from the Pakistani side by Mr. Alim Allah, Deputy Director of the Department Protocol at the office of the Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Karachi.

As these shipments are considered a continuation of a previous shipment sent by QFFD, which consisted of 50 oxygen devices and medicines to address the Corona pandemic

On this occasion, His Excellency Mr. Khalifa Al-Kuwari, Director-General of Qatar Fund for Development, stressed the importance of this assistance to complement the great efforts

made by the State of Qatar to combat the repercussions of the outbreak of the Corona pandemic, which had a significant impact on the world and created many difficulties at all levels.

HE added that based on the joint international responsibility, the State of Qatar stands at the forefront to contribute to the process of confronting this pandemic and addressing it, stressing the effective role played by the State of Qatar under its wise leadership with the assistance of brotherly and friendly countries and its effective contribution to help the affected countries to stand again from The effects of the Corona pandemic and the reduction and prevention of its spread.

On this occasion, His Excellency the Ambassador of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Saud bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani, affirmed that out of its humanitarian duty and in view of the distinguished relations between the State of Qatar and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the State of Qatar was keen from the beginning to provide assistance to the Pakistani government in order to support its efforts to combat the Corona virus. (Covid-19) and to protect the brotherly Pakistani people from this pandemic.

His Excellency added that it is not the first time that the State of Qatar has provided aid to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as the State of Qatar, government and people, have stood by the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, stressing that the State of Qatar will spare no effort in sending aid continuously for friendly and brotherly countries all over the world until this epidemic is cleared.

His Excellency highlighted the role played by the State of Qatar in assisting brotherly and friendly countries since the beginning of the pandemic, to confront the repercussions of the epidemic and mitigate the outbreak of the disease, stressing the solidarity and permanent cooperation between the two brotherly countries, and the strengthening and strengthening of the deep and distinguished relations and the close ties between them.

It is worth noting that this urgent assistance provided by the State of Qatar to brotherly and friendly countries comes within the framework of the efforts made to combat the spread of this epidemic, which represents a common threat facing the whole world.



# 38th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

**Remarks by Dilsad Senol, Representative of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus**

**D**ear Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,

Tonight we are celebrating the 38th anniversary of the establishment of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

38 years ago today, we established our state, which is the concrete expression of Turkish Cypriot people's freedom and sovereignty with the support of motherland Turkey and the Anatolian Community.

The Turkish Cypriots have been able to reach these days by protecting their values, beliefs and national identity, despite all the tragic events.

We are proud that, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus progressed in many fields with its democracy, economy, respect to social equality, human rights and independence. Our country has been at the forefront of the Eastern Mediterranean in Higher Education and Tourism, which are the two main sectors of our economy.

In regard to Cyprus Problem, many efforts have been made and failed over the past five decades through numerous rounds of United Nations facilitated negotiations, despite the continuous good will and constructive approach shown by the Turkish Cypriot side.

These efforts aimed to reach an agreement under a "bi-zonal and bi-communal federation" based on political equality of the two sides. The last-ditch effort in this direction ended with no result in Crans Montana in 2017 due to Greek Cypriot reluctance to share power and prosperity.

This proved one more time that trying to reach a solution with the existing parameters was yielding no results.

In line with the calls made by UN Secretary General, we have tabled our new vision regarding the Cyprus issue at the 5+UN informal meeting in Geneva in April this year, which would bring the much-needed stability, security and cooperation in and around our island with a win-win approach.

The essence of our proposal is to secure the inherent sovereign equality and equal international status of the State of the Turkish Cypriot people, which would constitute a new basis for the parties to start formal negotiations for a freely negotiated and mutually acceptable cooperative relationship.



Experience in the past negotiations undoubtedly suggests that establishing equilibrium between the two sides, prior to possible formal negotiations is a prerequisite.

Leveling the playing field means to rectify decades long injustice done against the Turkish Cypriot people. T

he injustice serves no purpose but treats the Greek Cypriot side as if it represents the entire island and allows it to perpetuate the status quo on the island at the expense of the Turkish Cypriot people who live under isolation.

We believe that our new vision registered in Geneva would break the deadlock in the decades-long negotiations conducted on the same basis and modalities.

I would like to emphasize with appreciation that our new vision on the Cyprus issue as well as our policies in the region has always been in harmony with our motherland Turkey.

On behalf of the Turkish Cypriot People, I would also like to thank the brotherly state of Pakistan for its support in our cause.

On this meaningful occasion, may Allah rest the souls of those that gave their lives for the independence of the Turkish Cypriots and I would like to express our respect and gratitude to all our Veterans.

Thank you very much once again for honouring our reception and wish you all enjoy the rest of the evening.

HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY!









# 50th Armed Forces Day of Bangladesh celebrated

Defence Adviser of Bangladesh High Commission Brig General Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah and Mrs Shahida Fazal hosted a reception to mark the 50th anniversary of the Armed Forces Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Islamabad.

Senator Talha Mehmood was the Chief Guest at the reception while among the noted guests

included Dean of Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of Turkmenistan H.E. Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Nepal H.E. Tapas Adhikari, Sri Lankan high commissioner H.E. Mohan Wijewickrama, Ambassador of Indonesia H.E. Adam M Tugio, the newly arrived Ambassador of Japan H.E. Wada Mitsuhiro, Palestine Ambassador H.E. Ahmed Jawad Amine Rabei, Ambassador of Vietnam H.E. Nguyen Tien

Phong, Ambassador of Yemen H.E. Motahar Alashabi, Saudi Military Attaché Maj Gen Awadh bin Abdullah Al-Zahrani, Military Attaché of the Embassy of Azerbaijan Col Mehman Novruzov, DHM Malaysia Deddy Faisal, CEO of Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani, ambassadors, diplomats of Kyrgyzstan, SAARC, South Asian and ASEAN countries.









# Azerbaijan celebrates Victory Day in Pakistan

Ambassador of Azerbaijan H.E. Khazar Farhadov and Defence Attaché Col. Mehman Novruzlu hosted a reception to celebrate Azerbaijan Victory Day. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Nadeem Raza was the Chief Guest of the event. Other important guests were Governor Punjab Ch. Sarwar, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Former Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, Ambassador of Turkey along with other distinguished guests were present on the occasion to reflect Pakistan's strong support for Azerbaijan on this important national day.







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# To an unprecedented year.



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

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

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