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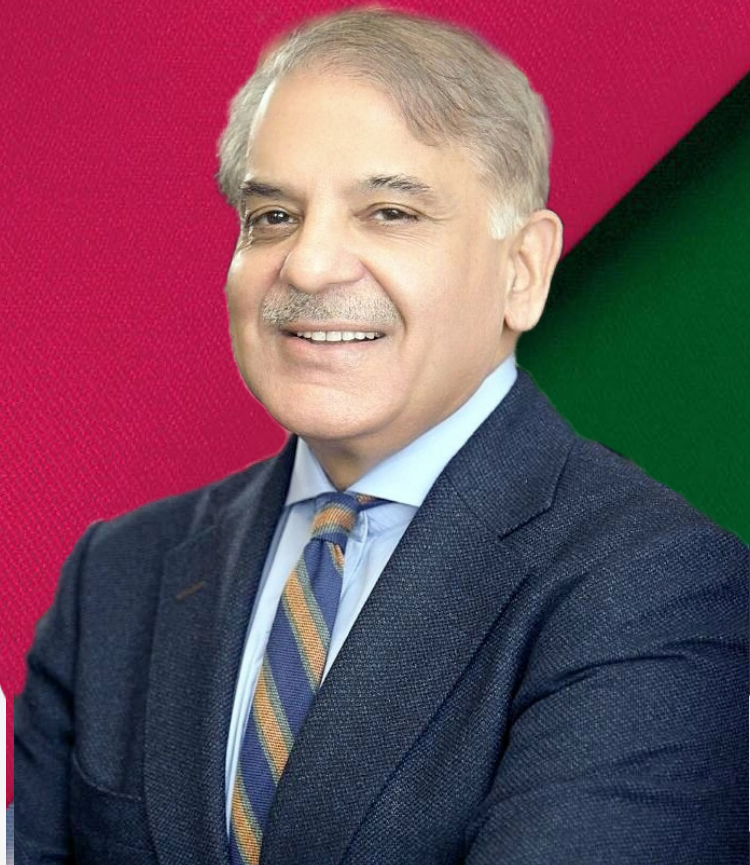
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Emir of the State of Qatar



H.E. Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif
Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan

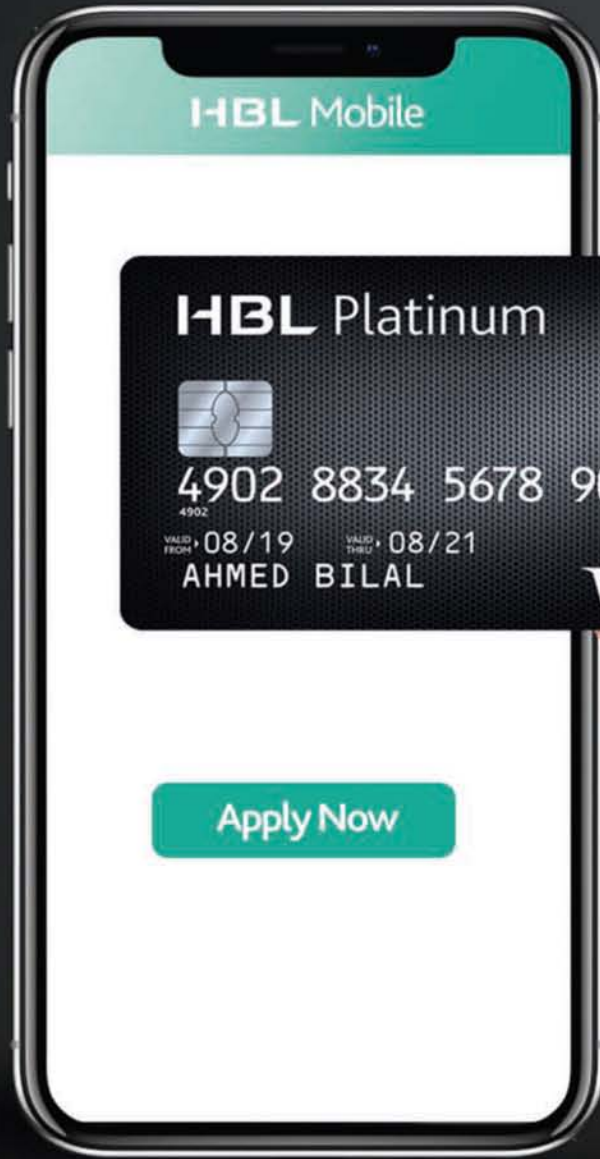
***Qatar aims to invest \$3b
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


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Envoys-designate of Germany, Spain, Belgium, Libya, Kenya, and Ethiopia present credentials to President Dr Alvi

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Chinese assistance for flood victims reaches

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FM for developing common approaches to address regional security issues

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari stressed that no country could single-handedly solve complex peace and security issues in the region and highlighted the need for developing common approaches to address persistent as well as emerging challenges.

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Serena Hotels organizes Crafts Bazaar to Mark Pakistan's 75th Independence Day

On Independence Day weekend, Serena Hotels organised a Crafts Bazaar in honour of Pakistan's 75th Independence Day, in collaboration with Behbud Crafts. This two-day event focused on promoting, recognising and celebrating the unique culture, tradition and talent that exists in Pakistan.

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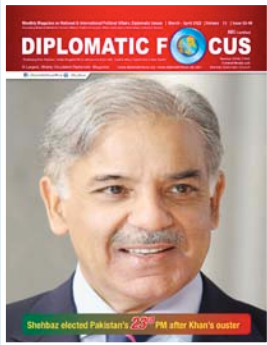
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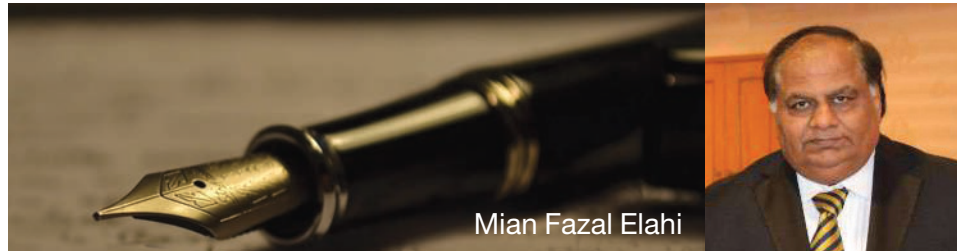
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Mian Fazal Elahi

At the moment, Pakistanis are fighting one of the world's gravest natural calamities and need the international community to stand by them. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked China, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Qatar, Belgium, UAE, USA, Uzbekistan and other countries for their support to the people affected by floods in Pakistan. In series of tweets on his Twitter handle, the PM expressed gratitude for sending humanitarian assistance to support the flood victims in Pakistan.


The people of Pakistan greatly acknowledge the kind gesture of support at this time of need. With the help of our friends, we will build back better, he added. As international aid has started pouring in from different sources, the federal and provincial governments have also stepped up their efforts to reach out to the affected people in all parts of the country. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari accompanied by diplomats from more than 20 countries and representatives of international organizations took an aerial view of the flood ravaged areas, so they could see for themselves the devastation caused in Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by the floods.

It is hoped that this first-hand knowledge would help evoke better response from the international community as far as relief and rehabilitation tasks are concerned. The growing coordination among federal and provincial governments as well as other relevant departments and institutions has resulted in significant improvement in rescue and relief operations across the country. It is also encouraging that some social welfare organizations are contributing their share by mobilizing resources and distributing aid among the affected people including those in remote areas. The country is limping back to economic normalcy but uncertainty looms large mainly because of the continued political instability.

Theoretically speaking, there is hardly any justification or rationale for politics of confrontation, centred around the demand for early elections, as almost all parties are effectively in power both at the Centre and in provinces and delaying general elections till the completion of the five-year tenure of present assemblies by August 2023 would not damage political interests of any party in a big way. Why to stoke political instability to damage economic and geo-strategic interests of the country when every party has a piece of the pie? Therefore, all parties and Federal/Provincial Governments should adopt a cooperative posture to help resolve challenges of the country and mitigate sufferings of the people, for whom back-breaking inflation is the number one concern. The most appropriate option for all parties would be to give the parliament its due importance and use its platform to sort out differences and chalk out a strategy for the future.


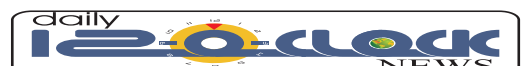
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Envoys-designate of Germany, Spain, Belgium, Libya, Kenya, and Ethiopia present credentials to President Dr Alvi

By DF Report

The Ambassadors-designate of Germany, Spain, Belgium, Libya, Kenya, and Ethiopia presented their credentials to President Dr Arif Alvi at a ceremony held here at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Ambassador of Germany, Alfred Grannas; Ambassador of Spain, Jose Antonia de Ory Peral; Ambassador of Belgium, Charles Delogne; Ambassador of Libya, Moamer Z. O. Abdalmotlab; Ambassador of Kenya, Mary Nyambura Kamau, and Ambassador of Ethiopia, Jemal Beker Abdula, made separate calls on the president.

Talking to the German Ambassador, the president said that Germany was one of the largest foreign direct investors in Pakistan. He said that German firms with expertise in wind and solar energy as well as in hydel power projects could take advantage of new sets of incentives offered by Pakistan in these sectors.

The President encouraged German investors to invest in Pakistan's Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He said that keeping in view the huge potential of business, trade and investment between the two countries, the existing level of bilateral trade needed to be substantially improved. He stressed the need for bilateral cooperation between the two countries to mitigate the negative fallout of climate change and global warming against the backdrop of devastating floods in Pakistan.

Talking to the Ambassador of Spain, the president expressed the need to further expand bilateral relations in the economic, trade, investment and tourism sectors. He appreciated the Spanish support to Pakistan on GSP Plus Scheme and hoped that this support would continue in future as well. He stressed the need for the early





finalization of an agreement on defence cooperation between the two countries. Talking to the Belgian Ambassador, the president stressed the need to substantially increase the volume of bilateral trade from its existing volume of US\$ 1.35 billion by increasing the pace of exchanges of business delegations, participating in trade fairs and launching joint ventures as well as forging meaningful cooperation in agriculture, port handling and dredging, and science and technology.

To the Ambassador of Libya, the president stressed the need for expanding the scope of trade ties and exploring new avenues of economic cooperation between the two countries.

He expressed the hope that the new ambassador, appointed after a gap of 11 years, would work towards further deepening the relationship between the two brotherly nations. Talking to the Kenyan Ambassador, the president said that Pakistan accorded utmost importance to the economic and trade ties with Kenya.

He also expressed satisfaction over the existing level of bilateral cooperation and coordination in the areas of trade, economy, defence and border management.

During his discussion with the Ethiopian Ambassador, the President appreciated the decision of Ethiopian leadership to open a diplomatic mission in Islamabad, and expressed the hope that it would improve bilateral relations, enhance mutual exchanges, and would open a new era of friendship and cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

He also welcomed the increasing cooperation between the two countries in the aviation sector and the commencement of two weekly direct flights reconnecting Karachi with Africa through Addis Ababa.





PM, Emir of Qatar agree to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in diverse areas

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Emir of the State of Qatar H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani have expressed satisfaction on the upward trajectory of bilateral relations and agreed to work together to further strengthen cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

The two leaders, who met here at the Diwan-e-Amiri, during their extensive consultations, exchanged views on bilateral, regional and international issues. The Prime Minister was accompanied by a high-level delegation including Cabinet Ministers and senior members. Upon arrival at the Diwan-e-Emiri, the Prime Minister was welcomed by the Emir in an official ceremony and presented a Guard of Honour.

The two leaders then held delegation-level consultations, which were followed by a lunch banquet hosted by the Emir in the honour of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his entourage. The two sides agreed inter alia to strengthen institutional engagement to increase bilateral trade; deepen collaboration in the agriculture and food sectors; boost cooperation

in the fields of energy; encourage and facilitate Qatar's investments in Pakistan's renewable energy, tourism and hospitality sectors; provide more opportunities to Pakistanis interested in working in Qatar; and expand cooperation in defence, aviation and maritime domains.

Lauding Qatar's remarkable economic transformation, the Prime Minister congratulated the Qatari leadership for its visionary and forward-looking approach and wished the Qatari people more success in the future. Recalling Pakistan's long-term partnership with Qatar in the field of LNG



PM visits FIFA World Cup Stadium 974



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also visited FIFA World Cup Stadium 974 in Doha and lauded the efforts of Qatar in establishing state-of-the-art facilities for the upcoming one of the biggest sporting event.

Upon arrival at the stadium, the prime minister was given the guided tour of the stadium and was briefed on the extensive preparations undertaken by the government of Qatar to host the FIFA World Cup 2022.

He praised the grandeur of the football stadium and associated facilities, depicting the Qatari culture and identity, built in a short span of time. Recalling the less than 100 days' countdown of FIFA World Cup, the prime minister wished the people and leadership of Qatar a resounding success in the convening of the mega event.

Besides underlining the important contribution of Pakistani workforce in building the world cup-related infrastructure, the prime minister expressed that Pakistanis were proud of the fact that the football, Al-Rihla, the official match ball of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, was a made-in-Pakistan product.

Pakistanis in the development of Qatar, and shared Qatar's resolve to provide enhanced employment opportunities for Pakistanis, in line with the Qatar Vision 2030.

The two leaders agreed on the importance of frequent high-level exchanges for maintaining the present momentum in bilateral cooperation. The Prime Minister extended a cordial invitation to the Emir to visit Pakistan at his earliest convenience.

Pakistan and Qatar enjoy long-standing, fraternal relations marked by shared faith, mutual trust, and close cooperation. This is the first visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to Qatar since assuming office in April 2022.



cooperation, he thanked the Emir for Qatar's vital support in meeting Pakistan's energy needs.

The two sides also explored new avenues for

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Emir of the State of Qatar H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani have expressed satisfaction on the upward trajectory of bilateral relations and agreed to work together to further strengthen cooperation in all areas of mutual interest

were not only a source of strength for the economic progress of the two countries but also a testament to the value of people-to-people linkages. He hoped that Qatar's rapid economic growth would present even greater opportunities for Pakistanis in the future.

The Prime Minister appreciated the extensive arrangements made by the Government of Qatar for hosting the FIFA World Cup 2022. He assured the Qatari leadership of Pakistan's support for the successful organization of the mega event. As the two leaders also exchanged views on the developments in the region, the Prime Minister appreciated Qatar for its long-standing and continuing efforts to promote peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan.

The two sides agreed to work together to help address the grave humanitarian and economic crises confronting the Afghan people, stressing that the situation warranted the international community's scaled up assistance. The Prime Minister highlighted the grave human rights situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and underscored the importance of a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute for sustainable peace, security and prosperity in South Asia.

The Emir of Qatar congratulated the Prime Minister on assumption of office and wished him full success. He also conveyed his best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of Pakistan.

The Emir reassured the Prime Minister of Qatar's commitment to forge a stronger economic partnership with Pakistan. The Prime Minister thanked the Emir for the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA)'s readiness to invest US \$ 3 billion in various commercial and investment sectors in Pakistan. The Emir appreciated the important contribution of

mutually beneficial cooperation in the energy sector. The Prime Minister stressed that the Pakistanis working and residing in Qatar

PM Shehbaz for effective Pak-Qatar engagement to boost trade, investment relations



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was accorded a red carpet welcome as he landed in Doha on a two-day official visit to hold “in-depth consultations” with the leadership and interact with the business community to highlight Pakistan’s investment potential.

As the Prime Minister landed at the Doha airport, he was warmly received by Qatar’s Minister of Transport Jassim Saif Ahmed Al-Sulaiti.

On the invitation of the Emir of the State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, this is the prime minister’s first visit to Qatar since assuming office in April 2022.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by the federal ministers and will hold “in-depth consultations” with the Qatari leadership.

The visit comes as a \$2 billion grant from Qatar was confirmed in bilateral support to help ease the South Asian nation’s funding crunch and the consequent risk of default.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, describing Qatar as a ‘reliable friend’ of

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif invited investors from Qatar to invest in Pakistan’s energy, aviation, agriculture, livestock, maritime, tourism and hospitality sectors

Pakistan, stressed the need of effective bilateral engagement to boost trade and investment ties according to their true capacity and potential.

Addressing Pakistan-Qatar Trade and Investment Roundtable 2022 here, he appreciated Qatar for supporting Pakistan during the era of extreme inflationary trends worldwide and the economic tightness ‘beyond our imagination’. The Prime Minister termed the panel discussion during the trade and investment roundtable very productive and informative, which, he said, gave them a way forward for the friendly countries of Pakistan and Qatar enjoying decades old fraternal relations based on mutual trust, respect and support.

He said Pakistan offered huge opportunities of investment in the areas of agriculture, solar energy, renewable energy and Information Technology (IT). The Prime Minister said the present government took over at a time when Pakistan was facing huge challenges of hovering economy, trade deficit and huge pressure on resources.



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif invited investors from Qatar to invest in Pakistan's energy, aviation, agriculture, livestock, maritime, tourism and hospitality sectors.

The Prime Minister, in a meeting with the highest officials of Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) - one of the largest sovereign wealth funds of the world, highlighted Pakistan's liberal and business-friendly investment policies in this regard. He also urged the Qatari investors to explore the opportunities presented by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) aimed at promoting regional connectivity and mutual prosperity.

QIA Chief Executive Officer Mansoor Bin Ebrahim Al-Mahmoud and Chief Investment Officer of Africa and Asia-Pacific Regions Sheikh Faisal Thani Al-Thani represented the Qatar Investment Authority. The meeting was attended by Federal Ministers Syed Naveed Qamar, Marriyum Aurangzeb and Ayaz Sadiq,

and Minister of State Hina Rabbani Khar.

Lauding Qatar's rapid economic development under the visionary leadership of Qatar's Emir, the prime minister reiterated that Pakistan attached high importance to its relations with Qatar and wanted to upgrade the traditionally warm political ties between the two countries into a comprehensive economic partnership.

He stressed the need to further enhance bilateraleconomicandinvestmentengagement, particularly in the renewable energy including solar and wind power generation, aviation, maritime, industrial and infrastructure development, and hospitality sectors. He underlined Pakistan's unique geographic and demographic advantages, which combined its strategic location with a huge middle-class market and a large skilled workforce.

PM Shehbaz Sharif assured full facilitation to the QIA through transparent and expeditious

processes. As part of the event, a number of presentations were made by the relevant ministries highlighting the potential of foreign investment in the fields of food security, energy, maritime, aviation, hospitality and tourism sectors.

The Prime Minister appreciated the QIA's rejuvenated interest in investing in Pakistan. It was agreed that designated focal persons on both sides would closely follow-up on the key proposals for investments. The Prime Minister invited Mansoor bin Ebrahim Al-Mehmoud and Sheikh Faisal Thani Al-Thani to visit Pakistan at their earliest convenience to build on the momentum generated by the visit.

Terming Pakistan a priority country, the QIA officials expressed their keen interest and readiness to actively pursue investment opportunities in the country.

Japan provides US \$9.062m for addressing civic issues



The government of Japan has agreed to provide new grant assistance worth Japanese Yen 1,236 million (around US\$9.062 million or Rs1,855 million) for upgrading of sewerage and drainage services in Multan.

Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, WADA Mitsuhiro signed the Exchange Notes and Record of Discussions on behalf of their governments here, said a press statement issued by Economic Affairs.

The ceremony was witnessed by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, HONDA Taro. The objective of the project for upgrading sewerage and drainage services in

Multan is to strengthen the operational system and implementation capacity of sewerage services in Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA)'s area of jurisdiction in Multan through providing the equipment required for cleaning and maintenance of sewers and drainage channels.

The government of Japan's development assistance to Pakistan since 1954 has reached to \$11.7 billion. The Japanese government is already providing financial assistance for the improvement of water treatment plant and water distribution system in Faisalabad amounting to US\$ 37.62 million.

Japan has also provided grant assistance for replacement of pumping machinery at inline

booster pump station and terminal reservoir in Faisalabad amounting to US\$ 13.14 million and energy saving in water supply system in Lahore (Main Portion) amounting to US\$ 20.77 million.

Furthermore, Japan also invites relevant Pakistan's government officials for participation in various short term and long-term trainings in different fields through JICA held in Japan. Talking on the occasion, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs expressed that Pakistan gave high value to the reciprocal and congenial relations with Japan and both countries share mutual stance on most of the regional and international affairs. Japanese economic assistance has been playing a vital role in the socio-economic uplift of Pakistan.



PM for further strengthening Pak-Italy bilateral trade relations

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif while appreciating Italy's support in the context of European Union's preferential trading GSP Plus scheme, stressed the need to further harness the existing potential to enhance trade and investment relations between Pakistan and Italy. He termed Italy a close friend of Pakistan and a reliable partner, both bilaterally and in the EU context.

The Prime Minister received Ambassador of Italy in Pakistan H E Andreas Ferrarese, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The Prime Minister further observed that Pakistan-Italy relations were marked by growing bilateral cooperation as well as commonality of views on a whole range of regional and global issues.

He said Pakistan would be particularly interested in collaborations in the renewable energy sector in which Italy had made remarkable progress. The Prime Minister also highlighted the immense cooperation that Pakistan continued to extend to the international community in the wake of the situation in Afghanistan, particularly since August last year.

The Italian Ambassador thanked the prime minister for receiving him and expressed his resolve to further increase and diversify the existing ties between the two countries.

Moreover, Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan H E Andreas Ferrarese said that Italy and Pakistan have a potential of \$4 billion bilateral trade and its perfectly doable with collective efforts of both governments and private sectors collaboration.

Talking to the Pakistan Italy Alumni Network, Ambassador said this year trade had

exponentially risen and can reach around \$2 billion and in 2021 it was recorded to \$1.52 billion. It is the first time that Pakistan's exports surpasses \$1 billion and are more than imports in Italy, making Italy the second largest export destination in the European market. He told the alumni that to achieve the \$4 billion goal both countries need to enhance investments and explore new avenues of business cooperation such as in Information and renewable technologies.

**Pakistan and Italy
have a long history
of cordial relations
and cooperation in
political, economic,
cultural, and social
spheres**

Ambassador said that during his meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, he stressed the need to further enhancing the existing potential to enhance trade and investment relations between Pakistan and Italy.

The Prime Minister also showed his interest in

collaborations in the renewable energy sector. He also told the Alumni that during the last 10 years the Pakistani community in Italy had surged from 25,000 thousand to 200,000.

He further added that Pakistan and Italy had a long history of cordial relations and cooperation in political, economic, cultural, and social spheres.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that the two nations had unanimity of views on several issues of global importance, and mutual cooperation in all fields had been on the rise.

Ambassador also urged the members of alumni to play their role in further cultural cooperation and economic integration between both countries. Apart from business and trade, Italy has carried out significant projects in archaeology, agriculture, health, culture, and tourism.

Italy's Archaeological Mission is one of the oldest present missions in Pakistan and has made significant contributions to Pakistan's already rich archaeological sphere.

With a population of around 220 million and a constantly growing demand for high-end products, Pakistan remains an attractive market for Italian manufacturers and businesspeople, he concluded. It is worth mentioning that remittances from Pakistani workers in Italy hit an all-time high.

With the figures of \$711.7 million in FY22, Italy has become the seventh-largest center of worker remittances to Pakistan globally and the top one in the EU countries.

Pakistan, Turkiye ink Preferential Trade Agreement

PM says accord to take bilateral trade ties to further heights



By DF Report

Pakistan and Turkiye have inked the Preferential Trade Agreement aimed at boosting trade in goods between the two countries.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif witnessed the inking of the PTA at a ceremony held in Islamabad at the PM Office, as the visiting Turkish Trade Minister Dr Mehmet Mus and Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar signed the accord.

Commonly known as Trade in Goods Pact, the PTA includes comprehensive provisions on bilateral safeguards, balance of payment exceptions, dispute settlement, and periodic review of the agreement. Prime Minister Sharif in his remarks termed the agreement 'a great moment and a milestone' in the brotherly and historic relations between Pakistan and Turkiye.

Shehbaz Sharif said the 'landmark trade in goods agreement' between Pakistan and Turkiye would reflect the strength of bilateral fraternal relations, and take trade and investment ties to further heights. The prime minister, addressing a luncheon reception he hosted for the visiting Turkish Trade Minister

Dr Mehmet Mus and his delegation, urged the business communities from both the countries to explore the opportunities in varying sectors, particularly the renewable energy.

Earlier, Pakistan and Turkiye signed the Preferential Trade Agreement, which includes comprehensive provisions on bilateral safeguards, balance of payment exceptions, dispute settlement, and its periodic review.

Calling it the 'most important achievement' of the commerce ministers of Pakistan and Turkiye and their respective teams, the prime minister said the said agreement was a manifestation of the bilateral brotherhood and relations anchored in mutual trust and respect.

However, he said the volume of bilateral trade and investment did not reflect the existing unique relationship. He said both the countries had already resolved to take the bilateral trade to \$5 billion in next three years.

The prime minister said he had "fruitful and productive" discussion with Turkish business community during his visit to Turkiye in May last. The ongoing visit of the Turkish delegation and signing of the PTA was in pursuance of the very understanding to further the discussion,

he added.

He said he would welcome Turkish firms to invest in Pakistan in hydel sector, as the country was bestowed with immense potential with hydel resources which remained unexplored.

He said the national economy could be strengthened and the increasing import bill could be curtailed by exploring renewable, solar and wind energy. "Solar energy is the order of the day," the prime minister remarked and mentioned the government's decision to introduce solar tube wells, establishment of solar parks of 5000-6000 MW capacity, installation of solar panels on households and solarization of government offices.

Shehbaz Sharif assured that he would personally engage with the ministers and officers concerned to find out from where to start implementing the energy projects.

He also guaranteed the swift payments of profits and other funds to potential investors without any impediments of red tapism and nepotism. "I will be the chief executive officer of these investments in Pakistan" This is the way forward. This is the shortest way forward, he commented.



PM for urgent operationalization of transit, preferential trade agreements with Uzbekistan

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday stressed the need to urgently operationalize the Transit Trade Agreement and Preferential Trade Agreement with Uzbekistan in order to fully unlock the immense bilateral economic potential.

The Prime Minister, in a meeting with Ambassador of Uzbekistan H E Oybek Usmanov, who paid a courtesy call on him, reiterated Pakistan's commitment to provide transit access to Central Asian Republics to the ports of Karachi, Bin Qasim and Gwadar.

He highlighted Pakistan's vision for deeper engagement with Central Asia and the important role of Uzbekistan in this regard. He expressed satisfaction at the level of close and fraternal relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan and emphasized the importance of further deepening bilateral trade and economic ties.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif underlined the significance of Trans-Afghan Railway Project to advance the connectivity agenda and promote regional prosperity. He also invited Uzbek investments in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) of Pakistan, particularly in industrial, electronics and agricultural sectors, which would accrue mutual benefits.

The Prime Minister stressed the closer collaboration in education, tourism and cultural spheres to promote people-to-people

contacts. Underlining the importance of direct bilateral air connectivity, he urged the respective national airlines to start operations at the earliest to facilitate the movement of businessmen, students and tourists between the two countries.

While highlighting convergent perspectives of Pakistan and Uzbekistan on regional issues,

the prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's strong resolve for lasting peace, security and stability of Afghanistan. Ambassador Oybek Usmanov conveyed greetings from the Uzbek president for the prime minister and said that President Shavkat Mirziyoyev was looking forward to welcome him to the SCO Summit at Samarkand next month.



Pakistan, Saudi Arabia vow to expedite investment, trade & energy ties



Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have resolved to further strengthen bilateral ties between the two countries as well as to expedite ongoing cooperation in the fields of investment, energy and trade.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Crown Prince H H Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud reached the understanding during a telephone conversation, according to a handout issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

"The two leaders also exchanged views on issues of mutual interest. Both the leaders reaffirmed the resolve to further [strengthen] the strong, long-standing Pakistan-Saudi Arabia fraternal ties," the PMO said.

During the phone call, the Prime Minister and the crown prince reviewed the progress made on the decisions taken by the two sides during

PM Shehbaz's visit in April.

"They resolved to expedite ongoing cooperation in investment, energy and trade fields," the statement said.

Recalling the historic support extended by the kingdom to Pakistan in times of need, the prime minister thanked the crown prince for the "recent support for the stability and development of Pakistan's economy".

PM Shehbaz also conveyed his deep respects to King Salman bin Abdulaziz, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

Meanwhile, the crown prince congratulated the prime minister and the people of Pakistan on the country's 75 years of independence. The crown prince also conveyed his best wishes for the continued progress, prosperity and development of Pakistan, the PMO said.

The prime minister reiterated his invitation to the crown prince for a state visit to Pakistan, which he accepted, the statement concluded.

PM Shehbaz had visited Saudi Arabia in April in what was his first foreign trip since assuming office.

The visit was aimed at advancing economic, trade and investment ties and creation of greater opportunities for the Pakistani workforce in Saudi Arabia.

Upon the conclusion of the trip, Saudi Arabia agreed to discuss extending the term of a \$3 billion loan to help the government tide over the prevailing economic crisis.

Saudi Arabia had deposited \$3 billion in the State Bank of Pakistan last year to help support its foreign reserves.

Australian HC, Punjab Governor discuss bilateral cooperation in education, trade and environment

Newly appointed Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan H E Neil Hawkins called on Governor Balighur Rehman at the Governor House and discussed bilateral cooperation in education, trade and the environment. The Governor said Pakistan valued its relations with Australia. The Pakistani community living in Australia was playing a role in its development and many Pakistani students were studying in Australian universities, he said and appreciated the initiatives of giving scholarships to Pakistani students in the field of education in Australia.

Mr Rehman said the trade between the two countries was increasing and Pakistan wanted to further expand trade relations with Australia. Speaking on the occasion, Australian High Commissioner H E Neil Hawkins said that climate change was a big challenge for the whole world which required concerted efforts to deal with it.

The Governor told the guest that as a chancellor, he was working on forming a consortium on the environment. He said the consortium would benefit from the research



done on the environment in universities and the experiences of environmental experts. Both also talked about expediting the visa process for Pakistanis. The Australian high commissioner assured cooperation in this regard. Meanwhile, the Governor expressed deep sorrow over the crash of the Pakistan Army helicopter engaged

in flood relief activities in the Lasbela area of Balochistan. He also paid tributes to the martyred army officers, saying the nation was proud of the martyrs of the army. The entire nation shared the grief of the families of the martyrs equally, he said.

Meeting with Punjab Governor Norwegian envoy calls for strengthening bilateral cooperation

Emphasizing the need to further promote bilateral cooperation with Pakistan in various fields including information technology and telecom, Norwegian Ambassador to Pakistan H E Albert said that mutual trade between Pakistan and Norway is increasing day by day, which will further strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

He said this during a meeting with the Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House, Lahore.

During the meeting, issues of mutual interest and enhancement of bilateral relations including trade were discussed. Consul General Naveen Farid was also present on this occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that there is a need to increase exports in other sectors including textile with Norway. He said that Punjab has excellent investment opportunities in various sectors including energy and communication sector. "Pakistani women are working side by side with men in every sector while women universities have been established across the country to educate and empower women," he said.

He said that as a chancellor he is working on various consortia including women education and women empowerment in universities. He further said that all the minorities living in Pakistan have equal rights according to the constitution.

Norwegian Ambassador Albert said that the Pakistani community in Norway is very active and they are playing an important role in the development of social and cultural relations.



Pak, Denmark sign inter-governmental framework accord to enhance financial cooperation in energy, water sector



Pakistan and Denmark signed an inter-governmental framework agreement to enhance financial cooperation in energy and water sector.

The agreement, signed by Secretary Ministry of Economic Affairs Muhammad Humair Karim and Danish Ambassador H E Lis Rosenholm, allowed for the interest free loans in renewable energy, energy efficiency, water supply and waste-water treatment sectors, said a press release issued here.

The Ambassador also had a brief meeting with Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in his office. He apprised the Ambassador that Pakistan and Denmark enjoyed a friendly and cordial relationship, and there was a lot of potential to enhance the relationship between both the nations.

He further stated that the efforts to revive bilateral economic and development cooperation paid off with Denmark agreeing to provide on-budget support to the Government of Pakistan through the Inter-Governmental Framework Agreement. The focus on Waste Water Treatment Projects in Faisalabad and

Lahore was immensely appreciated.

The Federal Cabinet accorded approval to the signing of the framework agreement with Denmark on August 4 this year. This framework agreement is a breakthrough in the bilateral and economic relations between Pakistan and Denmark, who have been partners in successful development cooperation since 1969; however, there had been no active on-budget financial support extended by Denmark since 2017.

The efforts to revive bilateral economic and development cooperation between the two countries paid off with Denmark agreeing to provide on-budget support to Government of Pakistan through this Inter-Governmental Framework Agreement.

This Framework Agreement would act as an umbrella agreement for potential development sector projects emanating from it mainly in the sectors of renewable energy, energy efficiency, water supply and waste-water treatment sectors.

Each project will have its separate financing agreement, which will be negotiated with the

Danish side case by case in consultation with all the stakeholders. Currently, waste water treatment projects in Faisalabad and Lahore are in the pipeline, which are to be negotiated under the ambit of this framework agreement.

This agreement offers the Danida Sustainable Infrastructure Finance (DSIF) Facility by the Danish side which would provide interest free, but tied loans up to but not limited to \$ 100 million, and would also facilitate transfer of technology and know-how from Denmark to Pakistan.

The interest free loans after signing this agreement would have a 35% concessional element covering the interest on the loan, export premium, bank margin and an upfront grant if these expenses do not arrive at 35% of the contract amount.

Secretary Economic Affairs Division thanked the ambassador, The Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and the Danish government for their support to Pakistan.



FM highlights Pakistan's desire to enhance economic, trade and investment cooperation with Togo

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari highlighted Pakistan's desire to enhance economic, trade and investment cooperation with Togo as part of the government's vision for enhancing engagement with the African continent.

The Foreign Minister expressed these views as he welcomed Robert Dussey, the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Togo, who was undertaking his first bilateral visit to Pakistan. The Foreign Minister reiterated that Pakistan attached high importance to its longstanding and cordial ties with Togo, which were based on mutual trust and common interests, according to a press release issued here by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He also appreciated Togo's contributions to promoting peace and stability on important multilateral forums, such as the United Nations, African Union (AU), and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Foreign Minister Dussey underscored Togo's desire for deepening engagement with Pakistan, particularly in the trade, investment and security domains.

He appreciated the support provided by Pakistan for the capacity building of Togolese diplomats and hoped that similar training opportunities could also be provided to Togo's security personnel in the future. Both sides agreed to strengthen the legal and institutional framework for high-level bilateral political engagement and people-to-people exchanges and to closely coordinate in the UN and OIC.

During his stay in Islamabad, Foreign Minister Dussey would also be engaging with parliamentary leaders, other dignitaries, and members of the business community.

Moreover, Pakistan and the Republic of Togo have agreed to strengthen high-level bilateral political engagement, people-to-people exchanges and close coordination at the United Nations and OIC forum.

The understanding was reached at a meeting between Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Foreign Minister of Togo H E Robert Dussey in Islamabad.

The Defence Minister expressed Pakistan's desire to enhance economic, trade and investment cooperation with Togo as part of the Government's vision for enhancing engagement with the African Continent. On his part, the Togolese Foreign Minister underscored Togo's desire for deepening engagement with Pakistan, particularly in trade, investment and security domains.

Furthermore, in a meeting with Togolese Foreign Minister H E Prof Robert Dussey here at Parliament House, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has determined joint interests as well as mutual respect as the primary force in the Pakistan and Togo relationship.

The duo stressed the need for further enhancing bilateral cooperation in diverse fields of mutual interest. Sadiq Sanjrani appreciated the Foreign Minister of Togo participation in the OIC-CFM conference and underlined the importance of bilateral relations based on common values, aspirations, and mutual respect.

The Chairman Senate, on his part, emphasized that Pakistan affixes great importance to further boosting amicable ties with Togo. He praised the positive and substantial contribution of Togo to multilateral platforms like the AU, OIC, UN,

and ECOWAS. He also applauded traditional coordination of positions and mutual support for each other's candidatures at international fora.

The meeting called for exchanges at bilateral political, trade and Military levels. The Chairman also extended an invitation to the Chief of Togolese Defense Forces to visit Pakistan. The bilateral trade which stands at \$27mn needs to be enhanced further, he observed.

Sanjrani suggested the formation of a Joint Business Council and proposed the finalization of signing of an MoU for Bilateral Political Consultations, pending since March 2021. The Chairman also denoted new initiatives to forge bilateral cooperation, inter alia, including MoUs for Cooperation in Health; Agriculture Sectors, MoU for Defense Cooperation, Agreement for Visa Abolition for Diplomatic; Official/Service Passports and MoU for Cooperation in the field of Counter Terrorism.

The Foreign Minister of Togo assured Sanjrani of further promoting bilateral cooperation and honoured Pakistan's efforts for peace in the region. Being an important country in the region, Togo also yearns for developing ties with Pakistan, Robert Dussey remarked. The Chairman Senate briefed the visiting dignitary about the working procedures of the Upper House and the Legislation





Govt, UN aim effective liaison as 33 million flood-hit people await relief assistance: FM

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said current flash floods had affected around 33 million in the country and stressed joint efforts by the government, international community and the United Nations donor agencies to overcome the enormous challenge.

At a joint press conference with United Nations Resident Coordinator, Julien Harneis here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he said rescue, relief and rehabilitation activities were at full swing across the country. Bilawal said following the initial assessment of the disaster, urgent steps were required by the world, the UN and the partner agencies to cope with the magnitude of the challenge.

He said Pakistan, during this monsoon season, received three times of the usual rainfall that resulted in floods affecting 23 districts of Sindh and 30 districts of Balochistan, Khyber Pukhtunkhwa and South Punjab. The foreign minister mentioned that there was a shortage of tents and food items to meet the demands of the flood-affected people and vowed to ensure transparency in disbursement of relief supply items.

He said drainage of water was a big challenge in the low-lying areas inundated with flood water, adding that evacuations were being made despite limited resources.

Bilawal said the support of international community would help Pakistan overcome the daunting challenge. He thanked the UN and its agencies in coordinating with the government

of Pakistan in carrying out relief activities in the flood-affected areas. He also mentioned the gesture of exemplary generosity by Pakistani people and civil society in mobilizing the relief work.

The Foreign Minister said there was a long-way ahead in effective mitigation of the flood relief and rescue. To a question regarding the capacity to deal with the challenge, he said joint efforts at federal, provincial and international agencies' levels would overcome the problem.

Bilawal recalled that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during his visit to Sindh had announced Rs 15 billion as grant. The amount, he said, would not be sufficient viz-a-viz the damage, however would complement the efforts of the provincial government. Asked about lack of coordination among federal and provincial governments, Bilawal mentioned the efficacy of the data availability under Benazir Income Support System that helped in carrying out the relief activities.

The Foreign Minister said it was not the time of doing politics over the matter of floods. However, he pointed out that the flood-hit people in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa awaited repatriation, while the provincial government remained busy in catering to the helicopter flight of their leader Imran Khan. He said the problem of current floods had compounded the issues pertaining to national economy that already faced the pressure of inflation.

Bilawal expressed confidence that the coalition government despite immense challenges would effectively deal with the challenges. The

UN Resident Coordinator, who had also visited the areas of Sindh and Balochistan, expressed concern over the displacement of hundreds of people and said the UN would provide assistance to the flood-affected people. He said Pakistan could not overcome the challenge alone and called for the support of international community in that regard. He said climate change contributed to super floods in Pakistan and needed a proper strategy to sort out the issue.

Julien Harneis said the funds collected through international appeal would cover the issues of health and emergency services, and livestock vaccination. He said the UN's humanitarian response facilities would complement Pakistan's national capacity to deal with the challenge. He said the UN had initiated collaboration with the local authorities, including the dispensation of supplies amounting \$3 billion for water and livestock vaccination in Lasbela, Balochistan.

The UN official said he had held meetings with the Chairman National Disaster Management Authority and the officials of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and added that the UN would respond if more assistance was needed. He said the experts of the World Food Programme would be visiting the flood-hit area tomorrow to assess the requirements on-ground.

He mentioned that the UN's central emergency relief programme was triggered following the floods in Pakistan. On climate change, he said Pakistan's voice had not been efficiently heard and further steps needed to be taken with regard to management of the river system.

UAE President awards COAS Gen Bajwa Order of the Union medal in recognition of his services

United Arab Emirates (UAE) President H H Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan conferred the Order of the Union medal on Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa “in recognition of his significant contributions to the promotion of bilateral ties”, the military’s media affairs wing.

According to UAE-based Khaleej Times, the medal is the second highest honour awarded by the UAE to senior officials of friendly countries.

According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the army chief, who is on a visit to the UAE, called on the Emirati president and discussed with him matters of mutual interest, bilateral defence and security cooperation and the regional security situation in the Middle East.

“The leaders agreed that Pakistan and the UAE share a great history of cordial relations and a deep-rooted spirit of brotherhood, which is transforming into an enduring partnership,” the ISPR said.

According to the ISPR statement, other recipients of Order of Union include former Lebanese president Emile Lahoud, Bahrain Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Britain’s Prince Philip, Dutch King Prince Willem-Alexander, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.



As for Gen Bajwa, he has previously been awarded the Medal of Excellence by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Bahrain Order (first class) award by Prime Minister of Bahrain Prince Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, Jordan’s Order of Military Merit by King

Abdullah II, Medal for the Common Wealth in Rescue and Letter of Commendation of Russian Mountaineering Federation by a Russian envoy during his visit to Pakistan in December 2018 and Turkish Legion of Merit during a visit to Turkey in 2017, the ISPR said.

UAE Ambassador, Interior Minister for further strengthening Pak-UAE relationship

Ambassador of United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Pakistan H E Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al Zaabi called on Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah. Pak-UAE bilateral relations including other matters of mutual interests came under discussion in the meeting.

The Minister said UAE is a reliable partner of Pakistan in trade and investment and our relations are long-standing and broad-based, said a press release.

He said UAE always supported Pakistan in its most difficult times. We are very grateful for the support of the UAE, he said. He said around one and half million Pakistanis are working in UAE.

The Ambassador said UAE attaches great importance to diplomatic and trade relations with Pakistan. He stressed the need to further strengthen Pak-UAE relationship.



Chinese assistance for flood victims reaches

Chinese leadership expresses solidarity with flood victims; announces more aid



By Mian Fazal Elahi

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang have expressed their complete solidarity with the government and people of Pakistan over the human and financial losses in the recent floods that devastated huge parts of Pakistan.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H E Nong Rong conveyed these special messages to President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif from the Chinese leadership.

The Chinese leadership expressed their grief over the losses. China had announced an assistance grant of RMB100 million (Yuan), besides the dispatch of 25,000 tents and other assistance items.

The first batch of the relief aid containing tents had arrived Karachi. The Chinese Ambassador handed over these articles to the Pakistani authorities.

President Xi, in a message to President Dr Arif Alvi, observed that severe floods had occurred recently in Pakistan, causing heavy casualties and serious property losses.

President Xi, on behalf of the Chinese government and people, and in his own name, expressed deep condolences over the victims



and sincere sympathy to the bereaved families, the injured and the people in the affected areas.

The Chinese envoy had apprised the Government of Pakistan of the decision of the Chinese leadership about the relief support.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif expressed gratitude to the Chinese leadership and said that the Chinese leadership and the people of China had always supported the people of Pakistan with their generosity.

He also conveyed his good wishes to the Chinese leadership.

The Prime Minister on his Twitter handle, thanked President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang for the financial assistance to flood-affected people of Pakistan.

This flood is like no other in terms of its intensity & spread. China has been there for us at the most difficult times & we greatly value its support, the Prime Minister posted a tweet.

PM briefs diplomatic community about flood situation



By Mian Fazal Elahi

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said considering the urgency of the challenge, the government had decided to reach out to friendly countries and donors as flash floods and the torrential rains had badly hit around 33 million people.

The Prime Minister, who convened a meeting of select Islamabad-based Ambassadors, High Commissioners and other senior members of the diplomatic corps, to brief them on flood situation, said the ongoing monsoon spell has caused unprecedented damage and devastation in Pakistan.

He said that not just Balochistan, Sindh and South Punjab, which were badly affected, the current spell of torrential rains had led to flooding in the northern regions of the KPK province.

He said that more than 900 people including 300 children had lost their lives and 1300 were injured, so far. He said that as per the initial damage assessment, the losses caused by the floods were comparable to those Pakistan suffered during the flash floods of 2010-11.

The meeting was attended by ambassadors and high commissioners of Australia, Canada, China,

Japan, Kuwait, UAE, Turkiye, South Korea, USA, Germany and senior diplomats of Bahrain, European Union, France, Oman, Qatar, UK, and Saudi Arabia. The country representative of World Food Programme was also present. The prime minister underlined that 33 million people had been badly affected by the flash floods and torrential rainfalls.

While expressing his government's firm resolve to overcome the deleterious impacts of the ongoing floods in the country, Shehbaz Sharif highlighted that he had already issued instructions to the federal and provincial governments to provide people with tents, drinking water, mosquito nets, food items, medicines and other equipment.

He said that Pakistan's carbon emission footprint was negligible but it was ranked at the 8th position among the countries exposed to the horrors of climate change.

Noting that the climate change has made flooding worse, the prime minister emphasized rehabilitation and reconstruction of climate resilient infrastructure in Pakistan.

The Prime Minister mentioned that given the urgency of the challenge, the government had decided to reach out to the friendly countries, donors and the international

financial institutions for their continued cooperation at this difficult time. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the Economic Affairs Division gave briefings about the current status of the flood situation including rescue, and relief efforts as well as the need for immediate assistance.

The Foreign Office and NDMA are closely working with the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Islamabad to launch a UN Flash Appeal on August 30. Speaking on the occasion, foreign diplomats expressed condolences and sympathies to the people and the government of Pakistan on the loss of precious lives and damage to infrastructure in the floods.

They assured the Government of Pakistan of their respective governments' continued support to meet the requirements of the rescue and relief operations across the country.

Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman, Minister for Economic Affairs Division Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Minister for Finance Miftah Ismail, Minister for Information Marriyum Aurangzeb, Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, Adviser to Prime Minister Ahad Cheema, SAPMs Syed Tariq Fatemi and Fahd Husain and other senior officials of the government attended the meeting.

President Xi lauded for ‘people-centric development’

Ambassador Nong Rong says China will not leave Pakistan alone in flood calamity; terms Pak-China ties rock-solid



By DF Report

Speakers have lauded Chinese President Xi Jinping for his people-centric and inclusive development, human security and promoting international cooperation.

They were speaking at an event organised by the Pakistan-China Institute ahead of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) under its flagship ‘Friends of Silk Road’ initiative.

The panellists discussed the prospects of the 20th National Congress of the CPC, which will be held later in 2022. This congress is held every five years, where China watchers look for clues to the country’s future. President Xi Jinping is expected to be re-elected for his third term as Secretary General of CPC and President of China. Moreover, the party congress will set key priorities for the next five years, in particular, as well as China’s two-stage development plan for the middle of the twenty-first century.

A special documentary titled ‘China’s Governance under President Xi Jinping in the New Era (2012-2022)’ was also screened, depicting China’s achievements under President Xi Jinping.

Pakistan-China Institute Executive Director Mustafa Hyder Sayed introduced the “Friends of Silk Road Initiative” which has become

the premier platform to understand China, bridge people-to-people connectivity between Pakistan and China, serving as a platform to gather political leaders, students, media professionals, and think tanks to brainstorm new ideas of thought which both countries can further cement their relationship in various fields.

In his opening remarks, Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Defence and Pakistan-China Institute, thanked China for donating 25,000 tents and cash for flood victims. He said that the core message emanating from President Xi Jinping’s leadership is people-centric development and human security. He said that the Global Development Initiative (GDI), introduced by President Xi Jinping on September 21, 2021, promotes inclusive and open collaboration and is a crucial platform for international cooperation and the public good that China offers. Similarly, he said this year, President Xi Jinping announced the Global Security Initiative (GSI), which, as President Xi Jinping, said is meant to ‘uphold the principle of indivisible security, build a balanced, effective and sustainable security architecture, and oppose the building of national security based on insecurity in other countries.

Chinese Ambassador H E Nong Rong expressed China’s sympathies with Pakistan for the floods

and said China wouldn’t leave Pakistan in such testing times. Pakistan, he said, has always supported China in such situations. He recalled how Pakistan donated all the available stock of tents to China in the 2008 earthquake.

Commenting on NPC, he said it is the most important political agenda of this year-end. CPEC, he said, has transformed Pakistan’s socio-economic landscape by overhauling infrastructure and alleviating the energy crisis. He termed Pakistan-China relations as ‘rock-solid’.

Former senator Farhat Ullah Babar said that the 20th party congress would be a game changer for China and the region since it will decide the future course of policy for China. It is also expected to provide an opportunity for President Xi Jinping to secure a third term as president of China, he said.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar said that China is a pillar of peace and stability in the region and a preserver, promotor, and protector of principles of peaceful coexistence in the region. The initiatives launched by President Xi Jinping, whether it is Global Development Initiative or Global Security Initiative, are a testament to the fact that China prioritizes human security and stability over confrontation.

Miftah welcomes Turkish investment in Pakistan



By DF Report

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Miftah Ismail here on Friday welcomed Turkish investments in various fields in Pakistan and assured of full cooperation in this regard.

The Minister expressed these views while talking to Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye H E Dr. Mehmet Pacaci who called on him here, according to press statement issued by finance ministry. The meeting was also

attended by CEO Hayat Kimya Pakistan, Fatih Ustunel, CFO Hayat Kimya Pakistan, Onur Kilic, Chairman FBR and other senior officers. They exchanged views about the long-standing religious, cultural, political, economic and social ties between Pakistan and Turkey.

The Finance Minister also highlighted the future potential areas for strengthening relations especially on business and investment fronts. Miftah apprised the ambassador that present government of Pakistan was undertaking multiple structural reforms for facilitating the

foreign investment in Pakistan.

On the occasion, Dr. Mehmet Pacaci shared that the Republic of Türkiye has strong bilateral ties with Pakistan on various fronts.

Recalling PM Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Turkey and his meeting with the Turkish investors, the Ambassador briefed the Finance Minister on extending Turkish investment in various sectors of Pakistan and stressed that Turkey aims at enhancing and strengthening the economic ties.

Sherry apprises British, Australian envoys on flood relief efforts



By DF Report

Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman held separate meetings with the British and Australian High Commissioners and apprised them about the ongoing flood relief efforts in the disaster-hit areas of the country. In a meeting with the British High Commissioner Christian Turner, Minister Senator Sherry Rehman said, Pakistan has been hit with this decade's worst calamity

and we look to our friends and international donors to provide assistance in this hour of need. She further highlighted, As of today 1,136 deaths have been reported and more than 1,600 have been injured. The total number of people affected by the flood, which is 33 million, is expected to increase. NDMA and Pak Army are constantly working to carry out relief and rescue operations.

Ambassador Christian Turner expressed his

sympathy with the Pakistani people and promised full assistance from the British government during this difficult time. Minister Rehman held another meeting with the Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins, and discussed the challenges being faced in the relief measures and further support required. Neil Hawkins expressed concern over the floods, ravaging 72 districts in Pakistan and promised full assistance in this regard.

Iraqi Ambassador meets Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani



Iraqi Ambassador to Pakistan H E Hamid Abbas Lufta called on Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at the Parliament House. Issues of mutual interest including bilateral relations and the current political situation in Iraq were discussed in detail.

Chairman Senate said that relations between Pakistan and Iraq are based on religion, brotherhood, Islamic culture, mutual respect and common values.

Pakistan attaches great importance to long-standing fraternal ties with Iraq and bilateral relations can be further strengthened through parliamentary and economic cooperation. He

emphasized the need to increase parliamentary exchanges. He said that parliamentarians of both countries can play an important role in making bilateral relations more stable and bringing the two countries closer. Detailed discussion was held regarding further promotion of bilateral trade.

Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani was of the view that the current volume of mutual trade does not commensurate with the potential of both countries. Trade volume can be further increased by establishing contacts between the Chambers of Commerce of both countries. Chairman Senate said that Iraq can import rice, surgical instruments, sports equipment,

furniture and other products from Pakistan. Chairman Senate said that there is a need to increase direct air links between Pakistan and Iraq. He also stressed the need to promote unity among muslim countries to effectively overcome the challenge of Islamophobia.

Iraqi Ambassador H E Hamid Abbas Lufta said that Iraq values its friendly relations with Pakistan and wants to further expand the existing relations by establishing strong economic and trade ties. He appreciated the Pakistani diaspora in Iraq for their services and assured of all possible facilitation to religious pilgrims from Pakistan.

Omani Ambassador lauds PN's role for ensuring maritime security in region

Ambassador of Oman in Pakistan Mohammed Omer Ahmed Al Marhoon called on Chief of Naval Staff Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi at Naval Headquarters Islamabad to discuss issues of mutual interest and cooperation in maritime sector.

The Ambassador appreciated Pakistan Navy's role for ensuring maritime security in the region.



SCO vital for economic integration among member states: Ambassador Usmanov

Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan H E Aybek Arif Usmanov said that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) block had a significant role in economic and trade integration between the member countries.

He said this year, Uzbekistan took over the chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which had a lot of challenges ahead of it. As the chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Uzbekistan was hosting the annual summit 2022 of the SCO Heads of State Council on September 15-16 in Samarkand, the Ambassador of Uzbekistan said.

Economic and trade relations among the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization are very important, which will lead to economic and trade integration among these countries, he said. The Ambassador said that the SCO meeting has been held in Uzbekistan since September 15 this year.

In the upcoming conference, transit trade and commercial cooperation between members will be very important topics which will be discussed in different sessions. He said that member countries will also talk about establishing industrial zones and in this regard, the first industrial zone of SCO countries will be established in the city of Samarkand, Uzbekistan. He said that for the first time, discussions on the promotion of digital transformation and poverty reduction in the member countries will be available to the member countries to benefit from the experiences of others.

The Ambassador said that the eradication of poverty and economic development will be the main focus of this conference, which will provide an opportunity for mutual cooperation and dialogue to the member countries. He expressed the hope that the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, would participate in the SCO conferences exclusively. The Uzbek Ambassador said that Pakistan and Uzbekistan have a very important role to play in providing trade and economic integration to the SCO member countries, which will usher in a new era of economic integration in all member countries. He said that SCO member countries could play a key role in global and regional economic and trade integration in the current scenario.

The SCO has important member countries in terms of geo-economic and geopolitical position, including developed economies, which can play an important role in the



development of global and regional economies through this organizational platform, he said. The Ambassador said that technology, information technology and renewable energy would be the major topics at the SCO summit this year which would help in reshaping trade and economic relations between the member countries.

There will also be sessions on telemedicine

Economic and trade relations among the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization are very important, which will lead to economic and trade integration among these countries.

at the Summit this year, which has led to the introduction of many facets in the medical field after Covid-19, which could open up new avenues for economic cooperation in the member states, he said. He said that at the same time, member states were likely to sign agreements on renewable energy.

The Ambassador said that the leadership of the SCO countries, including the Central Asian

countries, was now fully committed to the economic and trade integration of the member countries and increase in bilateral trade and economic activities. Ambassador Usmanov said that facilities and road and rail links were very important in bilateral and transit trade which would increase economic activities in SCO countries.

In response to another question, he said that the implementation of the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between Pakistan and Uzbekistan was going on and bilateral trade would develop through it. The Ambassador said that negotiations would be held every year to review the PTA between the two countries to make it more productive for both sides. He further said that the two countries used to have online discussions in this regard, in which the process of discussion on tariff rationalization continues.

He said that at this time mutual trade barriers and customs issues were major issues in both countries and for resolving these issues both of the countries were working on a mechanism. In response to another question, he said that a transit trade agreement had been signed between Pakistan and Uzbekistan during the last year, which had a very important role in promoting mutual trade. Related to this, the transport and logistics sector was also important in which the governments of the two countries were in negotiations for improvement. The ambassador of Uzbekistan said that rail and road connectivity was a pivot for regional trade and economic integration in our region. He said that the governments of both the countries were implementing a comprehensive plan for the increase of mutual trade in the two countries and for the promotion of mutual trade in the future.

75th anniversary demonstrates durable ties of people of Pakistan, US: Schofer



By DF Report

Deputy Chief of Mission of U.S. embassy in Pakistan Andrew Schofer said the 75th anniversary of relations between Pakistan and the United States demonstrated the enduring people-to-people ties of the two countries.

He celebrated the importance of the United States and Pakistan's 75 years of bilateral relations when he met with approximately 700 alumni of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs said a news release. Alumni of U.S. educational and professional exchanges gathered to share their experiences and to continue strengthening ties between the United States and Pakistan.

Recognizing the extensive contributions that members of Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network (PUAN) have made to their communities since the organization's founding in 2008, the Deputy Chief of Mission remarked, the 75th anniversary of relations between our two countries demonstrates our enduring people-to-people ties.

The future depends not just on our leaders; it

depends on our people. PUAN and its 37,000 members are a great example of the power of that people-to-people relationship.

During his speech, Deputy Chief of Mission Schofer also highlighted the countries' strong bilateral partnership, including the 77 million COVID-19 vaccine doses the United States has committed to Pakistan, as well as the historic trade and investment relationship, which continues to see the United States as Pakistan's number one export destination.

The Islamabad-Rawalpindi Chapter reunion brought together politicians, scholars, journalists, business leaders, cultural leaders, and students for their first post-COVID era event.

The chapter reunion featured a job fair which brought international and local companies to offer on-site job recruitment.

PUAN alumni have led dozens of service activities in the Islamabad area during the past year, improving their communities in the fields of education, leadership development, and women's empowerment.

PUAN Country President Syed Khurram Gillani

and Islamabad-Rawalpindi Chapter President Syed Shahid Kazmi encouraged participants to volunteer for the network's philanthropic activities and to spread the knowledge they gained in the United States.

The network also recognized several prominent alumni and volunteer mentors who have given back to their communities with Distinguished Alumni and Emerging Leader awards.

The U.S. government funds one of the largest professional and academic exchange programs in Pakistan, sending approximately 800 Pakistanis to the United States on exchanges every year.

Over the past 75 years, we have funded more than 14,000 Pakistanis to study in the United States and more than 22,000 young Pakistanis have participated in our English language programs.

PUAN organizes events across Pakistan through 14 regional chapters. Activities include community service projects, leadership training, roundtable discussions, and entrepreneurship programs.

USAID to provide \$100,000 aid for flood affectees



Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Donald Blome called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office. During the meeting, matters of regional security situation, enhanced bilateral and defence cooperation were discussed.

The visiting dignitary lauded the professionalism of PAF personnel and the exceptional progress made by PAF over the years, especially through indigenization. He also appreciated Pakistan's efforts in promoting regional peace and vowed to enhance cooperation in various fields.

The Air Chief highlighted that both the countries enjoy cordial relations and reiterated

his resolve to further enhance the existing bilateral cooperation between the two strategic partners.

CAS further said, "Pakistan values its strong diplomatic, economic and defence relations with United States of America which are based on convergence on all important issues relating to regional peace, security and stability".

Both sides agreed to further optimize military to military ties particularly in training and operational domains.

Moreover, United States Ambassador to Pakistan H E Donald Blome said that the U.S. stands with communities in Pakistan recovering

from the devastation caused by severe flooding.

In his tweet, he said, I issued a declaration of humanitarian need, and in response, USAID Pakistan will provide \$100,000 to affected populations." This USAID International Disaster Assistance funding will help purchase urgent supplies to save lives and reduce suffering among the most vulnerable communities, he added. Ambassador said that this disaster has resulted in a catastrophic loss of life, with many losing their loved ones, their livelihoods, and their homes.

We will work closely in coordination with partners on the ground to support these crucial humanitarian assistance efforts, he concluded.



US Ambassador's visit to Karachi demonstrates continued support for US-Pakistan economic ties



US Ambassador to Pakistan H E Donald Blome, during his three-day visit to Karachi, held meetings with ministers, government officials, and businessmen to further strengthen the robust economic partnership and bilateral trade between Pakistan and the United States.

During his stay in Karachi from August 10-12, Ambassador Blome met with the Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, the Chief Ministers of Balochistan and Sindh, the Administrator of Karachi, the Commander of Pakistan Navy Pakistan Fleet (COMPAK), government officials, financial and business leaders, trade and energy

executives, and other business and commercial representatives.

‘I am glad to be back in Karachi, a financial and commercial hub with tremendous energy,’ said Ambassador Blome. This year marks the 75th anniversary of US-Pakistan bilateral relations and I look forward to strengthening US-Pakistan partnerships in trade, investment, clean energy, health, security, education, and other mutually beneficial priority areas.

The Ambassador visited Port Qasim and met with Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Faisal Subzwari. Donald Blome expressed interest in how the US can work with Pakistan to develop

more linkages with American port and maritime institutions. In the Ambassador’s meetings with Chief Minister Balochistan Abdul Quddus Bizenjo and Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah, he discussed political, economic, and security matters, as well as the ongoing relief efforts to address the tragic impact of the recent floods in both provinces.

Ambassador Blome announced, during his meeting with the Chief Minister Sindh, that United States would provide an additional grant of \$1 million to build the resilience of agricultural communities in Sindh, and support Pakistan’s disaster management authorities



in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Gilgit-Baltistan to better respond to future disasters.

The US envoy and Administrator Karachi Murtaza Wahab discussed the impact of flooding and other challenges in the city, as well as opportunities for growth including in the information technology sector. During his meeting with COMPAK Vice Admiral Ovais Bilgrami, Donald Blome further discussed relief efforts in flood-stricken areas and affirmed the importance of the US-Pakistan military relationship and the desire to strengthen and expand our ongoing security cooperation.

The Ambassador met with CEO of Cargill Pakistan Imran Nasrullah. He also toured Excelerate's floating storage and regasification unit at Port Qasim to emphasize mutual interests of both sides in seeing Engro and Excelerate's LNG joint venture succeed in Pakistan. He met other US and Pakistani business leaders to show his commitment to promoting the US business and investment in Pakistan through a wide range of effective services, products, and programs.

One of the highlights of Ambassador Blome's time in Karachi was a visit to the Lincoln

Corner Karachi at Liaquat Memorial Library where he inaugurated the StartUp Lab! along with Minister of Sindh for Education, Culture, Tourism, Antiquities and Archives Syed Sardar Ali Shah. The StartUp Lab! is unique and a one-of-a-kind space in Pakistan where aspiring entrepreneurs with an idea for a startup business can turn ideas into reality using the latest technology and equipment for free, noted Ambassador Blome.

The people-to-people ties between the US and Pakistan are among our greatest strengths. We are proud to partner with the Culture Department of Sindh to ensure young Pakistanis are prepared to face 21st century challenges, the ambassador said.

It may be added here that the Lincoln Corner Karachi is one of 18 in the US Mission to Pakistan's network of American Spaces nationwide that offer free educational and cultural programs as well as technology and information resources to young Pakistani leaders.

Ambassador Blome also visited Frere Hall in Karachi to appreciate its architecture

and murals. There, he was given a tour by representatives of NGO Sindh Exploration and Adventure Society (SEAS), Dr. Asma Ibrahim, and Dr. Kaleemullah Lashari.

The SEAS received in 2021 a grant from the US Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) to renovate portions of Frere Hall, he said, adding that this AFCP project further demonstrated our respect for Pakistan's rich cultural heritage. In connection with National Minority Day, the ambassador also met religious minority community leaders in Karachi to promote interfaith cooperation, religious tolerance, and diversity.

He also visited the Mausoleum of the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and laid a floral wreath. It is a great honor to be here at the Mazar-e-Quaid to pay my respects and commemorate the legacy of Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The United States shares Quaid-e-Azams vision of a unified Pakistan, at peace with itself and its neighbors, a Pakistan of religious tolerance, economic prosperity, and social inclusion, said Ambassador Blome.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



UN World food programme's Special Advisor on Mother and Child Nutrition, Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



A delegation of Harvard University Student, USA calls on Prime Minister of Pakistan, H.E. Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.



The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Pakistan, Mr. Julien Harneis, calls on Prime Minister of Pakistan, H.E. Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.



Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Ambassador of Brazil H.E. Mr. Olyntho Vieira at Parliament House, Islamabad.



Ms. Ulla-Maija Rantapuska, Investment Manager, Finnfund, Finland, accompanied by Mr. Wille Eerola, Honorary Concul General of Pakistan for Finland called on Prime Minister of Pakistan, H.E. Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.



Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar chairing a joint meeting along with Turkish Trade Minister Dr. Mehmet MUS in Islamabad.



Vice Chancellor University of Hertfordshire Professor Quintin McKellar called on the Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik.



Minister of Commerce Pakistan, Syed Naveed Qamar speaking at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Trade Ministers Meeting in Tashkent.

China, Pakistan agree to enhance business, economic relations



By DF Report

China and Pakistan agreed to enhance the business and economic relations for joint ventures, business to business talk for increasing industrial cooperation.

On the backdrop of the successful meeting of the Minister, Chaudhry Salik Hussain and Secretary, Asad Rehman Gillani, Board of Investment with Ambassador of China, Mr. Nong Rong, during which the resolve was made to create conducive atmosphere for B2B, Joint Ventures and Matchmaking, especially in the ambit of the recently signed Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation.

The Board of Investment led by the Additional Secretary/ EDG-II, Khashih ur Rehman and Project Director, CPEC-IC, Asim Ayub, called on the Consul General, Li Bijian in Karachi.

The Consul General, Li Bijian appreciated BOI for meeting the Chinese and Pakistani associations in Karachi, and bridging the gap between the private sector of both countries.

He praised the BOI's efforts of taking calculated steps for attracting high quality FDI through concrete efforts.

An example of which is the BOI's initiative along with All Pakistan Chinese Enterprise Association and the Chinese Embassy for establishing the Pakistan Business and Investment Forum, the same forum was appreciated by President Xi

jinping during Pak-China joint statement.

The Consul General, expressed, through this platform the issues of the Chinese companies can be resolved; while, enhancing collaboration between Pakistani and Chinese Enterprises.

The Consul General, appreciated the B2B CPEC investment conferences organized by BOI in Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar.

And, invited the BOI to take these endeavors to China as well for promoting the bilateral investments.

He praised the BOI's Honorary Investment Counselor, Ms. Emaan Li's efforts for arranging a charter plane for 163 Pakistani Businessmen to Yiwu, China in collaboration with Yiwu's local government.

In this regard, he encouraged BOI to arrange delegations to China for enhancing the Business to Business and People to People exchanges.

The CG will provide all-out facilitation for issuing the visas and arranging road shows.

Both sides praised the resolve of the Pakistani Businessmen of being robust in having RnD of the products in demand; thereby, ensuring technological development of the Pakistani industries.

He also advocated the adoption of RMB settlements for encouraging the Industrial Transfer from China and easing the pressure of

other foreign exchange currencies.

The Additional Secretary/ EDG-II, BOI, informed about BOI's commitments with the National Development and Reforms commission China for engaging the provincial and local governments of China for promoting Industrial Cooperation at all levels.

The AS apprised that the Government of Pakistan has proposed to build a G2G SEZ in Pakistan in collaboration with China, in order to facilitate the influx of Chinese industries relocating to Pakistan.

He informed that BOI had simplified the work visa process and visit visa and encouraged the Chinese investors and companies to apply for the work visa.

The Project Director, CPEC-IC, informed that BOI has submitted to the local chambers a list of 30 Chinese projects ready for investment in Pakistan.

This was appreciated by the CG and he offered to encourage the Chinese companies to be even more forthcoming in sharing collaboration opportunities.

In this way, under the support of BOI, Chinese missions in Pakistan and PCBIF, meaningful joint ventures may be struck between companies from both sides.

Ambassador of Iran meets Railways Minister



Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique said that the coalition government was committed to provide favorable atmosphere to investors who were keen to invest in the country. During a meeting with Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, Syed Mohammad Ali Hosseini who called on him here, the minister said that Iran's investors should get benefit from the investor-friendly policies of the government.

Saad Rafique said that bilateral relations

between Pakistan and Iran were improving in all the fields. He said that Pakistan Railways was constantly striving to improve its customer base through long-term agreements with domestic and international suppliers.

The Minister said that Pakistani government was offering business-friendly environment to all the foreign and local investors.

The Ambassador said the relations between Pakistan and Iran was long lasting. During the

meeting, bilateral issues of the two countries and railways were also discussed. Both the dignitaries discussed the ways to improve and enhance economic ties between Pakistan and Iran during the meeting.

Secretary/Chairman Railways Zafar Zaman Ranjha, Secretary Railway Board Mazhar Ali Shah, Director General Planning Abdul Maalik and other officials were also present in the meeting.

Pak Defence Minister underlines significance of peace in Afghanistan

Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif underlined the significance of peace in Afghanistan and its importance for Pakistan.

Addressing the Council of Defence Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States in Tashkent, the minister also highlighted the relevance of multilateral organisations, said a press release. Khawaja Asif while stressing the need to strengthen the United Nations structure, said the UN should play its active role in the resolution of all outstanding issues faced by the world.

He laid special emphasis on the resolution of Kashmir issue according to the UN resolutions. Defence ministers of Russia, China, India, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan were also present on the occasion.



Iraqi Naval Chief calls on Air Chief, discusses mutual interest issues



Commander of Iraqi Navy Lieutenant General Ahmed Jasim Maarij Abdullah Al Zayid called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi here at Naval Headquarters (NHQ) and appreciated Pakistan Navy's efforts and initiatives in support of collaborative maritime security in the region.

Upon arrival at Naval Headquarters, the commander was received by the Naval Chief and was presented Guard of Honour and was introduced to Principal Staff Officers at Naval Headquarters, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest including bilateral collaborations and regional maritime security milieu were discussed. The Naval Chief highlighted Pakistan Navy initiative of Regional Maritime Security Patrols for ensuring maritime security and peace in the region. Later, the Iraqi Commander was given detailed briefing on Pakistan Navy roles and operational capabilities. It is expected that the recent visit of Commander of Iraqi Navy will further enhance bilateral collaboration between the two countries.

Moreover, Commander Iraqi Navy Lieutenant General Ahmed Jasim Maarij Abdullah Al Zayid called on Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu here on Wednesday. During the meeting, both the dignitaries discussed matters

of professional and mutual interest, a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) news release here received said.

While appreciating professionalism of Pakistan Air Force, Lieutenant General Ahmed Jasim Maarij Abdullah Al Zayid acknowledged PAF's rising indigenous capacity in aviation industry. The Air Chief said that Pakistan and Iraq have longstanding religious, cultural and historical bonds which were manifested through strong

military ties between the two countries.

The Air Chief further said, Pakistan values its deep-rooted relations with Iraq, which are based on convergence on all important issues relating to operations & training, evolving paradigm of warfare, emerging technological challenges, counter security measures and regional peace & stability.



Pak-Iran Trade Exhibition to enhance bilateral cooperation



The Speakers in the exhibition said that the 'Pakistan-Iran Trade Exhibition' will help in bringing the business community of both countries closer and promoting mutual investment.

Addressing the Pakistan-Iran trade exhibition, the speakers said that Pakistan and Iran are located at an important geo strategic position, which will facilitate the development of regional trade and the achievement of Geo-economic goals by the countries of the region. A three-day, Pakistan-Iran Trade Exhibition was organized from August 24-26 with the aim of enhancing cooperation between the two countries for mutual trade and investment. This trade exhibition was organized under the auspices of the Embassy of Iran in Islamabad with the support of Iran National Innovation Fund and Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare Iran.

Meanwhile addressing the Pakistan-Iran trade exhibition on this occasion, Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan H E Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini said that the purpose of the Pakistan-Iran trade exhibition is to increase cooperation in the fields of trade, industry and investment in both countries.

The Ambassador said that such trade and industrial exhibitions and conferences in both the countries will prove helpful in bringing the business communities of both the countries closer. Ambassador Mohammad

Ali Hosseini said that 33 companies from Iran are participating in this three-day exhibition, including 11 knowledge-based companies that are working on science, technology and innovation.

He said that various sectors including Information Technology, Telecom, Dairy and food industry, Kitchen wares, Technology, Carpet and Science and technology companies are participating in the exhibition. The Ambassador said that various companies of Pakistan are also participating in the exhibition from cloth, handicrafts, jewelry and many other sectors. He said that recently Pakistan Iran Joint Economic Commission (JEC) talks have been held in Pakistan and Iran has assured promotion of mutual trade between the two countries.

The aim of which is to increase the volume of trade between the two countries, which will increase mutual cooperation in many fields, he said. He said that after these negotiations, agreements were also signed between the two countries in four different fields.

Meanwhile, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, chairman Senate Committee for Defence, said that relations between Pakistan and Iran are reaching new heights in economic, trade and diplomatic sides. He said that Pakistan and Iran are facing hardships and both countries are moving forward in their excellent relations.

Mushahid Hussain said that the work on

the Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline will also be completed, which will promote cooperation in the energy sector in both countries and fulfill Pakistans energy needs. He said that Pakistan and Iran have a very important role in regional trade and economic integration, which will promote regional trade. Senator Hussain said that holding this exhibition creates trade and economic ties between the two countries and it will have a very important impact on the region.

Addressing the participants on this occasion, Irans Minister for Corporate, Labor and Social Welfare Mehdi Maskani said that this is the first event to be held after the Pakistan Iran Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting. The Minister said that currently 33 companies from Iran are participating in this exhibition. He said that for the prosperity of both the nations, the two countries have to come closer to each other in different sectors of the economy.

He said that both countries have extensive ties in bilateral and transit trade. On this occasion, the Minister of Science Foundation of Iran, Prof. Seyed Mohammad Tayibi, said that Iran, Pakistan and Turkey are the founders of the Economic Cooperation Organization, which includes ten countries.

He said that regional economic and trade cooperation and science and technology should be the basis of development.

Canadian firms to be encouraged to explore low cost housing opportunities in Pakistan: Envoy



By DF Report

Canadian High Commissioner Ms Wendy Gilmour appreciated the efforts of incumbent government for providing low cost housing to the vulnerable and poor segments of the society.

She said the Canadian companies would

be encouraged to explore low cost housing opportunities in Pakistan. The envoy was talking to Secretary Ministry of Housing and Works Secretary Iftikhar Ali Shallwani in a meeting here at his office. Various bilateral issues especially promoting Pakistan-Canada long-standing relationship and exploring low cost housing opportunities in Pakistan came

under discussion in the meeting.

The secretary housing extended an invitation to Ms Wendy Gilmour to attend the upcoming first International Housing Expo-2022, which she accepted. Ms Wendy said she was glad to know that Canadian companies would attend the expo.

Miftah apprises Korean Ambassador of potential investment areas



By Mian Fazal Elahi

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail apprised the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea H E Suh Sangpyo of potential investment areas of Pakistan and extended the government's greater facilitation and support in that regard. The ambassador

called on the minister and they discussed ways and means to further enhance bilateral trade and investment between the two countries.

The Minister highlighted the bilateral ties between both the countries in areas of trade, investment, human exchange and development cooperation. He also highlighted that the government was focusing on various other

avenues of mutual interest so that the existing bilateral relations could be extending to a new level.

The Ambassador showed a keen interest in enhancing and strengthening the bilateral relations between both the countries especially in trade and investment.

UAE Ambassador visits LCCI

Reviews investments, bilateral trade opportunities

United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ambassador H E Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi said that UAE has tremendous investment opportunities in bio-technology, food, agriculture and various other sectors that should be availed by the private sector of Pakistan.

He expressed these views while talking to business community here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) where LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir, Senior Vice President Mian Rehman Aziz Chan and Vice President Haris Ateeq also spoke on the occasion. The UAE Ambassador said that Pakistan and UAE enjoy unique relations with each other. A lot of Pakistanis are actively contributing to the various sectors of economy in UAE.

He said that a large number of businessmen from UAE are interested to invest in Pakistan but they don't have full picture and knowledge about the market needs. He said that an agreement under CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) was also in process that will allow free trade between the two countries. We are looking for establishing an interactive platform between the two countries by collaborating with Chambers of Commerce both sides, the Ambassador said and added that there is a dire need for ensuring maximum facilitation to the investors of the both countries in this challenging economic era.

In his welcome address, the LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir said that Pakistan and UAE have time-tested diplomatic and economic relations. These ties are well reflected in sizeable trade volume and cooperation in various fields including defence sector. He said that LCCI recognizes the importance of UAE as one of the most important economies of Middle East.

It has a rich culture and heritage that reflects traditional Arab and Islamic values. Mian Nauman Kabir said that UAE has made exceptional economic transformation and infrastructural developments in last few decades. He said that UAE holds a unique position in the world because of its incredibly high number of expats or immigrants and surprisingly its population is made up of over 200 nationalities all across the globe.

He said that UAE is the most interesting, attractive and wonderful place on earth, and every one wishes to experience it at least once in a lifetime.

Nauman Kabir said that Dubai is one of the most diverse and international cities in the world

which makes it a truly unique and diverse place to visit or live. This city showcases a multitude of moods with a sandy coast, amusement



parks, shopping malls, and world-class cuisines.

He said that UAE and Pakistan are major economic and trading partners. Among the top importing and exporting countries for Pakistan, UAE comes at 2nd and 6th places respectively. The balance of trade has always been in favour of UAE because major share of imports made from UAE consist of petroleum products and crude oils which stood at around 77 percent last year. During last two years i.e.

2020 and 2021, the volume of trade between Pakistan and UAE increased from 5.6 billion dollars to 8.6 billion dollars. Pakistan's exports inched up from 1.1 billion dollars in 2020 to 1.2 billion dollars in 2021 while imports from UAE jumped from 4.5 billion dollars to 7.4 billion dollars in the same period.

We are keen to bridge this gap through enhancing our exports to UAE, he added. He said that UAE's meat imports are 394 million dollars while Pakistan's share in it is only 140 million dollars. Similarly, Pakistan's rice export share is 123 million dollars in 470 million dollars UAE's import of this sector and 88 million dollars in 2960 million dollars UAE's import of fruits.

The LCCI President said that these exportable items are abundantly available in Pakistan

adding, "We are in a position to fetch better share in total imports made by UAE". He said that the trade missions of both sides can play pivotal role in making it possible so that we can succeed in tripling the current volume of exports to UAE. He said that the workers' remittances play a substantial role in strengthening the balance of payment of Pakistan. "At present, our country is in great need of additional remittances.

UAE comes at second place after Saudi Arabia with regards to receiving highest amount of foreign remittances. In 2021-22, the workers' remittances from UAE stood at 5.8 billion dollars". He said that there is also a tremendous scope for UAE to make investment in Pakistan in Minerals & Mining, Petroleum, Pharmaceuticals, Light Engineering, Processed Food, Financial Services and Retail Sector etc. There is a need for routing the flow of investment to Pakistan.

He commended the efforts of UAE government in organizing the Dubai Expo 2020 which gave excellent opportunities to the businesses to connect, create and innovate. We are obliged that Pakistan had a significant representation in that Expo, he added. The LCCI President suggested the UAE Ambassador to establish a UAE help desk here on the premises of the LCCI so that the trade related issues of LCCI members could be resolved immediately. He also proposed to celebrate 50 years of Pakistan and UAE friendship and diplomatic relations here at the Lahore Chamber.

The LCCI Senior Vice President Mian Rehman Aziz Chan said that Pakistan and UAE are two brotherly countries. This is the right time to convert these brotherly relations into stronger trade partners. He said that Pakistan has been bestowed with numerous resources and has a huge potential to be a trade and industrial partner of UAE. He said that the Lahore Chamber has largest businessmen cluster and that is why it can play a role as connecting body between the business communities of both sides.

The LCCI Vice President Haris Ateeq said that Lahore contributes 11 percent in GDP and 18-20 percent share in national exports. He said that the Lahore Chamber is the premier chamber of Pakistan with membership base of 32000 members who belong to various sectors of economy.

He stressed the need to address the visa related issues of the businessmen, especially those who are recommended by the Lahore Chamber.

ASEAN regional integration to contribute for global economic development: Chairman ACI



Chairman ASEAN Committee Islamabad (ACI) H E Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong said that regional integration of ASEAN countries is not only essential for the economic prosperity of the ASEAN region but also important for global economic linkages and connectivity.

In the same month, the foundation of ASEAN was laid on August 8, 1967, he said. The 55th anniversary of this month will be made with the determination that ASEAN will play its full role for economic prosperity, trade integration to promote peace and harmony with the other regions of the world, Chairman Association of SouthEast Asian Nations (ASEANs) Committee Islamabad (ACI) and Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan H E Nguyen Tien Phong said.

The Ambassador economic and trade liberalization, multilateralism, credibility, global connectivity, economic stability, youth empowerment, maritime security, political stability, and regional to regional connectivity are part of ASEANs regional economic vision.

While in interview with APP on 55th Anniversary of ASEAN was established in August 8, 1967, he said that ASEAN reaffirmed its belief that regionalism and multilateralism are important principles and frameworks of cooperation, and that their strength and value lie in their inclusivity, rules-based nature, and emphasis on mutual benefit and respect.

Meanwhile he informed that the 55th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) was held on August 3, 2022 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia. The Meeting was chaired by Cambodia under the theme ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together. He said that in the meeting ASEAN reaffirmed commitment to address its common challenges and to sustain the momentum of ASEAN's community-building efforts with a strong sense of togetherness.

ASEAN also discussed the need to further strengthen engagement and cooperation with Dialogue Partners and external partners, including through existing ASEAN-led mechanisms, and the importance of ASEAN Centrality, credibility and relevance in maintaining peace, stability, and prosperity in the regional and global endeavours amidst uncertainty and rapid changes in Southeast Asia and beyond.

The ASEAN underscored the importance of maintaining ASEAN's unity and Centrality in its community-building efforts and engagement with external partners, in promoting peace, security and stability as well as in enhancing regional resilience in response to common and emerging challenges, he said.

The ASEAN countries also shown its shared commitment to maintaining and promoting peace, security and stability in the region, as well as to the peaceful resolution of disputes, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

ASEAN underscored the importance of seizing the opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) with the COVID-19 pandemic having accentuated the urgency for digital transformation. The Ambassador said that ASEAN's economic growth could further accelerate to 5.0% in 2022. ASEAN's total merchandise trade reached USD 3.3 trillion in 2021, of which 21.3% was within the region, while services trade reached USD 743 billion with intra-ASEAN comprising 11.7%, he said. Meanwhile, inflows of foreign direct investments to ASEAN reached USD 174.1 billion in 2021, 12.0% of which was among ASEAN Member States, he said. ASEAN were optimistic that macroeconomic fundamentals remain robust and committed to continue working together to ensure the region's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and as well as strengthening its region's collective resilience and competitiveness in the long run, he said.

The ASEAN were pleased to note the significant recovery in the region's economy, which expanded by 3.0% in 2021 compared to a 3.2% contraction in 2020. Replying to a question on ASEAN and Pakistan Relations, he said that Pakistan was accorded the status of sectoral dialogue partner of ASEAN at the 26th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on 23 July 1993. He said the inaugural meeting of ASEAN-Pakistan Joint Sectoral Dialogue Relations was convened on 5-7 November 1997 in Islamabad to launch the partnership.

The inaugural meeting agreed that ASEAN-Pakistan Sectoral Dialogue Partnership would initially cover cooperation in trade, industry, investment, environment, science and technology, drugs and narcotics, tourism and human resources development. The ASEAN-Pakistan Sectoral Dialogue Relations was institutionalised through the convening of the First Meeting of the ASEAN-Pakistan Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee (AP JSCC) on 5 February 1999 in Bali.

Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong said that Pakistan acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia on 2 July 2004 in Jakarta. On the same day Pakistan was also admitted as the 24th participant of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is

now leading a delegation, for the 29th ministerial meeting of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) being held in Phnom Penh from August 5, 2022 is a very important and significant in boosting up the tie, play a role of incentives for the relations to be widened and deepened, he said.

ASEAN and Pakistan signed the Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism at the sidelines of the 12th ARF on 29 July 2005 in Vientiane. He said that in trade, ASEAN and Pakistan have undertaken a Joint Feasibility Study for an ASEAN-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to enhance and expand the overall ASEAN-Pakistan economic engagement. Replying to a question, he said that data from Pakistan showed that Pakistan trade with ASEAN reached approximately USD\$11.0 billion in fiscal year 2022. He was of the view that regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in which ASEAN plays an important role has huge potential for ASEAN and Pakistan economic, trade, investment to reach a new high level with the shift in paradigm from geopolitics to geo-economic in Pakistan.

He said that RCEP came into force on 1 Jan 2022, is a free trade agreement among the Asia-Pacific nations of Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The 15 member countries account for about 30% of the world's population (2.2 billion people) and 30% of global GDP (\$29.7 trillion), making it the largest trade bloc in history. The RCEP includes a mix of high-, middle-, and low-income countries. It is expected to eliminate about 90% of the tariffs on imports between its signatories within 20 years of coming into force, and establish common rules for e-commerce, trade, and intellectual property), he said.

The Ambassador said that ASEAN and Pakistan need to promote and push up trade, economic, investment relations through awareness raising, people to people contacts, expert to expert contacts. He said that there is a need to Create favorable conditions for tourism, connect B2B via organizations, business associations, for example between FPCCI and ASEAN business community specially SMEs, ASEAN youth business association, country member CCLs. He suggested that Stability, consistency and continuity in economic policies planning and implementation also resolve for economic integration between Pakistan and ASEAN. The Ambassador said that Strengthening Pakistan's bilateral ties with ASEAN member countries, which are also very crucial for the relations with the bloc, regarding the economic and investment sectors. Replying to a question, he said that making full use of the complementarities of the economies from both sides, the huge market and number of Halal consumers, Halal goods/products tradings.

He also proposed bringing into play the direct investments from ASEAN countries, joint ventures, because FDI is stable, substantial and an incentive for long term growth and economic development, no deficit likewise in the trading.

Kazak Ambassador vows to provide basic infrastructure to enhance bilateral trade



By DF Report

Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan H E Mr Yerzhan Kistafin has said that basic infrastructure will be provided very soon to give a quantum jump to the bilateral-trade between Pakistan and Kazakhstan.

While addressing the business community in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) he said that in the first phase, zoom and virtual seminars would be arranged to provide direct linkages between the business communities of the two countries while in the second phase delegations would be sent to each other's countries.

He said that Kazakhstan is the largest landlocked country of central Asia from where business shipments could be dispatched throughout this region.

He said that Kazakhstan has received three hundred-billion-dollar FDI while it's ranking in 'Ease of Doing Business' is much better as compared to the other countries. He assured to take measures for B2B meetings to enhance trade ties between the two countries.



Regarding banking channels, he said that a branch of the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) has been established in Almtya through which safe and secure business transactions could be made.

He further said that many special economic zones are being developed, out of which one would be dedicated for the textile sector. He hoped that the businessmen from Faisalabad would avail from this unique opportunity to ensure their presence throughout the central Asian region via Kazakhstan. He said that linkages between female entrepreneurs of the two countries would also be encouraged on a sustained basis. He said that a large number of Pakistani students are studying in medical and engineering universities of Kazakhstan but their issues of registration in Pakistan was a constant problem. He said that he would contact the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) to resolve this issue on a top priority basis.

He said that efforts were being made to sign a transit trade agreement but he would recommend that Pakistani exporters should route their consignments through Iran. He said that a business forum would be held in November during which important decisions would be made to promote bilateral-trade. Honorary Consular Rao Khalid Mahmood

said that many European companies have started joint ventures with Kazakhstan after the Russian-Ukraine war as maximum facilities have been offered there.

He said that he has requested Mian Muhammad Idrees of the Sitara Chemical to setup Soda Ash plant in Kazakhstan. He has also contacted Engro and floated a proposal to shift its closed plant in India to relocate it to Kazakhstan where cheap energy is available. He said that in the first phase Pakistani businessmen should do trading before establishing their units in Kazakhstan. He underlined the importance of Kazakhstan in terms of spirituality as many Sufis and saints belong to this country. He requested Pakistani industrialists to visit this country at least once alone with their families.

Earlier President Atif Munir Sheikh briefed the guests about Faisalabad and FCCI and said that bilateral trade between the two countries must be promoted on a solid and sustained basis. Madam Nighat Shahid President FWCCI also addressed the meeting while President Atif Munir Sheikh presented FCCI memento to his Excellency Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Madam Quart-ul-Ain, Tayyab Shaukat, Usman Raza and Muhammad Muddassir participated in the question-answer session. Later Rana Fayyaz Ahmad, Vice

President offered vote of thanks.

Moreover, Kazakhstan Ambassador H E Mr Yerzhan Kistafin called on Divisional Commissioner Zahid Hussain at his office. Deputy Commissioner Imran Hamid Sheikh, Additional Commissioner Revenue Tariq Niazi, Group Director Masood Textile Mills Nasir Ali Zia and others were present on the occasion.

The Commissioner welcomed the envoy and apprised him about historical and geographical aspects of Faisalabad and briefed him about the importance of district Faisalabad as textile hub. He also explained about the measures taken for the promotion of industries in Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) and foreign investment in the estate.

The Commissioner briefed the envoy about different challenges, their redressal and development plans in different sectors including health and education as well as priorities of the government for the development of the industrial sector. Kazakhstan Ambassador H E Mr Yerzhan Kistafin thanked the commissioner and deputy commissioner for extending warm welcome. Later, a commemorative shield was also presented to the distinguished guest.



UAE envoy meets Punjab Governor, CM to discuss mutual cooperation

United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ambassador to Pakistan H E Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Saleem Al Zaabi called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman and discussed measures to promote bilateral trade and enhance mutual cooperation in other fields during a meeting at the Governors House.

Speaking on the occasion, the governor said Pakistan's relations with the UAE are built on strong foundations based on mutual love and respect. He said Pakistan values its ties with the UAE in various fields, including health and education. He thanked the UAE ambassador for supporting Pakistan's stance on Kashmir issue. He urged the need to enhance exchange of trade delegations between the two countries. Balighur Rehman said exchange of business delegations between the two countries would bolster trade and economic relations.

UAE Ambassador H E Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Saleem Al-Zaabi said Pakistani community had been playing an important role in the economy and development of the UAE for years. He said relations between the two countries are an example for the region, adding that there is need to further promote trade with Pakistan. The ambassador said Pakistani investors should start working on joint ventures for investment in various sectors in the UAE. He added that the



UAE Envoy visits Maryam Nawaz, discusses political scenario



The Ambassador of United Arab Emirates (UAE) H E Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al Zaabi and Deputy Ambassador Rashid Ali met PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz Sharif in Jati Umrah.

Matters related to mutual interest were discussed in the meeting. The meeting also emphasised to strengthen bilateral ties between the two brotherly nations.

UAE wants to further expand cooperation with Pakistan in various fields, including health, education, agriculture, biotechnology and food security. Moreover, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) H E Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al-Zaabi called on Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi at Punjab House in Islamabad and discussed issues related to mutual interest, promotion of relations and increasing cooperation in various fields.

It was mutually agreed to start work on the Mubarak Center at Ferozepur Road in Lahore while agreeing to enhance close contact in future to promote economic ties. Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi thanked UAEs Minister Sheikh Nahyan-bin-Mubarak Al Nahyan as the Dhabi Group would invest billions of rupees, said a handout issued here. The Punjab government would provide full support for the construction of Mubarak Center, he added and noted that Mubarak Center would be the tallest building in Lahore.

State-of-the-art Mubarak Center would have business centers and a 7 Star Hotel which would be linked to the Gaddafi Stadium by a flyover, he added. This plan would greatly facilitate the international players access to

Gaddafi Stadium while relieving the torment of traffic jams on the busy roads of Lahore during the tournaments, he mentioned. The CM said that the provincial government would advance the work on this project as it would boost commercial activities while creating employment opportunities.

He noted that brotherly relations existed between Pakistan and UAE and added that the time had come to transform these relations into a strategic partnership. There were immense opportunities for investment in Punjab and the UAEs investors could benefit from them, he remarked. He said that UAEs cooperation in the development of Pakistan was worthy of praise and the provincial government valued its cooperation for the improvement of education, health and other sectors.

Business-to-business delegations visits were also important, Parvez Elahi said. The UAE ambassador mentioned that UAEs investment companies were interested in investing in Pakistan. The Mubarak Center project would further boost bilateral relations. "Pakistan is our second home and relations would be further strengthened," he added.

Turkiye wants to increase bilateral trade with Pakistan up to \$ 5 billion



Turkiye wants to increase bilateral trade with Pakistan up to USD 5 billion as both countries have good potential to increase two-way trade volume in many items.

This was said by Nurettin Demir, Commercial Counsellor, Embassy of Turkiye while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He said that MUSIAD Expo would be held in Istanbul from November 2 to 5, this year and the Pakistani business community should take active participation in it to promote business linkages with counterparts of Turkiye and explore new avenues of promoting bilateral trade between the two countries.

He said that Turkiye and Pakistan could enhance bilateral cooperation in many fields including machinery & parts, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, tourism and agriculture. He said that he could help the Pakistani business

community in customs affairs for doing trade with Turkiye. He was hopeful that a free trade agreement between Turkiye and Pakistan would be finalized soon after its ratification from the parliament of Turkiye that would help in increasing the volume of trade between the two countries.

Speaking at the occasion, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, said that Pakistan and Turkiye were enjoying exemplary cordial relations that should be transformed into growing trade and economic relations between the two countries. He stressed that the frequency of Pakistan-Tehran-Istanbul railway service should be increased for trade promotion as currently goods from Turkiye via third countries were reaching Pakistan in 45 days due to which the importers and exporters were facing problems.

He said that Pakistan had a lot of reserves of marble & granite and other natural resources and said that Turkiye should explore JVs in Pakistan in these sectors to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. Mian Shaukat Masud former President ICCI, Muhammad Azharul Islam Zafar, and others also spoke at the occasion and gave useful suggestions to promote trade ties between the two countries.

They urged to address language barrier issue for trade promotion between the two countries. They said that Pakistan could export software products to Turkiye as it was already exporting these products to many other countries.

They also highlighted IT, construction and furniture as potential areas of joint ventures between the two countries.

Ambassadors of Nepal, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan visit LCCI to discuss trade, cooperation



By DF Report

Ambassador of Nepal H E Tapas Adhikari, Ambassador of Azerbaijan H E Khazar Farhadov and Ambassador of Turkmenistan H E Atadjan Movlamov visited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and had a detailed discussion on trade and economic ties between Pakistan and their respective countries.

LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir, Senior Vice President Mian Rehman Aziz Chan and Vice President Haris Ateeq also spoke, while executive committee members were also present.

Nepalese Ambassador H E Tapas Adhikari said his country sees Pakistan as a preferred partner and is keen to expand trade relations.

He said that Nepal chamber had inked a memorandum of understanding with the Lahore Chamber and its implementation would help increase bilateral trade.

While calling for exchange of trade delegations between the two countries, the ambassador said that he himself would bring a delegation of Nepalese businesspeople to Pakistan soon.

Azerbaijani Ambassador H E Khazar Farhadov said the Lahore Chamber is playing a key role in maintaining good economic relations between the two countries.

He said that Pakistan is a strong country and has supported Azerbaijan in testing times. We want to further improve the trade relations with Pakistan, he said and added that cultural

cooperation should be promoted.

Turkmen Ambassador H E Atadjan Movlamov said his country gives great importance to better relations with Pakistan and wants to speed up work on Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project.

He said that a logistics centre has been established for transit trade in Turkmenistan, but one route cannot meet the requirements, so access to the ports of Karachi and Gwadar is very important.

Talking to the Ambassador of Nepal, LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir said that Pakistan and Nepal are members of SAARC and enjoy friendly relations since 1960s.

“We keep emphasizing well-devised strategy for ensuring regional peace through maintaining trade and economic relations among SAARC countries.

Nepal, being a land-locked country between China and India, can understand the importance of regional trade better than others,” the LCCI president said.

He said that Nepal has import-oriented economy whose imports are far greater than exports. In year 2021, the value of its total imports was around \$15.8 billion against the total exports which were just \$1.7 billion.

Mian Nauman Kabir said that these are noticeable facts that Nepal has to depend a lot on India and China for importing basic materials.

The shares of India and China were almost 61

per cent and 15 per cent respectively in total imports which amounted to \$12 billion in 2021.

He said that as far as trade ties between Pakistan and Nepal are concerned, we need to adopt innovative ways to know more about each others potential areas.

Despite having long and cordial relations, the volume of total trade between two countries remained limited to \$7.3 million during 2021.

LCCI Vice President Haris Ateeq said that the Lahore Chamber would be pleased to join hands with the ambassador of Nepal for planning some activities that can play a supporting role in introducing more Pakistani products in Nepal.

He said that Pakistani products are best and can easily cater to the need of Nepalese market.

While talking to the Ambassador of Azerbaijan, the LCCI President said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan have unique historical, religious, cultural and political commonalities which are beyond the geographical distances.

Both Pakistan and Azerbaijan have good diplomatic relations “but we have yet to succeed in translating these ties into maintaining sound bilateral trade”.

The LCCI president said that according to the trade figures taken from the State Bank of Pakistan, Pakistan’s exports to Azerbaijan in 2021-22 were \$6.3 million, while our imports were merely \$1.5 million.

This essentially means that the total trade volume between two countries is even less than \$10 million. There is a need to explore the ways

of increasing trade between both countries.

He said that the total global imports of Azerbaijan are above \$11 billion. The pharmaceutical imports of Azerbaijan are around \$528 million, tractor parts \$110 million, furniture \$197 million, edible fruits \$135 million and dairy products \$157 million, etc.

Pakistan can easily supply these products to Azerbaijan. Besides this, Pakistan can also enhance its exports of surgical instruments, sports goods, value-added textiles, leather products, and processed food to Azerbaijan.

There is also a great potential of joint ventures in tourism sector. Azerbaijan can also benefit from the expertise of Pakistan in IT sector.

The LCCI president said that there is also an immediate need to initiate direct air links between the two countries. Besides “we should develop banking channels between Pakistan and Azerbaijan in order to ensure maximum facilitation for enhancing bilateral trade volume”.

During the meeting with Ambassador of Turkmenistan, Mian Nauman Kabir said though Pakistan and Turkmenistan enjoy friendly and cordial relations, “our business and economic relations have not been adequately developed.

We have observed that very few items are being



traded between Pakistan and Turkmenistan for the last many years.

The main reason of such a low level of two-way trade which stood at \$7 million in 2020 and \$14 million in 2021 is the little knowledge about each other's markets.”

He said that Pakistan's exports to Turkmenistan were just \$3 million while the imports from Turkmenistan accounted for \$11 million in 2021.

Although the volume of global trade of Turkmenistan is less than \$7 billion, “we are keen to get reasonable share in it”.

For instance, Turkmenistan imported pharmaceuticals worth \$82 million, sugar \$46 million, margarine \$38 million and surgical instruments \$32 million in 2021.

Pakistan can export these items at best prices to Turkmenistan. He said that Turkmenistan has large gas reserves that give it a unique strategic and economic importance.

TAPI pipeline project was planned many years ago for supplying natural gas, but it has yet to be materialised due to geopolitical reasons.

“We think that timely execution of this project would help to fulfill the energy needs of the entire region.

You will agree with me that both Pakistan and Turkmenistan should advocate on high level forums for its completion,” added the LCCI president.

Pakistan provides high standard facilities to intl tourists: Ambassador Hassan

Ambassador of Pakistan to Indonesia Muhammad Hassan has said there are numerous opportunities in tourism sector in Pakistan and the government is providing international level facilities for tourists. Pakistan has vast opportunities for all sectors of tourism, including mountaineering, adventure, and religious and halal tourism.

He was addressing an online seminar on tourism promotion in Pakistan, organized by the Embassy of Pakistan, Jakarta at the Chancery.

Ambassador Hassan highlighted the critical role of tourism sector in the economy and appreciated the efforts of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), and Pakistan Association of Tour Operators (PATO) in promoting tourism. The event was physically attended by over 60 representatives of Indonesian travel agencies, the hospitality industry, and the media, while the representative of TDAP, PTDC, and PATO attended virtually. The Ambassador talked about the unique aspects of Pakistan's tourism sector and various destinations. He said the embassy was ready to extend all assistance to Indonesian tourists interested in visiting Pakistan.

From the Indonesian side, the speakers included Andik Susanto Billi, popularly known as Billi the



Backpacker, Havilah, and Innoy, a travel vlogger who had earlier visited Pakistan.

While expressing their keen interest in exploring Pakistan, the Indonesian speakers agreed on the need to enhance mutual collaboration in the field of tourism. Billi and other Indonesian speakers shared their experiences in Pakistan and highlighted the friendliness and hospitality of Pakistani people, Pakistani cuisine as well as the natural beauty of Pakistan. They appreciated the embassy for arranging the seminar, and acknowledged that such events would bring more awareness amongst Indonesians about

Pakistan's untapped tourism potential. From the Pakistan side, Bakhtawar from TDAP, Saadia from PTDC, and PATO Vice President Malik Azmat Awan gave detailed presentations on Pakistan covering the thriving tourism potential of the country, and the various initiatives of the government of Pakistan to promote tourism. The embassy also distributed the guidebook on the tourism potential of Pakistan among the participants. The participants were served traditional Pakistani and Indonesian cuisine at the end.

Pakistan, Japan enhance bilateral trade relations

By DF Report

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs to Japan HONDA Taro discussed matters of mutual interest.

The Japanese Vice Minister visited the Ministry of Economic Affairs and held a meeting with Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at his office, said a press release issued here on Wednesday. Minister for Economic Affairs welcomed the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs to Japan and extended gratitude for taking out his time to visit the Ministry.

He apprised the Vice-Minister that Pakistan values reciprocal and congenial relations with Japan. Japanese economic assistance has played and shall continue to play a vital role in the socio-economic uplift of Pakistan. The Vice-Minister to Japan mentioned the areas of cooperation between both countries and highlighted that Japan is focused on providing its continuous support for Health, education, Environment, Security, Disaster Management and Water and Sanitation through various projects.

On which Minister Ayaz Sadiq appreciated and highlighted the current flood situation of



the country and hope to learn from Japanese experience of dealing with situations like flood. The meeting was followed by signing ceremony that was held between Federal Secretary for Economic Affairs and Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan. In the signing ceremony, the Parliamentary Vice-Minister HONDA stated, I am delighted to be able to visit Pakistan on the unique occasion of the 70th anniversary

of the diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan. I will make every effort to strengthen the friendship between the two countries by continuous development cooperation, especially in the sectors such as water supply and sewage, disaster prevention, health, and education, as well as by promoting people-to-people exchanges and expanding trade and investment.

German Envoy shows keen interest in Pakistan's housing sector

German Ambassador to Pakistan H E Alfred Grannas showed keen interest in housing sector of Pakistan and appreciated the efforts of the Secretary Ministry of Housing and Works Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, for his commitment, vision and devotion to promote housing sector. In a meeting between Housing and Works Ministry Secretary and German ambassador designate in the ministry, both sides exchanged views on range of bilateral issues of mutual interest and cooperation.

Welcoming the Ambassador, Iftikhar Ali Shallwani expressed his best wishes and apprised him about the ongoing housing projects especially the low cost housing schemes of the ministry and initiatives taken to provide shelter to the federal government employees and general public.

Secretary also invited ambassador to the upcoming first International Housing Expo in November, which he intends to attend.



FM for developing common approaches to address regional security issues



By DF Report

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari stressed that no country could single-handedly solve complex peace and security issues in the region and highlighted the need for developing common approaches to address persistent as well as emerging challenges.

The Foreign Minister expressed these views during the meeting with Director of the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO-RATS), Ruslan Mirzaev, who called on him here at the Foreign Office.

He warmly welcomed the Director and his delegation to Pakistan and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the goals and purposes of the SCO Charter and the Shanghai Spirit, according

to a press release issued here by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Foreign Minister underscored the importance of regional platforms such as SCO-RATS to promote coordinated efforts in countering terrorism and extremism.

He appreciated the constructive role played by the Executive Committee of SCO-RATS in upholding the spirit of consensus and cooperation in achieving common objectives.

Director Mirzaev emphasized that deliberately politicizing discussions related to countering terrorism and extremism were counter-productive and contrary to the objectives of the organization.

The Foreign Minister said that Pakistan would support all efforts that were aimed at improving

the efficiency and effectiveness of SCO-RATS.

He commended the approach taken by the Executive Committee in developing consensus on the issue and assured the Director of Pakistan's constructive engagement in the matter. The Director of the Executive Committee of SCO-RATS is on an official visit to Pakistan.

During the visit he had working level meetings in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Counter Terrorism Authority, and other relevant security institutions.

The Director was given detailed briefings on Pakistan's successes in countering terrorism and extremism, overview of the regional situation, and threats posed by new and emerging challenges in the region.

Kyrgyz DFM meets FM, FS and Commerce Minister

By Mian Fazal Elahi

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari during a meeting with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan H E Artykbaev Aibek Muhtarovich congratulated Mr. Muhtarovich on successful conclusion of the 2nd Session of Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) between Pakistan and Kyrgyz Republic and expressed satisfaction at upward trajectory of bilateral relations.

He said that close collaboration at multilateral forums on regional and international issues of mutual interest demonstrated commonality of views of both the countries.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari underlined the importance of boosting relations in all areas, particularly, trade, investment, tourism and green energy. He welcomed Kyrgyz proposal for cooperation in the field of Sustainable Mountain Development, convening of business forums and joint ventures in medical education and hydropower sectors.

The Foreign Minister underscored that Pakistan is ready to provide access to its seaports to the Central Asian Republics.

The Foreign Minister also reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to CASA-1000 power transmission project. Pakistan and the Kyrgyz Republic are celebrating 30th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Moreover, Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to further enhance economic, trade, investment, and people-to-people linkages with Kyrgyzstan. Noting that the two countries were celebrating 30 years of the establishment of their diplomatic ties, he reiterated that Pakistan attaches high importance to its cordial and friendly ties with the Kyrgyz Republic.

The Foreign Secretary expressed these views as he welcomed H Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan H E Artykbaev Aibek Muhtarovich. The Foreign Secretary emphasized on the five planks of Pakistan's 'Vision Central Asia', focused on political, trade and investment, energy and connectivity, security and defence, and people-to-people exchanges.

He underlined the importance of regular high-level political engagement for maintaining the positive momentum in the relationship. The Foreign Secretary hoped that the 2nd Session of the Pakistan-Kyrgyz BPC would help build on the existing level of cooperation between the two countries as well as open new avenues for mutually beneficial collaboration. Sharing



Pakistan's perspective on the situation in Afghanistan, he said that practical cooperation between the Afghan interim authorities and the international community was in the interest of regional peace and stability.

There was an urgent need to assist the Afghan people in addressing the dire humanitarian and economic crises confronting their country, the foreign secretary added. During his stay in Islamabad, the Kyrgyz Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs would also be engaging with other political leaders, dignitaries, and members of the business community.

Furthermore, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan H E Artykbaev Aibek Muhtarovich called on Federal Minister for Commerce and Investment, Syed Naveed Qamar. During the meeting, both sides discussed ways and means on increasing trade volume between the two countries and enhancing cooperation in other areas of mutual interest. The meeting, which was held in the Minister's Office was attended by Special Secretary Commerce Dr. Ahmed Mujtaba Memon and Additional Secretary, Syed Hamad Ali. During the meeting, both sides discussed ways and means on increasing trade volume between the two countries and enhancing cooperation in other areas of mutual interest. The minister said that promoting

international trade, transit and investment is the pivot around which Pakistan seeks to devise its economic policies.

Naveed Qamar expressed that government's vision is to make Pakistan a trade, transit and transshipment hub ensuring connectivity with Afghanistan and beyond. In this regard, Pakistan have signed transit trade agreement with Uzbekistan, and are negotiating Transit Trade Agreement with Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, he added. Bilateral trade between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan remained at US\$ 4.27 million during fiscal year 2021-22 which does not reflect the true potential of trade between the two countries, the minister opined.

Commerce Minister said that Pak-Kyrgyzstan trade and Investment Forum was held from, April 19-20 2022 in Islamabad and April 22nd in Lahore and desired that such activities should be held on regular basis in future. Syed Naveed Qamar maintained that the draft MoU on establishment of Joint Working Group has been shared with Kyrgyz republic and their response was awaited.

The Kyrgyz Deputy Foreign Minister assured the Pakistani side for further enhancing trade ties between the two countries and said that he would take practical measures in this regard.

Kyrgyz envoy hails Pak defence industries capabilities, products



By DF Report

Ambassador of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan H E Ulanbek Totuiaev called on Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif and praised the capabilities of Pakistan's Defence Industries and their products.

The Defence Minister welcomed the Ambassador and said that Pakistan greatly values the friendly relations with Kyrgyzstan and looks forward to strengthening this friendship, a news release said.

He stressed that Pakistan would continue to further enhance cooperation with Kyrgyzstan within the framework of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and other regional and international organization. Moreover, he highlighted that Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan could collaborate extensively in the defence cooperation and provision of defence related products and expertise to Kyrgyzstan.

The Ambassador appreciated Pakistan's support and assistance. He also highlighted the importance of cordial relations between two countries. Both sides agreed to further strengthen the institutional framework for high level bilateral coordination to achieve regional as well as global peace and prosperity.

Furthermore, Ambassador of Kazakhstan H E Yerzhan Kistafin met with Dr. Yousuf Khushk, Chairman Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) to discuss matters of mutual interest and



cooperation in the fields of literature and culture between the two countries.

Chairman PAL, Dr. Yousuf Khushk informed the honorable Ambassador of Kazakhstan about the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Pakistan and the publication of related books and other literary translations and important projects under the PAL.

Ambassador of Kazakhstan H E Yerzhan Kistafin appreciated the performance of the PAL under the leadership of Dr. Yousuf Khushk and expressed hope that there would be further improvement in the field of literature between

the two countries. He emphasized the need for literary translations in both countries. Ambassador of Kazakhstan visited various sections of PAL.

He visited the "Academy Studio" and the "Hall of Fame" and took a deep interest in them. Dr. Yousuf Khushk informed the Honorable Ambassador about the photos and brief introductions of famous writers and poets of Pakistani languages and national language in the Hall of Fame. At the end of the meeting, Dr. Yousuf Khushk presented a set of publications of the PAL to the Honorable Ambassador of Kazakhstan Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin.

Hungarian Commander calls on CJCSC, PAF chief to review bilateral defence cooperation



By DF Report

Commander of Hungarian Defence Forces, Lieutenant General Romulusz Ruszin-Szendi who is on official visit to Pakistan called on Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Nadeem Raza here at Joint Staff Headquarters.

During the meeting, matters of bilateral defence cooperation including security, military exchanges, training and prevailing regional environment were discussed, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

On the occasion, the Commander of Hungarian Defence Forces said that these mutually beneficial interactions had deepened the bilateral defence relationship, strengthened the cooperation and enhanced mutual understanding between the two armies. The CJCSC reaffirmed the strong and long-standing bilateral defence relationship between Hungary and Pakistan.

Earlier upon arrival at Joint Staff Headquarters, Romulusz Ruszin-Szendi, was presented Guard of Honour by a smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Armed Forces. Moreover, Lieutenant General Romulusz Ruszin-Szendi, Commander



Defence Forces of Hungary called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office.

The visiting dignitary appreciated sound professionalism of PAF personnel and also acknowledged the achievements made by PAF over the years, especially through indigenization. The Air Chief highlighted that both countries enjoy cordial relations and

reiterated his resolve to further enhance the existing bilateral cooperation between the PAF and Hungarian Air Force. Both the dignitaries agreed to further revitalize defence ties including training and indigenous production.

Various matters of professional interest and regional security also came under discussion during the meeting.



FMs of Pakistan, Indonesia stress cooperation at bilateral, OIC levels

By DF Report

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and his Indonesian counterpart Retno Marsudi agreed to strengthen regular dialogue at all levels including cooperation at the level of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

In a meeting held on the sidelines of the 29th ARF Ministerial Meeting to further solidify and provide momentum to the relationship, the

two foreign ministers expressed satisfaction over the pace of steady progress in bilateral relations.

Both agreed that as the two largest Islamic countries, Pakistan and Indonesia needed to consult closely including in the framework of OIC and other international organizations. The two foreign ministers also discussed the important role played by women in Pakistan and Indonesia and committed to work together

for women's rights and empowerment.

FM Bilawal thanked the Indonesian Foreign Minister on the timely support and facilitation by the Indonesia government in release of palm oil exports to Pakistan. The two sides agreed on the need to further expand cultural exchanges and strengthen people-to-people contacts in all dimensions to the mutual benefit of the two countries. It was also decided to remain engaged on issues of common interest.

Japan's Parliamentary Vice-Minister meets Hina Khar

By DF Report

Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan HONDA Taro met Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar on Tuesday here and discussed the bilateral ties.

The Minister of state appreciated trusted development partnership between Pakistan and Japan.

She emphasized further deepening of bilateral trade and investment relations and also reiterated Pakistan's commitment to promoting international peace and stability.

Meanwhile, Indonesian Ambassador in Pakistan Adam Tugio also called on Hina Rabbani Khar wherein she expressed the desire to further strengthen the bilateral ties and enhance



cooperation in trade and investment. She also underscored more business-to-business contacts and generating momentum through

high level visits and connectivity.

Dutch envoy pays farewell call to COAS



By DF Report

Ambassador of the Netherlands H E Wouter Plomp paid a farewell call to Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa at General Headquarters (GHQ) and appreciated Pakistan's role for regional stability. During the meeting, matters

of mutual interests, regional security situation and bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The COAS said that Pakistan valued its relations with the Netherlands and earnestly looked forward to enhance mutually beneficial multi-domain relations based on common interests.

He also thanked the visiting dignitary for his services and appreciated his contributions for fostering strong ties between the two countries.

The visiting dignitary ensured to play his role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

HR Minister, Iranian envoy discuss pilgrim's problems

By DF Report

Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi met with Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Syed Mohammad Ali Hussaini and discussed issues of pilgrims visiting Iran and Iraq.

In the meeting, various issues including Pak-Iran bilateral, trade and cultural relations were discussed. Iran and Pakistan had eternal historical, spiritual, fraternal and cultural ties, he added. Turi said Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Iran.

Pakistan-Iran bilateral relations, especially commercial and economic needed to be further strengthened, he added.

The Minister said that every year millions of pilgrims went to Iran and Iraq. He emphasized to granted Iranian double entry visa for Pakistani visitors.

Turi demanded the release of Pakistanis involved in minor crimes in Iran. The Ambassador



expressed his best wishes to Sajid Hussain Turi on assuming the charges of the Minister.

Pakistanis involved in minor crimes would be

released soon, he assured. The ambassador said inns with all facilities had been established on land routes to serve the pilgrims.

EU Ambassador reviews mutual interest matters with HR Minister

By DF Report

Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan H E Dr. Riina Kionka calls on Federal Minister for Human Rights Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada as matters of mutual interest and cooperation were discussed in this meeting.

The Minister welcomed the Ambassador and said that Pakistan values its reciprocal relations with the EU that were moving in a positive direction in all spheres of cooperation.

He said the European Union, through its assistance, has played a vital role in the socio-economic uplift of Pakistan and they (government) expect that sectorial dialogues on emerging areas of cooperation, including environment, climate change, human rights and sustainable development will be strengthened through Strategic Engagement Plan (SEP) that was signed between Pakistan and the EU in June 2019.

Minister said that the EU is one of the largest trade and investment partners of Pakistan. The Minister further credited the GSP Plus for playing an important role in expansion of trade.



“We remain committed and have demonstrated consistent progress in the implementation of GSP Plus related 27 international conventions,” added the minister. He further stated that Pakistan has seen the European Commission’s legislative proposal for preferential market access for post-2023. Ambassador of the European Union appreciated the coordinating role of the Ministry of Human Rights and its commitment for working on GSP + particularly the recent enactment of laws.

She also mentioned that monitoring mission

had shown its satisfaction on Pakistan’s progress on implementation of 27 international conventions. At the end, minister stressed upon the close coordination for effective compliance on GSP commitments.

He assured the ambassador in extending maximum support from the forum of the Ministry of Human Rights for the EU delegation to arrange its meetings for further discussions on GSP+ in the Ministry of Interior and Commerce.

Pakistan, EU discuss progress on GPS Plus

By DF Report

Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan H E Dr. Riina Kionka and Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Miftah Ismail and discussed matters of mutual interest and cooperation including progress on Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) Plus.

The discussion was made during a call on meeting of the ambassador with Miftah Ismail, according to press statement issued by finance ministry. Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Dr. Aisha Ghous Pasha, Special Secretary Finance and senior officers also attended the meeting. The finance minister highlighted bilateral relations and development



cooperation between the EU and Pakistan. He said that Pakistan highly valued its bilateral ties with the EU including trade and economic relations.

He stressed the need to further strengthening trade relations between Pakistan and the European Union. The minister also apprised the EU ambassador on recent economic developments and policies of the present government.

Miftah said enhancing revenue collection, boosting exports, increasing remittances and making the energy sector sustainable were the

foremost priorities of the present government. He thanked the EU ambassador for her cooperation and assured her all out support from finance ministry.

The Ambassador on the occasion highlighted the mutual relations between Pakistan and the EU in diversified fields and appreciated present government’s ongoing economic reform agenda.

The Ambassador also supported Pakistan’s efforts towards making progress for GSP Plus and extended her cooperation.

Pakistan firmly supports one-China principle: Ambassador Haque

By DF Report

Pakistan firmly believes in the one-China principle, supports China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and will continue to extend full support to its iron brother- China, on issues concerning its core national interest, Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque said. Responding to question of US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's provocative visit to Taiwan and regarding Chinas countermeasures, he told Global Times in an interview that within the bounds of international law, every country has the right to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity. In the same vein, Pakistan supports all efforts of the Chinese government in safeguarding its national sovereignty and territorial integrity, he said.

He also emphasized the importance of upholding the principles of the UN charter, international law and bilateral agreements. Inter-state relations should be based on mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs, he said. Pelosi arrived in China's Taiwan Island on Tuesday night in disregard of China's strong opposition and serious representations. The visit is seen as a serious violation of the one-China principle. Chinese Foreign Ministry had announced eight countermeasures in response. The Ambassador said, As iron brothers and All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partners, Pakistan and China have always stood shoulder-to-shoulder with each other through many



challenges. I would like to emphasize here that Pakistan would continue to extend full support to its iron brother China on the issues of its core national interest, he said.

According to the Ambassador, the current global geo-political situation remains tense as the world is already grappling with multi-faceted challenges. The regional situation in Taiwan Straits was indeed complicated with the visit. We believe that the world cannot afford another crisis with far-reaching implications for regional and global peace and security, he said. The one-China policy outlines that there is only one China in the world; the

Government of the Peoples Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole China; and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China. This concept is about Chinas sovereignty and territorial integrity, which needs to be respected. Therefore, Pakistan opposes any attempt to create two Chinas or one China, one Taiwan or Taiwan independence, he said.

During the interview, Ambassador Haque once again reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support to China on the issues of its core interest including Taiwan, Xinjiang, Tibet, Hong Kong and South China Sea.

US Consul General calls on Punjab CM

By DF Report

United States Consul General William K Makaneole called on Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi to discuss matters of mutual interest, including the expansion of bilateral cooperation in various sectors.

The Chief Minister said that the Punjab government was desirous of maintaining good relations with the US as Pakistan is a peaceful country and wants friendly relations with all



neighbouring countries, he added.

All the citizens, including religious minorities, had equal rights as per the constitution while the incumbent government was following a policy of composite development by focusing

on welfare of people, he added.

William K Makaneole stated that the USA gave great importance to its relations with Pakistan and cooperation in different sectors would be further expanded with the Punjab government.

Sino-Pak future communication over CPEC to be closer, smoother: Wang Wenbin

By DF Report

Chinese Foreign Ministry said that the future communication between China and Pakistan over China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would be even closer and smoother and construction of the flagship project would achieve greatest results.

“China understands the efforts of the Pakistan side dedicated to integrating resources integrating efficiency and adjusting institutions.

We believe that future communications will be even closer and smoother and CPEC building will achieve greatest results,” Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing while commenting on media reports about abolition of CPEC Authority.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, as per media reports, approved, in principle, to abolish the CPEC Authority to help fast track the implementation of the multi-billion-dollar project.

The spokesperson said that China had taken relevant information. “For long time, China and Pakistan have maintained close full and friendly communication over CPEC building,” he added.

He said that thanks to joint efforts, CPEC



cooperation had yielded fruitful and substantive outcomes. It may be mentioned here that China has acknowledged efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to further promote Pak-China relations and expedite construction and implementation of the CPEC projects.

The Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson in a latest statement this week appreciated the

prime minister for his words uttered on multiple occasions on Pak-China relations and the CPEC building. “Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif spoke highly of Pak-China relations and CPEC on multiple occasions and he is very committed to the practical cooperation between the two countries,” he added.

Austria's Ambassador, Turkish Deputy Mission Head call on Khurram to discuss bilateral relations

By DF Report

Ambassador of Austria to Pakistan H E Nicolaus Keller, Ms. Esra Dere- Deputy Head of Mission Turkish Embassy, Mr. Fatih Cevik- Assistant General Manager Limak Turkey held a meeting with Federal Minister for Power Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan.

According to the reports, the Minister welcomed them and said that Pakistan is always looking forward to foreign companies for investment in Pakistan and reiterated the government's resolve to facilitate the investment.

Turkiye's leading Dam construction Company Limak has been operating in Pakistan for many years and has already completed 28 dams all over the world. ANDRITZ hydro is responsible for hydro mechanical work at Dam sites.

During the visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Turkiye, different investment ventures were discussed with Turkish companies, it further said.



The meeting was continuation of the government efforts to explore avenues for cooperation and investment in hydro power sector of Pakistan.

The Minister welcomed the interest of companies and assured his full support in this regard.

Norwegian envoy visits Alhamra, stresses people-to-people contacts

By DF Report

Norwegian Ambassador to Pakistan H E Per Albert Ilsaas visited the Lahore Arts Council (LAC) at Alhamra and stressed people-to-people contacts.

According to a spokesperson, the envoy was warmly welcomed by LAC Executive Director Farhat Jabeen. The two sides agreed on strengthening bilateral relations in the field of art and literature. They agreed to explore opportunities in art, literature and other cultural fronts. The Ambassador-designate said the diplomatic relations between Norway and Pakistan span over decades. "I believe both countries are trying their best to strengthen the bilateral relationship," he added.

He appreciated the hard work of the Alhamra Arts Council. Executive Director Farhat Jabeen and Director Art Zulfiqar Ali Zulfi briefed the ambassador-designate about Alhamra Art Gallery, Academy of Performing Arts, Adbi Bethak, and cultural activities at the council.

Farhat Jabeen said that it was the key objective of the LAC to promote the colorful culture and wonderful tradition of Pakistan in the whole world and make the world believe that Pakistan is the great place to visit.



Jabeen also recognised the Norwegian embassy's services in Pakistan for promoting art and culture. She added, "We give our best to meet the expectation of people from Alhamra as this is one of the mightiest platforms in Pakistan to ensure inequitable excellence in the domains of cultural legacy and performing arts. Zulfiqar Zulfi said that Alhamra aims to nurture

our new generations creative abilities as well as improve their moral and ethical training by organising 12 different domains of art including dance, guitar, singing, and others.

Later, the two officials presented a painting and some books to Ambassador-designate Per Albert Ilsaas.

BOI Minister assures support, cooperation to Omani investors

By DF Report

Federal Minister for Board of Investment (BOI) Chaudhary Salik Hussain assured the Omani investors delegation for full support and complete cooperation. He said that he would facilitate and expedite the process of investing in Pakistan by the Omani Company.

Federal Minister Chaudhary Salik Hussain welcomed an Omani delegation led by Dr. Anwar Al Balushi Chairman, Al Anwar Asian Investments, Syed Najam Saeed, CEO RAILCOP and Tauseef Zaman, CEO Bil Pakistan at his office.

Chairman, Al Anwar Asian Investments, Dr. Anwar Al Balushi briefed the minister that he was interested in Railway Infrastructure Development projects and power projects in Pakistan.

He identified the construction of rail link from Gwadar to Jacobabad (track length 1,087 Km) and as a first tranche of financing; his company was ready to transfer \$500 million to Pakistan for this rail link project. Moreover, he said that he could offer financing/loans for undertaking



other projects also.

He said that he would work together to improve bilateral relations and strengthen economic

ties between the two countries. Both delegates agreed to enhance bilateral relations through mutually beneficial development projects.

Qatari Ambassador, Miftah Ismail discuss trade ties



By DF Report

Ambassador of the State of Qatar H E Sheikh Sauod bin Abdulrahman bin Faisal Al-Thani called on Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Miftah Ismail discussed matters of mutual interests. The Minister welcomed the Ambassador and highlighted about the long-standing mutual ties between Pakistan and Qatar. He shared that present government was pursuing various reforms

for providing greater facilitation to investors and businesses in Pakistan. The Minister also apprised about the available lucrative investment opportunities in various sectors of Pakistan.

Ambassador of Qatar H E Sheikh Sauod bin Abdulrahman bin Faisal Al-Thani also shared the warm and welcoming sentiments with the Minister. It was shared that the government of Qatar was planning to invest in various

sectors of Pakistan especially in energy, trade and businesses for further strengthening the bilateral economic ties between the two countries.

Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharifs visit to the State of Qatar also came under discussion in the meeting. Miftah Ismail, while welcoming the investment proposals, assured the ambassador of full support and cooperation by the government of Pakistan.

Miftah says efforts on to further boost Pak-UAE cooperation



By DF Report

Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Miftah Ismail highlighted that the incumbent government was focusing on various new avenues of mutual interest to extend the existing bilateral relations between Pakistan and United Arab Emirates (UAE) to a new level.

The Minister was talking to Ambassador of the

United Arab Emirates H E Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al-Zaabi who called on him here at Finance Division. He said that Pakistan and UAE shared long-standing bilateral ties in various areas including energy, refinery, petroleum and trade.

The Minister apprised the Ambassador about the potential investment areas where UAE could invest and also assured him of greater facilitation and support. The Minister shared

welcoming sentiments for pursuing new investments in Pakistan and assured the UAE's Ambassador of full support and cooperation by the present government.

The Ambassador showed a keen interest in enhancing and strengthening the bilateral relation between the two countries especially on economic fronts.

PNS ZULFIQUAR visits UAE



The Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) ZULFIQUAR visited Dubai, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during deployment on Regional Maritime Security Patrol. Upon arrival, the ship was received by Defence Attaché of Pakistan at Abu Dhabi and Senior Officials of UAE Navy, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

During the port visit, Commanding Officer of PNS ZULFIQUAR Captain Tayyab Wadood Anwar called-on Deputy Commander UAE Naval Forces and other senior Officials of UAE Navy. During the interactions, matters of mutual interests were discussed and enhancement of bilateral ties in all spheres was re-affirmed.

PNS ZULFIQUAR celebrated Diamond Jubilee Independence Day of Pakistan at UAE where Flag Hoisting ceremony was held onboard PNS ZULFIQUAR.

The ceremony was attended by Ambassador of Pakistan at UAE Afzaal Mahmood. Officials of UAE Navy, prominent members of business community, notables from Pakistani community and a large number of diplomatic corps also attended the Diamond Jubilee ceremony onboard PN Ship.

During the port stay, various bilateral activities including exchange visits onboard afloat units, orientation visits of military installations and coordination meetings were undertaken. Upon culmination of port visit, PNS ZULFIQUAR conducted bilateral naval exercise with UAE



Navy Ship SALAHA to enhance interoperability between the two navies. Visit of PNS ZULFIQUAR to UAE provided an opportunity

for both brotherly countries to further enhance the existing close diplomatic ties and cordial relations.

Pakistani envoy meets senior US official to discuss greater collaboration on multilateral issues

By DF Report

Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan discussed a host of issues, ranging from Pak-US multilateral cooperation on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to connectivity and digital inclusion during a meeting with US Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, Ambassador Michele Sison. Following the meeting, the Ambassador wrote on the Twitter, It was a great pleasure to meet outstanding US Ambassador Michele Sison, Assistant Secretary International Organization Affairs. Discussed Pak-US cooperation on multilateral issues, connectivity and digital inclusion.

The Ambassador termed the meeting productive conversation, the press release said. For her part, Ambassador Sison wrote, great meeting with Pakistani Ambassador Masood Khan to further strengthen our multilateral cooperation including on the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Bilaterally, Pakistan and United States are engaging each other vigorously to promote their ties in trade, investment, health, energy, agriculture and the tech sector, the press release said, adding that two countries would be collaborating and cooperating more closely at multilateral fora - United Nations, New York,



UN organizations in Geneva and UN affiliated specialized organizations in Vienna, Nairobi, Italy and Paris.

Pakistan and the United States would be working collaboratively to address the issues related to food security, climate challenge and global financial architecture, it was pointed out.

Moreover, the US and Group of 77 (developing

countries) will have a dialogue to address matters of mutual interest. Currently, Pakistan is the chairman of the Group of 77 in New York. Recently, a high-level United States-Pakistan Health Dialogue was held which has pushed forward the two countries' cooperation in fighting pandemics, mother and child health, vaccine manufacturing and non-communicable diseases (NCD).

Pakistani envoy briefs UN rights chief on India's demographic engineering in Kashmir

By DF Report

Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN offices in Geneva, Ambassador Khalil Hashmi during a meeting with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet briefed about the unfolding human rights crisis in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).

Ambassador Hashmi reiterated Pakistan's grave concerns about India's illegal demographic engineering of the occupied territory and its widely documented grave human rights impacts during the last three years. Terming the IIOJK a human rights flashpoint, the Pakistani envoy drew the High Commissioner's attention towards India's unabated, gross violations of Kashmiri people's basic political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights, especially their inalienable right to self-determination.

He pointed out that there was a clear pattern of Indian impunity for human rights abuses, aided by conspicuous silence of powerful States, implementation of oppressive laws (such as Armed Forces Special Power, Public Safety and Unlawful Activities Prevention Acts), a pliant

judiciary, local hand-picked administration, and shuttering of local human rights institutions.

Furthermore, India continued to defy universally agreed norms and principles, Hashmi said, adding this was evident from continued denial of access to OHCHR (Office of UN Human Rights High Commissioner for Human Rights), OIC, independent civil society and international media to assess the ground situation.

Appreciating High Commissioner and her Office's regular monitoring, public expression of concerns and reporting about the IIOJK situation, including at the UN Human Rights Council, Ambassador Hashmi reiterated Pakistan's request for publication of a third Kashmir Report by the UN Human Rights Office.

The OHCHR has published two Kashmir Reports, 2018 and 2019, documenting in detail India's grave, systematic violations of Kashmiri people's rights.

The surge in India's systematic, gross violations of Kashmiris basic human rights continue to be extensively documented by independent civil society, global media and UN Special



Procedures, it was pointed out. Civil society organizations have publicly characterized the post-05th August situation in the occupied territory to be a dire human rights crisis while UN Special Procedures have termed it to be in free fall. Ambassador Hashmi also met the UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Nada Al-Nashif, on 05 August 2022 in context of Youm-e-Istehsaal and handed over Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's letter, outlining Pakistan's concerns to and key asks from UN human rights machinery, inter alia.

Indonesian Ambassador urges youth to obtain Islamic knowledge, latest tech

Indonesian Ambassador to Pakistan H E Adam Mulawarman Tugio has urged the Islamic world to bring up the youth in accordance with Islamic values, contemporary changes, and to equip them with modern technology.

He was addressing a roundtable discussion on opportunities for educational institutions to be the driving force behind madrasa reforms in Indonesia and Pakistan, held here at the Faisal Masjid campus of International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI).

The discussion was jointly organized by Iqbal International Institute for Research and Dialogue and the Embassy of Indonesia. The Ambassador said that this dialogue between the scholars of the various schools of thought from the both countries would open new avenues of collaboration and mutual exposure.

He hailed IIUI for its services to the Muslim world, adding that the university was a great source of attraction for a huge population of Indonesian students.

He also emphasized on the importance of the revival of the Islamic Economic System, calling upon the universities to establish think tanks and launch joint efforts to revive the Islamic legacy that he termed as a need of the hour. IIUI Rector Dr Masoom Yasinai appreciated the approach of the Indonesian government saying that it had been owning the madrasa at the state level. He suggested that Islamic countries, in their religious seminaries, must add the element of critical thinking. He opined that scholars equipped with modern approach and Islamic values could help transform Muslim societies.

He also emphasized on the importance of the research on the Islamization of the economy. He added that universities of Islamic world must focus on how to practically implement it. The discussion witnessed presentations of the various scholars of Indonesia, while in the interactive session both sides discussed commonalities, salient attributes and ways of joint outreach to strengthen the madrasa reforms in both countries.

Vice Chairman of Nahdatul Ulama Indonesia Maria Ulfah Anshor gave a presentation on the advancement of madrasa reforms in Indonesia and its contributions in society. Dr Rohimi Zamzam, Secretary of Aisiyah Central Leadership, Dr Maskuri, Chairman for Madrasa Development Institute of Central Executive Board Indonesia and Akhmad Kholilily Kholil, member foundation board of Nahdatul Ulama Indonesia also spoke on the dynamics

of madrasa and its role in the society.

Dr Husn ul Amin, Executive Director, in his welcome address stated the objectives of the activity. He opined that Muslims were facing various challenges such as hate speech, Islamophobia, radicalism and stereotypes. He said the Muslims faced such challenges due to

socioeconomic and political reasons. Peoples ignorance of Islamic teachings also contributed to the issue.

He suggested that universities must come forward with a well devised curriculum and strategy to deal with those challenges.



Tashkent hosts SCO Women's Forum



Tashkent hosted the Fourth SCO Women's Forum within the framework of the chairmanship of Uzbekistan in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The forum was opened by the Chairperson of the Senate Tanzila Narbayaeva. She emphasized that Uzbekistan's open, pragmatic and constructive foreign policy strategy has been vividly reflected in the activities of the SCO over the past five-six years.

"Within the framework of the organization, Uzbekistan puts forward many relevant proposals that correspond to the priority areas

of socio-economic development of the region", Tanzila Narbayaeva noted.

In his video message, SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming cordially welcomed all participants of the event and stressed that the SCO Women's Forum plays an important role in the development of the Organization as an authoritative participant in international cooperation and makes a great contribution to promoting the ideals of gender equality.

During the five panel sessions, delegates exchanged views on such current issues as institutions for strengthening the role

of women in the SCO countries, improving interaction and cooperation on gender issues within the SCO, empowering women to develop entrepreneurship, the role of women in digitalization and the use of innovative technologies.

The event also included the First Conference of SCO Women Entrepreneurs, which will contribute to the formation of a dialogue platform and a pool of experts on women's business cooperation, as well as the identification of promising areas for mutually beneficial cooperation of businesswomen of the Organization's member countries.

Lahore airport receives 1st EgyptAir Cargo flight



Pakistan's Lahore airport received 1st EgyptAir Cargo flight, which was the first direct commercial flight between Egypt and Pakistan.

The Egyptian plane carried on board about 45 tons of various goods (general cargo), including fruits, clothes, and sports equipment.

On the sidelines of the celebration, the

commercial agent for EgyptAir said that Pakistani companies, especially those specialized in sports clothing and equipment, are seeking to take advantage of the new EgyptAir line to facilitate the transfer of their products to African markets, the US, and Canada through the EgyptAir network.

EgyptAir Cargo is the cargo division of the

Egyptian national airline EgyptAir. It operates using both its own dedicated aircraft and the cargo-carrying capacity of its sister passenger airline. Its main base is Cairo International Airport.

In February, Dahroug discussed strengthening bilateral relations with Pakistani Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

Serena Hotels organizes Crafts Bazaar to Mark Pakistan's 75th Independence Day



On Independence Day weekend, Serena Hotels organised a Crafts Bazaar in honour of Pakistan's 75th Independence Day, in collaboration with Behbud Crafts. This two-day event focused on promoting, recognising and celebrating the unique culture, tradition and talent that exists in Pakistan.

This event, held under Serena Hotels' Cultural Diplomacy initiative, acknowledged the skill, creativity and the hard work of women who provide support, represent and exhibit the different colours of Pakistan through their craftwork. The event was organized in the Kehkashan Hall to celebrate Pakistan. Hand-

crafted traditional apparel, table linens, reusable tote bags, fabric face masks printed in unique designs, and locally embroidered shawls and dupattas were displayed. Since the bazaar was Independence-themed, the items on display exhibited the different styles of embroidery that are native to Pakistan.

The First Lady, Begum Samina Alvi, was the Chief Guest at the occasion. She appreciated the efforts towards women empowerment, highlighting Pakistan's diversity, and the efforts towards the preservation of traditional handicrafts of the country.

This event also included a photo exhibition,

displaying the best photography that captured the "People & Culture" of Pakistan – submitted in a yearly photography competition held by Serena called "Discover Pakistan." This competition receives hundreds of submissions, and each submission is then carefully assessed by a panel of expert photographers, shortlisting the highest quality photos which are then published in a coffee table book format.

The event was attended by the citizens of Islamabad, including families, prominent men and women of the society; Government officials, and members of the diplomatic corps.



Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong, ACI Chairman, hosts reception to celebrate 55th ASEAN Day at Serena Hotel Islamabad



SERENA HOTELS
SAFARI LODGES, HOTELS, RESORTS, CAMPS

Chairman of the ASEAN Committee in Islamabad (ACI), Vietnamese Ambassador to Pakistan H E Nguyen Tien Phong said that ASEAN is a symbol of shared property and economic development for the whole world including Pakistan, which is a catalyst in global economy and trade. Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong, ACI Chairman on August 29 chaired the 55th anniversary celebration of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Attending the ceremony were State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar, General Director of East Asia and Pacific Department Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, Ambassadors of ASEAN countries in Pakistan and Ambassadors, representatives of dialogue countries and development partners of ASEAN, representatives of research institutes, universities, Chambers of Industry and Commerce, and the business community

doing business with ASEAN markets. Speaking at the ceremony, Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong expressed deep sympathy and condolences for the unprecedented flood damage in Pakistan that killed more than 1,000 people and destroyed thousands of homes. He hopes that the Government and people of Pakistan will soon overcome difficulties with the support of the international community. Phong reviewed the 55-year journey of ASEAN, important milestones in the relationship between ASEAN and Pakistan and ASEAN's Dialogue and Development Partners. ASEAN has established excellent economic and trade relations with the whole world, which is likely to improve further in the future, the ambassador said. He said that according to the vision of ASEAN, these economic relations are to further strengthen economic and trade integration in the world, from which the rest of the countries

including Pakistan can also get benefits. The 55th anniversary of this month will be made with the determination that ASEAN will play its full role for economic prosperity, trade integration to promote peace and harmony with the other regions of the world, Ambassador Phong told media. Speaking at the ceremony, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar said that ASEAN has an increasingly large role in the process of dialogue and conflict resolution in the region and the world. A stable, prosperous and developed ASEAN will be the new driving force not only for Pakistan but also for Asia and beyond. The State Minister affirmed that Pakistan is making efforts to develop multifaceted relations with ASEAN, to learn many things from the member countries of the bloc and especially emphasize the need to strengthen cooperation and exchange.



Ambassador Mehmet Pacaci hosts grand reception to celebrate 100th Anniversary of the Victory Day of the Republic of Türkiye



SERENA HOTELS
SAFARI LODGES, HOTELS, RESORTS, CAMPS

On this special occasion, Pakistan reaffirmed its solidarity and unflinching support for the brother people and government of Türkiye on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Victory Day of the Republic of Türkiye. Ambassador of Türkiye H E Mehmet Pacaci and Defence Attache Brig. Mehmet Suha Oztekin hosted a reception to mark the Victory Day. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Pakistan Army, General

Nadeem Raza was the chief guest. Ambassador Pacai in his speech, welcomed the guests and talked about the history of the Victory Day. The ambassador read out the message of the President of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The Turkish President congratulated all Turkish citizens living across the world including the people of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on the Victory Day. This day, a hundred years ago, the great Turkish nation secured the ultimate victory by

defeating foreign occupation and imperialism. Unyielding determination, courage and unity exhibited by the Turkish nation laid the foundation of Türkiye's liberation, independence and national sovereignty. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement said that on this occasion, Pakistan pays special tribute to the great Mustafa Kemal Atatürk who inspired and led his compatriots to one of the most brilliant victories in the world history.



Norway to provide \$8 million humanitarian aid to flood-hit people: FM Huitfeldt



Says flooding highlights urgent need to adapt to climate change and safeguard food security

Norway is providing an additional NOK 55 million (USD 8m/PKR 1,8 b) to alleviate humanitarian needs in the wake of the catastrophic flooding in Pakistan,’ said Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Anniken Huitfeldt. This brings Norway’s humanitarian support in response to the recent floods to NOK 80 million.

‘The situation is desperate for many millions of people, and our partners are working tirelessly to reach those who have been hardest hit,’ said Ms Huitfeldt. Pakistan has been hit by the most devastating flooding it has experienced for many years, and vast areas of the country are under water.

According to the UN, more than 33 million people are affected and over 1300 may have died. The flood has caused widespread damage to civilian infrastructure such as schools, health clinics and water and sanitation systems.

Many roads and bridges have also been destroyed, making humanitarian relief efforts more difficult.

‘The flooding highlights the urgent need to adapt to climate change and safeguard food security, particularly in the countries most vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters,’ said Minister of International Development Anne Beathe Tvinningreim.

Some NOK 13.5 million of Norway’s support for the flood victims will be channelled through the World Food Programme (WFP) to be used for food security measures, including cash transfers.

‘This funding will help to alleviate the

immediate food needs of the most vulnerable people, and support efforts to establish more climate-resilient food production,’ said Ms Tvinningreim.

The disaster has had a major impact on health needs, and has for example increased the risk of waterborne diseases such as cholera and diarrhoea.

Already vulnerable groups are now facing even greater health risks, and the support Norway is providing will therefore be targeted towards protecting those most in need.

Norway’s support will be channelled through Norwegian Church Aid, Norcap, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including the Norwegian Red Cross, in addition to funding provided through the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

Norway is one of the largest donors of core support to UN organisations working to provide assistance to flood victims in Pakistan. Core support enables these organisations to prepare for emergencies and to respond as soon as a disaster strikes.

In addition, Norway is providing support for education efforts via the UN Children’s Fund (Unicef) and the World Food Programme to ensure that children affected by the flooding can continue to attend school.

The impacts of the flooding have been most severe in the southern and western provinces

of Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. According to UN reports, over a million homes and 18.000 schools have been completely or partially destroyed. The flooding has caused widespread damage to agricultural land and infrastructure in the affected areas.

‘Both the immediate and the longer-term needs are enormous. Effective follow-up by the Pakistani authorities will be crucial to build more resilient livelihoods for the people in these areas,’ said Ms Huitfeldt.

The UN estimates that over 16 million children are affected by the flooding. The long-term psychosocial impact of the flood disaster in Pakistan is cause for great concern.

‘I am particularly worried about the children who do not have access to schooling during the crisis. We must provide support to protect these children and enable them to return to school as soon as possible,’ said Ms Tvinningreim.

The UN is already working with the Pakistani authorities and international organisations to ensure a coordinated response and provide humanitarian aid to flood victims.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is working closely with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society to respond to the rapidly expanding needs, particularly for health care, in the affected provinces.

Norway considers it important to channel funding through international humanitarian organisations that have relevant insight and experience and a local presence on the ground.

Turkmenistan provides 40 tons of relief goods to Pakistan flood victims

As authorities in Pakistan had declared a national state of emergency due to the floods that were ravaging the country, the President of Turkmenistan H.E. Mr. Serdar Berdimuhamedov sent his condolence messages to the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Dr. Arif Alvi, and Prime Minister H.E. Mr. M.M. Shehbaz Sharif.

The President of Turkmenistan expressed his deepest condolences over the significant loss of human lives and large-scale damages, caused by the unprecedented torrential rains and devastating floods in Pakistan.

The President extended his, and on behalf of the people of Turkmenistan, sympathies and words of support to the flood-affected people of Pakistan.

Following the centuries-old traditions of friendship and good neighborliness of the Turkmen people, President Serdar Berdimuhamedov initiated the donation of relief goods to the flood-affected people of Pakistan.

He instructed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to organize the dispatch and transfer of

humanitarian cargo to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Textile Industry, the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry, and the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs donated relief goods for the brotherly people of Pakistan.

On 5th September 2022, a Turkmen cargo airliner carrying humanitarian cargo landed at the Jinnah International Airport in Karachi, capital of Sindh province of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

A special cargo flight delivered Turkmenistan's humanitarian aid in the amount of more than 40 tons of relief goods, including textiles, clothing, blankets, food products, clean drinking water, medicines, medical supplies, and other items.

The ceremony of receiving humanitarian aid from Turkmenistan at the Karachi airport was attended by Special Assistant and Advisor to the Chief Minister Sindh for Relief and Rehabilitation Haji Rasool Bax Chandio, representatives of the National Disaster Management Authority, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Pakistani media. Speaking during the ceremony, Pakistani officials expressed



sincere gratitude to the leadership and people of Turkmenistan for the timely and urgently needed humanitarian assistance to the flood-affected population of the country.

The humanitarian cargo flight became another confirmation of the two nations' friendly and brotherly relations. In an interview with local media, the Ambassador of Turkmenistan, H.E. Atadjan Movlamov said, that the Leadership and People of Turkmenistan were extremely saddened by the large-scale damages caused by the devastating floods in Pakistan.

He expressed the solidarity of the People and Government of Turkmenistan with the People and Government of Pakistan at this challenging time.



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