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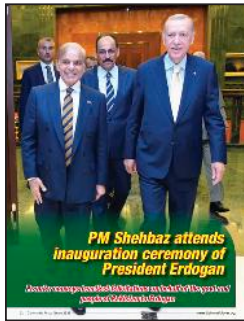
A picture-perfect moment with the UAE ambassador in a custom-made tuxedo from our fashion house. Thank you for choosing us!



Excellence Mr.Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al Zaabi wore Ilyas Shafi's Designed Pakistani Traditional Dress Shalwar Qameez with Waiscoat



Ilyas Shafi is a seasoned fashion designer with over 45 years of experience in creating custom-made suits. Based in Islamabad, he is the proud owner of his own clothing brand. Through his years of experience, Ilyas has developed a keen eye for detail and a passion for crafting high-quality suits that perfectly fit his clients' needs. His dedication to the craft has earned him a loyal following of satisfied customers who trust him to create suits that are both stylish and comfortable.



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As we celebrate 77th anniversary of the Republic Day, National Day of Italy, I am pleased to speak to our Pakistani friends. I would start by thanking all those who sent messages of warmth and solidarity on this auspicious occasion.

54 Joint Efforts against Drug Trafficking: Iran and Pakistan Hold Strategic Meeting in Tehran

The meeting of Triangular Initiative (TI), facilitated by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), was held in Tehran from 13th to 14th June 2023.

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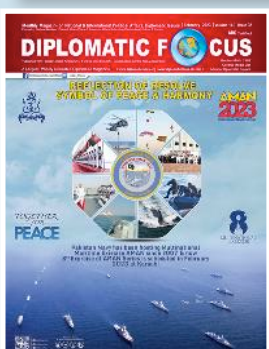
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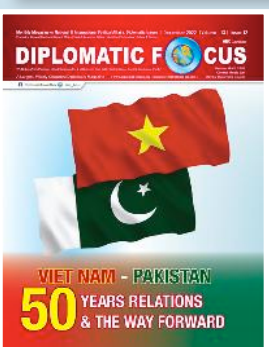
February 2023



January 2023



December 2022



Mian Fazal Elahi



In a significant announcement, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has reiterated his commitment to conducting timely elections, affirming that his government's term will conclude in the month of August. These assurances were reinforced by the Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, during his meeting with Canadian High Commissioner Ms Leslie Scanlon. This development holds particular importance amidst speculations regarding a potential extension in the term of the National Assembly, which, along with the provincial assemblies of Sindh and Balochistan, is scheduled to complete its tenure in August.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Reforms Committee, also expressed confidence that the general election would proceed as scheduled, without any delays. Sadiq's emphasis on expediting the committee's proceedings due to the limited time available further signifies the commitment to hold the polls this year.

However, it is disconcerting that the issue of electoral reforms remained stagnant throughout the tenure of the PTI government. The lack of progress can primarily be attributed to the prevailing polarization and non-cooperation from the opposition, which has been absent from parliament since last year. The parliamentary committee, therefore, shoulders a significant responsibility, as its recommendations and subsequent legislation will influence the credibility of the electoral process.

To ensure the utmost legitimacy for the reform process, the committee should seek input from important stakeholders, even if they are not currently part of Parliament. Their expertise and insights will bolster the committee's efforts, considering the absence of a genuine opposition. Moreover, leveraging the valuable recommendations produced by past committees while finalizing the incumbent body's report would be a worthwhile approach.

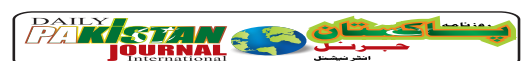
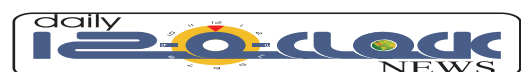
The forthcoming elections hold immense importance for the democratic landscape of the nation. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's commitment to timely elections, coupled with the parliamentary committee's dedication to electoral reforms, offers a glimmer of hope for a transparent and credible electoral exercise. It is crucial that all stakeholders work collaboratively to ensure a fair and inclusive process that upholds the principles of democracy and strengthens the trust of the people in their electoral system.

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PM Shehbaz witnesses signing ceremony of TAPI's JIP

By Mian Fazal Elahi

A high ranking Turkmenistan delegation headed by Mr. Maksat Babayev, State Minister and Head of TurkmenGaz called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad.

Welcoming the delegation, the Prime Minister said Pakistan and Turkmenistan enjoy brotherly relations underpinned by common history, culture and religion. The Prime Minister said leadership on both sides has keen desire to further promote economic and commercial relations. He underscored that Pakistan can be a gateway for quick access to Turkmenistan's rich energy reserves.

Referring to the strategic TAPI Gas Pipeline Project, the Prime Minister said this project is manifestation of Pakistan-Turkmenistan strategic cooperation in the energy sector. He highlighted that TAPI is a critical component of our governments' vision for ensuring Pakistan's energy security that will bring economic growth and prosperity not only in Pakistan but in the entire region.

He renewed the commitment for early implementation of the project and hoped that the project shall be completed at the earliest by optimizing all available resources by all concerned parties.

In order to expedite the work on various components of the project, the Prime Minister nominated Special Assistant to Prime Minister Dr. Jehanzeb Khan to work as focal person from the Pakistan side as the head of the Senior Coordination Committee.

The visiting Turkmenistan delegation also included Deputy Minister of Energy Annageldi Saparov, CEO and Chairman of BOD, TPCL, Muhammetmyrat Amanov as well as the Turkmen Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Atadjan



Movlamov. Later, the Prime Minister witnessed the signing of "TAPI Gas Pipeline Joint Implementation Plan (JIP)" signed by Minister of State for Petroleum Dr. Musaddiq Malik and Mr. Maksat Babayev, State Minister and Head

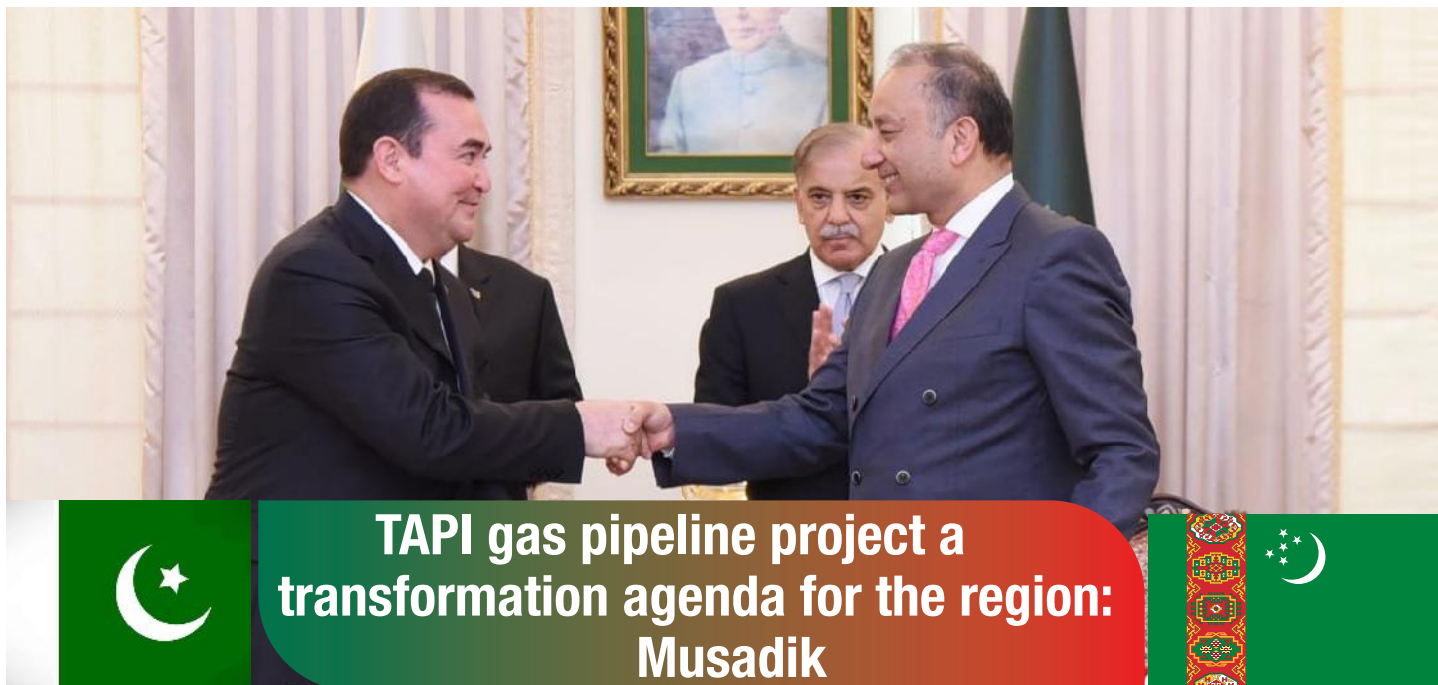
The TAPI pipeline project aims to transport natural gas from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India through an 1814 Kilometer pipeline with a capacity to transport 33 billion cubic meters of natural gas annually.

of TurkmenGaz on behalf their respective governments.

The JIP is aimed at accelerating the work on the TAPI Gas Pipeline project. The TAPI pipeline project aims to transport natural gas from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India through an 1814 Kilometer pipeline with a capacity to transport 33 billion cubic meters of natural gas annually. Once operational, the TAPI project will transform the regional energy landscape, contributing to economic prosperity.

On the same day, Turkmenistan delegation headed by Mr. Maksat Babayev, State Minister – Chairman of State Concern "Turkmengaz" had a meeting with Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan General Asim Munir. Turkmen side updated on implementation of TAPI gas pipeline and TAP power line projects. Acknowledging the importance of these Joint Major projects, Pakistan side reassured their full support in this regard.

During the visit of the Turkmenistan Delegation to Pakistan, productive meetings were held on a technical level on TAPI gas pipeline and TAP power transmission line projects.



By Mian Fazal Elahi

The flagship Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project is a transformation agenda for the region not just a pipeline,” said Dr Musadik Malik.

A high level delegation of Turkmenistan led by State Minister & Chairman of Turkmen Gas Mr. Maksat Babayev, held meeting with the Pakistani delegation led by Minister Of State for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik.

Both sides discussed various aspects of the flagship Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project. Minister reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to TAPI project and highlighted the energy potential Turkmenistan holds. “TAPI is a transformation agenda for the region not just a pipeline,” said Dr Musadik Malik.

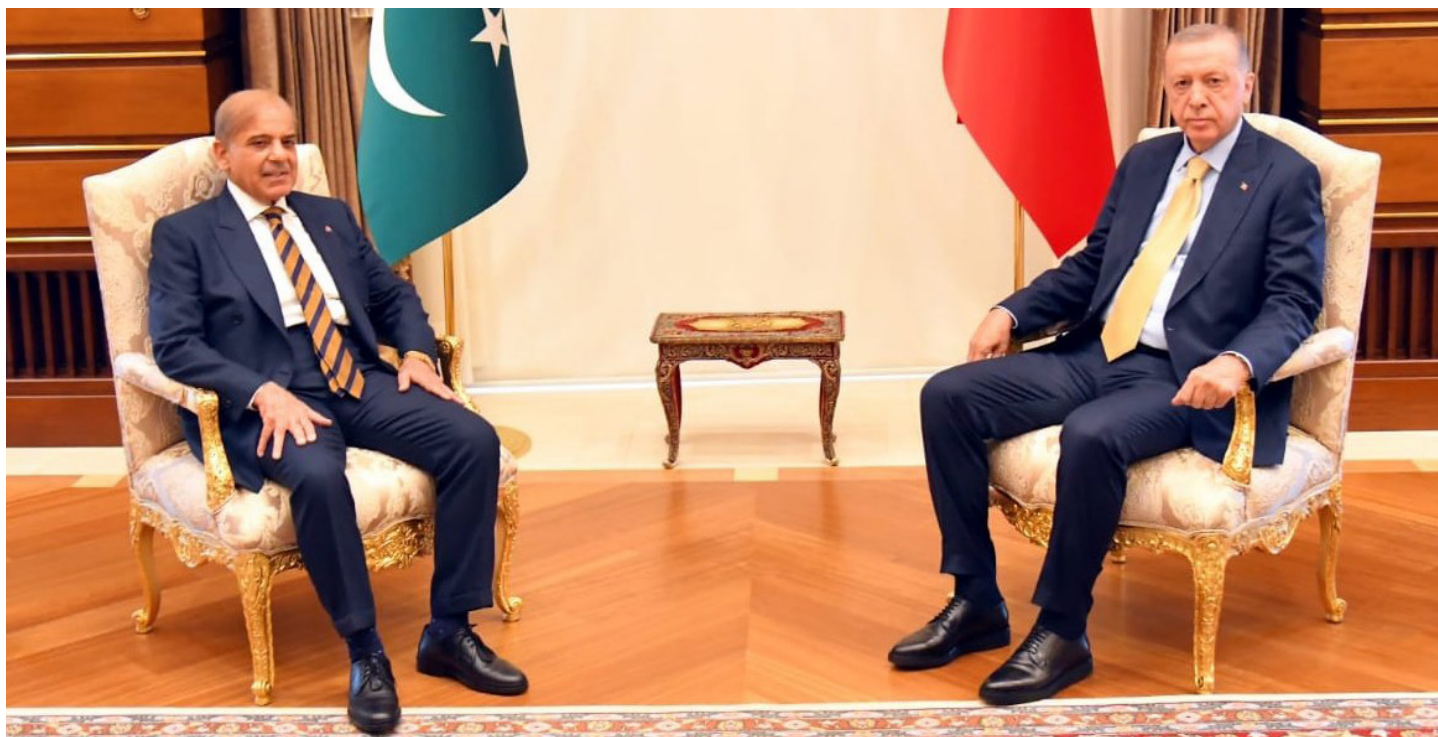
Meeting agreed to appoint a high level official from Pakistan to resolve open issues. Turkmen delegation thanked Pakistan Government’s support and cooperation for TAPI. The Turkmenistan’s delegation also included Deputy Minister Energy of Turkmenistan Mr. Annageldi Saparov, CEO & Chairman of the Board, TPCL Muhammetmyrat Amanov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan Atadjan Movlamov, Pakistan Branch Manager, TPCL Mr. Myrat Bayramov. Pakistan’s delegation included additional secretary Mr. Abrar Ahmed Mirza, additional secretary Mr. Hassan Iqbal, Managing Director Inter State Gas Systems (ISGS) Mr. Nadeem Bajwa and other officials of Petroleum Division.





PM Shehbaz attends inauguration ceremony of President Erdogan

***Premier conveys heartiest felicitations on behalf of the govt and
people of Pakistan to Erdogan***



By Mian Fazal Elahi

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif joined world leaders at the inauguration ceremony of President of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara.

The premier conveyed heartiest felicitations on behalf of the government and the people of Pakistan to President Erdogan on his re-election as the president of Türkiye and wished him continued success.

Acknowledging President Erdogan's visionary leadership, the prime minister stated that Türkiye's impressive strides in all fields during the past 25 years was most remarkable achievement.

As the Turkish Republic commemorates

its centenary this year, it was befitting that Erdogan would continue to lead the great nation on the path to progress and prosperity, the prime minister added.

PM Shehbaz also thanked Erdogan for his efforts to promote regional peace, and for the president's commitment to diplomacy and dialogue.

Reiterating his commitment to further strengthen Pakistan-Türkiye brotherly ties and enhancing diverse strategic partnership, the prime minister invited Erdogan to visit Pakistan to co-chair the 7th Meeting of the High Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) in Islamabad.

Pakistan and Türkiye enjoy historic





relations that transcend the boundaries of time and geography. Both countries have always stood by each other in times of need while celebrating each other's success.

The president thanked the prime minister and reciprocated the warm sentiments, as well as expressing his best wishes for the government and people of Pakistan.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb also felicitated Erdogan.

During the ceremony, traditional music and the national anthem of Türkiye were played. President Erdogan was accompanied by his wife, Emine Erdogan.

The ceremony at the Presidential Complex was attended by 21 heads of state, 13 prime ministers, as well as parliamentary and ministerial-level representatives, and representatives of international organisations, including the Organisation of Turkic States (OTS), NATO and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

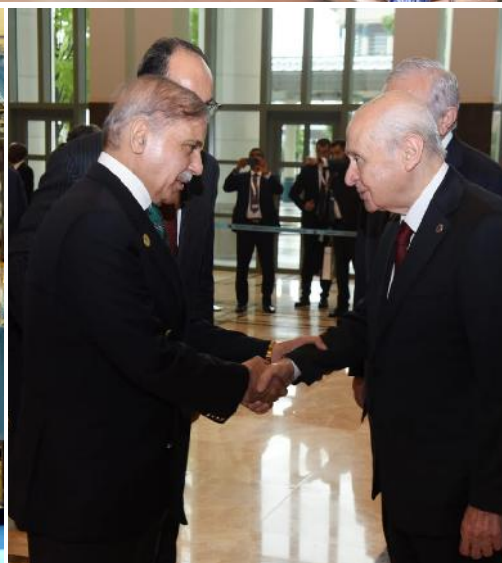
Earlier, Erdogan took oath in the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye and began his new term. He received his mandate from the Temporary Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, Devlet Bahçeli. After taking oath, Erdogan visited Anitkabir.



President Erdogan hosted guests at a dinner at the Cankaya Palaca, the former home of Turkish presidents, after the ceremony.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has met with leading businesspeople in the Turkish capital, its embassy in Ankara said, inviting them to invest in multiple sectors of the South Asian country.

The Prime Minister also held separate meetings with select leading Turkish companies that have already invested in Pakistan, including



Anadolu Group, Arcelik, Zorlu, Albayrak, Limak, Dolsar, Turkish Contractors Association and Pak Yetiri," said the statement, adding the prime minister encouraged them to benefit from an investment-friendly environment and expand their operations.

"The Turkish companies briefed the Prime Minister on their existing and future plans for investment, while thanking the Prime Minister for facilitating their operations in Pakistan," it said.



Baku to start shipping 'cheap' LNG from next month



By Mian Fazal Elahi

Following a two-day visit by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Azerbaijan on Thursday agreed to start shipments of LNG cargoes to Pakistan at “cheaper rates” from next month, said the Prime Minister’s Office in a statement according to media reports.

According to the Prime Minister’s Office, the prime minister held a meeting with Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev at Zagulba Palace wherein it was decided that Azerbaijan will start sending shipments of LNG to Pakistan from next month. Every month, one cargo on concessional rates will reach Pakistan.

At a joint press stakeout following the bilateral meeting, PM Sharif and President Aliyev announced Azerbaijan Airlines agreed to introduce flights between Islamabad and Baku.

Azerbaijan Airlines will also operate one flight to Karachi every week.

They also agreed to enhance the number of military exercises, besides exploring the avenues of cooperation in the areas of energy, investment, and education.

During the meeting, PM Sharif informed the Azeri president that the federal cabinet had approved the LNG deal with Azerbaijan.

The Pakistan State Oil and State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic will collaborate at the government-to-government level to work out the energy resources, the PM Office said.

On the import of Pakistani rice to Azerbaijan, both countries agreed on a comprehensive mechanism regarding the exemption of duty.

It was also agreed that the Azerbaijan Airlines (AZAL) would operate two weekly flights to Islamabad and Karachi.

“Pakistan welcomes the Azerbaijan airline to start its operations to Islamabad,” the prime minister said, as he invited the Azeri aviation



minister to visit Pakistan and also work out plans for the Baku-Karachi flights with a view to promoting tourism.

The PM thanked Azerbaijan for being a “staunch supporter of Kashmiris’ rights and highlighted the Indian acts of terror and atrocities” in the occupied region, including the violations of United Nations resolutions.

He reiterated that Pakistan was committed to the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and appreciated the “bravery of its forces for fighting for the country’s rights”.

Extending an invitation to President Aliyev

to visit Pakistan, the PM said he also looked forward to the Azerbaijan delegations of economic, aviation and energy ministers to discuss cooperation in various sectors.

The Azeri president said both countries agreed to increase the number of military exercises as the military capability was of the “utmost importance considering the changing circumstances”.

He said strong military capacity guaranteed independence and territorial integrity as Azerbaijan also “liberated its Karabakh region through its military might, not dialogue”.



By Mian Mian Fazal Elahi

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif have held an expanded meeting.

Pakistan and Azerbaijan have agreed to enhance their bilateral trade and promote cooperation in different areas including energy and defence.

Later, addressing a joint news conference, the President of Azerbaijan said an MOU will be signed for promotion of trade. A list of preferential trade items will also be prepared.

He said several delegations from Azerbaijan will soon visit Pakistan. He said one delegation will discuss the promotion of trade and investment, the second will deliberate on energy cooperation while the third will be related to the defence cooperation.

Ilham Aliyev said we have agreed to increase the number of flights between the capitals of the two countries.

He said we see a big potential in the area of education. He hoped to see more students from Pakistan studying in educational institutes of Azerbaijan. He noted that the Azeri youth who studied from Pakistan are greatly contributing in our development.

Ilham Aliyev said that both the sides have also discussed cooperation in defence and agreed to enhance the number of military exercises. He said a strong military capability is a guarantor



for independence and territorial integrity.

The President of Azerbaijan said both the countries have always stood shoulder to shoulder with each other. He said our peoples share the same views as the leaders.

In his remarks on the occasion, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said there is complete unanimity of views between the two sides on all bilateral and multilateral issues. He said Pakistan and Azerbaijan are two brotherly countries and this relationship is based on mutual trust, respect and sincerity of purpose.

The Prime Minister said our relations that are strong from ages do not reflect its density through their trade and investment portfolio, exchange of visits and cooperation in other areas. He said there is a desire on both sides to bolster this relationship.

He said there is great scope of cooperation between the two countries in the field of energy and petroleum products. He said Pakistan has a great potential in solar energy and said we look forward to cooperation in this realm.

The Prime Minister was appreciative of Azerbaijan for extending the facilitation to enhance rice imports from Pakistan. He said we also welcome Azeri airline to start its operations between Baku and Islamabad.

He assured that Pakistan would work closely with Azerbaijan to achieve the targets set for cooperation in different areas.

Shehbaz Sharif said Azerbaijan has always been a staunch supporter of the Kashmiri brothers and sisters who have been braving Indian atrocities and terrorism over the last several decades.

He said Pakistan is also committed to the cause of territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. He said the forces of Azerbaijan have bravely fought for the rights of Azerbaijan.

Addressing the meeting, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev said:

Dear Mr. Prime Minister, my dear brother and dear guests, welcome to Azerbaijan. We are very glad to host you in our country. Thank you for accepting my invitation. I am sure the visit will strengthen brotherly relations between our countries based on partnership, friendship and brotherhood.

We just discussed with the Prime Minister a broad agenda of our bilateral relations, once again reaffirming our strong support for our countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity.

I expressed gratitude to Mr. Prime Minister for supporting Azerbaijan's territorial integrity during the times of occupation, during the Second Karabakh War and after we restored our territorial integrity.

Once again, we reconfirmed our strong support to Pakistan on the issue of Kashmir, and we openly support and will continue to do it in all international institutions.





Today we discussed broadly important trade and economic cooperation issues, energy, transportation, and defense industry. Now in this format, we will continue our discussions. I am sure that as a result of the visit we will elaborate a new program of cooperation in different areas, which will strengthen our partnership even more.

Mr. Prime Minister, welcome once again.

Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said:

Thank you, my brother, President Ilham Aliyev. It is a great honor to meet with you again. Those seated here are our brothers and sisters.

Let me say this first, my brother Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, told me yesterday that you would be going to Baku, so please convey my sincere greetings to my brother President Aliyev.

He said, Shehbaz, Baku will make a great impression on you. Mr. President, your city has not just impressed me. It has made a deep impression.

What I have seen since last night reflects your vision, leadership, and dynamic efforts to build your country over the years. Without being afraid of contradiction, I can say that I can compare what I have seen in Baku so far. You can compare this city with any most developed and beautiful cities worldwide. And there is no exaggeration here.

One of the issues I intended to table here was that I wanted to ask you to send the best landscapers to Pakistan. The landscape here is beautiful; believe me, I was impressed.

President Ilham Aliyev: Thank you.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif: Today, I visited the grave of your genius father. I must say that his soul must be very happy because of the great work you have done. I congratulate you.

I think that my visit to Baku is very important. I believe that when I return to Islamabad, I will



have learned a lot from the steps of such a leader in the field of public service.

My dear brother, Mr. President, we are two fraternal countries. Our relations are based on mutual trust, respect and utmost sincerity. You have always supported the Kashmir issue and stood by Pakistan.

President Ilham Aliyev thanked for the greetings and asked the Prime Minister to pass on his greetings to Nawaz Sharif.

Earlier, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was presented guard of honour here at the Presidential Zugulba Palace.

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev warmly received the premier upon his arrival at the Zugulba Palace.

A contingent of Azerbaijan armed forces also presented a salute to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

At the invitation of President Ilham Aliyev, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday arrived here on a two-day official visit to Azerbaijan.

Upon his arrival, the prime minister was warmly welcomed by First Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Yagub Eyyubov, Deputy Foreign Minister Elnur Mammadov, Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov and Pakistan's Ambassador to Azerbaijan Bilal Hayee, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

It is the maiden visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Azerbaijan after assuming his office.



Addressing the meeting, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev said:

“Dear Mr. Prime Minister, my dear brother and dear guests, welcome to Azerbaijan. We are very glad to host you in our country. Thank you for accepting my invitation. I am sure the visit will strengthen brotherly relations between our countries based on partnership, friendship and brotherhood. We just discussed with the Prime Minister a broad agenda of our bilateral relations, once again reaffirming our strong support for our countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity. I expressed gratitude to Mr. Prime Minister for supporting Azerbaijan's territorial integrity during the times of occupation, during the Second Karabakh War and after we restored our territorial integrity. Once again, we reconfirmed our strong support to Pakistan on the issue of Kashmir, and we openly support and will continue to do it in all international institutions.

Today we discussed broadly important trade and economic cooperation issues, energy, transportation, and defense industry. Now in this format, we will continue our discussions. I am sure that as a result of the visit we will elaborate a new program of cooperation in different areas, which will strengthen our partnership even more.”

PM discusses climate change challenges with UN Secretary General

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Agency

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the Summit for New Global Financing Pact here and discussed the challenges of climate change being faced by the world, especially Pakistan.

The prime minister warmly welcomed the UN Secretary General and expressed his best wishes for him. In response the Secretary General also expressed goodwill to PM Sharif.

Shehbaz Sharif told the UN Secretary General that he considered him the benefactor of Pakistan as “we cannot forget your help during the last year’s floods”.

He said the UN Secretary General himself was a witness to the devastation caused by the climate change in the country.

The prime minister also informed the UN Secretary General about the measures taken by the government for rehabilitation and reconstruction of the flood-hit areas.

“Reconstruction of the infrastructure affected by the floods and rehabilitation of the flood affected people is the government’s top priority,” he added.

He said due to the climate changes, financial burden on the developing countries had been increased manifold as they were facing new challenges to raise the economic growth and maintain fiscal balances.

PM Shehbaz called for utilizing the Loss and Damage Fund to provide financial assistance to the developing countries.

The summit in Paris for the New Global Financing Pact was a good start in the right direction, he added.

He said along with climate justice, a fair attitude was also required in the distribution of global financial resources with developing countries.

The UN Secretary General appreciated the commitment of the prime minister and his government for the rehabilitation of the flood victims.



President Macron lauded for convening NGFP Summit

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Agency

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of the New Global Financing Pact Summit being held in Paris, France.

The Prime Minister appreciated President Macron for convening the New Global Financing Pact Summit. He also thanked the French President for inviting him to the Summit and for his warm hospitality.

Speaking on this occasion, Shehbaz Sharif hailed the French President’s bold step towards a system, based on financial justice with developing countries.

He said the developing countries are facing problems of non-availability of resources, burden of interest for debt

payments and slow development.

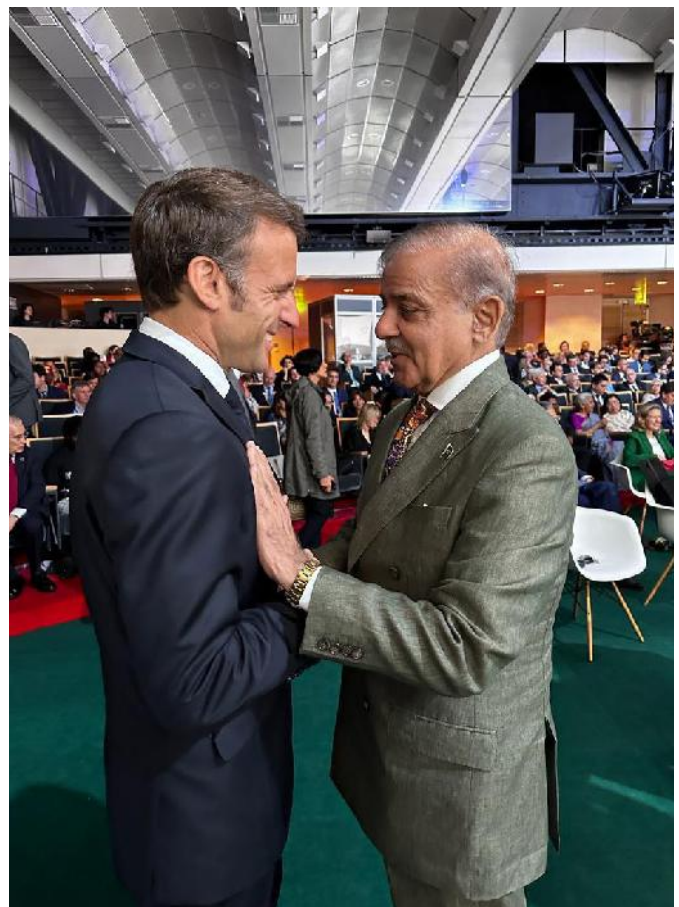
The Prime Minister said under the new Global Financing Pact, help of the indebted developing countries is the need of the hour so that the people of these countries can get relief.

He said devastating effects of climate change have added the hardship to already troubled developing countries.

Shehbaz Sharif praised the French President saying that he made a significant effort to create global consensus on an important issue.

On this occasion, the French President thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for attending the New Global Financing Pact Summit.

During the meeting, the two leaders also agreed to remain engaged on issues of mutual interest.



PM Shehbaz meets Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman

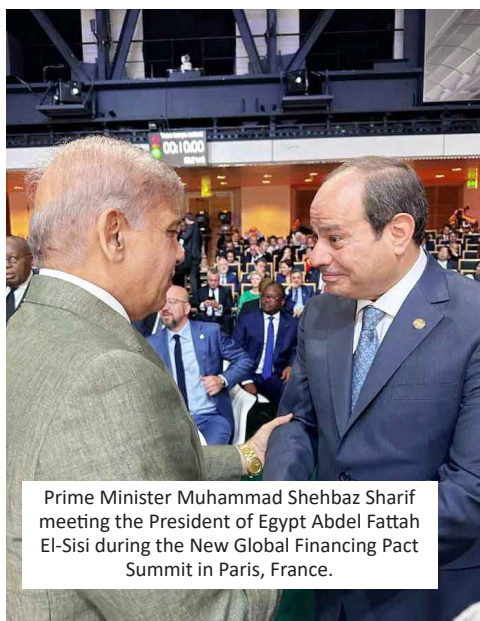
By Mian Fazal Elahi, Agency

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Prince Muhammad bin Salman here on the sidelines of the Summit for New Global Financing Pact.

Besides discussing matters relating to mutual interests, the two leaders agreed to further expand the shared actions to promote bilateral cooperation in diverse areas.

Prime Minister Sharif expressed his best wishes to the Saudi Crown Prince.

Prince Muhammad bin Salman also expressed his goodwill for the Pakistani government and its people.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meeting the President of Egypt Abdel Fattah El-Sisi during the New Global Financing Pact Summit in Paris, France.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on the sidelines of the Summit



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets U.S. Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry on the sidelines of Summit on a New Financing Pact



On the sidelines of the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact being held in Paris, France, PM Shahbaz Sharif met Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, MD of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met President of the EU Commission Ursula von der Leyen on the sidelines of the Summit



PM calls for fair, judicious distribution of resources to ensure peace, harmony

By Saeed Yousafzai

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called on the international community to come up with a plan for fair, equitable and judicious distribution of resources to ensure sustainable peace and harmony in the world.

Speaking here at the summit for a “New Global Financing Pact”, he said North had made progress and they would look forward to implementing its experiences in Pakistan, for providing jobs and livelihoods and for promoting industry and agriculture by learning from its model of success.

“It must be remembered that if South is in trouble the world can’t move ahead. We are like one body and if one limb of the body is in trouble it is painful for the rest of the body as well.”

The prime minister said last year, Pakistan faced devastating floods due to climate change and in those floods 33 million people were affected, millions of acres of standing crops were washed away, 1700 people including children died and half a million animals were drowned.

Two million houses were either completely demolished or partially damaged, he said, adding the people of Pakistan bravely faced the devastating impacts of the floods.

He said his government had to spend hundreds of millions of dollars from its own scarce resources to give financial assistance to the flood affectees all over the country. “We are very grateful to friendly countries across the globe for the valuable and timely



contribution,” he added.

He said the international financial institutions agreed to give loans for help of millions of people, but it would have burdened Pakistan, further exacerbating the already precarious financial situation.

Shehbaz Sharif said he took the United Nations Secretary General to the flood affected areas where city after city was sunk. Thousands of women gave birth to children in the camps set up for the flood affectees, he recalled, adding in far flung areas, the government had to provide food, medicine, water and education at temporary camps.

He said the people of Pakistan faced crises and problems in the past courageously and they would also overcome the adverse effects of the floods.

He urged the world to come forward



to generously provide opportunity and assistance through a mechanism which satisfied the most vulnerable having bare minimum. “It will create harmony in terms of economic justice and fairness. It is never too late to say no to injustice.”

He appreciated French President Emmanuel Macron for organizing the summit to discuss the very important subject related to financing issues of humanity.

Upon arrival at Palais Brogniart to attend the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was received by Ms. Catherine Colonna, France’s Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs. Federal ministers Sherry Rehman, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Marriyum Aurangzeb as well as Special Assistant to the PM Tariq Fatemi are part of the prime minister’s entourage.



Outgoing Korean Ambassador Praises Pakistan's Potential and Reflects on Diplomatic Journey

By Saeed Yousafzai

In a heartfelt farewell gathering held at Serena Hotel on Monday, the outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Korea (ROK), Suh Sangpyo, commended Pakistan as a nation filled with both challenges and opportunities.

As his diplomatic tenure in Pakistan drew to a close, Ambassador Sangpyo expressed regret for not being able to explore more of the country and build more friendships during his two-and-a-half-year assignment.

The farewell event was attended by esteemed parliamentarians including Senator Sehar Kamran, Senator Sitara Ayaz, and MNA Naveed Aamir Jeewa.

Also present were Dr Palitha Mahipala, a representative of the World Health Organization (WHO), Federal Secretary Ghufuran Memon, members of the Diplomatic Corps, and friends from civil society and the media, who gathered to bid farewell to Ambassador Sangpyo and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

Ambassador Sangpyo, who is on his way to assume the role of Consul General of South Korea in Atlanta, expressed his admiration for the people of Pakistan, describing them as kind, hospitable, and exceptionally friendly.

He shared his regret at not being able to

establish more connections and visit more cities in the vast country.

Reflecting on his tenure, the ambassador noted the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic upon assuming his post in Islamabad in the midst of the global health crisis.

Initially, strict restrictions limited his interactions with people, but after the World Health Organization declared Pakistan safe from the virus, he resumed meeting and hosting guests, engaging in high-level meetings with dignitaries, government officials, and representatives from the business community.

He highlighted the significant increase in the number of Pakistani workers in the Korean industrial sector during his tenure, from 1,000 to 4,000.

He acknowledged the valuable contributions of Pakistani workers in Korea's economic growth and infrastructure development.

The ambassador also emphasized the successful operations of Korean companies in Pakistan, such as DAEWOO, KEPKO (Electric), Sambu Construction Co. Ltd, DOOSAN Korea Midland Power Company Limited (KOMIPO), Korea Electric Power Hyundai and KIA Motors, Samsung, LG, LOTTE Group, Star Hydro power Limited (SHPL), POSCO, CK Solar, and K-Water. These companies have been actively involved in boosting Pakistan's business sector.

Furthermore, Ambassador Sangpyo highlighted South Korea's assistance in the establishment of a hydropower project in Pakistan's Northern areas, showcasing his government's commitment to supporting Pakistan's development efforts.

He also acknowledged the devastating floods that occurred in 2022, which displaced numerous individuals and caused extensive damage, particularly in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan.

The ambassador highlighted his country's relief efforts during those catastrophic times and pledged South Korea's continued collaboration with Pakistan in trade, energy, education, and defense.

As Ambassador Sangpyo departs in mid-July, his successor, who has served as Consul General in Japan and is currently posted at the Prime Minister's office in Seoul, will assume the role a day or two after his departure, in accordance with tradition.

The outgoing ambassador's reflections on his diplomatic journey underscored the potential and warm relations between Korea and Pakistan.

The shared aspirations for closer ties and cooperation in various sectors ensure a promising future for both nations.



Pakistan & Iraq agreed to open Pakistani Consulate in Najaf

FM Zardari remarks for Joint Press Stakeout

By Saeed Yousafzai

His Excellency Dr. Fuad Hussein, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq,

Honorable Media Representatives

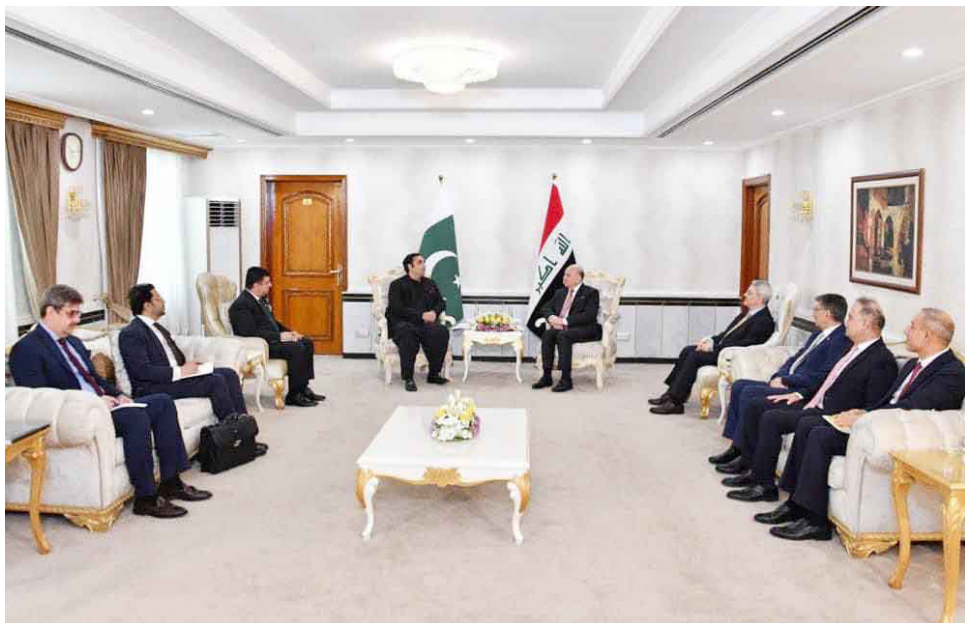
Ladies and gentlemen,

Assalam-u-Alaikum,

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to visit the brotherly country of Iraq. I want to specially

I hope that my visit would pave the way for further enhancing people-to-people contacts especially between the private sector, media, academia, and researchers.

thank Dr. Fuad Hussein for extending invitation to me to visit this beautiful country, which is very close to my heart as well.



My mother, Muhtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed held Iraq in very high esteem and had very fond memories of her visit.

I have come here with a desire to reinvigorate our fraternal ties and build them on solid foundations based on mutual respect, interests,

and institutional linkages.

I want to reiterate our desire to transform our bilateral relations into mutually beneficial economic ties. During my visit, we would have range of exchanges with the Iraqi leadership and private sector. We would be signing bilateral



agreements focusing on strengthening our collaboration in diverse fields.

Similar to Pakistan, Iraqi nation has shown exemplary resilience, steadfastness, and resoluteness in combating terrorism and defeating this scourge. Our two nations have made great sacrifices in achieving this victory, fruits of which are being enjoyed by the region and beyond.

Both our countries have always stood by each other at the multilateral forums. We have good flourishing defence cooperation, contributing towards our shared objectives for peace, stability and security. It is time to rebuild, come out stronger than ever and transform our countries into progressive nation states.

I am very happy to note that both countries have agreed to open Pakistani Consulate in Najaf. We have discussed MoU on Zaireen hospitality and Inshallah I will be signing during

my visit to Iraq.

I also want to announce the Pakistani Pilgrim centre in Kerbala, which would facilitate Pakistani Zaireen.

Pakistani workforce is renowned around the world for their efficiency, skill set and determination, and we hope to enhance avenues of collaboration in the interests of sustainable development of both the countries.

I hope that my visit would pave the way for further enhancing people-to-people contacts

especially between the private sector, media, academia, and researchers. Pakistani workforce is renowned around the world for their efficiency, skill set and determination, and we hope to enhance avenues of collaboration in the interests of sustainable development of both the countries.

The holy shrines in Iraq are very sacred for my people. We hope that more and more Pakistanis get an opportunity to visit these places. I am optimistic that my visit builds on our common rich heritage and provides an impetus to broaden and deepen our fraternal ties.

We were and always will be Iraq's close friends. We consider Iraq as our partner in achieving peace, prosperity, growth and development.

Long Live Pakistan-Iraq friendship.

I thank you all.





Pakistan, China sign MoU to build new unit of Chashma Nuclear Power Plant

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring

Pakistan and China signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to build a new unit of the 1,200 MW Chashma-5 (C-5) nuclear power project.

Wang Yongge, president of the China National Nuclear Corporation Overseas Ltd (CNOS) and Muhammad Saeedur Rehman from the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) signed the agreement for unit 5 of the power plant.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was also present on the occasion alongside Chinese Charge d' Affaires Pang Chunxue.

"It is a great occasion and a great moment between two great friends, China and Pakistan," the premier said while addressing the ceremony, adding that the power project was a "great step forward" for economic cooperation between the two countries.

The premier said that he had inaugurated the K-3 nuclear power project in Karachi a few months ago and today an agreement had been signed for the C-5 project.

"Hopefully, we will kickstart it without further delay," he said. He noted that investment from China, to the tune of \$4.8 billion, had sent a message "loud and clear" that Pakistan was a place where Chinese companies and investors continued to show their trust.

"Our friendship is higher than the Himalayas, deeper than the deepest ocean, sweeter than sugar and honey, and stronger than iron and steel," he said, adding that the Chinese president had described the relationship between the two sides as one of "iron brothers". He said that Pakistan had met all the terms



and conditions of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) ninth review, yet the process faced "inordinate delay".

"We thought this would be done two months ago, three months ago but there has been inordinate delay ... China, once again, came to our help and rescue. This is friendship. A friend in need is a friend indeed."

He said that apart from China, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Qatar, had also been helping Pakistan.

"But at this point and time, at this juncture, Chinese financial support has been outstanding," he said, adding that was at a loss of words to express his gratitude.

"We are deeply obliged to President Xi Jinping, to the Chinese leadership and to the Chinese finance minister," he said, as he also recognised the efforts of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and

his team.

PM Shehbaz said during last few months, China had also renewed commercial and sovereign loans which reflected the unparalleled friendship between the two countries.

Later, the premier tweeted that the addendum's signing was a "major step forward" towards the project's construction.

"This project is part of our energy security plan to diversify the energy mix with a focus on ensuring the provision of cheap electricity to the industry and relief to the common man.

"Can't thank Chinese leadership enough for their continued trust in Pakistan and the prosperous future of our people," he tweeted.

The prime minister said the vital project would add a "new facet" to the "multilayered cooperative strategic partnership" between Pakistan and China.



Pakistan issues demarche to US over US-India joint statement

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring

Pakistan summoned the US Deputy Chief of Mission to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and made a demarche to him to convey concerns and disappointment regarding the US-India Joint Statement issued after a meeting between President Joe Biden and visiting Indian Prime Minister Modi on June 22, 2023.

According to a Foreign Office statement, Pakistan in the demarche raised objections to what it described as unwarranted, one-sided, and misleading references made in the joint statement.

The Pakistani officials emphasised that the United States should refrain from issuing statements that could be interpreted as endorsing India's baseless and politically motivated narrative against Pakistan.

Furthermore, the Pakistani authorities stressed the importance of maintaining an enabling environment based on trust and understanding in order to solidify the counter-terrorism cooperation between Pakistan and the United States.

It was also emphasized that counter-terrorism cooperation between Pakistan and the US had been progressing well and that an enabling environment, centered around trust and understanding, was imperative to further solidify Pakistan-US ties.

The US-India statement issued after President Joe Biden laid out a red carpet for Modi, who was on a trip to the US, at the White House

where the two countries sealed major defence and technology deals as Washington bets big on India as a counterweight to China.

In an apparent bid to use the visit to further India's agenda against Islamabad, a joint statement issued by the two heads of state late on Thursday called on Pakistan to crack down on extremists that target New Delhi.

The statement called for action against extremist groups based in Pakistan such as the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad.

The joint statement said: "[The two leaders] strongly condemned cross-border terrorism, the use of terrorist proxies and called on Pakistan to take immediate action to ensure that no territory under its control is used for launching terrorist attacks."

It also called on Pakistan to punish perpetrators of attacks, including the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

A day earlier, the Biden administration had assured Islamabad that Washington still wanted a stable and prosperous Pakistan.

"A stable, secure, and prosperous Pakistan, is not just in the interests of the region but it's in the interests of the United States as well," said State Department spokesperson Vedant Patel when asked about possible US support for Pakistan's efforts to revive an International Monetary Fund aid package.

"We engage regularly with Pakistani officials, and you've heard me say this before... Our



engagement is critical to our ultimate goal, which is a stable, secure, and prosperous Pakistan," said Patel when asked about a meeting between the Pakistani finance minister and the US ambassador in Islamabad.

Reacting to the statement, the Foreign Office (FO) had termed the joint US-India statement "misleading and unwarranted", saying that the "reference is contrary to diplomatic norms and has political overtones".

The joint US-India statement was issued against Pakistan after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met President Joe Biden a day earlier.

Responding to media queries regarding the statement, FO Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said: "We consider the Pakistan-specific reference in the 'Joint Statement from the United States and India', issued on 22 June 2023, as unwarranted, one-sided, and misleading.

"The reference is contrary to diplomatic norms and has political overtones. We are surprised that it has been added despite Pakistan's close counterterrorism cooperation with the US."



China-Central Asia Summit Paves the Way for Regional Connectivity and Development

BRI and CPEC Unite Nations in Pursuit of Peace, Progress, and Prosperity

By Mian Fazal Elahi

The recently concluded China-Central Asia Summit has brought forth innovative concepts of regional connectivity, socio-economic cooperation, and industrial development that emphasize a holistic and harmonious approach.

This landmark event aptly showcased the real secret behind modern mutual human survival, economic stability, and sustainability—mutual respect, sovereignty, and territorial integrity between the participating nations.

Gwadar Pro, a reputable source, reported that during the summit, the attendees reached an agreement on political consultations, a common economic development plan, collaborative human development initiatives, joint anti-terrorism strategies, and, most importantly, a shared regional connectivity vision under the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative

(BRI). This collective effort marks a significant stride in the right direction.

Official data reveals that the trade volume between China and Central Asia countries reached a historic high of \$70.2 billion in 2022, a remarkable increase of over 100 times since the establishment of diplomatic ties nearly

three decades ago.

China has emerged as the foremost investor, trading partner, catalyst for industrial development, supporter of green transition and transformation, initiator of human development, and, not least, the champion of enhanced regional connectivity in all five Central Asian countries through the BRI.

Moreover, China is actively implementing and completing an integrated, interactive, and coordinated network of transport, railways, and aerial corridors across the region, primarily in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan.

The BRI's relentless efforts to reshape the geography, geology, geopolitics, and geo-economics of this area bode well for the rest of the world. Thus, both the China-Central Asia Summit and the BRI hold universal appeal and applications.

Pakistan, with its deep-rooted religious,

In this globalized world, the peace, progress, prosperity, and participation of China and Central Asia are intrinsically linked to the success of the BRI and CPEC.

civilizational, cultural, and economic ties, shares a special holy connection with all Central Asian countries. Strengthening economic ties with China will have direct positive and productive impacts on Pakistan's foreign policy, internal security, and macro-economy.

The unwavering support of all countries involved in the region further reinforces the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Phase-II projects in Pakistan. The monumental ML-I railway project, connecting Karachi, Peshawar, and Kabul, is poised to be a game changer in the near future.

Undoubtedly, the land of Central Asia is rich in natural resources, including oil, gas, and minerals. It has long been renowned for its intellectual acumen, innovations, skills, conflict resolution, good governance, progress, prosperity, and historical connectivity as a hub for the ancient Silk Route.

However, due to their double-landlocked status, many of these countries have seen their human talents, natural treasures, and political wisdom marginalized.

Fortunately, the BRI, alongside its flagship project, the CPEC, has opened a window of opportunity for all regional countries to foster greater regional connectivity and achieve common goals of peace, progress, and prosperity.

In this regard, all Central Asian countries have shown keen interest in connecting with the CPEC

projects, enhancing their regional connectivity with South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe through the Karachi dry port and Gwadar Seaport in the near future. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have been particularly vocal about expanding their bilateral relations and economic ties with Pakistan.

To conclude, the successful hosting of the China-Central Asia Summit has inspired

Pakistan, therefore, possesses a golden opportunity to advance CPEC Phase-II, foster socio-economic prosperity, and strengthen connectivity with the aid of the BRI and China's partnership.

Pakistani policymakers to further promote CPEC towards the middle corridors of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. This strategic move aims to expedite the realization of long-held dreams of extensive socio-economic integration and enhanced regional connectivity.

Presidents Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan

and Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan have already showcased their respective policies to promote greater regional connectivity. Mirziyoyev's "Ten Initiatives" holds the potential to significantly bolster regional connectivity between Central Asia and South Asia in the days to come.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative, which has successfully revolutionized the concept and context of regional connectivity, socio-economic integration, and the development of economic and transport corridors.

It has effectively challenged the notion of Western/USA imperialism and transformed it into a paradigm of immense regional integration.

Furthermore, the BRI has uprooted exploitative systems of regional and international engagement and institutionalized comprehensive and holistic policies of building a community with a shared future, guided by the principles of the Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative (GSI), and Global Connectivity Initiative (GCI).

In this globalized world, the peace, progress, prosperity, and participation of China and Central Asia are intrinsically linked to the success of the BRI and CPEC. Pakistan, therefore, possesses a golden opportunity to advance CPEC Phase-II, foster socio-economic prosperity, and strengthen connectivity with the aid of the BRI and China's partnership.



Accord on green energy with Denmark

Danish minister assures foreign minister of his country's full support in Pakistan's fight against climate change

By M. Saeed Yousafzai

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Danish Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy Dan Jorgensen agreed to enhance cooperation in building climate-resilient green energy infrastructure, including wind energy, to overcome the challenge of climate change and to resolve energy problems in Pakistan.

Talking to the media after exchanging Joint Action Plan under the Green Framework Engagement Agreement, the foreign minister said the agreement would set the stage for joint initiatives and projects in the renewable energy and green transition. The minister hoped that the policies would be formulated on behalf of the federal government to encourage international companies to invest in Pakistan's wind and other green energy sectors.

He said Pakistan was facing climate change challenges and last summer, historic floods hit the country resulting in the loss of precious lives and property. Bilawal said despite challenges, the two countries were working towards an energy transition and creating green resilient infrastructure for the people. "There are a lot of areas that we can benefit from this cooperation," he added.

Danish Minister Dan Jorgensen said:
"We share the same ambitions as we also want to fight climate change and both feel that international efforts to overcome the challenge are going too slow".

He said under the green framework agreement, the two countries would work together to overcome the challenge of climate change. It would also help create a healthy partnership in



green framework that would also create more economic opportunities between the two countries.

The agreement, he said would also help Pakistan become an energy independent and economically prosperous country. The foreign minister said the Danish government had been a leading voice and leading advocate for the green energy transition of climate agenda within Europe and Pakistan.

He said partnering with the European countries on this ambitious agenda of green energy transition would not only have positive implications on Pakistan within the climate context but the economy as well.

Terming the agreement very important, Danish Minister Dan Jorgensen said: "We share the same ambitions as we also want to fight climate change and both feel that international efforts to overcome the challenge are going too slow".

He assured the foreign minister of his country's full support in Pakistan's fight against climate change.

He also called upon the international community to cooperate with Pakistan in this regard. He said Pakistan could be a superpower in wind energy keeping in view its location and wind potential. "We have decades of experience in wind energy, and we are ready to help Pakistan in this sector."

The foreign minister said Pakistan and Denmark were facing the consequences of climate change in different scenarios as the latter was a developed country while Pakistan was a developing country.

"I think it is a good example of how a developing world and the developed world partner together to find solutions and work together to face the challenge," he added.

Pakistan, Iran Vow to Enhance Bilateral Ties

Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghaddam called on Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and discussed bilateral ties and matters of mutual interest. The Minister expressed satisfaction at the positive trajectory of ties between Pakistan and Iran. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari emphasized the significance of high-level exchanges between the two nations.



BilawalBhuttoZardari ✓

@BBhuttoZardari

Pleased to receive the new Ambassador of 🇮🇷 to 🇵🇰 @RAmiriMoghadam today. Extended best wishes to him for a productive tenure. Reaffirmed 🇵🇰's commitment to further strengthen close brotherly relations with 🇮🇷

Pakistan A Major State in Iran's Foreign Policy: Irani FM

Foreign Minister of Iran Hossein Amirabdollahian described Pakistan as one of the most important rings in the chain of the Iranian administration's neighbor-oriented policy.

In a meeting with Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Asad Majeed Khan, held in Tehran, Amirabdollahian said Iran sees no limits in developing its ties with Pakistan.

Appraising the current status of the bilateral relations as favorable and oriented towards further development, the Iranian foreign minister commended the standing level of Iran's bilateral and international cooperation with Pakistan.

He also pointed to the history of the countries' ties, saying the relations boasted many instances of commonality. He urged both countries to exploit all available capacities towards further enrichment of the relations. Amirabdollahian referred to a recent meeting between Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Pakistan's Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, during which the officials inaugurated two important border projects, saying Pakistan functioned as an important link in Iran's political dealings with its neighbors.

For his part, the Pakistani official conveyed Sharif's regards to Amirabdollahian, providing the latter with a report on the contents of the latest round of political consultations between the countries, Press TV reported.



Khan considered the consultations to be of strategic importance to the further development of the countries' relations, laying emphasis on the importance of additional expansion of the ties.

Over the recent years, Tehran and Islamabad have been working towards enhancing their relations, especially their bilateral economic ties and their mutual efforts at combating terrorism in the areas that straddle the common border.

H.E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam, Honorable Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan arrived in Islamabad morning. Our Heartiest Welcome & Sincere Congratulations at the onset of his diplomatic journey in the brotherly, friendly & neighboring Country of Pakistan, tweeted by Iranian embassy, Islamabad.





Statement of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Islamabad On the Occasion of The 34th Anniversary of the Demise of Imam Khomeini (RA)

On the 34th anniversary of the demise of the late founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeini (R.A), we pay tribute to the exemplary character and high position of this great man of history. The outstanding personality of this Islamic scholar has always been a source of inspiration for freethinkers all over the world, and the great achievements of his life are long-lasting and inspirational.

The starting point of Imam Khomeini's movement was based upon the departure from and negation of the then-established order in the international arena based upon imperialism, arrogance, colonialism, capitalism, power and materialism on the one hand, and the effort to revive the religious values, morality and Islamic democracy on the other hand. The Iranian people as well as the freethinkers around the world pay homage to the Great Founder of the Islamic Revolution of Iran for the indefatigable struggles and the visionary leadership he made in the fight to revive Islamic values.

Unity of the Muslims and Proximity were



among the engagements of Imam Khomeini as a necessary, possible and inevitable issue. They will guarantee peaceful coexistence, increase tolerance and contribute to the growth, development, prosperity and strength of the Islamic world as a whole. Undoubtedly, the enemies of the unity in the Islamic world try to create division, separation and misunderstanding, but by the grace of the God Almighty and the vigilance of the leaders of the Islamic countries, these conspiracies are now neutralized. New developments at the regional level indicates that the world is now on the verge of a great change and moving

towards a new order based upon cooperation between the Muslim countries and built upon respect, goodwill and friendship. In the same wake, unity and proximity should be seriously followed through Unity Diplomacy the main axes of which include the religious commonalities between Muslims including; belief in the God Almighty, the Holy Quran, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and the unique Qiblah. Common interests and common threats of the Islamic Ummah, are the other pillars of the Unity Diplomacy that could be dealt with via cooperation and interaction.

Pakistan, Italy extend Debt Swap Agreement timeline



By Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan and Italy reached an agreement to extend the timeline of the Pakistan-Italian Debt Swap Agreement through the Exchange of Letters.

Andreas Ferrarese, the Italian Ambassador in Pakistan and Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, signed the EoL and extended the timeline of the PIDSA up to December 31, 2024 on the same procedures, modalities, terms, and conditions as defined in the signed Agreement dated November 4, 2006, between Pakistan and Italy.

During the extension period, the remaining activities of PIDSA will be completed i.e., the remaining debt will be cancelled, completion of ongoing PIDSA projects, handing/taking over of assets, impact evaluation of the PIDSA

Andreas Ferrarese, the Italian Ambassador in Pakistan and Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, signed the EoL and extended the timeline of the PIDSA up to December 31, 2024

Programme, and final report of the PIDSA Programme.

The Government of Pakistan and the Government of Italy had signed an agreement for Development Swap, on November 4, 2006,

which came into force in 2009. Approximately \$100 million (US \$26.52 million & Euro 58.74 million) equivalent to PKR 8.276 billion of Pakistan's debt owed to Italy is to be swapped for expenditure on development projects around the country on Health, Education, Agriculture, and Environment, Micro Credit Schemes, Poverty Alleviation, Rural Development and Infrastructure.

Management Committee is the highest decision-making body of Pakistan Italian Debt Swap Agreement, co-chaired by H.E. the Italian Ambassador and Secretary Ministry of Economic Affairs along with representatives of the Federal and Provincial Governments.

To date, 48 projects have been approved and funded by PIDSA, out of which 45 projects have been completed and 3 are in progress.

77th National Day anniversary of Italy Marked



Embassy of Italy hosted a reception to mark the 77th National Day anniversary of Italy in Islamabad. Speaking on the occasion, Italian Ambassador Andreas Ferrarese said he was honoured to celebrate the 77th National Day anniversary and 75 years of cordial diplomatic relations with Pakistan. He said since 1946, generation after generation had formed a prosperous democracy, with highest social standards and excellent levels of life, adding that Italy and Pakistan enjoyed excellent accords and strove to strengthen ties in all important spheres. Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif was the chief guest on the occasion while Governor of Punjab Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (NA) Zahid Akram Durrani were among the noted guests of honour. Senators, members of the NA, diplomatic corps, the business community and civil society also attended the event in good numbers and greeted Mr and Mrs Andreas Ferrarese on the auspicious occasion.







SPECIAL MESSAGE BY

H.E. Andreas Ferrarese

Ambassador of the Italian Republic to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Message on the occasion of 77th anniversary of the Republic Day, National Day of Italy

As we celebrate 77th anniversary of the Republic Day, National Day of Italy, I am pleased to speak to our Pakistani friends.

I would start by thanking all those who sent messages of warmth and solidarity on this auspicious occasion.

This year also marks 75th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between our two countries.

The time-honoured Italy-Pakistan relations are marked by emergent bilateral cooperation and harmony of views on a great range of issues.

Our cooperation encompasses, but is not limited to political, economic, cultural and social spheres.

Italy values the vital support and continued cooperation that Pakistan extended to the international community.

With a community exceeding 180.000, Italy is home to the largest Pakistani diaspora in Europe (post-Brexit).

Their contribution to the Italian economy, as well as to that of their native country, is remarkable.

Worker remittances from Italy to Pakistan have been on all-time high in past two years (more than 1 billion Euro a year).

Italy was the seventh largest source of worker remittances to Pakistan globally, and the top one within the EU countries.

Both countries appreciate the importance of people-to-people contacts that foster bilateral ties. The Embassy is strongly committed to improve consular services.

The fifth Italy-Pakistan Joint Economic

Commission (JEC) took place on 29-30 May in Rome, where the two sides agreed to establish a joint framework to deal with climate change and cooperation in water management.

Both sides signed an important "Roadmap for Cooperation" which covers climate change, trade & investment, heritage & culture, agriculture, technical cooperation, higher education and transfer of technology in related sectors.

Italy remains among top ten exporting countries for Pakistan in the world, and third major trade partner in the EU.

Both our countries are in favor of trade liberalization scheme at World Trade Organization, and contest the idea of unilateralism.

With a population of around 240 million, and a constantly growing demand of high-end products, Pakistan continues to be an attractive market for Italian companies and businesses.

Some of renowned Italian companies have established their presence in Pakistani market lately.

I am pleased to share with you an exciting news; that is the establishment of Italian Trade Agency (ICE) office in Islamabad and assignment of the first Italian Trade Director to Pakistan.

This would be a major step towards an enhanced trade cooperation.

We shall continue to explore the avenues with focus on agriculture, renewable energy, textiles, construction and tourism.

Collaboration in fields of textiles, agriculture, livestock, marble, pharmaceuticals and mass manufacturing would help enhance Pakistan's

industrial scope and increase exports of value added goods.

In addition to economic affairs, Italy remains active in community uplift projects and several fruitful programs in various fields have been accomplished.

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) has supported a number of projects in fields of agriculture, health and infrastructure in diverse regions of the country.

We are excited to see the initial success of "Olive Culture Project" in Pakistan that would bear tangible fruits for the country in future.

Our Archaeological Mission is one of the oldest present missions in Pakistan, and has made great contributions to Pakistan's already rich archaeological scene.

Italians' love for Pakistani mountains is no secret and that reflects through their activities of conservation and uplift of Pakistan's mountainous areas.

You would be pleased to learn about all these activities through articles published in this supplement.

The Embassy of Italy in Islamabad is committed to further strengthen bilateral ties, with an aim to take mutual trade to its natural size.

We look forward to a deeper collaboration with Pakistani business community, relevant bodies such as chambers of commerce and industry in both countries.

From everyone at the Italian Embassy in Islamabad: "buona festa della repubblica".

Viva l'Italia!

Pak-Italy dosti zindabad!



**H.E. DANILLO GIURDANELLA**

Italian National Day 2023 Message of the Consul, Karachi



Consolato d'Italia
Karachi

It gives me great pleasure to address the readers again on the National Day of the Italian Republic. In an increasingly changeable and complex global scenario, the principles and values that were laid down by the founding fathers of our Republic, democracy, equality for all and rule of law are - I believe - the only possible answer to the international and domestic crisis we are facing around the World.

Our initiatives in Karachi, Sindh and Baluchistan have always been guided by these polar stars, being fully convinced of the importance of international cooperation for all peace-loving Nations and that particularly Pakistan stands to gain by more cooperation with Italy and Italy has much to learn from Pakistan and its

generous and industrious people.

The past year has been a prodigious and enriching experience for me as well, as we undertook various initiatives mainly in educational, social and commercial fields to further fuel the bilateral relations between the two countries and the two peoples.

I wish to remind here that also the Pakistani diaspora in Italy has played a fundamental role in strengthening the ties between the two Nations, as well as the smaller but equally engaged Italian community in Pakistan.

On the educational side, the Italian Consulate in Karachi has been proactively engaged with reputable universities in Sindh to facilitate

in creating linkages with their counterparts in Italy. Our aim is to establish lasting bonds between academic institutions of Italy and Pakistan in all disciplines and faculties for exchange programs, joint researches and to establish a three-party relationship with Italian and Pakistani businesses involved or interested in bilateral economic cooperation as a way to fight unemployment in Pakistan and contribute to Italy's workers shortage in certain fields.

This year, we will continue to bring more scholars, civil society and academicians to visit Sindh and create linkages between the two countries for years to come. As we believe, education plays a pivotal role in building sustainable, inclusive and resilient societies



and is one of the main goals in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Another important project remains the cooperation between the Sindh Ministry of Culture and the University of Milan regarding the significant historical site of Banbhore, with the will to further strengthen tourism in Sindh.

Regarding the social activities, the Italian Consulate, with the support of Italian NGOs has been promoting humanitarian aid to the victims of the catastrophic flooding in Sindh. Another important sector has been Health Care: among other University cooperation's an important agreement has been signed between a major Italian paediatric hospital and its Pakistani counterpart.

On the commercial front, while we have been successfully facilitating business ties between commercial entities on both sides. I would take the opportunity to specially highlight the joint coordinated effort of the Consulate of Italy, together with the Italian Trade Agency (ICE) and Italian Development Committee (IDC) in successfully facilitating the business community to be able to participate in the largest textile exhibition in the world ITMA 2023, which is being hosted in Milan from 8-14th June, 2023.

For Italy in Karachi, it is very important to facilitate businesses exchanges on both sides to be able to explore potential opportunities between both countries. The Consulate created a special corridor for ITMA 2023 – a one window solution together with ITA, IDC, ACIMIT and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that Pakistani businesses successfully participate in the exhibition. Besides, tourism and other business requests, the Consulate facilitated around 600 ITMA applications from March-May 2023.

Another positive development has been the opening of ICE office in Pakistan, which will further strengthen the bilateral economic and commercial relations between Italy and Pakistan.

I take the opportunity to welcome Dr. Salvatore Parano, the newly assigned Trade Commissioner for Pakistan. I extend my full support to the ICE office in Pakistan for Sindh and Baluchistan.

I am optimistic that Dr. Parano will also play a vital role in fortifying trade relations between our two countries.

This year, another area that the Consulate of Italy aims to promote is Blue Economy. Italy is a strong industry player in the Blue Economy Sector. It is the third largest blue economy in Europe. Taking into account all parallel supply chain activities, the blue economy as a whole generated \$145 billion in 2021, representing 10% of Italian GDP, with more than 225,000 companies. This area of cooperation is particularly interesting as we enjoy in Karachi excellent relationships with the Armed Forces

and the Pakistan Navy and we look forward to an increase in Naval Diplomacy activities.

In sum, it has been a very intensive year, full of opportunities and cooperation between the two Countries but also of love and affections between the two people. Italy has shown its willingness to contribute to Pakistan's industrial growth and social development; Pakistan has enriched Italy with its big-hearted, indefatigable people and ancient culture. Italy-Pakistan Dosti Zindabad!

Bilateral Trade Analysis (Italy - Pakistan):

The bilateral trade relationship between Italy and Pakistan has achieved a significant milestone in the second quarter of FY23, as Italy has emerged as a billion-dollar market for Pakistani exports. This establishes Italy as the second-largest European destination for Pakistani goods, despite the challenging market conditions resulting from the health emergency.

Italy has displayed active investment in Pakistan and has extended support through various initiatives. Under the Pakistan Italian Debt for Development Swap Agreement, Italy provided a substantial funding of US\$100 million for social development projects in health, education, and sanitation. Furthermore, the Italian government has committed to offering a credit line of \$10 billion for Italian investors seeking to venture into Pakistan. Italy has also backed Pakistan's endeavours to secure a free trade agreement with the European Union.

Italy has consistently demonstrated a keen interest in the Pakistani market and has gradually strengthened its position over the past few decades. It has become one of Pakistan's top ten global trading partners and the second-largest among EU member states. Although trade between Italy and Pakistan has grown steadily, the trade balance remains in favour of Italy. Pakistani exports to Italy have also witnessed an upswing under the Generalized System of Preferences-Plus Scheme.

Pakistan, a country with a promising future, is considered a pivotal player in Asia, with the potential to achieve remarkable economic feats. There exists robust cooperation between Pakistan and its Italian counterparts, aimed at leveraging Italian technologies and expertise for maximum benefit.

ITALY'S Top Exports to Pakistan

In FY22, Italy's exports to Pakistan amounted to 519.39 million euros with growth of 24.2% compared to FY21; which is 0.73% of the total

export made to Pakistan from the world. This substantial increase demonstrates a robust trade relationship and suggests a rising demand for Italian goods in the Pakistani market.

The top export to Pakistan were boilers and machineries (€231.53m), pharmaceutical products (€43.04m), iron and steel (€36.05m), electrical machinery and equipment (€20.42m) and organic chemicals (€19.54m).

Italy's top export to Pakistan also includes products like heavy machinery such as power generating machinery, precision apparatus, metalworking machinery, transport equipment's and electrical machinery.

Further, it imports iron and steel, telecommunication equipment's, waste and scrap of copper and aluminium, surgical instrument, defence equipment, mineral fuels and dyes for tanning paints. Moreover, a considerable amount of arms is being exported to Pakistan by Italy.

The data for FY21 reveals that Italy's exports to Pakistan were 418.58 million Euros, indicating a decline of 5.4% compared to FY20. While there was a slight reduction in exports, the trade relationship remained significant, emphasizing the ongoing trade flow between the two countries.

ITALY'S Top Import from Pakistan

In FY22, Italy's imports from Pakistan amounted to 1,021.88 million euro's, indicating a significant increase of 54.2% compared to the previous fiscal year which was 662.55 million euro's.

The Import from Pakistan to Italy in FY22 covers 3.60% of the Pakistan's total export as compare to FY21 which was 3.08% of the total export of Pakistan.

This demonstrates a substantial growth in imports from Pakistan to Italy, highlighting an expanding trade relationship between the two countries.

The top imports from Pakistan were textiles (over all €1.67 billion), cereals (€78.12m), beverages (€54.19m), plastic and articles (€41.64m) and raw hides and skins (€38.84m).

For FY21, Italy's imports from Pakistan totalled 662.55 million euros. When compared to FY20, this represents a slight increase of 0.5%. Despite the challenges posed by the global market conditions during this period, the import level from Pakistan to Italy remained relatively stable.

	(million, €)			
ITALY-PAKISTAN	FY22	FY21	FY20	FY19
<i>Italy's Exports</i>	519.39 m	418.58 m	443.78 m	834.96 m
<i>Italy's Imports</i>	1,021.88 m	662.55 m	659.92 m	691.87 m
<i>Total Trade</i>	1,541.28	1,081.12	1,103.7	1,526.83
(Source UN ComTrade)				



ITALIAN TRADE AGENCY READY TO OPEN ITS NEW OFFICE IN ISLAMABAD TO REINFORCE ITALY-PAKISTAN TRADE RELATIONS

Message by

Amedeo Scarpa,
Italian Trade Commissioner for Pakistan
UAE office

The Italian Trade Commission (ITA) is the Italian Government trade and investment promotion agency whose duty is to develop, facilitate and promote the economic and trade relations of Italy with other countries, with particular emphasis on the needs of small and medium sized businesses.

It gives me immense pleasure to address the readers of this special supplement on occasion of the Italian National Day to be celebrated on 2nd, June 2023 in Islamabad and Karachi respectively.

Trade promotion is becoming increasingly complex and difficult in the era of globalization and pandemic where every day brings new commodities and market forces in the global trading system.

The Italian Trade Commission has always worked under the auspices of the Embassy and Consulate of Italy to enhance the existing trade relations between Italy and Pakistan, through its office for Pakistan in Karachi karachi@ice.it

Italy stands among the top ten trading partners of Pakistan. Italian industrialists have been enjoying good trade relations with their Pakistani counterparts for the past many decades.

However, there are still large margins for further improving such trade by enhancing trade promotion activities to be realized in both countries.

PAKISTAN's exports of goods and services to Italy witnessed an increase of 35.58% during the first three quarters of fiscal year (2021-22) as compared to the exports of corresponding period of last year.

The overall exports to ITALY were at \$758.795 million during July-March (2021-22) against exports of \$559.664 million during July- March (2020-21).

And this is above the average considering that Pakistan's exports to other countries had an increase of 26.64% in nine months (from US \$18.713 billion to US \$ 23.699 billion).

On year-on-year basis, the imports from Italy increased by 98.32%, by going up from \$43.320 million during March 2021 against



the exports of \$85.916 million in March 2022.

Meanwhile, on month-on-month basis the imports from Italy witnessed surge of 47.31% in March 2022 as compared to the exports of \$58.323 million in February 2022. (Source: SBP)

We look forward to increased interaction between Italy and Pakistan in the years to come and for Italy to become major stakeholder in Pakistan's industrial growth and development, not only in terms of provider of technology for Pakistan manufacturing units but also in terms of quality standards of FMCG in which Italy has a worldwide reputation and can represent a win-win best practise for Pakistani partners

and new products.

This is the reason why the Italian Government and the Minister of Foreign Affairs decided to open a new office of ICE/ITALIAN Trade Agency in Islamabad from this month of June 2023.

My best wishes and welcome to my colleague dr. Salvatore Parano, the newly appointed ITA Director for Pakistan.

I am sure that its long lasting experience and knowledge will be a fruitful asset to reach such a challenging goal. Benvenuto Salvatore!

Follow us on Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn: @ITADubai



ITALIAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION-AICS

The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) Islamabad office undertakes several multi-sectoral activities in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Agency strives to align Italy with its European and global partners in the respective endeavors of development. AICS model complies with the need for more innovative forms of cooperation, involving the methodological flexibility necessary in a continuously evolving scenario.

AICS has many flagship programs and projects that target a holistic set of objectives to create research-education-labour linkages for effective cooperation. In particular, the development cooperation action seeks to improve resilience and adaptation to climate change and alongside foster the preservation of natural and cultural heritage. Due to the ongoing climatic changes and natural disasters, it is ever more imperative to invest in ways that ensure climate change mitigation and adaption.

‘Glaciers and Students’ is one such unique project that aims at supporting environmental monitoring and natural resource management at the Central Karakorum National Park and the Deosai National Park. Its activities are contributing to improve risk assessment dealing in particular with GLOFs and hydrogeological hazard, thanks to the application of remote sensing, GIS techniques and a dedicated web information system.

There is also active engagement of Pakistani universities in the field activities through a rigorous training and capacity-building program in the much-needed areas of glaciology monitoring and remote sensing analysis. This shall provide the appropriate tools to ensure long-term research goals and a scientific and transparent data communication mechanism. Environmental projects of AICS in northern



Pakistan are also valuable towards safeguarding the livelihoods of the remote communities and work for the preservation of biodiversity and fragile ecosystem.

AICS has strong inclination towards female literacy, along with raising awareness on cultural heritage and preservation of natural heritage in Pakistan. For this, two very important projects have been launched. First, is a project entitled “Support to Girls’ Right to Education and Safeguarding Cultural Heritage through Education in Pakistan”. This initiative has been carried out in the districts of Swat and Bahawalpur. Its primary aim has been to strengthen government’s capacity and quality of education imparted along with enhancing girls’ access to schools.

The second project is called ‘Olive Culture’. Olive is a low maintenance and high-yield tree and its

cultivation has been quite successful in Pakistan. This project is an all-inclusive contribution to Pakistan, aimed at the same time to secure nutrition, environmental resilience, female participation and above all, provide a constant stream of primary or complementary income. The project has helped numerous beneficiaries in the alleviation of poverty, achieving technical and vocational training and access to new opportunities of work.

The Pakistan Italy Debt Swap Agreement was initiated in January 2009, and to date, 48 various impactful projects have been executed under it in multiple districts all over Pakistan.

AICS remains committed to its mission to provide assistance, enhance local capacities and support basic needs in alignment with Pakistan’s sustainable development strategy.



THE ITALIAN HISTORICAL-ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN SINDH THE SITE OF BANBHORE

By Prof Dr Valeria Piacentini Fiorani

Professor of History and Institutions of the Muslim World (rtd) in the Catholic University of Milan Scientific Director of the Italian Historical-Archaeological Project of the Università Cattolica di Milano a Banbhore (Sindh).
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With these words, on 9th May, 2023, the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Antonio Tajani, has opened the works of the Day of Italian Cultural Missions in the World. I was there, honoured to speak at the closing session about the Italian Historical-Archaeological Project at Banbhore (Sindh) and our impact on the Territory.

After nearly 20 years in Makran, the Italian Team reached Sindh, on the quest of the great Harbour-Town depicted by textual sources of the Past as the key to Sindh and magnificent terminal of monsoon, river and land routes of the global trades between Orient and Occident, the Lands of the Zenjis [present Zanzibar] and Inner-Central Asia. In collaboration with two Pakistani scholars, Dr A. Ibrahim and K. Lashari, we decided to face the challenging site of Banbhore. After five years of hard field work (2011-2015), we achieved the site's first stratigraphic chronology. The majestic citadel, rising on a secondary branch of the Indus, powerfully bastioned, its 55 towers still standing in situ watching the river's deltaic region and an imposing «Archaeological Park», could now be dated since the 4th Century b. CE c. until the early 13th Century CE. The towers' architectonic shape and other structural elements and archaeological data allowed to perceive the main stages of its life: Seleucid-Parthian-Kushan until the 3rd Century CE: square, massive towers with an astounding drainage; U-shaped towers, typical of the Sasanian military architecture suggested a span of time 3rd-8th Century CE; round towers

rebuilt on preceding defensive structures - typical of Islamic systems – pointed to the final phase of the site. End of the site's peopling and abandonment? Only hypotheses and new archaeological and historical research-work.

At the end of 2017, field-work was resumed on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the General Directorate of Antiquities and Archaeology-Ministry of Culture-Tourism-Antiquities and Archives of Sindh, and the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan, Italy. In 2016, following archaeological and historical data,

we had assumed that Banbhore's site might be identified (90%) with the historic harbour-town of the pre-Islamic Dib/Islamic Daybul, heart of a territorial system. Not only this. In 2014-2015, while excavating Trench 9 in the central portion of the mound, on the topsoil levels we had come across a wealth of ivory offcuts and other artisanal items: unknown evidence of some craftsmanship of luxury goods. Thus, in 2017, we decided to focus on Trench 9 and the site's central-western sector, never touched by F.A. Khan's excavations, dismissed as «of no archaeological relevance... stones and rubbles



The Site of Banbhore and Surrounding Archaeological Park (Satellite Photo)





Drone Orthophotogrammetric Map of the Bastioned Site. Excavated Trenches. (A. Tilia 2021)

mirroring the site's decadence». Despite this assertive statement, now we can affirm that, undoubtedly, we are confronted with the site's last phase of peopling, a stage, however, far from being «irrelevant», since what was coming to light was a prosperous artisanal quarter and market built on imposing buildings of the Past, skirting the main North-South/East-West road-axis of our mound. Decadence? Not at all: reorganisation of the urban plan.

Textual sources give detailed descriptions of such intra-moenia markets all along the Arabian seaboard, but archaeological data are scanty. Here, in Daybul, we have the first plastic picture of a Middle-Age Islamic market with its workshops: ivory and metal-working, glass, ceramics, beads, semi-worked shells and other! Archaeological and structural data point to a drastic reorganization of the site's plan, peopling and life. Separated into two sectors by the so-called «Partition Wall», we are confronted with a new urban plan structured by a strong, authoritarian, centralised power; a plan that, at the same time, suggests a new political and institutional configuration. Eastwards, stood the Palatial area excavated by F.A. Khan, with its Great Mosque rebuilt on a Buddhist Temple, lavish palaces facing a lovely artificial lake at the foot of the north-eastern bastions. Westwards, on the relics of striking buildings, the Italian excavations were opening a quarter of workshops of luxury-goods and

related artisans' modest houses. These latter, of 2-3 small interconnecting rooms: walls in mud bricks on roughly squared stones and likely roofed, following a tradition still alive. Fragments of glass, ivory offcuts, beads and other were scattered around; the large ancient roads converted into handy pits for offcuts and refusals (organic and other). Pottery and objects still in situ associated with archaeological levels, and comparisons with pottery from other sites of the Indian Ocean gave a precious material evidence of a renewed prosperity and a large spectrum of resumed international relationships, trades and business. Why and how?

Excavations in textual sources (chronicles and travelogues in Arabic and Persian) provided precious information.

Textual sources complement, frame the archaeological plastic picture and allow to give a *raison d'être* to this urban development. The disruption of Mansura Emirate (first decades of 11th Century CE) had left open the doors to heavy attacks by Turkish hordes. Daybul, besieged, held on and rebuilt itself: a safer new urban plan (luxury goods crafted inside the walls! Easier also to levy the due tolls), the palatial quarter in a safer position, and all around – extra-moenia – a reorganized «Industrial Quarter». When new Turkish peoples (the Seljuks) besieged once again

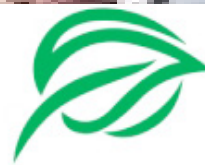
the well-fortified citadel in the fifties of the 11th Century, they had the worst and came to pacts with the new leadership: Daybul became Autonomous Territory under a native Amir. The Territory included Makran. This was the new political-institutional organization that gave to our site new splendour and predominance thanks to a native leadership and personal overseas connections and matrimonial alliances. These latter, Mansura's heritage.

Ministry and DGAA are involved, their formidable teams support and collaborate with us on the field. Training and Italian know-how is given to selected scholars. Workers are no less concerned. Tourists and schools come to visit our open-air Museum, properly preserved following local traditional «bio-restoration» systems. Local craftsmen are actively involved, while surrounding villages provide services and information about local crafts.

History – Archaeology – Science and Technologies have been closely working together both in Italy (archaeometric analyses) and in Sindh, on the field, for a common cultural heritage and a sustainable economic development of the territory, a presence and a joint activity that represent a precious cultural bridge between distant countries, as stated by the Italian President of the Republic in his Message to The Day of Italian Archaeology Abroad.



Italian Friends of The Citizen Foundation



Italian Friends of The Citizen Foundation is an Italian charity that has been supporting TCF in implementing its projects regarding the education of the underprivileged in Pakistan. Based in Milan, formed in 2010 and registered in 2013, IFTCF was created by a group of women, professionals and entrepreneurs in various fields, determined to help children from the most deprived areas of Pakistan.

TCF purposefully introduces high-quality education to out-of-school children, often living in communities that have never had schools. Since its foundation, 28 years have passed. Now TCF runs 1,800+ schools, catering for 280,000 students, half of which are girls. The organization focuses on a modern curriculum that develops creativity and critical thinking skills, innovation

in learning and teaching.

The impact is well beyond education: TCF strives to create a safe place for students and to make parents feel at ease about their children – especially girls – are attending school. This is why, TCF hires only women as faculty, and is therefore the 1st employer of women in Pakistan in the private sector, according to the Economist. And not only that: TCF schools have become hubs within the communities of the schools, where community members participate in adult literacy classes, vocational training for women and have access to clean water. TCF was awarded with the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy and the Skill Award, among others.

Over the years, the cooperation between TCF

and IFTCF has borne fruit: through exhibitions, publications, and events, not only IFTCF has raised funds for TCF schools, but has also raised awareness about Pakistani culture and art in Italy and Europe. The proceeds from fundraising activities are donated to TCF, with the aim of creating agents of positive change in Pakistan through quality education. Between 2016 and 2018, IFTCF organized one of its most important and successful fundraising projects, Art for Education.

With the patronage of the Embassy of Pakistan in Rome and the Italian Embassy in Islamabad, this was a multi-year event that had two main objectives: to support quality education for the underprivileged in Pakistan and to unite two countries through the universal language of



Mansehra, KP



art. For this initiative, 60 Pakistani artists were invited to submit and donate their artworks. Later, in October 2018, all the artworks were showcased in Milan. This exhibition, titled 'Art for Education: Contemporary Artists from Pakistan', was the first group exhibition of Pakistani artists to be held in an Italian museum. The opening of the exhibition was properly introduced by Salima Hashmi – a renowned Pakistani painter, writer, critic, activist, and highly-esteemed intellectual – and Maria Rosa Falvo – an Italian-Australian writer and critic. A charity auction was also organized to raise funds for seven TCF schools.

The initiative has also created a strong bond between the two countries, showcasing the artistic talents of Pakistani artists and helping to support education for those in need. It is hoped that more collaboration like this will continue to strengthen the relationship between Pakistan and Italy, while also promoting artistic expression and education for all.

Follow us at:

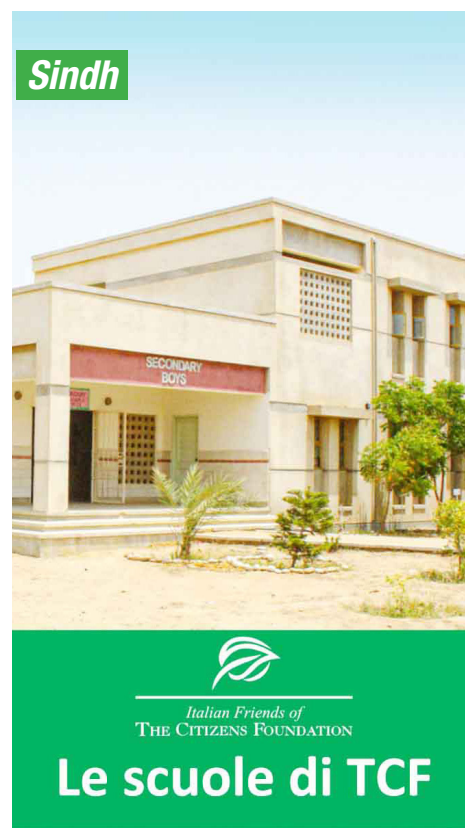
TCF Pakistan – www.tcf.org.pk

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Balochistan



Sindh



Italian Friends of
THE CITIZENS FOUNDATION

Le scuole di TCF

KPK





DEEPENING THE TIES BETWEEN ITALY AND PAKISTAN AND ITALY'S LOVE FOR PAKISTAN'S MOUNTAINS

Since the times bilateral ties between Italy and Pakistan were established, they got only stronger over the years. The mountainous regions in north of Pakistan have benefitted especially from Italy's continuous support in numerous fields.

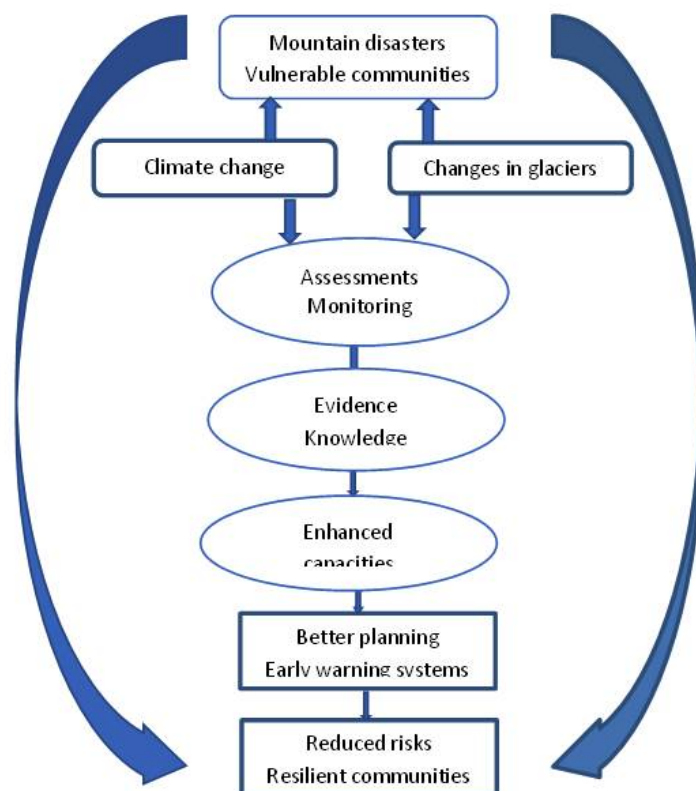
Northern parts of the country are blessed with incredibly beautiful topographies, forests, cold deserts, snow-capped mountains, and a rich cultural legacy.

However, the region faces challenges in dealing with the threats emerging from climate change.

This signifies the role of international community, willing to support this region, and calls for a coping strategy with financial and technical assistance.

In this regard, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) has been of paramount support, with several projects in the region that led to substantial improvement in lives of the people.

EvK2CNR, an Italian organization working in Pakistan for more than two decades, has been AICS' implementing partner for many projects in collaboration with the provincial government, local communities and other stakeholders.



The Italian Government's support has proved to be vital for preserving the fragile environment, helping the vulnerable mountain communities -that capitalize on available natural resources such as agriculture and ecotourism for the improved livelihood-which leads to integrated sustainable development.

EvK2CNR continues to realize AICS' projects in the northern areas, which are not only aligned with the development goals of the local government, but also in line with the SDGs.

These projects are completed by combining research (and capacity building for intrinsic knowledge generation) with community development, and ecological management as fundamental aspect.

The project "Glaciers and Students" is a recent endowment to conserve the vulnerable glaciers of the area that are considered the third pole for their biggest glacial deposition. Executed by UNDP and implemented by EvK2CNR, this project upholds the legacy of the Italian government to support Pakistan, in particular the mountain communities of north.

The overarching goal is to reduce the danger of hydrogeological hazards in Pakistan's mountainous regions by building a system for assessing and monitoring mountain glaciers based on solid scientific data.

Local universities will be actively involved in the project's monitoring operations. A special training and capacity-building program will be run for the students to guarantee the project's long-term viability.

Through GIS-based applications, the knowledge created will be archived and disseminated for scientific reasons, awareness-raising, work planning, and policy-level decision-making.

The same techniques will be applied to strengthen regional scientific institutions' (universities) capacities, ensuring long-term sustainability.

The project seeks to install eight weather stations and create an inventory of Pakistan's more than 7000 glaciers. One of the most important aspects



of the project is the participation of students from several universities, including Karakoram International University and Baltistan University. Since sustainability has been a key priority of the project from the beginning, the Environmental Protection Agency has been onboard since the inception of the project.

With support of the Italian government, EvK2CNR is committed to carry on its activities for bringing the people of two countries closer and protection of the most fragile glacier and mountain ecosystems in north, as well as uplifting of the local communities by improving their livelihood opportunities.





THE ITALIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MISSION IN PAKISTAN

The Mission has been active since 1955 and is amongst the longest-running archaeological missions in Asia. Since its foundation, the Mission has concentrated its work mainly in the Swat Valley, in ancient Gandhara. To speak of Gandhara in connection with the history of the Mission, means talking first of all about Giuseppe Tucci who, with a happy intuition, launched archaeological campaigns in the Swat valley, which was then an autonomous kingdom ruled by the enlightened Miangul family. In 1969 the Swat State was merged into Pakistan.

Today, the Mission is a coordinated activity between ISMEO and Ca' Foscari University of Venice. The sources of funding come mainly from these two institutions as well as from the Ministry of University and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Mission works in collaboration with the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums (DoAM), Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in a framework agreement with the federal authorities of Pakistan.

The Italian Mission is known internationally for its role in the study of Gandharan art and archaeology, settlement and funerary archaeology from protohistory to the Islamic and pre-modern period, rock art and archival studies. Recent developments in the work of the Mission are the study of paleoclimate (with an ongoing project funded by Ca' Foscari University of Venice) and genomics and bio-archaeology in collaboration with Harvard Medical School and the Max Planck Institute. Swat, with its data collected by the Mission, is among the best studied areas of the ancient world in terms of DNA. An outstanding article on this topic was published in Science in September 2019.



From 2011 to 2016, the Mission also executed the ACT-Field School Project in Swat, a Pakistan-Italy Debt Swap Agreement-funded project which also included the reconstruction of the Swat Museum damaged by an attack in 2008 and reopened in 2013, and the restoration of the colossal rock relief of the Buddha of Jahanabad, damaged during the insurgency.

The Mission's main excavation site in Barikot, Alexander the Great's city of Bazira, has recently seen a major intervention from the Pakistani provincial government, which acquired the area as a protected heritage site for future generations. The ongoing excavation of the ancient fortified city has revealed evidence of the ancient fortified city from the time of Alexander (late 4th century BC) and the walls of Indo-Greek fortifications (mid 2nd century BC). A recent discovery of an apsidal temple from the Maurya period (mid 3rd century B.C.) confirms the presence of Buddhism already active in the oldest urban context of Gandhara. This discovery was listed by the magazine Archaeology (February 2023) as one of the "10 most important discoveries of 2022". While the excavation of the city is ongoing, the Mission is active in the restoration of the monumental acropolis whose walls in various phases date from the 3rd to the 10th century AD (see photo) (ISMEO-ALIPH-DoAM project).

Two Directors of the Mission (the first and the current one, the late Dr. Domenico Faccenna

and Prof. Luca M. Olivieri), and the then President of ISMEO, the late Prof. Gherardo Gnoli, were awarded the Pakistani Presidential 'Sitara-i-Imtiaz' (Star of Excellence) Award. Prof. Tucci was awarded the highest civilian award in Pakistan, the 'Hilal-i-Imtiaz' (Crescent of Excellence).



125 Anniversary of the Philippine Independence Day marked in Islamabad

Independence Day of the Philippines is celebrated in Islamabad. The Embassy of the Philippines in Islamabad marked the Independence Day of the Philippines with a grand celebration. Distinguished guests, including Federal Minister of Education Rana Tanvir Hussain, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Ambassadors of ASEAN countries, Additional Secretary Asia Pacific Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ameer Khurram Rahtore, host Maria Agnes M. Cervantes, and other dignitaries graced the occasion.



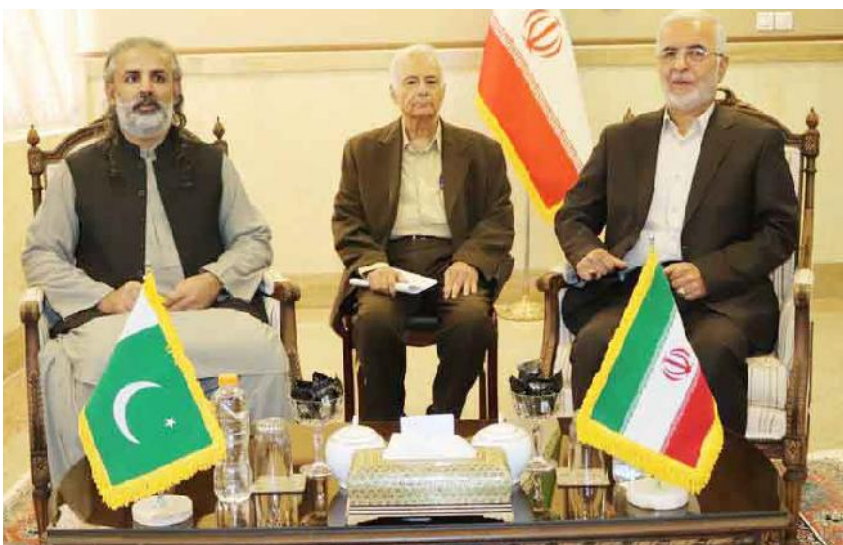
Mr. and Mrs. Mian Fazal Elahi graciously organized a delightful dinner reception in Islamabad to honor Ambassadors, High Commissioners, and their spouses. The event was attended by a distinguished gathering from the diplomatic community. In his capacity as CEO/Editor/Publisher, Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi expressed heartfelt gratitude to the esteemed guests for accepting the invitation.





Pakistan delegation visited Tehran for Triangular Ministerial Meeting facilitated by UNODC

On the sidelines, bilateral meeting between Secy Gen Dr Eskander Momeni and Hon Minister for Narcotics Control Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti took place at DCHQ, Tehran. Both countries displayed strong resolve in fighting the menace of drugs in the region.



H.E Mr Rahim Hayat Qureshi, Pakistan Ambassador in Iran, organized a dinner in the honour of Pak Delegation at traditional Pakistan House.



On the sidelines, bilateral meeting between Iranian Police Chief Maj Gen Ahmed Radan and Hon Minister for Narcotics Control Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti took place at Police HQ, Tehran. Both countries unanimously declared Pak-Iran border as “Border of Friendship and Peace” (Deewar e Dosti).





Joint Efforts against Drug Trafficking: Iran and Pakistan Hold Strategic Meeting in Tehran

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Agency

The meeting of Triangular Initiative (TI), facilitated by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), was held in Tehran from 13th to 14th June 2023.

The Pakistan delegation was led by Federal Minister of Narcotics Control Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti. The federal Minister was accompanied by Director General Anti-Narcotics Force, Major General Mohammad Aniq-ur-Rehman, and some senior officers.

During his stay in Tehran, Honorable Minister attended the Triangular Initiatives event.

Separately, the Minister met with Secretary General of Anti-Narcotics Headquarters Dr. Eskandar Momeni, and discussed issues related to narcotics control and smuggling through borders of the two countries.

Honorable Minister Mr. Bugti, stressed on the need to control the drug trafficking in the region, especially in the border area



between Pakistan and Iran. He emphasized that training of law enforcing agencies would help in controlling the drug trafficking going through borders and would enable both countries to eliminate this menace.

Dr. Momeni, agreed on the need for continuous cooperation between the drug control departments of the two countries so as to ensure the smooth trade going through

the borders between Pakistan and Iran.

At the end of the 14th TI Senior officials Meeting (SOM), a joint statement was released. In the statement, it was agreed that to counter the illicit drug problem, there was need to make concerted efforts by both Pakistan and Iran together.

UNODC would provide a progress report on activities and achievements of TI as well



as on its progress achieved in collecting / mobilizing technical and financial assistance.

Earlier, Senior officials from Iran and Pakistan Meeting was held on Day-1. Pakistan Delegation was led by DG Anti-Narcotics Force Maj Gen Muhammad Aneeq ur Rehman Malik and Iranian delegation by DG ANP Brig Gen Kakavand. The discussion was moderated by Mr Lutfi, DCHQ, Iran. Mr Fedulov represented UNODC COIRA, while Mr Jeremy Milson represented UNODC COPAK.

The meeting is part of the series of gatherings foreseen by the Triangular Initiative and

Minister Mr. Bugti, stressed on the need to control the drug trafficking in the region, especially in the border area between Pakistan and Iran. He emphasized that training of law enforcing agencies would help in controlling the drug trafficking going through borders and would enable both countries to eliminate this menace .

aimed at discussing existing drug trafficking threats, regional counter-narcotic strategies, and operational means to improve trilateral cooperation, according to the UNODC website.

The Triangular Initiative was launched in 2007 to strengthen cooperation in counter-narcotics law enforcement between the Islamic Republics of Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

UNODC serves as its Secretariat; it facilitates the implementation of technical assistance and mobilizes financial support.



The initiative has so far helped to forge an unprecedented level of cooperation on drug control between the three countries.

Periodic meetings of experts and policy-makers have been facilitated by UNODC since 2007, building trust amongst the three countries' anti-narcotics authorities.

At the operational level, a Joint Planning Cell has been established in Tehran for information and intelligence sharing and the implementation of joint operations targeting drug trafficking networks operating in the region.

Moreover, Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan have identified strategic locations to place Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) at their common borders to improve information exchange and ensure a concerted inter-agency and cross-border response against drugs and precursor trafficking.

Some 1,700 regional and international drug gangs were dismantled by Iran in the year 2022, Eskandar Momeni, the secretary general of the Iranian anti-narcotics headquarters, said in May.



The 105th Anniversary of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces day celebrated

Ambassador Khazar Farhadov and Defence Attache Colonel Mehman Novruzov host Azerbaijani Armed Forces Day in Islamabad. Air Marshal Irfan Ahmed, Deputy Chief of Air Staff Projects was the chief guest. A large number of guests hailing from various walks of life attended the reception. A special musical performance by the Pakistan Army band added color to the event.



Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation and The Jordan Anti-Drugs Society (TJADS) collaborated with Serena Hotels and hosted a panel discussion on "Early Drug Prevention Strategies: The Future of Youth."

KAWWF is a leading organization working to create awareness of the youth against the use of drugs, which have become a prevalent issue in the youth of Pakistan. The panel discussion highlighted the importance and need for creating awareness from a young age against the use of drugs that are now easily accessible to prepubescent children. The presence of renowned experts in the field, including psychologists, educators, addiction specialists, law enforcement professionals, and community leaders, provided valuable insights and practical strategies to tackle this issue preemptively. The community is as involved as the stakeholders in this initiative. The event was hosted under the Public Diplomacy Initiative of Serena Hotels, a corporate social responsibility initiative that aims to discuss and create awareness of unaddressed issues prevalent in society.



Day of Russia Celebrated in Islamabad



SERENA HOTELS

The Day of Russia was celebrated with great fervor and enthusiasm in Islamabad, highlighting the deep-rooted and strong bilateral relations between the Russian Federation and Pakistan. The event witnessed the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including Federal Minister for Law, Azam Nazir Tarar, and Ambassador of the Russian Federation, Danila Ganich, who together cut the ceremonial cake to commemorate this special occasion. The event was attended by government officials, diplomats, representatives from the business community, cultural figures, and media personnel, all of whom shared a common vision of strengthening the bond between Russia and Pakistan.





Romanian Ambassador to Pakistan,

H.E. Nicolae Goia,

Passes Away After Years of Service

The diplomatic community in Islamabad mourns the loss of Ambassador Nicolae Goia of Romania, who passed away on Sunday, June 24, 2023. Ambassador Goia had been serving in Pakistan for the past five years, although his tenure had officially ended. Due to health reasons, he had been granted an extension to continue his diplomatic mission in the country. Unfortunately, Ambassador Goia had been battling cancer, which was diagnosed during his service in Pakistan.

Ambassador Nicolae Goia was a distinguished Romanian diplomat who was reaching the end of his illustrious career. He had been preparing to retire from service, bringing to a close a tenure marked by remarkable contributions to the promotion of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Romania.

Numerous agreements had been signed between the two countries under his leadership, strengthening ties and fostering

cooperation in various fields.

Throughout his time in Pakistan, Ambassador Nicolae Goia facilitated numerous high-level delegations from both Pakistan and Romania, further deepening the diplomatic bonds between the nations. His professionalism and easygoing personality had endeared him to the diplomatic community, and news of his passing has been met with deep grief and sorrow.

Just a few days prior to his passing, Ambassador Goia attended a reception held by Azerbaijan in Islamabad, marking his final diplomatic assignment. Little did anyone know that this would be his last public appearance, making his sudden departure all the more poignant.

The dean of the diplomatic corps conveyed the news of Ambassador Goia's demise to the entire diplomatic community, expressing condolences and highlighting the significant loss suffered by all. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been in constant communication with the Romanian

embassy, offering their unwavering support to facilitate the repatriation of Ambassador Goia's remains to Romania.

In an official statement, the Foreign Ministry shared their sorrow, saying, "It is announced with profound sorrow that Romanian Ambassador to Pakistan Nicolae Goia has passed away. A seasoned professional, Ambassador Goia shall be remembered for his contribution towards strengthening Pakistan-Romania relations. Our thoughts are with the family of Ambassador Goia in this difficult time. May his soul rest in eternal peace."

As the diplomatic community and the people of Pakistan bid farewell to Ambassador Nicolae Goia, his legacy will live on through the strengthened ties between Pakistan and Romania. His dedicated service and commitment to promoting bilateral cooperation will not be forgotten, and his loss will be deeply felt by all who had the privilege of knowing him.



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Cordially Congratulations!
**77th Anniversary of the
Republic Day, National Day
of Italy**

H.E. Andreas Ferrarese

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Italian Republic to the
Islamic Republic of Pakistan