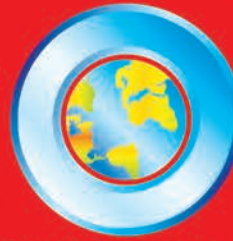


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Pakistan reiterated its continued support for the Palestinian cause

Exclusive Interviews



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H.E. Nicolae Goia
Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan

I am not pleased with the Current level of the economic cooperation with Pakistan

Pakistan has made great progress in combatting terrorism in recent years



Pg-36

H.E. Perry Calderwood
High Commissioner of Canada to Pakistan

PO, NPC jointly hold Kashmir conference

A Kashmir Conference – A Way Forward arranged jointly by the Nazriya Pakistan Council and Pakistan Observer at Aiwan-I-Quaid, Islamabad. The conference is part of the Kashmir Solidarity Day marked on February 5 across the world including in Pakistan and Jammu and Kashmir. The conference presided

over by the President of AJK Sardar Mohammad Masood Khan, while Lt-Gen (Rtd) Nasser Khan Janjua was the Chief Guest. Speakers include ex-premier of AJK Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, AJK Jamaat Islami chief Abdur Rasheed Turabi, Mashaal Mullick and others. Holding of Kashmir conferences was pioneered by founder

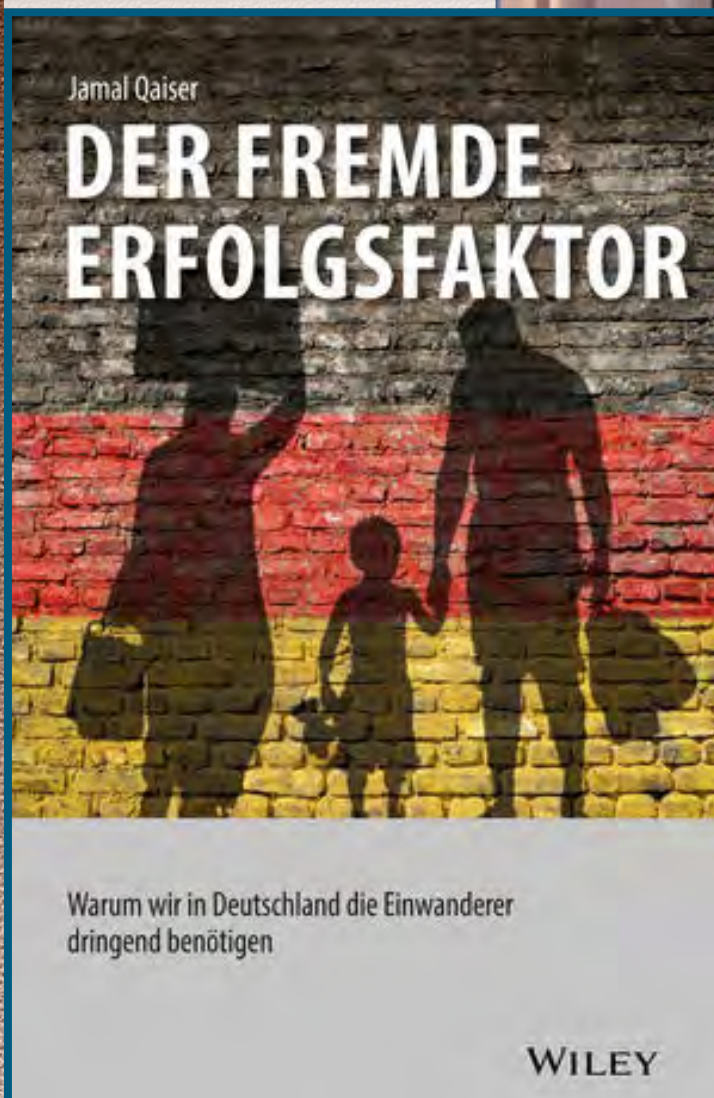
of Nazriya Pakistan Council late Zahid Malik to support Kashmir cause. It is in that tradition that his sons Faisal Zahid Malik, Editor-in-Chief and Gauhar Zahid Malik Executive Editor are upholding as a tribute to the Kashmiris fighting their right to for self-determination.



Nobel Prize nomination: Jamal Qaiser’s “The foreign success factor” nominated for Nobel Prize in Literature

The German Economic Forum has proposed Pakistani-origin author Jamal Qaiser’s book “Der fremde Erfolgsfaktor” (The Foreign Success Factor) for the nomination of the literature novels of Nobel Laureates in Literature in Stockholm.

With Germany’s population registering both hot and cold temperatures towards refugees and Donald Trump’s suggestion that German Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel’s policy regarding refugees is “utterly crazy,” the attitude towards asylum seekers and individuals migrating to Germany is often characterised by pessimism and hopelessness.

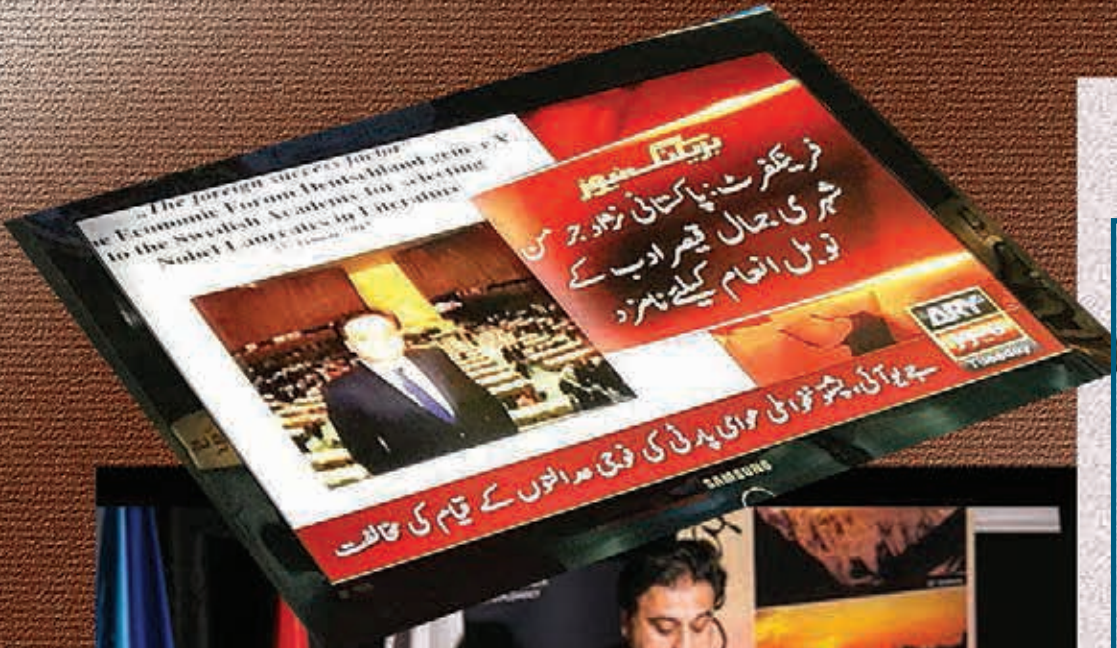


Book Description

The author of “Der Fremde Erfolgsfaktor”, Mr. Jamal Qaiser, born in Pakistan and a former refugee himself, shows the only way forward, encouraging all migrants to Germany and also demonstrates that diversity, or being a foreigner in Germany, has distinct advantages.

From the exclusion and rejection of being a migrant into the complicated German school system to his first earnings as a boy-salesman at Frankfurt flea markets through his education at Harvard Business School and on to becoming an entrepreneur and investment banker in Germany, Qaiser leads as a shining example and encourages fellow migrants that:

- a. Germany offers every opportunity to those willing to work for success and
 - b. Germany and the EU are in need of young and skilled entrepreneurs
 - d. Migrants can succeed, if they believe in themselves, Germany, in the EU and the USA
- Qaiser’s book presents ways and possibilities to vitalize



Awards received to date:

1. At the 2016 Frankfurter Book Fair, "get abstract" selected Mr. Qaiser's book as one of only two German book awards with their prize.
2. German Parliamentary Literature Tip for years 2015 and 2016. Under recommendations: Integration von Zuwanderern (English: Integration of Migrants)



Background of Mr. Jamal Qaiser

Mr. Jamal Qaiser is married and father of five children. He lives in the Rhein-Main area of Germany. He is a Pakistani born German national. He advises German ministries and is active as an international consultant to the EU and the United Nations. Mr. Qaiser was appointed DC Commissioner for UN Affairs by the Diplomatic Council, which is a global think tank in consultative status with the United Nations. In this position, Mr. Jamal Qaiser is regularly attending UN conferences and session as such the Annual Assembly in New York or the Human Rights Council in Geneva.



Finding inspiration for achievement and success among young migrants to Germany is, therefore, even more encouraging against this backdrop.

In a statement, the Economic Forum Deutschland gem. e.V. said, "It is our honor to propose Mr. Jamail Qaiser's book *Der fremde Erfolgsfaktor* for the nomination of the literature novels of Nobel Laureates in Literature in Stockholm."

Qaiser, who was born in Pakistan, shows not only the way forward, encouraging all migrants to Germany, but also demonstrates that diversity – or being a foreigner in Germany – has distinct advantages.

The author shared his feelings with Geo News, stating he is very proud of the fact that from all over Germany, his book has been selected as a nomination.

Speaking on Pakistani diaspora living in Germany, Qaiser said that immigrants can be a great asset for Germany, especially students coming in for higher education in large numbers every year. He added that by making legal immigration easier, the country can make sure that young graduates and skilled immigrants from Pakistan find good opportunities in the German job market.

Himself being a migrant, Qaiser went through the complicated German school system. He first worked as a salesman in the Frankfurt flea markets, then went for higher education at Harvard Business School, and finally returned to Germany as an entrepreneur and investment banker.

He extends encouragement for fellow migrants in four points:

- Germany offers every opportunity to those willing to work for success
- Germany and the EU need entrepreneurs
- Believing in yourself is all important
- Success, not only in Germany but in the EU and the USA, is possible for migrants

Qaiser's book enhances possibilities to vitalise economic growth by improving the underpinnings and infrastructure for migrant integration.

At the Frankfurter Book Fair, get Abstract – a company creating business books' abstracts – awarded Qaiser one of their only two German book awards for 2016.

Final nominations of the literature novels of Nobel Laureates in Literature in Stockholm will officially be released later this year.



Heading Hashoo Group hosted an enjoyable dinner in honour of the ambassadors, diplomats, UN officials, corporate and NGO executives, socialites and media at the beautiful Marquee of the Islamabad Marriott Hotel

The President of the Hospitality Division, Hashoo Group, Mr. Nicolas Frangos, and Mrs. Frangos hosted an enjoyable dinner in honour of the ambassadors, diplomats, UN officials, corporate and NGO executives, socialites and media at the beautiful Marquee of the Islamabad Marriott Hotel. This reception opened doors to new friendships and was full of color, music and joy.

In the welcoming speech, Mr. Nicolas Frangos said "It is an immense pleasure to have you all here today, I'm grateful to you for sparing time for tonight's event and your warm wishes. Thank you all!

The Hospitality Industry contributes to a large percentage of the country's revenue. Pakistan's hospitality Industry is booming at an incredible

pace along with the growth in economic activity. According to the reports from World Bank, IMF and other International Financial Institutes, Pakistan has bright and positive macro-economic future prospects. Pakistan's service sector is vibrant and is attracting more foreign investors. Hashoo Group is working towards achieving greater socio-economic prosperity.

Here in Pakistan, the second thing that strikes one's mind after the word 'Hospitality' is Hashoo Hotels. Over the span of 55 years, ample achievements have been accomplished and we look forward to many awe-inspiring opportunities. Indeed, It was our Chairman, Mr. Sadruddin Hashwani's vision and foresight that led us to become one of Pakistan's premier conglomerates. Hashoo Hotels has many

exciting projects underway which will further enhance the travel, occasions, celebrations and lifestyles of both our domestic and International guests.

I am pleased to join this renowned organization. I am awe-struck with the beauty of Pakistan and over whelmed by the warmth of its people. I would be delighted to be an asset to Hashoo Group and support with my skills and knowledge gained in the International hospitality Industry whilst I truly believe that with the strength of our wonderful people, innovative capabilities and core values, we will continue this journey to a better future for the organization and the larger community. Thank you again for being a part of this event, really appreciate it."





Uzbek National Day celebrated

Ambassador designate of Uzbekistan to Pakistan H.E. Furkat Sidikov and his spouse Madam Gulchekhra Sidikova hosted a grand reception to mark the 25th Independence Day of his country at Marriott hotel in Islamabad. The Governor of Punjab Muhammad Rafique Rajwanawas the chief guest. diplomats, dignitaries and prominent citizens from different walks of life graced the event.





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10 Presidents stressed the need for settlement of Palestine & Kashmir issues

President Mamnoon Hussain and President of the State of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas have stressed the need for early and just resolution of Palestine and Kashmir issues for peace and prosperity in the region.

14 PM Nawaz Sharif, President Abbas inaugurate Palestinian new embassy

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and President of the State of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas jointly inaugurate the newly constructed Palestine Embassy Complex in the Diplomatic Enclave, Islamabad.

18 Pakistan & Oman are natural allies: PM Nawaz

His Excellency Dr. Yahya bin Mahfooz Al-Manzari, the Honorable Chairman Majlis Daula (Upper-House) Sultanate of Oman is leading an eight (8) member Parliamentary delegation to Pakistan.

24 Pakistan, Bahrain agrees to boost bilateral ties further

Commander of the National Guard of Bahrain and brother of the King of Bahrain, Lt Gen Sheikh Mohamed Bin Isa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif here at the PM House.

74 Best Places to Enjoy Snowfall in Pakistan

Pakistan is blessed with four seasons in a year. Winter usually starts in mid-October and last till February end. There are lots of breathtaking places in Pakistan to enjoy winter season. During winter heavy snow fall hit some areas of Pakistan creating fascinating snowy landscapes. Every year people rushed to these places to enjoy snowfall.



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A8	Uzbek National Day celebrated

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Mian Fazal Elahi

Visit to Pakistan by President of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas served as yet another moment to renew strong and vibrant relationship covering political, diplomatic, military and cultural domains. After Palestinian Declaration of Independence on 15 Nov 1988, Pakistan recognised the State of Palestine the very next day and established full diplomatic relations with it by end 1989.

Though the primary objective of the visit was to inaugurate the embassy building that has been constructed through active Pakistani cooperation but it took place at a time when Palestinians were under intense pressure as on the one hand the Israel is unleashing all sorts of atrocities against them and on the other hand the US has adopted a one-eyed policy towards Arab-Israeli conflict. One of the few things that President Trump did during his first days in office were telephone calls to Israeli and Indian Prime Ministers, support for Israel in occupied territories and announcement to shift US embassy to Jerusalem. Understandably, the Palestinian leader briefed Pakistani leadership on the latest situation in the Middle East and discussed the way forward. Mahmoud Abbas must have returned satisfied as Pakistani leadership expressed complete solidarity with their Palestinian brethren during this challenging time. It is time the Islamic world should unite and an extraordinary session of the OIC is convened to discuss the Middle East problem, American jaundiced view of the conflict and overall biased attitude towards Muslims by the new administration in Washington.

Pakistan pays tribute to the Kashmiri people on their sacrifices which they are paying in Indian occupied Kashmir on the 5th of February each year. Public holiday on 5th of February started from 1994. Surely, given the sacrifices of Kashmiri people and their unwavering resolve, which had centre-staged the Kashmir dispute at the global level, would not go waste and the legitimate struggle would be taken to its logical conclusion at all costs. India has all along been alleging that Kashmiri uprising was Pakistan supported but now saner voices within India itself are pointing out that the movement was indigenous and cannot be stopped with repressive measures. Present Indian Government has broken all records of brutality and atrocity as even women and children have been targeted with pellet guns, depriving them of their eyesight. This has raised concern all over the world and the OIC has been demanding of New Delhi to allow its fact-finding mission to visit the occupied territory. India is trying to sidestep the issue of Kashmir on the basis of its economic and military clout but it cannot defeat will of a nation determined to secure its birth right.



Mian Assad ullah

Important Announcement

It has been announced for the general information that Mr. Mian Assad Ullah has been appointed as Editor In Chief of the Monthly "Diplomatic Focus" for the UK/EU Edition. He is entitled to participate official /non-officials diplomatic engagements, events, national days, social evenings/gatherings, press conferences/interviews and can be contacted for all kinds of stuff including articles, supplements and advertisements etc). It is requested to all Diplomatic missions and government high officials of UK, please contact with Mr. Mian Assad Ullah on His mailing address, 4 Ipswich Road, SW17 9RH, London. Cell number:+44-7961005954/ 2087694850, Email: uk.diplomaticfocus@gmail.com, assadmian1@gmail.com

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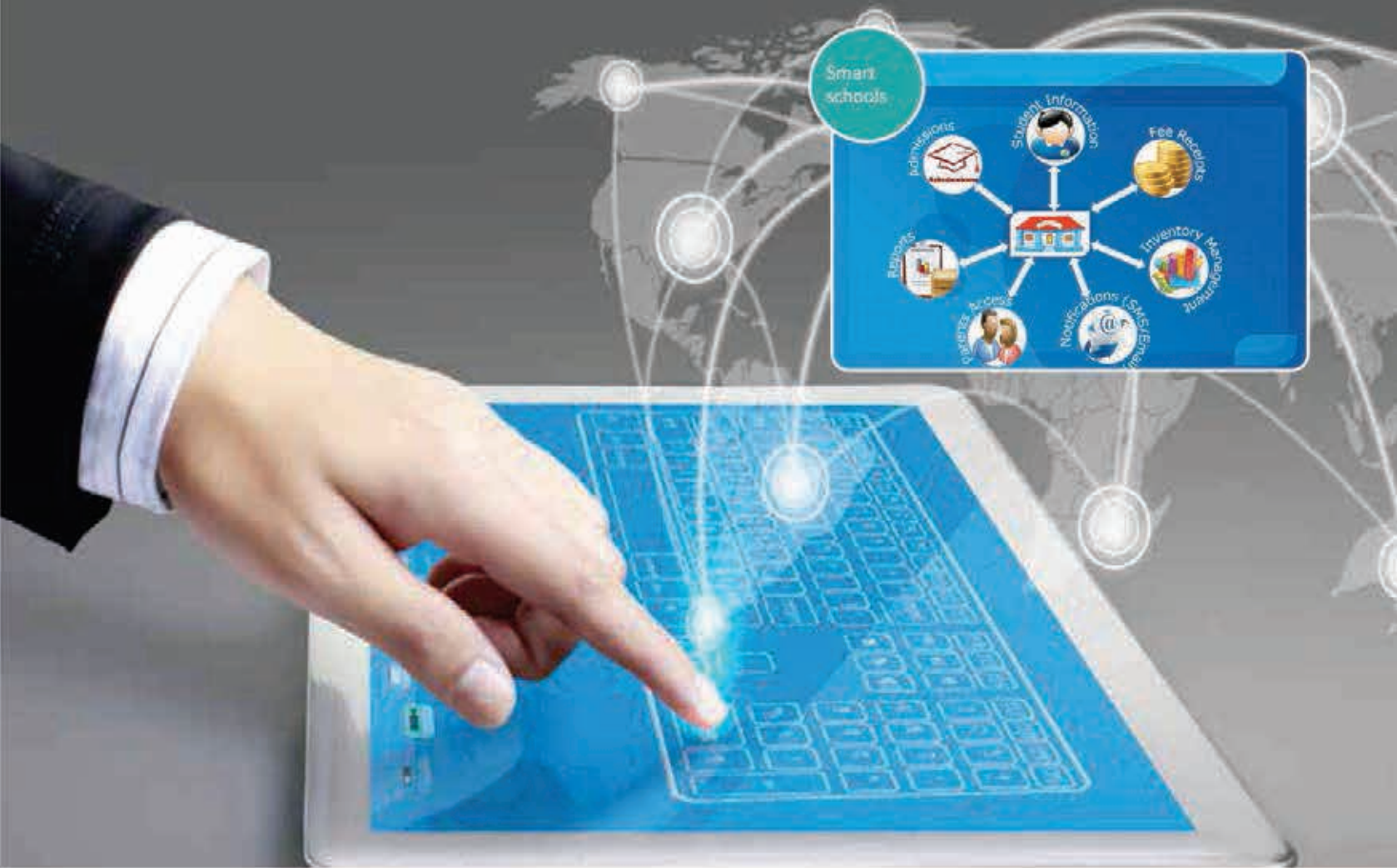
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Presidents stressed the need for settlement of Palestine & Kashmir issues

By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Mamnoon Hussain and President of the State of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas have stressed the need for early and just resolution of Palestine and Kashmir issues for peace and prosperity in the region. The two leaders called upon the international community to urge Israel to halt expansion of settlements and play its due role in resolving the long standing Palestine issue.

The two leaders agreed on this during a meeting at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. The two Presidents had one to one meeting which was followed by delegation level meeting.

President Mamnoon Hussain said that Pakistan and Palestine have historically enjoyed close relations which are based on mutually shared

warmth and trust for each other. The President stated that the people of Pakistan have great affection for the people of Palestine as well as the Palestinian cause adding that the new Palestinian Embassy Complex in Islamabad has become another symbol of our friendship.

President Mamnoon Hussain underscored that Pakistan has consistently supported the Palestinian cause at all forums and would continue to extend all moral and diplomatic support to the Palestinian peoples' quest for an

**Palestine values its
friendship with Pakistan:
President
Mahmoud Abbas**



President Mamnoon Hussain warmly receives President of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas upon his arrival at Nur Khan Airbase, Rawalpindi.



President Mamnoon Hussain and President of the State of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas in a delegation level meeting at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

Pakistan and Palestine have historically enjoyed close relations which are based on mutually shared warmth and trust for each other: President Mamnoon

independent state with Al Quds Al Sharif as its capital. The President lauded the bravery and valor of Palestinians in the face of gross human rights violations and occupation by Israel. The President said that the peoples of Palestine and Kashmir are suffering at the hands of occupying forces. The President emphasized the need to promote bilateral trade between Pakistan and Palestine.

The visiting dignitary thanked President Mamnoon Hussain for according warm welcome to him and to his delegation and said that Palestine values its friendship with Pakistan and is grateful for its support for the cause of Palestine.

Earlier, upon arrival, President Mahmoud Abbas was warmly received by President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. Children clad in traditional dress presented bouquets to the visiting dignitary.

President Mamnoon Hussain hosted a banquet in the honour of President Mahmoud Abbas which was also attended by Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar, Minister for Defence Production Rana Tanveer Ahmed, Minister for Housing Akram Durrani, Services Chiefs and Governors.

Before the state banquet, President Mamnoon Hussain showed personal possessions of the Founder of Pakistan Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah including a personal diary having record of domestic expenditures of the Founder of the Nation and other personal

items to President of the State of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas who evinced keen interest in them. President Mamnoon Hussain briefed the visiting dignitary about the personal



President Mamnoon Hussain and President of the State of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas viewing personal belonging of the Founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah during the visit of Palestinian President at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

belongings of Quaid-i-Azam. President of Palestine also viewed a memorable portrayal of Quaid-i-Azam with Grand Mufti Syed Amin-ul-Hussaini and extracts of Allama Iqbal's poetry on Palestine. President Mahmoud Abbas and his delegation also evinced keen interest in a model of Al Quds Al Sharif which was presented by Yasir Arafat during his visit to Pakistan.

Appreciating the collection of personal belongings of Quaid-i-Azam, President Mahmoud Abbas said that Quaid-i-Azam and Allama Iqbal were great leaders in history.

Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Mr. Abdul Qadir Baloch, Federal Minister for States and Frontier Region and Syed Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs were also present during the meeting. The Palestinian side included Riad N.A. Malki, Foreign Minister, Mahmoud S.A. Alhabbash, Palestine Chief Justice and senior officials.





Pakistan, Palestine demand end to Israeli settlements in West Bank

Both leaders agree establishment of a viable, independent, contiguous State of Palestine on basis of internationally agreed parameters is guarantee to peace

By Mian Fazal Elahi, News & Monitoring Desks

Pakistan and Palestine called upon the international community to implement the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 2334 that demands Israel to end its settlements in the West Bank.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at a joint press stakeout at PM's House stressed that peace in Middle East could only be achieved by solving the Palestine-Israel dispute. Nawaz expressed Pakistan's commitment to the Palestinian cause.

"Pakistan will continue its support for the Palestinian cause at all forums. We also look forward to the international community's

sincere efforts for sustainable peace in middle east," he said. He said the Palestine problem was a long-standing issue on the UN agenda and needed a practical solution. He said he held a very fruitful exchange of views with Abbas on

President Mahmoud Abbas expressed concern over the planned shifting of the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, saying that the step would manifestly violate the UNSC resolutions.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Palestine Mr. Mahmoud Abbas arrival for the Guard of honour ceremony held at the PM House, Islamabad.



President of Palestine Mr. Mahmoud Abbas inspecting the Guard of Honour presented to him on arrival at PM House, Islamabad.

Pakistan will continue its support for the Palestinian cause at all forums: PM Nawaz

international developments related to issues of Kashmir and Palestine. The president thanked Pakistan for supporting the cause of Palestine. He said during talks with Nawaz, he informed him about the latest efforts for implementation of Resolution 2334 and keeping alive the issue of Palestine.

He mentioned the ongoing Israeli barbarism against the Palestinians, particularly at the holy places. He expressed concern over the

planned shifting of the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, saying that the step would manifestly violate the UNSC resolutions. The Palestinian president said he discussed bilateral relations with Nawaz.

He thanked Pakistan for establishing the new building of Palestine Embassy in Islamabad. Abbas also expressed gratitude for the hospitality extended to his delegation. Prime Minister's Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj

Aziz, Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi and Foreign Secretary Aizaz Chaudhry were present.

Earlier, on his arrival, the Palestinian president was given a warm reception at PM's House. National anthems of the two countries were also played on the occasion.

Abbas was presented a guard of honour by a contingent of armed forces.

President Mahmoud Abbas thanked Pakistan for supporting the cause of Palestine

Nawaz introduced Abbas with his cabinet members. The visiting dignitary also introduced his 17-member delegation, including five ministers, to the PM. This is his third visit to Pakistan. Abbas earlier visited the country in 2005 and 2013.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Palestine Mr. Mahmoud Abbas led their respective sides in the delegation level talks held at PM House, Islamabad.

“ President Mamnoon termed new Palestinian Embassy another symbol of friendship ”



PM Nawaz Sharif, President Abbas inaugurate Palestinian new embassy



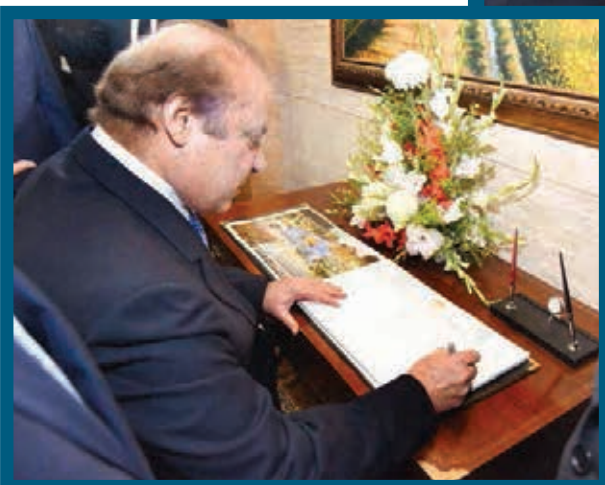
Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Palestine Mr. Mahmoud Abbas Unveiling the Plaque for Inauguration of Embassy of The State of Palestine at Islamabad.

By Arooj Fatima

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and President of the State of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas jointly inaugurate the newly constructed Palestine Embassy Complex in the Diplomatic Enclave, Islamabad.

The two leaders hoisted the Palestinian flag at the new building amid a ceremony. The government gifted land in 1992 for the purpose and in 2013 also contributed towards its construction.

It is the third visit by President Abbas to Pakistan. He has previously been to the country in 2005 and 2013.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President of Palestine Mr. Mahmoud Abbas Cutting Cake after Inauguration of Embassy of the State of Palestine at Islamabad.



By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Mamnoon Urges World To Get United Against Terrorism

Pakistani nation's sacrifices not to be wasted:
Dr Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al Essa

The Secretary General of Muslim World League Dr Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al Essa praised the steps taken by Pakistan security forces to uproot terrorists and infrastructure of terrorism from Pakistan. The sacrifices rendered by Pakistani nation against terrorism will not be wasted. The Secretary General of Rabit-e-Alam-e-Islami expressed these views during a meeting with President Mamnoon Hussain at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad. The world community particularly Muslim countries should benefit from the expertise of Pakistan, Dr Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al Essa added.

President Mamnoon Hussain urged the world to get united against violence and extremism. Talking to Secretary General of Muslim World League Dr Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al Essa at the Presidency, the President said Pakistan was greatly affected by terrorism and overcome the menace to a large extent due to government's prudent policies. The President said terrorism was not only the issue confronting Pakistan but also a global problem, for which the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) needed to devise an effective policy. He said a system should be in-place for revival of infrastructure of the countries affected by terrorism, which had created a negative impression about Muslims all over the world.

He called for tackling the issue of terrorism on war-footings. The President told the Secretary



Secretary General of Muslim World League (Rabita-Al-Alam-Al-Islam) Dr. Muhammad Bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa presenting the Holy Quran to President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr Islamabad. Federal Minister for Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf is also present.



Deputy Chairman Senate, Moulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri presenting an album containing pictorial media coverage of H.E. Sheikh Dr. Muhammad Bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa, Secretary General, Muslim World League visit to Pakistan before his departure at Benazir Bhutto International Airport Islamabad.



President International Islamic University Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Ahmed Yousif Ahmed Al Drawieesh presenting Souvenir to H.E. Sheikh Dr. Muhammad Bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa Secretary General Muslim World League in Islamabad. Federal Minister for Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf is also present.

General that being the head of an Islamic organization, a great responsibility lied on him to work for creating a policy aimed at harmony among Muslims. He mentioned that taking different justifications, many places of the Muslim world were targeted and added that the Muslims of Palestine and Kashmir were facing big challenges. President Mamnoon said Pakistan forcefully fought the menace of terrorism and extremism at its soil. Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Muhammad Yusuf and Senator Allama Sajid Mir were also present on the occasion.

The Secretary General of Muslim World League Dr Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al Essa visit to International Islamic University Islamabad. President IUI Dr. Ahmad Yousif Al-Drawieesh welcomed him. Secretary General of Muslim World League addressed to a seminar and said that "There is no place for terrorism in Islam; it's a religion of peace which discourages violent attitudes and grudges". Dr. Muhammad Bin Abdul Karim Al-Essa. Dr Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al Essa during his visit to Pakistan meet with other government officials also and discussed the issues of mutual interests.



Federal Minister for Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf presenting a shield to Secretary General of Muslim World League (Rabita-Al-Alam-Al-Islam) Dr. Muhammad Bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa at Islamabad.

A shield is being presented to Advisor to PM Engr. Ameer Muqam by President of International Islamic University, Islamabad





Pakistan & Oman are natural allies: PM Nawaz

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

His Excellency Dr. Yahya bin Mahfooz Al-Manzari, the Honorable Chairman Majlis Daula (Upper-House) Sultanate of Oman is leading an eight (8) member Parliamentary delegation to Pakistan.

H.E. Dr. Yahya Mahfoodh Salim Al-Manthri, President of State Council of Oman along with delegation called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM House Islamabad.

Prime Minister warmly welcomed the delegation and stated that Pakistan and Oman

are natural allies due to geographical proximity and the leadership, Government and the people of Pakistan hold His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al-Said and the brotherly people of Oman in high esteem. Upon arrival at Islamabad, the Parliamentary delegation was accorded

an unprecedented 'Red Carpet' Reception by the Hon'ble Chairman Senate HE Mian Raza Rabbani, reflective of the extraordinary relations with Sultanate of Oman.

Prime Minister said that Pakistan is grateful to Oman for its support in connection with Pakistan-GCC Free Trade Agreement. PM stated that Pakistan would welcome our Omani brothers to invest in Pakistan, particularly in energy related projects, infrastructure development and consumer based industry as current investment policy of Pakistan has created an investment friendly environment by all sectors for FDI, guaranteeing equal treatment of foreign and domestic investments,

Pakistan is grateful to Oman for its support in connection with Pakistan-GCC Free Trade Agreement: PM Nawaz



Chairman Senate, Mian Raza Rabbani along with Chairman of the council of state of Oman Dr. Yahya Mahfoodh Salim Al-Manthri on the arrival of Parliament delegation of Oman at Benazir Bhutto international Airport Islamabad.



A Child in Traditional dress is presenting a flower bouquet to Chairman of the Council of State of Oman Dr. Yahya Mahfoodh Salim Al-Manthri on his arrival at Benazir Bhutto International Airport Islamabad.



H.E. Dr. Yahya Mahfoodh Salim Al-Manthri, President of State Council of Oman along with delegation called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM House Islamabad. Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani is also present.

protecting foreign investment with high rates of dividends.

Prime Minister also appreciated the proposal to start a ferry service between Karachi, Gawadar and Muscat. This initiative will start

Committee, Mohamed Ahmed Ali Al Rawas, Member of the Culture Media and Tourism Committee, Dr. Ahmed Sulaiman Saleh Al-Maimani, Member of the Economic Committee, Wafa Salim Ali Al Harrasi, Deputy Chairman of the Social Committee, and Dr. Aisha Ahmed

Yusuf Al Washahi, Member of the Social Committee. Mian Raza Rabbani, Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Senator Taj Haider, Mr Tariq Fatemi, SAPM and other senior officials were also present in the meeting.

PM Nawaz appreciated the proposal to start a ferry service between Karachi, Gawadar and Muscat.

a new chapter of friendship between both countries and the service will provide an affordable alternative source of movement for a large number of people who move on these routes on regular basis, said the PM.

While commenting on the people-to-people contacts, the Prime Minister said that Oman is hosting a sizeable Pakistani diaspora working in various sectors and Pakistan can further provide both un-skilled and highly professional manpower in various fields including Medicine, Engineering, Information Technology, Accountancy, Education and Technical workers. PM further said that both Countries can benefit immensely through mutual exchange of experts in the field of education, science & technology.

Prime Minister conveyed earnest prayers and sincere wishes from the People and Government of Pakistan to His Majesty King Qaboos and brotherly people of Oman.

Omani delegation comprised of Sheikh Hamed Mohammed Abdallah Bahwan Al Mukhaini, Member of the Education and Research



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz shaking hand with the President of the Council of State of Oman H.E. Yahya Bin Mahfoodh Bin Salim Al-Munthir in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for ports and shipping, Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo in a meeting with Dr. Yahya Bin Mahfoodh Salim Al-Munthir, Chairman of State Council of Oman who called on him along with a delegation in Islamabad.



Pakistan & Oman decided to formulate a parliamentary friendship group and enhance the Inter Parliamentary linkages

By Mian Fazal Elahi

State Council of Oman and Senate of Pakistan has decided to formulate a parliamentary friendship group and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two Houses to enhance the Inter Parliamentary linkages and explore the avenues for economic cooperation between

the two countries. This was agreed in a high level meeting of the President of State Council of Oman Dr. Yahya Mahfoodh Salim Al-Manthri and Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani here at Parliament House on Thursday. The President of the State Council of Oman is on the visit of Pakistan on the invitation of Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani. The meeting was attended by the Leader of the



Chairman Senate, Mian Raza Rabbani welcoming the Chairman of the Council of State of Oman Dr. Yahya Mahfoodh Salim Al-Manthri on his arrival at Benazir Bhutto International Airport Islamabad.



Chairman of the Council of State of Oman, DR. Yahya Mahfoodh Salim Al-Manthri presenting a Souvenir to Chairman Senate, Mian Raza Rabbani at Parliament House Islamabad.



Deputy Chairman Senate, Moulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri seeing off the President of the Council of Oman, Yahya Mahfoodh Salim Al-Manthri on his departure at Benazir Bhutto International Airport Islamabad.



Chairman of the Council of State of Oman, Dr. Yahya Mahfoodh Salim Al-Manthri recording his comments on visitors book placed at Senate of Pakistan, Parliament House, Islamabad.

House in the Senate Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq, Federal Minister for Ports and Shipping Mir Hasil Khan Bazejo, Senator Taj Haider, Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini, Senator Baz Muhammad Khan, Senator Saifullah Magsi and Senator Ghous Muhammad Niazi, Secretary Senate Amjed Pervez Malik and other senior officer of Secretariat.

Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani said that the relations between the two countries are deep-rooted, culturally historically and religiously and we are looking forward for further enhancing the linkages by promoting

the Parliamentary linkages but to enhance the economic ties.

The both sides agreed to sign a MOU to further cement the relations through exchange of Parliamentary delegations, sharing information and benefitting from the experiences of each other. Senate Secretariat would soon provide the names of the member of the Senate for formulation Parliamentary Friendship Group which may be reciprocated by the Oman State of Council. The President State Council of Oman invited Chairman Senate and a delegation of the House to visit Oman to further discuss

the agenda in this regard. Leader of House in the Senate Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq said that it is very encouraging to see that both the countries feel the need for enhancing the existing good relations and are interested to benefit through mutual exchange of experiences in different sectors. He said that the members of the Senate fully endorse the idea of establishing a friendship group between the Parliaments and inking a formal MoU in this regard. Earlier a reception was organized in honor of the visiting dignitaries.



Parliamentary diplomacy to further enhance the economic and social ties. He said that there is a huge potential for cooperation in different sectors for mutual benefits of both the countries. He said that there is a need to revive the old committee formulated for enhancing the economic cooperation between the two countries.

Mian Raza Rabbani said that Pakistan and Oman are interacting with each other on the platform of Asian Parliamentary Assembly and expressed the hope for more coordinated efforts strengthen this forum.

The President State Council of Oman said that the Parliamentary friendship committee should be constituted immediately as the Parliament is most appropriate platform for exploring the avenues to enhance the economic cooperation. The heads of the Parliamentary Committees from Senate of Pakistan and State Council of Oman can decide the future line of action for the cooperation not only to promote



Chairman of the Council of State of Oman, Dr. Yahya Mahfoodh Salim Al-Manthri and his delegation visiting the "Gali-E-Dastoor" Parliament House Islamabad.



Chairman Senate, Mian Raza Rabbani, Deputy Chairman Senate, moulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri and members of the Upper House in a group photo with Chairman of the Council of State of Oman, Dr. Yahya Mahfoodh Salim Al-Manthri in Islamabad.



President Mamnoon Hussain in a meeting with Dr. Yahya Bin Mahfoodh Salim Al-Munthir, Chairman of State Council of Oman, who called on him along with a delegation at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani is also present.

Pakistan greatly valued its brotherly relations with Oman: President Mamnoon Hussain

By Muhammad Bilal Zafar

President Mamnoon Hussain said Pakistan greatly valued its brotherly relations with Oman, as the two countries were tied in the bonds of common culture, history and heritage. The president expressed these views while talking to an Omani delegation, led by Chairman of the State Council of Oman Dr. Yahya Bin Salim Al-Munthri. The meeting was also attended by Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani and senior officials. He said exchange of parliamentary delegations would further strengthen mutual relations between the two countries. He said Pakistan respected the active role of Oman for international and regional peace and stability, adding that both the countries had commonality of views on various regional and international issues. The president said civil and military officials of Oman could take advantage of Pakistani military and civil professional institutions. The president expressed satisfaction over defence cooperation between the two countries, he, however said there was wide scope of its further expansion. He said a large number of Pakistanis were performing their duties in Omani forces which was a good omen. He said industrial and defence production of Pakistan was of highest standard and Pakistan was interested in exporting its defence equipments to Oman. President Mamnoon told members of the delegation that both the countries

Pakistan respected the active role of Oman for international and regional peace and stability, both the countries had commonality of views on various regional and international issues: President Mamnoon Hussain

had a number of opportunities in enhancing their bilateral relations in economic, trade and investment fields. He said a conducive environment had been created in Pakistan due to investment-friendly policy of the government and foreign investors could take benefit of the policy. The president said they would welcome Omani investors to invest in energy, construction and services sectors. He said both Pakistan and Oman supported peaceful resolution of various issues and rejected the use of force. He thanked Oman for its support regarding free trade agreement between Pakistan and Gulf States and expressed the hope that Oman would play its role in convincing other Gulf State in finalizing

this agreement. The president also welcomed initiative of start of a ferry service between Karachi-Gwadar and Muscat and said it would open a new chapter of friendship between the two countries. The president said Pakistan could provide highly professional and skilled work-force in various fields to Oman. He added that both countries should promote people to people contacts, exchange of students besides promoting research studies and start Ph.D level programme collectively. President Mamnoon also conveyed good wishes to Sultan Qaboos from Pakistani leadership, government and people of Pakistan.

A large number of Pakistanis were performing their duties in Omani forces..... Pakistan was interested in exporting its defence equipments to Oman: President Mamnoon Hussain

Another milestone of Serena Hotel & PSF: Pakistan win President Gold Cup International Squash Tournament; President awards trophies



Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman President Pakistan Squash Federation presenting a memento to President Mamnoon Hussain on the occasion of prize distribution ceremony of President Gold Cup International Squash Tournament at the Sports Complex, Islamabad.



President Mamnoon Hussain giving away trophy to Farhan Mehboob winner of President Gold Cup International Squash Tournament at the Sports Complex, Islamabad.



President Mamnoon Hussain in a group photo with the winner and runner up of President Gold Cup International Squash Tournament at the Sports Complex, Islamabad. Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Riaz Hussain in Pirzada and President Pakistan Squash Federation Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman are also present.



Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels receive certificate of commendation from the Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman for his services in squash.

By Sports Disk

Pakistan won the President Gold Cup International Squash Tournament in a thrilling final match between Pakistan's Farhan Mehboob and Leo Au of Hong Kong held in Islamabad.

The tournament was participated by 48 players including 10 foreigners coming from Hong Kong and Egypt.

President Mamnoon Hussain gave away trophies to the winner and the runner-up of the tournament that had been sponsored by Serena Hotels.

The president was accompanied by Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman, also President of Pakistan Squash Federation and Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Riaz Hussain Pirzada.

Farhan Mehboob won three of five games by overall 51-34 scores. During all five games Farhan and Leo Au scored 11-4, 11-4, 8-11, 10-12 and 11-3.

After defeating the adversary in first two games, Farhan lost third and fourth but managed his victory in the last game by scoring 11-3.

The enthralled spectators hailed the performance of the players particularly Farhan Mehboob who also stood victorious in the Chief of the Air Staff Squash Championship held last month. The prize money of the tournament was \$25,000.

For the final contest, Jamshed Gul Khan was referee and was assisted by Sajjad Ahmed and Asif Khan.

Among the distinctive figures present at the occasion also included squash legends Qamar Zaman and Jahangir Khan who were received huge applause from the spectators.

In the end, Chief of the Air Staff gave a tournament memento to the president who later also had a group photo with both the players as well as organizers of the tournament.



Pakistan, Bahrain agrees to boost bilateral ties further

By Muhammad Bilal Zafar

Commander of the National Guard of Bahrain and brother of the King of Bahrain, Lt Gen Sheikh Mohamed Bin Isa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif here at the PM House.

Welcoming the delegation on visit to Pakistan, the Prime Minister said that Pakistan considered Kingdom of Bahrain a close friend and trusted partner.

“Our bilateral relations are founded on shared history, cultural linkages and strong people-to-people contacts,” he stated, according to a PM’s Office statement issued here.

The Commander National Guard of Bahrain thanked the Prime Minister for the warm welcome and conveyed good wishes from King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

He said that Bahrain and Pakistan were brotherly countries and the bilateral relations

between the two countries would further enhance by pursuing close economic and trade relations.

The prime minister said, “I would like to express my deep gratitude to His Majesty King Hamad for his generous gift of King Hamad Nursing University to Pakistan. I also thank your Excellency for coming to Pakistan to lay the foundation stone of this project.”

He further said that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Bahrain and the visit of King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa in March 2014 was a landmark visit which opened new avenues of bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Lt Gen Sheikh Mohamed Bin Isa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa said the proposed up-gradation of Joint Economic Council to Joint Ministerial Commission was a positive development to boost bilateral ties.

He said the upcoming visit of Pakistani Naval Chief to Bahrain in January 2017 would

be important for enhancing bilateral naval cooperation.

The prime minister said that Pakistani diaspora in Bahrain acted as a human bridge between the two brotherly countries and had been playing an important role in the development and prosperity of both the countries.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to His Majesty King Hamad for his generous gift of King Hamad Nursing University to Pakistan. I also thank your Excellency for coming to Pakistan to lay the foundation stone of this project: PM Nawaz

PM Nawaz laid foundations of the country's first nursing university

The state-of-the-art King Hamad University of Nursing and Allied Medical Services is being established with the assistance of the brotherly country Bahrain.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said the Government is committed to improving the quality of human resource in the nursing profession and to further enhance its prestige. He expressed the confidence that the university will bring quality of nursing care in Pakistan at par with international standards.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at the foundation stone laying ceremony of King Hamad University of Nursing and Allied Medical Sciences, Islamabad along with H.H. Lt. Gen. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Isa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Commander of National Guard of Bahrain and brother of His Majesty the King of Bahrain.



Javed Malik, Ambassador of Pakistan to Bahrain, H.H. Shaikh Mohammed Bin Isa Al Khalif, brother, brother of King of Bahrain, Mohammed Ibrahim Ambassador of Bahrain in Pakistan.



Pakistan's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain Mr. Javed Malid called on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif at PM House, Islamabad.



Javed Malik, Pakistan's Ambassador to Bahrain welcomes chief of Naval Staff admiral Muhammad Zakaullah upon his arrival in Bahrain.



President Mamnoon Hussain talking to Minister for Economy/CO-Chairman of Pakistan-Kyrgyzstan joint Ministerial Commission (JMC), Kozhoshev Arzybek Orozbekovich, who called on him along with a delegation at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

Central Asian countries can benefit from CPEC: President Mamnoon

CASA 1000 project to redress power shortage in Pakistan, PM Nawaz

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Monitoring Desk

H.E. Kojoshev Arzybek Orozbekovich, Minister of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic along with delegation called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM House Islamabad.

Prime Minister while warmly welcoming the Kyrgyz delegation to Pakistan said that Pakistan appreciates Kyrgyzstan government's progressive policies. The people of Pakistan are happy to witness the progress and development of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, said the PM.

PM informed the delegation that Pakistan economy's growth rate has been above 4.84% during last three years and it now offers great investment opportunities for foreign investors. Pakistan has embarked upon a major reform program that aims at fiscal stabilization, mobilizing domestic resources, phasing out subsidies, restructuring the power sector and other public sector enterprises and strengthening the social safety nets, stated the PM. Prime Minister said that promotion of

regional connectivity is one of the seven pillars of the Pakistan Government's development strategy and the government is actively pursuing this initiative which has the potential to integrate South Asia, China and Central Asia—the three engines of growth in Asia.

While commenting on bilateral matters, the Prime Minister said that both Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan are members of Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) and jointly they can achieve the goals of CAREC in the four priority areas including Transport, Energy, and Trade Policy & Facilitation to alleviate poverty in the region.

“The role of CASA 1000 is important in redressing the power shortages in Pakistan. The project is moving satisfactorily and the recent meeting of Joint Working Group held in Dubai from 5th to 8th December, 2016, took some important decisions which will ensure the project's timely completion”, apprised the PM.

Prime Minister emphasized that the present volume of total trade between the two

Promotion of regional connectivity is one of the seven pillars of the Pakistan Government's development strategy and the government is actively pursuing this initiative which has the potential to integrate South Asia, China and Central Asia—the three engines of growth in Asia: PM Nawaz



H.E. Kojoshev Arzybek Orozbekovich, Minister of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic along with delegation called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM House Islamabad.

countries can be further enhanced and hoped that the third session of

Pak-Kyrgyzstan JMC would prove fruitful in enhancing bilateral trade & economic relationships.

It is worth mentioning that Pakistan – Kyrgyzstan Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) was established in 1994 and the volume of trade between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan amounted to US \$ 5.573 Million from 2011 to 2016.

Mr Tariq Fatemi, SAPM and other senior officials were present during the meeting.

H.E. Kojoshev Arzybek Orozbekovich, Minister of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic also called on President Mamnoon Hussain. President Mamnoon Hussain said Pakistan was keen to strengthen its relations with Kyrgyzstan

Pakistan was keen to strengthen its relations with Kyrgyzstan in energy, commercial and economic fields: President Mamnoon Hussain

The people of Pakistan are happy to witness the progress and development of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan: PM Nawaz

in energy, commercial and economic fields. The president said the government and the people of Pakistan valued partnership with Kyrgyzstan. He stated that CASA-1000 was an important energy project between the two countries adding that this project would be helpful in meeting energy needs. The president said Pakistan wanted to promote regional connectivity and was actively pursuing this initiative to promote relations between countries of South Asia, China and Central Asia. He said Central Asian countries can benefit from China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The president stated that increased cooperation between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan in the fields of transport, energy and commerce can be helpful in alleviating poverty. He said Pakistan's economy was improving when compared with the economies of other countries of the region, and the International Financial Institutions (IFIs)

were acknowledging the country's economic policies. The president said Pakistan believed that Asian countries should increase their trade volume which would enhance mutual linkages and economic conditions. He expressed optimism that Kyrgyzstan would extend full support to Pakistan for the membership of Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). The president called for exchange of high level visits between the two countries which will further enhance bilateral relations.

President Mamnoon expressed optimism that Kyrgyzstan would extend full support to Pakistan for the membership of Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)

PM Nawaz to share Pakistan's economic success at WEF

Mian Assad Ullah, International Desk

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said he had come to the World Economic Forum (WEF) to share the remarkable economic turnaround of Pakistan, that only a few years back was on the verge of an economic collapse and the entire global financial community was acknowledging this positive change.

According to media reports, in a brief chat with reporters at the hotel, soon after his arrival from Zurich, the prime minister said the economic indicators of the country were very positive and were improving further with each passing day.

The prime minister who is in Switzerland for the Annual Meeting of the WEF, said the country's economic development was moving ahead at



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif met Kjell Stefan Lofven Prime Minister of Sweden at Davos, Switzerland.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meeting United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of World Economic Forum at Davos.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meeting with Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg on the sidelines of World Economic Forum at Davos.



Prof. Klaus Schwab, Chairman WEF met Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at Davos, Switzerland.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meeting with Her Majesty Queen Maxima of Netherlands on the sidelines of World Economic Forum at Davos.

a rapid pace and was being acknowledged by the international media and global financial institutions.

Nawaz Sharif said the international agencies were giving very encouraging signals about Pakistan's economy and lots of foreign investment was pouring into the country. He said the country's inflation was at the lowest ebb while the GDP was on the rise.

Media further reported, PM said work on the CPEC was underway in all regions of the country and the people of Pakistan were the real beneficiaries. He said no matter whether a person was in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab, AJK or Gilgit-Baltistan, he would benefit equally and the country would witness a development boom across its length and breadth.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif participated in the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s annual meeting at Davos, Switzerland, on the invitation of WEF's Executive Chairman, Professor Klaus Schwab.

The Prime Minister address a large group of business leaders on "Investing in Pakistan: The New Reality".

Over 3200 heads of states, public figures, top business leaders, academics and media leaders participated in the WEF Annual Meeting 2017. Participants at WEF 2017 reflected on the key challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Strengthening global collaboration, and revitalizing the global economy.

The prime minister during his visit to Switzerland held meetings with top global business leaders and representatives besides sideline meetings with top world leaders.

His meetings included a bilateral meeting with his Norwegian counterpart Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of Sweden Stefan L' fan, President of the Swiss Confederation Doris Leuthard, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

The prime minister also held a meeting with the WEF Chairman Klaus Schwab besides a roundtable meeting with the heads of top ranking companies offered them to invest in Pakistan.

The chief executive officers (CEOs) present at the roundtable included Tadashi Maeda, Chief Executive Officer, Executive Managing Director, Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Tokyo, Japan, Ms Ilele Gordon, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, Ingredion Incorporated, USA, Levent Cakiroglu, Chief Executive Officer, Koc Holding,

Turkey, Sigve Brekke, President and Chief Executive Officer,

Telenor Group, Norway, Ms Wang Ling, Executive Vice President, Nestle, Ms Petra Lox,



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif met Rani Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka at Davos Switzerland.



Mr. Sultan Ali Allana, Chairman Habib Bank Ltd. called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at Davos, Switzerland.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in a round-table meeting leading CEOs on the sidelines of World Economic Forum at Davos.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif received by Ambassador Tehmina Janjua and Ambassador Dr. Aman Rashid upon arrival at Zurich.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif met group Chief Executive Officer Standard Chartered Bank Jose Vinals on the sidelines of the 47th World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland.

Head Public Affairs, Novartis AG, Switzerland, Martyn Parker, Chairman, Global Partnerships, Swiss Re Management Ltd United Kingdom, Western Europe.

The prime minister also had a meeting with Bill Gates, entrepreneur and head of the Melinda Gates Foundation, Chairman Alibaba Group Jack Ma.

The prime minister also held meetings with Group CEO of VimpelCom, Jean Charlie; CEO Procter and Gamble and CEO of Standard Chartered Bank Jose Vinals on the margins of the 47th World Economic Forum.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meeting with Bill Gates on the sidelines of World Economic Forum at Davos.

Some Pakistani media reported that PM Nawaz PM Nawaz Sharif did not participated in World Economic Forum (WEF). Neither he neither attended any session nor addressed to any, reported in media. The reports also mentioned that PM's visit was limited to meeting with different CEOs of major multinational companies during his four days stay in Davos. Numerous Presidents and Prime Ministers of different countries were attending the meeting but Premier did not meet them. But on other side The World Economic Forum (WEF) in a letter clarified that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was invited by the Forum and said it was "delighted" over his participation in the Annual Meeting at Davos Klosters. The World Economic Forum Head of Media Operations and Events, Yann Zopf, in a letter from Geneva, Switzerland of January 25 clarified that the agenda of the prime minister was prepared "in consultation with his office, keeping in view their objectives and key priorities." "This included several meetings with key leaders from business and politics," the letter said and pointed that being the sixth largest country in the world, Pakistan was an important global player and the World Economic Forum looks forward to engaging the country in its system initiatives and projects through public-private cooperation. The clarification was in response to a report by a local English Daily on; "Nawaz forbidden from making a speech in Davos due to a corruption investigation."



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif meeting with president of Swiss Confederation Doris Leuthard at Davos, Switzerland.



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif met group Chief Executive Officer of Vimpelcom Jean Charlie at Davos, Switzerland.



Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar meeting with the President of the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FPCCI), Mr. Zubair Tufail.

PM Package of Incentives for Exporters will serve as a catalyst for exports: Ishaq Dar

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

President, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FPCCI), Mr. Zubair Tufail called on the Federal Minister for Finance Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on January 12, 2017.

President FPCCI thanked the Finance Minister for his tireless efforts in finalizing the Prime Minister's Package of Incentives for Exporters, announced by the Prime Minister on January 10, 2016. He said that the business community is happy with the package as it provides

them a level playing field to compete with other exporters in the region. He expressed appreciation for the pro-business policies of the PML(N) government.

Finance Minister said that the package announced by the Prime Minister is the largest exports incentive package in Pakistan's history. He urged exporters to make all efforts to benefit from this package and show the results in exports that the government desires and the country needs. The Finance Minister highlighted that, under the package, the incentives for FY 2017-18 would be available to

those exporters who would achieve an increase of 10% in their exports as compared to their exports for FY 2016-17. He said that this will ensure that the benefits of the package are only availed by those exporters who show results. He emphasized that the announcement of this package by the Prime Minister demonstrates the government's strong commitment to the goal of achieving higher, sustainable and inclusive export-led growth. He expressed confidence that the package will serve as a catalyst for exports and will provide a major boost to economic growth.

Group Photo of UBG leadership with Patron In Chief S.M. Muneer, Khalid Tawab, Zubair Tufail, Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Hanif Gohar, Zafar Bakhtawari, Abdul Aziz Rehman Chan, Mumtaz Sheikh, Shakil Dingra, Irfan Sarwana, Akram Khan, Tariq Haleem, Manazir Nasir & Mazhar Ali Nasir greeting each other on the verdict of Sindh High Court in favour of UBG candidates for FPCCI Election 2017.





Pakistan-Turkey Military Dialogue Group meeting

Khawaja Asif lauded the democratic and development initiatives of Turkish President

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Pakistan and Turkey initiated two-day 12th round of High Level Military Dialogue Group meeting.

Pakistan side led by Secretary Defence Syed Zamir ul Hassan Shah while the Turkish side by Deputy Chief of Turkish General Staff General Umit Dundar, according to a press release of Ministry of Defence.

Meanwhile, General Umit DUNDAR called on Defence Minister. Khawaja Muhammad Asif and discussed matters of mutual interest. The Minister appreciated the time tested role of Turkey in supporting Pakistan at all regional and international fora.

The historical and brotherly relations between both brotherly countries were discussed and it was appreciated by both sides.

He expressed Pakistan's strong desire to deepen, broaden and strengthen its partnership with Turkey in all fields including defence cooperation to the optimum level.

He lauded the democratic and development



Federal Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif presenting a gift to General Umit DUNDAR, Deputy Chief of Turkish General Staff, Republic of Turkey, in Ministry of Defence in Rawalpindi.

initiatives of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The Turkish General expressed similar sentiments for political and military leadership of Pakistan for moving ahead in all fields, particularly promotion of mutual cooperation in defence arena covering defence industries, training of armed forces personnel in each other's countries, exchange of visits, courses and frequent interaction between the armed forces. Khwaja Asif thanked Turkish General for attending IDEAS-2016 in November at Karachi and conforming Turkish Navy's participation in upcoming AMAN-17 Exercise.

Later on Deputy Chief of Turkish General Staff General Umit Dundar met Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa. Matters of mutual and professional interests with special emphasis on defence and security collaboration between the two brotherly countries were discussed, a press release issued by ISPR said.

Both the sides agreed to further optimize military to military ties, particularly in training and counter-terrorism domains.

The visiting dignitary appreciated the Pakistan Army's role for regional peace and stability and contributions towards defeating terrorism



Secretary Defence, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Zameer-ul-Hassan Shah and General Umit DUNDAR, Deputy Chief of Turkish General Staff, Republic of Turkey signing Minutes at Ministry of Defence in Rawalpindi.



General Umit DUNDAR, Deputy Chief of Turkish General Staff, Republic of Turkey called on Secretary of Defence, Lt. Gen (Retd) Zameer-ul-Hassan Shah, in Ministry of Defence in Rawalpindi.



Secretary Defence, Lt Gen (Retd) Zameer-ul-Hassan Shah, in a group photo with Turkish General of Staff, in Ministry of Defence in Rawalpindi.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Ambassador of Belarus Mr. Andrei Ermolovich called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, Islamabad.



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq exchanging views with HRH the Princess Royal Anne Elizabeth Alice Louise in London. Speaker of the House of Commons John Simon Bercow is also present on the occasion.



Chairman of National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran Mr. Allauddin Boroujerdi called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, Islamabad.



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with H.E. Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Foreign Minister of Malaysia on the sidelines of the extraordinary session of OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Kuala Lumpur.



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the member of the House of Commons of Canada Mr. Omar Alghabra in Islamabad.



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the British Ambassador to Afghanistan, H.E. Dominic Jermey and British High Commissioner to Pakistan H.E. Thomas Drew in Islamabad.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Advisor to the Prime Ministers on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the EU Special Representative for Afghanistan Mr. Franz Michael Mellbin in Islamabad.



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth office of UK RT. Hon. Alok Sharma in Islamabad.



Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Abdullah Marzooq Al-Zaharni called on Mr. Irfan Siddiqui, Advisor to the Prime Minister on National History and Literary Heritage in Islamabad.



H.E. Mr. Nicolae Gola, Ambassador of Romania called on Rana Tanveer Hussain Federal Minister for Defence Production in Islamabad.



Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar meeting with Acting US Ambassador Mr. Jonathan Pratt in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan in a meeting with Mr. Nicolae Gola, Newly appointed Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan.



Pakistan

has made great progress in
combatting terrorism in recent years

H.E. Perry Calderwood

High Commissioner of Canada to The Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Canada and Pakistan established diplomatic relations in 1947 shortly after Pakistan's independence.

Pakistan is represented in Canada by a High Commission in Ottawa and Consulates General in Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver.

In addition to the High Commission in Islamabad, Canada maintains a Consulate and Trade Office in Karachi and a Consulate in Lahore.

H.E. Perry Calderwood becomes High Commissioner to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Mr. Calderwood replaced H.E. Heather Cruden. Prior come to Pakistan, H.E. was High Commissioner to Nigeria.

H.E. Perry Calderwood presented his credentials to The President of The Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Mamnoon Hussain on September 29, 2016 at Aiwan-e-Sadar, Islamabad. H.E. has been a very active and energetic diplomat.

The Diplomatic Focus has found the opportunity to talk to His Excellency and learn about his early life, education career, experiences and most importantly his role as High Commissioner in bringing Canada and Pakistan closer in terms of trade, diplomatic, education and cultural ties.

Before we go to formal conversation we had with H.E. Perry Calderwood we spoke about his childhood. He shared the following. "From a young age I had a keen interest in the world. I would look at the world map that was posted on the wall of the kitchen of my home and dream of the opportunity to travel and visit other lands. Given this interest, it is not surprising that I chose to study international relations and to pursue a career in the diplomatic service. I have very much enjoyed the opportunity to discover so many interesting cultures and to contribute to building Canada's relations with the countries in which I have served."

Q: Excellency! First of all, Welcome to Pakistan and we are thankful to you for giving us your precious time. H.E! It would be of interest to our readers to know about your education and professional life, experience and achievements. Would you like to share some comments on these?

Thank you for the warm welcome to Pakistan and for the opportunity to interact with your readers. I am a career diplomat and Pakistan is my eighth posting abroad but my first assignment in Asia. So I am very excited to be here. I have spent most of my career in Africa and Latin America. Immediately prior to my arrival in Pakistan last August, I served as Canada's High Commissioner to Nigeria. Previously, I served as Canada's Ambassador to Senegal and to Venezuela. I was educated in Ottawa and graduated with a Master's Degree in International Affairs from Carleton University in 1986. I simultaneously studied classical music and earned a diploma in piano performance from The Royal Conservatory of Music of Toronto.

Q: Excellency! Pakistan and Canada have strong economic, trade and cultural relation rooted in decades old history. It's been a long time. How do you see the bilateral ties between the two countries over the years?

The friendship and partnership between Canada and Pakistan indeed dates back decades to the early years of Pakistan's independence. Over the years, Canada has contributed to the development of Pakistan in a wide range of sectors including hydro-electric power, education, health and the strengthening of democratic institutions. We have enjoyed trade relations for many years and I am pleased that the volume of trade is increasing. One of the most important aspects of our relationship is the rapidly growing people-to-people ties which bind our two countries. Today we estimate that there are about 300,000 Canadians of Pakistani heritage and over 4,000 Pakistani students studying in Canada. Many of these people with links to both countries are playing a leadership role in giving new momentum to our bilateral relationship.

Q: Excellency! Your prior appointment was in Nigeria, a country that is facing terrorism. My question is, Pakistan is also facing terrorism and according to reports, after a series of Military operations,



terrorist activities have been reduced to its minimal degrees. As High Commissioner, how do you see these achievements?

It is encouraging that Pakistan has made great progress in combatting terrorism in recent years and to restoring security in parts of the country affected by insurgency. Terrorism poses a threat to all countries around the world and terrorist networks are often international in their operations. It is therefore important that all members of the international community work closely together to combat terrorism. We also have to work together to build inclusive,

prosperous, democratic societies to reduce the vulnerability of young people who may be targeted for recruitment by violent extremists.

Q: Excellency! Canada and Pakistan Both participates actively on the international stage as members of the United Nations, including through the Conference of Parties for the Framework Convention on Climate Change. Both have a long history of significant contributions to peacekeeping. Canada and Pakistan are also members of the Commonwealth. How do you see these forums and contribution of Canada and Pakistan?

Canada is indeed strongly committed to multilateralism which has the United Nations system at its heart. Like Pakistan, Canada has a long tradition of support for United Nations peacekeeping operations. Many of the challenges facing countries around the world today require concerted international action. Combatting climate change is a prominent example. As High Commissioner to Pakistan, I look forward to exploring opportunities with Pakistani authorities on ways that we can increase our collaboration in the context of the United Nations, the Commonwealth and other



One of the most important aspects of our relationship is the rapidly growing people-to-people ties which bind our two countries.

international organizations to advance our shared goals and values.

Q: Excellency! Canada encourages all countries to promote and protect human rights and appreciates ongoing and open dialogue with Pakistan on human rights, including the rights of women and of religious minorities, in a spirit of mutual respect. What are the steps that Canadian government expects from Pakistani government?

The promotion of human rights around the world is an integral part of Canada's foreign

and development policy. During the short time that I have been in Pakistan I have been impressed with the dedication of so many Pakistanis to the promotion of human rights values. This includes human rights defenders, political leaders and elected representatives, government officials, members of the media,

I am arrived in Pakistan with an open mind but very keen to learn about Pakistan to identify areas in which our two countries might strengthen our relationship.



and many others. I believe that like Canadians, most Pakistanis want to live in an inclusive society in which the human rights and the dignity of every person are respected. We maintain regular dialogue with the Pakistani government on human rights issues on how we can work together to advance shared human rights values.

Canada is particularly active internationally in promoting the rights of girls and women. We believe that all girls and boys have a right to a quality education and that women and men are given equal opportunity to develop their full potential and to pursue their dreams. I am pleased that here in Pakistan the High Commission has funded projects designed to help empower women economically. We have also supported civil society organizations that are working to combat violence and discrimination against women.



Q: Canada's government is led by a young Prime Minister. What can you tell us about the cabinet that he leads?"

The cabinet reflects the diversity of Canadian society. For the first time in Canadian history, Canada's government is led by a cabinet which is characterized by gender parity. Half of the cabinet ministers are women. It includes ministers who were born outside of Canada and others who came to Canada as immigrants or refugees. It includes First Nations (indigenous) persons. Some ministers speak English or French as their first language while others grew up speaking another language. And many of our ministers are young, with the youngest being 29 years old.



Q: Excellency! People-to-people links between Pakistan and Canada remain strong. Pakistan is among Canada's top ten sources

of immigrants. Some estimate the Pakistani community to be even larger. How do you see the contributions of Pakistani community and what are the undiscovered sectors have potential to contribute.

Pakistan is one of Canada's leading sources of immigrants. Like so many other groups, Pakistani immigrants and their descendants have greatly enriched Canada's cultural mosaic. Canadians of Pakistani heritage are well integrated into Canadian society and many have achieved great success in business, government, academia, and other sectors of society. There are several Canadian parliamentarians who were born in Pakistan or who are of Pakistani ancestry. Looking ahead, I think we will increasingly see Canadians of Pakistani heritage play an active and very positive role in strengthening relations between our two countries.

Q: As of 2015, Pakistan is Canada's 41st largest export destination for services and 34th largest export destination for merchandise trade. In that same year, Canada-Pakistan bilateral trade reached \$1.044 billion with Canadian exports to Pakistan at \$693 million and imports at \$351 million. Excellency! How do you see these trade relations and what are the potential in these relations?

As a child, I used to look at world map placed in my kitchen every day and I remembered all the countries names and I wanted to travel to all these places, which looked impossible.

While the official figures for 2016 have not yet been published, we expect that bilateral trade between Canada and Pakistan will total about Cdn \$1.5 billion for the year. So the trend line is very encouraging.

I am convinced that there is potential to increase significantly the trade and investment relations between Canada and Pakistan in the years ahead. I say this because Canada has great expertise and experience in a number of key sectors in which growth in Pakistan can be expected to be robust in the coming years. These sectors include renewable energy, agriculture and agri-food, information and communications technology, and transport, among others. Part

of my mandate as High Commissioner is to promote trade and investment ties between our two countries. Therefore, I look forward to bringing potential opportunities in Pakistan to the attention of the Canadian private sector and to providing support and guidance to those Canadian companies that express an interest in pursuing trade with Pakistan.

I should also add that Pakistani investment in Canada is welcome. Canada offers an attractive investment environment. As a member of the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Canada is part of a vast market of nearly 500 million consumers and an economy of over USD \$20 trillion.

Q: Pakistan and Canada share over 60 years of development cooperation. What are the priorities for the bilateral development program and what is the base for such type of cooperation?

The High Commission works closely with the Government of Pakistan in identifying the priorities of Canada's development cooperation program here. While our priorities have evolved over the years, at present Canada's development cooperation programming is focused on four areas.



First, Canada is providing significant funding, channeled through UNICEF and the World Health Organization, to support Pakistan in its campaign to eradicate polio. We should all take satisfaction with the great progress that has been made in recent years toward this goal. I am confident that very soon the transmission of polio virus in Pakistan will be interrupted and I am pleased that Canada has contributed to reaching this historic milestone.

Second, Canada supports primary education in Pakistan through a debt-swap arrangement. Under this arrangement, the Federal and Provincial Governments of Pakistan invest funds owed to Canada in teacher training here in Pakistan. I am delighted that some 400,000 Pakistani public school teachers have been trained through this program and, by extension, millions of Pakistani children have benefited.

Third, Canada is funding several projects in the area of women's economic empowerment. This programming is designed to help develop the entrepreneurial skills of women to enable them to become full participants in the economy. This programming is consistent with Canada's commitment globally to promote the rights of women and to ensure their full inclusion in society.

Finally, Canada is supporting programming designed to strengthen Pakistan's democratic institutions. This includes support to the Electoral Commission of Pakistan to help it fulfill its mandate of organizing free and fair elections.

Q: Excellency! Canada has historically been a strong humanitarian partner in Pakistan and according to your office Canada is currently the 7th largest single-country donor for humanitarian assistance in Pakistan. Which areas that being focused by Canadian mission in Pakistan and what is the current status of this assistance?

Since 2013 Canada has provided almost Cdn \$47 million of humanitarian assistance to Pakistan. This assistance has targeted the most urgent life-saving needs, such as assistance to internally displaced people (IDPs) and improving the health and living conditions in conflict-affected areas. Canada's assistance is focused on improving the food security of IDPs, preventing acute malnutrition in children, supporting the return process of IDPs, and facilitating the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees. Canada's humanitarian assistance also aims to strengthen the national logistics and disaster risk management infrastructure and capabilities of the Federal and Provincial Governments of Pakistan.

Q: Excellency! You have been recently appointed here in Pakistan as High



Commissioner. What were your thoughts before coming to Pakistan and how did you find it?

As I mentioned earlier, I am new to this part of the world and therefore arrived in Pakistan with an open mind but very keen to learn about your country and to identify areas in which our two

Canada is recognized as one of the best places in the world to study, travel, invest, work, and live.

countries might strengthen our relationship. I have been received very warmly in Pakistan and have had the privilege of travelling around the country and meeting many interesting people from all walks of life. Pakistan is a fascinating country and I am very much enjoying my stay here.

Q: In your opinion, what can other countries learn from Canada?

I believe that all countries can learn from each other. In Canada we have built an inclusive society and we have been very successful in

integrating immigrants from around the world in a manner that celebrates diversity. I believe that in these areas – inclusion and diversity – Canada's experience can be of interest to many other countries.

Q: Any message you want to give to the readers of 'Diplomatic Focus' and especially to the youth of Pakistan?

I would like to say that I think that all Pakistanis should be proud of the rich cultural heritage of your country. In my travels throughout Pakistan I have been impressed by the diversity of the cultures, the beauty of the land and the hospitality of the people. I have particularly enjoyed meeting young Pakistanis whom I have found to be full of energy, creativity and hope. The youth of Pakistan inspire confidence that your country will continue to make progress toward achieving its full potential as a prosperous, secure, democracy that will play an important and constructive role on the international stage.

Thanks a lot Your Excellency for giving time out of your busy schedule and of course for your nice talk



After 18th amendment,
**The responsibility of IBCC has
been increased manifold**

Mr. Muhammad Ramzan Achakzai
Secretary of Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC)



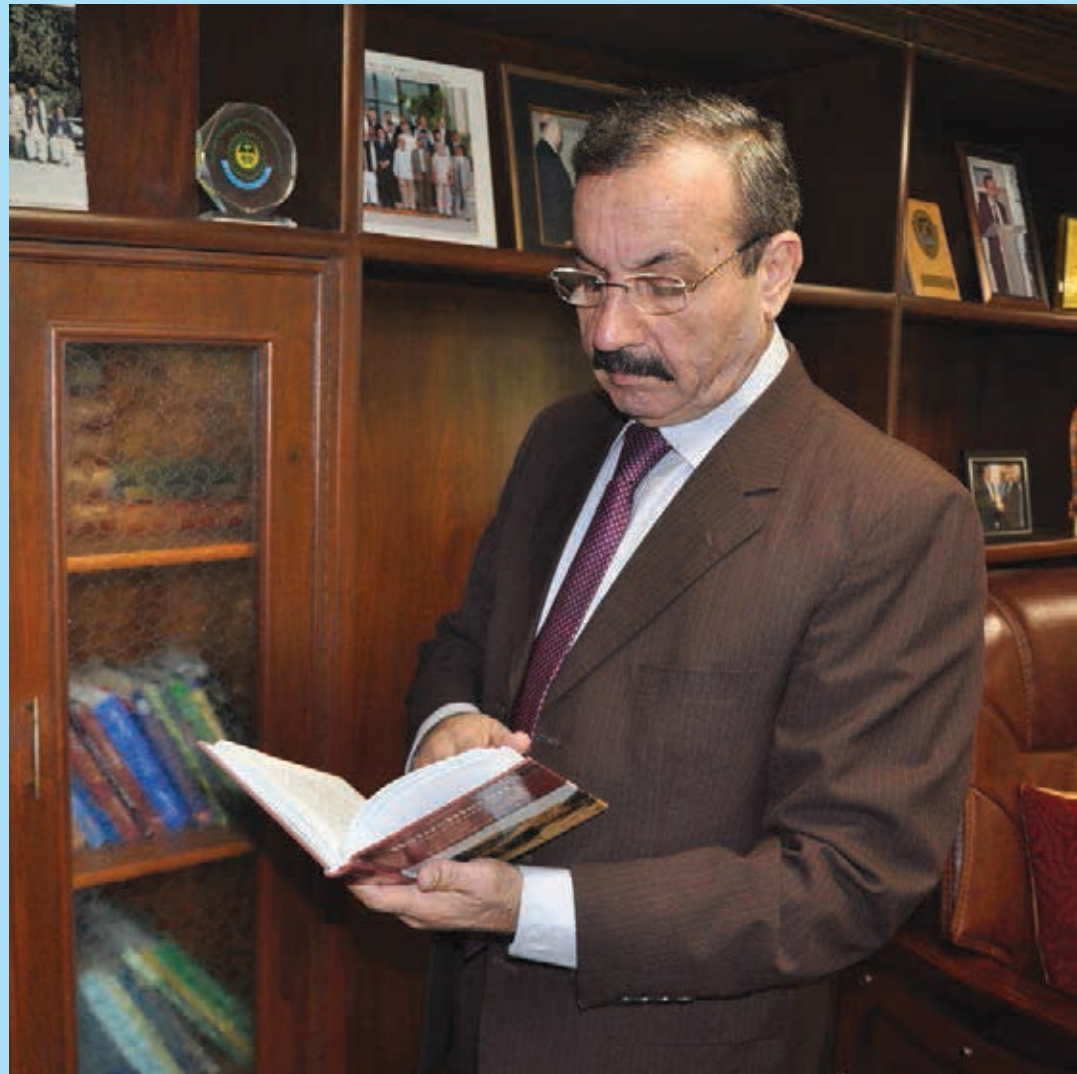
Interview By Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi

Mr. Muhammad Ramzan Achakzai is serving as Secretary of Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC) for quite some time. He is a renowned educationist and has vast professional experience of planning, management and academics. It is a great honour for “Diplomatic Focus” to have an exclusive interview of such a learned and pleasant personality.

Q. First of all thanks to Mr. Muhammad Ramzan Achakzai for giving us time from your busy schedule. It will be worthwhile if you tell us about your education and career? And also share some aspects of your life.

Thanks Mr. Elahi for having visited me. I have done B.A, B.Sc, M.A, M.Sc and LLB from the University of Baluchistan, and then completed my MS level degree from France in 1991. My PhD degree is in final stages in Human Resources Development from National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad.

The IBCC believe in honesty, transparency and will continue to extend maximum facilitation to the students and other applicants.





I have started my career in 1984 as Demonstrator, Center of excellence (Mineralogy), University of Baluchistan and after a year moved to Lahore and served as Engineering Geologist at NES-Pak. In 1986, I joined the education ministry as Education Officer (FPSC Nominee), then Assistant Educational Advisor, Deputy Project Director, ADBs' Secondary Science Education (Secondary School) Project, (SEP-I), Education department Balochistsn, Deputy Director/ Incharge (BEMIS), World Bank's Primary Education, in 1998 Project Manager, ADB's Teacher Training Project, (Federal Coordinating Unit/FCU) MOE Islamabad, in 2000, Director Training, National Institute of Science and Technical Education (NISTE/MOE), furthermore I have served as Project Manager ADB's Girls Primary Education Development Project (GPEP-II), FCU (MOE) in 2002 to 2004.

In 2004 I started working with IBCC as Secretary to date.

As for as concern your question about my family life, I have been blessed with four sons two of them are engineers one is Chartered Accountant and the eldest is running his own business and three daughters (married).

Q. Mr. Muhammad Ramzan Achakzai! You are serving as Secretary of Inter Board Committee

of Chairmen (IBCC). Please briefly describe the role of IBCC in promoting education and specially quality education in Pakistan?

Wherever we are performing our duties we should always strive for betterment and improvement of our working and remain committed to our genuine cause and demand of our duty in every capacity and remind ourselves that there is always a room for improvement everywhere.

The major role of the Inter Board Committee of Chairmen is exchange of information among member Education Boards and Bureaus of Curriculum, coordinate activities of the

Boards, achieve fair measure of uniformity of academic, evaluation and curricular standards and to promote curricular and co-curricular activities on Inter Board basis throughout Pakistan. IBCC provides a forum for discussion and consultation to the chief executives of the Boards and provincial Curriculum Bureaus on matters relating to development and promotion of Intermediate and Secondary Education and also Technical Education by making suitable resolutions and recommendations to the Government. Besides, coordination of educational activities such as curriculum, testing, evaluation, examinations, educational planning and administration are also considered by this forum.

Another function of great importance assigned to the IBCC is to decide and grant equivalence to foreign qualifications with corresponding Pakistani Certificates at the Secondary School Certificate (SSC/Matriculation), Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) (Intermediate levels) and technical education (10+3) as well as local certificates / diplomas with the comparable certificates awarded by the Boards. IBCC also converts foreign grades into Pakistani marks at SSC/HSSC level. On an average 40000 cases of equivalences are normally processed in a calendar year, in addition to the new cases which are decided

during the Equivalence Committee meetings held from time to time.

IBCC has also been entrusted the assignment of attestation of certificates and diplomas, issued by the Boards of Intermediate & Secondary Education and Boards of Technical Education in Pakistan, for those candidates who want to go abroad for further/higher education and /or for employment purpose also to get equated or attested their degrees from Higher Education Commission.

Q. Mr. Muhammad Ramzan Achakzai! The Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC) was established in 1972 under a resolution of the Federal Ministry of Education with a view to exchange information among member education and textbook Boards alongwith other activities on inter board basis as you mentioned. After 18th amendment, major functions of the erstwhile Ministry of Education to the provinces. My question is that how do you see whether that amendment redefine the role of IBCC or IBCC is fulfilling the new tasks and needs of the day?

The Implementation Commission under 18th Amendment did not devolve IBCC keeping in view its role at national level and also for the reason that IBCC deals with International Qualifications and their equivalence if every province was to deal International Qualifications separately then there were chances going to be lack of uniformity in terms of equivalence and the provinces were going to have difference and anomalies pertaining to the equivalence of qualifications. In addition to that IBCC deals with all examination/education Boards of Pakistan and in absence of a Federal IBCC gape of standards among the boards in different provinces would have occurred. In view of above and due to the IBCC's role as national level it was decided that IBCC was retained at national level to have uniformity in terms of equivalence uniformity of academic standards across the board. As far as your question is concerned regarding role of IBCC after 18th amendment, the responsibility of IBCC has been increased manifolds and we are trying our best to upkeep the uniformity of curricular, Exam and Evaluation standards among all the Boards of the country and improving the process of equivalence, attestation and authentication (verification).

Q. IBCC is working well. What are the facilities these are being given to students at their door steps and what are the future plans that your system will be more and easily accessible.

IBCC equate and attest the certificates issued by other examining bodies both international and national respectively. For both attestation and equivalence IBCC needs original certificates and in case of some



systems processed for verification either from International/foreign issuing authorities and Pakistani Boards. However, IBCC has taken

IBCC deals with International Qualifications and their equivalence

access codes of some foreign/international examining bodies for verification of these certificates to ensure speedy disposal. IBCC has also established its regional offices at four provincial headquarters to facilitate applicants without travelling to Federal Capital. The cases of Equivalence, attestation and verification are also accepted through courier services and returned accordingly.

Q. Mr. Muhammad Ramzan Achakzai! What are the new projects on which IBCC is working?

IBCC has plans to strengthen the already established regional offices and to establish new regional offices in Northern Areas, AJK

and Southern Punjab and Sindh. IBCC has been organized a three day National Conference (24-26 January, 2017) on Improving Examinations System in Pakistan in collaboration with all the Examining Boards and Allama Iqbal Open University to upgrade the existing evaluation system.

Q. Mr. Muhammad Ramzan Achakzai! Thanks for your time. What is the message you want to deliver to our readers?

Wherever we are performing our duties we should always strive for betterment and improvement of our working and remain committed to our genuine cause and demand of our duty in every capacity and remind ourselves that there is always a room for improvement everywhere. The IBCC believe in honesty, transparency and will continue to extend maximum facilitation to the students and other applicants.

Thank you very much Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi and your team for selecting me to share with you the essential information particularly regarding IBCC, its functions and services.



I am not pleased
with the Current level of the economic
cooperation with Pakistan

H.E. Nicolae Goia
Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan



Interview by Mian Fazal Elahi

H.E. Nicolae GOIA the newly appointed Romanian ambassador to Pakistan has presented his credential to President of The Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Mamnoon Hussain a month before in December, 2016. H.E. started his diplomatic career from Yemen in 1979 and then served in Iran and Japan, while his previous assignment was in the United Arab Emirates. H.E. Nicolae GOIA has been a very active and energetic diplomat.

The Diplomatic Focus has found the opportunity to talk to His Excellency and learn about his early life, education career, experiences and most importantly his role as an ambassador in bringing Romania and Pakistan closer in terms of trade, diplomatic, education and cultural ties.

Q: Excellency! First of all, Welcome to Pakistan and we are thankful to you for giving us your precious time. H.E! It will be worth for our readers to know about your education and professional life, experience and achievements. Would you like to share a bit about these?

First of all, thank you so much for the warm welcome and for the kind words of the introduction. Indeed I began my foreign diplomatic career in Yemen many years back as a very enthusiastic young third secretary thinking of himself as being able to move the mountains. When I think in retrospective of those years I become nostalgic for "those were the days" which helped me to accumulate experience in the diplomatic domain. Then, in Iran I served in a period of very interesting developments which also added to my

professional skills. Japan and the United Arab Emirates were the countries where I held the most senior diplomatic position and I tried as

When I received the proposal to be nominated as Ambassador of Romania in Pakistan I accepted immediately for I knew then, as I know now, that Pakistan is one of the most important countries not only in the region but in the world at large.

much as I could to be up to the challenges. For all these countries I have served before, I will forever keep a warm corner in my heart, the friends I made there are the lifetime friends and with some of them I am still in contact.

When I received the proposal to be nominated as Ambassador of Romania in Pakistan I accepted immediately for I knew then, as I know now, that Pakistan is one of the most important countries not only in the region but in the world at large.

About my early life, I was born in a small town in Transylvania (western Romania) where I graduated the primary and high school. Then I went to Bucharest, the capital of the country where I attended the University of Bucharest, studying philosophy and sociology.

There were the difficult time of the older regime





but we were young and strong and manage to go on, despite the hardship and the multiple problems my country was facing with.

The economic and trade relations between both countries have been growing over the past year, and the premises have been created for further enlarging and deepening the cooperation.

Now, Romania is a proud member of the European Union and NATO and a respected member of the international community. As one of the fastest growing economy in European Union, it considers foreign economic cooperation as of utmost importance.

In this framework the relations with Pakistan has a significant importance, since there are important sectors that can be further explored and expand so the bilateral ties will reach a level recommended by the huge potential of the two countries. I am not pleased though with the current level of the economic cooperation with Pakistan and I and my colleagues in the Embassy are determined to work intensively to correct this situation.

Q: Excellency! Your country has been celebrated a decade membership status of European Union. How do you see this status of Romania and contributions?

On January 1st, 2017, we celebrate 10 years since Romania became a member of the European Union, a great historical moment that

marked the full return to the democratic world and the beginning of Romania's participation in the European decision-making as a EU Member State.

This decade was a great period of modernisation and social and economic development for Romania, for improving the life quality of Romanian citizens, as well as for capitalization of the integration on the European Single Market. The experience we've had so far also highlights that Romania still what it takes to better and more efficiently exploit the benefits of it being a member of the EU.

During all this time, Romania was among the most active promoters of pursuing and reinforcing the European integration process. The firm commitment and contribution to the efforts aiming to identify solutions to the challenges faced by the EU are recognised as such by our partners and confirm the role that Romania plays nowadays within the European family.

The further reinforcement of the European integration is Romania's strategic objective. Romania will be in favour of reinforcing the EU coherence, of a joint and inclusive approach at European level, based on defining and pursuing actual objectives, in agreement with the interests of the European citizens.

Romania has the will and capacity to contribute to the EU's revival efforts. It is all the more in the Romania's interest for this 10th anniversary and the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome to confirm a stronger, more united and more cohesive Union, that guards the values and principles which ensured, over time, the sustainable foundation of the European construction.

Q: Excellency! Pakistan and Romania have strong economic, trade and cultural relation

rooted in decades old history. It's been a long time. How do you see the bilateral ties between the two countries over the years?

I say for the very beginning that political

I can tell you the [Pakistani] products are high in the preferences of Romanian consumers.

relations between our two countries are excellent.

Diplomatic relations were first established on October 15, 1964 and since that important moment Romania and Pakistan started to build on creating the framework for substantial economic and political cooperation.

The economic and trade relations between both countries have been growing over the past year, and the premises have been created

For 2017, it is in our intention to organize two business forums, one in Islamabad, one in Bucharest.

for further enlarging and deepening the cooperation.

The economic and commercial ties between Romania and Pakistan are traditional and have reached their peak in the 1980's (I have to remind that the oil refinery in Karachi and some cement factories – Kohat, Lasbella, Saadi I and II, Pakland – have been constructed with

significant contribution of Romanian engineers and technology).

Romania and Pakistan have opened honorary consulates in Faisalabad, Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar, respectively. These honorary consulates promote relationship in different fields like economic, trade, culture and education.

It is worth mentioning that my country is the only European member state having four honorary consulates in Pakistan.

In education, there is a strengthening connection between universities from Romania and Pakistan and over 200 Pakistani students are currently studying in Romania.

A significant point that shows the importance the two countries are giving to the cultural cooperation is the Monument dedicated to the National Poets of Romania, Mihail EMINESCU,



The commitments made by the new Government, under the coordination of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, regarding the continuation of the economic, fiscal and energy reform are crucial and should be encouraged and carried on.

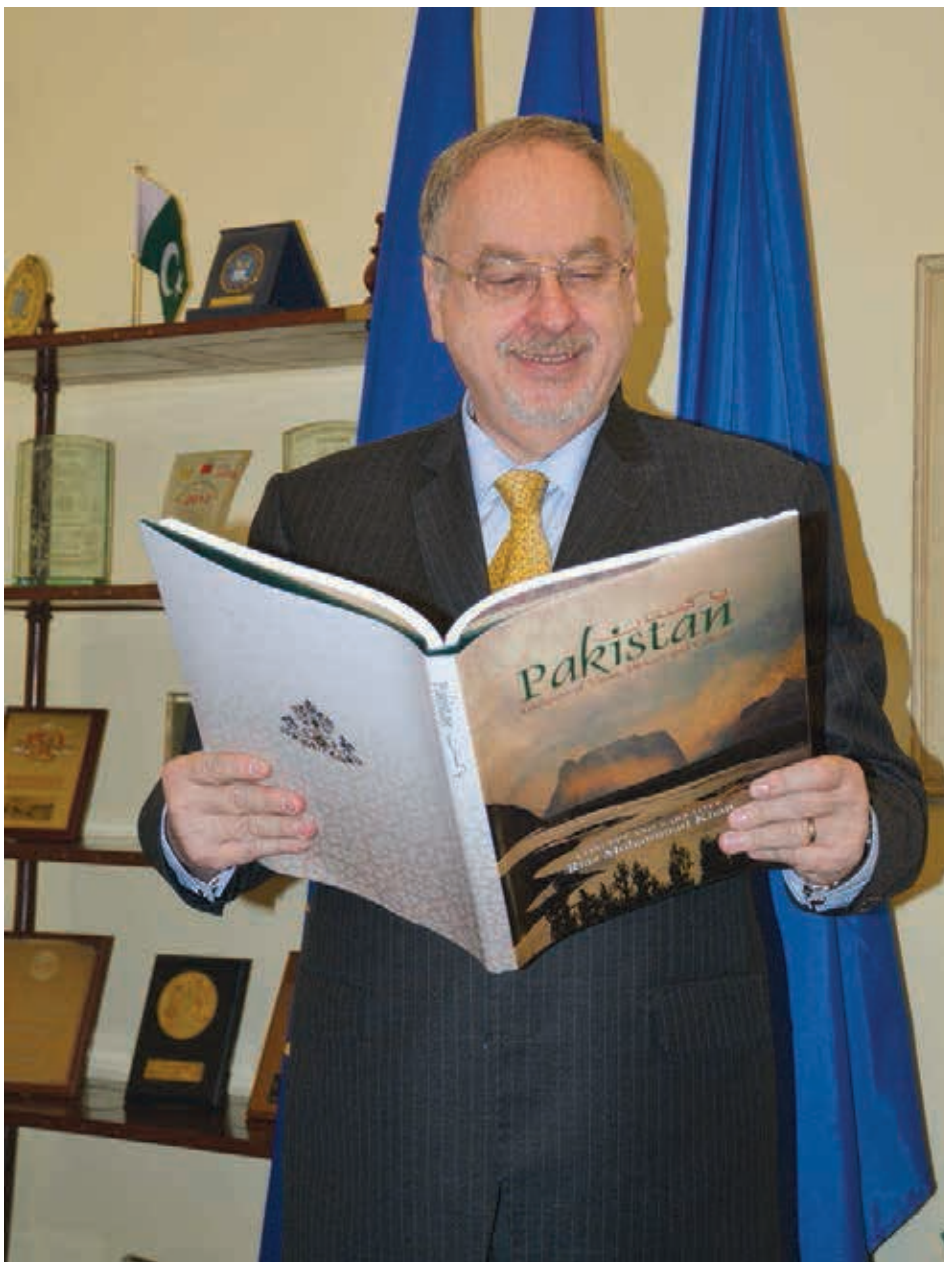
and of Pakistan, Allama IQBAL, which was constructed in 2004 in Islamabad. However, culture is yet another activity which will be on my agenda in terms of identifying the adequate ways of further developing it.

Q: Trade volume between Romania and Pakistan that currently touched \$200 million mark. In this regard what role can be played Pak-Romanian business Council?

Romania is an important trading partner of Pakistan. Both countries have been enjoying historical friendship and traditional cooperation in many fields for the past many years but there is a need to enhance trade volume between both countries. The statistics relating to the trade volume is not yet issued, but I think that the figure is close to exceed 200 million USD.

Pakistan exported to Romania leather, cotton, rice, garments, sports goods, medical instruments, tobacco, jewelry and accessories and I can tell you the products are high in the preferences of Romanian consumers.

Imports from Romania to Pakistan consist of machinery and equipment for the



petrochemical and cement, electronic and electrical, agricultural tractors, machine tools, spare parts for helicopters, oil equipment beatings, wires and cables, telephone cables, tires, various chemicals inorganic, PVC, steel products, fertilizers, timber, paper and cardboard, wire and synthetic fibers, axles and bogies, railway materials etc.

Q: Excellency! According to media reports, there are institutional arrangements in place in form of joint commissions and various corporations in the fields of media, economy and defence. Can you through some light in this regard?

I am very happy to say that we have with Pakistan a comprehensive set of agreements which contributed to regulate, enhance and systematize the assembly of bilateral ties. Both sides are pleased with the juridical framework and work very closely and systematically to implement the provision of the agreements and documents.

Indeed, Romania and Pakistan have signed agreements regarding practically the entire range of cooperation: political, economic, defense, cultural, education etc.

While I emphasize the importance of the agreements, I truly believe that working on daily basis to find the proper instruments to get the people of Romania and Pakistan closer and understand each other better in the key of advancing the relations in a new era of especially economic cooperation.

As the Ambassador of Romania, I intend to give new dimensions to these activities so that within a short period of time, Pakistan will gain an important place in the foreign trade of my country.

Q: Excellency! As a new ambassador of Romania to Pakistan, what are your priorities to strengthen the current bilateral relations between the two countries?

Our priorities, bilaterally, but also at EU level, are supporting the democratic evolution of Pakistan, intensifying commercial trade and investments, consolidating regional stability, with special focus on the situation in Afghanistan, a country tormented by war with people that really deserve a much better fate that they have now.

I am fully aware that the real potential of our bilateral relations demands more frequent contacts at the government level, in order to identify and employ all the resources available for promoting and developing our cooperation in the political, economic, trade, energy, culture, education, defense fields.

I believe that the bilateral political dialogue is ripe enough to accommodate periodical exchanges of views and assessments on regional stability and security issues, related



mainly to the strategies embraced by our governments that aim at managing and solving the frozen conflict and at ensuring a balanced regional development with a special emphasis on Afghanistan.

I am interested in continuing to update and modernize the bilateral framework, adjustments have been made in the light of Romania's quality as a member of the EU and we are very pleased to see Pakistan continuing its efforts to develop a steady and prosperous

I will tell [to youth] not to ever give up the pride of belonging to a brilliant nation, to stand up against any form of discrimination, to fight for dignity and to protect human rights.....

economy and to increase the regional connectivity and economic integration of South Asia countries.

I am fully convinced that the above mentioned steps will contribute and provide opportunities for further improve the ties and to create a positive dynamic especially to our economic relations.

There is a big interest in developing cooperation in the educational and cultural sector shown by Romanian and Pakistani institutes. An increasing number of people realize how rich the culture and history of these countries are and to learn more about it.

I hope that the number and the diversity of the cultural exchanges between our both countries will increase in the future, for a better reciprocal understanding, strengthening our traditional friendship and enhancing the people contacts.

Q: What are the potential opportunities that your embassy is providing to the foreign investors there in Romania and what suggestions will you give to the Pakistani investors to increase their business with Romania?

Frequent exchange of trade delegations, interactions and establishment of display centers in both countries would help to further strengthen the trade ties.

Visit of trade delegations to each-other's country and participation of businessmen in the exhibitions being held in each other's country have given a lot of opportunities to increase trade activities between the two countries. Exchange of visits of the top business executives has a good impact in cementing relations.

The business communities of Romania and Pakistan have established direct contact in order to encourage trade and tap the potential between the two countries. This facilitates identification of areas where mutual trade and investments are feasible.

For 2017, it is in our intention to organize two business forums, one in Islamabad, one in Bucharest. This kind of events are the basis for presenting opportunities and offer the framework for the business communities from Romania and Pakistan to meet, discuss and develop their relation.

Both countries have huge potential in different trade and investment sectors, including energy (oil, gas and coal), industries, defense production, textiles, agriculture, pharmaceutical, information technology, housing, engineering and construction.

Romania is interested to have a larger presence of Pakistani companies in our country and participation in fairs and similar events is a first step in the process of convincing the businessmen that Romania is a country very much worth investing in.

Romanian companies could be involved in development project in Pakistan by supplying equipment and other components and they do have the capacity and technical expertise to cooperate in areas such as oil and gas exploration and extraction, petrochemical refining facilities, tractors and farm equipment, training aircraft for army pilots, helicopter maintenances, security and surveillances systems, construction of high power lines, equipment for power plants, assembly of trucks and motor vehicles.

As I know, there is a genuine potential and mutual interest in developing the military cooperation, especially in the field of defense industry.

Q: Excellency! You have been recently appointed here in Pakistan as Ambassador. What were your thoughts before coming to Pakistan and how did you find it?

Before coming to Pakistan I did not really know much about the country. I read, of course, a lot of reports and media news but one can never understand the true spirit of a country unless one sees it with his own eyes. I came here two months ago and ever since I have tried to understand and feel the country, I have made many friends, I visited some places, but, of course, the short period and rather limited possibilities of traveling inside the country did not help to much in formulating an assertive conclusion.

But this much I can say: the first impressions are excellent, you have a beautiful country, a welcoming and very friendly people, deep and solid culture, distinct personality and for us a flavor of mystery and exotic in a very good way that makes Pakistan unique. I know that the world owes Pakistan a lot in terms of culture, civilization, science and sports and the Pakistani contributions to the development of the mankind should be acknowledge and properly known. Now, since Pakistan has become my second home, this particular goal will be high on my agenda.

To conclude, I can say that the situation in Pakistan is far better than described in some of the news and analysis I have read.

Romania highly values the efforts of the Pakistani authorities aimed at promoting democracy, social and economic development, as well as, fighting against terrorism and extremism.

The Pakistani people have demonstrated a formidable resilience to violence and extremism and above all have expressed their preferences for a clear focus on a better economic situation and a more stable country.

The commitments made by the new Government, under the coordination of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, regarding the

continuation of the economic, fiscal and energy reform are crucial and should be encouraged and carried on.

I appreciate the important efforts and resources that Pakistan engaged for fighting international terrorism and extremism and in this respect cooperation at the regional and international level is of an utmost importance.

I encourage Pakistan to continue to promote

The situation in Pakistan is far better than described in some of the news and analysis

regional dialogue and cooperation to the benefit of the region.

Q: Any message you want to give to the readers of 'Diplomatic Focus' and especially to the youth of Pakistan? And also you can share anything you think we have missed in the interview?

I reiterate Romania's support to further developing the relations between the EU and Pakistan. I consider that the strategic dialogue between the EU and Pakistan will consolidate

the current partnership aimed at preventing instability, extremism and people radicalization.

Romania, in its double capacity, as a member of the EU and NATO, is supporting the enhancement of the EU/NATO-Pakistan relations trough an intensified dialogues and wider cooperation.

Romania appreciates the excellent cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the framework of the United Nations system.

We praised the cooperation between our countries in the multilateral framework, while looking forward to deepening and substantiating it accordingly.

To the youth of Pakistan, I will tell not to ever give up the pride of belonging to a brilliant nation, to stand up against any form of discrimination, to fight for dignity and to protect human rights, to read and study continuously and to be confident that a magnificent future can be built only with their full participation, their already proved talents and intelligence being prerequisites for building a bright future for this noble nation.

Thanks a lot Your Excellency! For giving time out of your busy schedule and of course for your nice talk.

Thanks!





“Diplomatic Focus” honored New Romanian Envoy with Welcome Dinner Reception

Mr. Mian Fazal Ealhi CEO, Editor and Publisher of “Diplomatic Focus” Hosted a welcome dinner reception in the honor of New Romanian Envoy H.E. Nicolae Goia at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Mr. Ammad Malik (Ex. State Minister), EU Ambassador H.E. Jean Francois Cautain along with other dignities from embassies, diplomatic missions, prominent former government officials graced the event.









Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



British High Commissioner Thomas Drew called on Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Islamabad.



Ms. Ina Lepal, German Ambassador to Pakistan met Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa at GHQ.



Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan in a meeting with Mr. Sher Ali S. Jononov, Ambassador of Republic of Tajikistan to Pakistan.



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz in a meeting with the Secretary General of SAARC Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa in Islamabad.



Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Agha Mehndi Hunar Dost called on Minister of State for IB&NH Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb in Islamabad.



Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan in a meeting with Mrs. Jeannette Seppen, Ambassador of Netherlands to Pakistan.

Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



National Security Advisor, Lt. Gen (R) Nasser Khan Janua in a meeting with British Ambassador to Afghanistan, Mr. Dominic Jermy at PM Office in Islamabad. British High Commissioner to Pakistan Thomas Drew is also present.



Ambassador of Romania, H.E. Mr. Nicolae Gola called on Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Ghulam Murtaza Khan Jatoi in Islamabad.



National Security Advisor Lt. Gen. (R) Nasser Khan Janua in a meeting with German Ambassador, H.E. Ms. Ina Lepel in Islamabad.



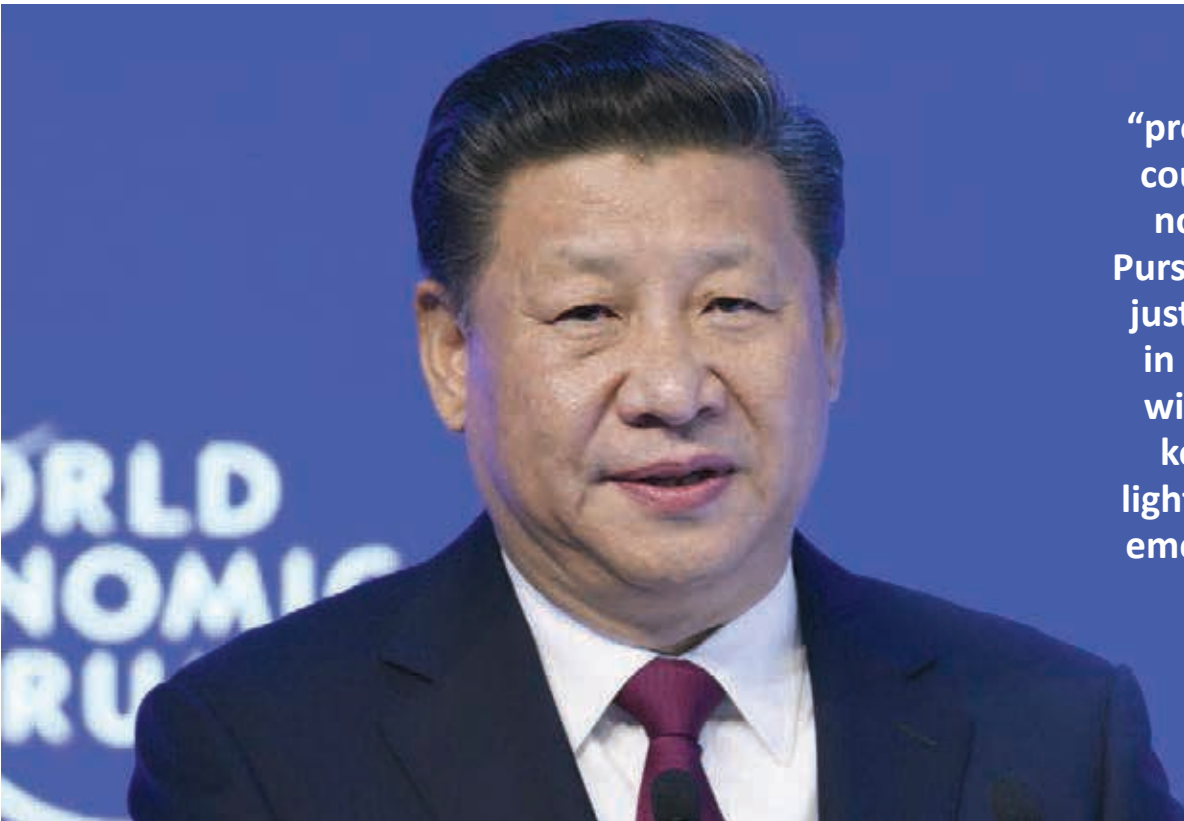
Ambassador of Romania in Pakistan, Niculaie Goia paid courtesy call on Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial coordination Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada in Islamabad.



Kyrgyzstan Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Sagynbek Ibraev called on Federal Minister for Water and Power, Khawaja Muhammad Asif in Islamabad.



Tajikistan Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Sher Ali called on the Federal Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Muhammad Asif in Islamabad.



Xi insisted that “protectionism must be countered. “...And say no to protectionism. Pursuing protectionism is just like locking oneself in a dark room. While wind and rain may be kept outside, so are light and air. No one will emerge as a winner in a trade war.”

President Xi urges world to reject protectionism

By News Desk

Chinese President Xi Jinping urged the world to reject protectionism and instead work together to guide and adapt to economic globalization in a keynote speech to the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Switzerland on Tuesday.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the annual gathering of global powerbrokers in Davos, Xi acknowledged that economic globalization was a double-edged sword but stressed that blaming it for the world's problems is inconsistent with reality and unhelpful to solving the problems.

Xi insisted that “many of the problems faced by the world are not caused by economic globalization.” He argued that the financial crisis was a consequence of greed and poor regulation, while the refugee crisis was a result of war, conflict and regional turbulence.

He emphasized the need to adapt to and guide economic globalization, cushion its negative impact, and deliver its benefits to all countries and nations. “We must release its positive impact and rebalance the process of economic

globalization,” the president said. Xi also insisted that protectionism must be countered. “...And say no to protectionism. Pursuing protectionism is just like locking oneself in a dark room. While wind and rain may be kept outside, so are light and air. No one will emerge as a winner in a trade war.”

Xi identified three deep-rooted causes of the sluggish global economy: lack of robust driving forces for global growth, inadequate global economic governance, and uneven global development.

He stressed the need to develop models of dynamic innovation-driven growth, open and win-win cooperation, fair and equitable governance, and a balanced, equitable and inclusive development, so as to walk the world economy out of its predicament.

Since the global financial crisis China has contributed 30 percent per year to global growth on average, Xi stated, adding that China has not only benefited from economic globalization but also contributed to it. He went on to say that China has no intention of boosting its competitiveness by devaluing the RMB, and has no interest in launching a

currency war. Xi also elaborated on China's achievements and development experiences since its reform and opening up by drawing the international community's attention to China's economic hotspots and its successes in poverty alleviation. He noted the progress of the Belt and Road Initiative, saying that while the project originates in China it has delivered benefits well beyond its borders.

The president outlined China's current economic situation, policies and measures. He accepted that China's economy faces downward pressures, but described them as temporary hardships and said the country remained firm in its resolve to push ahead. He added that China still has enormous potential and space for development, and stressed a desire to foster new drivers of growth through innovation-driven development while revitalizing older growth drivers.

Xi finished the first speech by a Chinese president at Davos by declaring that “no difficulty, however daunting, will stop mankind advancing.” He said the countries of the world must not complain, blame others, lose confidence, or run away from responsibility, but should join hands and rise to the challenges.

“Chinese New Year” At Marriott Hotel Islamabad



The Islamabad Marriott Hotel Celebrate “Chinese New Year” at its famed Dynasty Restaurant. Dynasty restaurant was abuzz with festivity as General Manger, Stuart Nicolas managed to gather diplomats, bureaucrats and as well as many Chinese citizens in attendance at their hotel. Ambassador of China H.E. Sun Weidong and his better half were the chief guests of the eve.



The Chinese New Year starts on the 28th of January and year 2017 according to Chinese zodiac sign is the year of roosters and that too fire rooster. The colour red is closely attached to the celebrations and festivities of Chinese New Year, as it is considered essential in order to scare off the mythical monster.





Is Pakistan getting 'Trumped'?

By ZAHID HUSSAIN

With one stroke of the pen Donald Trump last week slammed the doors on people from seven predominantly Muslim countries throwing the United States and the world into unprecedented chaos. This vile piece of legislation targeting people belonging to one particular religion smacks of the worst kind of racism the world has witnessed in recent history — and it is just the beginning.

Extreme vetting of travellers from Pakistan and Afghanistan has already been ordered and a complete ban on them is not being ruled out. The registration of the Muslim population in the US is also reportedly under consideration setting a cruel precedent somewhat reminiscent of Nazi rule.

Seemingly, the travel ban has been imposed to make the country more secure but there has not been any instance of a citizen of one of those seven countries being involved in terrorist activities in the US; in fact, all those countries have been the target of American military aggression and victims of terrorism themselves. Iraq particularly has been destroyed by the American invasion, the action Trump had strongly condemned during his election campaign.

No wonder such xenophobic actions taken by the Trump administration are being celebrated by jihadist groups like the militant Islamic State group. It has provided fuel to their radical narrative of Islam versus the West. A pro-IS website has described banning Muslims from entering America as a “blessed ban”. All the countries on the ban list have been fighting IS on their soil.

Notwithstanding the massive protests across the US and in western capitals, Trumpism seems unstoppable, making the world more dangerous and insecure. Understandably, more worried are Washington’s traditional allies with a reckless president at the helm of the world’s

sole superpower which is the linchpin of the geopolitical order. Now this order is threatened by the policies of a rogue leader.

Understandably, Trump’s radical steps are cause for serious concern to Pakistan too. Notwithstanding the friendly phone conversation between the Pakistani prime minister and Trump soon after the latter’s election in November, the signals from Washington have not been encouraging. It was clear from the outset that the new administration would exert increasing pressure on Islamabad to crack down on Pakistani militant groups such as the Jamaatud Dawa.

True to character, the Sharif government waited passively for things to pass. But now there is sign of panic with Trump moving fast on his election promises and the impending threat of extending the travel ban to Pakistanis. The dramatic crackdown on the JuD and the decision to place Hafiz Saeed under house arrest highlights panic. Interestingly, the crackdown came hours after the publication of a report in a national daily claiming that Pakistan was threatened with sanctions if it did not act swiftly against the group.

For many years Islamabad had resisted pressure from Washington and other countries to clamp down on the groups that were still being protected under various pretexts despite Pakistan’s war against militancy. It was apparent that the JuD was the new banner for Lashkar-e-Taiba, the most lethal of Pakistani militant outfits that was banned in 2002 because of outside pressure.

Pakistan was forced to close down JuD offices after the outfit was put on the list of terrorist organisations by the United Nations. But the action was short-lived as a Lahore High Court bench found no grounds for banning the group, providing Islamabad with a convenient excuse to defy international pressure.

Hafiz Saeed roamed around freely addressing rallies and appearing on primetime TV, reinforcing international scepticism regarding

Islamabad’s double standards in dealing with the scourge of militancy and extremism. The 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks involving members of the banned outfit intensified the call by the international community for action against the JuD and its leaders. The anger grew further after Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi, the alleged mastermind of the carnage, was freed by the court. All this obscured the success in containing militant violence inside the country.

But now, the belated and somewhat half-hearted action against the JuD and confinement of its leaders may not satisfy the international community, particularly the Trump administration. The pressure will intensify to crack down on the banned militant group Jaish-e-Mohammad and its leader Maulana Masood Azhar who has resurfaced after keeping a low profile for several years.

The JeM disintegrated into various cells after being proscribed in 2002 and many of its senior members were involved in terrorist attacks inside Pakistan.

Maulana Azhar came into focus again late last year after JeM was accused of masterminding the attack on the Indian air force base in Pathankot. Cases have also been registered against some JeM leaders suspected of involvement in the attack. But Maulana Azhar has remained free. Pakistan has been able to block the move in the UN Security Council to declare him a terrorist with the help of China. But this can’t be sustained for long. It will be another test for Islamabad.

Yet another pressure point for Pakistan is the detention on treason charges of Dr Shakeel Afridi who helped CIA in the hunt for Osama bin Laden. Trump had vowed to get him released and bring him to the US within days of his taking over. This presents a very tricky situation for the Pakistani government. It remains to be seen how Islamabad deals with this highly sensitive issue and avoids any punitive action by a rogue American administration.

Although the Trump administration still does not have a clear Afghan policy, the issue of how to deal with the crisis remains a source of conflict between Islamabad and Washington. There is some indication of continued US demand on Pakistan for taking action against the Haqqani network, the strongest faction of the Afghan Taliban believed to be operating from its sanctuary in Pakistan.

There is no doubt that Pakistan should have acted against the groups in its own national interests long ago. It will certainly bring more humiliation if we wait for the Trump whip. Have we not already been trumped?

Courtesy to DAWN.

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Pakistan delivered dossier on India's interference and terrorism to UN

By M. Saeed Yousafzai

Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Nations, Maleeha Lodhi, delivered a dossier on India's interference and terrorism in Pakistan to the U.N. Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, when she called on him in his office.

A follow up to the three dossiers, which were shared with the U.N in October last, it contains additional information and proof of Indian/RAW interference in Pakistan and involvement in terrorism particularly in Balochistan, FATA and Karachi.

According to diplomatic sources, Ambassador Lodhi also briefed the UN chief on the extent of the interference, especially the deployment of Indian special forces in the districts of Pukhwara and Rajori along the Line of Control and the working boundary.

Along with the dossier was a letter addressed to the UN chief from the Advisor to the Prime Minister, Sartaj Aziz, in which he has asked the world body to restrain India from interfering in Pakistan and from activities aimed at destabilizing Pakistan.

In that letter, Sartaj Aziz noted that the arrest

of Indian RAW agent Kulbhushan Jadhav from Balochistan and his confessional statement admitting involvement in activities aimed at destabilizing Pakistan, and support to terrorist elements vindicated Pakistan's longstanding position about India's involvement in such activities. India was carrying out these activities in clear contravention of the UN Charter and the resolutions of the UN Security Council on counter-terrorism and international conventions on terrorism. India's hostile intentions towards Pakistan were also borne out by recent statements of its political and military leadership.

The Adviser added that Pakistan had made a major contribution to global counter terrorism efforts and secured significant gains in its domestic fight against terrorism. This achievement had come at a great national cost including the lives lost of thousands of civilians and security forces personnel. India's actions threatened to undermine these gains.

He urged the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations bodies to seriously consider the matter in the light of information shared by Pakistan and play a role in restraining India from these activities, which were in clear violation of international law and posed a

threat to regional and international peace and security.

Pakistan continues to desire peace with all its neighbours including India, a press release issued by the foreign office in Islamabad said. "It is convinced that the common objectives of economic development and prosperity for our people can best be promoted through regional cooperation, conflict resolution and peaceful settlement of disputes". At the same time, however, it said Pakistan will resolutely defend its territorial integrity and take all necessary measures to counter any threat to its security.

The arrest of Indian RAW agent Kulbhushan Yadhav from Balochistan and his confessional statement admitting involvement in activities aimed at destabilizing Pakistan, and support to terrorist elements



The China-Pakistan Corridor: A transit, economic or development corridor?

By Mario Esteban

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor provides an excellent opportunity for improving the economic and security situation in Pakistan and its neighbouring countries. However, such an outcome cannot be taken for granted. This paper analyses the steps that should be taken to favour this scenario and warns about the consequences that a poorly-managed implementation of the CPEC might have, such as aggravating divisions within Pakistan and heightening tensions between Islamabad and other regional players.

Since its announcement in July 2013, probably no policy initiative is receiving more attention in Pakistan than the CPEC. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has reiterated on several occasions that CPEC could be a game changer for Pakistan and the entire region. Along the same lines, Wang Yi, China's Foreign Minister, has described

the CPEC as the 'flagship project' of the One Belt, One Road initiative, Xi Jinping's signature foreign policy project. Moreover, there is a widespread consensus among the Pakistani military, political parties and society at large on

There is a widespread consensus among the Pakistani military, political parties and society at large on the enormous potential of the CPEC.

the enormous potential of the CPEC for spurring economic growth in the country. Indeed, the US\$46 billion package of projects contained in the CPEC offers an exceptional opportunity to

Pakistan for tackling some of the main barriers hindering its economic development: energy bottlenecks, poor connectivity and limited attraction for foreign investors. According to the Agreement on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Energy Project Cooperation between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, signed on 8 November 2014, 61% of the CPEC investment will be allocated to energy projects aiming to improve energy-system capacity and the transmission and distribution network. Thus, Pakistan may be able to terminate with what a Wilson Centre report labelled 'Pakistan's Interminable Energy Crisis', which according to their estimates has cost its economy 2% to 2.5% of GDP annually. Only in the early harvest phases (2017-18), CPEC projects are expected to add 10,400MW to the Pakistani energy system.

Up to 36% of CPEC funding will be devoted to

infrastructure, transport and communication. It is evident that a greater connectivity will create new opportunities for development in Pakistan, since, according to the Planning Commission, the poor performance of transport sector costs the Pakistani economy 4% to 6% of GDP every year. The improvement in communications will be important both for a greater integration of the domestic market and for facilitating Pakistani exports. In addition, the CPEC will help to improve the confidence of international investors in Pakistan, whose image of the country is not always in line with current situations and tends to be more negative than merited by actual conditions. In the words of the former Economic Minister of the Pakistani Mission to the EU, Safdar Sohail, 'Pakistan has turned a page in terms of terrorism and regional integration and the Chinese investment is a way of sending that message'.

The massive prospective benefits that the CPEC can bring to Pakistan are contingent to its actual implementation, which faces serious obstacles. One of the most obvious is the security situation, despite the improvements experienced on that front during the past two years. The most well-known pro-independence Baloch leaders have denounced the negative impact they believe CPEC will have in Balochistan and some have even warned China 'to stay away from Gwadar'. Beijing's concerns on this issue made the Pakistani authorities announce, during Xi Jinping's visit to Islamabad in April 2015, the creation of a 12,000-strong force devoted to protecting Chinese interests and nationals in Pakistan. This new Special Security Division is funded by Pakistan, although certain well-informed sources have suggested that China will provide some equipment. Moreover, Rs. 45 billion is expected to be spent in fiscal year 2016 on raising the security unit and on Operation Zarb-e-Azb. This is a key issue, since Beijing has become more sensitive over the past years to attacks against Chinese nationals on foreign soil.

The CPEC's security is also closely interlinked with regional geopolitics, particularly with India's stance on the initiative and on the stabilisation of Afghanistan. In India many voices have raised concerns about the CPEC, and even the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, criticised the project as 'unacceptable' during his visit to Beijing in June 2015. Indian reservations are mainly related to certain CPEC transport projects crossing Gilgit-Baltistan, part of the disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir, and the implications of China's easier access to the Indian Ocean and how they might affect India's security and strategic context. Various quarters in Pakistan believe that these misgivings have even led to cooperation between Indian security agencies and Pakistani militants, especially following the arrest in

Balochistan in March 2016 of an alleged officer of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW is an Indian Agency).

This is not to deny that the CPEC can offer incentives for India to improve its relations with Pakistan, since the corridor could facilitate Indian access to Central Asia. In other words, the CPEC is not only threatened by security

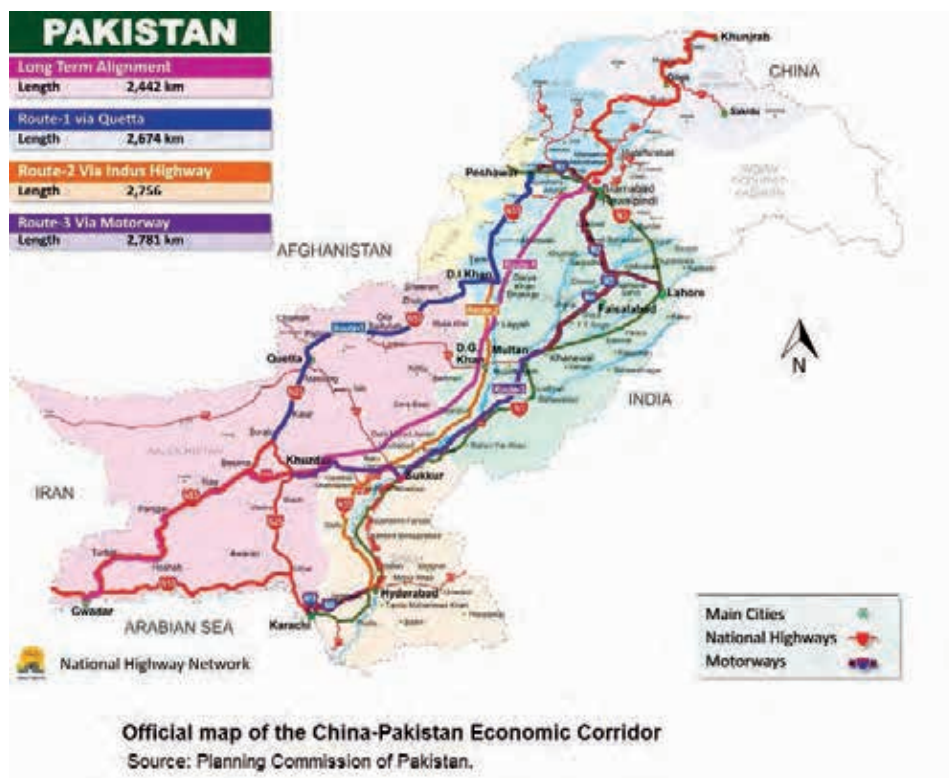
Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has reiterated on several occasions that CPEC could be a game changer for Pakistan and the entire region. Along the same lines, Wang Yi, China's Foreign Minister, has described the CPEC as the 'flagship project' of the One Belt, One Road initiative, Xi Jinping's signature foreign policy project.

conditions within and without Pakistan, but can also contribute to improving them. The potential contribution of the CPEC to regional stability is more evident at present with regard to Afghanistan. Peace in Afghanistan is

a key factor for the success of the CPEC and the reduction of international support for the East Turkestan Independent Movement militants. These are the main reasons of Chinese decision to participate in a joint effort with the governments of the US, Pakistan and Afghanistan to revive the Afghan peace process. This direct Chinese involvement in seeking a political settlement to the war in Afghanistan contrasts with Beijing's avowed policy of non-interference before launching the One Belt, One Road initiative.

Another difficulty is the lack of experience in mutual economic cooperation, since Pakistani-Chinese relations have been traditionally limited to political and military factors. This scant economic interaction is illustrated by trade and investment figures. The value of bilateral trade was below US\$1 billion until 2001 and China ranked among the three main foreign investors in Pakistan during only one fiscal year (2006/07) in the previous decade. Therefore, it can be argued that the CPEC incorporates an economic pillar to this long and consolidated bilateral relationship and both sides are now learning how to co-operate in this field.

The CPEC consists of three layers including early harvest, medium term and long term projects. First two stages are in working position, whereas the long-term project will end till 2030. At the moment it is at an early phase, and its projects are expected to be completed in 2017 and 2018. This is the first of the four phases that make up the CPEC, the other three being the short-term (2020), medium-term (2025) and long-term (2030) phases. At the outset



it would be difficult to assess CPEC's impact on Pakistan, however this should be borne in mind that this is the most pertinent question with far reaching consequences. It could be argued that even if the China-Pakistan corridor has been officially described as an economic corridor, its final nature is still far from being determined and will depend to a large extent on decisions made in Beijing and Islamabad. Three different scenarios can be envisioned: (1) a transit corridor; (2) an economic corridor; and (3) a development corridor. The China-Pakistan corridor influence on the socio-economic development of Pakistan will be determined by the kind of corridor it will become. Since Pakistan is a diverse country and the CPEC will have several different alignments (see Map 1) running through different areas, it is quite possible that its influence will vary from one area to another.

Transit corridor

A transit corridor connecting China's western province of Xinjiang with the Indian Ocean port of Gwadar in south Balochistan was first proposed in 2006 by the then President General Pervez Musharraf. The corridor's completion would serve Beijing's interests in many ways. On the economic front, the cost of western and central China's international trade with Central Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Africa will be reduced. For instance, China would save around US\$2 billion every year if it were to use the CPEC to import 50% of its current volume of oil supplies. In addition, better connectivity and easier sea access will favour the development of Xinjiang, which the Chinese authorities considers as paramount for reducing terrorism in the region. Moreover, the transit corridor has significant geostrategic value, making China less vulnerable to US rebalancing towards Asia and an eventual blockade of the Malacca Strait. It will also facilitate the projection of China's influence in the Indian Ocean and in Eurasia. Therefore, both the maritime and the land silk roads are expected to converge in the port of Gwadar.

If the CPEC is finally merely a transit corridor, its potential for fostering socioeconomic development in Pakistan will be severely limited. Even if China is offering financing through the CPEC to Pakistan in a volume and under conditions unmatched by other creditors, these are loans, not grants, and therefore Pakistan will be expected to repay them. The total value of China's loans has not been disclosed, but should be quite significant, since the US\$11 billion granted for infrastructure purposes will be added as a substantial share of the US\$35 billion investment announced for the power sector. For instance, US\$820 million of the US\$2 billion committed for the Thar coal project are provided by a syndicate of Chinese banks,

including the China Development Bank, the Construction Bank of China and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China.

The massive transport facilities that are being – and shall be – created, extended and renovated within the framework of the CPEC will demand a notable disbursement in security and maintenance once they are completed. Security will be particularly problematic in the western alignment, as will maintenance under the severe weather and geographical conditions of the Pakistani side of the Karakorum Highway and of Balochistan. This may aggravate by its expected heavy use by lorries.

The growing Pakistani exports, the development of roadside services and transit fees could offset these financial obligations. Traditional exports such as textiles, agro-food, sporting-goods and mining are likely to benefit from the improvements in connectivity. However, more

The CPEC provides an opportunity to reinvigorate Pakistan's economic structure, particularly through the development of its energy sector and by fostering a greater connectivity.

detailed sectoral analyses are needed, since some areas of the Pakistani economy, mainly the manufacturing industry, could suffer due to higher Chinese competition brought on by the CPEC. It also demands more exhaustive studies to be conducted in order to gain enough information to embark precisely on the cost-benefit analysis that should inform CPEC-related decisions: for instance, the feasibility of transit fees for Chinese oil shipments and trade traffic and the eventual volume of income they could generate.

Economic corridor

Unlike transit corridors, economic corridors are explicitly designed to stimulate economic development. In order to overcome its energy crisis, Pakistan needs to articulate an industry and trade boosting programme to gain from the CPEC in terms of additional business opportunities, apart from temporary jobs. The fact that the lion's share of CPEC-related investment will be allocated to projects in the energy sector, to help Pakistan overcome its chronic energy crisis, is a solid indication that the China-Pakistan corridor honours its official

designation as an economic corridor. Most of the energy projects are being financed under a build-own-operate model. In this scenario, Chinese investors are entering the Pakistani energy market as independent power providers with special protection guarantees. Chinese independent power-providers are assured an 18% return on their investment, whereas the rest are getting a 17% return for their equity; and some complain that this would distort the level playing field. This, like the establishment of exclusive Chinese special economic or industrial zones should be managed with extreme caution in order to avoid potential sinophobic feelings that might hinder the implementation of the CPEC. In any case, if the energy projects are implemented and the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority is able to set prices that are acceptable to investors and consumers, the spillover effect on the Pakistani economy will be colossal.

How the CPEC favours the mobilisation of Pakistan's industry and trade sectors is not clear at present. The Government of Pakistan has proposed the creation of 29 industrial parks and 21 mineral zones, 27 of them to be granted the status of Special Economic Zones (SEZ). The most advanced of these projects is the 9 km² Gwadar SEZ, expected to be fully functional by the end of 2017, which will accommodate industrial units for mines and minerals, food processing, agriculture, livestock and energy. It is hoped that these initiatives might attract Chinese investment, technology and know-how, which will translate into greater and more diversified Pakistani exports. The two projects, joint cotton biotech laboratory and a joint marine research centre, which are already agreed upon can contribute to achieve these objectives.

However, the traditional perception in the Pakistani business community is that Chinese investors are neither interested in investing in Pakistan as an export base nor in generating profits from Pakistan through joint ventures of private foreign ownership. Indeed, Pakistan-China Industrial Cooperation Committee is not yet established and the absence of concrete financial commitments for most of the announced industrial parks and mineral zones are not very promising signs.

Development corridor

There are three routes (Western, Central and Eastern) of the CPEC, after it enters Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa from the Khunjerab Pass and Gilgit-Baltistan. Through the first (Western) route the CPEC will enter Balochistan via Dera Ismail Khan to Zhob, Qila Saifullah, Quetta, Kalat, Punjgur, Turbet and Gwadar. The second (Central) route goes from Dera Ismail Khan to Dera Ghazi Khan and onwards to Dera Murad

Jamali, Khuzdar, Punjgur, Turbet to Gwadar. The third route (Eastern) enters the Punjab province from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, going through Lahore, Multan and Sukkur, from there it takes the traditional highway to enter Balochistan, passing through Khuzdar, Punjgur, Turbet and Gwadar. An alternate route is to go from Sukkur to Karachi and from there take the coastal highway to Gwadar. It is important to adopt additional measures so that all the regions of the country reap the gains from CPEC.

It is generally believed that in the early project stage priority is given to the eastern route at the expense of the western one and to local conglomerates such as the Dawood Group at the expense of small and medium enterprises. In this scenario, it is believed that CPEC could lead to growing inequality and materialise into local discontent. Therefore, additional measures are needed to make the most out of the CPEC and to ensure that the economic opportunities opened up by the initiative should translate into development opportunities for wide strata of Pakistan's population and help foster a more cohesive country. There are great expectations throughout Pakistan on the potential benefits of the CPEC, but if no sense of ownership is given to local governments and communities the situation could change. Influential voices, such as, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the leader of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, initially criticised the CPEC assuming that the project would not benefit their constituencies. These precedents require a more committed participation by local actors in the CPEC through consultation and engagement.

To address these reservations, the Federal Government and major political parties in a meeting on May 28, 2015 discussed these routes and agreed to build the first route, which is the shortest, on a priority basis. This route passes through very underdeveloped areas that have security problems. However, road building and infrastructure development in these areas will contribute to their socio-economic development. Moreover, under the principle of 'One Corridor, Multiple Passages', diffusing the controversy, the Pakistani leadership reaffirmed that there would be multiple options for transportation through different roads but Western alignment of the corridor passing from Balochistan and KP would be completed on priority basis. The deadline set for the completion is July 16, 2018. It is important to note that it will be a four-lane road in the first phase to be upgradeable to a six-lane motorway. It was also agreed that sites of economic zones would be finalised in consultation with provinces and facilities required for these zones would be a shared responsibility of federal and provincial governments. The main critic of different aspect of CPEC, the Chief Minister of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, Pervaiz Khattak, 'I am not at all against any route and all routes will bring prosperity to Pakistan'. Another key measure is investing in education in order to entitle local communities to exploit the opportunities that CPEC offers. Even if the infrastructure, logistics and regulatory framework are right, industrial parks will demand skilled workers. Establishing vocational schools is an excellent way to increase the educational improvement of the local labour force. Although this point is not completely neglected, as US\$10 million Pakistani-Chinese technical and vocational institute is scheduled to open its doors in Gwadar by December 2017, a bigger commitment on this front would be very welcome. Furthermore, the Federal government should also provide industrial policies and commerce and trade experts to provincial governments to develop local capacities in these areas and avoid a disconnection between the policies of

Indian reservations are mainly related to the implications of China's easier access to the Indian Ocean and how they might affect India's security and strategic context.

the central government and local economic sectors. Meanwhile, the financial sector should give more attention to small and medium-sized enterprises, which faces difficulties in obtaining finance in Pakistan.

The implementation of these measures in Pakistan's less developed areas (such as Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) participating in the CPEC, would not only improve the living standards of the local populations but would bring about enormous gains for Pakistan in terms of security and stability. This will ensure the social and economic wellbeing of the people who have to endure very harsh living conditions in certain backward areas –in some cases there is a roughly 50% prevalence of malnutrition in children and the expansion of the militant economy where the military is conducting operations against the militants–. New economic opportunities could help reduce criminal activity and make local communities into stakeholders in the success of the CPEC and therefore make them more willing to ensure security.

The CPEC provides an opportunity to reinvigorate Pakistan's economic structure, particularly through the development of its energy sector and by fostering a greater connectivity. Unfortunately, the huge potential of the CPEC for promoting socioeconomic development in Pakistan has sometimes led to over expectations and to an uncritical approach to the project. The CPEC is at a very early stage and it is impossible to confirm at present the actual impact of the project. In this context, this paper presented different scenarios of the eventual impact of CPEC on Pakistan in order to promote a debate on ways and means to maximise its benefits in terms of prosperity and stability.

Should the CPEC become a development corridor for most of Pakistan it would increase employment generation, alleviate poverty, help to maintain law and order by engaging youth in commercial activities and improve the socioeconomic outlook and indicators. Strengthening the weak links between Pakistan's domestic commerce and its exports should boost both exports and investment, and foster innovation in products and services. All of this would significantly increase the country's GDP and have a multiplier effect on taxation besides making room for increased expenditure on social sectors such as education, health and basic amenities. In this context, the CPEC could even contribute to improving security in Pakistan, indirectly through incentives for regional stability and better relations with India, and directly through development opportunities for Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Such an ideal scenario is by no means guaranteed. The CPEC can not only mitigate some of the main barriers hindering Pakistan's economic development but also increase its already heavy external debt. Greater transparency is essential to allow a detailed cost-benefit analysis that at present is not possible. The State Bank's Governor has publicly asked for details on the structure of the CPEC's deals, which is essential to fulfilling his duty as the supervisor of the country's macroeconomic stability. To bridge the gap between the most and the least developed regions of Pakistan, a greater implication of Pakistani society and comprehensive measures to increase local capacities in vulnerable regions are needed.

Furthermore, taking into account that the CPEC is the most advanced part of the Belt and Road Initiative, it might be possible to acquire a deeper understanding of the New Silk Road by looking at how the CPEC develops and impacts Pakistan and its neighbouring countries.

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Chinese New Year Celebrations

Chinese New Year Celebrations at Karachi Marriott with Inner Mongolian Art Troupe in association with the Chinese Embassy and the Chinese Consulate in Karachi organized a colorful evening with the performance of the Mongolian Troupe. The Troupe flew all the way from China to Pakistan, Karachi to participate in the Chinese New year celebrations. Regional General Manager, Karachi Marriott Hotel welcomed the distinguished guests and the Excellences in his speech and thanked the Chinese Counsel General Mr. Wang Yu for gracing the event. This year is the year of the Rooster, therefore the Regional General Manager mentioned some interesting characters of the people born in the Rooster year. The Chinese Counsel General Mr. Wang Yu also addressed the guests and thanked the Management of Karachi Marriott Hotel for promotion Pak China friendship and welcoming the Chinese artists. The event concluded with a lavish Chinese buffet that had elegantly decorated live food counters and the Chinese Chef of Suzie Wong demonstrated the hand pulled noodle techniques.





Karachi Marriott Hotel Mr. Hartmut Noack greeted Shahid Afridi



Mr. Hartmut Noack greeted Mr. Shahid Afridi, the former captain of the Pakistan Cricket Team. Shahid Khan Afridi has called for building maximum cricket facilities in all big cities of the country for the promotion of the game and finding new talent.

Afridi said that PCB has established a cricket academy in Karachi recently that is a good omen and called for such facilities in other cities as well. He termed the cricket academies as nursery for talent hunt.



5th of February: **Kashmir Day**

By Monitoring Desk

Pakistan pays tribute to the Kashmiri people on their sacrifices which they are paying in Indian occupied Kashmir

on the 5th of February each year. Public holiday on 5th of February started from 1994. In 1994 government of Pakistan officially announced public holiday on 5th February. It was the time when PPP was in power as

government of Pakistan. The day is normally starts with special prayers for the martyrs of Kashmir, victory of the freedom struggle and expression of solidarity with the Kashmiri people, followed by mass rallies, symposia,



walks-for-peace, conventions, meetings and speech declamations. A one-minute silence is to observe at 10.00 hours on day to honour Kashmiri shuhada.

In modern times, there two issues that have hijacked the the world peace – the Palestine and Kashmir disputes. Interestingly both stemmed almost at the same time into the history and have similar cause – injustice to the indigenous people. The Palestinians and the Kashmiris have since been denied to have their own homeland and their voice for independence from the shackles of slavery is being brutally silenced. The very issue has brought the Arabs and Israel, and Pakistan and India to the battle fronts three-four times, but the deadlock continues. The irony of the matter is that while the world community has tried to resolve many such issues by active involvement including the UN, the fate of Kashmir is left to be resolved mutually between India and Pakistan.

On the day of Partition 1947 it is announced that the Muslims majority areas will be in Pakistan side and Kashmir was and still is a Muslims area. From that day the Kashmir movement started and all Kashmiri starts rising slogan against the state of India. Kashmiris are being martyred by Indian securities forces but they have not gone inch back from their principle stand of independence from India. There is an approximate figure what Indian do in Kashmir and in what circumstances Kashmiris are living, total killing of innocent individuals were 93,801, custodial killings in various camps and jails were 6,996. Overall 1, 20,392 individuals have been arrested, structural damaged have been done to the property was 1, 05,955. Moreover 22,764 women have been injured and suffered with severe injuries, 10,042 women have been gang raped or molested and over 1, 07,441 kids have become orphaned.

In 2016, Kashmir have seen its largest protests

against Indian rule in years following the July martyring of a popular Mujahid commander Burhan Wani by Indian soldiers.

More than 100 civilians have been killed and thousands injured, with hundreds among them blinded and maimed, mostly by government forces firing bullets and pellet guns, tear gas shells, rubber bullets, as well as assault rifles at rock-throwing protesters. The anti-Indian protests started in all 10 districts of the Kashmir Valley. Curfew was imposed in all 10 districts of the valley on 15 July and mobile services along with internet were suspended by the government. Indian government has banned newspapers in the area. Indian forces arrest the human rights activists like Khuram Pervez and after 76 day detention he was released.

Kashmir Day: It is a promise from nation to another that they are always with each other in their support

Kashmir solidarity day is observed in Pakistan officially from 1994. In 1990 Qazi Hussain Ahmad suggested the government of Pakistan to announce a day through which Pakistan can show Kashmiri people their assistance. Pakistani is always with Kashmiri in their struggle of independence. Indian government announced Gug Mohan as governor of Indian occupied Kashmir. There were done many protests in whole valley of Indian occupied Kashmir against nomination of governor of Gug Mohan. In this historic protest many of Kashmiri people were brutally martyred by the Indian armed forces. There was aroma of blood in the valley of Kashmir of Kashmiri people.

Kashmiri people were badly tortured in that protest but their voice of independence did not go down. They started to claim their right of independence stronger than ever. In Pakistan Nawab Zada Nusrullah gave suggestion to Pakistani government to declare a day for the solidarity of Kashmir. Then after discussion 5th February was chosen as Kashmir solidarity day which is called “Yom e Yak Jehti” in Pakistan.

Each year Pakistan observe the day of 5th February as solidarity day of Kashmir. On this occasion whole country of Pakistan and people of Pakistan living foreign pay tribute to Kashmiri people for their struggle which they are doing in Indian occupied Kashmir. Independence is the fundamental right of any person or nation. This right of independence cannot be snatched by any cruel nation. The struggle of Kashmir people may seem to be long but the day is not far when Kashmiri will be able to breathe in their independent homeland.

Many kinds of activities are done on occasion of 5th February in whole country of Pakistan from the government of Pakistan. On the private level there are also organized many activities in support of Kashmir in the whole country. Speech competitions are organized on this occasion. Many children participate in these competitions to show Kashmiri people their solidarity. Seminars are organized from the government level as well as from private sector to support Kashmir cause. On public day of Kashmir human made chain of hands is observed in many parts of the country. The purpose behind these kinds of activities is to show solidarity to Kashmiri people. It is a promise from nation to another that they are always with each other in their support.





Feel the real taste of Pakistan's strength, diversity and culture through its exotic cuisine

Pakistan Food Festival and Single Country Exhibition in Sri Lanka

By M. Saeed Yousafzai

Feel the real taste of Pakistan's strength, diversity and culture through its exotic cuisine. A fact highlighted by several prominent figures at the opening of a five-day Pakistan Food Festival in Sri Lanka.

Pakistan Food Festival was formally inaugurated by the Minister for Public Administration and Management, Hon. Ranjith Madduma Bandara and the High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka Maj. Gen. (R) Syed Shakeel Hussain by cutting the ribbon in a simple yet traditional ceremony.

The opening ceremony was attended by the people from different walks of life including diplomats, Sri Lankan Parliamentarians, government functionaries, members of Pakistani community in Sri Lanka and prominent personalities.

The Pakistan Food Festival is a part of Pakistan Single Country Exhibition 2017 held at BMICH, Colombo for the second consecutive year.

PAKISTAN'S LARGEST EVER TRADE EXPO KICKS OFF IN COLOMBO

The High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka Maj. Gen. (R) Syed Shakeel Hussain along with Chief Guest, Minister for Sports, Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekera, Minister for Plantation Industries, Hon. Navin Dissanayake, Minister for Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media, Hon. Gayantha Karunathilaka, Minister for Law & Order and Southern Development, Hon. Sagala Ratnayake, Minister for Post, Postal Affairs and Muslim Religious Affairs, Hon. M.H.A. Haleem, State Minister for National Integration and Reconciliation, Hon. A.H.M. Fouzie and Chief Executive of Trade Development of Pakistan (TDAP) S M Muneer formally inaugurated the Pakistan Single Country Exhibition 2017 at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH).

The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) in collaboration with High Commission of Pakistan in Sri Lanka organized 2nd edition of Pakistan Single Country Exhibition which is featuring leading Pakistani companies and manufacturers of Engineering Products, Auto Parts, Agro Products, Textile & Clothing, Designer Wear, Handicraft & Traditional Textiles, Pharmaceuticals, Cutlery, Furniture, Carpets, Marble and Services.

After inauguration, the dignitaries visited the stalls and appreciated the enormous variety and quality of Pakistani products.

The event was attended by several important personalities from the Sri Lankan business and trade sectors along with Sri Lanka based diplomatic corps and a large number of people from different walks of life. The exhibition will remain open until 15th January 2017 for general public.



Minister for Ports & Shipping, Hon. Arjuna Ranatunga, Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan to Sri Lanka Dr. Sarfraz Ahmed Khan Sipra, Mission Commander of Pakistan ships jointly cutting the SL-Pak Friendship Cake in Colombo.

Medical Tourism in Thailand



It could be said that Thailand is a rightful wellspring of contemporary medical tourism. Patients from the Middle East, Thailand's neighboring countries were rapidly followed by European clients. Today, thousands of American and Canadians also head to Bangkok or Phuket, mostly to save on elective surgeries with lower costs but high



quality in comparison with what they have to pay in their homelands.

The World Medical Center (WMC) which has set the pace for both the quality and quantity of contemporary healthcare throughout Asia could be taken as an example of what Thailand can offer to medical travelers.

The World Medical Center (WMC) is the brand for a new hospital group in the premium tertiary care category by Bangkok Chain Hospital PCL (BCH), a leading hospital company in Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) and a Forbes Asia's 200 Best Under A Billion in 2009.

The World Medical Center is located on Chaengwattana Road, a new affluent area in the northern part of Bangkok, which is easily accessible from the city center and Suvarnabhumi International Airport via the express way system. In our neighborhoods are Central Plaza Shopping Mall, Nichada Thani residential community, International School of

Bangkok (ISB), Harrow International School, Government Complex, CAT Telecom and TOT headquarters, Software Park, Muang Thong Thani and IMPACT Muang Thong Thani Exhibition & Convention Center as well as Don Muang International Airport.

The World Medical Center Hospital tower has 24 floors with 2 basements and a standard helipad on the roof top. Among these, the first four floors are organized as Medical Plaza where all outpatient clinics are situated with 79 consultation-examination rooms, Kidney Dialysis Center with 12 dialysis units, Endoscopy Center with 4 examination suites, Emergency Department with 6 standard emergency care units and 2 critical care units, 3 Diagnostic Imaging Centers equipped with 1.5 T MRI, 64 Slice CT Scan, Digital Mammography, 4-D, 3-D and 2-D Ultrasound machines, full body Bone Densitometer, Digital Fluoroscopy and Digital Radiography.

The inpatient department has the full capacity of 324 beds, 150 beds for the first phase, including 17 standard Intensive Care Units, 5 Isolation Intensive Care Rooms and 5 Cardiac Critical Care Units and 1 NICU. We also have 16 Intermediate Care Rooms and 8 negative pressure Isolation Rooms. At the World Medical Center, all inpatient accommodations are private rooms.

Moreover, The World Medical Center Main Operating Theater contains 7 major operating rooms; among these, one room is equipped with integrated operating theater technology to support advanced minimally invasive surgery. We also have a Single Plane Digital Angiography unit for cardiac intervention procedures and a Bi-plane unit for full functioning stroke intervention and a Digital C-arm Radiography unit for general intervention procedures. In addition to four private Delivery Rooms.



Turkmenistan and Energy Charter Conference 2017

By Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

According to Turkmen state news agency, Ashgabat will host the next session of the Energy Charter Conference in 2017. Currently, Turkmenistan is the chairman of Energy Charter Conference. Turkmenistan was declared to chair the Energy Charter Conference at its 27th session in Tokyo. It has become hub of international energy conferences during which most important issues of development of the global energy resources market, development and introduction of the latest technologies, and the ways and means of development of oil and gas industry are thoroughly discussed.

Secretary General of the Energy Charter Secretariat Urban Rusnak said that Turkmenistan, possessing one of the world's largest energy potential, is seeking to build a sustainable architecture of global energy security based on the principles of justice, respect for the balance of interests of both producer countries and transit countries, as well as consumers.

According to BP, Turkmenistan ranks fourth in the world in terms of the volume of natural gas reserve. The country's recoverable reserves are estimated at 17.5 trillion cubic meters of gas, or 9 percent of the total world reserve that puts the country on the fourth place after Iran, Russia and Qatar.

During Turkmenistan's Cabinet of Ministers meeting the President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov signed the resolution which created the organizing committee to project its presidency at the Conference on the Energy Charter 2017, locally as well as internationally. Moreover, its structure has also been approved.

According to the resolution, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the country is advised to create together with the Energy Charter the concept of presidency of Turkmenistan in 2017 on Conferences on the Energy Charter, and also the agenda and the program of the international actions which are coming in Turkmenistan and abroad. It also offers the State Committee on television, broadcasting and cinematography and the state news agency to highlight these actions at the high level in national, regional and global mass media.

In 2007 at the 62nd session of General Assembly of the UN the President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov pledged the creation of the new international legal mechanism on ensuring energy security. In 2008 and 2013 of the UN special resolutions on reliable and stable

transit of energy carriers on the world markets were adopted, in them the basic principles and approaches to development of constructive partnership in this sphere were stated.

Since, Turkmenistan has become ideal hub of energy conferences; it has been dealing with the largest international organizations for the further energy cooperation. In December, 2014 together with this structure the Ashgabat Forum "Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy Carriers" was held, and also the first international meeting of experts in this subject was arranged. Profile meetings of experts took place also in 2015 in Brussels (Belgium) and Beijing (China), and in 2016 in Tirana (Albania).

Turkmenistan has concrete and comprehensive plans for further energy cooperation, development of renewables (alternative source of energy), reduction of high carbon footnotes, climate change, energy saving, energy security, energy efficiency by introducing new modern technologies, energy investments and the last but not the least, stability of international energy markets in order to meet the growing global demand for energy and improvement of the investment climate in the member countries of Energy Charter; to involve other countries to the Charter during its chairmanship of energy charter conference 2017.

The government of Turkmenistan is taking all possible measures for the further strengthening of regional energy cooperation with other countries. It is also suggested that there should be a strict observance of the international standards and standards in which the ecological aspect shall act as priority in all the large-scale projects on ensuring global energy security.

Turkmenistan attaches great importance to the development of targeted mechanisms in the issues of global energy strategy. Turkmenistan and the Energy Charter Secretariat are already holding negotiations at the expert level to develop an international legal document regulating the rights and obligations of producers, transit countries and consumers of energy resources.

The International Energy Charter conference uses to hold every year. It aims to reflect on issues in world's energy sector; to review the implementation of the provisions of the Energy Charter Treaty and the Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects, and to consider possible new instruments and joint activities within the Energy Charter

framework. Beside Iran, Iraq, Guatemala, and three international organizations namely G5 Sahel, the East African Community, and the Economic Community of Central African States signed the declaration document and therefore became observers to the Energy Charter. With Iran joining the organization, the overall number of countries and organizations that are a member of the International Energy Charter extends to 80.

The Energy Charter Conference, an inter-governmental organisation, is the governing and decision-making body for the Energy Charter process, and was established by the 1994 Energy Charter Treaty.

All states or Regional Economic International Organisations who have signed or acceded to the Treaty are members of the Conference, which meets on a regular basis to discuss issues affecting energy cooperation among the Treaty's signatories, to review the implementation of the provisions of the Energy Charter Treaty and the Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects, and to consider possible new instruments and joint activities within the Energy Charter framework.

Concluding Remarks

Currently, Turkmenistan is the chairman of Energy Charter Conference 2017. Energy charter conference will be held in Ashgabat 2017 during which all important issues of regional as well as global energy cooperation will be discussed. Moreover, Turkmenistan has comprehensive plans to achieve these goals of energy charter conference 2017. Turkmenistan has proved itself as a reliable and promising partner in international cooperation, by confirming its status as one of the largest suppliers of gas to the world market. Ashgabat's plans to diversify the country's energy export partners into Europe, Asia and Middle East. TAPI is the prime example of its friendly energy policies towards all the regional countries.

One of the priorities of Turkmenistan's energy policy is the diversification of its gas export. One of these priorities is the construction project of the 300-kilometer Trans-Caspian gas pipeline, which will annually transport 30 billion cubic meters of gas via Azerbaijan to Europe. The negotiations on the Trans-Caspian gas pipeline between the EU, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan began in September 2011.

Turkmenistan has substantial reserves of hydrocarbon resources on land and in the Turkmen sector of the Caspian Sea. Currently, they have been estimated at 71.2 billion tons of oil equivalent confirmed by international experts. 70 percent of these relates to gaseous hydrocarbon resources.



Turkmenistan 2017

A conference titled “Turkmenistan 2017” was arranged by the Embassy of Turkmenistan at Marriott Hotel Islamabad. H.E. Atadjan Movlamov Ambassador of Turkmenistan chaired the conference. He briefed about the upcoming mega events to be held in during 2017 in Turkmenistan. He also elaborated strategic importance of these events for the region and as well as world. Diplomats, journalists attend the conference.



Best Places to Enjoy Snowfall in Pakistan

By Arooj Fatima

Pakistan is blessed with four seasons in a year. Winter usually starts in mid-October and last till February end. There are lots of breathtaking places in Pakistan to enjoy winter season. During winter heavy snow fall hit some areas of Pakistan creating fascinating snowy landscapes. Every year people rushed to these places to enjoy snowfall. We recommend you to must visit top 10 places to enjoy snowfall in Pakistan. Enjoy the snowfall with your loved ones and feel the awesomeness of winter along with some specially cooked traditional winter's cuisine.

Hunza Valley

Situated north/west of the Hunza River, at an elevation of around 8,200 ft, the Hunza is a mountainous valley in the Gilgit-Baltistan region of Pakistan. It's a big valley with many

tourist attractions. Baltit is one of the most popular tourist destination because of the spectacular scenery of the surrounding mountains like Ultar Sar, Rakaposhi, Bojahagur Duanasir II, Ghenta Peak, Hunza Peak, Passu

pagan tribe. Located at the altitude of 5,476-7, 576 feet, these are a group of three small valleys: Brir, Bumburet and Rambur. Brir lies at the southernmost tip of Chitral at a distance



Peak, Diran Peak and Bublomotin (Ladyfinger Peak), all are 19,685 ft or higher.

Kalash Valleys – Chitral

One of the major attractions of Chitral are the Kalash valleys – the home of the Kafir-Kalash or “Wearers of the Black Robes”, a primitive

of 34 km. Bumburet, the largest and the most picturesque valley of the Kafir Kalash, is 36 km from Chitral. And Rambur is 32 km from Chitral. All these valleys are connected by a jeep-able road. Besides enjoying the snow, you can also enjoy their famous traditional game “snow golf” during the winter.



Skardu

Located at the confluence of the Indus and the Shigar River, with an altitude of 8,200 feet, Skardu is a town and capital of Skardu District, in Gilgit–Baltistan, northeastern Pakistan. The town is surrounded by grey-brown coloured mountains, which hide the 8,000 metre peaks of the nearby Karakoram range. There are three lakes in the vicinity of Skardu; Upper Kachura lake, Lower Kachura Lake, and Sadpara Lake. Skardu is equally popular with high altitude trekkers, who treks to Baltoro Glacier, K2 Base Camp and Concordia. It lies approximately 5 hours away from Gilgit and 10 hours drive from Besham.

Leepa Valley

Leepa Valley is the most charming and most beautiful valley in Azad Jammu & Kashmir. This is the most fascinating & loveliest valley. It offers an unending variety of scenic spectacular beauty, an everlasting memory of sights and sounds. It has high mountains covered with pine trees. Throughout the winter season the Leepa valley is covered with snow. It is located 105 kilometres from Muzaffarabad. A fair-weather road branches off for Leepa from Naile 45 kilometers from Muzaffarabad, climbs over Reshian Gali (10498 feet above sea level) and then descends to 5501 feet on the other side into the Leepa Valley.

Malam Jabba – Swat Valley

The home to the only ski resort in Pakistan, Malam Jabba is a Hill Station in the Karakoram mountain range nearly 40 km from Saidu Sharif in Swat Valley, KPK. The Malam Jabba Ski Resort had a ski slope of about 800 m with the highest point of the slope 9200 ft above sea level. The resort was equipped with modern facilities including roller/ice-skating rinks, chair lifts, skiing platforms, telephones and snow clearing equipment. The area also contains two Buddhist stupas and six monasteries that are scattered around the resort.

Peer Chanasi – Muzaffarabad

The awe-inspiring location, with an altitude of 9593 feet above the sea level is located 32 Kilometer, eastward of Muzaffarabad.



Peer Chanasi is the major tourist attraction of the capital city Muzaffarabad, during the both seasons summer and winter. Due to its tremendous scenic beauty, velvet green plateaus and wonderful climate, it wins admiration of nature lovers.

Naran – Kaghan Valley

Naran is a town in upper Kaghan Valley in Mansehra District, KPK. It is located 119 km from Mansehra city at the altitude of 8,202 feet. It is one of the most scenic town in Pakistan, attracting thousands of tourists, trekkers, photographers and nature-enthusiast, every year. It's the base station to scenic destinations like Lake Saif-ul-Malook, Lalazar Babusar, Noori Valley and Purbi Valley.

Kel Valley

Kel is a village in Neelum Valley, Azad Kashmir. It is located 155 kilometers from Muzaffarabad at the altitude of 6,879 feet. It's one of the charming places to visit in Neelum Valley. If you really love to enjoy snowfall, you must go there. It's also base camp to the highest peak (Sarawaai Peak, 6326 meters above sea level) and largest glacier (Sarawaai Galcier, 25 km long) of the Azad Kashmir.

Nathia Gali

Best known for its scenic beauty, hiking tracks and pleasant weather, Nathia Gali is a mountain resort town or hill station in Hazara, KPK. Located at an altitude of 8,200 feet, it's one of the most popular tourist areas of the Murree Hills. It is situated 34 km at one hour's drive away from both Murree and Abbottabad, lying midway between these two places. The weather of Nathiagali remains cool, pleasant and foggy in Summers. Cold winds start to chill the weather in Autumn. Winters are very cold and chilly. Want to chill the heavy snowfall, go there in December and January.

Ziarat

The home of second largest Juniper tree forest in the world, Ziarat is undoubtedly one of the best natural places to visit in Pakistan. It is a famous tourist site for both summer and winter seasons. Surrounded by well-wooded and picturesque hills, it's located at an altitude of 8050 feet. Ziarat is best known for its juniper trees, some of which are 5000 to 7000 years old. If you want to enjoy snowfall in Balochistan province, then definitely Ziarat is best location. There is a small dam and the valley is full of fruits in summer and winter cherry in summer and apple in winter. When the snow falls in winter the juniper valley is at its most beautiful.



61st Independence Day of Sudan celebrated in Islamabad



H.E. Tageldin Elhadi Eltahir Ambassador of Sudan along with senior embassy staffers welcomed hundreds of guests to a reception to mark Sudan's 61st Independence Day at Marriott Hotel Islamabad. Mir Hasil Bizenjo, the federal minister for ports and shipping, was invited as the chief guest. Political leaders, Diplomats, businessmen and personalities of different walk of life attended the reception.







Speech by H.E. Mr. Suchart Liengsaengthong, Ambassador of Thailand to Pakistan On the occasion of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Day

Lieutenant General Asif Mumtaz Sukhera

Dean of Defense Attache

H.E. Ambassadors, High Commissioners

Defence Attache

Dear friends of Thailand

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening,

I welcome you all today, to the Royal Thai Armed Forces Day. This annual event serves as a remembrance to the significance of the Thai Armed Forces as one of the key foundations of the Kingdom of Thailand. The Royal Thai Armed Forces Day this year, however, is unique because it coincided with Thailand's mourning period for our late King, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who passed away on 13 October last year. In this connection, only limited guests are invited to join us for this event today.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thailand and Pakistan diplomatic relations has been established since 1951. During this period of nearly 70 years, defence cooperation between our two countries played a key role in bringing us closer together. In the present context, our defence ties are reflected through regular exchanges of information, exchanges of military officers in training courses, and exchanges of military delegations between our two countries.

With the current friendly relations between Thailand and Pakistan, I strongly believe defence cooperation between our two countries will certainly continue to grow, side by side with the deepening of our bilateral relations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On my final note, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some interesting information about Thailand. As a country of 67

million people, last year Thailand received 32 million international tourists; this is almost half of Thailand's population.

In addition, last year, MasterCard ranked Thailand's capital city, Bangkok, as No.1 of the world's most visited cities by International tourists; while CNN ranked Bangkok as the best city in the world for street food.

Besides giving statistics to what is already known as a tourist destination, I believe these facts also reveal an interesting point that there is something in Thailand that keeps attracting visitors around the world. But what exactly are these attractions, If you ask me, then my answer would be; visit Thailand, experience the attractions that suit you, and see for yourself whether Thailand lives up to its reputation.

We are happy to present you today authentic Thai dishes and desserts. Please Enjoy.

Thank you.

Speech by

Colonel Satja Raktiprakorn, Defence and Military Attaché, Royal Thai Embassy On the Occasion of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Day Reception at Marquee Hall, Marriott Hotel - Islamabad

Excellency's, Lieutenant General Asif Mumtaz Sukhera, the Chief Guest

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, may I take this opportunity to thank you all, for being here this evening and joining us in the celebration of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Day Reception 2017 today. Also, it is my great honor to have Lieutenant General Asif Mumtaz Sukhera as our chief guest. The Royal Thai

Armed Forces and the Pakistani Armed Forces have multilateral cooperation and share a particularly close and warm relationship and mutual understanding. I would like to express our appreciation to the Pakistani Armed Forces for their continued cooperation and support given to the Royal Thai Armed Forces.

Again, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your family continued success, good health and prosperity in all endeavors, with my warmest personal regards. Thank you.



The Aga Khan Museum in Toronto at Satrang Gallery Serena Hotel Islamabad



Aziz Boolani, the CEO of Serena Hotels, said: “The Aga Khan Museum in Toronto [has] given a space to Pakistani artists. Pakistan art and artists have regularly found space at the museum. Henry S. Kim, the director and CEO of the Aga Khan museum said the museum was planning to purchase a yellow school bus and to decorate it with truck art because art includes popular art, and truck art is a wonderful form of popular art that one experiences in Pakistan. Satrang Gallery’s Asma Rashid Khan moderated the question and answer session. A renowned artist Jamal shah also graced the event.





Moroccan culture & food festival



H.E. Mohmed Karmoune Ambassador of Kingdom Morocco inaugurated the Moroccan food & culture festival organized by Mirza Ishtiaq Baig, Hon. Consul General of Morocco. The event attended by Consul Generals of various countries, Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Karachi, President & Vice Presidents of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Business leaders & people from other walk of life. The renowned Moroccan fashion designer presented a fashion show showcasing designers Moroccan Kaftan whereas Moroccan chef especially flown has served Moroccan cuisine on this occasion.





Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Serena holds Invitational Golf Championship 2017







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Classical Night @ Marriott hotel



Islamabad Marriott hotel conducted an event of Classical Night in collaboration with Media Box whilst promoting classical music, dance and revival of Urdu literature and poetry at its Marquee Hall, in which it invited its top notch clients and ambassadors; this was to give an entertaining evening for guests.

For this evening Islamabad Marriott Hotel arranged an array of performances that showcased Pakistani culture through art and music. The General Manager of Islamabad Marriott Hotel, Mr. Stuart de San Nicolas, made the introductory speech and talked about the ongoing promotions

at the hotel, followed by a few words by the VP Marketing of Hashoo Group, Mr. Tahir Khan who spoke about the Chairman of Hashoo Group's vision of promoting the culture of Pakistan via such events. He also emphasized the importance the chairman attaches to CSR activities. Country Director of Hashoo Foundation, Aisha Khan also made a speech talking about the activities of the foundation and invited people to participate in this noble cause. The President of Hashoo Hotels, Mr. Nicolas Frangos, thanked the audience for showing keen interest in such events. The night commenced with Taimur Rehman's narrations, followed by a mesmerizing

kathak dance performance by Nighat Chaudry and then the famous Ghulam Abbas sang beautiful ghazals. The evening was a relaxing and entertaining one which blew one's mind away with the intense dance moves and the rhythm of the ghongro's of the famous Nighat, and high and low tones of the ghazals by Ghulam Abbas. At the near end of the show, the audience was spell bound and wandered away in the magical world of classics. Ghulam Abbas sahab also entertained many on-request ghazals of his own as well as of other famous singers.



French Ambassador H.E. Martine Dorance, CEO Serena hotels Mr. Aziz Bolani, General Manager Serena Hotels Mr. Michel A. Galopin and Director Satrang Gallery Ms. Asma Rashid Khan, inaugurate the painting exhibition

“IDENTITY”

at Satrang Art Gallery Serena hotel, Islamabad





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(University of Texas at San Antonio)
Member American Association of Endodontist.
Former Head of Dentistry,
Shifa International Hospital

Dr. Shahid Mamood is a graduate from the University of Texas, at San Antonio, USA with specialization in Endodontics and Implantology. He has twenty years of experience to his credit. He has also had the privilege of setting up the Department of Dentistry at Shifa International Hospital and remained the head of the department for six years.



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