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Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini
Iran ready for joining CPEC projects
Exclusive Interview of Iranian Envoy



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to cooperate for regional
stability**



**The new leap of
China's economy
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New Biden administration's take on Occupied Kashmir

It is gratifying that the world has once again taken seriously the burning issue of Jammu and Kashmir. International community has stated to mount a pressure on Modi to resume dialogues with Pakistan ensuring peace and security in the region as well as finding a just solution to the problem. On Aug 05, 2019, despite clear UNSC resolutions, the special constitutional status of Indian Occupied Kashmir has been abolished. The illegally Indian held Kashmir has been incorporated into India. Non Kashmiris and Hindus are being resettled to convert the Muslim majority of IOK into a minority. Centuries-old state laws have been repealed and new laws allow non-Kashmiris to buy land and properties in illegally Indian held Kashmir.

The international community has denounced the gross violation of basic human rights of Kashmiri nation. The aggressive expeditious violations of cease fire at the Line of Control and continuous Indian firing and shelling on the civilian populous of Azad Jammu and Kashmir is now loudly threatening the global as well as regional peace. International Community's present response is a positive development that needs to be shaped into a logical conclusion in practice. The European Union Parliament raised its voice against on-going Indian atrocities in Occupied Kashmir. Over 50 MPs from British Parliament has drawn the attention of their government to Kashmir. The New York state Assembly has passed a resolution in support of Kashmiris recognizing the Solidarity Day i.e. February 5.

Marking the Kashmir Solidarity Day in International capitals and big cities and International realization of Kashmir issue itself is proof that the conscience of the world is half asleep but not dead. In this connection the support from Islamic countries especially the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, is particularly noteworthy. The United States, which was the impetus for the first resolution of the Security Council resolution on the Kashmir dispute passed on January 20, 1948, on Sunday reminded that Pakistan and India are partners of the United States and has urged both countries to discuss all bilateral issues, including Kashmir. When questioned by a Journalist, the US State Department's Urdu spokesman said that President Joe Biden vows a solution to the Kashmir issue. India should fully protect basic human rights of Kashmiris. Pakistan and India should start meaningful dialogue to reduce tension on the Line of Control.

This is the first statement made by the new US administration regarding Pak-India tension and the Kashmir dispute. If incumbent United States administration introduces measures to persuade India to resolve this issue it may yield the positive results. Former US President Trump's offer to mediate on the Kashmir issue was rejected by India. It would be unfortunate if United States ignores the Kashmir issue leaving South East Asia on the verge of nuclear war. Pakistan cannot remain indifferent to the grave human rights violations in Occupied Kashmir for long. The United States must realize its consequences and use its full influence to resolve the Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN resolutions.

Chief Editor

Raja Aamir Mahmood Bhatti

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The views of the writers do not necessarily reflect the view of the magazine



Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini Iran ready for joining any CPEC projects, terms 2nd phase beneficial for region

An Exclusive Interview with Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran

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Ambassador Hosseini gave an exclusive interview to Diplomatic Star magazine. The Ambassador talked about a variety of important issues including the developments after the Islamic revolution, opening of new border points to increase the trade, progress on gas pipeline, possibilities of cooperation between Gwadar and Chabahar, human Trafficking, the Idea of Pak-Iran and China as a new block and Iran's position on recognition of Israel by Islamic countries etc. Here are excerpts from his interview.

Diplomatic Star: Iran is celebrating 42nd anniversary of the Islamic Revolution. What progress Iran has made during these 42 years?

Ambassador: Now, 42 years after the resounding triumph of the greatest revolution in the 20th century, the Islamic Republic has proved its efficacy in various domains in spite of all-out 8-year war, economic sanctions, political pressures and media hype. The Iranian nation pursued numerous objectives in their uprising against the despotic Pahlavi regime, which were summarized in three demands, namely, independence, freedom and Islamic government. The Islamic Republic is, no doubt, the greatest achievement of the Islamic Revolution in political aspect. Now, The Islamic Revolution

became a role model for other nations who seek to come out of the yoke of domineering powers and determine their affairs independently. In other scientific, cultural, military and economic fields, Iran has made great progress after the revolution, some of which I will mention. Restoring the original Iranian-Islamic culture, promoting literacy rates and increasing educational centers and universities, empowering women and increasing their participation in the development of the country, countering the cultural invasion of the West, reviving national identity and self-confidence are some of the developments in the cultural and social spheres. Self-sufficiency in the production of products needed by the country, poverty alleviation, increase

of business skills, job creation, improvement of the country's infrastructure including road development, growth and expansion of cities, increase of refineries and promotion of petrochemical products and diversification of Non-oil products are examples of Iran's advances in the field of economic growth and development. In the field of internal and external stability and security, despite

entists and scholars. Besides, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made significant progress in the growth of science production in the humanities. More than 97% of the country's science production in the field of humanities and social sciences is related to the post-revolutionary period and only 3% belongs to before the revolution. Simultaneously with the slight development of attention to the

the fate of the Iranian people and in this respect became a model for all freedom-loving nations of the world. As a result of the establishment of the Islamic Republic in Iran, our nation and government have determined their destiny according to their will and have taken their own path in the current turbulent world by adopting an independent policy. Increasing the role of faith in



Seyed Mohammad-Ali Hosseini was Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister. He also served as spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry and Vice Minister of parliamentary affairs from 2007 until 2010. Then he served as the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Italy from 2010 to 2014. He is currently the Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan.

the efforts of some enemies and insurgent regimes to create insecurity inside the country and near the borders of Iran, Iran enjoys unique stability and security. In the military and defense fields, relying on indigenous knowledge and without dependence on Eastern and Western countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran has achieved the ability to produce and export a variety of military equipment and conventional military weaponries.

Also, Iran now ranks 16th in the world and 1st in region in science production. Since the Islamic Republic of Iran has made an impressive and undeniable progress in all branches of science and technologies like medical science and industry, advanced surgery, pharmacy, biotechnology, nanotechnology, infertility treatment, quantum knowledge, simulation and genetics, stem cell exploitation, aerospace technology and robotics by the efforts of its sci-

humanities, the localization and indigenization of these sciences according to the characteristics of Iranian-Islamic culture is one of the achievements of the Islamic Revolution to preserve and develop the identity of Iranian society and other societies in the Islamic world. For instance, in terms of the number of books published per year in the field of theology

individual and social life and strengthening the Islamic-Iranian identity of the people is another important impact of this revolution. Before the Islamic Revolution, our youth had experienced a kind of identity crisis, and there was a perception in society that along with the import of products and achievements of the era of industrial modernization in

Pak-Iran to open Pisheen, Kohak Border crossings after Rimdan-Gabd

and religious sciences, Iran ranks second in the world.

Diplomatic Star: What impact has the Islamic revolution on the people of Iran, especially the youth and also other nations?

Ambassador: Perhaps the most important impact of this revolution is increasing self-confidence in the Iranian people. The Islamic Revolution of Iran blocked the way for any foreign domination over

the West, their culture and customs should be imported to the developing societies; But during the revolution, the Iranian people came to believe that they had to pursue indigenous development while preserving their national and Islamic identity.

The Islamic Revolution also had a tremendous impact on culture and cultural productions, including Iranian literature, poetry, mu-

sis, television, film, and cinema. In the model of the Islamic Republic of Iran, our youth and women experienced an active presence in society, politics, art and industry while maintaining dignity and decency. Our women have followed in the footsteps of men in the development of the country and have surpassed some men in terms of education and employment. Our women, along with men, have taken steps towards the progress of the country and even have surpassed some men in terms of education and employment.

Diplomatic Star: Mr. Ambassador, please explain about the diplomatic relations between Iran and Pakistan. How do you assess the relations between the

of Iran. Iran and Pakistan have a huge capital, which is the historical relationship and cultural, religious commonalities, and es-

No new talks needed on P5+1, JCPOA inked after 12 years dialogue

pecially there are commonalities between the two nations in literature and language of the two countries. Iran and Pakistan have very good relations in various political, cultural and academic fields that are expanding.

Diplomatic Star: How do you see

the Rimdan border crossing will also be effective in developing economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Diplomatic Star: How many more border crossing openings are underway?

Ambassador: In addition to the two existing active crossings, our plan is to open two more border crossings at Pishin and Kohak.

Diplomatic Star: How do you see the current development on Pak-Iran Gas pipeline and what you suggest to government of Pakistan regarding this?

Ambassador: Status of the gas pipeline: The Islamic Republic of Iran has fulfilled a large part of its obligations regarding the completion of the gas pipeline and is waiting for the practical steps by



two countries? Also, what changes have been made in this regard during the history?

Ambassador: Relations between the two countries are based on friendship, neighborliness and brotherhood. As you know, Iran was the first country to recognize Pakistan's independence and Pakistan was the first country to recognize and establish relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. After the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the value and importance of the friendly and brotherly neighboring country of Pakistan increased more than ever, and the promotion of relations becomes one of the priorities in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic

the opening of Rimdan-Gabd border crossing and how it will affect the Pak-Iran trade?

Ambassador: Second border crossing between Iran and Pakistan at Rimdan-Gabd region was officially inaugurated in December 2020 by H.E. Mr. Eslami, Minister for Roads and Urban Development of Iran and H.E. Ms. Zubeida Jalal, Defense production Minister of Pakistan. We welcome the development and boosting of the crossings and evaluate these measures in line with strengthening the security of the bordering areas, improving the livelihood of the border residents, helping to regulate trade and combatting against smuggling. Undoubtedly,

the Pakistani authorities regarding this project. We view this project in the interests of both Iran and Pakistan.

Diplomatic Star: Are you satisfied on current Pak-Iran Trade volume?

Ambassador: At the moment the trade volume between the two countries is 1.3 billion dollars but it is not at the desired level due to some existing problems, including oppressive sanctions. Bringing it to its potential and improving the volume of economic relations is one of our priorities at the embassy.

Diplomatic Star: How do you see the Ankara, Tehran, Islamabad Train project?

Ambassador: This railway route is pursued in the framework of multilateral cooperation in the form of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). During the recent meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the ECO member countries, it was decided to activate this railway route in 2021. Activation of this railway route will play a great role in the development of economic and trade cooperation between the three countries.

Diplomatic Star: Does Iran want to join CPEC? Any future enhancement of cooperation between Gwadar and Chabahar ports?

Ambassador: The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes joining any plan that promotes regional economic convergence and benefits the people and countries of the region, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The Islamic Republic of Iran evaluates CPEC in the first stage in favor of the people of Pakistan and China and in the next stages in favor of all the peoples of the region. That is why Iran has repeatedly stated its readiness to participate in this

in the development of Pakistan and evaluates it in line with strengthening of security and collective development. We signed the sisterhood agreement between the ports of Chabahar and Gawadar many years ago, and now we have

countries in this regard. Completion of fencing project by the Pakistani side and joint security cooperation on the joint border has and will have significant effect on reduction of narcotics and human trafficking.



Pakistan's security is Iran's security, Iran does not believe in proxy actions

project at the highest level (the level of heads of government).

Prospects for bilateral cooperation between Chabahar and Gawadar:

The two ports of Chabahar and Gawadar due to their geographical location have an important role in the economic development of the two neighboring countries, Iran and Pakistan, and throughout the region. The Islamic Republic of Iran has good plans for the development of the port of Chabahar and is implementing them, and we are aware of Pakistan's determination to develop the port of Gawadar. In the approach of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the development of the two ports of Chabahar and Gawadar is not against each other's interests, but can play a complementary role for the development of the entire region and the Makran coast. Islamic Republic of Iran Welcomes any plan and program which help

opened the Rimdan border crossing, which is located a short distance from these two ports. These actions show that the Islamic Republic of Iran view these two ports as development oriented through

mutual cooperation.

Diplomatic Star: How the human and drugs trafficking between Pakistan and Iran be stopped?

Ambassador: One of the harms and challenges on the border between the two countries is the phenomenon of trafficking in all its dimensions. The main way to deal with this phenomenon is to create a strong and lawful infrastructure on the common borders

Islamic revolution boosts Iranian development and progress

of the two countries. Development and strengthening of border markets and promotion of official crossings is one of the most important approaches of the two

Diplomatic Star: How do you see the issue of Iranian oil smuggling into Pakistan and how both countries can stop it?

Ambassador: Trade regulation, the development of cross-border markets and the management of cross-border trade can prevent the phenomenon of trafficking. The two countries are interacting and cooperating in this regard.

Diplomatic Star: Can Iran, Pakistan and China form a new block in this region?

Ambassador: According to the Islamic Republic of Iran, tripartite cooperation between Iran, Pakistan and China is a favorable mechanism for the development of trilateral cooperation in various fields. We welcome the formation and development of such an approach and evaluate it in the interest of the nations of the three countries

Diplomatic Star: How do you see the suspension of Twitter account of Ayatollah Khamenei by Twitter on directions of US?

Ambassador: This step is ugly and abominable. It seems even more ugly when it is done by those who claim freedom of speech and thought.

Diplomatic Star: How do you see the restoration of ties between Qatar and Saudi Arabia?

Ambassador: Efforts to reduce tensions show that a nation cannot be isolated and forced to accept illegitimate and extravagant demands by threatening and imposing sanctions. The Islamic Republic welcomes the elimination of misunderstandings as well as the strengthening of convergence among the countries of the region, and the regional plans it has presented like "Hormoz Peace Endeavour" are all based on this strategic goal.

Diplomatic Star: How do you see the time to time border tensions between Iran and Pakistan?

Ambassador: The border incidents, which are designed and carried out by separatist and terrorist groups with the support of some enemies of Iran-Pakistan relations, are unpleasant for both countries. The determination and

Neither Iran nor Pakistan: to let use their territory against one another
Pak-Iran current \$1.3 b trade volume is below then desired level

relations with this occupying and terrorist regime is against the interests of Islamic countries and the Islamic Ummah, as well as in contradiction with the long-standing commitments of Arab and Islamic countries to support



joint efforts of the two countries will further narrow the recurring of such.

Diplomatic Star: It is a perception that Iran and Saudi Arabia are having their proxies in Pakistan countering each other as well as both the countries are funding religious schools for their gains, how do you see it?

Ambassador: Iran does not believe in proxy actions and considers any attempt to divide the Islamic Ummah contrary to regional stability and security. Pakistan's security is Iran's security and stability and peace in Pakistan has always been supported by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Diplomatic Star: As numbers of Muslim countries are recognizing Israel, how does Iran sees this?

Ambassador: The recognition of Israel's racist and apartheid regime and the normalization of

the Palestinian cause; and the First Qibla of Muslims and Al-Aqsa Mosque and people of Palestine under the oppression and aggression of Zionist regime.

Diplomatic Star: How do you see the Saudi Arabia led military alliance, in which the ex-army chief General Raheel Sharif is part?

Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Rail route to activate by 2021

Ambassador: The Islamic Republic of Iran has stated at the onset that there is no military solution to the Yemeni crisis, and that the use of peaceful and fair diplomatic methods between the various Yemeni groups is the only solution to the Yemeni issue. Military ac-

tions against the Yemeni people have left tens of thousands dead, wounded and homeless, destroyed many mosques, hospitals and educational centers, deprived many children and women of the right to life, and caused a widespread humanitarian catastrophe in the country. The international community expects a cessation of arms shipments as well as a ceasefire for this devastating war. **Diplomatic Star:** How do you see the resumption of nuclear agreement known as the JCPOA? **Ambassador:** The party that started the wrong and destructive path towards the nuclear deal and subsequently withdrew from it and forced others to withdraw from the deal, is American regime. It is America that must reform its destructive and bullying approach. The lifting of all oppressive and illegal sanctions against the Iranian nation and the United States' adherence to its UNSC commitments will be the only way to secure JCPOA.

Diplomatic Star: Does Iran want to hold fresh talks on nuclear deal or prefers to continue old agreement that was suspended by Donald Trump?

Ambassador: The nuclear agreement of JCPOA signed after 12 years of negotiations among P5+1 requires no new negotiations. The key to JCPOA success is the commitment of all parties to its provisions.

Diplomatic Star: Is Iran curtailing the role of Indians into their projects? Like recently in few projects the Indians were ousted?

Ambassador: Projects agreed between Iran and other countries are defined on the basis of common tasks, commitments and interests. Therefore, the process of cooperation will continue when this basis is respected by the parties to an agreement.

Diplomatic Star: Both the countries Pakistan and Iran use to allege each other for the use of their soil against each other? Your comment please?

Ambassador: Neither Iran nor Pakistan has a plan or will to use its territory against the other side and will not allow any country to take action against these two neighbors, friends and brothers.

‘AUSTRALIA DAY’ MESSAGE BY THE AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER



The Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Dr Geoffrey Shaw marked Australia Day (26 January) with a special message, says a press release. “Australia Day, when Australians celebrate our nation’s achievements and its people, is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the relationship between our two great countries.

Australia was one of the first countries to formally recognise the new nation of Pakistan in 1947. Since then, the relationship has strengthened and deepened. We have much in common – including our shared love of cricket and historical ties – which provides a solid foundation to advance the relationship further.

Our strong linkages are shown by the more than 80,000 people of Pakistani origin who now call Australia home. And many Pakistani students choose to study in Australia’s high quality universities and other educational institutions. These young alumni contribute to Pakistan’s bright future and build on their links

with Australia. Australia is a supporter of Pakistan’s prosperity, stability and development. In 2020, Australia has re-oriented its development cooperation to help Pakistan deal with the COVID19 emergency, such as by funding the purchase of ventilators, supporting Ehsaas nutrition centres and assisting women in lockdown. This has been in addition to our long-running development cooperation to better manage scarce water resources, im-

prove agricultural productivity and promote gender equality.

Growing trade and investment will be critical to the post-pandemic recovery. There is significant potential to unlock in our growing business relationship, particularly in education and agriculture. As Australia’s High Commissioner, I am confident that our two nations will continue to strengthen the positive relationship well into the future.”

Why Daniel Pearl could not get justice in Pakistan ?

A detailed story how the Pearl accused got clean chit from Court



Azaz Syed

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On 5 February 2002, around midday, Deputy Inspector General (Police) Javed Noor was at his official residence in Lahore when he received a call from the then provincial Home Secretary Brigadier (r) Ejaz Shah. He informed Noor about some 'significant progress' made regarding the Daniel Pearl's kidnapping case.

Brigadier Shah said Ahmad Omar Saeed Sheikh, the main suspect in the case at that time, had surrendered. Until then no one was aware that Pearl had, in fact, been killed. Shah wanted the accused handed over to the police through due legal process. Police, on the contrary, had already rounded up his elderly grandfather Sheikh Muhammad Ismail and paternal uncle Tariq Ismail along with a few women of the family from Mohani Road and Johar Town areas in Lahore – ostensibly as part of practice to help investigation process.

Omar Sheikh's maternal uncle, Sheikh Abdur Rauf, was posted as a District and Sessions Judge in Muzaffargarh at the time. Having assessed the case in detail, he was instrumental in convincing his nephew to give himself up. Interestingly, Judge Rauf was a good friend of DIG Noor, so the matter of handing Omar over proceeded smoothly.

"We were fearful of a fake police encounter. The DIG was a former class fellow so we went to see him," Sheikh Rauf told this correspondent recently. He also shared details of events that followed.

Police were not the only force involved in proceedings against Sheikh's family. Other security institutions were also active. When DIG Noor informed Brigadier Shah that he Omar was at his home, he promptly reached there but then left immediately. Omar, the suspect until then and later the main accused, arrived at Noor's residence with his father, Saeed Ahmad Sheikh and his maternal uncle Sheikh Abdur Rauf.

Rauf briefed Noor about the case, which then had a chat with Omar about his ideology and beliefs. During their conversation, the calls for Zohar prayers were heard. Noor asked Omar if he wanted to pray he could do so in his house. In fact, he asked him to lead the prayers. "He was impressive and I thought he was a better Muslim amongst all of us present there so I invited him to lead the prayers," Noor told

this correspondent many years ago.

The meeting was followed by formal procedures for the arrest. The police and intelligence agencies interrogated Omar before sending him off to Karachi on 12 February 2002 on a PIA flight under the maximum security.

DIG Noor personally narrated the story of Sheikh's arrest to me years ago. Omar's father and uncle of had confirmed his account. Brig Shah also verified the entire account in 2014 when I met him at his home in Lahore.

When the court hearing began for Daniel Pearl's murder case, the police astonishingly took the position in the charge sheet that Omar had actually been arrested from Karachi Airport on 12 February 2002. Omar, on the contrary, had said in his own confession that he had courted arrest on 5 February 2002, and that he had been brought on a PIA flight



to Karachi on 12 February the same year. His father and uncle were his defence witnesses in the court. Media reports of his arrest from Lahore played a vital role in weakening the position of the state against Omar.

Omar's lawyer, Mahmud A Sheikh also presented news clippings and TV footages of his arrest. The prosecution had no response to this. The natural question is why did the police lie about Omar's arrest in such an important case? No one has answered this yet.

The story of Daniel Pearl's case started when the journalist landed in Karachi

Surprisingly police have failed to recover the murder weapon even after 18 years of the incident.

a day after 9/11. After spending some time in Karachi since arriving from India, the Wall Street Journal journalist started searching for one Mubarak Ali Gilani for his alleged connections with a militant called Richard Reid. Arrested in Europe, Reid was reportedly a British terrorist who tried to blow up a Paris to Miami flight with a bomb hidden in his. The search for Gilani introduced Pearl to Ahmad Omar Saeed Sheikh.

Police and prosecution's record say Omar first appeared in relation to the Daniel Pearl case on 11 January 2002 at Akbar International Hotel in Rawalpindi. He met Pearl through Asif Farooqi, a journalist working with Pearl at the time. It was also Farooqi's first meeting with Omar and he did not know that the man meeting them as "Bashir" was actually Omar Sheikh. Interestingly, Omar was staying at the same hotel as Faruq Muzaffar - his other alias.

"The meeting lasted for almost over an hour. Omar spoke English in a made up accent so I could not judge if he had British grooming. Omar pretended to be a disciple of Gilani, and said he would try to arrange a meeting between Gilani and Pearl," recalls senior journalist Raza (not a real name), who spoke for the first time to this correspondent after 18 long years of this incident. He is a witness to



the meeting.

Prosecution claimed in the court that the conspiracy to murder Pearl was hatched in the same hotel room on 11 January 2002 where two more accused Fahad Nasim and Syed Suleman Saqib were also present.

Nasim and Saqib are two Karachi-based cousins who according to the police sent e-mails to Pearl's wife and US authorities listing demands in return for Pearl's release. Prosecution, however, remained unable to corroborate the presence of the two men through any proof or a witness.

A few days after the 11 January 2002 meeting, Omar called Pearl and asked him to come to Karachi. On 23 January 2002, before proceeding to meet Omar (Bashir), Pearl called Asif Farooqi asking if it was okay to meet him. Farooqi gave him two tips – "meet the man in a public place and don't take your wife along". Pearl told Farooqi his wife won't be accompanying him and he would be meeting Bashir (Omar) and Gilani at a public place.

On that fateful day, Pearl met with a man named Jameel Yusuf Ahmed, a businessman and founder of Citizen Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) in Karachi. Ahmed later confirmed that during their meeting Pearl received a call and said to the caller that, "I am near your office. I remember I have to meet you." Soon after, Pearl left Ahmed's office to meet Bashir (Omar). Pearl drove to the

Metropole Hotel from Ahmed's office by a taxi driver named Nasir Abbas and this was the last time when the American journalist was seen alive publicly. According to the taxi driver, as soon as his taxi came to a halt, a white corolla pulled up and he saw a man (later identified as Omar) coming out of the car and then meeting the Pearl and they departed together.

Data related to the call made to Pearl and the number it was made from were presented to the court by the prosecution. It turned out that the phone number mentioned was not Omar's but of someone called Mr Siddiqui in Karachi. Hence, this lead also went nowhere in the court. The question arises why the prosecution did not check the identity of the phone number they had presented in the court? Defence also took the position that the man presented in the court as the taxi driver was, in fact, a police officer. This also raises certain questions. For example, why did the police rely on a false witness? Did the police acted independently or under order orders?

The saga of weak investigations and prosecution in Pearl's case did not end here. It continued until the end of the case in the Supreme Court.

Sindh Police based Daniel Pearl murder case on the confessional statements of Fahad Nasim and Syed Salman Saqib. Both these accused had played a vital role in transmitting the information of Pearl's kidnapping and then issuing demands if the American journalist's release was to be secured. It was accused that both were acting under the directions of Ahmad Omar Saeed Sheikh (Omar).

Police and the prosecution say that the last email sent on 30 January 30 by the two, made Pearl's release conditional on the fulfillment of demands such as the freedom for Mullah Abdus-Salam Zaef, the Afghan Ambassador to Islamabad (who was detained in Pakistan and was later handed over to the US authorities), supplying of F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan, and freeing of Muslim prisoners in Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. "If these demands were not fulfilled within 24 hours, they would kill Daniel Pearl," said their email.

Confession statements by the accused, submitted before the judicial magistrate, claim that Omar provided them the lists of handwritten demands - in English and Urdu. The last email was, in fact, sent by Nasim from his uncle's house because Omar had strictly forbidden both of them from using public internet facilities or their own home computers for this purpose. It was the Internet connection that ultimately led the investigators to the accused.

A judicial magistrate, Iram Jahangir, recorded confessions by the duo. Besides recording their statements, she penned down an additional note saying the confessions were not offered voluntarily. The magistrate had concluded through question-answer sessions that both the accused were either

tortured in detention or were promised that they would be freed through bail if they gave confessional statements. The additional note by the magistrate came to cast doubt on the confessions of the two men.

Legally, only voluntary confessions hold any importance in the courts. Police and the prosecution very strangely ignored this fact and established the case on a weak foundation that was later destroyed in the court by the defense. Why was this done? Why were more evidences not collected? Did this all happen by mistake or it was done intentionally? Other discrepancies relating to various aspects of the weak investigations were also found. For example, the testimony of a handwriting expert named Ghulam Akbar in the court. He had told the investigators that the papers provided to both the accused listing the demands for the release of Pearl were actually written by Omar. The investigators did not consider the fact that the 'expert' lacked proper qualification and had no prior experience in the field. Akbar was a vital individual for he had to give opinion on two important pieces of evidence. The piece written in English was by Omar and the one in Urdu was by another accused called Adil. Omar reportedly gave these pieces of paper to Nasim and Saqib. Omar's lawyer Mahmud Ahmad Shaikh exploited the 'expert's' in-

before the court?

The court stated that either the time of the computer's recovery was noted down incorrectly or the FBI expert's account of the matter was incorrect.

The court suspected that the computer had been tampered before being handed over to the FBI expert. This apparent blunder by the prosecution caused the loss of the most important piece of evidence recovered in the Pearl's case.

Surprisingly, the police have failed to recover the murder weapon even after 18 years of the incident. The only evidence relating to Pearl's murder presented to the court was not by the Karachi police. It was a film that FBI presented before the court saying it reached them through a 'source'. The footage showed Pearl being murdered but it did not show the murderer's face meaning the prosecution remained unable to prove Pearl's murder in court. Similarly, no murder weapon was presented before the court nor the dead body or a report relating to recovered body parts proving that Pearl was, in fact, murdered. Just a video was presented, about which the US Consul-General admitted in the cross-examination that the film had been recorded in a studio. The police could not provide any piece of evidence linking Omar's presence at the spot where the murder was being recorded. Omar's lawyer presented 26 judicial

Legally only voluntary confessions hold any importance in the courts

experience during cross-examination and stressed that his opinion should not have possibly been relied upon. Police, arguably ruined the case by employing an irrelevant person.

The matter of the laptop that was used by the two accused to send the email of Daniel Pearl's kidnapping is worth special interest too. The machine was, in fact, recovered at the time of their arrest but the prosecution had introduced discrepancies regarding that as well. As per the police stance the laptop was recovered from the accused men at around midnight. However, the US FBI computer forensic expert and witness Ronald Joseph said he was told two days prior to arriving in Pakistan, i.e. on 29 January 2002, that he was to examine a laptop in Pakistan.

Joseph arrived in Pakistan on 4 February 2002, and was given the computer that very evening. He kept working on it for four to six hours daily for six days. The court took the position that if the American expert was informed about this laptop on 29 January, then how come the last email relating to Daniel Pearl's ransom was sent from it on 30 January? If it is assumed for argument's sake that this computer belonged to Asra Numani (a friend of Pearl who travelled to Pakistan along with Pearl and his wife) then which computer the police used to read emails from in the court. Police did not clarify which computer was presented

references during the hearing, while only about 10 references were presented by the Additional Prosecutor General to prove the role of the alleged killers. In the Sindh High Court verdict, Omar was declared to be convicted only of the crime of kidnapping and not of kidnapping for ransom, because neither the prosecution was able to appropriately present all the evidence related to kidnapping for ransom nor could both the aforementioned accuser's confessions employed properly. Omar was awarded seven years and told to pay Pearl's widow Rs2 million failing that he would serve two more years in jail. The court considered that the accused has already spent 18 years in jail. Later in the Supreme Court, Omar was also acquitted from the allegation of kidnapping as defense apparently proved that the only witness (the taxi driver) who claimed watching Pearl go with Omar was a fake witness (actually a police official pretending to be the taxi driver).

Ostensibly the case of Daniel Pearl's murder was effectively ruined due to weak investigation and prosecution. Pakistan's highest court on 28 January displayed adherence to the law but Pearl's widow and journalists searching for the truth in dangerous circumstances in the world have perhaps not been able to receive justice.

Courtesy The News.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Turkey ready to cooperate for regional peace & stability

ISLAMABAD: January 13, 2021: Pakistan, Turkey and Azerbaijan on Wednesday have expressed strong determination to continue cooperation to promote peace, stability, and development in the region. The three countries expressed resolve during a joint presser after concluding the second trilateral meeting of the forum in Islamabad. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi expresses his views saying that Pakistan enjoys cordial and brotherly relations with Turkey and Azerbaijan. He mentioned that a host of topics ranging from trade, investment, security, connectivity, and strategic cooperation came under discussion during the meeting. He added that the trilateral meeting also discussed global and regional security environment, crimes against Muslim minority in various countries, the challenges of growing Islamophobia and Covid-19 pandemic. He stated that the meeting exchanged views on enhancing cooperation in the field of energy, environment and people to people contacts and

meeting expressed concerns over gross human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, prolonged military siege in IIOJK and India's unilateral actions to change demography of the area. While referring to Nagorno-Karabakh issue, the Pakistani Foreign Min-

ister urged for resolution of this dispute peacefully. He reaffirmed that Pakistan believes that all regional and global issues should be resolved through peaceful means and in light of the relevant international laws.



than the real potential of the two countries and this volume needs to be enhanced. He said over 100 Turkish companies are currently working in Pakistan in diverse fields and we are encouraging more companies to come and invest in Pakistan. He said both countries are cooperating

in the sector of defence production. In addition to this Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu extended his country's full support to the people of IIOJK and called for resolution of the Kashmir dispute as per relevant UN Resolutions.

Furthermore, Azerbaijan Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov condemned terrorism and rejected Islamophobia. He remarked that the resolve to continue extending cooperation for regional peace and development. Jeyhun Bayramov also thanked Pakistan and Turkey for extending their full support during the second war for the liberation of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Islamabad Declaration was signed on the conclusion of the second round of trilateral meeting of the foreign ministers of the three countries. The Azeri minister also invited Pakistan and Turkey to play their part in the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction of newly liberated land of Azerbaijan.



said special emphasis was made on increasing parliamentary and media exchanges among the three countries for better understanding and harmony. During the meeting Shah Mahmood Qureshi expressed gratitude to his Turkish and Azerbaijan counterparts for their support on the Kashmir dispute. Qureshi underscored that the

On the other hand, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Pakistan has unique space in the hearts of the people of Turkey. He commented that both countries support each other in difficult times. Cavusoglu was of the view that the current trade volume between the two countries is 800 million dollars which is much below

Pakistan values relations with EU: FM Shah Mehmood Qureshi

Islamabad 20 January 2021: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi hosted a working luncheon for the EU Ambassadors at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today. This is the second such luncheon hosted by the Foreign Minister which provided an opportunity to both sides to share their perspectives and plans to carry forward the relationship. The For-

secure livelihoods has turned out to be successful and has also led to an increase in economic activity in the country including exports. He stressed that the global community must come together to combat the virus and should realize that nobody is safe till everyone is safe. Foreign Minister Qureshi expressed satisfaction at the trade and investment relations between

enhanced trade, investment, and tourism. The Foreign Minister stressed the importance of economic and cultural diplomacy and called for deeper engagement between Pakistan and the European Union in these spheres.

The Foreign Minister also briefed the EU Ambassadors regarding regional situation. He highlighted the grave human rights situa-



ign Minister welcomed the Ambassadors and stated that Pakistan greatly valued its relations with the European Union, which are based on shared values and common objectives of peace, prosperity

Pakistan and the European Union. He also appreciated the continuation of GSP Plus status to Pakistan. The Foreign Minister highlighted the positive outlook of Pakistan's economy. He added that the grow-

tion in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) and underscored the importance of peaceful solution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute in accordance with relevant UN resolutions. The



and development. The Pakistan-EU relationship has strengthened steadily over the years and is pursued through sound institutional mechanisms and dialogue processes. The two sides elevated their relationship by signing the Strategic Engagement Plan (SEP) in June 2019. SEP is a forward-looking and comprehensive framework of co-operation in diverse areas of mutual interest.

The Foreign Minister highlighted that the 'smart' lockdown strategy of the government to save lives and

ing economic trajectory coupled with extensive natural resources offered huge opportunities for



Foreign Minister dilated upon Pakistan's positive contributions to the Afghan peace process and facilitative role in advancing the cause of peace, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan, region and beyond. The EU Ambassadors appreciated the initiative which provided an opportunity for in-depth exchange of views on areas of mutual interest. The importance of closer engagement on Pakistan-EU relations and regional and international issues was underscored.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan discuss measures to enhance multiple cooperation

ISLAMABAD, Jan, 14: Pakistan and Azerbaijan Thursday discussed measures to enhance bilateral cooperation in multiple spheres including defence, trade and commerce besides agreeing to increase land and aerial linkages. The bilateral ties were discussed during the delegation level talks between the two countries at the foreign ministry during the visit of Azeri Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Jeyhun Bayramov led their respective sides during the talks which also focused strengthening bilateral cooperation in fields of education, culture and technology. Earlier, on his arrival, Foreign Minister Qureshi received



economic ties with Azerbaijan. Both the foreign minister particularly underlined the need for enriching bilateral cooperation in the field of energy.

contacts as well as trade cooperation. Qureshi highlighted the adverse economic impacts of COVID-19 and Pakistan's much-appreciated smart lockdown strategy.



his Azeri counterpart who also planted a sapling at the ministry's lawn.

Welcoming the foreign dignitary, Qureshi said both the countries enjoyed relationship based on similar religious and cultural values. The unanimity of views between the two countries on regional and international forums was also pleasing, he added.

The foreign minister also congratulated government and people of Azerbaijan over the liberation of Nagorno Karabakh and reiterated Pakistan's stance of territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. Qureshi said as per Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision, Pakistan desired to enhance its

Foreign Minister Qureshi said Pakistan had introduced new visa policy to promote people to people



Both the sides agreed to make joint efforts for tackling the challenges posed by the pandemic.

The foreign minister also thanked Azerbaijan for constant support to Pakistan on the issue of Kashmir and called for world community's role to bring an end to unabated Indian oppression and atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Later, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between both the countries to enhance cooperation to tackle natural calamities. The MoU was signed by both the foreign ministers. Chairman National Disaster Management Authority Lt. General Akhtar Nawaz was also present.

President for enhanced Pak-Azerbaijan cultural, trade cooperation



ISLAMABAD, Jan 14 (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi Thursday while highlighting the existing potential, emphasized the need to expand bilateral volume of trade between Pakistan and Azerbaijan besides further promoting cultural and commercial cooperation. The president, in a meeting with Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, said Pakistan highly valued its relations with Azerbaijan which were based on common faith, historic and cultural linkages.

The president congratulated the government and people of Azerbaijan over the liberation of Nagorno-

Karabakh and reaffirmed Pakistan's support for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. He appreciated Azerbaijan's role as a member of the OIC Contact Group on Kashmir and thanked the country for its support to the cause of the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. President Alvi expressed hope that the successful conclusion of the 2nd meeting of Pakistan-Azerbaijan-Turkey Trilateral Dialogue held on Wednesday here, would give impetus to growing trilateral ties and open new avenues of cooperation among the three brotherly countries.

Azeri Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov said that Pakistan and

Azerbaijan had great potential for increasing trade and cultural cooperation. He thanked the Government of Pakistan for supporting Azerbaijan's stance on Nagorno-Karabakh. He stated that his country would continue to stand by Pakistan on Kashmir issue at all international fora.

President Dr Arif Alvi also lauded the role of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation for the welfare of persons with disability by providing them 100 wheelchairs. He remarked that Heydar Aliyev Foundation, under the patronage of the First Lady of Azerbaijan, was performing commendable humanitarian services in Pakistan.

Azeri FM Jeyhun Bayramov calls on PM Imran and discusses ways to bolster bilateral ties



Islamabad: January 14, 2021: Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov called on Prime Minister Imran Khan, today. During the meeting, views were exchanged on matters relating to bilateral relations and regional and international issues. The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction at the excellent quality of bilateral political relations and emphasized the impor-

tance of enhancing bilateral trade and energy cooperation. The Prime Minister extended sincere felicitations on Azerbaijan's recent success in liberation of its occupied territories. On Azerbaijan's call for support in reconstruction and development of liberated territories, the Prime Minister assured of all possible assistance from Pakistan. Foreign Minister Bayramov conveyed cor-

dial greetings of President Ilhan Aliyev to Prime Minister Imran Khan. He also expressed gratitude for Pakistan's support on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and reaffirmed Azerbaijan's consistent support and solidarity on the Jammu & Kashmir dispute. The Azerbaijan Foreign Minister also affirmed Azerbaijan's desire to upgrade bilateral cooperation in all fields.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi holds extensive talks with Turkish counterpart



Islamabad: January 13, 2021: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi received Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu at the Foreign Office. The two Foreign Ministers held extensive exchange of views on bilateral, regional and global issues. On the bilateral plane, the two Foreign Ministers noted with gratification the positive momentum in brotherly relations between Pakistan and Turkey marked by exceptional mutual trust and deepening cooperation in diverse fields. The resolve to ensure timely implementation of decisions, taken during the last session of High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) in Islamabad in February 2020, was reaffirmed. Foreign Minister Qureshi underscored the importance of building a stronger economic partnership, including by realizing the vision in the Strategic Economic Framework (SEF). Thanking Turkey's firm support to Pakistan on core issue of Jammu & Kashmir, Foreign Minister Qureshi briefed his Turkish counterpart on the grave human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K) and underscored the importance of peaceful solution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute in accordance with relevant UN

resolutions.

The Foreign Minister highlighted Pakistan's positive contributions to the Afghan peace process and facilitative role in advancing the cause of peace and stability in Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister expressed satisfaction at the on-

collaboration to reflect the true values of Islam and enhance interfaith harmony globally.

An MoU relating to cooperation in the education field (working of Turkish MAARIF Foundation) was signed following the conclusion of delegation-level talks.



going cooperation between the two countries at the multilateral forums including at the UN, OIC and ECO. The determination to continue extending strong mutual support to each other on all issues of core interest was reiterated. Expressing concern on the growing phenomenon of Islamophobia, it was agreed to increase

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu and Pakistan's Minister of Federal Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood signed the MoU. The two Foreign Ministers agreed to maintain close contact and further solidify the fraternal and strategic Pakistan-Turkey relationship.

President confers Pakistan's second highest civil award on Turkish foreign minister



ISLAMABAD, Jan 13 (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi Wednesday conferred Hilal-i-Pakistan, the country's second highest civil award, on Foreign Minister of Turkey Mevlut Cavusoglu in recognition of his contribution to strengthen Pak-Turkish ties. The conferment on the Turkish foreign minister was made at a special investiture ceremony held here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. Besides delegations of the visiting foreign minister, the ceremony was attended by federal min-

isters, diplomats and senior officers. Started with recitation of Quranic verses, the ceremony featured playing of national anthems of both the countries. Reading out the citation, Secretary Cabinet Division Sardar Ahmed Nawaz Sukhera recounted the services of Turkish foreign minister for enriching the bilateral ties. He said in his capacity as Turkish foreign minister Mevlut Cavusoglu had taken various initiatives for peace and security.

Moreover, he also played vital role for strengthening Pak-Turkish ties and their transformation into a strategic partnership. The Hilal-i-Pakistan awards is conferred to recognize the meritorious contribution to the national interests of Pakistan, or cultural, social contribution. Among other dignitaries to have achieved the honor included now US President-elect Joe Biden, Ruth Pfau, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and recently Chinese former ambassador in Islamabad Yao Jing.

After the investiture, the Turkish foreign minister also introduced two renowned Turkish actors including Nurettin Sönmez, known for his role as Bamsı Beyrek in Ertugrul and Ayberk Pekcan, known for his role as Artuk Bey. Both the celebrities were warmly received by the audience and did not miss the rare photo-op. Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu is visiting here for the second Pakistan-Turkey-Azerbaijan Trilateral Meeting being held on the day. Prior to the investiture ceremony, he called on the president and discussed the bilateral as well as regional matters of mutual interest.

TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER IMRAN KHAN



Islamabad: January 13, 2021: Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu called on Prime Minister Imran Khan today. During the meeting, Pakistan-Turkey bilateral relations and regional and international issues were discussed. Reaffirming the exceptional nature of Pakistan-Turkey political relationship, the Prime Minister stressed the importance of transforming it into a robust economic partnership. The shared resolve on both sides to further upgrade trade, investment, defense, educational

and cultural cooperation was reaffirmed.

The Prime Minister thanked Turkey for its steadfast support on the Jammu & Kashmir dispute and highlighted the detrimental Indian actions posing a threat to peace and security. In the regional context, the Prime Minister underscored the importance Pakistan attached to a peaceful solution of the conflict in Afghanistan. In this regard, he highlighted Pakistan's positive contribution to the Afghan peace process and the imperative

for all Afghan stakeholders to work for bringing down violence leading to ceasefire and securing an inclusive and broad-based political settlement. The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of working to combat Islamophobia and promote better understanding of the reverence Muslims have for the Holy Prophet (PBUH). It was agreed to maintain high-level exchanges and further build Pakistan-Turkey strategic relationship to the mutual benefit of the two countries and peoples.

GERMAN AMBASSADOR CALLS ON CHIEF MINISTER PUNJAB



Lahore: Jan 22, 2021: Ambassador of Germany Mr Bernhard Stephan Schlagheck called on Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar at his office on Friday and discussed different matters including the expansion of bilateral cooperation between Germany and Punjab. Talking on the occasion, CM Usman Buzdar stated that solid steps will be taken to further promote relations as Germany is the best partner of Pakistan. The government will take advantage of German expertise to develop the automobile industry, IT, health and social sector on modern lines. Punjab will take a lead for promotion of cooperation in different sectors as different facilities are provided to the investors under one roof, he added. The CM asked the German investors to take benefit of tremendous investment opportunities as special incen-

tives were being provided for foreign investment. All the necessary facilities are provided under one roof in special economic zones being established in different districts, he added. Similarly, the CM further said the construction sector has a lot of potential and five cement factories have been issued NOCs while 12 more NOCs will be issued soon.

The chief minister emphasised that development of less developed areas has been focused and a special package has been given for backward areas of south Punjab. The establishment of the south Punjab secretariat is an important initiative as the development process has been brought to the doorstep of the common man. On the other side, the CM pointed out that the government is fully focused on the development of the agriculture sector and the latest technology

will be utilised for enhancing cotton production. The government is working on developing new cottonseed and agricultural credit card scheme is in the offing for farmers. Every citizen will be given health coverage and this program will be completed in the current year, he added. The PTI government has given priority to improving good governance, service delivery and development of backward areas and the development journey is continuous despite impediments, he added.

German Ambassador said he is happy to visit Punjab and appreciated the CM's vision for the development of backward areas. German investment companies are interested to invest in different sectors in Punjab and cooperation will be further expanded, he added. Chairman P&D, CEO PBIT and others were also present.

PAKISTANI COMMUNITY IN BERLIN OBSERVED KASHMIR SOLIDARITY DAY

Berlin: February 05, 2021: "Kashmir Solidarity Day" was observed by the Pakistani community in Berlin, to express solidarity and reaffirm Pakistan's unconditional support to the Kashmiris in their struggle for right of self-determination. The participants demand the peaceful solution of the issue through meaningful dialogue. Friends of Kashmir staged a protest in front of the Indian embassy in Berlin and the event was attended by Pakistani and Kashmiri community and members of friends of Kashmir organization despite the Corona lockdown and cold weather. Participants demands from German government and human rights activists to play their role to resolve the Kashmir issue. Protesters hold play cards and banners showing Indian atrocities in Kashmir, stop military operation, stop killing in Kashmir, let Kashmir speak, go India go back, Modi is a terrorist etc. Leaders of Pakistani community Tariq Mahmood Awan, Riaz Khan, Zaheer Abbas Awan, Tariq Javed, Khalid Mahmood, Ansar Butt, Mian Imran-ul-Haq, Haji Siddique Akbar, Miss Maya Haider & other political and social leaders participated in the protest.



The new leap of China's economy benefits China-Pakistan cooperation



Nong Rong
The writer is the Chinese
Ambassador to Pakistan



At the beginning of 2021, there comes encouraging news from China. According to the preliminary calculation of the National Bureau of Statistics of China, China's GDP in 2020 reached 101.6 trillion yuan (around 14.7 trillion USD), increasing by 2.3 percent from 2019. For the first time, China's GDP exceeded the 100-trillion-yuan threshold, achieving a historic leap.

This leap is significant.

For China, this leap marks a milestone in the journey of Chinese national rejuvenation. The GDP of 100 trillion yuan and per capita GDP of 10,000 USD for the second consecutive year indicates a new height in the overall national strength and people's living standard. It has laid a solid foundation for China in implementing the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) and embarking on a new journey towards fully building a modern socialist country. It has also created ample space for China to follow a new development philosophy and foster a new development paradigm with domestic circulations as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other.

For the world, this leap is a ray of warm sunshine amid economic gloom. The world economy has been severely hit by the COVID-19

pandemic. China is the first and the only major economy to achieve positive growth in 2020, injecting impetus into the global economic recovery. China's share in the world economy is anticipated to rise to around 17 percent. China's growing economy will further enhance its potential of foreign trade and investment, strengthen inter-connection and the mutual promotion of the markets of China and the

**China's new
economic leap will
bring a larger
market and deep
cooperation
potential for Pakistan**

world, and make greater contributions to the improvement of global economic governance, the building of an open world economy and a community with a shared future for mankind.

This leap is hard-won.

This leap is attributed to the wise leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC). In the face of the sudden outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the turbulent external environment, the CPC has united and led all the Chinese peo-

ple to respond calmly and rise up to challenges. The CPC Central Committee with President Xi Jinping as its core assessed the situation from the long-term perspective while taking both the domestic and international situations into consideration, coordinated pandemic control and socioeconomic development, and resolutely adopted a series of significant measures. CPC organisations at all levels strictly implemented the decisions and instructions of the CPC Central Committee. The majority of CPC members actively responded to the Party's call by rushing to the front-line in fighting against the pandemic and played a leading role in every field. The judgment, decision, and action taken by the CPC are decisive in helping China take the lead in controlling the COVID-19 pandemic, resuming work and production, and achieving positive economic growth.

This leap is attributed to the unique advantages of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics. First, this system guarantees the whole nation acts in a coordinated way. Both in COVID-19 response and economic development, China gives the full play to the initiative of both the central and local governments. The local governments

cooperate with the central government and the central government assists the local governments. At local level, governments also support each other under the coordination of the central government. Second, the socialist system with Chinese characteristics ensures that we concentrate efforts on major tasks. Faced with arduous development tasks, China, following the belief that “good steel is used for the cutting edge”, concentrates on the most important tasks with the best resources, and has achieved progress in poverty alleviation, research and development of vaccines, and technological innovation. Third, the socialist system with Chinese characteristics ensures that we make cohesive planning to achieve consistent development. 2020 was the last year of China’s 13th Five-Year Plan. China maintained its strategic focus,

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. China will take this opportunity to speed up the high-quality development of CPEC

maintained its status as the largest trading nation and has become the largest host country for foreign direct investment (FDI). Besides, the “Belt and Road Initiative” continued to advance steadily, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was successfully signed, and the China-EU Comprehensive Agreement on Investment completed negotiations on



overcame the impact of COVID-19, stuck to its goals, and completed the development tasks specified in the 13th Five-Year Plan on schedule. These advantages are the institutional basis for the resilience of China’s economy.

This leap is attributed to China’s adherence to reform and opening up. China is not swayed by the historical counter-currents of unilateralism and protectionism, and does not fear the threat of decoupling, supply disruption or sanctions. We uphold that development quality and market vitality should be enhanced by deepening reform and opening up. China has taken the initiative to maintain the stability of the global supply, industrial and value chains. With both the goods trade and the actual use of foreign investment growing against the trend, China has

schedule. Reform and opening up is the source of China’s economic vitality.

This leap benefits China-Pakistan cooperation.

The new leap of China’s economy is the result of China’s adherence to self-reliance and opening-up, the hard work of the Chinese people, as well as the support and contributions of friends from various countries including Pakistan. Therefore, the expansion of China’s economic volume will not only benefit the Chinese people, but also have a positive impact on the international community, especially creating more development opportunities for Pakistan, China’s all-weather strategic cooperative partner. With the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the implementation of the Second

Phase Protocol of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, China’s new economic leap will bring a larger market and deeper cooperation potential for Pakistan, and lays a more solid material foundation for upgrading China-Pakistan practical cooperation. China’s good economic performance can boost the determination and confidence of the two countries to join hands in fighting the pandemic. At the just-concluded World Economic Forum “Davos Agenda” dialogue, President Xi Jinping stated that China will continue to take an active part in international cooperation on COVID-19 and continue to implement a win-win strategy of opening up. China is still facing a tight anti-pandemic situation, and there is a severe supply and demand gap in vaccine production. Even so, China, as a responsible major country in the international community, and a reliable partner who withstands the test in the face of danger, will do its best to make safe and effective Chinese vaccines available and affordable for the Pakistani people, and to boost Pakistan’s economy to full recovery at an early date.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. China will take this opportunity to speed up the high-quality development of CPEC. The two sides are in close communication and serious preparation for the upcoming 10th meeting of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee. In the next stage, the two countries will take well-targeted steps in developing Gwadar Port, industrial parks, agriculture, science and technology, assisting Pakistan’s development towards industrialisation, urbanisation, digitisation and agricultural modernisation. We also welcome friends from all walks of life in Pakistan to get a more comprehensive understanding of contemporary China, promote bilateral exchanges and cooperation, and give new momentum to this time-tested friendship.

PAKISTAN-INDONESIA DISCUSSED INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN DIFFERENT SECTORS



Islamabad: January 14, 2021: H.E Adam M. Tugio, Ambassador of Indonesia along with a delegation called on Mr. Atif R. Bokhari, MOS/Chairman Board of Investment and Ms. Fareena Mazhar, Secretary, Board of Investment, at BOI Islamabad and exchanged views over trade, investment and other issues of mutual interest. During the meeting Government's most important initiative "Ease of Doing Business" was discussed. H.E appreciated the efforts of BOI in the prospective of Ease of Doing Business (EODB). He also reiterated government stance to work hard for Ease of Doing Business (EoDB). H.E said that Indonesian investors are interested to invest in food business in Pakistan. In pursuance, Indo food one of the largest company is soon launching its operations in Pakistan. MOS/Chairman BOI appreciated the propo-

sition of the Ambassador and said that BOI will extend all possible assistance and facilitation to materialize their endeavors in Pakistan. He further added that the company can have their manufacturing facility here in Pakistan and can export to Africa as well. During the meeting IT sector was also discussed. The Ambassador highlighted that Pakistan IT sector has highly qualified professionals. In pursuance MOS/Chairman BOI advised that Indonesian companies can open branch offices here and utilize their expertise in this regard. Tourism sector was also a part of discussion and both sides agreed that tourism sector as one of the area in which there can be mutual collaboration. The MOS/Chairman, Board of Investment, appreciated the proposition of Ambassador of Indonesia to establish dialogue between business

communities of both countries to identify areas for bilateral trade. He further added that BOI will continue to work for expanding Pakistan-Indonesia economic partnership. He informed that Embassy of Pakistan in Indonesia has proposed a Webinar in January 2021 and BOI will also collaborate. The Secretary, BOI while concluding, appreciated the Ambassador's friendly gesture towards Pakistan and invited Indonesian investors to invest in Pakistan in different sectors of the economy. She also informed that the Government of Pakistan has taken a number of initiatives to attract foreign investment in Pakistan and BOI being the apex body of the Government of Pakistan for investment promotion and facilitation to foreign investors assure them full support as and when needed.

Resources to be mobilized to boost GB region's climate resilience

ISLAMABAD, Jan 17: Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam has said that the present government was taking all-out measures to help Gilgit-Baltis-

deleterious impacts of environmental degradation and climate change, the Gilgit-Baltistan chief minister informed the Prime Minister's aide Malik Amin Aslam that

mal-nutrition, hunger and joblessness, he further highlighted.

Malik Amin Aslam asked the chief minister for rolling out a Gilgit-Baltistan-specific



tan government to overcome challenges of environmental degradation, solid waste, climate change and deforestation. "Prime Minister Imran Khan-led government was aware of the exacerbating challenges being faced by the climate-vulnerable region of Gilgit-Baltistan, which have led to negative fallouts for various social and economic sectors particularly water, energy and agriculture," Malik Amin Aslam said.

He expressed these views during his meeting with the Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan.

While referring to various climate change and environment-related studies of the Pakistan Meteorological Department, Malik Amin Aslam highlighted that over recent years, the global warming-caused events of glacial melting, glacial lake outburst floods, riverine floods and shifting rainfall patterns have shown rising frequency and intensity, affecting badly not only socio-economic lives of the region but also those in the southern parts of the country. Meanwhile, sharing about

lack of alternative to fuelwoods, which is mined from the local forest areas, have led to massive tree-felling unabated since long. Besides, galloping human populations in the region and mass tourism, characterized by unsustainable tourism practices, have proved devastating for the Gilgit-Baltistan region's once pristine, serene and untainted environment and polluting the turquoise river waters with solid waste, the Gilgit-Baltistan chief minister Mohammad Khalid Khursheed added.

The chief minister pointed out that the region lacks sustainable solid waste management facilities, alternative energy facilities such as solar and energy efficient/saving cooking stoves, which have led to overall environmental contamination and posing public health risks. Lack of climate-resilient infrastructures, climate-smart housing facilities have also exposed the residents of the region's mountain areas to mounting socio-economic miseries including poverty,

elaborate plans regarding promotion of afforestation activities, establishment of sustainable solid waste management facilities, promotion of sustainable and environmental-friendly tourism, sustainable water management practices, climate-smart agriculture practices, alternative livelihood plans, monitoring of glacial melting and glacial lake outburst floods to cope with fallouts of climate change impacts on various socio-economic sectors, climate-resilience of public infrastructure and the local people's lives and livelihoods. "Once the coping plans are handy, efforts would be taken up with the Prime Minister Imran Khan to get budgetary funds allocated for them," Malik Amin Aslam assured the Gilgit-Baltistan chief minister.

Besides, foreign funding channels would also be explored for funding of these project plans for achieving the region's overall climate resilience and environmental sustainability, the PM's aide added.

Danish Ambassador called on Federal Minister for National Food Security

Islamabad: January 27, 2021: The Danish Ambassador to Pakistan, Lis Rosenholm called on Syed Fakhar Imam, the Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research in the minister's office today. The Minister welcomed her excellency and said that Pakistan attaches great value to developing relations with Denmark and efforts will be made to enhance the relationship between the two countries even further. The Minister said that Denmark and Pakistan can have an ideal relationship in the future as Pakistan needs Foreign Directed investments and Denmark needs investment opportunities. Her excellency suggested value addition in the dairy sector as Pakistan has a great potential and productivity. Her excellency also recognized the issue of milk wastage and showed enthusiasm towards Denmark investing in cold storages in Pakistan. The Minister stressed upon the importance of technological advancements, genetic engineering and research in



Pakistan to reach its full potential. The ambassador recognized the significance of research, especially in the agriculture sector. Furthermore, the two dignitaries discussed student exchanges in universities and vocational training institutes.

The student exchange programs are limited and it was decided that they need to be expanded. Both dignitaries were certain that this would help strengthen the relationship between Denmark and Pakistan further.

Finance Minister, British HC discuss matters of mutual interest

Islamabad: January 27, 2021: British High Commissioner His Excellency Christian Turner called on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Dr. Abdul Hafeez Sheikh, at the Finance Division today. H. E. High Commissioner was accompa-

and people of the United Kingdom to the Government of Pakistan and its people and hoped that economic relations would further strengthen between the two countries. Minister for Finance briefed the High Commissioner that Government

nance further apprised about the socio-economic measures taken by the Government of Pakistan to lessen the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on marginalized segments of the society and thanked the High Commissioner for the assistance and support extended to Pakistan in fighting the disease. The Minister expressed condolences to the High Commissioner over loss of precious lives due to COVID-19 pandemic and wished speedy recovery and normalcy with reference to latest surge in coronavirus infections by the new variant in the UK. Opportunities for green financing were also discussed during the meeting to promote collective efforts against the challenges posed by the climate change. The High Commissioner offered all possible help in strengthening efforts of the Government of Pakistan for development of green industry to alleviate negative environmental impact.



nied by the Head of Development Ms. Annabel Gerry on the occasion. The Minister extended a warm welcome to the High Commissioner and commended the support extended by the Government

of Pakistan is pursuing a broad-based economic reform agenda to achieve export-led growth and would like to further deepen trade and economic linkages between the two countries. Minister for Fi-

Uzbek envoy stresses enhanced trade ties with Pakistan



PESHAWAR, 8th Feb, 2021: Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Aybek Arif Usmanov called for increased academic bilateral cooperation and scholar to scholar cooperation between the two countries. He was addressing during an interactive session on “Celebrating 580th Anniversary of Alisher Navai”, jointly organized by Area Study Center (Russia, China and Central Asia), University of Peshawar and Center for Global and Strategic Studies (CGSS) here. Aybek Arif Usmanov stated that February 9th was the birthday of Alisher Navoi, the glorious son of the Uzbek nation. He was the first outstanding poet who discovered the re-

markable world of the Uzbek language and its richness. He further stated that his creativity was famous throughout the world and his contributions in philosophy and literature were commendable. He suggested increased academic bilateral cooperation and scholar to scholar cooperation and also emphasized on connectivity of Mazar-i-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar railway track and service. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Peshawar expressed his gratitude to Uzbek ambassador for gracing the interactive session and Embassy of Uzbekistan to Pakistan for establishing the Alisher Navai Center at the Area Study Center, Uni-

versity of Peshawar. Moreover, he mentioned that this center would engage in enhancing the bilateral relations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director, CGSS in his address stated that Pakistan and Uzbekistan governments were taking remarkable steps to enhance and strengthen regional connectivity. He also highlighted that Uzbekistan was playing an important role in the Afghan peace process. The interactive session was attended by 50 participants including faculty members of the University of Peshawar and students of International Relations and related fields as well.

JAPANESE AMBASSADOR LAUDS PAKISTAN'S ROLE IN AFGHANISTAN

Islamabad: January 20, 2021: Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Barrister Dr. Muhammad Farogh Naseem has hailed Pakistan as a friendly country for tourism and investment. He was talking to Japanese Ambassador H. E. Mr. Kuninori Matsuda who called on him at the Law Ministry on Wednesday. He said Pakistan has stable law and order situation contrary to what is sometimes projected in the Western media. The Law Minister was of the opinion that due to malicious propaganda and fake news spread by 'our neighbor', perception about Pakistan is sometimes distorted. However Pakistan is like any other country in the world. The Japanese Ambassador said that not only the security situation in Pakistan is favorable but also the Covid-19 pandemic is contained. He sought Law Minister's help in order to establish contact between the Japanese businessmen in Pakistan and Pakistani Law firms. Dr. Farogh Naseem ensured that he would extend whatever help is possible in this regard. He also requested the Japanese Ambassador to work with Pakistan to establish legal as well as academic cooperation. The Japanese Ambassa-



dor suggested that Pakistan, Afghanistan and Japan may explore the possibility of entering into legal cooperation (with exchanges of students of law, lawyers and members of the judiciary), since Pakistan has continued to play a significant role in Afghanistan. The Japanese Ambassador also appreciated the positive role played by Pakistan and its authorities in bringing peace in Afghanistan. Law Minister told the ambassador that he will act to further enhance cooperation between the three countries. The Japanese Ambassador invited the Pakistani Law Minister to participate in the 14th UN Congress on crime prevention and criminal justice in Kyoto from March 7-12, 2021. The Japanese Ambassa-

sador requested the Pakistani Law Minister to speak not only on legal developments in Pakistan but also about the current state of security and Law and order in the region with a special emphasis on Pakistan and its role. Dr. Farogh Naseem accepted the invitation committing to physically travel to Japan to participate in the conference subject to ground situation of Covid Pandemic or otherwise participate through the virtual medium. Parliamentary Secretary for Law and Justice, Barrister Maleeka Bukhari, Japanese Political Counselor, Mr. Nakagawa Yasushi and Third Secretary Mr. Katsuragawa Hirotsada were also present during the meeting.

Egypt's Ambassador Tarek Dahrough calls on Special Assistant to PM on Overseas Pakistanis Syed Zulfikar Bukhari

Islamabad: January 13, 2021: Egypt's Ambassador to Islamabad, Tarek Dahrough, met Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and HRD, Syed Zulfikar Bukhari today on Wednesday and discussed avenues to increase people to people contact between the two countries through tourism. The Ambassador and the SAPM expressed interest to extend

mutual cooperation between Pakistan and Egypt in the field of tourism. During the meeting, the SAPM gave an overview of Pakistan's tourism efforts, including the idea of launching of brand Pakistan for tourist's attraction and support, and briefed the ambassador about government's efforts in the field of tourism. Bukhari reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to facili-

tate and attract the tourists in all possible ways and said the government had planned to launch the branding of tourism in Pakistan which has been postponed due to Covid-19. Dahrough said he hoped both the countries would forge cooperation in tourism sector and Egypt would cooperate in Pakistan's tourism branding project through all possible avenues.

Pakistan and Turkmenistan agree to boost trade relations

Islamabad: Jan 07, 2021: The Ambassador of the Republic of Turkmenistan to Pakistan, Atadjan Movlamov called on Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood here on Thursday. During the meeting, both sides agreed to increase the bilateral trade to its true potential. Furthermore, the Turkmenistan side also discussed the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Gawadar Port and Turkmenistan Ports, said a press release. The Advisor Commerce also appreciated the Turkmen's proposal for transit of Turkmen goods through Gawadar and Karachi ports via



railways and road transportation. The Turkmenistan Ambassador showed keen interest

in holding 6th Meeting of Pakistan-Turkmenistan Joint Governmental Commission this year.

Pakistan inaugurates 113 kilometre CASA-1000 electricity lines

Islamabad: January 27, 2021: Federal Minister for Energy Mr. Omar Ayub Khan and President of Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Dr. Bandar Hajjar inaugurated the construction of the 113 kilometre electricity transmission lines from Pak-Afghan border to Nowshera under the South Asia Central Asia Regional Trade and Transmission Project (CASA-1000) in a virtual event. Federal Secretary Power Division, Mr. Ali Raza and senior officials of Power Division, representatives of development partners, UN agencies, & other key stakeholders also witnessed occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister for Energy, appreciated the efforts of Member countries and support of all sponsoring partners for financing the construction of power transmission lines infrastructure in Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan under the CASA-1000 Project, in particular. He added that "the

project will support economic integration among four participating countries, through establishing the regional electricity connection and creation of an integrated electricity market and it will also positively contribute towards energy security since the energy mix of Pakistan has been strengthened through substantial amount of cross border import & export of electricity". "CASA-1000 Project is not only a transformative development in economic and power sectors of Central Asia and South Asia, instead it is an inspiring model of how such development change can be best accomplished," the Energy Minister elaborated. The Minister informed the participants that Pakistan had embarked upon tapping huge indigenous potential of renewable energy. He said that Pakistan's New Renewable Energy Policy would bring opportunities for inves-

tors due to transparent policies of the current government. He said that the government had set an ambitious targets to introduce 25 percent renewable energy by 2025, and 30 percent by end of 2030 including 40 percent share of hydel power generation into energy mix of the country.

Addressing the online event, the IsDB President said that the CASA-1000 Project would bolster economic benefits and regional integration for Member Countries. The CASA-1000 Project is a 1,270 km power transmission line that exports excess hydropower generated in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to Pakistan through Afghanistan. Transmission Components under the Project are being financed by IsDB, World Bank, European Investment Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction & Development, UK's Department for International Development, and USAID at a total cost of US\$ 1.17 billion, approximately.

Pakistan's Ambassadors-designate to Libya meets President

Islamabad: January 20, 2021: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan highly values its close and fraternal ties with Libya and wants to further promote bilateral relations in all areas of mutual interest. He gave these remarks while talking to the Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Libya, Major General (R) Rashad Javeed, who called on him, Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. While congratulating the Ambassador-designate on his appointment, the President urged him to take steps for improving commercial relations with Libya and work for the welfare of Pakistani diaspora. He welcomed the cessation of hostilities in Libya and said that Pakistan stood by Libyan people in their quest for peace and prosperity. He asked the Ambassador to work for improving the image of the country as well as expose India's real face which had unleashed a reign

of terror against the Muslim population of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Later, the High Commissioner-designate of Pakistan to Rwanda, Mr Amir Muhammad Khan, also called on the President. Talking to the High Commissioner-designate, the President said that Pakistan and Rwanda enjoyed cordial relations which needed to be further enhanced. He stated that both countries had great potential for enhanced trade and economic relations. He stressed the need for initiating bilateral political consultations with Rwanda and

exchange of visits at the Ministerial level that would help in further strengthening bilateral



relations. Appreciating the Government's decision to open five new Missions in Africa after a long time, he expressed the hope that the opening of new missions would further solidify relations with African countries under the "Engage Africa" policy of the present government.

President for enhanced trade, defence ties with friendly countries

Islamabad: January 19, 2021: President Dr. Arif Alvi has called for increased trade, investment, defence and cultural cooperation with all friendly countries. He said that Pakistan was home to some of the world's most revered Buddhist sites and expressed the hope that tourists from friendly countries would increasingly visit Pakistan. He made these remarks while talking to the Residents Ambassadors-designates of Korea, Nepal, Belarus and Non-Residents Ambassadors-designates of Ireland, Kosovo, Mali and Sierra Leone, who made separate calls on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Earlier, the Resident Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Korea, Mr Suh Sangpyo, the Resident Ambassador-designate of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, Mr Tapas Adhikari, the Resident Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Belarus, Mr Andrei Metelitsa, and Non-Resident Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Ireland, Ms Sonya McGuinness, the Non-Resident Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr Ilir Dugolli, the Non-Resident Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Mali,

Mr Dianguinadit Yaya Doucoure and the Non-Resident Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Mr Alie Badara Kamara presented their credentials to President Dr Arif Alvi at a ceremony. The President congratulated the newly-appointed Ambassadors and expressed the hope that they would play their role in promoting commercial and cultural re-

lations with friendly countries in all dimensions. He said that Pakistan was taking all possible measure to promote relations with countries in African region under its "Engage Africa" policy and was willing to offer experience and expertise as well as technical assistance to African countries in all areas of mutual interest. He also briefed the envoys about the



lations with Pakistan. While talking to the envoys separately, President Dr Arif Alvi said that Pakistan's ranking in the Ease of Doing Business Index had improved tremendously and foreign investors needed to take advantage of investment friendly environment of the country. He added that Pakistan wanted to strengthen

atrocities and gross Human Rights violations being committed by India against the innocent people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He urged the international community to play its rightful role to stop India from committing such blatant violations of International Law.

President greets Nepalese mountaineers that scaled K2



Islamabad: January 21, 2021: A ten-member Nepalese K-2 Winter Expedition team called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. While welcoming the Nepalese mountaineers, the President said that their remarkable achievement would project Pakistan's soft image as well as boost tourism in the country. The President

congratulated the team on surmounting K-2 in harsh winter. He appreciated the courage and strength of Sherpas which had done a marvellous job by conquering the second highest peak of the world. The President said that both countries enjoyed excellent relations and such activities would further increase goodwill between the

two countries. Nepalese Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Tapas Adhikari, and leader of the expedition team, Mr Nirmal Purja, expressed their deep gratitude to Pakistan for the support provided by the Government of Pakistan. They also praised the natural beauty and wide range of mountaineering opportunities in Pakistan.

Pakistan felicitates Nepalese climbers on first winter K2 ascent



January 17, 2021: Pakistan has felicitated the team of Nepalese mountaineers for making a history by reaching the world's second highest mountain peak, K2, in winter. Located on Paki-

stan's side of Karakoram range, K2 is one of the world's 14 tallest mountains. In a tweet, Foreign Office spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri termed the expedition as one of the most cov-

eted achievements in mountaineering and wished the climbers a safe return from the peak. The spokesperson said Pakistan is the ultimate destination of mountaineering.

Meanwhile, Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Ali Amin Gandapur, while congratulating the 10-member Nepali Climbers' team for reaching the K-2 peak in winter, said Pakistan has enormous potential of winter tourism. In a statement today, he said the incumbent government is taking all measures to further promote tourism in northern areas of the country. He assured that the government will provide all facilities to the mountain climbers.

Foreign Minister's Interaction with African Envoys based in Islamabad

Islamabad 7 January 2021: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met African Envoys based in Islamabad today to review Pakistan's engagement with Af-

Foreign Minister Qureshi underlined that as part of "Engage Africa" Initiative, Pakistan was significantly enhancing its diplomatic footprint and economic

Pakistan's Heads of Mission in African capitals, held yesterday, during which he had encouraged them to cultivate and broaden mutually beneficial partnerships with African countries, focusing on trade, investments and tourism.

African Envoys gave valuable suggestions to enhance mutually beneficial partnership between Pakistan and Africa. The participants, inter alia, observed that, besides potential at the bilateral level, conclusion last year of the historic agreement on establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA)-geographically the largest trading bloc-presented an excellent opportunity for enhancing trade and economic ties.

The Foreign Minister welcomed African Envoys' views and valuable suggestions and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to forging stronger Pakistan-Africa partnership that helps advance the shared objectives and takes mutual cooperation to a new level. This was the fourth of a series of meetings on Economic Diplomacy that the Foreign Minister is hosting. His region-specific interactions will continue.



rica, identify impediments to fulfilling its true potential and chart a way forward. Held under the rubric of the Government's "Engage Africa" initiative, the meeting was attended by Envoys from Algeria, Kenya, Libya, Mauritius, Morocco, South Africa, Sudan and Tunisia. Recalling the long history of close friendly relations with Africa, the Foreign Minister noted that Pakistan had supported African struggle of freedom from the yoke of colonialism and remained a trustworthy partner in the maintenance of peace and security with the Continent.

engagement in Africa. The success of the Pakistan-Africa Trade Development Conference, held in January 2020 in Nairobi, highlighted the untapped potential of bilateral trade and investment ties, and underscored the mutual desire to take them to a higher level. The Foreign Minister observed that Pakistan had recorded a 7% growth in trade with Africa over the last year, despite the COVID-19 related social and economic challenges.

The Foreign Minister also apprised the participants about the outcome of the virtual meeting with

FM Qureshi discusses Afghan peace process with Hizb-e-Wahdat-e-Islami delegation

ISLAMABAD: Jan, 12: A delegation of Afghanistan's Hizb-e-Wahdat-e-Islami called on Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Tuesday to discuss matters of mutual interest including the Afghan peace process. The delegation, led by Muhammad Karim Khalili, arrived in the country on

Monday for a two-day visit during which it is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Imran Khan and National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser. During the meet today, the foreign minister reiterated Islamabad's stance that there was no military solution to the Afghan conflict, adding only political dialogue could resolve the



matter. Welcoming the progress made during the intra-Afghan talks, Qureshi expressed optimism about the second round of talks being held in Doha. He emphasised that the regional peace was linked to the stability in Afghanistan and expressed satisfaction over the progress in intra-Afghan dialogue, saying it provides a unique opportunity to

the Afghan leadership which must be seized for peace in the country. Qureshi regretted that India is acting as a spoiler in Afghanistan and we have presented irrefutable evidence in this regard before the world community. The foreign minister shared that the government was taking concrete

steps for the promotion of bilateral relations between the two countries, adding that Pakistan has also introduced a new visa policy to facilitate the Afghans. Ustad Khalili thanked the foreign minister for hosting the Afghan refugees over the last many decades and praised Pakistan's role in the Afghan peace process.

Interior Minister, Australian High Commissioner exchange views on matters of mutual interest

ISLAMABAD, Jan 20: Australian High Commissioner (HC) in Pakistan Geoffrey Show called on Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Wednesday and discussed the matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations. Australian High Commissioner congratulated Sheikh Rashid Ahmed for assuming charge as Interior Minister. Both discussed the measures to improve border management and steps for capacity building of law enforcement agencies. The meeting was attended by high officials of Ministry of Interior and Australian High Commission. The minister told the HC that 'Border Management Wing' has been established at Ministry of Interior and comprehensive measures were being taken to check human smuggling and illegal transportation of products. He said that Pakistan would in-

troduce the e-passport from May 1, 2021 which would be helpful to check human smuggling. He said that e-visa service had been launched on January 1, and this

Australian High Commissioner stressed the need to enhance the cooperation between Pakistan and Australia to check international crimes. He agreed to



facility could be availed by citizens of 191 countries. The majority of the applications were being received from Afghanistan in that regard, he added.

support Pakistan in improving border management and also appreciated the steps taken by the government to prevent spread of coronavirus.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR OF KOSOVO

Islamabad: January 20, 2021: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi received the non-resident Ambassador of Kosovo to Pakistan, Mr. Ilir Dugolli, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, today. The Foreign Minister, while welcoming the Ambassador, expressed satisfaction at the friendly relations between Pakistan and Kosovo. During the meeting, strengthening of bilateral relations in particular in the areas of trade, education and culture remained the focus of the discussion. The Foreign Minister emphasized the importance of enhancing people-to-people contacts between the two countries. Ambassador



Dugolli thanked the Foreign Minister for receiving him and appreciated the solidarity and support extended by the Government and people of Pakistan to Kosovo. He conveyed his Gov-

ernment's intention to enhance bilateral engagement at various levels. The Ambassador also apprised the Foreign Minister of Kosovo's perspective on the situation in the region.

Recognizing Khojaly Massacre

Raja Aamir Mahmood Bhatti

Azerbaijanis around the world commemorates one of the most

the now-occupied Upper Karabakh region. The two-hour Armenian offensive killed 613 Azerbaijani citizens - including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly - and criti-

Only after national leader Heydar Aliyev returned to power, the Khojaly tragedy was politically and legally assessed with impressive measures taken to bring the truth on the genocide to the world's countries' and international community's notice.

The Government of Azerbaijan works purposefully and consistently to raise the world community's awareness about the crimes committed by Armenian chauvinist and nationalists against Azerbaijanis, in particular, about the Khojaly genocide, and to have this tragedy recognized as the genocide. The Azerbaijan state and society are experiencing the period of construction and development. Azerbaijan achieved leading positions in the world in the terms of economic growth rates. Azerbaijan is the main stakeholder and initiator of the regional and international energy-communication projects. The state program on the socio-economic development of regions and other social and infrastructure projects are being successfully realized. Azerbaijan state's economic and military capacity and international prestige increases every day with



tragic days in their history on 26 February of each year. 29th years has passed since hundreds of innocent men, women and children from the town of Khojaly in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan were slaughtered by Armenian troops.

The Khojaly massacre at the hands of Armenian troops stands as one of history's most chillingly brutal military acts against unarmed civilians. Over the night from 25 to 26 February 1992, the Khojaly city of Azerbaijan was savagely destroyed by the Armenian armed forces, the defenders and residents of Khojaly were massacred. Hundreds of peaceful residents, the children, women, elderly, whole families were annihilated, and their corpses were disfigured by unprecedented tortures. Such massacre committed in the eyes of world community at the end of XX century, was, for its cruelty and brutality, not only against the Azerbaijan people, but also in the whole, against the humanity.

The Khojaly Massacre is seen as one of the bloodiest incidents committed by Armenian forces against Azerbaijani civilians for control of

cally injured 487 others, according to Azerbaijani figures. Also, 150 of the 1,275 Azerbaijanis that the Armenians captured during the massacre remain missing. In the massacre, eight families were completely wiped out, while 130 children lost one parent, and 25 children lost both parents.

Today, it is not secret for anybody that the Khojaly tragedy was a bloody page of the genocide and

**The Khojaly Massacre
is seen as one of the
bloodiest incidents
committed by Armenian**

ethnic cleansing policy pursued along hundreds years by militant Armenian nationalists against the Turkic and Azerbaijan peoples. This policy conducted in separate periods for interests of numerous states - by all admitted and non-admitted means - in political, economic, military, terror and ideological ways was continued, our compatriots were oppressed, the historical Azerbaijan lands were occupied by Armenians and seized.



our people's patriotism and national self-consciousness also strengthening. A number of international organizations, heads of influential states, their parliaments recognize Armenia as the aggressive state.

On this sorrowful day, we pay tribute to Khojaly shahids and heroes, and express our condolences to their relatives and all people of Azerbaijan. May Allah rest their souls in peace?

PM seeks Ulema's cooperation to develop Pakistan on Riasat-e-Madinah model

ISLAMABAD, Feb 8: Prime Minister Imran Khan Monday, while seeking Ulema's support to develop Pakistan on the model of Riasat-e-Madinah, urged them to inculcate people its golden principles including unity, truth and cleanliness. "Imran Khan can do nothing alone unless, we all put in collective efforts," the prime minister said addressing a conference on "Contribution of Ulema from Pakistan's Creation to Stability" held by Pir Naqibur Rehman of Eid Gah Sharif and his son Hassan Haseebur Rehman.

afraid of societal embarrassment on account of taking bribe. Calling for campaign to propagate corruption as an evil, the prime minister said the religious scholars should also make it part of their sermons. The prime minister said as the Ulema had a huge following and say in the society, they should also promote the habits of cleanliness and truth for being the great Islamic values and teaching of Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). He said through his prudence, the Holy Prophet (PBUH)

their Holy Prophet. He assured the gathering to continue raising the issue of Islamophobia at every international forum to make the West understand that it hurt the sentiments of Muslim as criticism on holocaust did to them. He had written letters to the Muslim world leaders to urge them for a united stance on the issue.

The prime minister said the Muslims living in the Western states faced utmost difficulty owing to Islamophobia. Terming rule of law as the basic principle of State of Madina, the prime minister said the third world countries were suffering for having discriminatory laws for the poor and the rich. The leaders from the third world countries laundered around \$1,000 billion annually, he added. Reiterating his stance of no NRO to the opposition leaders, he said how it was possible to let the people involved in petty crimes rot in jail and give an NRO (National Reconciliation Ordinance) to the looters of billions.

The prime minister committed to give the religious scholars "good news" as a speaker criticized the amendment in Auqaf law in Punjab. The Religious Affairs Minister while appreciating the role of scholars since creation of Pakistan, said the government was on its course to develop Pakistan on the pattern of Madina State. The government's initiatives like Shelter Homes, Langar Khana and Sehat Cards were in pursuance of the very principles, he added. He also appreciated the government's decision to introduce Seerat-un-Nabi subject in classes 6 to 12 would help the youth to know about the golden history of Islam and Holy Prophet's teachings.

Custodian of Eidgah Sharif Hassaan Haseebur Rehman said Imran Khan was the first prime minister to contest the case of Islamophobia and Namooose-Risalat at international forums like the United Nations and OIC. He said the religious scholars would continue extending all-out support to the government in its mission of replicating Riasat-e-Madina.

Sahibzada Akram Shah appreciated the government's policies and vision of Riasat-e-Madina, particularly Imran Khan's bold stance on the issues of Islamophobia. He urged the government to withdraw the recent amendments by Punjab government in Auqaf laws what he viewed would undermine the functioning of shrines and seminaries.



The event was attended by Religious Affairs Minister Pir Nurul Haq Qadri, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Senator Faisal Javed and religious scholars from across the country. The prime minister said as the government was pursuing the goal of Madina-like welfare state, it was the responsibility of Ulema to apprise people of the principles of that ideal state. He said the people may be informed about the guiding principles which had empowered a backward society to defeat the biggest empires of the time within 15 to 20 years.

The prime minister said in its mission, the government was facing difficulty to sensitize people for differentiating between good and bad as lack of this attribute could lead to downfall of any nation. He pointed out that some eight to nine TV anchors recently moved the court to seek permission for airing the speech of PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif who had been convicted for stealing billions of public money. "Had it happened in any western country, such an individual would not even be acceptable in any gathering, what to talk of appearing on television channels," he remarked. He said the society would change when an SHO or Patwari was

had united a divided society, which should also be replicated by the Ulema to bring harmony in the country. He said being rich with numerous resources, Pakistan could emerge as a strong country with a united nation. Imran Khan said the religious scholars had fully supported Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in his mission of Pakistan's creation. He said unfortunately, the country had deviated from an ideal Pakistan as dreamed by Allama Muhammad Iqbal. Speaking on Islamophobia, the prime minister said the issue deteriorated owing to the lack of reaction from the Muslim leaders to the blasphemous acts in the Western society.

Following publication of his book, he said, Salman Rushdie made a propaganda against the Muslims under the garb of freedom of expression. Later, the West linked extremism and terrorism, even the suicide bombing with Islam, though according to facts, the Tamils and Japanese had committed suicide attacks first in the history but no one linked the practice with their religions, he added. He said the Western society dealt with the religion very casually and did not know what kind of reverence the Muslims showed to

Achievements of Islamic Republic of Iran In industry, science and technology

Global science production: Iran ranks 16th, while 1st in region



Industry: Increased industry share in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from 16% to 40% shows the improvement of industrial sectors after Islamic Revolution in Iran. Despite the severe economic and scientific sanctions, Islamic Republic of Iran achieved the native and indigenous atomic, air and space technologies.

Oil Industry: Before Islamic Revolution the management and task of exploration, extraction, production and transfer of Iranian oil industry was in possession of foreign experts but now Islamic Republic of Iran provided all kind of engineering and technical support and relevant services to other countries.

Non-Oil Industry: Iran non-oil exports have shown an increase of 54 percent and reached from 54 million dollars to 31 billion dollars.

Steel Industry: The Islamic Republic of Iran is the 10th in the world in terms of producing steel, 14th in aluminum production, 8th in cement production, 5th in ceramic production, 12th in motor cycles and vehicles production and 18th in car and copper production of

the world.

Trade & Economy: Without joining World Trade Organization (WTO) Iran is the 17th economy of the world. In copper industry the production has reached from 0 to 214 thousand tons.

Space power plants Technology: Iran is among the top 10 countries of the world which

Power Plants: Now Iran is the eighth largest supplier of power plants in the world.

Artificial Intelligence: According to the new ranking of Scimago Iran is the pioneer of artificial intelligence in West Asia.

Science Production: Iran ranks first in science production among Islamic countries and the region. Also in production



gained space technology. According to the latest scientific rankings, Iran has come first in the field of aerospace engineering in West Asia.

of scientific articles it ranks 16th in the world.

Organ Transplantation: Iran ranks first in the world in liver transplants. Iran is ranked

fourth in the world in heart transplants. Iran ranks first in kidney, heart and liver transplants in the West Asian region.

Military Technology: The production of different weapons and military equipment such as war plans and fighters equipped with stealth technology and also war drones are some of Islamic Republic's militarily great achievements.

Missile Technology: Iran has made a great progress in developing different kind of missiles, long and medium and short range, capable to fire from ground to space, space to space and many types of war ships based missiles.

Submarine Production: The Islamic republic of Iran is the world's 11th submarine maker and the world's 6th destroyer ship maker.

Nuclear Technology: Iran has been able to achieve the full technology of nuclear fuel cycle in a completely native way. Iran is one of the top five countries in the world in the field of nuclear science. Iran has made



Nano Science: In the first half of 2018, Iran was ranked among the top 15 countries of the world in term of Nano science production.

Until the 1979 revolution, there was no Nano science at any Iranian universities. Iranian scientists have achieved significant accomplishments

in the word by publishing 9,662 articles in the field.

Top scientists: According to the report of web of Science in 2016, Iran has 208 top scientists who are listed among 1% top scientists of the world.

Universities: Iran has 2650 universities and higher education centers. The number



remarkable progress in peaceful use of nuclear energy. Iran is now one of the leading and pioneer countries in West Asia in the production and development of new radiopharmaceuticals, and now Iran-made medicinal radio compounds are exported domestically to 15 countries.

in the field of nanotechnology. In 2017, the government approved the document on the expansion of the application of nanotechnology under Iran's 20-years vision plan with the aim of transforming Iran into a scientific power in the world. In 2018, Iran was ranked 4th in nanotechnol-



of Iranian higher education centers is five times more than that of the developed countries. There are 3,800,000 students studying at universities across the country. Over 40,000 foreign students from 129 countries study in Iran.

The new US administration and Pakistan



Raja Asif Mahmood Bhatti

After the defeat of the racist Republican President Trump in the United States and the coming to power of the relatively moderate Democratic President Joe Biden, not only Pakistan but the whole world has been rationalized in US policies, especially world peace, democratic values and protection of human rights. The expected measure of prudent action will be assessed only after the appointments to key positions have been completed. He was joined by Vice President Kamala Harris of Indian descent, black Defense Minister General (ret'd) Lloyd Austin and Foreign Minister Anthony Blinken. They express positive thinking. Historically, enlightened Democrat US leaders have a reputation for being more lenient with Pakistan than conservative Republican presidents. Joe Biden is an experienced politician who has visited Pakistan twice when he was vice president with President Barack Obama. The general impression is that she is fully aware of the situation in Pakistan and the challenges it faces in the region, so she can expect better behavior from the Pakistani nation. The positive side of the appointments he has made so far for the new US administration is that he has appointed liberals, ignoring Indian-Americans who support Narendra Modi's extremist Bharatiya Janata Party and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Singh. Two of them are from occupied Kashmir and they are both

women. This means that under the new US administration, human rights organizations may be active in occupied Kashmir. In the new administration, 20 Indian-Americans have been promoted to key positions. There are fewer Americans of Pakistani descent than him, which has disappointed more than 500,000 Pakistanis living in the United States, but those who hold real power, including President Joe Biden, are said to be less inclined towards India than Donald Trump. This is because he has so far made positive statements on Pak-India relations and the situation in Occupied Kashmir, giving political observers a glimmer of hope for peace efforts in the region. The situation in Occupied Kashmir was highlighted in the mention of atrocities against Muslims around the world during Biden's election campaign. During the campaign, Secretary Blanken had said that Biden would raise the Kashmir issue with India if given the opportunity. Vice President Kamala Harris whose Indian background makes India very happy. Opposing the repeal of Article 370 of the Constitution to annex Occupied Kashmir to India, she has said that the Kashmiri people are not alone in the world and if the situation remains as it is, we may have to intervene. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has also praised Pakistan's role in resolving the Afghan issue. The appointment of two Kashmiris in the Biden administration has also sent a message that a solution has to be found to the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir for 70 years. All of this is important, but the United States, despite its unconditional loyalty in the past, did not help Pakistan in difficult times and should not expect more from it in the future. And the national interest must be taken into account.

Why Indian farmers are ready for war?



Tariq Mahmood Awan

The scenes presented by the capital, New Delhi, on the occasion of the so-called Republic Day of India on January 26, 2021, can be said to map out the extreme condition of a racist society whose leadership seeks solutions to every internal problem in regional tensions. This habit can become a serious threat to the planet at any time. Like every year, Kashmiri Muslims celebrated Black Day in Occupied Kashmir, Azad Kashmir, Pakistan and around the world, but this year thousands of Indian farmers gathered in and around New Delhi to mark the so-called Republic Day as Black Day. Farmers break security barriers, break barriers, reach near IT Chowk in the heart of Delhi, hoist Sikh religious flag at Red Fort and force Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to go home before the military parade done. More than 10,000 tractors were involved in the protest, according to farmer leaders. One farmer was killed and several others were injured by police baton charges and tear gas shelling, while dozens of policemen were also injured in the farmers' retaliation. Clashes also broke out between police and protesters outside the New Delhi police headquarters, while internet, mobile and transport services were suspended in the capital. There have been reports of farmers' protest rallies in several other cities and states, including Bangalore and Mumbai. It should be noted that most of the farmers in the farmers' rally are from Punjab who belong to the Sikh minority. Last September, the Modi government of India passed three

new agricultural laws in the name of reform. Under which measures were taken to give access to government markets to private traders, remove government price guarantee and contract farming. Farmers and cultivators are usually busy day and night in rural life, isolated from protests such as urban life, but since November, the reaction of farmers gathered outside Delhi and protesting in various cities is evident in the global media. It happens that the laws imposed by the Narendra Modi government will give control to the private sector in the agricultural sector. Farmers say that the New Delhi government is playing into the hands of capitalists and in the name of middlemen, private companies are being given extraordinary privileges and powers which have made it possible for them to have private contact with farmers. Buy and store at custom rates. Under the old system, only government agents could buy produce from farmers. Farmers fear that the new contract farming laws will allow them to grow crops that meet demand. Farmers play an important role in providing many necessities of life, not just grains, so countries around the world provide maximum facilities to their farmers and cultivators. The same sentiment is evident in the statements made by many Indian political parties in support of the farmers. Farmers and laborers, on the one hand, as the mainstay of agriculture and industry, are the means of providing the basic necessities of human life, including food and clothing, and on the other hand, have been at the forefront of many important revolutions in the world. The promotion of their rights is an important requirement for the evolution of human civilization. At a time when the world is in recession because of Corona, institutions such as the United Nations have a responsibility to play an effective role in protecting the rights of farmers and workers.

NAB office Directors to address business community concerns: Chairman

ISLAMABAD, Jan 26 (APP): National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Chairman Justice (R) Javed Iqbal said on Tuesday that he had appointed a full-time director at each regional office including Headquarters (HQs) to deal with the complaints of the business community, but so far they did not receive any complaint. Addressing the businessmen at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), he called upon them to take advantage of the services of the directors as they were there to allay their concerns. He said the business community was the backbone of the economy as it was rendering great services to the country by promoting business activities, providing jobs, increasing exports and bringing foreign exchange to the country. "NAB will never take any action to harass any genuine businessman, but will go after those who commit fraud with people," he added. The chairman said NAB had never asked any businessman about his source of capital and investment, except in money laundering cases. NAB had never stopped any investment project as they were greatly contributing to strengthen the country's economy, he added.



The chairman said he had already issued instructions to NAB authorities that no businessman should be called through telephone to NAB office nor should be humiliated in any manner. He asked the ICCI to forward the list of cases of the business community, assuring them that it would be decided within 30 days except those cases, which were sub-judice in courts. Javed Iqbal said he was ready to set up a dedicated desk of NAB at ICCI for better coordination. He said NAB had transferred all tax related and under invoices cases of business community to Federal Board of Revenue

(FBR) and no such case of business community was currently pending with his institution.

He said that if any businessman has any complaint against NAB, he should approach the Director of concerned area while he was also available on the last Thursday of every month for listening to the complaints of people. NAB had helped return around Rs 5 billion of stuck-up investment from two housing societies to people in Islamabad/Rawalpindi and Lahore.

ICCI President Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan lauded the efforts of the chairman NAB for elimination of corruption and said that reducing corruption and promoting transparency would help better growth of business and investment activities. He said NAB's positive role was acknowledged by Transparency International, World Economic Forum and many other international bodies, which showed its constructive services for the country. He said that doing business in Pakistan was quite challenging and stressed that the government should focus on promoting ease of doing business to put the country on the path of sustainable economic growth.

CHAIRMAN EU-PAK FRIENDSHIP FEDERATION EUROPE CALLED ON LAW MINISTER

Islamabad: January 28, 2021: Chairman EU-Pak Friendship Federation Europe, Chaudhry Pervaiz Iqbal Losar, commended the efforts of the Law Minister Barrister Dr. Muhammad Farogh Naseem in facilitating the Overseas Pakistanis, with the enactment and imple-

mentation of Letters of Administration and Succession Certificates Act, 2020 and other people friendly laws drafted by the Law Ministry. He said that the Pakistanis living abroad had to face a lot of difficulties in getting their rightful inheritance pre-

viously, and now they can have what is theirs, in just 15 days, due to the untiring efforts of the Law Minister and his team. Mr. Losar, whose Organization is working in 18 major countries in Europe, called on the Federal Law Minister on Thursday at the Law Ministry. Barrister Dr. Muhammad Farogh Naseem appreciated Mr. Losar for his work in Europe and for raising issues that are important to Pakistan and Pakistanis abroad. He further said he will continue to work for the betterment of overseas Pakistanis as he knew they were educated, hardworking people who cared deeply about the country of their origin.



FM Qureshi along with Ambassador Imran Mirza DG FSA, distributed certificates among successful graduates of 40th specialized Diplomatic Course at the Foreign Service Academy during a graceful ceremony



Diplomacy Thru Pictures



H.E. Ali Alizada Ambassador of Azerbaijan called on Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Nadeem Raza



Director General Measac Research Institute Abdullah Hamid Gul calls on H.E. Nong Rong Ambassador of China to Pakistan



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce & investment, Abdul Razak Dawood in a meeting with H.E. Mr. Oybek Usmanov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan in Islamabad on January 20, 2021.



Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin ul Haque in a meeting with German Ambassador to Pakistan Bernhard Schlagheck in Islamabad on February 03, 2021.



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce & Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood in meeting with Ambassador of Tunisia to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Borhene El Kamel in Islamabad on January 20, 2021.



Meeting between Chief Minister Balochistan Jam Kamal Khan and Chairman CPEC Authority Lt Gen(R) Asim Saleem Bajwa in Quetta on 02-02-2021.



Ambassador of Greece, H.E. Mr. Andreas Papastavrou Called on Federal Minister for Defense, Pervez Khattak in Islamabad on January 27, 2021.



H.E. Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul presenting souvenir to Naseeb Ullah Naseeb Country Director OZ Istanbul group of companies

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