

CENTRELINE

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine



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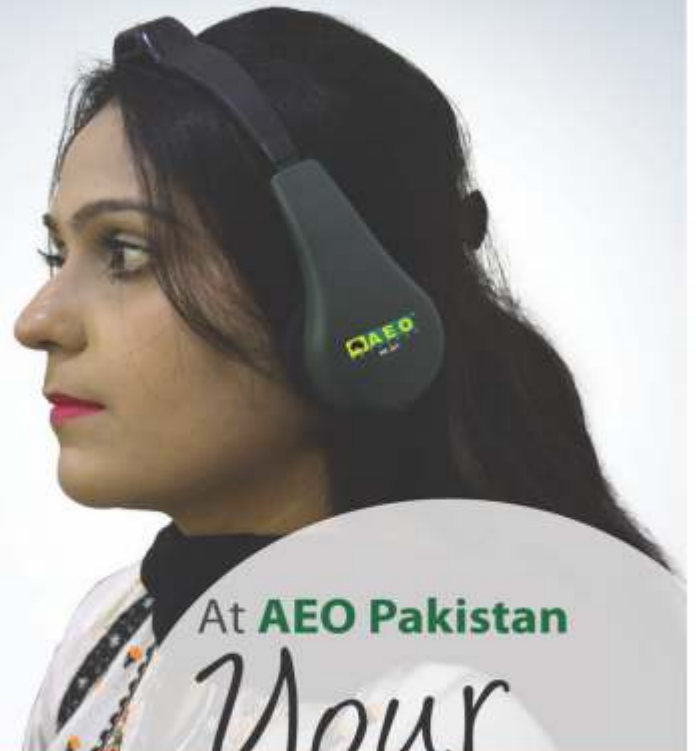
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ROOTS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS & COLLEGES JOIN HANDS WITH ICT POLICE FOR A DRUG FREE SOCIETY

Along with providing its students with excellent academic counseling, Roots International Schools and Colleges guides students towards a path of personal and professional success. To create awareness among students and parents regarding substance abuse, an insightful Drugs awareness and prohibition advocacy seminar 'Drugs- Hazards and Prohibition' was conducted in collaboration with ICT Police, at Metropolitan International United College H-8/4, Islamabad

Inspector General of Police Islamabad, Mr. Zulfiqar Khan was the chief guest of the conference. Seminar was participated by renowned journalists, doctors, police official, parents and students respectively. Event was hosted by Mr. Walid Mushtaq, Chief Executive Officer Roots International Schools and Colleges and Metropolitan International United College. This initiative was part of the many efforts made by RIS under the leadership of Mr. Walid Mushtaq to overcome the menace of drugs from our society. RIS & MIUC have been at the forefront of the campaign of drug free Islamabad. RIS has adopted a strict anti-drug policy in line with federal law. Moreover, it provides a healthy and recreational environment to students and keeps them engaged in activities which promote physical and mental growth. All year around numerous competitions, conferences and sessions by notable scholars, sportsmen, entrepreneurs, and prominent personalities are conducted to inspire students and guide them through life. Event initiated with the national anthem and an enthralling anti-drug performance by RIS students. Mr. Walid Mushtaq welcomed all the honorable guests and emphasized on the importance of anti-drug initiatives. He advised students on the obliteration of drug related activities and urged parental community to join hands with the institutions to annihilate the evil of drugs from the society. He remarked, 'Together with government and ICT police we will give this nation healthy, energetic and hard working youth which will make vision of Quaid-e-Azam of a prosperous Pakistan true'. All panelist presented their unique perspective to the discussion filled with their knowledge and life experiences. This advocacy session was interactive in nature, the students, teachers interacted with the panel of guests as well. All participants appreciated the initiative taken by Mr. Walid Mushtaq.

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Pak-India tensions; time to move forward



Indian fighter planes intruded into Pakistan territory in the early hours of Tuesday, February 26, claiming to have hit hideouts of JeM. The Indian side also claimed killing scores of JeM people. Consequent reports and investigations proved all Indian claims false as there was no JeM hideout whatsoever in Balakot thus no question of large scale killings. When challenged by jets of Pakistan Air Force, the Indian planes fled from the scene jettisoning the payload. Pakistan the next morning struck back and hit two Indian planes killing two pilots and arresting one alive. The National Command Authority (NCA) of

Pakistan met with Prime Minister in the chair and decided to take on all threats emanating from the declared enemy with full force. The Command Authority, that is custodian of nuclear weapons also, further resolved to come up with a matching response in case of any future aggression. Prime Minister Imran Khan the same day in his address on the national hook-up once again invited Indian leadership for talks.

This is a brief summary of what transpired on February 26 and 27 after the Indian aggression against Pakistan. The incident also brought together all political parties of Pakistan thus sending loud and clear message to India that when it comes to national interest and security all political parties are on the same page. The Prime Minister in his brief TV address and then during the joint session of the Parliament on February 28 invited India to shun differences and join hands for peace. He rightly pointed out that wars bring destruction and havoc only therefore all out efforts should be made to avoid any catastrophic situations. Imran Khan's speech and announcement to release the pilot went quite well even in India with Indian politicians and journalists welcoming goodwill gesture of Pakistani PM and exhorting their government to react positively to this gesture.

Even the diplomatic community, which was greatly perturbed over the violent incidents on both sides of the border, heaved a sigh of relief after PM Imran Khan's speech as it was expecting some hardliner stance to be adopted by him but his peace overtures not only won hearts and minds of the diplomatic corps but put a damper on the evil designs of Indians and their future (mis)adventures as well.

Ostensibly, Pakistan outclassed India on foreign policy front for Islamabad chose to reach out to major regional and global powers telling them how New Delhi was undermining Pakistan's desire for peace and stability in the region. As reports suggest, Pakistan fought its case successfully and was able to bring these countries round that it was India who wanted to destroy regional peace. After Pakistan's reaction, all world powers woke up to the reality that by launching aggression against Pakistan, India had set the basis for a conflict that might turn into a limited, if not full scale, war between the two arch rivals.

As Kashmir remains the flashpoint between Pakistan and India, the regional as well global powers need to help both countries sort out this issue for the ultimate good of regional and world peace. Pakistan time and again has expressed its desire for an amicable solution of the issue but never got a positive response from India. Here comes the role of OIC, which by and large is considered as an ineffective organization in terms of its ability of conflict management, nevertheless what it can do is to extend moral support in such situations to the member countries. If the OIC speaks with one voice against Indian atrocities in the occupied Kashmir, New Delhi will then have no other choice but to come to the negotiating table.

Summing up, the intelligentsia of both countries ought to do fire-fighting by encouraging both sides to talk peace, instead of fanning the fire. Media role in this regard is also crucial. Emotional approach will only lead to further tensions and chaos. Let us hope that better sense prevails and both sides sit together to settle their disputes peacefully. Peace efforts should not be held hostage to a handful of hawks on both sides who do not want peace between the two countries.

Ansar

Chief Editor's Profile: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti is a career journalist. He started off as District Correspondent of Daily *The Muslim* in 1988 from Gujrat. Later he moved to Islamabad and joined *Pakistan Observer* as Sub-Editor / Op-ed Writer, in 1993. In 1995 he again moved to *The Muslim* as Sub-Editor and he left *The Muslim* in 1997 to join *The Nation* as City Editor and Diplomatic Correspondent, where he remained till 2002. His association with *The News* spans over three years from 2002 to 2005 as Columnist. In 2005 Mr. Bhatti switched over to *Khabsrain* Group as Columnist / Special Correspondent. In 2010 he was made Resident Editor of *The Post*, a sister publication of *daily Khabsrain*. In 2010 he launched his own publication *Centreline*. He has authored two books on European Union. He has also served in *Pakistan Telecom Company (PTCL)* as Media Advisor/Director Communications. He Launched Diplomatic News Agency (DNA) in 2012.



Barlybay Sadykov

Kazakhstan keen to diversify ties with Pakistan

Ambassador of Kazakhstan talks to CENTRELINE and DNA

Ambassador of Kazakhstan Barlybay Sadykov talked to CENTRELINE and Diplomatic News Agency (DNA). He talked about various aspects of Kazakhstan-Pakistan ties. Here is the text of his interview

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

1) Please share with us some key features of Kazakh-Pakistan relations, especially in the fields of diplomacy, trade, politics and culture.

- First of all, Kazakhstan and Pakistan have a long history of friendly relationship, with their beginning dating back to the early 1990's. So, since then our countries have never questioned the need for developing and enhancing their bilateral ties.

Apart of that, I always note that Pakistan was among the first nations in the world to have recognized Kazakhstan's sovereignty shortly after demise of the Soviet Union. That was probably the reason of why one of the first international visits of the President of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev was paid to Pakistan in early 1992. This sort of mutual gestures of respect and honor really matter in inter-state relations and are of extreme importance for making them to develop well in the long run. At present the manifestation of that development is that Kazakhstan and Pakistan have no any political controversies or misunderstandings, which might obscure a bilateral interaction. This outstanding achievement comes from a strong political will of our countries leadership, who always cared of the Kazakh-Pak relationship and advocated them to be constructive as much as possible. Now around 35 bilateral documents regulate partnership between our countries in various domains, but there is still a lot to be done in extending a number of legal instruments for making that partnership even more fruitful.

The trade cooperation does not meet vast economic potential of two countries and needs intensifying

contacts between their business communities. What is crucial now is to increase their awareness of each other and try to reduce those trade barriers, which may be removed with no harm to economic interests or international commitments of Kazakhstan and Pakistan.

Bearing in mind that geographic location and climatic peculiarities make Kazakhstan's economy differ substantially from that of Pakistan, I am certain that at the very beginning our economies should be rather complimentary than competitive towards each other. For instance, Kazakhstan is able to meet Pakistan's needs in supplies of mineral resources, namely oil, gas, coal, ore and some others, given the existence of viable transport routes and implementation of regional projects of TAPI and CASA-1000. Pakistan on its part could be a very competitive supplier of fruits, vegetables, textile and leather-made products, medicines and surgery equipment.

The entire foreign service of Kazakhstan is currently shifting towards strengthening primarily economic diplomacy in developing our country's relationship with the rest of the world. This is to say that the Embassy is also to be strongly in line with this policy to be held here in Pakistan.

Kazakhstan and Pakistan have some opportunities to boost their trade and investment ties, which are to be fully exercised in a befitting way.

The Embassy is planning now to arrange a number of seminars, round-tables and road-shows in Pakistan's economic and industrial hubs in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and some other areas, with the aim of increasing awareness of local business circles about Kazakhstan, its trade and investment opportunities, as well as tourist potential of our country. In this regard I would like to underscore that the World Bank's «Doing Business» comprehensive report for 2018 has ranked Kazakhstan 28th in terms of the ease of doing business, compared with its position at the 36th place in 2017.

Astana International Financial Center (AIFC), which was officially launched in the mid-2018 as the English-law-based institution, is expected to turn very soon into a regional financial hub, like the Shanghai stock market and the New-York stock market «Nasdaq». Pakistani business community is also highly welcomed to join cooperation with the AIFC.

Culture is another area that can bring Kazakhstan and Pakistan closer and

A promising area of cooperation is the linking of the "Nurly Zhol" Program in Kazakhstan with the CPEC project



better known to each other. And this asset is to be exercised at maximum by both countries, keeping in mind that cultural bonds had been linking peoples of Central and South Asia for centuries. What is needed now, is to revive gradually and patiently this linkage, no matter how difficult it looks like.

2) People to people relations also play a significant role in bringing nations closer. How would you comment on this in reference to friendly relations between Kazakhstan and Pakistan?

- People-to-people contacts are turning to be an extremely important factor in keeping inter-state relationship safe and more predictable in the irreversibly globalizing world. This may also be applied to Kazakhstan-Pak relations. For this reason a growth of people-to-people contacts is the matter of my constant attention as the Ambassador of Kazakhstan.

Currently there is no lack of will to promote contacts between people of Kazakhstan and Pakistan, but a shortage of reliable and effectively dispersed information to be consumed by them for increasing awareness of each other. The challenging task here is to set up a well-functioning information exchange mechanism to create both in Kazakh and Pakistani societies a positive mindset of each other.

3) Another hallmark of bilateral ties is increasing cooperation in defence sector. Can you share some details please?

- Kazakhstan places great emphasis upon cooperation with Pakistan in the military field. Despite a relatively short history of relationship in this domain, military cooperation is one of the most effective and dynamically developing areas in the general context of bilateral interstate interaction.

The Defence Attache Office of Kazakhstan has been functioning under the roof of the Embassy since 2002.

The main areas of focus are military education, special force training and military-technical interaction.

For instance, since 2005 up to the present 42 military personnel and members of the armed forces of Kazakhstan have been trained in military education centers in Pakistan. In 2018 four officers of the armed forces of Kazakhstan underwent in Islamabad a training course of military observers. This year another group of militaries from Kazakhstan are expected to arrive at Pakistan for being trained as part of peacekeeping forces.

The level of trust and military partnership was also demonstrated by the cooperation in the field of combat training. In November of 2017 the first ever Kazakh-Pak Counter-Terrorism drills "Dostarym-2017" were held in Pakistan on the basis of the National Anti-Terrorism Center in Pabby. The second Counter-Terrorism exercises are expected to be held in Kazakhstan in 2019.

The annually held meetings of the Kazakh-Pak Joint Military Commission is fully authorized to identify, arrange and coordinate any practical cooperation actions between the defence ministries of two countries. Bilateral cooperation in military-technical field is to be regarded as a separate domain under the competence of the Joint military-technical Commission. This Commission's inaugural meeting is also scheduled to be held in 2019. The Embassy on its part is fully determined to be a visible part of this process.

4) Is there any possibility of cooperation between two countries in civil-nuclear technology?

- Despite of being a strong and persistent

advocate of the nuclear-arms-free world, Kazakhstan at the same time believes that it is any country's inalienable right to use nuclear energy in the civil area and develop civil-nuclear technologies under international surveillance. dual attitude towards ways of nuclear energy exploitation lay behind of Kazakhstan has taken a massive initiative to set up and allocate the IAEA Low-enriched Uranium Bank that shall be at the disposal of other countries for meeting their civil-nuclear needs under the watch of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Apart from that Kazakhstan is one of the biggest producers of natural uranium, which is essential for developing civil-nuclear technologies.

There are no obstacles for developing cooperation between Kazakhstan and Pakistan in civil-nuclear domain, given that terms and forms of that cooperation are correctly identified in accordance with the international obligations under non-proliferation instruments like NPT, CTBT, NSG and other documents to which Kazakhstan and Pakistan are parties.

5) What are the prospects of bilateral cooperation in Agriculture field?

- Pakistan is well-known worldwide as agro-industrial country, blessed with very comfortable geographic and climatic environment, allowing reaping the harvest twice, or even thrice a year. Therefore, Pakistan is hard to be beaten in the region as importer of fruits and vegetables. Thus, Pakistan's vast expertise in the field of agriculture may be well exercised though opening joint Kazakh-Pak enterprises in growing fruits and vegetables, particularly in Kazakhstan, which lacks them due to its climatic specificities.

6) Kazakhstan has tremendously reduced poverty. Can you share with our readers steps taken by your government to reduce poverty?

- Kazakhstan is country, which encountered with considerable socio-economic miseries immediately after the collapse of the Soviet Union almost 28 years ago, as many traditional economic links with other parts of the Union simply severed and turned to be unworkable. Restoration of these ties has always been a matter of concern of the leadership of Kazakhstan, whose leader President Nursultan Nazarbayev ultimately succeeded to lead our country through turbulent age and to ensure its steady development and economic progress. A visible indicator of this outcome is the reduction of poverty, which since the early 1990's decreased down to 13 times. It



became largely possible thanks to correct identification by the President and national Government of most urgent economic problems and ways of their solution. This mode of economic policy is mirrored in long-term strategic documents, designed to put respective developmental targets to be achieved by Kazakhstan by 2030 and 2050. Here I am talking about «Kazakhstan-2030» and «Kazakhstan-2050» strategic documents, which are the most essential strategic documents to be read by anyone, who wants to acknowledge what Kazakhstan's developmental goals are about and how they are expected to be addressed.

But in fundamental terms the most important factors needed for reducing poverty are a well-educated society and friendly business environment. Currently Kazakhstan is doing its best to meet these two major terms. The first challenge is that almost 100 percent of literacy rate of the Kazakh population is to be transformed into a globally competitive national education system. The second one is about establishing in Kazakhstan a friendly business and investment environment, which is of vital importance for extending employment rates and consequently, reducing poverty and social vulnerability. According to «Doing Business» latest data for 2019 Kazakhstan

is ranking now as 28th in terms of ease of doing business. But keeping in mind that Kazakhstan has officially declared its intention to join by 2050 the list of 30 economically most developed nations of the world, there is still a lot to be done to further go up in this ranking.

7) Kazakhstan as we know strongly believes in nuclear non-proliferation and has taken a number of steps in this regard. Can you share some details in this regard?

- Nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation have remained a hallmark of Kazakhstan's foreign policy since the country got sovereignty in 1991 and up to the present. This sort of "obsession" by this issue definitely derives from practical knowledge Kazakhstan had get under the Soviet rule of the damage may be caused by use of nuclear weaponry. This is to remind that Kazakhstan had been through several decades the area of nuclear arms testing at Semipalatinsk site. The consequences of those tests caused irreparable damage to the country's environment and health condition of our nation. But the ban to hold arms tests at Semipalatinsk nuclear tests site in 1989 and its consequent closure in August of 1991 was only an overture to what followed then, when Kazakhstan got independence.

Our country was among those former Soviet republics, who inherited a massive

nuclear arms arsenal of the late USSR. To be more precise, by early 1992 Kazakhstan appeared to be a sovereign owner of more than 110 ballistic missiles with 1200 nuclear warheads. The uneasy dilemma of whether to keep or get rid of them was solved by the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev in favor of the latter. Following his decision that nuclear weaponry was either dismantled in Kazakhstan or removed out of the country. This unexampled in terms of its courage decision was accompanied by signing of the range of bilateral agreements between Kazakhstan and nuclear powers, who guaranteed security of Kazakhstan in exchange of its renouncing a status of a nuclear arms possessing nation.

Nowadays Kazakhstan is known as being in the vanguard of international efforts to make the world free of nuclear arms and to minimize a plausibility of their practical exercising. In this regard the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev while addressing at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly in 2015 called the international community to strive for achieving a nuclear-arms-free world by 2045 – the UN's 100th Anniversary, and to consider elimination of nuclear weaponry as its primary goal in the 21st century. That was also Kazakhstan's initiative behind the adoption by the UN General Assembly on December 7, 2015 of the Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World.

Kazakhstan fully admits that total elimination of nuclear weaponry is indeed a formidable task for considering it as the easy-to-achieve one. Uneasy nature of this problem probably originates from deeply

rooted distrust among nations and their mental unpreparedness to give up from possessing nuclear arms. But at the same time omnipresent belief in impossibility for the world to survive in nuclear war remains a credible ground for keeping efforts to make this Damoclean sword over the humankind to disappear once and for all.

8) What is importance of CPEC for Central Asia in particular and Kazakhstan in general?

- Kazakhstan chiefly views CPEC as one of



the most important directions of China-initiated 'One Belt, One Road' strategy, which was originally articulated by the Chinese Chairman Xi Jinping in Astana during his first official visit to Kazakhstan in 2013. Kazakhstan unequivocally supported that grandiose idea of our Chinese partners and revealed its intention to be a part of it. Therefore, CPEC is likely to be an economic project to provide badly needed linkage between entire Central Asia and Kazakhstan in particular with Pakistan via China. At the

bilateral meeting, held in 2017 on the sidelines of the Shanghai Organization Cooperation Summit in Astana between the President of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev and the then Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif the leader of my country lauded CPEC.

The development of the 'Gwadar' seaport and the reconstruction of the Karakorum highway, which will connect China's Xinxiang province with Pakistan with a new high-speed and high-altitude road are of particular interest for Kazakhstan in this regard. This interest is based upon a growing opportunity for Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries to get access to the Indian Ocean and sea trade communications.

A promising area of cooperation is the linking of the "Nurly Zhol" Program in Kazakhstan with the CPEC project.

At present, there is already work being done with aim of adopting the Kazakh-Pak "Road map" to enhance bilateral trade and economic relations as a whole through identifying points of overlapping interests of both Kazakhstan and Pakistan within 'One Belt, One Road' strategy.

9) Your impressions about Pakistan?

- I am personally really stunned with ancient culture and history of Pakistan, which are closely inter-related with the ones of Central Asia. Another great asset of Pakistan is its hospitable people, who are to lead the country towards fully deserved brighter future. As the Ambassador the more I get to know about Pakistan, the more I get aware of its importance for global politics. So, I am certain that staying and working in Pakistan is a great chance for any diplomat to grow both professionally and intellectually.

Special Report on UZBEKISTAN

CENTRELINE will publish a special report on Uzbekistan based on the experiences of the Chief Editor Ansar Mahmood Bhatti who attended First International Ziyarah

Tourism Forum, held in Bukhara from February 21-23. The report will include important information about Ziyarah tourism potential of Uzbekistan. It will also include

impressions of visitors from various countries about the Forum. The Report will provide sufficient information to those intending to visit Uzbekistan to see holy places.





MBS's visit lays foundation for new era in Pak-Saudi ties

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan reiterated their commitment to continue combating extremism and terrorism and expressed their deep appreciation for the achievements and sacrifices made by the two sides in the war against terrorism.

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) - Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman and his high powered delegation left Islamabad on Monday after a two-day official visit to Pakistan.

According to a joint communique released, the Saudi Crown Prince's visit has laid foundation for a new era in Pakistan-Saudi Arabia ties and investment and trade relations have been given high priority during the visit as Saudi Crown Prince announced 20 billion dollars investment and signed agreements and MoUs in various sectors in Pakistan.

The statement said that the establishment of Supreme Coordination Council, its subsidiary mechanism are one of the key steps in shaping the new trajectory in the bilateral relations.

Crown Prince praised Prime Minister Imran Khan's agenda of transforming Pakistan into a welfare state, based on Islamic socio-economic principles and assured him of the Kingdom's continued support.

Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed gratitude to the Crown Prince for his immediate consent to release 2107 prisoners from Saudi jails.

He briefed the Crown Prince on the grave human rights violations in Indian Occupied Kashmir and the need for resolution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN Security Council

resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people. The Saudi side praised PM Imran Khan's dialogue offer to India including the initiative on opening of Kartarpur corridor.

They also lauded Pakistan's important positions in the Islamic world and its efforts for regional peace and security. Both sides noted with satisfaction their strong defence and security ties, and agreed to further enhance cooperation in this field to advance shared objectives.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan reiterated their commitment to continue combating extremism and terrorism and expressed their deep appreciation for the achievements and sacrifices made by the two sides in the war against terrorism. They also applauded the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in order to confront this serious scourge and called on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities to join all international efforts to combat global terrorism. They also underlined the need for avoiding politicization of UN listing regime.

"The two sides expressed their hope for achieving a fair, comprehensive and long-lasting peace in the Middle East in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative and the resolutions of international legitimacy guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the establishment of an independent and viable Palestinian state based

on internationally agreed standards 1967 with Jerusalem as its capital" the statement said.

High powered supreme coordination council

Prime Minister Imran Khan and Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salma also attended the inaugural



place a high level institutional mechanism to fast track decisions in key areas of bilateral



session of the Supreme Coordination Council. The high-powered Supreme Coordination Council was proposed by Prince Mohammad Bin Salman during the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Saudi Arabia in October 2018. The objective to put in



cooperation, and for close monitoring of their implementation. The Coordination Council includes respective Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defense, Defense Production, Finance, Energy, Petroleum, Water Resources, Information, Culture, Interior, Commerce, Trade and Investment and Human Resources of both countries. The Council will cover areas under three pillars: political and security, economic, social and culture.

Under the Supreme Coordination Council, a Steering Committee and Joint Working Groups have been set up at Ministerial and Senior Officials levels, to develop frameworks of cooperation in specific projects and submit recommendations to the respective Ministers. The functioning of the Supreme Council will be coordinated by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two countries. The Supreme Council will meet annually, in Riyadh and Islamabad alternately.=DNA





ISLAMA
BAD,
(DNA)-
Kuninori
Matsuda,
Ambassador
Designate of

Japan to Pakistan, has said that Pakistan and Japan have enjoyed friendly relations and his job is to further strengthen the strong bilateral as well as people-to-people relations.

He expressed these views in his message on Tuesday. Kuninori MATSUDA is a career diplomat. He was born in April 1959 Born in Fukui, Japan.

His CV is as under: = Education: 1982 March: Graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Tokyo, 1984 June: Graduated from Defense Language Institute, USA.

New Japanese ambassador-designate pledges to cement bilateral ties

Mr. Kuninori joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1982. His other diplomatic assignments include 1996 July: First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in USA, 1998 July: Counsellor, Embassy of Japan in Russia. Similarly in 2001 August he served as Director, Overseas Public Relations Division, 2003 April: Senior Fellow/Director of Research Coordination The Japan Institute of International Affairs, 2004 February, Director, Russian Division 2007 March, Minister, Embassy of Japan in Israel, 2010 July: Consul General, Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit, 2013 July: Deputy Director General, National Institute of Public Administration, National Personnel Authority of Japan 2015 September: Consul General (Ambassador), Consulate-General of Japan in Hong-Kong 2018 December and Ambassador-Designate Embassy of Japan in Pakistan. =DNA

African markets untapped destination for Pakistan's exports: RCCI

RAWALPINDI, (DNA)- A five member delegation led by Malik Shahid Saleem, President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) called on ambassador of Libya, Nizar.A.Nabiyah in Islamabad here on Tuesday.

While talking to the delegation, Ambassador Niza Nabiyah said that both countries enjoyed friendly relations and there is need to explore new avenues of trade between the both countries.

He said Africa is a big market and urged Pakistan Business Community to avail Libyan special incentives. Construction, leader, textile and Pharmaceutical are emerging sectors where traders should explore new opportunities, he added. He also lauded RCCI's efforts in promoting regional trade through exhibitions.

He assured his full cooperation and assistance for "Business Africa Trade Forum" being organized by RCCI later this month.

Earlier, RCCI President gave a brief summary of Africa Trade Forum and



said that major aim of this Forum was to involve business community to explore new markets for exports and added that the Forum will help us to identify the gray areas, bottle necks in promoting trade ties with African Countries.

There are Fifty-four African countries comprising over 1 billion population with huge potential for Pakistan to promote trade and exports, said RCCI President

The government of Pakistan should provide incentives to the private sector for organising exhibitions, trade fairs and road shows in African countries to introduce Pakistani products in the region, he said.

Malik Shahid Saleem said that Africa, South and Latin America and Central

Asian countries are the non-traditional markets for Pakistan's exports and have huge potentials for enhancing of exports.

Africa is the second largest continent of the world with 54 sovereign states and population 1.2 billion with collective GDP US\$ 3.3 trillion and imports market of around US\$ 500 billion. Many of the African countries like Nigeria, Egypt, South Africa, Angola, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Mauritius, Namibia and Botswana are the countries whose nominal per capita income is more than US\$ 3000 and twice of Pakistan, he informed.

Pakistan's trade with African Countries stood around \$3 billion whereas the total trade volume of Africa was around \$1 trillion, he added. =DNA



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PAF Patronizing Winter Sports in the Country

By Ahmed Vasim Khan

Skiing in Pakistan has been in vogue for a very long time. Earlier it was not considered to be a sport; instead, local residents of snowy mountainous terrain of northern areas used improvised wooden skies to commute in

winters. Pakistan Air Force formally pioneered skiing in the country, by introducing this sport as part of the snow survival training for its aircrew. Slowly and gradually, the sport gained popularity and PAF finally decided to patronise it in the country. Consequently, in December 1990 the formation of Ski Federation of Pakistan

(now renamed as Winter Sports Federation of Pakistan) was the first modest step by PAF, towards promotion of skiing in the country. PAF also offered this facility to Government Departments, Sister Services, civilians and students at its Ski Schools at Naltar and Kalabagh (Nathia Gali). The Federation is affiliated with the Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) and is a member of its executive council. It is also a recognized body with the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB). Internationally, it is affiliated with the International Ski Federation (FIS) and the Asian Ski Federation (ASF). The goal of WSFP is to promote winter sports in the country, making it accessible to all enthusiastic young boys and girls by offering sports gears and training to all. WSFP also sends talented skiers to famous skiing countries for their professional training and improvement in their technical skills. National and International Championships are held every year, while Pakistani skiers have also been sponsored to represent the country in international competitions. Pakistan achieved a landmark in sporting history of the country, when Mr Muhammad Abbass, an employee of PAF, qualified for the Winter Olympics 2010 at Vancouver, Canada. It was the opening of a new chapter as Mohammad Karim, a local lad from the area, carried the national flag in the Sochi Winter Olympics in 2014.

was the introduction of Figure Skating for the first time in history of Pakistan. Eleven Year old Girl, Mallak from Dubai showcased some extremely elegant and swift moves in the ring, startling the audience with her splendid performance. WSFP also plans to open a full scale indoor Simulator in Karachi to facilitate the Skiers and Enthusiasts from Southern chapter and develop ice skating rings over all the frozen lakes in Gilgit, Skardu and KPK region.

To give it an international outlook, 38 international skiers from all over the world would be participating in different categories of international ski races at the picturesque ski resort. This is the second time that high ranking international skiers will be seen in action in slalom and giant slalom categories of CAS International Karakoram Alpine Ski Cup. Besides these international athletes, top national skiers from various regions and ski associations of the country would also take part in the races on the treacherous slopes of Ski resort. Competing in the FIS races against the highly ranked skiers of the world would provide an excellent opportunity to Pakistani athletes to showcase their talent at international level and learn from their competitors' experience. Winter Sports Federation of Pakistan, in collaboration with Pakistan Air Force is



This year, Winter Sports Federation of Pakistan has chalked out an elaborate calendar of events for the season. Some exhilarating winter sports have already been conducted at the picturesque resort including Saadia Khan & Children Ski Cup and Inter Varsity Ski Championships for men and women. Another important event



earnestly working for the promotion of winter sports in the country and holding such events would not only boost the tourism opportunities in the splendid mountains and valleys of Pakistan but also project a positive image of the country in the comity of nations.

Azerbaijan envoy, Sahibzada Mehboob Sultan discuss matters of agriculture cooperation

ISLAMABAD (DNA) - Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Ali Alizada called on Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Sahibzada Mehboob Sultan in Islamabad.

In the meeting matters relating to increase in agriculture cooperation were discussed. Moreover it was agreed that efforts would be made from both sides for the signing of MoU which will increase the volume of Pak export of potato, citrus and mango to Azerbaijan.

The relations between the two nations were established with the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the areas of cooperation are expansive including economic, cultural and military.

Both the countries have established Joint Working Group on agriculture cooperation; first meeting in this regard was held in December 2017, the second meeting of JWG is likely to be held this year around.



Federal Minister Sahibzada Mehboob Sultan said that we are putting all our efforts for the manifold progress in agriculture sector and looking forward for an increased cooperation with Azerbaijan.

Alizada told the federal Minister that Azerbaijan is exporting finest quality vegetable & fruit seeds to different countries and hoped that Pakistan may like to see the potential in this regard, to which Mehboob Sultan told the honorable guest that he will do what is to be done and apprise the concerned quarters.

The Minister said in the end that he hoped both the countries would keep the current track of cooperation and with sincere efforts promote the friendly relations in all spheres including agriculture. Azeri ambassador welcomed the proposal and pledged to work in the direction and bring concerned on the table.

Alizada added that we support Pakistan stance on Kashmir issue on OIC forum and we commend the immense support from Pakistan to strengthen Azerbaijan army and with the support from a friendly country like Pakistan Azeri military/army force is now a power to reckon with and ranks among world's top fifty forces.

Academic relations with Morocco to be strengthened: Chairman HEC



ISLAMABAD (DNA)- : The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan will take measures to develop academic relations with Morocco in order to promote higher education and collaborative research between higher education institutions of both the countries.

This was stated by Dr. Tariq Banuri, Chairman HEC in a meeting with Mohamed Karmoune, Ambassador of Morocco to Pakistan during his visit to the Commission Secretariat.

He said HEC will build linkages with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Morocco through the Embassy of Morocco in Islamabad. He stressed the need for initiating faculty and student exchange programmes between the Pakistani and Moroccan universities.

The Ambassador underlined that Pakistan and Morocco enjoy friendly relations and there are a number of areas,

including education, which can help further strengthen the bilateral relations. He observed that distance between the two countries is no longer a problem amidst the presence of technology. Dr. Banuri, who also has additional charge of Coordinator General COMSTECH, emphasised on endeavours to embark upon programmes for promotion of science and technology among OIC member countries.

He said HEC has active interaction with ISESCO, Rabat which need to be further mobilised to boost bilateral academic relations. He said Pakistani and Moroccan universities need to be encouraged to collaborate in particular themes like water, food security, and energy.

"We look forward to having deepening bilateral relations for promotion of higher education and collaborative research," the Chairman concluded. =DNA

Indonesian puppeteers present mesmerizing show at Rafi Peer theatre

LAHORE, (DNA) – Indonesian embassy took an active part in the Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop being held in Lahore and puppeteers from Indonesia presented a mesmerizing show. The festival will continue till 17th.

The Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop is a unique cultural organization with a history spanning more than four decades.

Ambassador of Indonesia Iwan S. Amri along with his team participated and inaugurated the event together officials of Rafi Peer Theater including well-known actor and playwright Usman Pirzada, Faizan Pirzada and others.

Rafi Peer Theatre expertise comprises production of cultural festivals, live events in the fields of music, puppetry, theatre and cultural collaborations on an international scale.

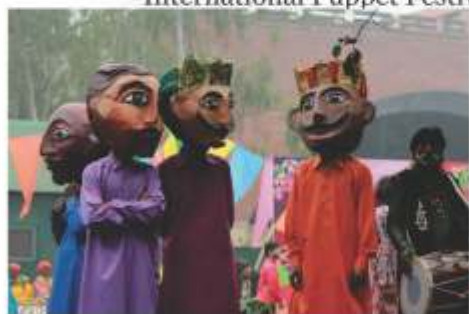
Rafi Peer has been actively involved with puppetry since 1978 and over the years hosted Pakistan's largest internationally renowned Puppet Festivals along with puppet workshops for children and young adults across Pakistan in schools and in festivals.

It has been promoting joyful learning by using puppetry as a tool for education and social awareness. It specializes in creating dynamic and visually vibrant Festivals, with a commitment to promoting joy and learning through the arts, tempers everything that we do.

International Puppet Festival being held at

2019.

The Rafi Peer International Puppet Festival focuses on international and local puppet productions and activities for children designed around having fun with other children and families in a community outside of schools that can be a special experience for them at the Rafi Peer Cultural Center and the museum of puppetry.



the Rafi Peer Cultural Center Lahore also hosts the Museum of Puppetry. The festival is scheduled from 15th to 17th of February

The Puppet Performances would include artists from Pakistan, Indonesia, Germany, & Turkey. =DNA

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- Improves mood, relieves depression and anxiety, and improves stress response
- Enhances focus and memory in kids (even with ADHD) and improves learning and academic performance

Yoga Improves Flexibility and Core Strength

- Yoga is beneficial for various reasons. It helps improve flexibility, works your core muscles, and it allows you to perform cardio-centric exercises in a way which is not as obviously taxing as other forms of cardio training.
- In addition, you can target the abdominal muscles to give you a more toned and trim tummy by engaging the core in standing balance poses.

Yoga for Weight Loss

- What about yoga and weight loss? Most types of yoga are not as effective as traditional forms of cardio (i.e. running, cycling etc) in terms of calorie-burning. But yoga can increase mindfulness as you become more acutely aware of your own body: people can become more aware of how much they are eating and make better food choices.

Yoga Reduces the Risk of Injury

Yoga can be an ideal method of warming up/down when taking part in other sports and, more importantly, a great tool for recovery post-injury. If you decide to take up yoga as a tool for injury rehabilitation, then you should seek a Yoga Therapist and consult your doctor beforehand.

Stress-relief:

Stress is one of the biggest killers of our times and leads to a range of lifestyle and metabolic diseases. Yoga helps you manage stress and anxiety and thereby reduces their harmful effects on your body. The relaxation induced by yoga lowers the levels of the stress hormone cortisol, your blood pressure and heart rate. It also improves digestion and the immune system.

Better sleep:

Yoga will make you less stressed and thereby help you sleep better. Research too has shown that yoga is a boon for people struggling with insomnia.

Relieves chronic pain:

Studies have shown that doing yoga on a regular basis helps manage chronic pain in people suffering from cancer, multiple sclerosis, autoimmune diseases and arthritis.

More strength:

Yoga gives a full workout to all the muscles of your body so, over time, you gain a lot of all-over strength.

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NUST, Azerbaijan embassy organized seminar on Khojaly Genocide

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) - The Embassy of Azerbaijan in collaboration with the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) organized a Seminar on "Conflicts, Genocides, Wars Never again.

Peace and Stability through Credibility" at NUST H-12 Campus, Islamabad. Dr Tughral Yamin Associate Dean at NUST-Centre for International peace & stability in his opening address welcomed all the guest & participants.

Dr Tughral said Khojaly genocide, which was committed by the Armenians in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly on the night of 25-26 February 1992, is considered one of the gravest crimes against humanity in the late 20th century.

Mustafa Yurdakul, Ambassador of Turkey were also present at the occasion, he said that "This merciless and cruel genocide was the most dreadful mass terror act in the history of humankind.

"Turkey didn't forget Khojaly genocide. As many as 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 old people were killed in the massacre. Eight families were totally exterminated, 130 children lost one parent and 25 children lost both.



Some 1,275 innocent residents were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 people still remains unknown. Ali Alizada Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan also expressed his views regarding the Russian-backed massacre of innocent Azeri.

He said: "This genocide is a source of constant pain in the hearts of Azerbaijanis and it is wound which will never heal.

"He appreciated Pakistan's support for Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue and for standing by the victims of Khojaly genocide. Pakistan has not extended recognition to the newly independent state of Armenia to express solidarity with the people of Azerbaijan, he added.

He also thanked the NUST administration for arranging the seminar for the students as it would help them know more about the issue.

The chief guest Dr Fehmida Mirza Federal minister for Inter provincial coordination, in her address highlight Armenian armed forces massacred

innocent people in Khojaly, in order to cover their tracks, they resorted to extreme brutality, destroying Khojaly monuments, which had been of unique importance to both the people of Azerbaijan and entire humanity.

Khojaly does not differ from horrific tragedies of Katyn, Lidice, Oradour-sur-Glane, Holocaust, Songmy, Rwanda, Srebrenica & ongoing genocide by India in Kashmir, which are etched on the minds of people forever.

These atrocities went down in the history of wars as genocides of civilians that shook the world. In his concluding address Lt Gen Naweed Zaman, HI (M), (Retd), Rector NUST also highlighted the 'Nagorno-Karabakh' conflict and its future prospective, recounted the historical background of the massacre terming it a tragedy of 20th century and explained its counter effects on the civilized world. At the end of seminar a short video was also featured on topic "call for peace" by Azerbaijani children.=DNA

Kyrgyz Republic ambassador Erik Beishembiev met with Pir Naqib

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) - On Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic in Pakistan, Erik Beishembiev met with Shaikh Hafiz Muhammad Naqib Ur Rehman, the present Custodian of famously known Sufi Shrine-Eidgah Sharif, Rawalpindi. The meeting was very fruitful.

During the meeting the sides exchanged views on topical religious issues, the Kyrgyz side provided detailed information on the tourism and economic potential of Kyrgyzstan, as well as the willingness to expand bilateral cooperation. The meetings was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere.



Korea provides equipment for conservation of movable heritage

ISLAMABAD (DNA)- Pakistan and South Korea have warm cultural relations which are deep rooted in the history. Especially, common heritage of Buddhism is of particular importance for further cementing cultural and religious ties between the two countries.

The Republic of Korea and its Embassy in Pakistan are committed to increase relations with Pakistan for preservation of cultural heritage and to promote tourism in Pakistan.

As part of cooperative efforts, the Korean government has provided the conservation equipment for treating and preserving the Pakistan's movable heritage, especially specimens of the Buddhist art uncovered from the archaeological remains of Buddhist sanctuaries in the ancient Gandhara region to DOAM.

The equipment included environmental control system for museum, devices for cleaning and conservation of antiquities including conservation consumables,



stereo-microscope, ultrasonic cleaner etc. at the amount of US\$ 50,000.

The equipment will surely be instrumental in promoting the country's capacity to conserve its cultural heritage to the international level.

The project has been administrated jointly by the Cultural Heritage Administration (CHA) of the Republic of Korea, Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation (KCHF) and the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Pakistan with the common aim.

Kwak Sung-kyu, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Engr. Mr. Aamir Hasan, Secretary of the National History & Literacy Division, Syed Junaid Akhlaq, Director General, Department of Archaeology and Museums, Islamabad and other officials from both sides participated in the handing-over ceremony that took place at the Islamabad

Museum on Thursday.

On this occasion, Ambassador Kwak Sung-kyu re-emphasized the importance of promoting cultural ties between the two friendly countries and reviewed the co-projects that were completed in the last two years such as;

He also announced new initiatives to this end in this year. Among them, he is emphatically working to arrange a pilot Korean Buddhists pilgrim tour to the Buddhist sacred places in Gandhara, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan by March or April this year. This will be followed by a couple of projects such as;

- one more project for capacity-building of treating historical artifacts, and
- program of inviting the historical and archaeological officials and academia, preferably from the museums having collection of the Buddhists Art of Gandhara, to Korea soon. =DNA

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Uzbek govt to join hands with Pakistan in building cultural links: Ambassador Furqat



ISLAMABAD, (DNA) – Uzbekistan in collaboration with the Punjab government has planned to upgrade and further beautify the Shalimar Garden in Lahore. The Uzbek government will bear expenses incurred on this project.

Ambassador of Uzbekistan Furqat Sidikov disclosed this while talking to DNA.

He further said Uzbekistan attached great importance to preservation of heritage adding his country ranked top among those countries having a rich cultural and historical heritage. The ambassador said, Pakistan happened to be a close friend of Uzbekistan and in order to further strengthen these friendly bonds the Uzbek govt has planned to expand its cultural cooperation with Pakistan.

The ambassador said Uzbekistan was developing at a fast speed adding his country was one of the main political and trade partners of Pakistan in Central Asia. The year 2018, he said, was very significant in bilateral relations especially in the field of trade and economy.

He added, in 2018 475 bilateral meetings were held with representatives of leading Pakistani companies besides organising 30 visits of Pakistani companies to Uzbekistan for trade and investment matters.

Additionally, 17 bilateral visits were made between Uzbekistan and Pakistan including at the level of foreign ministers, military establishment, secretary of Security Council, ministries of trade, investment and others. He added, trade and economic cooperation between the two countries has also increased manifold.

In January-December 2018 trade turnover between both countries grew for 170 per cent

and amounted to 98.4 million US dollars. Last year this indicator was only 36 million US dollars.

Last year Pakistan's exports to Uzbekistan amounted to 63 million US dollars and continue to grow steadily, he added.

In 2018 the embassy worked on 7 investment projects totalling more than USD 40 million. Of these, 3 investments agreements were concluded during the visit of the Minister of Foreign Trade Khojaev to Pakistan in April 2018.

The ambassador further said, according to the ministry of foreign affairs of Uzbekistan in 2018 with the assistance of the Embassy, 30 joint ventures with participation of Pakistani capital were established in Uzbekistan.

He said the Uzbek president Shavkat Mirziyoyev has declared 2019 as the year of active investment and social development. "Investment is the driver of economy. New technologies, advanced experience and highly qualified specialists come with investments into all sectors of Uzbekistan, business is rapidly developing", he added.

Ambassador Furqat further said according to the Uzbek president the main goal of this new year is that every person in Uzbekistan, regardless of the nationality, language and religion will get much more prosperity and happiness.

He said the govt had planned concrete measures to create an open economy, radically improving the business environment and investment climate, reducing the state presence in economy. Apart from this, efforts on improving the health of the population will continue at a new level.=DNA

ARMED FORCES DAY OF UZBEKISTAN CELEBRATED





Kyrgyz ambassador meets Chairman Senate

ISLAMABAD (DNA) - Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Eric Beishembiev met with the Chairman of the Pakistan Senate Mr.Sadiq Sanjrani.

During conversation, the parties discussed issues of inter-parliamentary cooperation, exchanges of visits and the revitalization of the Pakistan-Kyrgyzstan parliamentary friendship groups, the development of trade and economic, cultural and humanitarian ties between the two countries. The Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic E. Beishembiev emphasized the deep historical roots of the Kyrgyz-Pakistani relations, informed about the trade and economic and investment opportunities of Kyrgyzstan in the framework of the EAEU and the EU GSP + program, as well as the transit potential of the country as a short road from Pakistan to Central Asia.



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International Alpine Ski Cup, 3rd Malam International Ski Championship at Serena Hotel Islamabad





Japan announces USD 10.6 million for vulnerable families

ISLAMABAD (DNA) ~Japan has announced its contribution of US\$10.6 million to fight malnutrition, improve livelihoods and increase resilience to natural disasters in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan provinces of Pakistan.

This is part of a partnership that the Government of Japan signed with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Food Programme (WFP) in Islamabad today.

Out of the total US\$10.6 million, US\$3.5 million will be used towards the early identification and treatment of 155,000 acutely malnourished mothers and children in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including families who have been displaced from Afghanistan and vulnerable host populations.

"WFP is extremely grateful for the continued partnership and generosity of the Japanese Government in providing emergency life-saving nutritional support for malnourished mothers and children. We are proud to be working together to support some of Pakistan's most vulnerable families," said WFP Representative Finbarr Curran.

The Japanese contribution also includes US\$3.55 million towards UNDP's Stabilization through Inclusive Livelihoods initiative in the Tribal Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which is being implemented in close collaboration with the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the erstwhile FATA Secretariat.

It will support 20,700 people by improving their access to basic services, enhancing their economic opportunities and improving social cohesion in Kurram and Orakzai tribal districts.

The project is being implemented by UNDP in partnership with the National Disaster Management Authority, Provincial DMAs

of Sindh and Balochistan, Pakistan Meteorological Department, district administrations of Karachi (Malir and West Karachi) and Gwadar, and other technical and community-based organizations working in the coastal areas. The generous support provided by the Government of Japan will be an important step towards helping improve livelihoods of the people returning to the Tribal Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and will complement efforts to support successful implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the coastal areas of Sindh and Balochistan," said Ignacio Artaza, Resident Representative a.i., UNDP Pakistan.

"Through these fundings for Afghan Refugees and their hosting communities, and the people in the newly merged districts of KP, we would like to show our message to the people that Japan continues its support for the stabilization of their life. By sharing experiences of natural disasters in Japan, we secure our cooperation to share efficient monitoring and warning systems for earthquake and tsunami through UNDP's policy and instructive support," said the Japanese Ambassador Designate Kuninori Matsuda.

"These projects reflect the continued efforts of the United Nations system in Pakistan to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. We appreciate the support of the Government of Japan and the cooperation of UNDP and WFP for these interventions that will help support development for the people of Pakistan" said Zulfiqar Haider, Additional Secretary Economic Affairs Division.

WFP and UNDP thank the Government of Japan for its generous contribution to support the vulnerable people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan provinces of Pakistan. =DNA



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New Ambassador of Jordan vows to further cement ties with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, (DNA)- Newly-appointed Ambassador of Jordan Major General @ Ibrahim Yala Al Madani has vowed to further strengthen relations with brotherly country Pakistan. He expressed these views in a meeting with Chief Editor of Centreline and Diplomatic News Agency (DNA) Ansar Mahmood Bhatti.

Here is a brief introduction of the ambassador. Mr. Ibrahim Madani retired from the Royal Jordanian Air force on 5th July 2016 with the last position as Director of intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance.

Born in Al-tafeelah on 15 Jan, 1962 he entered service as pilot cadet on 2nd December 1980 and graduated as a helicopter pilot on 5th July 1983 and as second lieutenant.

He held various command and leadership positions throughout his career in the RJAF from helicopter pilot and most importantly serving at the Royal squadron flying VVIP UH 60 Black Hawk for sixteen years.

Also commanding two helicopter operational squadrons at the air lift wing and later becoming the wing commander, with the primary operational responsibility of providing the air lift capability to the RJAF a unit consisting of four operational squadrons operating six type of aircraft/helicopter with a multitude of operational tasks varying from air lift to search and rescue to regional in country transport missions.

After retirement he joined The Royal Jordanian National Defense College on 11th April 2018 as a directing staff.=DNA



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Malaysia eyeing greater trade prospects with Pakistan: High Commissioner

ISLAMABAD (DNA) – Ikram Bin Muhammad Ibrahim, Malaysian High Commissioner has said Malaysia is keen to have greater bilateral trade with Pakistan as both countries have good potential to trade of many items.

He said that Malaysia and Pakistan have been doing business for over half a century, but lack of exchange of private sectors has held them back from realizing actual trade potential. He was addressing business community at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Malaysian High Commissioner said that instead of exporting finished goods, Pakistan should focus on producing high quality components for global brands.

He said it was important for Pakistan to focus on those products that have greater demand in global market to improve its exports.

Pakistan's services sector including telecommunication, insurance and tourism. He said agriculture, education and other sectors were other potential areas of mutual cooperation between two countries.

He said for attracting more FDI, Pakistan should focus on bringing its informal economy into formal sector that would give more confidence to foreign investors.

He said food processing products of Pakistan have good potential in Malaysia. He assured that Malaysian investors would be encouraged to explore Pakistan for JV and investment.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahmed Hassan Moughal, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Pak-Malaysia bilateral trade was not encouraging and stressed that both countries should facilitate private



For This purpose, Pakistani companies should improve branding of their products. He said visit of Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman and announcement of over \$20 billion investment in Pakistan was highly positive development for Pakistan's economy.

He said interest of UAE, Qatar and other countries in Pakistan was also good sign for foreign investors. He said that forthcoming visit of Dr. Mahatir Mohammad, Prime Minister of Malaysia to Pakistan on its national day carried good prospects for Pakistan, especially in automobile sector.

He said that private sectors of both countries should accelerate efforts to take full advantage of Pak-Malaysia FTA signed in 2008.

He said Malaysia was one of the larger investors in Pakistan and was more interested in

sectors in promoting two-way trade.

He said that many Pakistani products including rice, wheat, mangoes, halal food, seafood, meat products, cutlery and sports goods, spices, handicrafts, light engineering goods, hospital and surgical equipment, pharmaceuticals and gems and jewelry could find good market in Malaysia and it should import these products from Pakistan that would also improve Pakistan's trade balance with it.

He said Malaysia has levied export duty on Crude Palm Oil (CPO) at certain level of prices (at above RM 2,250), which should be revised. He said Malaysia has also imposed 5 to 7% duties on import of mango and mandarin from Pakistan, which needed to be reviewed to benefit Pakistani exporters.



Serena hosts Sarangi Musical evening in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) -: Serena Hotels hosted a wonderful evening of musical melodies at the Nazara Hall as part of the Serena Sarangi Music Initiative.

Sarangi is part of the Serena Hotels Cultural Diplomacy Initiative which aims to preserve and promote the musical heritage of Pakistan.

An annual online competition over the past two years has given young performers and amateur bands from across the country a platform to share their talent.

IFRA The Band from Faisalabad and AnsRehmani from Rahim Yar Khan were the winners of Serena Sarangi Star Season 01 and 02 respectively. Both returned to Islamabad for a special performance to enthrall the local audience.

Aziz Boolani, CEO of Serena Hotels, said, "Serena continues to actively work on community support programmes, such as Sarangi that provides a platform to young and talented musicians to engage with wider audiences".

The evening was well attended by the music lovers, corporate and diplomatic community and other prominent personalities. =DNA



Best places to visit in summer

As the summer sun continues to beat down, we keep spending our days dreaming about idyllic getaways. And hey, Eid is just round the corner – the ideal opportunity for us to make our dreams come true!

Shangrilla Resort, Baltistan

Shangrilla is the first resort hotel in Baltistan, located at an elevation of 2500 meters. The environment is bursting with luscious greenery accompanied by the glistening water of the Kachura Lake. What makes Shangrilla unique is that its restaurant is built on the fuselage of a crashed aircraft!

Shigar Fort Residence, Baltistan

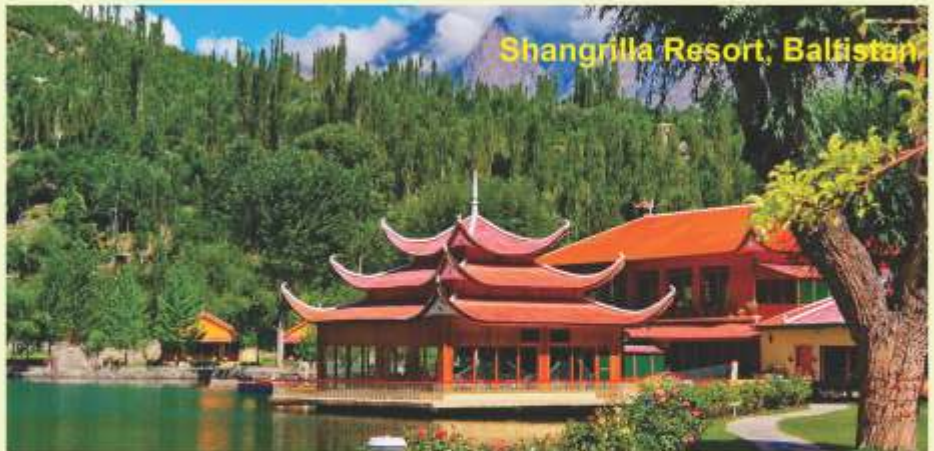
Shigar Fort is a marvelous cultural guesthouse, frequently called the "Palace on the Rock". Not only will you experience the notable 17th century architecture, but you will also get a glimpse of the world's second highest mountain, K-2! A stay at Shigar Fort will be worth everything.

Nathia Gali Pines

Surrounded by thick pine and maple trees, the scenic beauty of this area is unmatched. It is one of the oldest resorts in Nathia Gali built during the British Rule. While it is the most idyllic getaway in summer, it becomes a frozen paradise in winter.

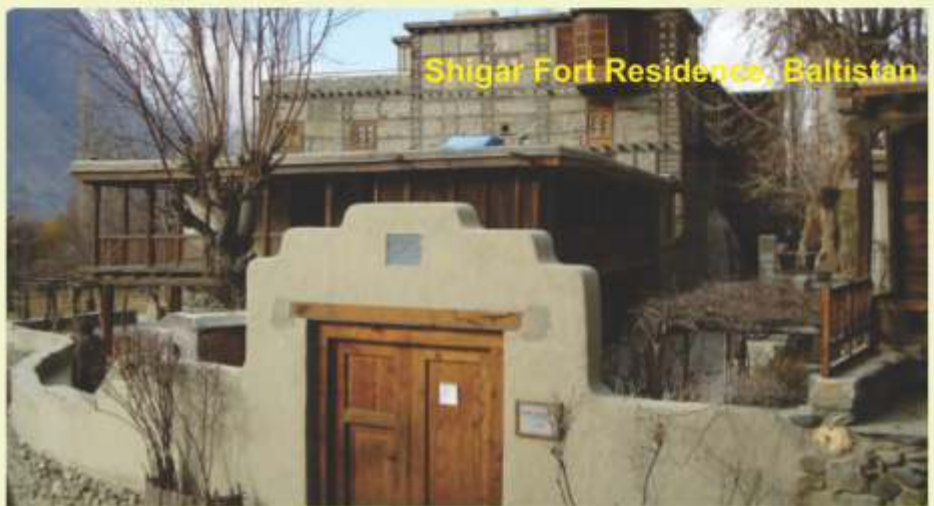
Swat Serena Hotel

The Swat Serena Hotel is located at the base of the Hindukush Mountains. With a traditional colonial look and beautiful landscape. With modern facilities to accommodate travelers in the summer



Shangrilla Resort, Baltistan

as well as winter, all your trips to Swat table tennis. Enjoy traditional Sajji in the regardless of the season will be winter and superb barbecue in the



Shigar Fort Residence, Baltistan

sensational. It offers numerous leisure facilities such as badminton, golf and summer. It is the ideal location to stay at while visiting.



Swat Serena Hotel



Nathia Gali Pines

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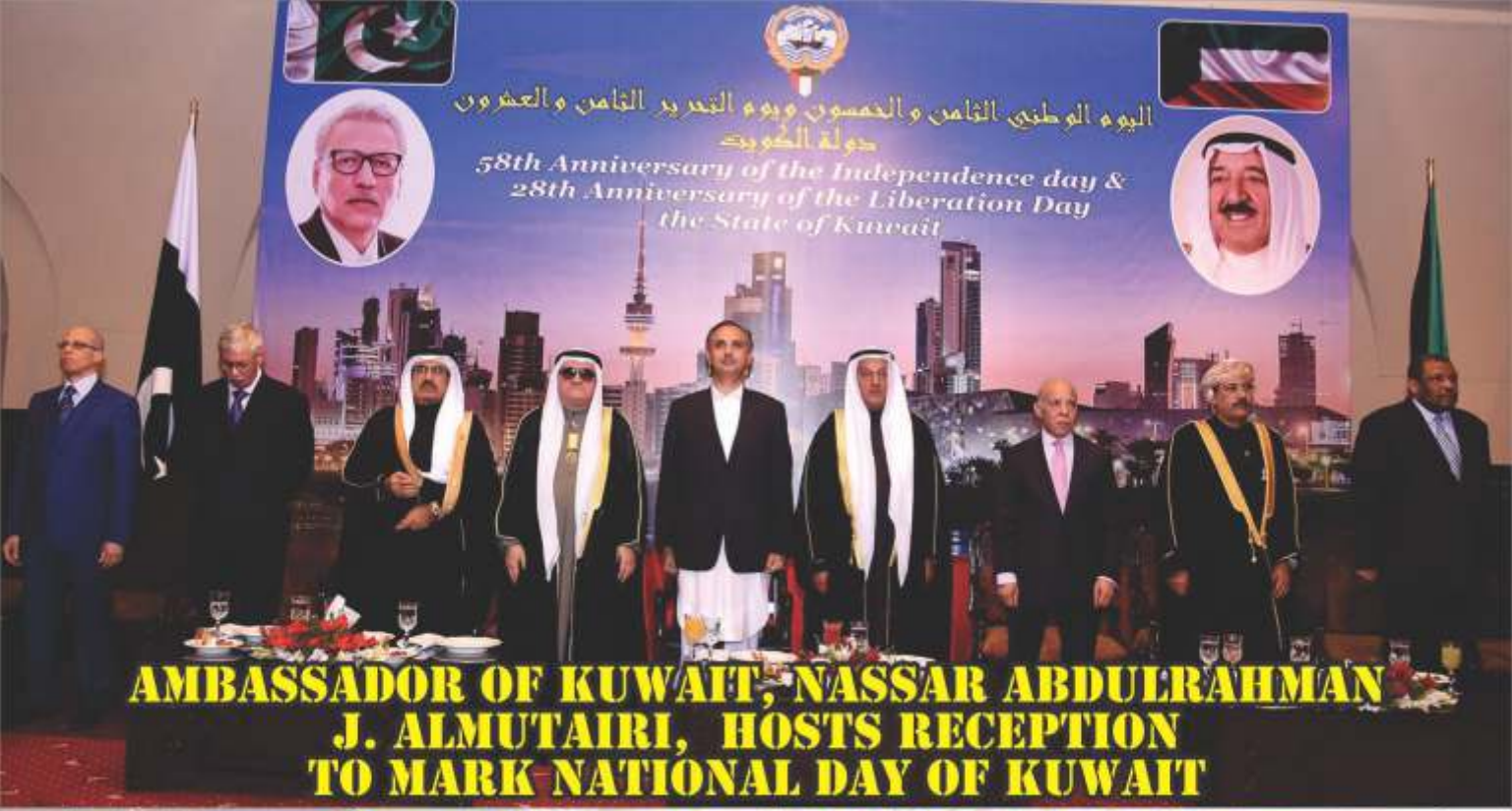
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AMBASSADOR OF KUWAIT, NASSAR ABDULRAHMAN J. ALMUTAIRI, HOSTS RECEPTION TO MARK NATIONAL DAY OF KUWAIT



Truck art, sufi music feature at Australia Day in Spring

ISLAMABAD (DNA) -Australian High Commissioner Margaret Adamson hosted a reception to mark Australia Day in spring. The reception in Islamabad featured truck art and Sufi music.

"Music and art are a perfect way to celebrate the connections between Australia and Pakistan because they embody the vibrant creativity and cultural diversity of both countries," she said.

For the event, Karachi-based Phool Patti painted images of Australia in the booming colours, flowery patterns and

taglines of truck art. Islamabad-based Sufi rock musician Abdullah Qureshi entertained guests with a fusion of Pakistani and Australian music.

"We're delighted to showcase these colourful Pakistani traditions and infuse them with some Aussie songs, wildlife and landscapes," Ms Adamson said.

The High Commissioner highlighted the history both countries share, and the challenges they are working together to overcome.

"Australia and Pakistan share a Commonwealth heritage and federal

systems of government, and are both endowed with vibrant cultural diversity, fragile environments, rare biodiversity and ancient civilisations to protect," Ms Adamson said.

Australia has long supported Pakistan's inclusive social and economic development.

"Drawing on Australia's experience, we back Pakistan in agriculture where there is such potential for jobs and growth, and also in your sustainable management of water. As in Australia and globally, we back women and girls to reach their full potential as equal

members of society," the High Commissioner noted.

Formal bilateral relations date back to Pakistan's creation, but ties go back to the 1800s when cameleers from Balochistan helped open up Australia's Outback. Today over 60,000 people of Pakistani origin live in Australia and thousands of Pakistanis choose to study there.

"These all add up to a solid foundation for our friendly relations and cooperation," Ms Adamson said.

High profile guests from the Government of Pakistan, diplomatic corps, media, business and development sectors attended the reception. =DNA





Flag raising ceremony at Bosnian consulate in Lahore

LAHORE (DNA) -Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar, Governor of Punjab, was chief guest at the inauguration of the Honorary Consulate of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Lahore, The Flag raising ceremony was performed on February 20, 2019. Sakib Foric, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Danish Iqbal, Honorary Consul of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Lahore were also present on the occasion.



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Sunday Trekking



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ISH CSR ACTIVITY



General Manager of Islamabad Serena Hotel Michel Galopin handing over 5 wheel chairs for the patients of Saint Joseph's Hospice.as part of ISH CSR activity.



ARGENTINE-FRENCH DUO BRINGS SOUTH AMERICAN MUSIC TO PAKISTAN

The Argentine Embassy, in collaboration with the Islamabad Serena Hotel, brought together students from various social backgrounds, this time to take part in a musical workshop conducted by the French-Argentine musician and teacher, Magdalena Ivanissevich.

Students of the twin cities graced the event, including the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Children (SPARC), Master Ayub's Park School, Islamabad Model School for Girls G-6 and G-9, National College of Arts Rawalpindi and Rung School of Music and Arts.

The show aimed at bringing together youngsters and teachers to learn about South American and Argentine music, as well as basic musical practices. The idea was to open new musical horizons for students who would otherwise not have an opportunity to have access to them.

The event was part of the series of concerts and workshops organised by the Argentine Embassy in

Islamabad involving Argentine-French duo of Magdalena Ivanissevich and Carlos Molinaro, who travelled from France to perform and deliver workshops on music from many South American countries.

Both artists have an extensive teaching experience in Paris, and they have also performed in France and other European, Latin American and Asian countries in the past.

During the workshop at the Embassy, Magdalena taught and engaged in musical games that included percussion and singing.

She also sang South American songs and explained their roots in many different sources, including Native American peoples as well as European and African.

In his speech Ambassador Ivan Ivanissevich highlighted the importance of organizing such events in order to widen the scope of education beyond academics.

Music has a very important formative role to play since it helps in developing our imagination and

promotes more dynamic thought processes as well as team work. Finally, he expressed his hope that whatever was practiced and learned at the workshop may be reproduced by the respective schools attending the event. At the end of the show, the artist and the Ambassador mingled with the students and the teachers. Food boxes were distributed with the kind cooperation of the Serena Islamabad Hotel.

National Music School of the Aubervilliers region.
CARLOS MOLINARO
 Carlos Molinaro is a classical guitarist who also performs folk and popular music from many South American countries. Until 2018 he was a guitar professor at the Music School « Theatre de la Danse de la Ville de Nanterre » (Dance



MAGDALENA IVANISSEVICH
 Magdalena Ivanissevich has developed a long teaching career in Paris beside her performances in concerts and festivals. She directed children and adult choirs, and she also gave musical education and vocal improvisation workshops aimed at a wide range age group (children and teenagers). She was a student of the well-known Argentine guitarist Jorge Martínez Zárata, and in Paris she obtained the Superior Diploma on Baroque lute and Renaissance music at the "École Normale de la Musique de Paris" (Paris Music School). There followed choir direction studies at the

Theatre of the Town of Nanterre) in Paris, where he directed the Latin American musical Ensemble. He took lessons with the renowned guitar teacher Jorge Martínez Zárata of Argentina, the Uruguayan Abel Carlevaro and Javier Hinojosa of the Schola Cantorum of Paris. He also studied Argentine folk music with Hilda Herrera (Argentina) and analysis of contemporary music with Robert Piencykowsky at IRCAM, the famous Institute founded by the composer and orchestral director Pierre Boulez.



Azerbaijan ambassador identifies areas of mutual cooperation

RAWALPINDI, (DNA) – The ambassador of Azerbaijan Ali Alizada said has said Azerbaijan has a great attachment with Pakistan and both countries are enjoying cordial relationship. He said this during his visit to Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The envoy said that there are opportunities for bilateral cooperation in the field of tourism as Azerbaijan Government had eased the tourist visa process and also suggested to increase cooperation in citrus fruits, Kino, Mangoes food products, construction, tourism and defence production.

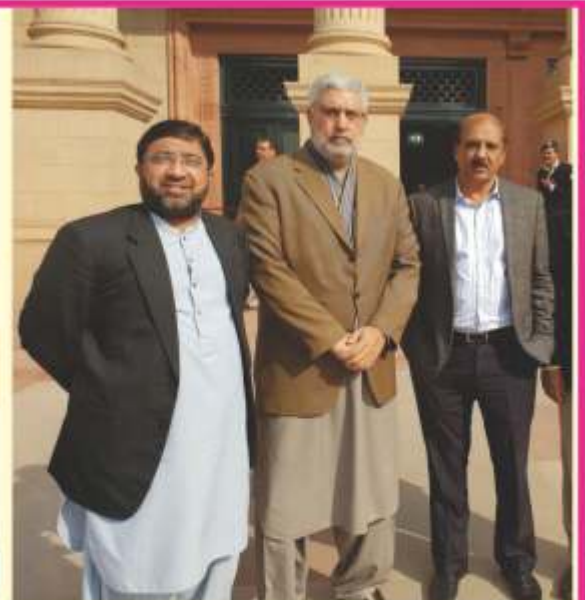


Pakistan is a big market and we want to tap the growing opportunities, he added. He stressed that Pakistani businessmen should explore investment opportunities in his country. Earlier, President RCCI Malik Shahid Saleem in his welcome address said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan are enjoying good political and trade

relations, however the bilateral trade volume is not convincing. A \$60 million bilateral trade volume is not enough keeping the size of the economy of both countries, he added. He informed that RCCI is planning to organize ECO trade forum for exploring new avenues, information and promotion of trade ties among the member countries.



Sohail Anjum Ansari presenting souvenir to Toufiq Butt



Ex Minister Punjab Malik Nadeem Kamran and newly elected president of Lahore Press Club Mian Arshad Ansari at Punjab Asmb

Pakistan, Japan sign MoU on TITP

ISLAMABAD (DNA) – Pakistan and Japan have inked a Memorandum of Cooperation on Technical Intern Training Programme in a bid to export manpower to Japan.

This is first institutional arrangement between the Government of Pakistan and the Government of Japan which will open up Japanese market for Pakistani workers.

The Memorandum will also play a vital role in contributing to the human resource development, development of the economy of Pakistan, as well as promote bilateral cooperation.

The cooperation under this Memorandum will continue for a period of five years from the date of the commencement of this Memorandum and will be extended automatically for additional five years. = DNA



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Public Auction Notice

General public is hereby informed through this notice that open public auction of the vehicles of Higher Education Commission (HEC) will be held on "As is where is basis" at HEC Secretariat, Sector H-9, Islamabad on **March 16, 2019 at 1100 hours**. The detail of vehicles is as under:-

Serial No.	Vehicle	Make & Type	Engine Capacity	Model
1.	IDE-3349	Toyota Land Cruiser	3200cc	1990
2.	GP-0954	Toyota Coaster	3660cc	1993
3.	A-8110	Mitsubishi Van	2477cc	2004
4.	GS-069	Toyota Corolla (Car)	1299cc	2008
5.	GH-082	Suzuki Cultus (Car)	993cc	2007
6.	IDN-1457	Suzuki Mehran (Car)	796cc	2003
7.	GT-243	Suzuki Bolan	796cc	2008
8.	IDN-1371	Suzuki Bolan	796cc	2003
9.	A-5178	Suzuki Bolan	796cc	2005
10.	GL-390	Honda Motorcycle	70cc	2005

- All interested parties are requested to participate in the public auction.
- The vehicles can be inspected on any working day during office hours.
- Open auction will be made for each vehicle separately.
- Interested bidder must submit a call deposit in shape of pay order/ bank draft of Rs.20,000/- (for vehicles at serial No.1-9) and Rs.5,000/- (for vehicle at serial No.10) in favour of Director General (Finance), HEC for each vehicle separately as earnest money (refundable) to participate in the bid.
- The bidder shall provide complete address/ telephone number along with an attested copy of computerised CNIC.
- The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the offered price/ bid in cash on the spot and the remaining amount of the bid shall be deposited within three days, otherwise earnest money and 25% cash advance (for each vehicle) will be forfeited.
- The vehicle will be handed over to the successful bidder after completion of the procedural requirements.
- HEC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.
- The successful bidder shall have to get the vehicle re-registered within 15 days of handing over of the vehicle.
- All applicable taxes, if any, will have to be deposited by the successful bidder over and above the bid price and shall not be deductible from the bid price/ value.
- Queries, if any, can be cleared on the spot. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained and decision of auction committee shall be final.

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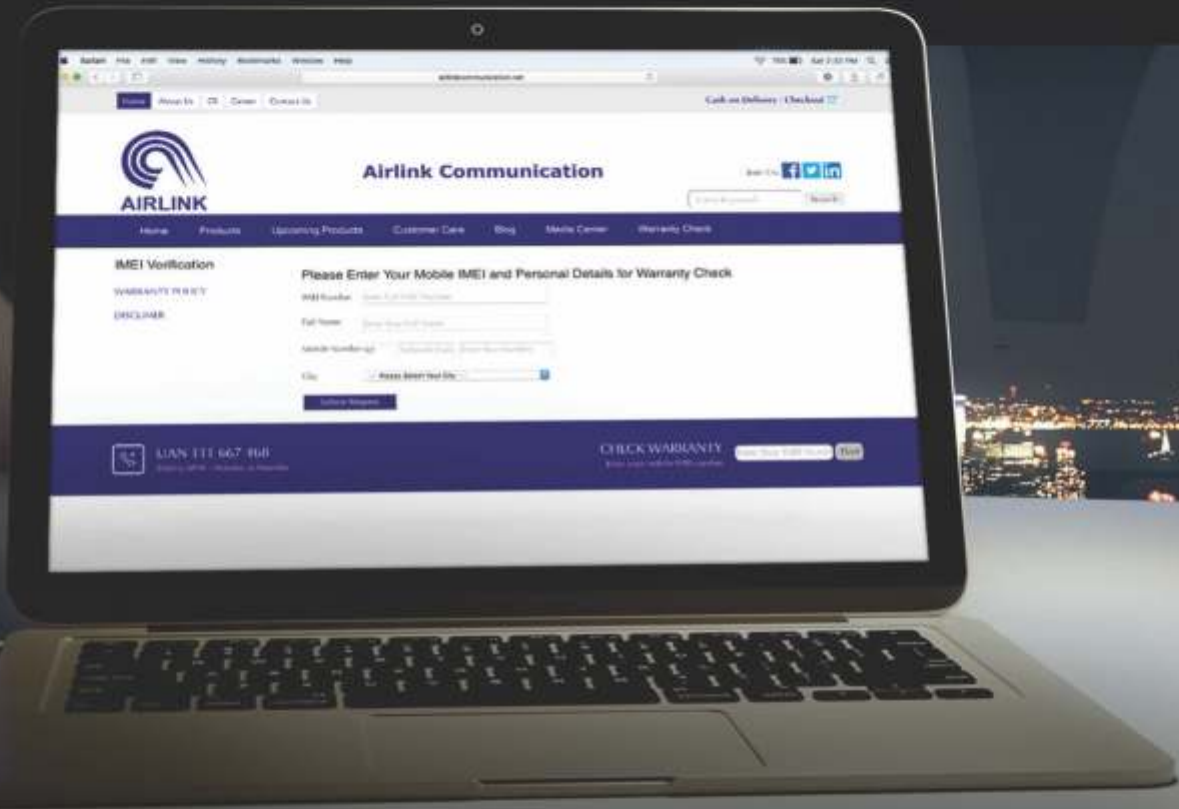


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