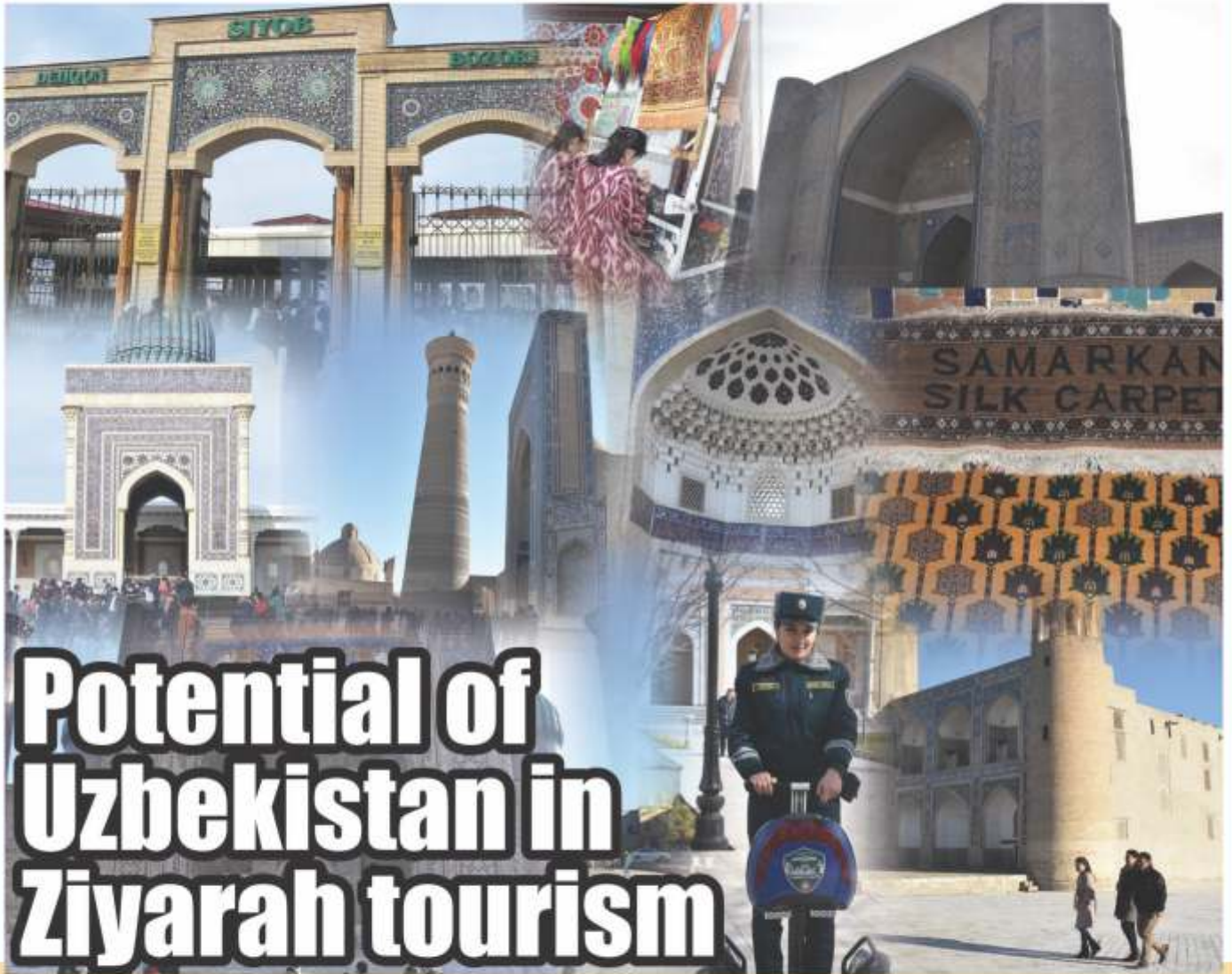


# CENTRELINE

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine



## Potential of Uzbekistan in Ziyarah tourism

APRIL 2019



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Serena Hotels  
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Luqman Ali Afzal gets  
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# Roots International Schools & Colleges

## Chinese New Year Celebrations

International schools celebrated Chinese New Year with full zest and zeal. Mr. Zhang Heqing Cultural Counselor and Mr. Pan Yuqi - First Secretary of Chinese Embassy to Pakistan graced the occasion. Roots International Schools and Colleges holds an important strategic association with China considering that the close connections the two countries have with each other. The Department of Foreign Languages of Roots

International Schools is offering Chinese Language to RIS students and working to incorporate more languages under the umbrella of RFLD to expand the cultural horizons.

With this vision the CEO RIS Walid Mushtaq has initiated Roots Chinese Language Department (RCLD). Roots International Schools has initiated Chinese language programme with a vision to enrich knowledge base, wisdom competences, innovative interdisciplinary learning opportunities and language and cultural diversities.

Roots Chinese Language Club is a versatile exclusive club whose membership comprises Chinese Language students. Number of activities are being performed and carried out in an aspiring way. The lively Chinese Language Club is one of the active clubs in Roots International Schools and plans a lot of events to involve everyone around. At Chinese Language Club we embrace diversity and commit ourselves to providing quality standard, language services and social programmes at convenient times in comfortable environments. Students get a chance to explore Chinese culture and to serve the purpose; they are engaged in number of activities to enhance their exposure and interaction. Students are engaged in performing arts, rhythmic expressions of China and various colorful activities so that they have a better knowledge of China Culture.

Students from RIS Rawal, Wellington and Richmond campuses showed their mesmerizing performances. High level of participation was exhibited by students of RIS who were ready to win hearts of their esteemed guests with their love for the language and culture. Audience could feel the rays of sparkling impulses creating an interface of two backgrounds. RIS students exhibited Chinese stalls depicting true Chinese culture, their special food, trades, dresses etc. Students sang Chinese songs, gave their perspective and proved that how school is contributing in their lives by giving them exposure and making them open minded and diversified individuals.

Mr. Walid Mushtaq said, 'we wanted to connect the world virtually, by introducing languages in Real Time to promote cultural harmony, trade and investments initiatives. The collaboration with Confucius Institute and has proved a great help in making the languages department of RIS a huge success reaching the enrollment of 4000 students by now.'





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**Publisher: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti**

**Printers: 051-544 1786.Com**

**Price Rs. 450/- \$ 4**

## LARGEST CIRCULATED DIPLOMATIC MAGAZINE

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## PM unfurls poverty alleviation plan; will it really work?



The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, on March 28, 2019 announced poverty alleviation plan through a power point presentation prepared by same old bureaucracy, which has been instrumental with same spirit during the past governments also. Ever since inception of Pakistan, respective democratically elected and dictatorial governments used to introduce such plans; created separate dedicated institutions and spent billions on media campaigns just to highlight the initiative but what did we actually achieve at the end of the day? Nothing. Poor continue to be the poor in Pakistan. Homeless continue to be the homeless in this land of the pure and corrupt people continue to be the corrupt. Nothing has changed in last 70 years and presumably nothing is likely to change, if remedial measures are not taken.

The first six months of PTI government have literally taken heavy toll on especially the downtrodden class. People find it difficult to make their both ends meet. But we are told that if winter comes, can spring be far behind. So, put up for a while and wait for good days. The only plus point is that PM Imran Khan himself has a genuine desire to streamline things. This good intention however needs to be followed by practical steps.

The reason, that why such plans always fail is quite obvious. Nations and societies are not built and poverty is not alleviated by metro buses or housing schemes. It is rule of law; social justice; principles of equality and following of teachings of religion, which transform a mob into a vibrant nation. None of them is unfortunately in vogue in Pakistan.

The PM often quotes examples of China that how has it overcome monster of poverty by massive executions of the corrupt ministers and people. But how many corrupt people have been hanged in Pakistan so far? And how many ministers have been shown the door on corruption charges?

The beauty of our legal system is that it helps the haves and further persecutes the have-nots. Our law moulds itself in favour of the powerful people while it has no relief for the hapless and the poor. No plan can work here until and unless these fundamental issues are addressed and the Constitution is followed in letter and spirit.

## Roads of diplomatic enclave in a shambles

Majority of roads in the high-security zone i.e Diplomatic Enclave are in a shambles. Despite repeated pleas by the affected diplomatic missions, the authorities responsible for the maintenance remain unmoved. According to a survey, the main road where important embassies including France, Thailand, Italy, the Netherlands, USA, Russian, and China are located, is extremely in a bad shape.

Most parts of the said road are destroyed either due to lack of maintenance of excessive rains. In addition, number of foreign missions on this road has increased with the passage of time however the length and breadth of the road remains the same as it was 20 years ago.

The roads in the posh sectors such as F 6 and F 7 are also in bad condition and foreign missions located in these sectors are facing same challenges.

A senior diplomat on the condition of not being named, said they have written dozens of letters to the CDA but all in vain. He further said that it should be a matter of prestige and dignity for the host country as the apathy of the authorities was earning bad name for the department and the country. "If you do not pay heed to the problems of the respective country, it means you do not respect that country", he added.

*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.





Supreme Mufti and other delegates attending the Forum

## Focus on Uzbekistan

# Potential of Uzbekistan in Ziyarah tourism

**By Ansar Mahmood Bhatti in Bukhara**

**T**he First International Ziyarah Tourism Forum was held in Bukhara from Feb 21-23 in Bukhara in which hundreds of delegates participated from across the globe. The Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Aziz A. Abdulkhakimov spoke during the inaugural session and said the event shall give a considerable boost to the tourism industry of Uzbekistan, especially the Ziyarah tourism. Delegates from over 34 countries including Pakistan attended the Forum. Despite being the first-ever forum of its kind, the platform provided the participants with an opportunity of having detailed information about the Ziyarah tourism potential of Uzbekistan. The Forum was organized as per the vision of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev who wants development of tourism at a fast speed. Since the Presidential decree, developing tourism has become a major priority for Uzbekistan, a landlocked country in Central Asia with great landscapes and a

very rich historical heritage. Uzbekistan has recently put a strong emphasis on developing its air fleet, in part by acquiring Boeing's Dreamliner long-haul aircraft, and high-speed train connections, including to Samarkand, an ancient city that is on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

The Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan who is also the head of complex of sports and tourism welcomed the guests and hoped the trip would contribute to enrichment of their knowledge about Ziyarah tourism. He said flow of tourists to Uzbekistan has multiplied manifold adding one of the key reasons in this effect was liberalization of visa policy. He said the new visa region introduced by the Uzbek government allows tourists from across the globe to have an easy entry in Uzbekistan. He said his country was consistently implementing comprehensive measures to develop the tourism industry as one of the strategic sectors of the national economy, which ensures the accelerated development of the regions, increasing the income and quality of life of the population, as well as improving

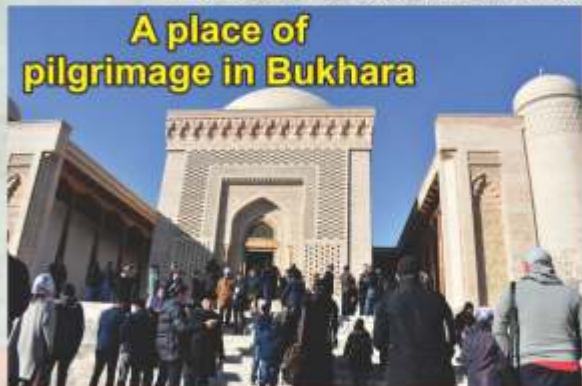


# Uzbekistan Special

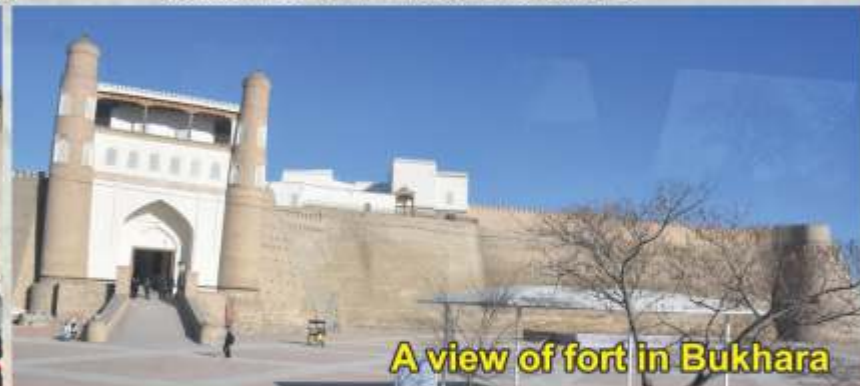
the investment attractiveness. He said the objective of this Forum is to promote opportunities and potential of the country, as well as the international recognition of Uzbekistan as one of the largest centers of Ziyarah tourism in the Islamic World. The Forum was organized by the State

million 300 thousand people. Export of tourism services is growing in the same way, which has grown from US\$546 million to US\$1 billion 40 million." Abduhakimov noted. At the Forum, dedicated to the role of tourism in the development of tourism potential, guides working with foreign and domestic

**A place of pilgrimage in Bukhara**



**A view of fort in Bukhara**



Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for tourism development, the administration of the Bukhara region, the committee for religious affairs under the government of Uzbekistan, the Muslim Board of Uzbekistan together with the ministry of Foreign Affairs. The deputy prime minister further said the government is taking significant measures to improve the attractiveness of Uzbekistan in the direction of Ziyarah tourism.

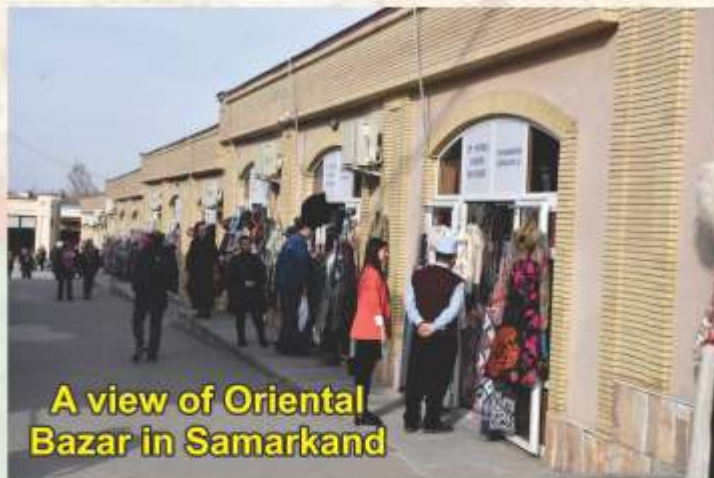
"On behalf of the Government of Uzbekistan, I welcome all the guests and participants of the Forum. Today Uzbekistan is one of the centers of world tourism, the keeper of the rich heritage of a large civilization, the "heart of the Silk Road", a major international platform for discussing topical issues on the development

tourists take part.

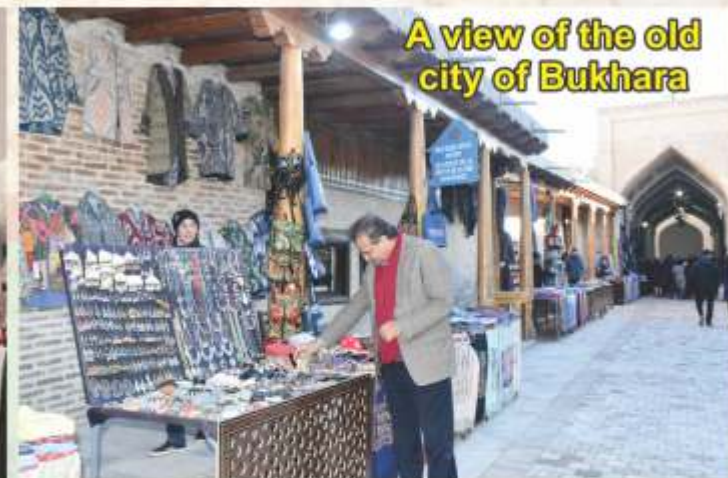
The Forum participants were informed about the country's tourism potential, recent reforms in the field of doing business in the tourism industry, and opportunities created for foreign investors.

The purpose of the Forum, inter alia, was to familiarize the participants with the rich cultural and religious heritage of Bukhara and Samarkand. The participants were taken to sites and objects of Ziyarah in the regions, including the Bahaudin Naqshbandi and Imam Al Bokhari memorial complexes. The State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan together with the Hunarmand Association in Uzbekistan organized an exhibition in the Youth Centre relating to areas of calligraphy,

**A view of Oriental Bazar in Samarkand**



**A view of the old city of Bukhara**



of tourism ziyarat. In recent years, the tourist market of Uzbekistan has undergone significant changes.

"Since 2018 work has been carried out to introduce into practice the standards of Halal in public catering and restaurants in the country".

In 2018 alone, the number of foreign tourists increased from 2 million 600 thousand to 5

miniatures, pottery, gold embroidery, jewelry and woodcarving.

The foreign delegates evinced keen interest in the exhibition and lauded the great art work of Uzbek artists. The guests also witnessed a theatrical performance called "7 peers of Bukhara". The delegates were greatly touched by the hospitality and comfort extended to them during the Forum.



# Uzbekistan Special

According to these representatives of the tourist business, the main decision in the

key tourists' destinations and launching of bullet train are indeed steps to be emulated.



**Bibi Khanum Mausoleum in Samarkand**

development of directions to the objects of pilgrimage for tourists is the competent organization of such tours, the provision of accurate information about the memorial objects and a reasonable distribution of the day of tourist groups for the Ziyarah tourism. The forum was held to expand international cooperation in the development of Ziyarah tourism, to ensure international recognition of Uzbekistan as one of the largest centers of pilgrimage tourism in the world, to promote the republic among potential foreign tourists, pilgrims as an attractive tourist destination,



**Bullet Train**

When asked by this scribe, the tourists visiting Uzbekistan told they were feeling absolutely secure everywhere in the country. They also praised Uzbek society, where Islam is the predominant religion, for being open-minded and tolerant to other cultures. In the last two years, the country took many steps to make it easier for visitors to come- a move which has significantly increased flow of tourists. Foreign investors had unprecedented opportunities to become pioneers in discovering a hidden gem and take part in a boom of unprecedented dimensions and



**Dinning together with Uzbek friends**

attracting direct investment and introducing international standards halal Today in Uzbekistan there are more than 7,000 priceless memorial monuments of historical material heritage - the main centers and destinations for the tourism in Uzbekistan. A huge role is played by rich national traditions and values, emanating from the pre-Islamic period of civilization, thanks to which such priceless material objects were created. Apart from development of the infrastructure the Uzbek government has also taken a number of steps in order for better facilitation of tourists. Introduction of Tourism police in



**Famous Orientaal Bazar in Samarkand**

ambition, with an expected double-digit growth in years to come. Investors from Pakistan too are looking for setting up businesses in Uzbekistan. I had a chance to meet with some Pakistanis doing business Tashkent. They were quite happy the way they were being facilitated by the local authorities and encouraged others also to come to Uzbekistan and invest there. Uzbekistan for sure is a country for being one of the safest in the world, having fantastic monuments, fascinating cuisine, good prices, a kind population and good weather (300 days of sunshine per year), and allowing tourism



# Uzbekistan Special

around the year. "Every time is a right time to visit Uzbekistan", told a tourist to DNA and Centreline.

## TOURISM POLICE

Tourism police is ostensibly a unique idea and Uzbekistan ranks perhaps at the top among those countries, which have introduced a dedicated tourism police for the facilitation and protection of tourists visiting Uzbekistan. Despite being a frequently traveler across the globe, I did not come across any police that was fully devoted to protection of tourists.

satisfaction.

They lady told me that they belong to normal police however keeping in view their ability to communicate in multiple languages they are assigned this job. Pakistan is also in the process of re-invigorating its tourism industry therefore it can learn from the experiences of Uzbekistan. Introduction of a similar tourism police force exclusively for the touristic places will help improve flow of foreign tourists. With a better security situation, tourism industry undoubtedly will get a considerable boost.



**Chief Editor DNA and Centreline with Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan** DNA



**Chief Editor DNA and Centreline with Governor of Bukhara**

Undoubtedly, this steps has not only encouraged more and more tourists to come to Uzbekistan but also sent positive vides throughout the world that if they visit Uzbekistan for tourism purposes, they shall be properly taken care of.

I had a chance to interview members of tourism police at Shah-e-Zinda and then at the mazar of Imam Bokhari. Always patrolling in a duo, i.e. a male and a female, the tourism police representatives told me that our first and foremost job is to provide security to the tourists. They are our esteemed guests therefore it is our utmost responsibility to protect then and guide them to their

## BULLET TRAIN

The Tashkent to Samarkand high-speed rail line is a 344-kilometre (214 mi) high-speed rail connection between Tashkent and Samarkand, the two largest Uzbek cities. The route passes through four provinces: Tashkent, Sirdaryo, Jizzakh and Samarqand in Uzbekistan. Trains operate seven days a week under the brand Afrosiyob. A 141 km long extension to Qarshi started operation on August 22, 2015, though at lower speed of 160 kph. An extension to Bukhara on the Talgo 250 ran for the first time on August 25, 2016 — marking the completion of a project to modernise the 256 km route from Samarkand. Travel from Tashkent to



**Registan Complex in Samarkand**



**Registan Emsemble in Samarkand**

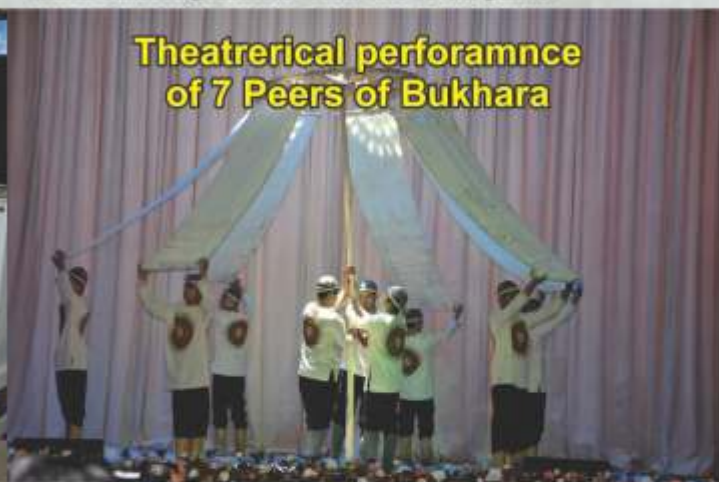


Bukhara, a distance 600 km, is covered in around 4 hours instead of 7 hours.

speakers gradually moved in. Its architecture and archaeological sites form one of the pillars



**Supreme Mufti of Bukhara in a meeting**



**Theatrical performance of 7 Peers of Bukhara**

## BUKHARA POTENTIAL

Bukhara is one of the oldest cities of Uzbekistan with a thousand years of history. Bukhara is a holy city of Muslim world. There are many mosques, shrines, madrasahs, with the latest one among them dating back to the XIX century, preserved there.

The historic center of Bukhara has been listed by UNESCO as one of the World Heritage Sites. You will need at least two days to do Bukhara main architectural sights.

Bukhara is a city-museum, with about 140 architectural monuments. The nation's fifth-largest city, it had a population of 247,644 as of 31 August 2016. People have inhabited the region around Bukhara for at least five millennia, and the city has existed for half that time. The mother tongue of the majority of people of Bukhara is Tajik. Located on the Silk Road, the city has long served as a center of trade, scholarship, culture, and religion.

UNESCO has listed the historic center of Bukhara (which contains numerous mosques and madrasahs) as a World Heritage Site. Bukhara has been one of the main centres of world civilisation from its early days in 6th

of Central Asian history and art. The region of Bukhara was a part of the Persian Empire for a long time. The origin of many of its current inhabitants goes back to the period of Aryan immigration into the region.

Char Minor (alternatively spelled Chor Minor, and also alternatively known as the Madrasah of Khalif Niyaz-kul) is a building tucked away in a lane northeast of the Lyabi Hauz complex. The structure was built by Khalif Niyaz-kul, a wealthy Bukharan of Turkmen origin in the 19th century under the rule of the Janid dynasty.[22] The four-towered structure is sometimes mistaken for a gate to the madrasah that once existed behind the structure; however, the Char-Minar is actually a complex of buildings with two functions, ritual and shelter.



**Visit to Bahaudin Naqshbandi complex**

century BCE. From the 6th century CE, Turkic



DNA



EPICENTER OF KNOWLEDGE

## Imam-Al-Bukhari International Research Centre In Uzbekistan

By Ansar Mahmood Bhatti



Delegates being briefed about Imam Bukhar Research Center

**G**enerally Muslims and Muslim countries are pretty backward in modern education, especially Science & Technology compared to the rest of the world? It's not even about race or ethnicity, almost all Muslim countries lack in Science & Technology as compared to the West and other countries. Most of the inventions in Science and Technology are either by Christians or Jews. The mind boggling question here is that why are 1.7 billion Muslims lacking in this department? The abrupt answer is that most of Muslim countries do not have modern and well-equipped research centers nor do they attach any priority to that. Probably in this background, Uzbekistan, under the visionary leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, incurred upon itself the onus of establishing a modern and fully equipped research center with the name of "Imam-Al-Bukhari International Research Centre (IBIRC)" in the historically and ancient city of Samarkand. The aim is to provide the research scholars and intellectuals from every corner of the world a unique platform where they could

come and do research on Islam in right way with right intentions and right perspectives. This research centre is headquartered at the Imam Al-Bukhari Academy in Samarkand and affiliated to the OIC. It spans over acres of land. Also situated in the juxtaposition of Imam Al Bukhari tomb, the research center too is frequented by hundreds of people, who visit the place and are briefed about the importance of the Center and various research facilities provided in the Center. Since Uzbekistan has started to reach out to the outer world, especially in the field of Ziyarah tourism, one is pleasantly surprised to know that the country has contributed a lot to enrich human history, through its scholars such as Imam Al-Bukhari, Imam At-Termizi, Mahmud Az-Zamakhshari, Muhammad Al-Khawarazmi, Burhaniddin Marginani, Abu Raihan Beruni, Abu Ali ibn Sina and others. As rightly remarked by the Uzbek President, Imam Bukhari is acclaimed all over the world as the compiler of "Sahih Al Bukhari" the second most important source in Islam after Quran". The idea of the research center first came under discussion in 2016 when as an interim President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev took up this plan with the OIC leadership, who



# Uzbekistan Special

not only supported the initiative but promised to extend full support in order to make this project a complete success. The spirit ostensibly

but in the Western world also. The Center comprised many rooms and research areas where scholars gather and carry



**Delegates enter the Imam Bukhar Research Centre**



**Imam Al Bukhari Research Center**

behind this initiative was to provide the Muslim world with a modern research center with a view to enabling the scientists and scholars to enrich their knowledge not only to match the modern day challenges but to raise the status of scientists in the Muslim world. There were times when Muslim scholars laid the foundation of various sciences in the world but unfortunately this process seems to have halted. For sure, the Imam-al Bukhari Research Center shall play its key role in disseminating scientific and technological know-how among the Muslims across the globe thus empowering them to match the existing and impending challenges effectively.

I had a chance to visit this wonderful place on February 23, 2019 and was taken aback to see a unique epicenter of knowledge and research in the shape of Imam al Bukhari Research Center. We were told that the Center was formally opened in January 2019 and was equipped with

out their research related activities. Dedicated translation centers have also been set up in order for translation of various works in different languages. Additionally, proper teaching facilities are also made available along with learned and experienced faculty to impart scientific knowledge to the students. Being Muslims, it was undoubtedly a matter of pride for us that we had such a unique and state-of-the-art research center at the disposal of the Muslims where they can go and quench their thirst of scientific and research knowledge. And above all, the building of the Center in itself was an

excellent piece of art and arch



**Imam Al Bukhari Tomb**

all latest scientific and technical facilities that are required for in-depth research and enrichment of knowledge. The hosts showed the visitors various facilities offered at the Center with essential briefing about Imam Al Bukhari and his contribution towards making Islam well-understood not only in the Muslim world

itecture. Pakistan

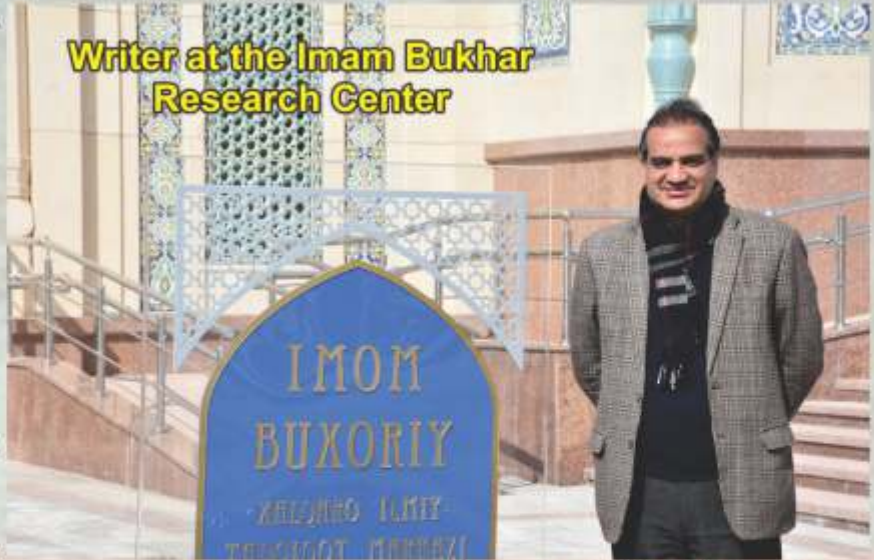


**Tourist police cop alert at Imam Bukhar tomb**



, along with other countries, has signed a MoU for cooperation with the Imam Al Bukhari Research Center. Pakistan being one of the largest Muslim countries of the world should also focus on research related projects. Partnering with Imam Al Bukhari center indeed is a welcome step however this mutual cooperation needs to be intensified and expanded. Pakistan can work closely with the IBIRC in order to have a similar facility in Pakistan also. It is quite unfortunate that not even a single institution in Muslim countries had been conferred with the Nobel Prize so far, therefore one should hope that Imam Bukhari Center would not only scale this milestone but also play its due role in overcoming the research and scientific deficit the Muslim world is facing today.

## Writer at the Imam Bukhar Research Center



*The writer is Chief Editor of CENTRELINE and Diplomatic News Agency (DNA). The article is based on his recent visit to Uzbekistan.  
[www.dnaneews.com.pk/](http://www.dnaneews.com.pk/)  
[www.centreline.com.pk](http://www.centreline.com.pk)*

## Address By The Chairman To The Guests



**I** am pleased to cordially welcome You in the First International Forum on Ziyarah Tourism on 21-23 of February, 2019 in the city of Bukhara, Uzbekistan.

The purpose of the event is to celebrate the vital role of the Holy sites of Uzbekistan in the Islamic civilization and their indispensable value as the cradle for the great scholars, imams, Tariqat masters, founders of schools of thought.

I hope that the Forum will serve as a platform for interaction, knowledge sharing and experience between local and foreign experts, organizations and businesses.

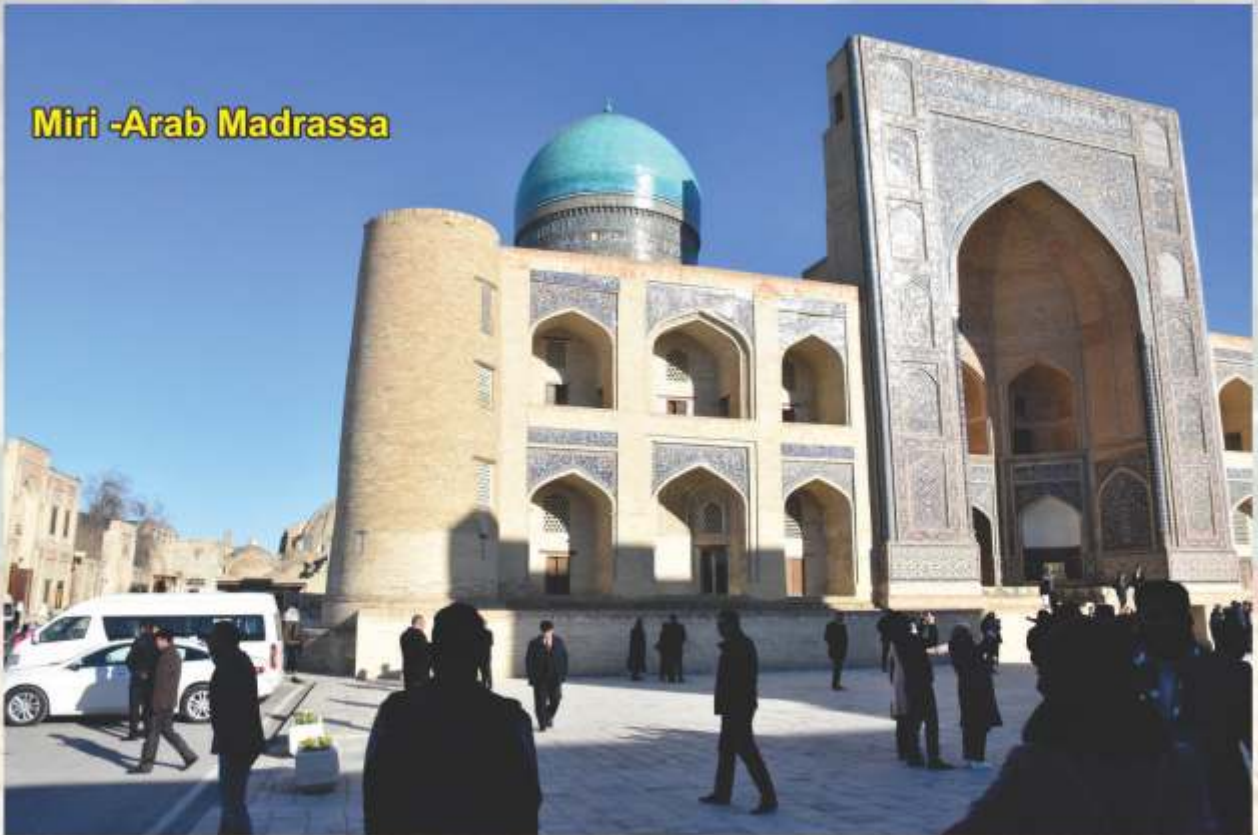
Dear Esteemed guest, I am looking forward to welcoming You in the Land of the great imams and scholars at this historic event.

**Abdulaziz Akkulov,**

*Chairman of the The State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Tourism Development*



## Miri -Arab Madrassa



## BUKHARA DECLARATION

### Ziyarah Tourism has great potential for improving cultural and humanitarian ties

**B**UKHARA, UZBEKISTAN, (DNA) – The First International Forum on Ziyarah Tourism held in Bukhara affirmed that Ziyarah Tourism has great potential for improving cultural and humanitarian ties around the world. A declaration was also issued at the end of the two-day forum.

Here is the text of the declaration. "Bukhara Declaration on Ziyarah Tourism Adopted at the First International Forum on Ziyarah Tourism February 22, 2019, Friday (17 Jumada Al-Akhirah, 1440) in the city of Bukhara, Republic of Uzbekistan. The State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Tourism Development, Committee for Religious Affairs under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Muslim Board of Uzbekistan, Bukhara Regional Administration, Islamic Organization for Education, Science and Culture (ISESCO), World Tourism Organization (WTO), international organizations, universities, representatives of tourism industry, experts in the field of Halal and Ziyarah tourism, as well as clergy who participated in the First International Forum on Ziyarah Tourism concluded and have endorsed

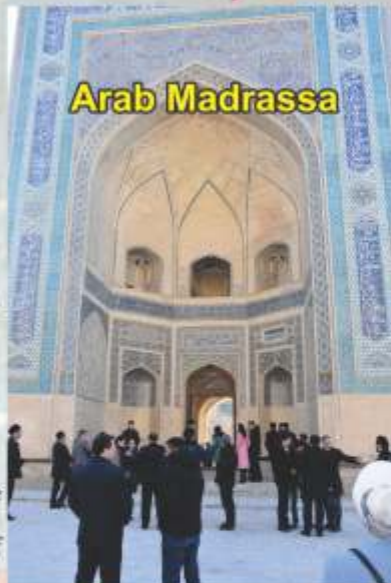
the following declaration. The Forum, held under the auspices of ISESCO and with the support of UNWTO, based on the principles of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, adopted in Santiago (Chile) in 1999 at the 13th session of the WTO General Assembly, which states that "Travel for purposes of religion, health, education and cultural or linguistic exchanges are particularly beneficial forms of tourism, which deserve encouragement". The Ninth Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers, which was held on November 2-4, 2015 in Muscat (Oman), issued a resolution whereby proclaiming the city of Bukhara as one of the three Capitals of Islamic Culture for the year 2020. The Islamic Ministerial Conference organized by ISESCO, which was held on November 27-29, 2018 in Manama (Bahrain), declared 2019 as the "Year of Islamic Heritage", asked all competent and concerned institutions to actively contribute to these important initiatives. Exploring rich historical and cultural heritage of Uzbekistan through tourism is an important factor in an intercultural exchange, promotion of the peace and strengthening friendship ties among the nations

One of the sectors of tourism – Ziyarah Tourism has grown exponentially and became one of the leading trends for the 21st century, contributing

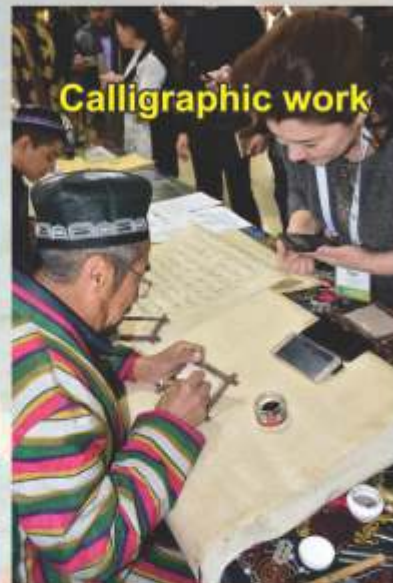


to increased diversification of the services and mutually beneficial cooperation. We are encouraged by the positive impact of Ziyarah Tourism to the raising standards of living of the population and the transformation of the societies. And recognize that Ziyarah Tourism, with a sustainable development, has great potential for improving cultural and humanitarian ties around the world. We acknowledge that information technologies bring changes to Ziyarah Tourism, especially in the field of promotion, marketing, differentiation and specialization of tourism products. And reaffirm our belief that Ziyarah Tourism should contribute to the personal growth of the individuals and the strengthening of fundamental social norms and values of the nations. We express our agreement with the following provisions: 1. Safety,

protection of the tourists and respect for their dignity are indispensable conditions for the development of tourism. Steps are being taken to simplify travel, tourists' trips and stays, accompanied by measures to ensure their safety and protection. According to the research carried out by international rating agencies, Uzbekistan is among the top five countries in the world in terms of security and happiness. 2. Uzbekistan is a secular state with a predominantly Muslim population, where citizens of different beliefs and cultures live together in atmosphere of peace and respect. Uzbekistan is proud of its centuries-old traditions of tolerance and inter-confessional harmony. Many recognize ethnic and religious diversity as a heritage of the Great Silk Road, which served as a melting pot of cultures and civilizations. Uzbekistan initiated a special resolution on December 12, 2018 at the UN General Assembly "Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance". 3. Uzbekistan, being one of the centers of Ziyarah Tourism, plays an important role in promoting the true values of Enlightened Islam, consolidating the legal, scientific,



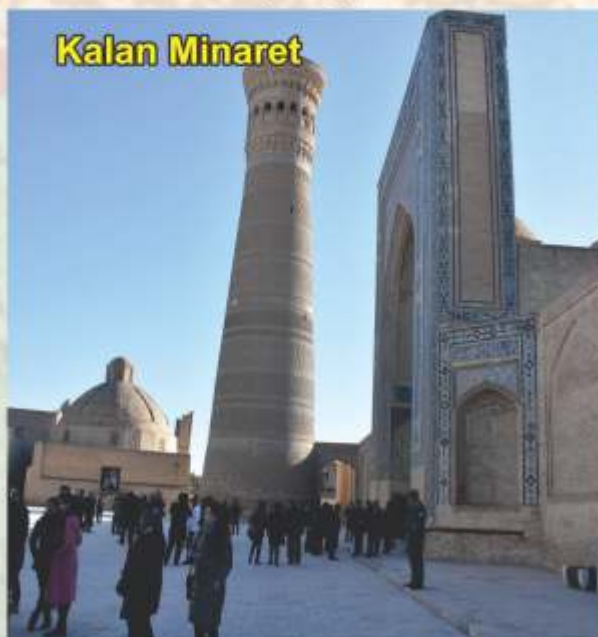
Arab Madrassa



Calligraphic work

methodological and philosophical foundations of Islam. 4. Hundreds of cultural and historical monuments of Uzbekistan, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Sites, strengthen further the sense of respect and respect for the invaluable historical heritage of Uzbekistan, national identity, and high spirituality in the younger generation. 5. The Quran (Mus'haf) of Khalifa Usman, written in 644-646 AD, is recognized as a significant and unique evidence of the centuries-old cultural and historical heritage of Muslim culture. Stored in a special room of the "Moyi Mubarak" madrasah in Tashkent, the Mus'haf attracts scholars and religious figures, pilgrims and tourists from around the world. 6. The rich history, the unique scientific, spiritual heritage of our great ancestors, who made an invaluable contribution to the development of world civilization, the world-famous historical cities of our country, bring tourists from all over the world, for their ziyarah to the sites of Islamic and other civilizations.

Historical heritage of scholars and thinkers such as Imam Al Bukhari, Imam At-Termezi, Abu Mansur Al-Maturidi, Bahauddin Naqshbandi, Burkhanuddin Marginani, Abu Ali Ibn Sino, Muhammad Al-Khorezmi, Abu Rayhan Beruni, Ahmad Al-Fergani, Abu Nasr Farabi, Mirzo Ulugbek, Shamsuddin As-Samarkandi and many other scientists and sacred Sufis of Uzbekistan, is the property of all mankind and encourages millions of tourists to visit Uzbekistan. 8. By developing Ziyarah Tourism, Uzbekistan continues the tradition of the encouraging intercultural and inter-civilizational dialogue. Over many centuries of coexistence of various nations and religions, traditions of mutual respect and tolerance have been well established. Finally, the participants of the First International Forum on Ziyarah Tourism, expressing their conviction that tourism should and can contribute to the construction of a more peaceful, humane, sustainable, fraternal and united world, recognize Uzbekistan as one of the centers of Ziyarah Tourism and urge the World Tourism Organization, governments and the private sector to take all measures necessary to implement provisions of this "Bukhara Declaration". =DNA



Kalan Minaret



# CENTRELINE elected member of APNS Executive Committee unopposed



**New Office Bearers of APNS & Members of Executive Committee**

KARACHI, (DNA) –CENTRELINE magazine, which is Pakistan's largest circulated magazine, has been elected at the member of the prestigious Executive Committee of All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS). The Executive Committee is the executive arm of the august and highest body of newspaper owners, which also elects President, Secretary General and other office bearers. CENTRELINE is the first and only diplomatic magazine of

the country that has been elected for this coveted slot. Hameed Haroon of Dawn Group and Sarmad of Jang Group were elected unopposed as the President and Secretary General of APNS. The other office bearers include Rameeza Majid Nizami as Senior Vice President, Mumtaz A. Tahir as Vice President, Syed Muhammad Munir Jilani as Joint Secretary and Shahab Zuberi as Finance Secretary of the Society for the year 2019-20.

**Sales Manager  
North Turkish  
Airlines  
M Umer Khan  
attends Bowling  
competition**





## Botox treatment at Wellnes Lounge Islamabad

Wellness Lounge is one of the unique kinds of wellness clinic in Islamabad located on first floor, clinic 22, Executive complex G-8 markaz.

It was started by Dr Aamir Hanif, CEO wellness lounge in 2018. It provides its unique services under 4 pillars, 1) Hair restoration and Hair Transplant service, 2) Clinical derma care and Aesthetics care, 3) Lifestyle Medicine & weight management services, 4) Family Medicine & Preventive Medicine service.

The Aesthetics treatments include Botox including meso-botox, dermal fillers, chemical peels, Hydrafacial with LED mask therapy, Laser hair removal with latest technology, dermabrasion, PRP for hair loss, mesotherapy for hair and skin rejuvenation, liquid face lift, Nafertite Jaw lift, Injection Lipolysis for body contouring, hand rejuvenation, skin whitening treatments, treatments for melasma, acne, oily skin, rosacea, hyperhidrosis, skin scarring etc.

Here are brief details about the botox treatment.

Botox is a purified form of a toxin. It can do wonders in medical as well as cosmetic fields. It has been in use for smoothing out wrinkles on the face. The product is injected in the treatment area and works by blocking the signals to the muscles and hence relaxing them.

### USES OF BOTOX

Botox is in use for treating numerous medical conditions like migraine, certain eye disorders etc but here we will discuss its cosmetic uses. It,

- Smooths the "11" lines between the eyebrows which appear on frowning or squinting.
- Removes the horizontal lines on forehead.
- Lines at the sides of eyes known as crow's feet which arise on smiling or squinting.
- Botox is also used for smooth contouring of the jaw line such as Nafertiti Jaw lift using injections at specific sites on the jaw and neck

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW AND FOLLOW BEFORE GETTING THE TREATMENT

Botox injections are very effective cosmetic treatment but not everyone may be perfect candidate for it. Here are some important considerations that you need to take if you are planning to get Botox injections:

- Botox is not recommended for pregnant and breastfeeding patients
- Botox should be avoided If you are allergic to Botox



· You must inform your medical practitioner if you suffer from any medical condition

· Avoid taking alcoholic drinks before and after having Botox injections.

· Avoid use of blood thinning medicines before the treatment

### HOW YOU SHOULD TAKE CARE OF YOUR SKIN AFTER THE TREATMENT

Post-treatment care is as important as pre-treatment care. Here are some instructions to be followed after getting Botox treatment.

· Do not touch or rub the treated area for at least 6 hours.

· Avoid any laser treatments for at least 2 weeks after Botox treatment

· Avoid strenuous activities for 6 hours after the treatment

### HOW BOTOX TREATMENT IS DONE

Botox treatment is a short out-patient procedure that takes few minutes and generally no local anesthesia is required. The steps involved in the procedure are as follows:

- Firstly skin is cleansed thoroughly
- Then the area is marked where treatment is

to be given

· Finally small amounts of Botox are injected in the specific muscles

### RISKS AND COMPLICATIONS

The risks of treatment include:

· flu-like symptoms: including a headache – for the first 24 hours after treatment

· bruising: at the injection site

· temporary weakness and droopiness of your facial features: for example, eyelids or eyebrows may droop temporarily if the injected medicine moves into these areas

· your body can develop resistance to the treatment if it's repeated too frequently

### HOW LONG DO THE RESULTS LAST?

The results of Botox are not permanent and therefore repeated treatments are required for continuous optimal results. The outcomes usually last between 3 to 6 months

*Please book an appointment with our expert dermatologist by calling wellness lounge at 051-8740815/6*



For further information and advice, Please contact Wellness Lounge at : 051-8740815-6 or 03355858268

Address - Clinic 22, First Floor, Executive Complex, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



## **YAR MOHAMMAD RIND**

# Pakistan marching ahead under Imran Khan

**DNA**

**Sardar Yar Mohammad Rind, a renowned politicians, Adviser to the Prime Minister and PTI leader gave exclusive interview to CENTRELINE and DNA. He talked about various issues including Pakistan, India relations, CPEC, opening of Gwadar port and government performance. Here are excerpts from his interview.**



**1: How would you see Pakistan, India relations and Pakistan government and military response to Indian aggression?**

Let me first congratulate Pakistan's valiant leadership and military top brass for foiling nefarious designs of India. The way Pakistan handled the issue, especially at the world stage, needs fulsome applause. Pakistan ostensibly pleaded its case at all forums quite well and in an impressive manner. The way our foreign office reached out to capitals of the world speaks volumes for Pakistan's strong desire for regional peace and stability. The PTI government spearheaded by Prime Minister Imran Khan strongly believes in peaceful co-existence particularly with neighbors. Pakistan's peace overtures must not be construed as weakness for Pakistan wants to settle disputes with India in peaceful manner. Prime Minister Imran Khan undoubtedly won hearts of not only people of Pakistan but people of India also by letting the Indian pilot go.

In the present times no country can afford to indulge in wars therefore it is expected that better sense will prevail in India and there leaders would exercise responsibility in the coming days in order to avoid any catastrophic situation. Kashmir remains the core issue between the two countries therefore an early solution will contribute towards regional peace and stability. Kashmir issue should be resolved in accordance with the UN

resolutions.

**2: How do you view the CPEC project and its far-reaching effects in the regional and elsewhere?**

CPEC ostensibly is a game changer especially for the people of Baluchistan. The project inter alia has created many job opportunities for the local people. Once completed, the project is likely to help Pakistan overcome its economic challenges. Let me add here that further extension of CPEC to neighboring countries such as Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan etc would surely help link Pakistan with this region as well. Central Asia is rich in energy resources and Pakistan being an energy-deficient country can benefit from Central Asian states expertise in this particular field. In addition, Saudi Arabia's joining of CPEC would also help boost credentials of this project. Saudi decision to set up a state of the art oil refinery with an estimated cost of USD 10 billion would surely help Pakistan overcome its energy related problems. Gwadar undoubtedly happens to be Pakistan's jewel in the crown. Due to its huge strategic importance, it has become center of attraction for all countries. Through Gwadar port Pakistan will inshallah achieve goal of economic self-reliance.

**3: How do you see so far performance of the government?**

The government under the leadership of Imran Khan is doing quite well. No doubt, we have some challenges also but as you know that the government comprises mostly those politicians, who have taken charge of their respective offices for the first time, therefore they took some time to settle down. However, they all are well entrenched now and serving the people with their utmost capabilities.

I would particularly like to mention names of senior PTI leader Naeem ul Haq the Prime Minister adviser on political affairs and Iftikhar Durrani the head of media team. Both these persons have put in their best efforts to



military suffered losses in war on terror just to make sure that people of Pakistan get a peaceful and secure environment to live.

Therefore sacrifices rendered by armed forces of Pakistan need to be recognized. Not only in Baluchistan, but in tribal areas also the armed forces did a marvelous job to rid those areas of terrorists and extremists. With these clandestine efforts of our valiant armed forces, Pakistan now has become a safe place. Huge interest shown by foreign investors in Pakistani market is a true manifestation of their trust in our secure and peaceful business climate. The PTI government spearheaded by Imran Khan believes in peace at home and peace at abroad therefore it has taken necessary step to not only ensure peace



within the country but without Pakistan also. Our recent peace overtures towards India should bear testimony to all such endeavours.

## Ambassador of Kazakhstan Barlybay Sadykov gives briefing about recent political changes

ISLAMABAD (DNA).. Ambassador of Kazakhstan Barlybay Sadykov has said President Nursultan Nazarbayev has stepped down in order to give new leadership a chance to run country's affairs and have a peaceful transition of power adding the new government will still be deriving guidelines from the vision of the outgoing president. The ambassador expressed these views while talking to members of the press. The ambassador said the new leadership of Kazakhstan will continue with policies of the outgoing President Nursultan Nazarbayev whether it is regional integration; peace keeping moves or economic initiatives put forward by the outgoing President. Ambassador Sadykov further said fresh elections shall be announced next year and until then the current president will run government affairs.

To a question whether any one from the outgoing President's family is in politics, the ambassador said his daughter is Member of Parliament.

Giving a brief account of the background of the incumbent interim President Kassym Tokayev the ambassador said he is experienced diplomat and have held many important positions.

The ambassador told Kassym Tokayev is highly qualified and holds PhD in history and politics and speaks Russian, English, Chinese and French languages. He also served as Chairman of Senate of the Parliament.

The ambassador said there are six political parties in Kazakhstan and have full independence to take part in

elections. Nursultan Nazarbayev party is currently ruling the country.

He said it is not clear right now that how many candidates shall be vying for the coveted slot however in Kazakhstan everybody is independent to take part in elections.

To a question the ambassador said Nursultan Nazarbayev shall continue to be the chairman of the Security Council; member of the constitutional court and head of the Nur Otan party.

" An authoritative opinion of the leader



of the nation will have a particular, even, priority importance in the development and adoption of strategic decisions', he added.

Kazakhstan he said has become an authoritative and influential participant in global peace processes, the country was elected to the UN Security Council for 2017-2018, received world recognition as the leader of the global movement for nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament, as well as an impartial mediator in interfaith

dialogue.

While giving a synopsis of Kazakh society, the ambassador said the country has become a territory of harmony, accord, and tolerance between all peoples and religious denominations. Thanks to the historical synthesis of world religions, languages, cultures and traditions, Kazakhstan has formed a society in which peace and harmony have become an integral part of our political culture.

While talking about Kazakhstan-Pakistan relations the ambassador said, leadership of Pakistan has always paid great attention to Kazakhstan and its foreign policy initiatives.

All presidents and prime ministers of Pakistan starting from Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto visited Kazakhstan either as bilateral visit or within the framework of multilateral forums. In 2017 in June the former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited Kazakhstan to attend SCO summit and in September President Mamnoon Hussain went to Astana to participate in OIC summit on science and technology.

Ambassador Barlybay said in 2011 Kazakhstan supported candidacy of Pakistan to UNSC for the period of 2012-13 and Pakistan supported Kazakhstan candidacy in 2016. Mass media, he said, plays an important role in building new linkages and strengthening of bilateral relations therefore I will also reach out to various media outlets in order to promote bilateral relations through this important medium of communication. =DNA



# Turkish Airlines organizes Golf Championship 2019

**I**SLAMABAD (DNA) – Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul has said he was delighted to be part of Turkish Airlines golf championship 2019 adding the Turkish flag carrier would continue to extending sporting opportunities to Pakistani players with a view to promoting healthy activities.

He expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of prize distribution ceremony of Turkish Airlines Golf Championship played at Naval Golf Course.

A large number of players including members of the diplomatic corps participated in the event. Turkish Airlines organizes Golf tournaments on regular basis.

The Turkish ambassador further said he was happy to see a big interest of players in the game of golf hoping more players will be able to participate next year.

He congratulated the Turkish Airlines General Manager Selim Ecrili and the staff for holding the event in a successful manner.

The General Manager Turkish Airlines in his brief remarks thanked the players for participating in the event and making it a complete success.

He assured that next year the airline would hold the event in a big way and invite more players to be part of the championship.

The winners of the tournament were awarded with prestigious awards including free tickets and trophies.

Muhammad Umer Khan Sales Manager North coordinated the event and put in his best efforts to make it a successful show. =DNA





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# CEO Monal Group Luqman Ali Afzal gets prestigious Pride of Performance award



**I**SLAMABAD: Luqman Ali Afzal Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Monal Group of companies has been honoured with the prestigious Pride of Performance award by the President of Pakistan.

Luqman Ali Afzal excelled in the hospitality business, in a very short span of time. He started his first business venture during his student days with a very small capital and only two employees, seventeen years ago at LUMS.

Today, his single-handedly established enterprise, the Monal Group employs over 2,700 people at five restaurants, two banquet halls, and two amusement parks. Monal has become an iconic identity for Islamabad but more than this it is a place where visitors from around the globe experience the rich culture and traditions of Pakistan, and in particular the harmonious diversity of our nation.

The operations of the Group are spread in Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Lahore, with a yearly turnover of more than half a billion rupees, and contributing more than PKR 200 million annually in taxes, duties, fees and rentals to the government exchequer.

'The Monal Restaurant, Islamabad,' created immense employment opportunities for local people in the area. Today, the Restaurant has become an iconic tourist attraction and has transformed the socio-economic dynamics of the surrounding villages, enriching the lives of over 600 families.

Over the years, the company diversified by developing a 'Family Entertainment Area' in Islamabad, and an outdoor catering wing, which

also includes two banquet venues.

In 2015, the company added another three restaurants simultaneously, one each in Lahore, Rawalpindi and the Centaurus Mall, Islamabad. The most recent addition to The Monal Group, Asian Wok was inaugurated in April 2018 in Islamabad and offers Chinese and Thai Cuisines. Afzal is an active member of the LUMS Islamabad Alumni Chapter. He eagerly mentors LUMS students and alumni looking for advice on entering the food business.

He is also currently teaching at the LUMS continuing education initiative, Lifetime Learning at LUMS, and works with Rizq, a LUMS alumni-led social enterprise which combats food wastage and hunger in Pakistan.

Monal Foundation manages a school and a hospital in Luqman's ancestral village. The hospital is completely free and daily serves more than 500 patients and specializes in issues related to gynaecology, ophthalmology paediatrics, diabetes and hepatitis.

In recognition of his remarkable success as an entrepreneur, the Lahore University of Management Sciences has recently awarded Mr. Afzal the Alumni Achievement Award, which he shares so far with only nine graduates of the University.

In recognition of outstanding services in the field of public service, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan conferred upon him the President's Award for Pride of Performance. Afzal is the first entrepreneur to achieve this award and this makes it an even more prestigious achievement.



***Founder & CEO Monal Group Luqman Ali Afzal and Mrs Aisha Luqman host brunch for the diplomatic corps and Pakistani friends, at Monal Marquee E 11. A large number of guests attended the brunch***









# Monal brunch





# Belarus delegation calls on Mayor Islamabad Sheikh Anser Aziz

Meeting of the select Members of Pakistan – Belarus Parliamentary Friendship Group with the Ms. Irina

Akulovich, Member of the Standing Committee for Legislation and State Administration of the National

Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, with Mayor Islamabad Sheikh Anser Aziz.



## Shafqat Salamat performs at sufi music night at Turkish embassy

DNA



ISLAMABAD, (DNA).. Renowned classical singer of Pakistan Ustad Shafqat Salamat Ali performed during a musical night organized by the Turkish embassy.

The performance turned out to be a real feast for the music lovers, especially those who have a great taste for classical music.

Ustad Shafqat, who belongs to famous Sham Chaurasi Gharana, left the audience, including the diplomatic corps, spell-bound with this enchanting melodies and classical performances."

This Gharana is well known for the

singing of vocal duets, most notably represented in modern times by the brothers Nazakat and Salamat Ali Khan. A large number of diplomats also attended the sufi music night and enjoyed the music.

"It was wonderful presentation of classical music, said a foreign diplomat who attended the music night along with his family.

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry was also there to appreciate splendid performance of a music branch, which needs government patronage especially in order to keep in intact.

Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul, during his brief remarks, said this time the embassy had decided to host Pakistani sufi music instead of Turkish music. The ambassador said a proposal was under consideration to arrange a music show of both Pakistani and Turkish artists. He said it will be a sort of fusion. The ambassador also expressed sympathies with those who lost lives in New Zealand mosque attack and prayed that may God Almighty rest the departed souls in peace and grant courage to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss.=DNA







# Hua Xia Qing



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## *Kenyan envoy hosts farewell reception for outgoing South African colleague*

ISLAMABAD (DNA)- High Commissioner of Kenya Julius Bitok hosted a farewell reception for the outgoing Ambassador of South Africa at the Kenya House.

Ambassador and High Commissioners from the African group and a select group of Pakistani dignitaries were invited to attend the farewell reception.

High Commissioner of Kenya in his brief remarks lauded the services of the outgoing South African ambassador who was also the Dean of the African group.

Mr. Julius Bitok said the South African High Commissioner contributed greatly towards promotion of bilateral relations adding even within the African group he was very much instrumental in gearing up group activities.

He further said the Ambassador Jele, because of his jolly type of nature and wit, was very much respected by his colleagues and friends.

The incoming Dean of the African group, Ambassador of Tunisia Adel Elarbi also recognized services of the outgoing ambassador and wished him best of luck in his future endeavors.

The incoming dean also presented a gift to the South African ambassador. =DNA





# Women taking part in a cycling rally held in connection with International Women Day



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# Nowruz festival provides a real feast to people of Islamabad



President Arif Alvi greets participating countries; hopes peace will return to the region; lauds cultural performances of children

**I**SLAMABAD (DNA) –The Central Asian countries embassies along with embassies of Azerbaijan, Turkey, Afghanistan and Iran joined hands to celebrate Nowruz festival at the lush green lawns of Islamabad Serena Hotel.

These countries established there stalls where they put on display various items depicting the culture of the respective country. Besides, a variety of food stuff was also made available on these stalls. The Central Asian pilaf (pullao) available almost on all stalls of Central Asian states became a must-eat dish. Pakistani visitors especially took a great interest in this kind of pullao and enjoyed the tasty Central Asian delicacy to the full. Likewise, pieces of art exhibited by embassies of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan also attracted huge attention of the visitors. Pakistani visitors not only evinced

keen interest in these items but also bought many of them.

Turkish Shawarma was perhaps the most-sought after delicacy. Albeit, price, for some, was on a higher side, even then people flocked to the stall to taste this unique Turkish delicacy.

Shawarma is a Middle Eastern meat preparation based on the döner kebab of Ottoman Turkey. Originally made of lamb or mutton, today's



**KAZAKHSTAN**



**TAJIKISTAN**



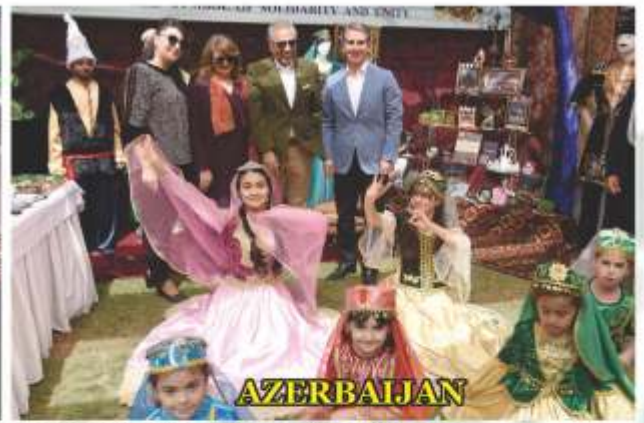
**UZBEKISTAN**





**TURKMENISTAN**

shawarma may also be chicken, turkey, beef, or veal, cut in thin slices and stacked in a cone-like shape on a vertical rotisserie. Iran and Afghanistan stalls too had a lot to offer to visitors. The UN too established a stall on the venue. International Nowruz Day was proclaimed by the United Nations General



**AZERBAIJAN**

a cultural tradition observed by numerous peoples, Nowruz is an ancestral festivity marking the first day of spring and the renewal of nature. It promotes values of peace and solidarity between generations and within families as well



Assembly, in 2010, at the initiative of several countries that share this holiday (Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, India, Iran Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan. Inscribed in 2009 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity as



as reconciliation and neighborliness, thus contributing to cultural diversity and friendship among peoples and different communities. Azerbaijan is not a Central Asian country however it also takes part in the Nowruz







celebrations. In Azerbaijan Nowruz is celebrated as coming of spring season. President of Pakistan Arif Alvi who graced the

President Arif Alvi said Pakistan genuinely wants peace in the region and elsewhere adding Islamabad will continue playing its role towards



occasion as the chief guest, congratulated the member countries for hosting such an impressive event. The President also went to each and every stall; mixed up with the people and got information about various aspects of life style of the

this end. Pakistan he said is on the threshold of change hoping we will have good relations with all our neighbors including Iran and Afghanistan. He said Pakistan has successfully defeated terrorism and extremism adding it is now ideal



respective country. The President while speaking on the occasion said, he was greatly touched by cultural performances of children. "It is always a pleasure to see children clad in

place for foreigners to come and invest. The President said he took up the Islamophobia issue with the Prime Minister of Malaysia Mahathir Mohammad and proposed that the issue may be highlighted at all forums.





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Dr Abrar ul Hasnain renowned dentist and Secretary General Pakistan Romania Forum hosts brunch for fiends. Romanian ambassador attended as chief guest





# Somali students hold cultural festival in Islamabad

By Atle Hetland

Somalia's young ambassador to Pakistan, Khadija Mohamed Almahzumi, along with the deputy at the Somali Embassy, honoured their countrymen and women with their presence at a large cultural fest in Islamabad recently.

In her speech, the ambassador expressed appreciation for the cultural work done by the Somali organizations in Pakistan. Most of the Somalis in Pakistan are students, but in Karachi and the larger cities, there are also some businessmen and others doing jobs. The organizer of the recent was Puntland Community Organization. Puntland and Somaliland are two large and prosperous regions of Somalia, located to the north-east and north-west of the land. "Security and prosperity is better in these areas than in some other areas of the land, including the capital Mogadishu. Generally, conditions are improving", said Abdi Warsame, a third year law student at IIUI, the International Islamic University, Islamabad. Chairman of the Puntland Community

and lighter moments with the audience, and making reference to literature.

The 20-30 women students in the hall must have been proud to see a woman ambassador, young and fashionable as she is, too. "She is only in her late 30s and has reached a top post early, yes, earlier than most men", said one of the students. "Somali women have elegance and a confidence in behaviour, like women from other African countries, too, including neighbouring Ethiopia and Kenya", said Kenyan student Amin Hadj. At a cultural evening like the one the Somalis organized in Islamabad, the men too were all in their best. Some in long Somali style dresses or dresses made of two chadar-like shawls tied in a special way. But the majority of the students were dressed in western suits and modern outfits, indeed looking their best.

Earlier the same day, Abdi Warsame and Amin Hadj attended a Spring Tea party hosted by Nighat and Brig. (r) Kamal Aziz for an



Organization, Ali Amin Said, a third year sociology student at IIUI chaired the programme. It was a well planned evening, starting with cultural dances and songs, followed by speeches and interviews conducted by Farahismail Haldeeq and Abdul Hakim Hussain. Farahismail is doing engineering in Lahore. "But his public speaking capacity was so impressive that you would think he was a student of literature or political science", joked a fellow student. In his intervention, Abdul also spoke about important social issues, worthy a student in development studies at Iqra University. All speakers were men; that is until Ambassador Khadija Mohamed Almahzumi took center stage and delivered her speech, thanking the organizers for a beautiful evening and sharing a few jokes



international group. In 1994, Brig. Aziz was a young captain at the Peace Keeping Mission in Somalia after the conflict and US intervention which began in 1993. Maj. (r) Gulzar Wazir, who also attended the tea party, was part of the peace keeping mission in Somalia, traveling to Mogadishu for some days and spending about a month in Nairobi, Kenya's capital. The retired Pakistani military men were delighted to meet the East African students in Pakistan under peaceful and friendly circumstances.

"Somalis and Kenyans have a special place in my heart. We should not define Somalia based on a conflict that took place a good while ago. I learnt a lot during my short time in East Africa. I am sure the students learn a lot in Pakistan, too, and I hope they are treated well here", said Gulzar Wazir.



# *Celebration of International Women Day and launch of Canvas for Change at the Canadian High Commission*



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## Cultural dances; traditional cuisines add color to Bangladesh day show



ISLAMABAD (DNA) . progress in all fields by leaps and bounds. He further said social and economic development in Bangladesh is constantly on the move and hoped the country will achieve significant development in the days to

48th Anniversary of Independence & National Day  
People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Islamabad 26 March 2019

High Commissioner of Bangladesh come. He said Bangladesh's founding principles include equality; human dignity and social justice adding country would continue its march towards social development and

Tarik Ahsan hosted a reception to celebrate the Independence Day and National Day of Bangladesh.

Colorful traditional Bangladesh dances and cuisines added color to the event. A large number of diplomats; members of civil society and press attended the event. Imtiaz Ahmed, the senior officer of Ministry of Foreign Affairs was the chief guest while those who also shared the stage with the host included Senator Mushahid Hussain, Lt. Gen Sadiq Ali and ambassador of SAARC member countries.

The high commissioner in his remarks paid tributes to the martyrs of freedom adding the country is making



progress.=DNA





## Ties with Pakistan based on mutual understanding says Tunisian envoy

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) - Adel Elarbi, Ambassador of Tunisia to Pakistan has said bilateral relations between Tunisia and Pakistan are based on mutual understanding and solidarity.

woman's rights.

Therefore, after the Tunisian Revolution on January 14, 2011, the country adopted a democratic transition aims at reinforcing the democratic values, enhancing human



Tunisia and Pakistan are endeavored to translate their bound relations deeply rooted in history to foster and enlarge cooperation and partnership in all domains. He expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of 63rd anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Tunisia.

A large number of guests including diplomats; members of civil society and business community attended the reception.

The ambassador said it is a glorious anniversary to commemorate the struggle of Tunisians for their freedom and dignity.

Since the independence, Tunisia has achieved remarkable accomplishments in several sectors particularly in the health and education fields.

This policy is attributed to the wise vision pursued by many Tunisian leaders including the leader Habib Bourgiba, the founding father of the Republic of Tunisia.

He said, Tunisia has also granted much importance to women's rights and gender equality within the Tunisian society through the laws enacted in this framework such as the Personal Status Code that guarantees Tunisian

rights, good governance, sustainable development and comprehensive security in all aspects of life, the ambassador added.

The new progressive Tunisian constitution adopted in 2014, which is highlighted and appraised by the International Community, enabled the country to formulate different independent constitutional bodies for institutionalizing the democratic values and ensuring human rights for all Tunisians.

Ambassador Adel said, in 2019, Tunisia is the Capital of Islamic Culture for 2019 and is hosting several international important events such as the 30th Arab League Summit. In 2020 Tunisia will host the XVIII Summit of the Francophonie.

The country this year also is a candidate for a non permanent seat in the UN Security Council for the period 2020-2021.

During its mandate, Tunisia will play its role to defend the values of peace, stability, human rights, and sustainable development in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations. =DNA





# Independence Day of Mauritius celebrated Mauritius ready to help Pakistan in tourism promotion: HC



ISLAMABAD, (DNA) –High Commissioner of Mauritius Rashidally Soobadar has said his country was ready to share its success story especially in the tourism field with Pakistan as Mauritius is ranked prominent among those countries that fetch huge influx of tourists every year. The high commissioner made these remarks while speaking on the occasion of 51st anniversary of independence of Republic of Mauritius. Federal Minister for Water Resources Faisal Vawda was the chief guest while ambassadors and high commissioners of the African group also attended the event along with other dignitaries. Interestingly, a pin-drop silence was witnessed during the captivating speech of the high commissioner. By and large people do not pay any

ease of doing business is ensured. Apart from trade and investment there are many other avenues where both countries can work together. Mauritius loves Pakistan and Pakistan loves Mauritius, he added. The high commissioner said before independence Mauritius was in a bad shape with half million people having per capita income of only USD 200. It was one-crop island i.e sugarcane. But what we have done in last 51 years is indeed a remarkable success story. We successfully diverted our economic from one crop to five economic pillars including agriculture; industry; ICT, hospitality and financial sector. Total population of Mauritius is 1.2 million people while our yearly flow of tourists is around 1.5 million, which is more than our population. We



heed to speeches delivered on such occasions, however Mauritius envoy's speech and the way he delivered that speech literally left the audience spell-bound. Further dilating upon various avenues of mutual cooperation, the high commissioner said both countries can cooperate in many fields. "We are 51 years of age and I see we have achieved maturity. Mauritius is condemned not to commit blunder. Mauritius became independent in 1968 and soon after that it established relations with Pakistan". He said Mauritius and Pakistan strongly believe in promotion of trade and economic ties because the real engines of growth and development are trade and economic relations. We encourage Pakistanis to invest in Mauritius as foreign investors are provided with a friendly business climate where

have set a target of two million tourists for this year. Our per capita income has increased from USD 200 to USD 10500. Mauritius is a plural society where people of different faiths live together. He said Mauritius happens to be the best example of unity in diversity and diversity in unity. The high commissioner underlined certain challenges also that his country was facing including the ageing population, however he said since there was a strong will and determination to take on these challenges therefore Mauritius shall successfully overcome these challenges. –DNA







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# Taxila



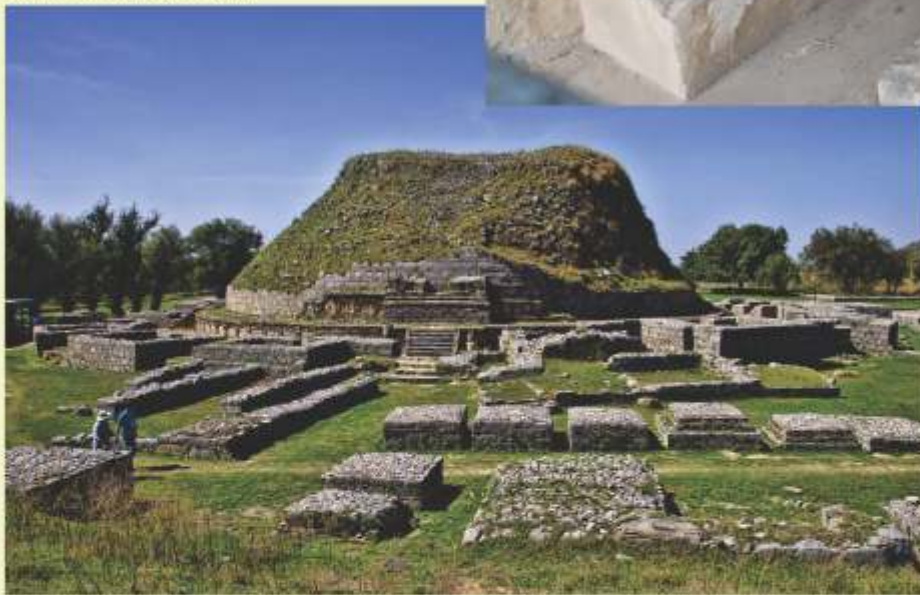
The ancient settlement of Taxila in the western outskirts of the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad is a UNESCO World Heritage Site; it is considered one of the most important archaeological sites of South Asia, and for good reason. There is a modern town with the archaeological sites scattered nearby.

### Jaulian Buddha statue

Taxila was originally Takshashila meaning the hill capital of the Takshakas, a bronze age (3rd and 2nd millennium BCE) tribe. In its glory days it was one of the main cities of the ancient Kingdom of Gandhara, which existed from roughly 1000 BCE to 1000 CE and included much of what are now northern Pakistan and eastern Afghanistan. What makes Taxila unique and fascinating is the mainly Buddhist art and architecture of the Gandharan period, though there are also a few attractions that date from earlier or later periods.

Taxila is easily the most important Buddhist site in Pakistan; it was a centre of learning from the 5th century BCE to the 5th century CE with many large monasteries and one of the earliest

universities in the world. The city attracted monks, nuns, pilgrims and students from across Asia; even today it attracts Buddhist pilgrims from as far as Southeast Asia and Japan. However, it



was never exclusively a Buddhist city; there is a Jain temple among the ruins and the Hindu scholar Pāṇini – who wrote the definitive grammar of Vedic Sanskrit – was certainly a Gandharan and quite likely worked in Taxila.

There is also much to interest modern non-Buddhists; almost anyone with an interest in archaeology, history, art or architecture will find the place fascinating. It was occupied by various empires and was a regional or national capital for many dynasties over the centuries. Persians, Greeks, Central Asians and Hindus have all left their marks on the area.

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# Pakistan, EU finalizing strategic engagement plan: Romanian envoy

ISLAMABAD (DNA) - European Union is close to finalizing the 'Strategic Engagement Plan' with Pakistan and the 28 member bloc would also strive for a "constructive and open" engagement between Islamabad and Delhi.

This was stated by Romania's Ambassador Nicolae GOIA, whose country currently holds the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union, while speaking at a round table discussion on "Romanian Presidency and Prospects for EU-Pakistan Cooperation" at Strategic Vision Institute (SVI).

"We are working on a strategic engagement plan, which is in the last phases of being finalized. It would perhaps be done in next few weeks or possibly a month. Once the plan is put into place, it will take Pak-EU relations to the next level," Ambassador Nicolae said. "We are on the right track for developing this relationship," he further said.

The EU is one of Pakistan's largest trading partners and the biggest market for Pakistani exports. Moreover, EU and Pakistan enjoy good political and security ties, which were governed by an earlier five year engagement plan.

The two sides have been working on adoption of the forthcoming EU-Pakistan Strategic Engagement Plan. The plan is expected to provide a framework for development of broad-based partnership in addition to enhanced economic cooperation in the coming years.

Ambassador Nicolae said the strategic engagement plan would not be 'time bound'. The plan would also bring in obligations for both sides in terms of economic reforms, market access, and human rights, the envoy noted.

He said that there was lot of potential for development of ties between Pakistan and EU as a bloc and individually with member countries and that needs to be fully exploited to take these relationships to the desired level.

He also touched upon the recent tensions between Pakistan and India and said that the steps taken by Pakistan and the progress towards de-escalation was appreciable. He urged both Pakistan and India to resolve the outstanding issues through dialogue.

This is not only the time to calm the situation, but also remove the threats to peace, he maintained.

EU, as a global network, Ambassador Nicolae said, would not only work for "dialogue between Pakistan and India", but also for making it as "constructive

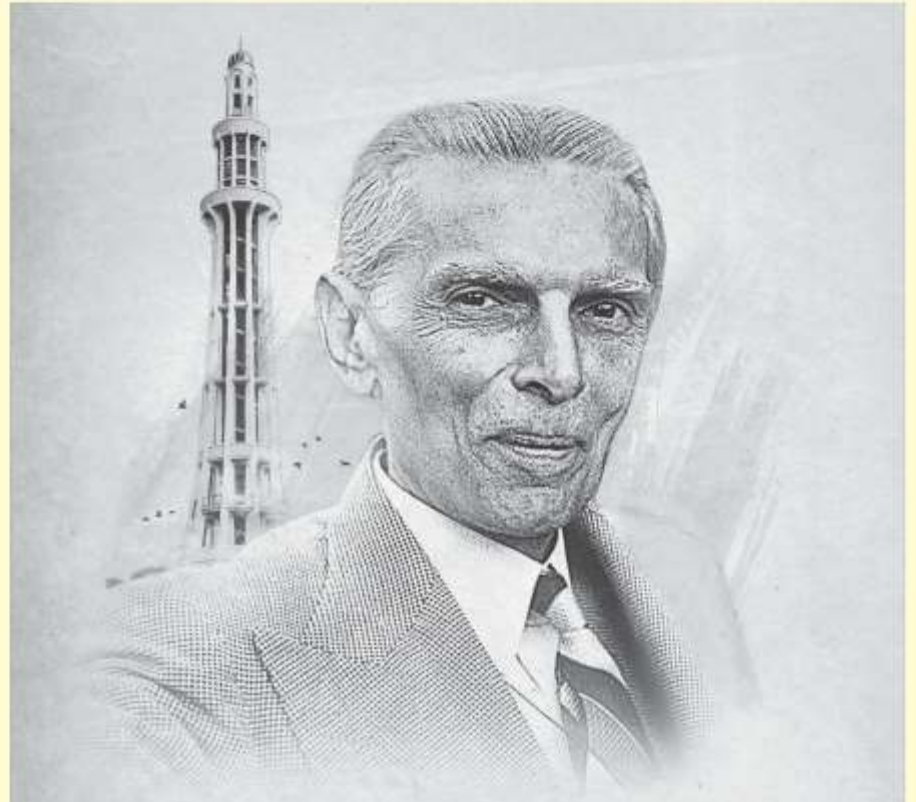
and open" as possible.

Speaking about Pak-EU trade ties, the envoy said, the preferential market access, the GSP+ arrangement, increased Pakistani exports to EU countries by up to 40%.

"These are very significant numbers in terms of volume of Pakistani exports to

EU countries and also an incentive for Pakistan to develop ties with EU."

President Strategic Vision Institute Dr Zafar Iqbal Cheema, on this occasion, said Pakistan and the European Union historically good political relations and it was time to translate those into stronger economic and trade ties. =DNA



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# Azerbaijan embassy celebrates 100th anniversary of Azerbaijani diplomacy



ISLAMABAD (DNA) - Cultural-musical event dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of Azerbaijan Diplomacy was organized in the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan. Azerbaijani culture, music and cuisine were presented for the spouses of heads of foreign

Azerbaijan is a country possessing rich cultural heritage and marvelous landscape. The country has achieved huge progress and development under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev. The country has excelled in all areas and is well-known for its humanitarian work



missions based in Pakistan. Wife of the Ambassador of Azerbaijan Mrs. Ali Alizada made elaborate arrangements for the event. Spouses of heads of foreign missions attended the event in large number and appreciated spell-binding cultural performances by Azerbaijani artists.



worldwide. The Hyder Aliyev foundation is engaged in welfare activities for quite long time. The Foundation, headed by the First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva, is actively engaged in Pakistan also in various projects including building of schools and hospitals. =DNA





# The Cofee Cave exhibition at Satrang Art Gallery Islamabad Serena Hotel



## Delegation of French companies to visit Pakistan on April 08

ISLAMABAD, APR 01 (DNA) – A delegation of 20 French companies active in various sectors led by the MEDEF International, the most representative organization of the French private sector at an international level, will be visiting Pakistan from 8th to 11th April 2019.

Founded in 1989, MEDEF International represents the French Business Confederation and its 750,000 companies, in the world.

The delegation will be headed by Mr. Thierry Pflimlin, Chairman of the France-Pakistan Business Council of MEDEF International and President of Total Global Services.

It will comprise 20 companies, among the most important French ones, in various sector including construction, agriculture and agribusiness, banking, oil and gas industry, urban development, transport, water treatment, energy and IT.

Their visit is jointly organized by the MEDEF International, the Embassy of France in Pakistan, the Embassy of Pakistan in France and the Board of Investment.

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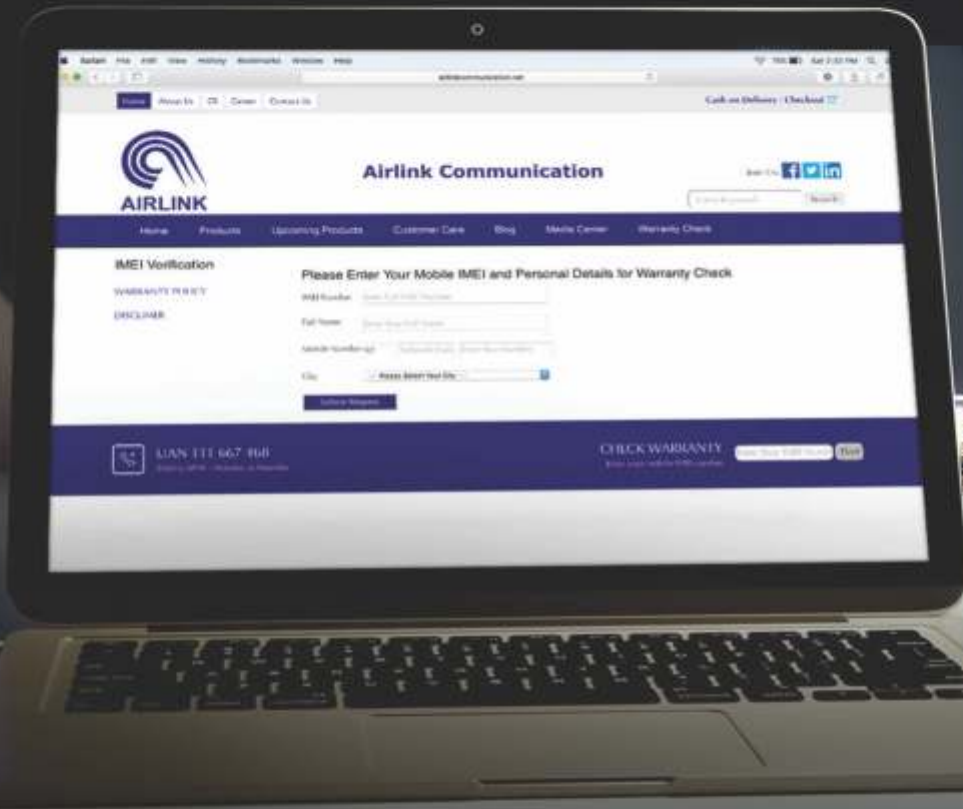
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