

# CENTRELINE

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine



**TUNCAY EMINOGLU**

**I take competition as a challenge and not a threat**



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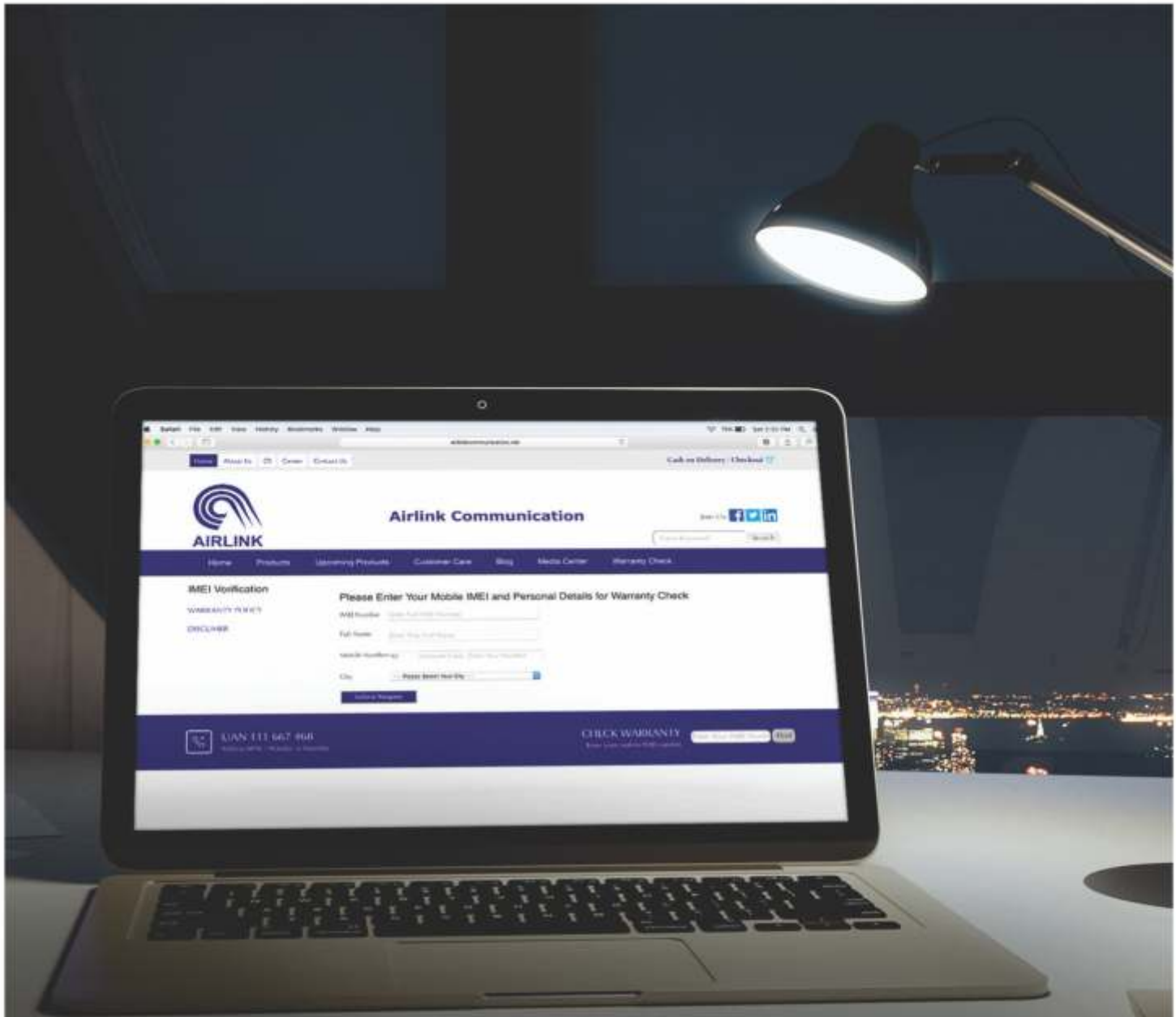
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**Pakistan's image problem and Western propaganda - II**



A part from external factors, various internal factors have also contributed towards Pakistan's skewed image both at home and abroad. Let us begin with the role of Ministry of Foreign Affairs with regard to projection of soft image of country and its handling of foreign missions based in Islamabad or in other cities of Pakistan. During past few years, especially when a junior officer was elevated to the post of Foreign Secretary, things went topsy-turvy at the Ministry. This development not only impacted badly upon the internal working but it also contributed towards straining of relations with various foreign

missions – whose biggest complaint was non-addressal of even their petty issues. Undoubtedly, with the slightest effort, Pakistan's image abroad can be improved significantly. What the Foreign Office has to do is to listen to genuine grievances of diplomats and then help them in speedy redressal. Take the example of the ongoing operation against encroachments. The foreign missions located outside of the diplomatic enclave had to face unseemly situation when the civic body staff started removing security booths of various embassies without serving them any notices. The missions had no other option but to write to the Foreign Office and big-wig of the Islamabad Municipal Corporation and the Capital Development Authority (CDA). While the Foreign Office as usual remained unmoved, the Mayor of MCI took stock of the situation and issued a letter asking the CDA and other relevant staff to seek prior consent of the MCI before launching any operation against foreign missions besides admonishing them to treat them as state guests.

The foreign missions nevertheless were nonplused to see anti-encroachment staff again gate-crashing their premises to dismantle security booths even after issuance of the directives. It unequivocally shows lack of coordination among various institutions. So much so, some of the diplomats even went to the extent of packing up their missions from Pakistan in case such operations were not stopped and they were not treated humanely. In such circumstances how can we expect from these missions that they would encourage businessmen from their respective countries to explore business avenues in Pakistan!

Another issue that we face in terms of image problem happens to be the lackluster performance of our missions abroad. Most of Pakistan's diplomats abroad seem to be on honeymoon as we rarely hear from them that they are doing something constructive and positive to improve country's image. It is normal diplomatic practice that when a diplomat finishes his posting abroad he or she is called back to the headquarters where he or she is supposed to stay at least one year, and in some cases, two years, before proceeding to another posting. This practice ostensibly helps a diplomat get first hand information about changes that took place in his country during his or her absence. But interestingly our diplomats hardly report back to the headquarters once appointed abroad. In most of the cases they get shifted from one country to another and this practice remains in vogue till the time of their retirement.

Then, the business community can also play important role in country's image building abroad by exporting quality products as per samples provided before delivery of final consignment. Unfortunately, some of the members of business community do not observe transparency while exporting their goods to other countries and thus earn a bad name and reputation for themselves and country also. That is perhaps the key reason that our exports continue to decline despite the fact that the government has extended so many facilities to business community including free fall of the dollar.

I am privy to a number of cases where our friendly countries wanted to buy our products despite the fact they did not need them, just to help Pakistan's struggling economy. However we tried to cheat with these friends also by quoting exorbitant prices. What a pity!!

Summing up, those at the helms of affairs in the incumbent government need to take stock of such happenings if they really want to do something for this country. (Concluded)

*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 Khabrain Group as Columnist / Special Correspondent. In 2010 he was made Resident Editor of *The Post*, a sister publication of *daily Khabrain*. 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.



# TUNCAY EMINOGLU I take competition as a challenge and not a threat

*TUNCAY EMINOGLU Vice President, Sales (Asia and Far East) Turkish Airlines talks to CENTRELINE and DNA*

By ANSAR M BHATTI

**T**uncay Eminoglu Vice President Sales (Asia and Far East) has said he takes competition as a challenge and not a threat. He said he has already visited the new airport of Islamabad and found it in commensurate with the present day aviation needs.

He further said Pakistan aviation industry is vibrant and has huge potential adding Pakistani visitors especially traveling to Saudi Arabia and transiting thru Istanbul are provided with best facilities with a view to making their transit comfortable.

Tuncay Eminoglu expressed these views while talking to a delegation of media from Pakistan who met him in his office in Istanbul and during an interview with Diplomatic News Agency (DNA) and CENTRELINE journal.

He said passengers traveling to USA can stay one night at Istanbul free of charge. Likewise passengers having 12 hours transit time are also provided with free of charge accommodation.

To question about introducing new aircraft on Islamabad-Istanbul route, the vice president said the decision to replace aircraft, by and large depends, on the business activity on the particular route and aircraft availability as well.

Tuncay Eminoglu while giving a brief history of the carrier, said when Turkish Airlines started its journey back in 1933 it had only five aircraft flying to four destinations in one country. Eighty-six years down the line, the airline has now more international destinations than any other in the world, covering 314 destinations, 311 cities in 124 countries.

"In 2023, the year that marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Turkish Republic, our target is to reach 120 million passengers, earn \$30 billion in revenue and add more than 500 fleets." In the past 10 years

***Turkish Airlines, which recently moved its airport from Ataturk to Istanbul, will begin flying cargo planes to Addis Ababa. Turkish Airlines flies to 56 African destinations which is the second highest next to Ethiopian and their desire to increase their market in Africa even further.***







or so, Turkish Airlines has increased its service quality, he said. Some 10 million passengers were carried in 2003, and this figure rose to 48 million in 2013.

Turkish Airlines, which recently moved its airport from Ataturk to Istanbul, will begin flying cargo planes to Addis Ababa. Turkish Airlines flies to 56 African destinations which is the second highest next to Ethiopian and their desire to increase their market in Africa even further.

He said Africa remains the priority for Turkish Airlines, as the air carrier expands to all four corners of the world. They said that aviation would continue growing in the future and Turkish would grow more than the global trend.

As of April 6 the airlines began using the newly built ultra modern Istanbul Airport replacing their older hub at Ataturk Airport. Once completed in 2027, the Istanbul airport is expected to be the busiest airport in the world with six runways and four terminals that can accommodate 200 million passengers a year.

Tuncay Eminoglu further said they have gone from 162 planes and 3 million passengers in 2003 to 515 aircraft and 30 million passengers in 2019. In the decade between 2008 and 2019 they experienced a passenger growth rate of 12.8 percent, three times the world's average.

By 2023 Turkish hopes to serve 140 million passengers. Currently, according to 2017 International Air Transport Association (IATA) statistics the Airline serves the 17th highest number of flyers in the world but according to Eminoglu, by 2032 they expect to be in the top ten. The IATA forecasted in 2018, that China, the US, India and Indonesia would be the fastest growing countries in terms of



passengers.

Turkey is rapidly transporting more passengers and cargo so the new airport will be able to serve the highest number of passengers in the world, park 500 planes, feature 500 check-in points and accommodate 143 boarding bridges. The 700,000sqm airport will also have the largest maintenance, repair and operations (MRO) in the world.

At the new airport the aviation firm manages three run ways and they expect to serve 90 million passengers this year and carry 2.5 million tons of cargo.

The project has three phases and each phase will increase cargo capacity by 5.5 million tons. By the end of the project the number of passengers would double to 200 million. He said by 2025, the aviation sector will contribute 4.9 percent to the GDP and 225,000 jobs. When the airport is finished it



# Istanbul's new airport: where the world meets

## DNA REPORT

### General Information:

- Total Project Area: 76.5 million m<sup>2</sup>
- Project Investment Cost: 10.2 Billion Euros
- Airport Opening Date: 10.29.2018
- The section that will start operating in 2018: Phase 1A
- Phase 1A Areas: Main terminal building of 1.4 million m<sup>2</sup>, 2 runways, ATC Tower and support buildings
- Air Traffic Control Tower: 5,000 m<sup>2</sup>, 90 meters high (Designed by AECOM and Pininfarina, inspired by the tulip figure)
- Annual Passenger Capacity: 90 million passenger capacity annually in Phase-1, 200 million expandable passenger capacity annually when all phases are complete

### Location and Transportation:

- Location: Istanbul Airport is located at the European side of Istanbul, between the villages

of Tayakadın and Akpınar, situated at the Black Sea coast.

- Distance to City Center: 35 km

### Independence Parallel Runways:

- Runway 1: 3,750 x 60 m
- Runway 2: 4,100 x 60 m

### Cargo City:

- Total Cargo Area: 1.4 million m<sup>2</sup>
- Cargo Capacity: When Phase-1 is commissioned the capacity will be 4 million tons, when all phases are complete the cargo volume will reach 5.5 million tonnes.

### Airport Hotel:

- Number of Rooms: 451 rooms
- 277-room landside hotel and 174-room airside

### Istanbul Airport City:

- Istanbul Airport City Total Area: 10,500,00 m<sup>2</sup>
- Istanbul Airport City Sections.



**I**stanbul Airport, whose first part of first phase is complete, represents the largest infrastructure project of the history of Republic and will break ground in many areas from technology to design and to passenger experience.

Istanbul Airport City located at the Istanbul Airport project, is a globally unique urban development project located near the airport within the boundaries of the expropriation area.

Istanbul Airport City; will have surround of green, sustainable design and architecturally rich buildings with hotels, offices, shopping centers, social facilities, hospitals, schools and exhibition facilities.

#### **AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER**

Lending its name to a period in Turkish culture and being an important symbol of grace, elegance and innocence in the Islamic history, tulip is also the source of inspiration for ATC (Air Traffic Control Tower). Mentioned in poems for centuries, tulip is reinterpreted in the Tower of Istanbul Airport with its modern form in the 21st century. The tower has an area of 5,000 square meters and a height of 90 meters. It comprises of two control floors offering a vision of 360 degrees. The uppermost floor was designed



for air traffic controllers and the lowermost one for ground traffic controllers. Created by the design group of AECOM and Pininfarina, the Air Traffic Control Tower and Technical Building was awarded with the International Architecture Award 2016 presented by Chicago Athenaeum (the Museum of Architecture and Design and the European Center for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies).

**Istanbul Airport's Economic Impact:**

When the Global Growth Scenario (Positive Scenario) is aligned with the İstanbul Airport's direct, indirect, triggering and accelerating economic impact, it is estimated that employment will rise to 225,000 people and also GDP will be 4.89% by 2025.

**Architectural Design:**

Boasting a unique architectural design that combines forward-looking and functional elements, the İstanbul Airport's terminal is inspired by the rich cultural heritage of İstanbul. The architectural style of İstanbul Airport's terminals will reflect the artistic richness of İstanbul's mosques, baths, domes and many other historic structures. The motives used in Turkish - Islamic art and architecture will add grandeur, texture and depth to the facility's overall design program.

**AWARDS&CERTIFICATES**

- IDC Turkey – Best Cost Efficiency Award 2017
- The International CSR Excellence Awards – Social Responsibility Award 2017
- Turkey Bonds and Loans - Transport Finance Deal of the Year 2017
- 2017 Stevie International Business Awards - Social Responsibility Program of the Year 2017
- World Architecture Festival (WAF)
- Infrastructure Project of the Future Award 2016
- Chicago Athenaeum International Architecture

**Award 2016**

- ISO 14001: Environment Management System Document 2016
- Young Leaders and Entrepreneurs Association Social Responsibility Award 2016
- TIER III Certification of Design Document 2017 – Data Center Phase 1
- SAP Turkey Quality Awards 2018
- Turkey Exporters Assembly (TİM) Special Award 2018
- ENVISION Certification
- Global Traveler Leisure Lifestyle Awards - Outstanding Innovations / Special Achievement Award 2019

**ABOUT ISTANBUL AIRPORT**

İGA was founded on October 7, 2013 to construct and operate Istanbul Airport for 25 years. The airport is under construction on an area of 76.5 million square meters to the north of İstanbul, 35 km away from the city center. The construction shall be completed in four phases. The first phase was finalized when two runways and a terminal with a passenger capacity of 90 million were commissioned. The airport can host flights to more than 300 destinations with an annual capacity of 200 million passengers.

Phase 1B will be completed beginning of 2020. It includes the completion of the third runway and the opening of the Airport City (Core Zone). Phase 2, which is to be completed by the beginning of 2022, sees the completion of a fourth runway and of a second ATC tower. The East Zone of the Airport City will be completed in this phase. In Phase 3, until the end of 2022, a second terminal building, a fifth runway, a third ATC tower and further supporting facilities will be completed, as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> Zone of the Airport City. At the end of 2028, all phases will be



completed. This last Phase 4 includes the completion of a sixth runway and of a satellite terminal.

Providing service in Istanbul, the intersection of Asia, Europe and the Middle East, the Istanbul Airport serves as one of the world's most significant aviation hubs at a strategic geographical position connecting continents. In the past decade, the international air transportation sector expanded 5.6% worldwide, while Turkey achieved a growth of 14%. Istanbul, which has become one of the world's most prominent flight and transfer hubs, has the leading role in these growth figures. According to the data of Turkish Ministry of Culture, in 2017, the number of foreign tourists arriving at Istanbul increased 17.8%, compared to the previous year. In 2018, the same increasing rate seems to be continued; therefore the growth trend is expected to be sustained.

### **Istanbul: the Fastest Growing Aviation Hub in Europe**

According to the report published by Airports Council International Europe (ACI Europe), in February 2018, Istanbul Atatürk Airport was among the top 5 airports that increased its number of passengers in Europe with a rate of 17.7%. The second position among the Group 1 category airports in terms of the highest increase in passenger traffic was secured by Sabiha Gökçen, following Istanbul Atatürk, with an increase of 15.5%.

According to the 2018 Airport Industry Connectivity Report of ACI, Istanbul Atatürk Airport ranked the 5th among the European airports in terms of direct connectivity and flight volume. Furthermore, the report in question lists Atatürk Airport in the 4th position among both the top performers in direct connectivity and in terms of the best hub connectivity in Europe over the last decade.

Today, the Istanbul Airport launches flights to a total of 146 destinations at various continents within 3 hours connecting 120+ countries, 60+ capital cities, 250+ international and 50 domestic destinations. When the airport is put into operation in full



capacity, the number of flight destinations will exceed 350.

### **Unifree Duty free**

The Duty Free was established with TRY 1.2 billion investment in total, half of which is covered through equity capital, and created employment for approximately 3,000 people. The zone also offers 100,000 m<sup>2</sup> rental area and duty free is laid out over an area of 53,000 m<sup>2</sup> at the airport. Majority of the stores under the responsibility of UnifreeDutyfree is operated by UnifreeDutyfreeİşletmeciliği A.Ş., while the rest is operated by sub-establishments to which the space is rented.

The design of Duty Free zone was inspired by the Bosphorus. The zone has 7 different sections, with the size of 9 football field side by side, consisting of the "Fashion Garden", "Family Palace", "High&Lux Hills: Fashion", "High&Lux Hills: Jewelry and Watch", "High&Lux Hills: Fashion and Accessories", "Style Beach" and "Icon Gulf". Each section welcomes passengers with concept-related selective domestic and international brands offering rich variety of products. The domestic and national brands have a significant place in this project.

### **Products from world-renowned brands just for Istanbul Airport**

Right after the international passport control,





passengers will meet Bottega Veneta, Bulgari, Celine, Christian Dior, Emporio Armani, Fendi, Ferragamo, Gucci, Hermes, LoroPiana, Louis Vuitton, Prada and Saint Laurent Paris, brands that signify luxury across the globe.

In addition, Turkey's pride brands D&R, Desa, Vakko, Mavi, Atasay, Zen Pirlanta, Yargıcı, Saat&Saat, Rue, Damat&Tween, D's Damat, Luzdemia, Tamer Tanca and TNC Butik, Emnana, Guard Leather, İpekyol, Machka, US Polo, Pierre Cardin, Cacharel, Dogo, Lambend, Brandy's and Penti will take their places in this giant project.

#### **Unifree will re-define Duty Free shopping**

Through the pre-order system that is to be commissioned soon, the orders passengers make online prior to their travels will await them at the store in Istanbul Airport. In addition, tablets to be put in certain lounge areas will enable passengers to make orders over the pre-order system and connect to their personal VIP sales representatives. The interactive area to be provided within the store through digital applications where passengers can try on makeup and cosmetic products both physically and via AR (Augmented Reality), a special selfie point where they can take pictures at a studio quality and aesthetics and share the photograph on social media, and mirror screens will differentiate the shopping experience at the airport. Far from the traditional Duty Free store tradition, UnifreeDutyfree offers customers an unforgettable and extraordinary shopping experience. As was the case in the opening, special launches will be carried out in their stores for the first time in the world.

#### **iGA PASS, the special passenger program by iGA**

Istanbul Airport, which will take Turkey to the top of the aviation industry, continues working at full

speed to carry the passenger experience to the new heights. iGA has launched their "iGA PASS" membership program, which allows passengers to receive exclusive services at Istanbul Airport.

At Istanbul Airport, was started to operate at full capacity, iGA has launched a new membership program to offer their passengers an exclusive, comfortable and enjoyable travel experience. The membership program called iGA PASS was introduced at Istanbul Airport.

Considering every group, such as families with children, business people, and passengers going on vacation, iGA offers 3 different services with the iGA PASS membership program.

The membership program offers the following services: Lounge, Buggy (Mini Golf Vehicle), Fast Track, Priority Check-in, Car Park, Valet, and Intercity Transfer.

Unlike the traditional airport service concept, one of the most important service privileges of the iGA PASS program aiming to provide the maximum quality comfort is the iGA Lounge. iGA Lounge is available 24 hours a day, providing a space of 4





thousand 420 square meters and a seating capacity



of 584 people for passengers waiting for their flight at the airport.

Guests using the iGA Lounge for business purposes work with fully equipped computers while all their business-related needs are met in this area with 2 meeting rooms with smart boards and 4 quiet rooms ready to use.

In addition, passengers could be pre-order the products they want from Duty Free using the screens in the iGA Lounge and purchase the products they ordered by visiting the closest Duty Free area.

Aware of the importance of time in today's world, iGA is launching a fast track system in order to leave more time to passengers for themselves.

At Istanbul Airport, where a total of 12 fast track points exist including domestic flights, international flights, arrivals and departures, iGA PASS owners will always be ahead thanks to the Fast Track service. Memberships are categorized in 3 different segments as iGA PASS Plus (299 Euros), iGA Pass Extra (399 Euros) and iGA PASS Premium (799 Euros), considering various passenger profiles, and they can be purchased annually. iGA PASS is designed as a completely digital application, and the only thing to do for purchase is to download the

Ist

anbul Airport application (via Google Play and App Store).

**About Istanbul Airport Application**

Istanbul Airport guides you with its mobile application even before you leave your house. Once you download it into your smart phone, the Istanbul Airport application will guide you until you reach the plane gate and allows you to experience the time you spend during your travel with better quality. Developed to ensure that you have an enjoyable and stress-free travel, the Istanbul Airport mobile application helps you have an easy flight and spend your time in a more efficient manner as you wish. Everything about Istanbul Airport is on the "Istanbul Airport" application..



# Brave Turkish people successfully thwarted July 15 coup attempt

DNA REPORT



**I**SLAMABAD, Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul has said three important years have passed since the 15th of July coup attempt carried out by the FETO terrorist organization. This 15th of July coup attempt was planned by the FETO leadership and carried out by members of the organization, whom infiltrated into our army by disobeying the chain of command of the armed forces. He expressed these views on the occasion of the Democracy and National Unity Day and commemoration ceremony for the martyrs of failed coup held at the Turkish embassy. A large number of people hailing from various walks of life and members of diplomatic corps attended the ceremony. Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood was the chief guest. The Turkish ambassador further said the heinous act constituted the deadliest terrorist attack that Turkey has ever experienced. "We have never before witnessed such savagery and treachery in our history as the one exhibited by the perpetrators of this coup attempt: our Parliament Building, the Presidential complex, the building of the National Intelligence

Organization (MIT), buildings of the Turkish National Police, the Headquarters of the Police Special Operations Department located in Ankara were bombed by rogue pilots". While giving an account of what happened on July 15 the ambassador said Tanks were driven to the streets to mow down innocent civilians, while helicopters and jets dropped bombs from the air and shot everyone in sight. That night, two hundred and fifty one citizens were killed and more than two thousand people were injured. The 15th of July coup attempt revealed the grave threat posed by the FETO terrorist organization against our State. In order to fully understand all aspects of the 15th of July coup attempt, it is imperative to consider this dark network, beginning from schools and prep schools established over the last few decades by FETO. He said, by brainwashing young minds at schools founded under the disguise of so-called training activities, they indoctrinated a large group of radical followers, who carried out the instructions of the organization's leadership unquestioningly and violated all legal and moral norms. Graduates of these schools were able to

infiltrate the most critical institutions of the State by stealing exam questions; furthermore, those considered as an obstacle to the organization were treacherously eliminated as FETO conspired against them. FETO strengthened its economic and political influence by abusing the State's resources and authority for the vile interests of the organization. On the 15th of July, we were able to grasp the sheer size of the secret structure established by FETO within our most critical institution, the Turkish Armed Forces. Ambassador said in the past three years, the fight against FETO both inside and outside Turkey has constituted one of the main priorities of our State. Within Turkey, our efforts are being conducted under three pillars: a) Firstly, on the basis of the rule of law, the perpetrators of the 15th of July coup attempt have been brought to justice. b) FETO's organizational structure within governmental institutions has been unveiled; administrative and judicial procedures have been initiated against its members and hence the "parallel state structure" has been brought down. c) Apart from those within the





governmental institutions, FETO's attempts to spread across all areas of the economy via its shell entities, particularly in the education, media and banking sectors, have been thwarted. As these developments took place, FETO has undergone a significant transformation. The organization, which lost its backbone in Turkey, is now trying to survive by making use of its structure abroad. Thus, fighting against the structures of FETO abroad has gained significance.

The fight against FETO structures abroad has been among the top priorities of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He said the main objective of our efforts was to demonstrate and prove the fact that FETO also poses a threat to the security of other countries where it remains active. In this regard, the concrete examples gathered indicate that FETO does not hesitate to violate laws by acting almost like an secretive intelligence service and points out to the fact that it aims to establish political and economic zones of influence that permits the creation of structures similar to those in Turkey in other countries that it has spread to since



the 1990s. He said they had taken administrative measures and initiated legal proceedings to limit the maneuvering space of the FETO terrorist organization abroad and to prevent its members from transferring money and escaping justice. "Within the scope of investigations conducted in Turkey, we have requested the extradition of the main ringleaders of the structures of FETO abroad from the countries where these persons are located". The Turkish Maarif Foundation, he said, maintains its activities all around the world to prevent any shortfalls resulting from the steps taken against FETO, especially in the field of education. In this

vein, the stand of the brotherly Pakistan's governments and institutions as well as their assistance for us to take over those schools were outstanding. Most importantly, the international community gradually understands that FETO is not a social movement that engages with education and charity, contrary to the way it tries to portray itself, but rather a dark and insidious organization with political and economic ambitions. A clear awareness regarding the characteristics of the organization has developed among public opinions abroad. The ambassador told that various countries and international organizations have declared FETO as a terrorist organization.

## Pakistan to continue supporting Turkey against FETO, other challenges: FS

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) – Foreign Secretary Sohail



Mahmood said on Monday that three years ago brave Turkish citizens from all walks of life and across the political spectrum wrote an illustrious chapter of great courage and bravery by thwarting a deadly coup, which will be remembered in the annals of history forever.

This stage is a reminder of a triumph of human courage and perseverance against all forms symbolized by the brave Turkish people for the unity, peace and prosperity of their homeland. He expressed these views on the occasion of the Democracy and National Unity Day held at the Turkish embassy. A large number of people hailing from various walks of life and members of diplomatic corps attended the ceremony. Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul also spoke on the occasion and shed light on the importance of the day. Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood further said Pakistan reiterates its unwavering support to the brotherly government and people of Turkey. It symbolizes the same spirit that motivated our forefathers to feel the pain of Turkish nation as their own at the time Turkish nation fought for its independence, he added. He said, the warmth with which the Turkish nation responded to Pakistan's goodwill gestures and sentiments in

fact has no parallel in the history of inter-state relations. The ever growing ties between the two countries ever since the independence of Pakistan remain a testimony to the fact that our countries have inherited the spirit of our forefathers.

Ambassador Sohail said we are proud of the fact that Pakistani government and people stood by our brothers and sisters on July 15, 2016 and Pakistan was one of the first countries to strongly condemn the heinous coup attempt and express its unwavering solidarity with the government of Turkey. He said both houses of Parliament passed unanimous resolutions condemning the gruesome coup attempt and expressing solidarity with the Turkish people. Pakistan will continue to provide all possible support to Turkish government and Turkish people to overcome all challenges including FETO. While speaking about Pakistan, Turkey bilateral relations the Foreign Secretary said both countries enjoy exemplary ties based on mutual trust and understanding.

He said Pakistan was happy to see Turkey making progress by leaps and bounds. Even on humanitarian front, both countries are cooperating with each other closely.

Both Pakistan and Turkey have suffered a lot at the hands of terrorism and paid huge cost in

fighting scourge of terrorism. Due to sacrifices of our security forces and people both countries have successfully overcome this issue. He said both countries will continue to stand by each other in order to secure better tomorrow for our peoples. =DNA



# Akan Rakhmetullin new Kazakh ambassador to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (DNA) - Akan Rakhmetullin has been appointed new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

He is a career diplomat, a competent expert in multilateral diplomacy, international security and disarmament.

Born on February 2, 1967, in Almaty. He graduated from the Almaty Power Institute in 1991.

Akan Rakhmetullin began his diplomatic career in April 1993 as a Desk Officer and then Attaché in the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

His first diplomatic overseas assignment was as Consul Attaché and then Third Secretary at the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (1994 to 1996).

After his return to Kazakhstan and service as Third Secretary and Second Secretary in the Consular Department Office of MFA, Mr Rakhmetullin entered the first enrollment to the Diplomatic Academy of the MFA of Kazakhstan, from which he graduated with Honors in 1999.

After graduation from the Diplomatic Academy, Mr Rakhmetullin served as Second Secretary, First Secretary and Counsellor of the MFA Office in Almaty where he was responsible for Kazakhstan's cooperation with international organizations.

In March 2002, Mr Rakhmetullin was posted to serve as First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations in New York where he dealt with the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and held responsibilities of UN election officer.

Upon his return to Kazakhstan in 2004, Mr Rakhmetullin continued to work at the MFA of Kazakhstan, assuming positions from Counsellor to Deputy Director of the



Department of International Humanitarian and Economic Cooperation.

In 2007-2011 he served as Minister-Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the OSCE in Vienna. During Kazakhstan's chairmanship of the OSCE, Mr Rakhmetullin coordinated the work of the environmental and economic issues of the Organization – its second dimension.

In 2011 he was appointed Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations in New York.

Before his assignment to Islamabad, since December 2015, Mr Rakhmetullin served as Director of the Department of Multilateral Cooperation of Kazakhstan MFA.

Akan Rakhmetullin is fluent in English and good command in Urdu. =DNA

## Pakistan keen to deepen Agri cooperation with Uzbekistan: minister

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) – Federal Minister of Pakistan for National Food Security and Research, Sahibzada Muhammad Mehboob Sultan has said Pakistan was keen to deepen cooperation with Uzbekistan in agriculture field.

He expressed these views during a meeting held that residence of Ambassador of Uzbekistan Furqat Sidikov. The meeting was organized in collaboration with Center for Global & Strategic Studies of Pakistan.

Both sides discussed perspectives of development of Uzbekistan-Pakistan relations in the fields of agriculture, food security, trade and scientific partnership.

Primary attention was given to the organizational matters of the next session of Uzbek-Pak Joint Intergovernmental Commission on Trade-Economical and Scientific-Technical Cooperation. It was agreed that this upcoming session will be held in Tashkent till the end of this year.

Moreover, parties supported the idea of

adding members of Uzbekistan-Pakistan Business Council to the composition of Pakistani delegation for the session of Intergovernmental Commission in Tashkent.

Also, Pakistani side agreed to deepen cooperation with Uzbekistan in the fields of cotton cultivation, transfer from Uzbekistan scientific inventions as well as to conduct joint scientific projects.

Moreover, it was mentioned that last year Uzbekistan became largest trade partner in Central Asia. Trade turnover between the two countries is increasing in dynamic manner.

During the meeting, Maj Gen Hafiz Masroor Ahmed, (Retd), Brigadier Abdullah Khan (Retd) and Lieutenant Colonel Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd) were also present. -DNA



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# Islamabad Serena Hotel gets prestigious World luxury spa and restaurant awards



ISLAMABAD, (DNA) -Islamabad Serena Hotel has been awarded the prestigious annual World Luxury Spa and Restaurant Awards, which were announced on the 6th of July 2019 at a glitzy affair at The State Hermitage Museum Official Hotel in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Established in 2010, the World Luxury Awards is the pinnacle of achievement in the luxury industry offering international recognition as voted for by guests, travelers and industry players alike.

Over 250,000 international travelers vote each year during a four-week period to select the winners.

Islamabad Serena Hotel's beautiful and luxurious, "Maisha Spa & Health Club" has been winning this award for the past two years and has managed to yet again claim this accolade, for the third time in a row.

Maisha Spa & health club, meaning life in Swahili, takes pride in its 13 luxurious treatment rooms, alongside a beauty salon, barbershop, manicure and pedicure parlor

in addition to the make-up room, creating an ambient air of relaxation and pleasure.

Alongside which, Islamabad Serena has also for the first time won the award, for the best Pakistani Cuisine globally, which was presented to "Dawat".

Dawat fuses flavors of traditional Pakistani cuisine, originating from Afghanistan and Iran with strong culinary influences from the Middle East, Central and Western Asia, with indigenous South Asian cuisine found in the Indus Valley and Punjab.

The food varies greatly from region to region within Pakistan; Hot & spicy in Sindh and Punjab, whereas the food in KPK uses mild aromatic spices. The diverse cuisine reflects the country's ethnic, cultural and culinary diversity. This ceremony was hosted by Michel A. Galopin, General Manager of Islamabad Serena Hotel, in honor of the employees, who are the heart and soul of the organization. =DNA





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## Shakil Express hosts farewell dinner for the EU ambassador



## Kyrgyz envoy, DG CARs discuss results of SCO summit

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) - Ambassador Erik Beishembiev met with the newly appointed Director General CARs & ECO of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan, Hasan Afzal Khan.

During the meeting, the parties discussed the results of the SCO summit, held on June 13-14 this year in Bishkek with the active participation of Pakistan as a new member of the organization, as well as the issues of holding the 4th meeting of the Kyrgyz-Pakistan Intergovernmental Commission on Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation,

scheduled for the 4th quarter of 2019 and further measures by the parties on the

revitalization of the Kyrgyz-Pakistani Business Council. =DNA



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*Ambassador of Morocco Mohamed Karmoune hosts reception to celebrate twentieth anniversary of accession to the throne of His Majesty King Mohammed VI*







## Ambassador Goia hosts reception at Marriott Hotel

# Romanian envoy celebrates successful EU council presidency

DNA News Agency Report



**I**SLAMABAD) – Ambassador of Romania Nicolae Goia has said Romania's Presidency of the European Council has been a successful office, in which Romania proved to be strongly attached to European values and has acted to strengthen the European project, for a Union of the citizens, liberties, our efforts and our combined

Ambassador of European Union. SAPM Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan was the chief guest. He recognized services of the outgoing ambassador of European Union Jean Francois Cautain for promotion of EU-Pakistan relations. Ambassador of Goia said during tenure of Ambassador Cautain relations between EU



capacities. He expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of a reception he hosted to mark the end of the Presidency and to bid farewell to the

countries and Pakistan touched new heights. Ambassador Goia further said in the 6 months of Romanian term we have proved promptitude, efficiency and professionalism, given that





Romania's presidency of the Council of the EU took place in a complex and dynamic context, marked by the European elections, as well as the developments related to Brexit, by an ever changing international environment.

He said the presidency of the Council of the EU has had a great symbolic value for Romania and Romanians can be proud of results achieved during these six months. Ambassador Goia further said Romania has an important say in the European project, our country being the first state in that capacity to present its priorities in the plenary of the European Economic Council.

He said about 2500 meetings and events, of which over 2000 meetings of the working groups, 64 EU council ministerial meetings a total of 300 events organized in Romania as well as the hosting of the

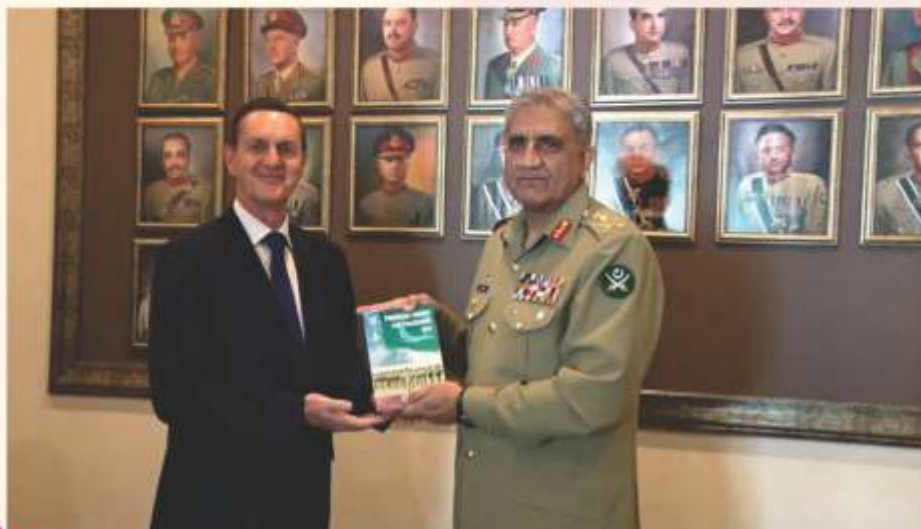
Sibiu Summit.

"We can talk about a record review; 90 legislative files closed in record time. We have campaigned of the equal observance of the rights and freedoms of all citizens, for the promotion of Romania's interests and for the establishment of dialogue as the main decision-making instrument".

He said they have had good consultations with the European leaders on the files on the EU agenda and on the priorities as a member state.

The ambassador said "while my country is handing over the presidency to Finland, I am fully confident that Helsinki will have a successful mandate and under the Finnish's Presidency generous motto " A sustainable Europe, a sustainable future", the European project will further advance", he added.=DNA

## BOOK FOR ARMY CHIEF



Ambassador of Poland Piotr Opilinski presenting General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Pakistan Army Staff, with an exceptional book by Mrs. Anna T. Pietraszek - "Freedom under the Pakistani Sky", which narrates the history of Polish pilots in Pakistan and other stories that have made the Polish-Pakistani friendship transcend both time and geographical distance.

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# Khanpur Dam

"I will die as the only person who hasn't been to Khanpur." Any conversation starting off with this kind of intensity is bound to yield results, I have come to believe. And so it did.

After convincing two of my old friends from school that it was time we followed the swarms of young adults heading north to Khanpur, we set a date. A car rental was contacted, and parents were informed and respectively pacified. ("No, mother, I will make sure I don't drown and die there.")

Three excited residents, with bags full of towels and a change of clothes, sped towards the dam in their rented car on a bright Saturday morning. We had come prepped to keep ourselves entertained with an upbeat playlist for the journey, but our phones lay untouched in our pockets, as the scenery outside the window encapsulated us. The lush green mountain we were growing closer to contrasted against the culture-packed bazaars sprouting along the road. And just when we were getting used to the view outside, we were genuinely taken aback when we caught site of the UET (University of Engineering and Technology, Taxila) campus. The grand entrance, with its arching gateway, gave the promising look of one of Pakistan's best universities.

The journey ended with a gasp as the Khanpur Lake fully came into view. The expanse of the lake, set against the green of the Margalla hills, with the sky a light blue – the pictures we had looked up online did no justice to this view. Five



groups of local vendors had set up their business at the shore; each of their bright, traditional motor boats stood adjacent to modern-looking, neon-

colored water scooters. Nearby, a dhaba, complete with a sitting area having wooden benches, served hot pakoray and tea.



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## Nigerian high commissioner Maj. Gen (Retd) Ashimiyu Adebayo Olaniyi fetes Pak envoy to Morocco

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) -Maj. Gen (Retd) Ashimiyu Adebayo Olaniyi High Commissioner of Federal Republic of Nigeria hosted a reception for the newly-appointed Pakistani ambassador to Morocco Hamid Asghar Khan.

The Nigerian high commissioner lauded role of Hamid Asghar Khan in facilitating the foreign missions especially the African missions in his capacity of Director General Africa.

Hamid Asghar Khan as DG Africa did his best to promote and strengthen Pakistan's relations with the African countries.

The high commissioner also mentioned about recently held Africa conference chaired by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi adding Hamid Asghar Khan played central role in convening of the African conference.

He said Hamid Asghar in his capacity of Director General Africa had arranged a meeting of the African ambassadors and high commissioners with the Foreign



Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, which ultimately led to holding of the African dialogue.

The Nigerian envoy further said Hamid Asghar is a go-getter and gifted with huge talent therefore his country can rightly be proud of him.

The newly appointed Ambassador of Morocco Hamid Asghar Khan in his brief remarks thanked the high commissioner for hosting him and his friends thus providing him with a chance of meeting with close friends.

He said Africa is an important and vibrant Continent therefore Pakistan has no other option but to focus on this Continent. He said future of mankind lies in the African Continent.

He said during his last meeting with President of Pakistan he suggested the President to undertake visits to African countries with a view to strengthening ties with the vibrant Continent.

He said he would try his best to promote and strengthen relations between Pakistan and Morocco. =DNA



# Sustainable development: France, Pakistan on same page: Marc Barety

## DNA REPORT

**A**mbassador of France Marc Barety has said both France and Pakistan defend multilateralism, a balanced globalization and advocate for sustainable human development, respectful of diversity.

This gathering is a great opportunity for me to thank all of you who played a role in development and betterment of relations between France and Pakistan. The ambassador also thanked Minister Khusro for playing vital role in promoting bilateral relations.



French ambassador said, "I am pleased to share this national celebration with the people of Pakistan, whose generosity, hospitality and dynamism I have witnessed during my travels throughout the country and my daily



He said it was also about shared interests in security and regional stability, as highlighted by the work of the last France-Pakistan Joint Security Commission held earlier this month in Islamabad.



work in Islamabad". He expressed these views on the occasion of National



The visit of Senator Allizard and his delegation in last April, the fourth trip for the Senator, was an occasion to



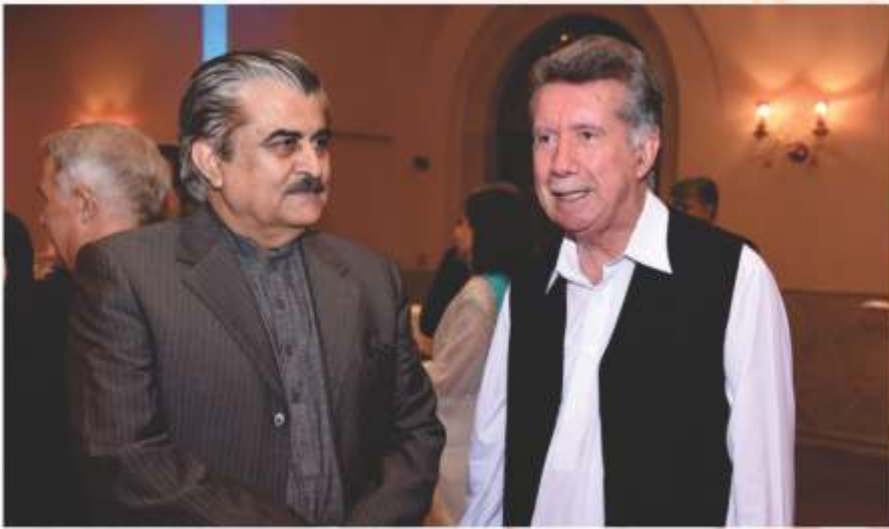
Day of France. Federal Minister for Planning Khusro Bakhriar was the chief guest.



discuss the full potential of Pakistan and reciprocally the French availability to continue and increase its







contribution to development for the benefit of the greatest number.

The ambassador said past months have been particularly fertile in terms of concrete achievements, mostly for the direct benefit of the population, in the partnership between our two countries and the French ambition to deepen it. In an area as essential for population like that of access to water and energy, the

French Development Agency – AFD – continues to participate actively for green and sustainable development with nearly 700 million euros mobilized in the hydropower sector, urban transports and water (with financing of 94 million euros this year by the AFD for the treatment of Faisalabad's water), by the visit to Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi in last April of the largest ever delegation of French companies (30); that should be reflected in a progressive diversification of exchanges and increase of investments.

Ambassador Barety said prosperity of a country depends in particular on the dynamism of its youth, a dynamism conditioned by education and empowerment, favoured by access to culture and ideas. On all these challenges, French expertise is mobilized in Pakistan.



## IGP ICT, Azerbaijan police team hold consultations

ISLAMABAD (DNA) - Jeyhun Gamarli, chief of Diplomatic Missions Protection Department, the Special State Protection Service of Azerbaijan, had a meeting with Aamir Zulfiqar Khan, Inspector General of Police of Islamabad.

DIG Security Waqar Chohan, head of Islamabad City Police and Imran Sethi, chief (district officer) of Frontier Constabulary (FC) Islamabad were also present on the occasion.

Both sides discussed matters relating to security matters. The meeting took place as part of cooperation between the two services of Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

Both sides are keen to further expand cooperation in the



respective field by helping each other in efforts to match security related challenges.

The Pakistan side briefed the visiting Azerbaijani delegation about working of the police department. =DNA

# Indonesian Embassy hosts reception for scholarship recipients

DNA



**I**SLAMABAD, (DNA) - Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad hosted a lively reception for the twenty awardees of the Darmasiswa and KNB scholarship programs on Saturday. The recipients and the alumni of the two Indonesian government funded scholarships, officials of the Embassy with their families, Director Human Resource Development Division, Higher Education Commission and some Indonesians studying in Islamabad attended the event.

Addressing the gathering, the Counsellor Cultural Affairs of the Embassy Deny Tri Basuki congratulated the scholarship recipients and elaborated that the Scholarships were a financial assistance offered by the Indonesian Government to international students coming from developing countries to pursue their academic programs at the Indonesian Universities.

He highlighted the importance of quality human resource and said that the mutual cooperation such as the KNB and Darmasiswa scholarships were good opportunities for the students to develop their vision, knowledge and competencies through educational ambitions and professional development in a broad range of fields. Basuki noted with satisfaction that there was growing interest among the





Pakistani students to pursue higher education programs in Indonesia. He pleasingly shared that, encouraged by this positive and desired trend, the Government of Indonesia had increased the number of scholarship and this year awarded 20 scholarships for the Pakistani students. He expressed his appreciation to the students coming from different cities of Pakistan and believed that the continued interaction will better facilitate the students and certainly pave the way forward in expanding greater cooperation in human resource development and deeper understanding of cultural diversity.



The Counsellor expressed hoped that the students having completed their study programs in Indonesia will not actively play more constructive role in the progress of Pakistan in many fields but help further strengthen friendly relationship between Indonesia and Pakistan.

Indonesian government annually awards two types of scholarships namely Darmasiswa and KNB that opens the opportunity for the potential students to experience life in the culturally most diverse nation in the world while studying their respective fields at the prominent universities in Indonesia. The Darmasiswa program offers undergraduate scholarship to study Bahasa Indonesia (Indonesian Language), Indonesian art & culture, Indonesian culinary and Tourism studies while the KNB Program offers master level scholarships at the leading Indonesian Universities. More recently, master and doctoral level scholarships offered by a number of Indonesian universities has also received very encouraging response from the Pakistani Students.=DNA



## Pakistan values its ties with Indonesia, army chief tells Indonesian envoy

Rawalpindi, Iwan Suyudhie, Ambassador of Indonesia called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ, on Wednesday.

During the meeting matters of mutual interest, regional security and enhanced defence cooperation came under discussion.

COAS expressed that Pakistan values its brotherly relations with Indonesia based on common faith, strong historical and cultural linkages.



# Bosnian envoy indebted to Pakistan for support in difficult times

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) – Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina Sakib Foric has said Bosnia will never forget support of Pakistani people to survive terrible war ethnic cleansing, massive killings and massacre of Bosnian people.

Today is the day to stay together and never forget Srebrenica.

The ambassador expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of a conference held in connection with the Bosnian genocide and Srebrenica massacre 1992-95, organized jointly by the Bosnian embassy and CGSS.

Ambassador Foric further said are commemorating 24th anniversary of Srebrenica genocide in order to show solidarity with the victims' families. Federal Minister for Education and Training Shafqat Mahmood and Seantor Rehman Malik were also in attendance.

One minutes silence was also observed on the occasion.

Ambassador said, both Bosnia and Pakistan enjoy cordial relations. He particularly mentioned Pakistani support during the testing times and said Bosnia and Bosnian people shall never forget Pakistan's gesture of friendship and brotherhood.

Maj. Gen @ Khalid Amir Jaffery, President of Centre for Global and Strategic Studies (CGSS) said " I dedicate this day to commemorate and honour the victims of Srebrenica. When we remember Srebrenica our thoughts and sorrowful hearts go first and foremost to the victims of Bosnian Muslims and to their loves ones".

Gen. Jaffery who has served as Pakistan ambassador to Bosnia, said they had a sacred duty to remember the cruelty that occurred and to prevent such atrocities from happening again.

Gen Jaffery said they had an obligation to victims and to their surviving family members and have the responsibility to future generations all over the globe to agree that we must stand up for human dignity and the principle of justice for the victims of such tragic events. =DNA



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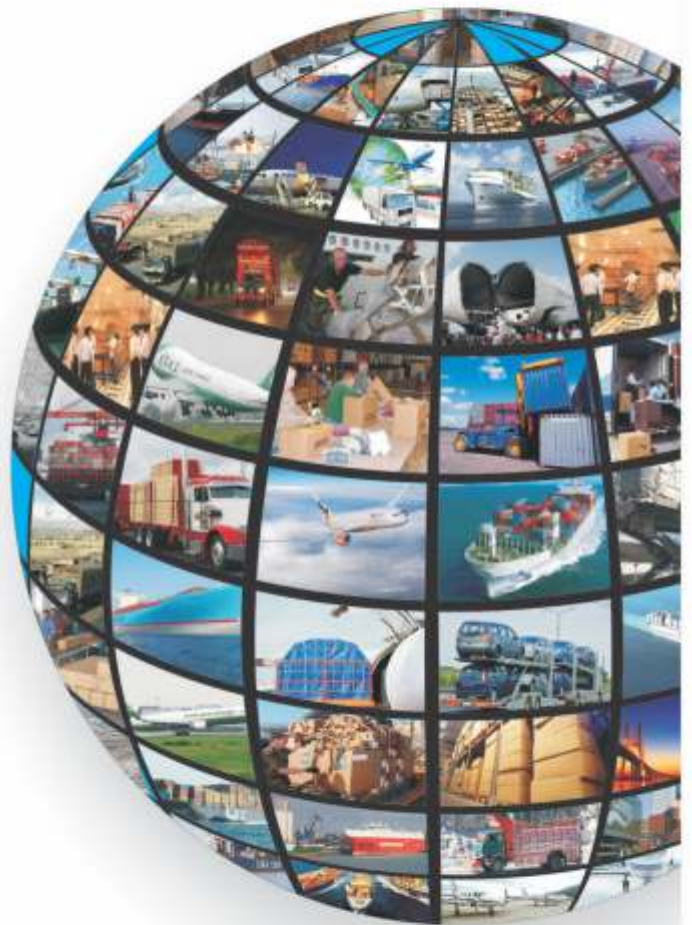
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## Palestine ambassador fetes outgoing Tunisian ambassador



**I**SLAMABAD (DNA) – Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Rabei hosted a farewell reception for the outgoing ambassador of Tunisia Adel Elarbi, who is leaving Pakistan after completing his four year term. Ambassador Adel Elarbi who is also Dean of the African Group, spent an eventful four year term in Pakistan during which relations between Pakistan and Tunisia were intensified. Ambassador of Palestine in his brief remarks eulogized services of the outgoing Ambassador of Tunisia and wished him success in his future

endeavours. Ambassador Ahmed Rabei said the Tunisian ambassador contributed greatly towards promotion and strengthening of relations between two countries. He said his departure had made the diplomatic community sad but then this is diplomacy and one has to leave one day. Ambassador Adel in his remarks thanked the Ambassador of Palestine for hosting reception for him and his wife. He said during his tenure he tried his best to further strengthen bilateral relations by





specifically focusing on trade and economic relations. Ambassadors of African group and Saudi Arabia, Kuwait also attended the reception. Senior

officials from ministry of foreign affairs were also in attendance. Guests were served with traditional Palestinian cuisines, which they liked very much.=DNA



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# CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani hosts farewell dinner for outgoing ambassadors





## Ambassador of Thailand and Embassy staff visit Edhi Homes

ISLAMABAD (DNA) Ambassador of Thailand Pornpop Uampidhaya, Col.Satja Raktiprakorn and the embassy staff visited Edhi Homes and distributed meals among the needy and orphan children.

The embassy officials remained in the Edhi Homes for quite some time and shared pleasantries with the children.

Earlier, Col.Satja Raktiprakorn and his spouse attended a ceremony to celebrate the auspicious occasion of His Majesty King's Birthday held at the Embassy.

The other embassy staff also attended the ceremony.=DNA



## Relationship of Pakistan and Turkey

By Syed Shakeel Gillani



Pakistan's relationship with Turkey is based on brotherhood and shared values. Turkey not only always supported the cause of Keshmir issues but also tried to unite the Muslim Ummah. Fetullah Terrorist Organization (FETO) on July 15, 2016 had made a failed coup to dislodge the government of Tayyip Erdogan. Turkish center hosted an event at Aiwan-e-Iqbal Complex Lahore to highlight various features of the failed coup and FETO network activities.

Event was organized in Lahore by the Turkish Consulate and Yunus Emre Institute (YEE) Lahore Turkish Cultural Center where the Consul General Emir Ozbay, former Punjab Information Minister Samsam Bukhari, Management and Professional Development Minister Sayed Hussein Jahanian Gardezi, Pakistan's former Ambassador in Ankara Shokat Haroon, Rashid Mansur Honorary Consul General of Turkey, Hacı Bayram Veli University Dean, of the Faculty of Communication, Prof. Dr. Zakir Avşar and high-level bureaucrats and representatives of foreign missions attended the event.

Emir Ozbay paid tributes to the martyrs of Turkey on the occasion of commemoration and said that every country has the history of major milestones. Infact "Fetullah Gulen and the organization was behind this coup. We have seen the end of all nefarious activities made by the terrorists.

The FETO network had spread its tentacles in the shape of schools network; charity work, trade and banking systems. After strengthening their foothold in such institutions they then tried to use this clout to dislodge the democratic government.



# Senator Enwer Baig hosts reception to bid farewell to US official



**I**SLAMABAD (DNA) – Ex. Senator Enwer Baig hosted a farewell reception for the outgoing Political Counselor of USA Ted Craig.

Officials of US embassy, retired generals and members of Pakistani media attended the reception.

Senator Baig in his remarks eulogized services of the outgoing US officials saying during his tenure Ted Craig did his best to contribute towards

further strengthening of bilateral relations.

He said absence of Ted shall be felt and hoped he will come back to Pakistan on a senior position.

He also presented him cricket shirt as a souvenir. The shirt carried Ted Craig name also.

The outgoing political counselor also spoke briefly and thanked Senator Baig for hosting a reception for him. He hoped that bilateral relations between USA and Pakistan will further be strengthened even in the days to come. =DNA





## 156 Pakistanis receive Fulbright scholarships to study, teach in U.S

**I**SLAMABAD: After receiving the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship, 156 Pakistani students will pursue Master's and Ph.D. studies or teach at top universities in the United States. U.S. Embassy Islamabad Chargé d' Affaires a.i. John Hoover congratulated the Pakistani students at an event preparing the recipients for the exchange program. "The American government believes in the power of education, and we're investing accordingly,"

Chargé Hoover said, adding, "We do so because we believe that investing in these programs strengthens our relationship, builds stability, and leads to mutual economic prosperity." The 2019 Fulbright cohort hails from 42 universities across Pakistan, with women representing 58 percent of the group. The 156 new Fulbright students will attend more than 80 U.S. universities across academic disciplines, including engineering, energy management, and social sciences.

## Maldives ambassador hosts reception to celebrate Independence Day

ISLAMABAD (DNA) – Ambassador of Maldives hosted a reception to celebrate Independence Day of Maldives.

Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry was the chief guest while a large number of guests hailing from various walks of life attended the reception.

Ambassador Ahmed Saleem in his brief remarks touched upon bilateral relations between Maldives and Pakistan.

He said bilateral relations have seen marked improvement in the recent days adding both sides are committed to further expand and diversify these relations.

He further said recent high level visits between the two countries have contributed significantly towards strengthening of relations between the two countries.

He hoped both sides will continue to strive for further strengthening of bilateral relations.

Federal Minister Fawad Chaudhry also spoke on the occasion and thanked the ambassador for inviting him as the chief guest.

The minister congratulated people of Maldives on the occasion of Independence day and wished them peace and prosperity.

The minister was all praise for beauty and grandeur of Maldives as a country adding if there were a heaven on earth then it was Maldives.

He also highlighted various areas where both Pakistan and Maldives have been cooperating since long.

The minister said enhancing of trade and investment ties with Maldives was at the top of the government agenda. =DNA





## ISE chairman Zahid Latif Khan fetes outgoing US Consul General

ISLAMABAD (DNA) - Zahid Latif Khan Chairman Islamabad Stock Exchange has lauded services of the outgoing US Consul General Josh Glazeroff which he rendered for promotion of bilateral relations.

Zahid hosted a farewell reception to say goodbye to the outgoing Consul General and welcome his successor, at ISE headquarters on Friday. Members of business community and diplomats attended the farewell reception.

The Chairman ISE further said that they were saying goodbye to Josh Glazeroff with a heavy heart as they had developed excellent working ties with the senior diplomat.



He said during US-Pakistan relations are getting better with each passing day and the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to USA would for sure contribute to further cementing of relations between the two countries.

Consul General Josh in his brief remarks thanked Zahid Latif for hosting him and hoped they will extend similar cooperation to his successor as well. He welcomed PM Imran Khan visit to USA adding US President Trump likes to meet with new people.

The new Consul General Eric Cohan also spoke briefly. He said he would try to keep up momentum set by his predecessor. =DNA





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Col Petr Uzsak hosts reception to celebrate Armed Forces day of Czech Republic



# NATIONAL DAY OF EGYPT

## Relations with Pakistan deep-rooted: Egyptian ambassador Ahmed Fadel

DNA REPORT



**I**SLAMABAD— Ambassador of Egypt Ahmed Fadel Yacoub has said relations between Egypt and Pakistan are historical and deeply-rooted.

These relations go back even before the establishment of Pakistan. Qaid Azam "Mohamad Ali Jinnah" paid a visit to Egypt in 1946 and met with the Egyptian Political leaders and the Grand Imam of Al Azhar al Sharif. Egypt was among the first countries to recognize Pakistan and to establish diplomatic relations in 1948.

Ambassador of Egypt made these remarks while speaking on the occasion of National Day of Egypt. Mohammed Mian Soormo, Federal Minister for Privatization was the chief guest. While a large number of guests hailing from various walks of life attended the reception. Students of a local school presented mesmerizing cultural performances. The ambassador added, since March 2018, the relations between Egypt and Pakistan witnessed important developments. The visit of the Grand Mufti of Egypt to Pakistan in March 2018, The visit of General Zubair Hayat, the joint Chief of Staff to Egypt in March 2018 contributed significantly towards further strengthening of bilateral ties. He said a large delegation from Pakistan headed by the Pakistani Federal Minister of Planning visited Egypt in September 2018 to celebrate 70 years of establishing diplomatic relations with Egypt and they held a forum with officials, businessmen and representatives of several important institutions to discuss the means to enhance the bilateral relations between both countries.

Then holding the 8th round of bilateral political consultations in December 2018 and visit of the Chief of the Army, General Qamar Bajwa to Egypt in January 2019 are also remained very fruitful. Two fruitful meetings held by the 2 ministers of Foreign Affairs, one in September 2018 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting. And the second meeting took place on the sidelines of the summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in May

2019. We are also expecting a visit to Cairo by Foreign Minister of Pakistan soon, upon the invitation from HE the foreign minister of Egypt, which will be followed by the joint ministerial commission that is supposed to take place in Pakistan. Ambassador Fadel said one of the milestones and most important high level meetings was the meeting of Abd El Fatah El Sisi the Egyptian President and Imran Khan Pakistani Prime Minister, which took place in Mecca on the side line of the OIC summit on the 31st of May 2019 which was a crucial to the bilateral relations between both countries. In the field of cultural and educational cooperation, Egypt also provides 50 fully funded scholarships annually to Pakistani students to study in Al Azhar Alsharif, in addition to 50 seats for training Imams, scholars and preachers.

Recently, 30 Pakistani businessmen in the field of mango farming are travelling to Egypt to have a closer look on Egypt experience in this field, he added. Moreover, Egypt provides scholarships to Pakistani doctors to attend short training courses in Egypt on combating tropical diseases. "I would like to refer to another interesting form of people to people interaction between our two countries, and in this respect I am referring to 30 Egyptian veterinarians, who are currently working in various Pakistani dairy farms in the vicinity of Lahore. They are sharing their experience with their Pakistani colleagues to improve the milk production". The ambassador noted with satisfaction that the relations between Egypt and Pakistan have a great potential to grow in all fields, as both countries have common strategic interests and face the same challenges and the two people share the same aspiration for peace prosperity and development. While talking about significance of the day the ambassador said, the celebration was dedicated to the 67th anniversary of the 1952 Revolution; a revolution that ushered a new era not only in Egypt's history, but also the history of the Arab







World and the Middle East. Over the past 67 years Egypt has successfully moved ahead, overcome various internal and external challenges, and today, Egypt is transforming itself yet again. He said, a number of mega projects have been launched under the new leadership since 2014; projects that aim to improve Egypt's economy and represent a new stage in its development. Some of these mega projects include constructing a new administrative capital, which is located 45 kilometers East of Cairo. It shall be inaugurated in 2020 and it

shall be ready to host several million inhabitants as well as governmental and administrative authorities and is built according to the latest technology as a smart city. Digging the New Suez Canal, which was inaugurated in August 2015 and aims to increase the capacity of the historic Suez Canal and the Suez Canal Economic Zone, will be a blueprint for future development, the ambassador concluded.=DNA



*German cyclist Silas Shmid who is on a world tour, giving a lecture on cycling, at the German embassy*



## Mountaineer Sirbaz Khan climbs world's 12th highest mountain broad peak

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) - Serena Hotels announced the victory of Sirbaz Khan, who successfully climbed the summit of the twelfth world's highest mountain –Broad Peak (8047 m) without using supplementary oxygen. He completed his summit on the 12th of July at 2:25 pm. The expedition was accompanied by 4 climbers in total, 2 members from Nepal and 1 each from the USA and Germany.

Serena Hotels has been supporting Sirbaz Khan on his 'Mission Summit 14'. He aims to summit all 14 highest peaks above 8000m without oxygen.

This was his 4th consecutive successful summit after K2 (8611m), Nanga Parbat (8126m) and Mount Lhotse (8516m).

Serena Adventure Diplomacy Initiative aims to encourage human engagement with nature in ways that test physical prowess, endurance and commitment, mountain activities being a core part of these activities.

This initiative kicked off when Serena founded the Adventure Diplomacy Group (ADG), consisting of 7 diplomatic missions to support the Pakistani mountaineer siblings, Samina and Mirza Ali Baig.



Samina Baig is the first Pakistani as well as the first Muslim women to summit the highest peaks in all seven continents.

Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels said, "It is a great privilege for us to support Sirbaz Khan on his expedition. At Serena Hotels, we have been supporting talent to promote Adventure Tourism where needed and try to bring diverse experiences to our community through our various initiatives."=DNA

## Japan offers programme for young civil servants' capacity building

ISLAMABAD (DNA) - The Government of Japan has announced grant aid worth around 322 million Japanese Yen for the Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) Program in Pakistan.



Notes to this effect were signed and exchanged between Yusuke Shindo, Charge d' Affaires, Embassy of Japan in Pakistan and Secretary, Economic Affairs Division (EAD) Noor Ahmed.

A grant agreement on the details of implementation of the project for fiscal year 2019 was signed and exchanged between Shigeki Furuta, Chief Representative of Japan

International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Adil Akbar Khan, Joint Secretary, EAD.

This program was introduced first time to Pakistan in 2018. The main objective of JDS is to strengthen the administrative capacities of government of Pakistan by providing the opportunity to obtain the Master and Doctor of Philosophy degree to the capable government officers who are involved in formulation and implementation of social and economic development of Pakistan.

The JDS program is designed to accept four batches of fellow students to Japan in consecutive four years. First batch consisting of eighteen civil servants is going to leave Pakistan for Japan in August 2019.

The target fields of JDS are Public Administration and Finance, Energy Policy and Implementation, Industrial Promotion, Investment Climate and Trade, Agriculture, Water Resource and Rural Development, Disaster Management Capacity.

Yusuke Shindo, Charge d' Affaires, said: "We have started this project since last year because we believe human resource development, especially that of young civil servants, is key to the development of Pakistan. They are expected to become future leaders of this country. Japan will continue to contribute for the prosperous future of Pakistan. We will also continue to support the education sector in Pakistan, which we believe, is the key sector in Pakistan's development."

Shigeki Furuta said "this program would make a significant contribution towards human resource development in Pakistan. JDS fellows will gain knowledge, which will be useful for policy planning and implementation.DNA



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