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Publisher: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

Printers: 051-544 1786.Com

Price Rs. 450/- \$ 4

The Kashmir issue and Pakistan's options



August 5, 2019 decision of Indian parliament to change status of Kashmir seems to have backfired as Modi government since then is struggling against all sorts of odds both at home and abroad. The Congress party, the main opposition party in India, has already girded up its loins against BJP thus giving it a tough time to the extent that the Modi government, out of sheer frustration, has started a political witch-hunt. It is also because of this frustration that the incumbent Indian government has resorted to persecution of minorities including a vast Muslim population. The Indian govt presumably wants to muzzle all dissenting voices being raised after its unlawful and unwarranted action in occupied Kashmir without knowing the fact that all such coercive measures would ultimately end up in uniting the suppressed class of so-called biggest democracy of the world. Such tactics would surely prove a recipe of disaster for India particularly in Kashmir.

By doing away with the constitutional provisions India in fact has exhausted all its options on Kashmir and provided Pakistan with an ample chance of not only raising this issue at all available forums but to resurrect this matter in the Security Council also, which it has ably done. Now the question is, is it enough to bring Indian under pressure to withdraw its decision? Certainly not. It may be a humble beginning. It needs a fearless follow up to force India for a revision of the decision.

Unlike, India seems to have put itself in a vantage position by scrapping the constitutional provision. Pakistan now will have to make sure that the decision is withdrawn and India is forced for a plebiscite in occupied Kashmir as per the UN resolutions. The task is arduous and uphill.

Pakistani leadership is trying to make the world understand that the Indian decision would drive the region towards precipice. Both countries happen to be the nuclear powers - a fact which makes things more complicated for any armed conflict would prove fatal for the region and the world at large. Despite our 'frantic' efforts, the world seems least interested in playing any role on this issue. Disappointing response from the Muslim world must compel the Pakistani political and security leadership to sit together and try to find causes of such a lukewarm response. Insipid response from the Western world was expected though keeping in view huge business interests that those countries have in India.

The incumbent PTI government needs to focus more on foreign front, which can be done through proactive approach and by engaging with the foreign missions based in Pakistan. Regrettably our foreign office mandarins have not made any such effort. Lack of coordination has virtually left us in the lurch and tyranny of the matter is that we still are not ready to learn from our mistakes.

Instead of blaming others for all our woes, we need to put our own house in order which can be done only by achieving self-reliance especially in the economic field. Fact of the matter is that edifice of Pakistan's economy is erected on international financial institutions and loans and grants from friendly countries. This is not the way to manage economy. It may be a stopgap arrangement but not a permanent one. During last one year our exports have dropped down to an alarming extent. Abnormal devaluation of rupee is yet another factor that has not only dealt a deadly blow to our economy but continues to take a heavy toll on hapless Pakistanis.

Governance remained at the lowest ebb during the first year of PTI government with level of corruption increased considerably. Prime Minister Imran Khan needs to immediately grapple with this situation before it gets too late. In order to make world realize that Pakistan is a strong and self reliant country, we have to stand on our own feet, which is possible only by achieving economic independence. We must keep in mind that beggars can't be choosers!

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.

HAMAD OBAID AL-ZAABI

UAE wants a stable and strong Pakistan

Ambassador of United Arab Emirates talks to CENTRELINe and DNA

By Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

Bilateral Relations

The founder of UAE Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan was keen to give an impetus to the bilateral relations between the two countries from the very beginning. It was further strengthened and patronized by Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of the UAE and Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE's Armed Forces, and Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai.

United Arab Emirates and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan enjoy excellent relations on political, economic and social levels, founded on deep-rooted cultural affinities, shared faith and traditions, these relations date back to the UAE's formation in 1971, and have since evolved into wide-ranging co-operation in various fields, and this keenness of the leadership of UAE and Pakistan played an active role in strengthening and consolidating ties and deepening cooperation between the two countries, as there are numerous exchange visits at the leadership level over the decades.

Recently, the visit of Sheikh Muhammad Bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates Armed

forces to Pakistan and visit of Imran Khan, the Prime Minister of Pakistan to UAE gave fresh push to existing cordial ties between the two brotherly countries, and the deposit of UAE 3 billion dollars in the Central Bank of Pakistan to support fiscal and monetary policy of Pakistan reflects strong and deep rooted relations between the two countries.

Nearly 1.6 million Pakistanis are



employed in UAE and contributing to the progress and prosperity of the both countries

United In trade

UAE emphasizes on importance of Pakistan's stability and supports Pakistan in facing the terrorism challenges and appreciates the efforts of

Pakistan in the fight against this menace.

The UAE is Pakistan's second biggest trading partner and the total trade volume between the two countries has reached around \$8.19 billion.

There are also dozens of UAE's companies working in Pakistan in the fields of aviation, oil, ports and shipping, banking, telecommunications, insurance, real estate, food and technology, and we are working to more strengthening these relationships.

The two countries are ready to hold 12th meeting of the PAK-UAE joint ministerial committee in Abu Dhabi very soon to explore opportunities in different fields, and the two countries are expected to sign several agreements in various fields.

UAE humanitarian assistance:

UAE PAP was launched on 12 January 2011 upon the directions of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces (May God protect him), with the intent to help Pakistan overcome the consequences of the destructive torrential rains by rehabilitating the infrastructure. The project follows a comprehensive plan of rehabilitation that takes into account the rugged geographical



HAMAD OBAID AL-ZAABI

topography and harsh weather conditions. The plan has four main pivots to rehabilitate the area and secure community development: roads and bridges, education, health and safe drinking water supply schemes. Last year, the UAE and Pakistan signed a US\$200 million cooperation agreement to execute third phase of UAE Pakistan Assistance Program (UAE-PAP).

Initiative of UAE Embassy:

Since Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi, took the charge as UAE's Ambassador to Pakistan, he is working on plan to further deepen the cordial ties, especially economic relations, and he met with political leadership of Pakistan, as well as held series of meetings with Senior Businessmen, and visited deferent chambers of commerce and industry of Pakistan with aim to discuss ways to further strengthen bilateral trade and economic cooperation between two countries.

Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi, played a proactive and vital role in enhancing and expanding the ever existing bilateral relations on political, economic, social and

cultural fields.

He arranged the visit of Imran Khan, the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to UAE, the visit of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces to Pakistan, which resulted the decision of UAE to deposited 3 billion dollar to support monetary policy of Pakistan, and also arranged the visit of high level trade delegation from UAE to Pakistan. Furthermore, the scope of UAE Project to Assist Pakistan (UAEPAP), extended to Province of Baluchistan, as the UAE and Pakistan inked 200 million dollar agreement to strength health, education, water supply and basic infrastructure in Baluchistan.

The Embassy extended also humanitarian projects to different areas of Pakistan including Sindh, Baluchistan, tribal areas and Gilgit Baltistan. The Embassy of UAE is strengthening the interaction between the Universities and libraries of two brotherly countries.

UAE charity sends 175 Pakistanis for Hajj

The charity of United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan has sent 175 deserving intending pilgrims from Pakistan to Saudi Arabia for performance of Hajj.

Second Secretary of the United Arab Emirates Embassy in Islamabad, Rashid Abdulrahman Al-Zamar Al Ali saw the Hajis off at the airport.

Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Foundation for Humanitarian Aid Pilgrims chose 175 Pakistanis to perform Hajj this year.

According to details 102 intending pilgrims were embarked upon the holy journey from Islamabad and Karachi.

The rest had already left from Quetta and reached Hijaz-e-Muqqadas. All expenses of the pilgrims are being born by the charity organisation and the pilgrims will be provided all sorts

Cover Story

of comforts during the Haj.
The charity was started by Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan in the memory of his great father founder of the UAE late Sheikh Zayed Al-Nahyan. The charity is engaged multifarious welfare activities across the world.=

Biggest visa center of Asia in Karachi to start work from Sept 2019

UAE Embassy will be opening a visa center in Karachi which will become operational in the first week of September 2019 while another visa center will also become functional in Islamabad in the first week of October 2019 which would provide all facilities here in Pakistan. The UAE ambassador made this announcement during his recent visit to Karachi.

"Everything will be here including the medical insurance, checkups and the contracts etc. to facilitate visa issuance from the visa center in Karachi which will be the biggest visa center of Asia while the entire team for this Visa Center at Khayaban-e-Shamsheer in Karachi will come from UAE. exchanging views at a meeting during his visit to the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI).

While expressing gratitude to KCCI for extending warm hospitality on his visit to KCCI, UAE Ambassador said that he has visited many areas of Pakistan including Faisalabad, Sialkot, Lahore, Peshawar, South Waziristan and Quetta but Karachi was one of the most important cities of Pakistan where social life, atmosphere, culture and people were very different as compared to other areas including Islamabad.

UAE Envoy stated that relations between Pakistan and UAE have always been very strong and historical but there was a need to further build these relations by



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exploring the opportunities and potential areas for enhancing

trade and investment.

"The governments of UAE and Pakistan are working very hard to narrow the gap and find opportunities, chances and potential for trade and investment", he added.

"We are trying to find new areas of cooperation where we could work together and also examining the challenging areas so that these could be addressed by the authorities in UAE. Inshallah we will put our hands together to move forward in future", he added.

He further informed that UAE was now offering Silver Investment Visa for 5 years and Golden Investment Visa for 10 years which were being issued under a specific criteria and depend on the size of a company and also the amount being invested.

He stressed the need for having

legal framework between UAE and Pakistan to encourage and save investments made either in Pakistan or in UAE.

Agreeing to President KCCI's suggestion of signing a Memorandum of Understanding between KCCI and UAE Chamber, he said it was really important so that a framework could be defined because when there was a gap and no official visits, the business communities and Chambers of Commerce simply will have no idea about the business potential in Pakistan and UAE.

"Any suggestion from Karachi Chamber which pertains to signing MoUs, agreements, workshops, conferences and seminars will certainly be taken into consideration", he assured, "We are ready to support you and whatever you need, we are always there at the UAE Embassy and Consulate in Karachi to assist you."



Chairman BMG & Former President KCCI Siraj Kassam Teli, in his remarks, appreciated the support and cooperation being extended by UAE's Embassy and its Consulate in Karachi as they have been fully facilitating KCCI's visa requests from time to time and they haven't faced any problems at all

in this regard.

However, he requested the Deputy Consul General to devise some kind of system in collaboration with KCCI so that visas could be issued to credible businessmen and industrialists with a personal guarantee by KCCI.

Sri Lankan organization donates 50 eye Cornea to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) –An NGO of Sri Lanka has donated 50 eye corneas to Pakistan during a ceremony held at the Prime Minister official residence.

A delegation from Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan High Commissioner in Pakistan Noordeen Shaheid met with the prime minister.

Sight Foundation of Sri Lanka headed by Ifthikhar Aziz donated eye corneas. The donation of eye corneas was initiated by Sri Lankan High Commission in Islamabad.

Prime Minister highly valued and appreciated the humanitarian gesture which would enable people of Pakistan to regain eyesight.

The Prime Minister further added that the relationship between Sri Lanka and Pakistan has been nurtured over decades through a continuous interaction at bilateral, regional and international levels.

Sri Lanka High Commission thanked the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Major Gen. Jafrey (R) of CGSS and Aziz Boolani CEO of Serena Hotel for the contribution made by them to make the event a great success. =DNA





Celebrated her birthday on Aug 26 First Vice President of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva's humanitarian initiatives

DNA

On August 26, the First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva marks birthday today. Mehriban Aliyeva was born in Baku on 26 August 1964. In 1982, she graduated from the secondary school No. 23 in the city of Baku with distinction and entered Azerbaijan State Medical Institute named after Nariman Narimanov, Preventive-Treatment Faculty.

Mehriban Aliyeva has been married to Ilham Aliyev in 1983. They have three children: Leyla, Arzu and Heydar and five grandchildren. In 1988, she graduated from the First Moscow State Medical Institute named after M.Sechenov with distinction. In 1988-1992, she worked at the Eye Diseases Scientific Research Institute in Moscow.

In 1995, Mehriban Aliyeva founded

"Azerbaijani Culture Foundation", which she currently heads. In 1996, Mehriban Aliyeva founded "Azerbaijan - Heritage" magazine, which is published in three languages (Azerbaijani, English and Russian) in order to widely promote the Azerbaijani culture. In October 2002, Mehriban Aliyeva was elected as President of Azerbaijan Gymnastics Federation.

Mehriban Aliyeva has headed the Heydar Aliyev Foundation since 2004, which was founded to study the rich political legacy and promote the national statehood ideas of national leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev. In August 2004, Mehriban Aliyeva was named Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO for her role in protection and development of Azerbaijan's intangible folk literature and national musical legacy.

In December 2004, Mehriban Aliyeva was elected as a member of the Executive Committee of NOC at the 4th General

Assembly of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Mehriban Aliyeva has been a member of the New Azerbaijan Party's Political Council since 2004, and deputy chairman of the party since 2013. In 2005, Mehriban Aliyeva received an academic degree of PhD in Philosophy.

In this direction, Heydar Aliyev Foundation under her leadership has performed instrumental role in the construction of new hospitals, schools, colleges across Azerbaijan. The Thalassemia Center provides free of cost treatment and was constructed in Baku in 2007. The Foundation initiated a national campaign for breastfeeding and holds summer camps for the integration of disabled children into society. In the cultural sphere, Mehriban Aliyeva took steps in *preserving Mugham* — the traditional classical music of Azerbaijan. The Foundation became instrumental in

Azerbaijan

the establishment of an International Mugham Centre in Baku.

In 2005, 2010 and 2015, Mehriban Aliyeva was elected as a Member of Parliament at the third, fourth and fifth convocation of the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In November 2006, Mehriban Aliyeva was named Goodwill Ambassador of ISESCO for her outstanding contribution to humanitarian area, including the development of dialogue among civilizations and cultures, promotion of Islamic cultural legacy and for her tremendous role in addressing problems of children with special needs.

At the 4th Congress of the World Azerbaijanis held in Baku in June 2016, Mehriban Aliyeva was elected as a member of the World Azerbaijanis Coordination Board. On February 21, 2017, Mehriban Aliyeva was appointed as First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. This terminated her power as a Member of Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan on March 6, 2017.

Mehriban Aliyeva's awards and honorary titles: Heydar Aliyev Order (Republic of Azerbaijan); Order of the Legion of Honor (French Republic); Grand Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of Polish Republic; Hilal-e Pakistan Order of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; the Sreten Order (Serbian Republic); Commander's Cross Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary; UNESCO's Golden Mozart Medal, the UN World Intellectual Property Organization's gold medal; Gold Medal and "Prix de la Fondation" Prize of the Crans Montana Forum; High Order of the European Olympic Committees; Honorary Diploma of the State of Kuwait; Heydar Aliyev Award; Executive Board Award of World Health Organization; Golden Heart international award; Olympic Excellence Special Honorary Prize of the International Olympic Academy; Turkish-German Friendship Federation Award, Order of Friendship of Russian Federation; Honorary professor of Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University, honorary doctor of the Veliko Tarnovo University named after Saints Cyril and Methodius (Bulgaria).

Relations with Pakistan

As a manifestation of good relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation started its charitable activities in Pakistan soon after the disastrous earthquake of 2005. The natural calamity left Muzaffarabad (AJK) in ruins and flattened the school in Rara settlement. Mehriban Aliyeva took an initiative to build a new modern school for girls in place of destroyed one in Rara. Consequently a school for 500 girls was built. The Foundation regularly provides the school with school materials, books, computers and other means.

The First Lady of Azerbaijan carried out a series of health care, education and

humanitarian projects in the provinces of Pakistan. Hepatitis B vaccination and the open-heart surgeries were implemented in collaboration with Kulsum International Hospital at Edhi Home, Akbar Care Institute for Cerebral Palsy in Peshawar, Women and Children Hospital at Lakki Marwat. The Foundation joined the celebrations on the World Blood Donor Day in Peshawar, trying to raise awareness of safe blood and blood products, which are much needed. She also donated a fully equipped ambulance and thousands of blood collection bags to the Hamza Foundation that handles safe blood transfusion for the beneficiaries on a voluntary basis. During the Holy Month of Ramazan, the Foundation hosted the iftari dinners, involving more than twelve hundred beneficiaries of Pakistan Sweet Home (Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal) orphanages in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Karachi, Larkana, Nawabshah, Quetta, Zhob, Peshawar. In September 2016, a charity event was held in "Anjuman Faiz-ul-Islam" Orphanage, Rawalpindi on Eidul-Adha. Sacrificial animals were offered in Islamabad and Rawalpindi on the days of Eid-ul-Adha for the residents of orphanages and other needy people. In August, 2017, on the initiative of Mehriban Aliyeva, a charitable action was held in the National Institute for Special Education, Islamabad. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation gifted teaching accessories, e-tablets, and various toys to children with different abilities. It is clear that the social and humanitarian projects by Mehriban Aliyeva implemented in Pakistan are manifestations of her sincere attitude towards Pakistan.

President of Pakistan is also lauded contributions of Heydar Aliyev Foundation in the area of humanitarian cooperation and assistance given to several Pakistani social welfare institutions and charitable organizations

since 2005. In a special function at the President House for special children hosted by President Dr. Arif Alvi in 1st of June 2019 he appreciated initiatives taken by First Lady of Azerbaijan since 2005 and noted support given by her for realization of charitable projects of Heydar Aliyev Foundation in Pakistan.

The function was organized by Azerbaijan embassy by the support of Heydar Aliyev Foundation

UN Goodwill Ambassador

Mehriban Aliyeva, the First Vice President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and President of the Foundation Heydar Aliyev founded "Azerbaijan - Heritage" magazine, which is published in three languages (Azerbaijani, English and Russian) in order to widely promote the Azerbaijani culture.

In 2002, Mehriban Aliyeva was elected president of the Gymnastics Federation of Azerbaijan. On 28 December 2004, Mehriban Aliyeva was elected a member to the Executive Committee of the National Olympic Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan at the 4th General Assembly of the Organization. In August 2004, Mehriban Aliyeva was named Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO for her role in protection and development of Azerbaijan's intangible folk literature and national musical legacy. As UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, Mrs Aliyeva supports the Organization's activities for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, especially oral traditions and expressions, performing arts and traditional craftsmanship. Mrs Aliyeva is also concerned by the problems of early childhood. Her commitment and charitable works in this domain include the renovation and modernization of an orphanage in Azerbaijan as well as the opening of a music school and the provision of treatment for children suffering from diabetes.



Hundreds of students throng to AEO Australian education expo

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AEO Pakistan operates as the official Liaison office for over 40 leading Australian Universities/Institutions and facilitates the enrolment of International students at these Universities / Institutions. Since 2002, AEO Pakistan has been conducting Australian Education Expos providing an excellent opportunity to Pakistani students planning to Study in Australia. Over the years thousands of students have benefitted from AEO expos held twice annually, across all major cities of Pakistan.

This August-September 36th AEO Australian Education Expo is being organized across 10 major cities of Pakistan i.e. Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi, Multan, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Abbottabad, Peshawar, Hyderabad and Bahawalpur. The AEO expo is providing an ideal platform to prospective students across the country, to get free expert advice and counselling about how to apply to study in Australia 2020 at top ranked international universities.

Representatives of more than 18 universities are participating at the expo providing golden opportunity for Pakistani students to get free guidance and counseling for their future study endeavors. Information about IELTS test and preparatory classes is also being provided at the expo.

After Lahore, the second and third exhibition of the series was successfully held simultaneously at Serena Hotel Islamabad and Hotel the Jeeven's Sialkot.

Hundreds of students along with their parents participated at the expo with great interest and excitement to enroll for admissions at top ranked Australian and other leading International Universities.

The participants appreciated AEO's effort in provision of a perfect platform offering free counselling



sessions with official representatives of international universities to

explore the options of enrolling for a degree of their choice.



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What is happening in Hong Kong?

By Yao Jing



Hong Kong is well-known to the world. It is not only an important international financial, trade, shipping hub and international innovation and technology center, but also one of the freest economies and the most competitive cities in the world. Its unique position bridges mainland China and West world. Hong Kong enjoys the reputation as the Pearl of the Orient. Recently, however, against the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government's proposed amendment bills to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance, a series of demonstrations and violent incidents in Hong Kong have caused widespread concern in the international community. Friends in Pakistan may have questions about what is happening in Hong Kong? I would like to share my views in following aspects.

1. Why does the Chinese central government implement "one country, two systems" in Hong Kong? Hong Kong has been a Chinese territory since ancient times. After the Opium War of 1842, the United Kingdom ruled Hong Kong as a colony for over 150 years by signing a series of unequal treaties with the Qing Dynasty. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese government and the British government signed the Sino-British Joint Declaration through negotiations. On 1st July 1997, China resumed its sovereignty over Hong Kong and Hong Kong returned to the embrace of the motherland.

Considering the existing ideological, moral and lifestyle differences that the people of Hong Kong have formed under the capitalist system for a long time, the Chinese central government

has decided to implement "one country, two systems" in Hong Kong and set up the Hong Kong SAR. The Chinese central government governs Hong Kong in accordance with the Constitution and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong SAR. Hong Kong enjoys a high degree of autonomy only exclusive of national defense and foreign affairs, keeping the capitalist system and way of life unchanged for 50 years. Other countries, including the United Kingdom, have no sovereignty, no power to rule, no power to supervise over Hong Kong after its return.

During the 22 years since the return of Hong Kong, the practice of "one country, two systems" has achieved universally recognized success. In 2018, the total economic volume of Hong Kong was \$360 billion, more than twice that of 1996; the number of visitors to Hong Kong exceeded 65 million, six times that of 1997; the international ranking of legal environment jumped from lower than 60th in 1996 to 16th in 2018. Hong Kong has been voted as the world's freest economy for 20 consecutive years. After the return, Hong Kong's own characteristics and advantages have been maintained. It enjoys harmony between Chinese and Western culture, and the charm of the metropolis is better than ever. The people of Hong Kong enjoy more extensive democratic rights and freedom than ever. Under the system of "one country, two systems", the central government and the mainland China has been a strong support to Hong Kong's development. Hong Kong SAR will usher in a better future with the "One Belt, One Road" initiative and the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

2. Why does the government of Hong Kong SAR propose to amend the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance?

The proposal by government of Hong Kong SAR to amend the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance results from an ordinary

criminal case. In early 2018, a Hong Kong resident killed his pregnant girlfriend in Taiwan, China and escaped back to Hong Kong. Since Hong Kong has no criminal jurisdiction in this case, the SAR government proposed to amend the above two ordinances to extradite the suspect to Taiwan and charge him for murder there. The amendments will allow Hong Kong to cooperate with the Mainland, Macao and Taiwan that haven't signed the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance with Hong Kong to transfer suspects and fugitives through special arrangements. Such a step will be conducive to make up for the loopholes in the existing laws, jointly combat crimes and manifest the rule of law and justice.

However, since the beginning of amending the two ordinances in this February, some citizens of Hong Kong had various doubts due to lack of knowledge about law and judicial systems in the mainland China. Some people and media with ulterior motives took the opportunity to spread rumors or create social panic in order to thwart the amendment of the ordinance. Since June, Hong Kong has witnessed several large-scale rallies against the amendments of the ordinance. The government of Hong Kong SAR suspended the amending procedure on 15th June and stopped relevant legislative work after consulting people from various walks of life in order to restore tranquility to the society as soon as possible.

3. Was what happened recently a peaceful assembly or a violent incident?

After the Hong Kong SAR government decided to suspend the amendments, the situation has not subsided. On the contrary, it became more radical and violent. Since 12th June, the protests in Hong Kong have completely gone beyond the freedom of assembly, demonstration or protest. The situation has escalated into extremely violent incidents. The protesters use various violent measures with intensified destructiveness. The facts are startling and horrifying. Over the

past two months, 461 people have been injured in violent conflicts, including 139 police officers. What is even more indignant and highly vigilant is that some violent radicals have torn up The Basic Law of the Hong Kong SAR, defamed Chinese national emblem and national flag, which seriously violated the law. Their behaviors have openly offended the national dignity and challenged the bottom line of the "one country, two systems" principle. The protests and violent attacks have also caused serious negative impacts on Hong Kong's economy and people's livelihood. According to the statistics of the government of Hong Kong SAR, the economic indicators of Hong Kong in the first six months of this year have rarely fallen across the board except for few industries. The gross domestic product of Hong Kong in the second quarter increased by only 0.6 percent in real terms year on year. 18 countries and regions have issued travel safety reminders against Hong Kong. The current situation in Hong Kong has seriously eroded the confidence of international investors who have publicly expressed their deep concern about the business environment in

Hong Kong.

It is worth noting that external forces have played a very disgraceful role in the evolving of the situation in Hong Kong. Since the start of the amendments process to the two Ordinances in February, some western politicians have publicly stood at the forefront and been backseat drivers, calling white black, making a lot of groundless and irresponsible remarks and allegations, and interfering with Hong Kong affairs. How could the situation in Hong Kong has deteriorated to the point as it is today? Why some violent radicals dare to unscrupulously carry out illegal activities and openly challenge the bottom line of the "one country, two systems" principle? It is inseparable from the irresponsible remarks of some Western politicians.

4. How do the Chinese central government and the government of Hong Kong SAR respond to the situation in Hong Kong? The Chinese central government unswervingly safeguards national sovereignty and Hong Kong's prosperity and stability, and resolutely stand by the government of Hong Kong SAR in its administration

according to the laws and regulations, supports the Hong Kong police in law enforcement and the Hong Kong Judiciary to punish violent criminals in accordance with the law, and appreciates the action of the patriotic citizens of Hong Kong to defend the rule of law in Hong Kong. Hong Kong is China's Hong Kong. Hong Kong affairs are China's internal affairs. China will not tolerate the intervention of external forces. The Chinese central government has solemnly demanded that certain countries should abide by the basic norms of international law, international relations and their own commitments not to intervene in Hong Kong affairs, and stop supporting violence and interfering in Hong Kong affairs in any form. Justice naturally inhabits man's heart. With the support of the Chinese central government and the efforts of the government of Hong Kong SAR, with the assistance of the vast number of patriotic Hong Kong people, we believe that Hong Kong will soon return to the normal track of prosperity and stability. Yao Jing is Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan



Islamabad: To Bid Farewell Mr. Zaho Lijihan Out-Going Minister & Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan, Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani Secretary General Pakistan China Frindship Association Khyber Presenting Traditional Hand-Made Souvenir. Photo Taken on occasion Shows (L-R) Ms Pang Chunxue New DCM & Minister, Mr. Zhao Lijian, Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani and Chinese Ambassador Mr. Yao Jing

Young bureaucrats urged to learn from Japanese experience



ISLAMABAD Secretary Economic Affairs Division Noor Ahmed has exhorted the young bureaucrats to put in their best efforts in order to excel in life.

While addressing to a batch of young bureaucrats selected for skill development program offered by government of Japan, the Secretary said while in Japan they have to act as ambassadors of Pakistan.

He said having been visited Japan on a number of occasions he could share with them the way Japanese nation had made progress by leaps and bounds in all fields.

He said Japanese are a hardworking nation and there are many things which can be learnt there.

The Federal Secretary said both Pakistan and Japan enjoy excellent relations, which are constantly on the move.

He said in recent years both sides were able to further strengthen and diversify cooperation in a variety of fields.

It may be mentioned here that this program was launched in Pakistan in 2018. The main objective of JDS is to strengthen the administrative capacities of government of Pakistan for social and economic development.

This program targets young government officials, who are expected to play a leadership role in the development of their country.

This year, eighteen competent civil servants from thirteen different departments enrolled in six different universities will study in

Japan.

They get benefit from this program to achieve the key objectives of acquiring expert knowledge, conduct research, and build human networks.

These will help the trainees to take an active role in solving practical problems of the social and economic development issues in Pakistan. Five fellows are enrolled in Public

Administration and Finance; four fellows for Energy Policy and Implementation; Six fellows in Industrial Promotion, Investment Climate and Trade; two fellows in Agriculture, Water Resources and Rural Development and One fellow enrolled in Disaster Management Capacity/

Kuninori Matsuda, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan said: "We expect them not only to make their maximum effort to successfully complete their respective degree but also to understand Japan, its people, its unique culture and tradition."

We hope that after completing their studies in Japan they utilize their experience in Japan and will work for the development of Pakistan."

Shigeki Furuta, Chief Representative of JICA while speaking at the event said with his expectation to the JDS fellows, "I would like to congratulate all of you for your next adventure and will be pleased to see you accomplishing great things to solidify foundations to further bilateral relation not only on country basis but also personal basis with Japan."



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New Dutch ambassador Wouter Plomp assumes charge

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) – New Dutch Ambassador to Pakistan Wouter Plomp has assumed charge of his office.

He joined the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1989, and most recently served as Ambassador to North Macedonia (2015-19) and Benin (2009-12).

He was also Deputy Ambassador to Indonesia from 2012 to 2015. The new ambassador is very excited to further strengthen Netherlands-Pakistan relations, building on excellent work of his predecessor Ardi Stoios-Braken!..=DNA



MCI to outsource solid waste management system: Mayor

ISLAMABAD, (DNA)- Mayor of Islamabad Sheikh Anser Aziz has disclosed that the Metropolitan Corporation of Islamabad (MCI) is in the process of outsourcing the solid waste management system with a view to improving cleanliness situation in the Federal Capital and its suburban areas.

He made this announcement during an interview with DNA on Monday.

The Mayor further said, the MCI has already called tenders in this regard and a decision is likely to be made within next few weeks.

He said both local and foreign companies shall be able to bid for the contract. He made it clear that the bidding process shall be conducted in a transparent manner.

The Mayor further said the decision to outsource solid waste management system has been taken in order to ensure proper cleanliness of the Capital. Currently, the MCI staff is responsible for the waste management.

To a question about cleanliness in the diplomatic enclave and carpeting of roads, the Mayor said, ostensibly the cleanliness of the diplomatic enclave appears at the top of the MCI agenda and many steps have already been taken in this regard.

Regarding dilapidated roads where foreign missions are located, the Mayor said he had already issued necessary instructions in this regard.

He on the occasion urged especially the diplomatic missions to write to him in case of any complaints whatsoever for early resolution. He pointed out the foreign missions and general public also were still resorting to the Capital

DNA



Development Authority (CDA) for resolution of their problems.

As a matter of fact, the CDA now has nothing to do with such issues therefore all such queries and complaints should be directed to MCI proper resolution.

To a yet another question about development work, the Mayor admitted that development work was still in limbo in some cases because of a tug of war between MCI and CDA. MCI he said has sufficient funds for such works but CDA wants these funds to be utilized through it, thus causing unnecessary delays.

Regarding tree plantation drive, he said the MCI had already planted hundreds of samplings while drive in this regard was still continuing.

He said MCI would continue its efforts towards a clean and green Pakistan adding his department was ready to join hands with even private organizations in this regards. =DNA

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Air Chief Mujahid Anwar salutes valiant role of Turkish armed forces for protecting and safeguarding the democratic norms

Turkish ambassador hosts grand reception to mark Victory Day

DNA

ISLAMABAD, Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul hosted a grand reception to mark the Victory day of Turkey.

Prominent personalities including high ranking civil and military officials and a large number of diplomats attended the reception.

Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar, Chief of the Air Staff was the chief guest while Commander 10 Corps Lt. General Bilal Akbar also attended the event. SAPM on Information Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan was also included among the distinguished guests.

Air Chief in his remarks said both countries enjoy excellent relations adding these bonds for friendship and brotherhood will grow even stronger.

He also saluted valiant role of Turkish armed forces for protecting and safeguarding the democratic norms.

Earlier, to start the proceedings of the reception Ambassador Ihsan Mustafa read out the message of President of

Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

In the message the President of Turkey said "Today, we, as the nation, are celebrating the 97th anniversary of the August 30 Victory Day, one of the golden episodes in our glorious history'.

He further said "I remember with mercy and gratitude Ghazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the commander-in-chief of our War of Independence, the members of the Great National Assembly of Turkey, and all the members of our armed forces, who gifted our people this victory, on the 97th anniversary of the great victory'.

While greeting the Turkish nation on the occasion the President further said, "I wholeheartedly congratulate each and every one of our citizens from all our provinces and across the world as well as citizens of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on the August 30 Victory Day'.

He said the Great Offensive, launched under Ghazi Mustafa Kemal's command on August 26, 1922, was crowned with victory in Dumlupınar after tough battles.

Our nation broke the slavery chain, which was tried to be forced upon her, with this legendary victory achieved on August 30, and proved to the entire world that our independence is above and beyond anything. The great victory, which heralded the Republic of Turkey, our ultimate state, was the revival of the Turkish Nation, against all efforts aiming at erasing it from history. Just like all our victories in history, what was behind the August 30 was the courage of our heroes, who sacrificed themselves without any hesitation, the President added.

The message further said, as was the case in the past, Turkish nation today is poised to show the same self-sacrifice and courage for its independence, its future and its homeland, which is sacred than our lives. The struggle that the Turkish Armed Forces wage inside and outside our borders to preserve our eternal presence as a nation is the most obvious proof of this. We are determined to foil each and every conspiracy set against our





country in the north of Syria, Iraq and the Eastern Mediterranean. We will by no means let the rights of our nation and of Turkish Cypriots be usurped. With the inspiration and courage we derive from the great victory, we will maintain our push to carry Turkey to a brighter and more prosperous future. Thus, new

victories will inshallah be bestowed upon us with the support of our friends who trust in our country, the sagacity of our nation and with the prayers of our brothers and sisters who believe in us, as was the case 97 years ago. The President wished Allah's mercy upon martyrs and veterans, and saluted all brothers and

sisters who did, who are and who will be standing with us back then, now and in the future. Ambassador Yurdakul in his brief remarks thanked the audience for attending the reception in large number. He hoped Turkey-Pakistan friendship will become even stronger with the each passing day.=DNA



EU launches programme to support Pak counter terrorism efforts

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) -The European Union is stepping up its support to counter-terrorism efforts in Pakistan with a new €4 million (PKR 704 million) programme.

The additional support responds to the significant terrorism related threats in Pakistan that continue to exist, in spite of a substantial decrease in the number of terrorist incidents as a result of the efforts of the Pakistani authorities.

The support also reflects the fact that the handling of counter-terrorism cases in Pakistan remains a challenge both at federal and regional levels.

This new EU support, which is funded by the European Commission's Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, is a clear and tangible deliverable in line with the EU-Pakistan Strategic Engagement Plan, which was signed by EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, and the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, in June.

This new programme will build on the existing cooperation partnership that the European Union has with the province of Sindh and will contribute towards improving the quality of the investigation, prosecution and adjudication processes of Sindh's criminal justice system, resulting in combatting terrorism and its financing more effectively.

Capacity building and training programmes will be carried out for counter-terrorism police officers, prosecutors and judges on the basis of gaps identified through an analysis of terrorist cases.

A 'Case Management and Monitoring System' will be developed to improve the work of prosecutors and support will be provided to implement the Sindh Witness Protection Law. It will also strengthen inter-provincial and federal coordination through the National Counter-Terrorism Authority (NACTA).

The programme will be implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and will build upon the achievements and lessons learnt of the EU project "Support to Pakistan's Action to Counter Terrorism, with special reference to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa", which will finish at the end of 2019. =DNA

HEC scholarship cell has facilitated scores of Pakistani students so far



ISLAMABAD (DNA) – The special cell established at the HEC to help students regarding scholarships has contributed greatly towards better student facilitation and effective liaison between HEC and the foreign missions in Pakistan.

The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training had established a special cell "learning opportunities abroad" at the Higher Education Commission (HEC).

The main objective of the scholarships cell is to process and advertise all international scholarship opportunities available for Pakistani students in various institutions of the world, through the HEC website www.hec.gov.pk.

As per this arrangement this cell not only disseminates information for Pakistani students but also helps foreign missions and institutions in picking up suitable candidates fulfilling all eligibility requirements of respective institutions in the host countries.

In this regard the HEC had requested all foreign missions in Pakistan to share with them details of all ongoing scholarship programmes in their respective countries where Pakistani students were eligible to apply and compete.

HEC undertook this initiative with a view to developing and strengthening skilled resource development with special focus on enhancing the human resource capital of the country.

It may be mentioned here that the HEC, working for over 204 universities of Pakistan has so far awarded 9000 overseas scholarships to Pakistani students.

According to sources at the Education Ministry, challenges before HEC are huge as 45 million young Pakistani people between the ages of 17 to 25 years should have access to quality higher education.

HEC scholarship cell is contributing towards this end effectively and it would continue to do so even in the prospect for materialization of these opportunities besides developing the higher education sector of the country.

The foreign missions can surely augment HEC efforts in this regard by cultivating stronger and deeper educational links and using HEC platform for disseminating information about scholarships and related initiatives, the sources added.



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Thandiani

Thandiani (literally meaning "very cold") is a hill station in the Galyat area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa the Province of Pakistan. Thandiani is located in the northeast of Abbottabad District and is about 37.5 kilometres (23.3 mi) from Abbottabad in the foothills of the Himalayas.[1][2] To the east beyond the Kunhar River lies the snow-covered Pir Panjal mountain range of Kashmir. Visible to the north and northeast are the mountains of Kohistan and Kaghan. To the northwest are the snowy ranges of Swat and Chitral. The hills of Thandiani are about 2,750 metres (9,020 ft) above sea level. Most of the people residing here belong to the Sadaat (Syed), Awan, Mughals, Qureshi, Abbasi, Jadoon Gujjar, and Karlal tribes. The nearest villages are Bandi Sarara Mara Rehmat Khan, Inderseri,

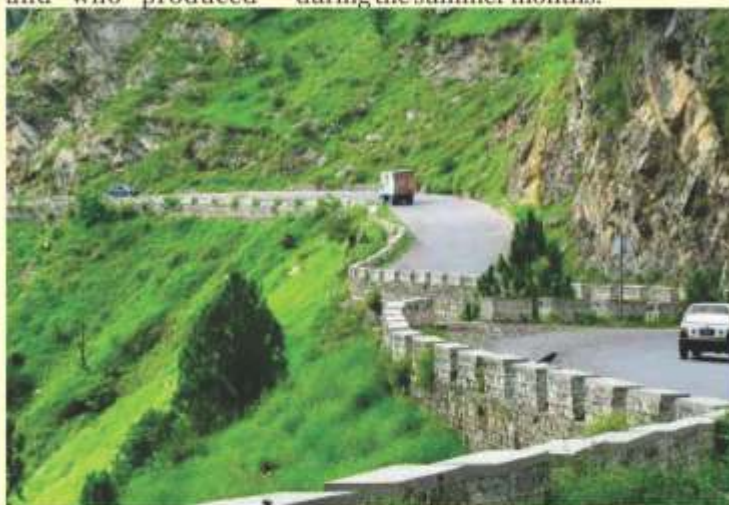


Bir nagalli, Chattri, Chamaili, Sialkot, Pattan, Okharela, Dheri, Darer and Kukmang.

History:

Thandiani was originally granted as a lease to some members of the Batty family[3] in British India, who were Christian missionaries and also found in civil and military service, and who produced

scions such as Wigram Batty and Quintin Batty.[4][5] The Battys subsequently gifted the location to the church authorities, where a sanatorium and various other facilities were set up during the British rule, mostly for the convenience of missionaries, Anglican church personnel and officers stationed at the neighbouring cantonment of Abbottabad. It also contained some private European houses, a camping ground, a small bazaar, and the small seasonal church of St. Xavier in the Wilderness which were occupied only during the summer months.



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- Installation of water filtration plants and digging of wells

4 GREEN ENVIRONMENT:

- Aim to raise the awareness of sustainable green environment
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SERENA HOTELS SPORTS DIPLOMACY

Shahid Habib lifts Serena hotels Azadi golf cup 2019



ISLAMABAD (DNA) -Serena Hotels under its Sports Diplomacy Initiative hosted the "Azadi Golf Tournament 2019" in collaboration with the Islamabad Club at their Golf Course.

The exclusive match drew members of the diplomatic corps, dignitaries, corporate sector and businessmen who participated with great enthusiasm.

Over the years, Sports Diplomacy has emerged as an integral part of Serena's efforts to build stronger relations with communities while encouraging diverse groups to participate in sports, thereby improving leadership, teamwork, and communication skills along with promoting a healthier lifestyle.

Serena Hotels CEO Aziz Boolani said, "We use sports to provide a platform to our foreign diplomats and friends, serving and retired bureaucrats and ourselves to establish links with other professionals and peers.

This is an opportunity to develop friendships and demonstrate our abilities and interests in different

sports."

The tournament consisted of three categories along with special prizes for the longest drive and closest to pin.

The winners were awarded trophies by CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani and President Islamabad Club Golf Course, Jawad Paul.

AMATEUR CATEGORY:

3RD NET = Lt Gen Azhar Saleh Abbasi

2ND NET = Rashid Ibrahim

1ST NET = Shahid Habib

LADIES CATEGORY:

2ND NET = Alima Amjad

1ST NET = Zeenat Ayesha

JUNIOR CATEGORY:

1ST GROSS = Shazmina Khan

SPECIAL PRICE:

Longest drive = Syed Amir Gillani Closest to pin = Jawad Paul / =DNA





DR CHRISTIAN TURNER APPOINTED AS NEW BRITISH ENVOY TO PAKISTAN

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) -Dr Christian Turner CMG has been appointed British High Commissioner to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in succession to Mr Thomas Drew CMG who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment. Dr Turner will take up his appointment by December 2019. Dr. Turner's assignments include: 2017 – present No.10, Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser and Deputy National Security Adviser, 2016 – 2017 FCO, Director-General Middle-East and North Africa, and Africa; Acting Political Director (2017), 2016 FCO, Director, London Syria Conference, 2012 – 2016 Nairobi, British High

Commissioner, 2009 – 2012 FCO, Director, Middle-East and North Africa,



2008 – 2009 FCO, Deputy Director, Middle-East and North Africa, 2007 –

2008 Cabinet Office, Director, Middle-East, North Africa and North America, Overseas and Defence Secretariat, 2007 No.10, Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, 2006 – 2007 FCO roles including project work in Middle-East and North Africa Directorate and for the Special Representative for Climate Change, 2003 – 2006 Washington, First Secretary, Energy and Environment, 1998 – 2003 Cabinet Office, roles including Deputy Team Leader in Prime Minister's Strategy Unit, Private Secretary to the Minister of State, and Secretary to the Economic and Domestic Committees of Cabinet. =DNA

Foreign missions join hands for a clean and green diplomatic enclave

Drive launched under DiploGreen initiatives; foreign missions and civil society take part; Amin Aslam shares PTI govt policy on climate change



DNA



ISLAMABAD, (DNA) – Foreign missions on Wednesday morning launched Clean and Green Diplomatic Enclave drive by collecting waste from various parts of the Enclave. The campaign was launched under the DiploGreen initiative spearheaded by Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, the UK and the United States.

Diplomatic missions gathered in front of the Canadian High Commission early in the morning and then dispersed in various directions to collect waste. A large number of members of civil society also joined foreign missions in this noble cause.

DiploGreen launched event – a cleanup and recycling campaign, also supports Islamabad's plastic free campaign, recently announced by the Ministry of Climate Change.

As a first effort under this initiative, employees and volunteers from various missions led a two hour recycling drive and cleanup across the diplomatic enclave.

The Cleanup and recycling drive was

followed by a gathering at the Canadian high commission to continue the conversation about environmental awareness at the local, national and global levels.

The gathering also gave participating diplomatic missions, as well as businesses and organizations opportunity to discuss their respective sustainability pledges in favor of a healthier environment.

Under these pledges, new environmental measures were discussed including banning single use plastics, starting a recycling program, committing to reduce energy or water usage or supporting awareness campaigns. Prime Minister Adviser to Prime Minister for Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam also joined and shared PTI government vision about environment protection and related issues.

High Commissioner of Canada Wendy Gilmour said that she was delighted to announce the launch of DiploGreen, in collaboration with the embassies and

high commissions of France, Germany, the Netherlands, Japan, the UK and the US.

She further said their goal was to raise awareness about the environment. "Today the diplomatic community came



DiploGreen



together to clean and recycle our way of a healthier environment for us all', she added. The Canadian envoy noted that we were all impacted by environmental issues. It was imperative that we continue to work tougher across geographic and political boundaries to protect our natural surroundings, she concluded. DiploGreen is an extension of France's sustainable development programs currently implemented in Pakistan. The French embassy has started early this year to reduce its own environmental impact in the country first by banning the single use plastic utensils in events it is organizing. This action will be soon followed by the implementation before the end of the year of recycling procedures for the

internal functioning of the embassy, with a local player of recycling sector. The French embassy representative on the occasion told that they were studying the progressive adaptation of our embassy to partly renewable energy with solar panels. France has also contributed significantly for sustainable development of Pakistan with a portfolio amount of 973 million euros and 23 projects financed since 12 years. The French development agency is mainly active in Pakistan through its massive support to green energy. The German embassy started cooperating with the recycling company Saaf Suthra Sheher in March 2018. Since then the embassy staff segregates waste in different waster bins and all

recyclables are regularly collected and recycled by Saaf Suthra Sheher. In February 2019 the embassy launched a communication campaign called #Greentit which intends to raise awareness about the need of environmental protection. The upcoming construction of a new embassy building will significantly enhance the level of energy efficiency as modern building insulation and windows will reduce the need for cooling and heating. Additionally photovoltaic system will be installed and will contribute to the embassy's greener footprint, the German embassy representative told.=DNA



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Indonesia celebrates 74th anniversary of Independence Day

DNA report

ISLAMABAD, - An impressive flag-hoisting ceremony was held at the Indonesian embassy on the occasion of 74th anniversary of Independence Day of Indonesia.

Ambassador of Indonesia Iwan S Amri along with embassy staff presided over the flag-hoisting ceremony.

Indonesia proclaimed her Independence on August 17th 1945.

This year the Indonesian nation is celebrating the 74th anniversary of the Independence of their homeland. Every year this historic event is celebrated with great patriotic zeal and numerous exciting events throughout the archipelago and around the world.

Like in all international capitals, the pinnacle celebration commemorating Independence Day was held in the morning of the 17th August at the Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad.

Embassy's officials along with their families and Indonesian community based in different cities of Pakistan about four hundred in number attended

the ceremony with traditional national fervor.

At the flag hoisting ceremony, a smartly turned out group of students had the honor to receive the Indonesian flag from the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia Iwan S. Amri and raised it solemnly with the playing of the Indonesian National Anthem.

This was followed by the reading of the text of proclamation of Independence, Indonesian





philosophy of Pancasila and the Preamble of the Indonesian constitution. The ceremony concluded with the special prayers for the country and renewed commitment to avidly give hundred percent to make Indonesia prosperous, harmonious and invincible. After the Flag hoisting ceremony, the Indonesian



them the highlights of ever improving all around bilateral ties between Indonesia and Pakistan. He also assured the Indonesian community that the Embassy was always there to facilitate its community in resolving their issues. The program concluded with the distribution of prizes to the winners of the Independence Day



students wearing colorful traditional costumes representing different parts of the country and highlighting Indonesian motto of "Unity in Diversity" made enthralling performance of patriotic songs.

It was followed by the Indonesian traditional Rice Cone Cutting ceremony performed by the Ambassador to mark the auspicious day. On the occasion, the Ambassador also honored a group of Indonesian students in Pakistan with the certificate of appreciation for being high achievers



games held at the Embassy during the months of July and August as part of the events organized to celebrate the 74th Independence Anniversary of the country.

The games included different competitions such as Fun Walk, Volleyball, Lawn Tennis, Table Tennis, Tug of War, futsal and fun games for the kids. =D
NA



and pursuing their higher level academic programs with distinction. The Ambassador while addressing the Indonesian community congratulated them on the Independence Day Anniversary and shared with



Floral Art Society holds
function at Islamabad
Serena Hotel



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DR. Geoffrey Shaw

Australian home to more than
60,000 people of Pakistani origin

New Australian High Commissioner arrives

ISLAMABAD (DNA) – Newly-arrived High Commissioner of Australia Dr. Geoffrey Shaw has said Australia was home to more than 60,000 people of Pakistani origin, and more than 13,000 Pakistanis are studying in my country.

“They make a wonderful and valued contribution to the Australian community and help bridge our two countries. In towns and cities across Australia, they too will gather in celebration this week. They give me confidence that relations between Australia and Pakistan – in trade, culture, sport and education – will continue to grow”, he added.

He expressed these views in his message on the occasion of Eid ul Adha.

In his message Dr Shaw sent his warmest wishes to all Pakistanis on both auspicious occasions of Eid-ul-Adha and Independence Day.

“My best wishes to all Pakistanis this week as you celebrate both Eid-ul-Adha and Independence Day. These two important days remind me of the bonds of friendship between Australia and Pakistan”. =DNA



RCCI Gems and Jewelry Expo Inaugurated
Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan Special Assistant to
Prime minister for information.
Ambassadors of Italy and Nepal also seen in the picture.

Serena concludes Season 3 of Sarangi music competition

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) -Serena Hotels concluded the Sarangi Music Competition, Season 3.

The star-studded ceremony was held at the Sheesh Mahal hall of the hotel where various members of the diplomatic corps, business community and Islamabad society gathered to hear the shortlisted contestants.

Sarangi, which was launched in October 2017 is a part of Serena Hotel's Cultural Diplomacy Initiative which aims to protect and promote the cultural heritage of Pakistan by encouraging young talents and giving them an opportunity to become the nation's rising star.

Through engaging social media, the music competition, over the years, has received tremendous response from across the country and an incredible pool of talented singers and musicians has been identified, and given opportunities. The jury panel consisted of renowned figures of music industry, Zoe Viccaji, Asif Ali Santoo and Sarmad Ghafoor. All

four of the shortlisted contestants, Humail Rajpoot, Najum Saleem, Samia Gohar and Atif Sunny gave short performances which the judges assessed. Coming from diverse backgrounds, from different parts of the country, their experiences and training were reflected in their styles as they performed in front of more than 500 people. As a special treat, Asif Ali Santoo also performed a few couplets from Tere Bina Nahi Lagda Dil Mera Dholna, Jaaniya Haaniya while the results were compiled.

Zoe Viccaji and Sarmad Ghafoor made the much-awaited announcement sharing that it was a very close decision. The decision was so close that Humail and Samia were both declared winners of the third season of Sarangi.

Humail won the recording of a



scholarship for her Bachelor's degree in Musicology.

Santoo said: "I am blown away by the quality of submission received from all over Pakistan. It was a tough challenge for us judges to shortlist only four people from 160 submissions, but we tried to do justice."

"With the dearth of a proper music industry and opportunities for younger people, projects like Sarangi gives young musicians a platform to work towards and be heard on a larger platform. The final prize which is a song recording and music video is so apt and something I

would have truly valued when I first started pursuing music," Ms. Viccaji said.

Serena Hotels CEO Aziz Boolani, speaking at the occasion, said: "Serena has promoted the arts and intercultural activities to inspire a culture of peace and hope.

And we truly believe in giving recognition and platform to the emerging artists that need recognition. We have used our social media to introduce these competitions and have received tremendous response from all over Pakistan.

Tonight, we not only celebrate the winners but also the incredible creative talent



song and its music video while Samia was awarded a full

that Pakistan possesses". =DNA





Pak high school students to visit Japan under the SAKURA Plan

ISLAMABAD (DNA) - A group of ten high school students of Cadet College Hasan Abdal along with their one accompanying supervisor will be visiting Japan from 13th to 19th September, 2019 on the invitation by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) under the Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science which is known as the "SAKURA Science Plan."

The Embassy of Japan today arranged a pre-departure orientation session for the visiting students and also presented travel documents to them.

Kuninori Matsuda, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, while speaking on the occasion, congratulated the students upon their selection for SAKURA Science Plan.

He hoped that the young Pakistani high schools students would get an opportunity during their visit to Japan to experience the modern scientific and technological advancements of Japan.

The Ambassador said that Japan would continue helping Pakistan in its efforts to develop its young human resource power. The Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) annually invites outstanding



young students and young professionals from Asian countries on short-term visits to Japan to promote exchanges between the young Asian and Japanese researchers in the field of science and technology. This program also provides the visitors an opportunity to experience the advanced Japanese scientific technology.=DNA

Shaikh Express hosts
dinner for newly
arrived Ambassador
of Japan Kuninori
Matsuda



Islamabad Marriott Hotel goes plastic bag free

ISLAMABAD (DNA) -The Islamabad Marriott hotel has started its 'Plastic-Free' campaign to help reduce its plastic footprint in collaboration with Plastic Miracles, "a social enterprise which aims to be society's change agent and to pioneer innovations that benefit society. The General Manager of the Hotel said "We are committed to working on a plan to reduce plastic bags usage at the hotel. In fact we have already taken an initiative to reduce 70 % of plastic consumption at the hotel. This step was taken as soon as the ban on plastic bags was announced in the Federal Capital territory from the 14th of August 2019. Our management and colleagues are excited to lead the way and to make a difference," said Maurizio Romani, the General Manager of the Islamabad Marriott Hotel. To celebrate Independence day and to spread awareness on environmental friendliness, a ceremony was held at the hotel which was an excellent opportunity to showcase this CSR initiative in collaboration with Ministry of Climate change Followed by



the flag raising ceremony recycled plastic bags, which were made by Plastic Miracles, were distributed amongst the associates. The initiative was met by outstanding enthusiasm by all including the guests. The

Islamabad Marriott Hotel has always been committed to caring for the community and the education of conservation and practices to protect the environment.=DNA

Norway extends support to UNESCO for girls' education improvement

ISLAMABAD (DNA) -Norway has extended its support to UNESCO Pakistan for improvement of girls' lower secondary education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province of Pakistan.

In the ceremony at Royal Norwegian Embassy Islamabad Kjell-Gunnar Eriksen, Norwegian Ambassador to Pakistan, and Ms. Vibeke Jensen, UNESCO Representative/ Director signed the grant agreement for NOK 13.5 million to fund a three-year "Girls Lower Secondary Education Programme (GLSEP) in Pakistan".

The programme will support the transition of girls from primary to lower secondary education primarily in Kohistan and Swat districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province through local and institutional interventions targeting multiple stakeholders including education officials, community leaders, teachers and parents. Ms. Vibeke Jensen appreciated the Norwegian government's support to strengthen Government's efforts for promotion of girls' participation in quality education. She further highlighted the value of cooperation.

"I firmly believe the mutual cooperation will help addressing various issues of girls drop-out after completion of primary education; especially in remote, marginlised areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province". Ms. Jensen said.

The Ambassador commended UNESCO's contribution

to girls' education in Pakistan and termed the partnership with UNESCO Pakistan as a significant step forward towards achieving the shared goal of promotion of girls' education in Pakistan.

Year 2018 successfully marked 50 years of development cooperation between Norway and Pakistan. In the field of education, Norway's consistent and long-term programme support has made remarkable contributions to increasing both access and quality of education, with special focus on girls.

The Girls' Lower Secondary Education Programme in Pakistan sets the stage for strategic investment in the education sector to improve girls' access and transition to quality lower secondary education with a holistic approach for better learning opportunities.=DNA





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Islamabad: Ambassador of Uzbekistan Furqat Sidikov Presenting a Souvenir to General (R) Ihsanul Haq. (DNA)

Essay contest winners visit Azerbaijan

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) – The winners of essay completion titled “what do you know about Azerbaijan”, visited Azerbaijan.

The visitors comprising young talent of Pakistan were taken to various parts of the country and shown difference historical sites of Azerbaijan.

They were also given a briefing about Pakistan, Azerbaijan relations. The visitors enjoyed the trip and appreciated

hospitality of Azerbaijani people.

It may be mentioned here that Ali Alizade, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, had met with the winners at his office before their departure to Azerbaijan.

On the occasion of his meeting with the six competition winners, Alizade expressed gratitude towards the Pakistani youth for showing interest in the competition.

He also praised them for taking part in the essay writing contest 2019, which was organized under the Youth and Sport of Azerbaijan, with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Omar Ayub says Pakistan, Malaysia enjoys friendly ties

ISLAMABAD, AUG 29 (DNA) – Federal Minister for Power, Mr. Omar Ayub Khan has said that Pakistan and Malaysia enjoy brotherly cordial relations and there is huge potential that need to be explored to further boost the existing ties between the two countries.

The Federal Minister expressed these view in a meeting with High Commissioner of Malaysia Mr. Ikram Mohammad Ibrahim along with a delegation of businessmen here today. During the meeting the Federal Minister for Power and Petroleum informed the

Pakistan energy sector is offering very good return on investment in various fields. He said that Government is also taking concrete steps towards easing the procedures for the business communities. He informed the delegation that energy sector is introducing state of the art technologies besides streamlining the fiscal discipline that has further boosted the confidence of the investors. He specially mentioned the AMI project that is being executed in Power Distribution Companies.

The Malaysian High Commissioner informed the Federal Minister that Malaysian Petroleum Company PETRONAS is keen in investing in Pakistan in the oil and gas sector specially the LNG business. He also apprised the Federal Minister on the existing cooperation and various Malaysian companies already working in Pakistan. =DNA



PALESTINE AMBASSADOR MEETS DG MIDDLE EAST



Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Rabei Meeting with Director General Middle East Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador of Palestine remained with the DG for some time and discussed matters of mutual interest. He also presented him a souvenir.



Hashoo group planted 5000 trees for the Prime Minister Tree Tsunami drive

German embassy distributes cloth bags

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) – The German Embassy in Islamabad distributed cloth bags among people and students as an alternative to polythene shopping bags.

Since August 14, under the Clean and Green Pakistan campaign, polythene bags, plastic bottles, and wrappers for carrying food items have been completely banned in Islamabad.

The pictures from schools, bazaars and parking lots showed citizens receiving cloth bags from German Embassy staff.

“After ban of plastic bags entered



into force in Islamabad, we distributed cloth bags at a Government school, Aabpara market & Blue Area. Important to raise people's awareness to avoid Plastic for the sake of our environment! #Reuse is the only

solution,” stated a tweet by the German Embassy.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Environment has constituted special teams to conduct raids on a daily basis and confiscate polythene bags in the capital city.

ASEAN DAY CELEBRATED



ISLAMABAD, (DNA) Ambassadors and high commissioners of ASEAN countries posing for a picture on the occasion of Commemoration of 52nd ASEAN Day by ASEAN committee in Islamabad Ambassador of Thailand Pornpop Uamphidaya hosted the event at the Thai embassy. Ambassador Moazzam A Khan, Special Secretary MFA Pakistan was the chief guest.



NEWS IN BRIEF



German ambassador Bernhard Schlagheck visits Faisal Mosque



HC Geoffrey Shaw issues message on AEO EXPO

Australia offers range of studying options for Pakistani students



ISLAMABAD, (DNA) - Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Geoffrey Shaw has said that Australia offers a range of exciting options for Pakistani students, with more than 1200 institutions and 22000 courses available. Pakistani students can learn more about these

options by attending the Australian Education Expos.

Australia is a leading international education provider, and the innovations of our graduates are testament to the quality of our education. Australia has produced 15 Nobel laureates and every day people around the world use Australian innovations – penicillin, IVF, ultrasound, Wi-Fi, the Bionic Ear, cervical cancer vaccine and Black Box Flight Recorders-that make their lives better. Australia has the third highest number of international students in the world. We have seven of the top 100 universities in the world. More than 2.5 million former international students have gone on to make a difference after studying in Australia.

The livability of our cities complements our

strong academic credentials. Australia has five of the 30 best cities in the world for students based on students mix, affordability, quality of life, and employer activity – important factors for students choosing the best study destination.

Australia is fast becoming a destination of choice for Pakistani students. In 2018, more than 13000 Pakistanis studied at Australian institutions, up 7 per cent on the previous year.

In the past five years, Pakistani student numbers have increased by 10 percent. The education opportunities Australia offers-through Australia Awards scholarships and self funded degrees give young Pakistanis qualifications and skills to pursue their dreams and contribute to their countries inclusive, sustainable economic and social development.

We have an active network of alumni, many of whom are working in positions of influence across Pakistan.

Australian universities have Memoranda of Understanding with Pakistan's Higher Education Commission offering PhD scholarships, cooperation in research.

The Australian Trade and Investment Commission is working to link Australian technical and vocational education and training (TVET) provider with opportunities in the Pakistan market.=DNA



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