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**Parliamentary Elections 2020**  
**Azerbaijan continues its**  
**stride towards prosperity**



CEO Serena Hotels  
Aziz Boolani hosts  
farewell dinner for  
Egyptian couple

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Nagina Group to  
move in luxury  
apartment building in  
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Founder and CEO  
of Monal Group  
Luqman Ali Afzal  
hosts Sunday Brunch

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





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051 8840190

 Plot # 6, Spring North, Phase 7, Bahria Town, Rawalpindi.



**Editor-in-Chief**  
**Ansar Mahmood Bhatti**  
**Executive Editor**

**Mubashar Ahmad Bhatti**  
**Deputy Editor (Overseas)**

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**Online / Web Editor**

**Mahnoor Ansar**

**GM Marketing & Sales**

**Fiaz Choudhry**  
**0300-5538251**

**Photo Journalists**

**Muhammad Shahid**  
**Shahbaz Sindhu (LHR)**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Head Office:** # 11, Block 18-A (Awan Plaza)

G-8 Markaz, Islamabad-Pakistan 44000

Tel: 051-2261960, Fax: 051-2280074

Cell: 0333-5203232

centrelinemag@gmail.com

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## US-Taliban Doha deal



The US and Taliban, in the presence of Afghan leadership and representatives of key stakeholders, struck an 'historic' deal in Doha on February 29, 2020 with a view to pulling the war-torn country out of chaos and turmoil. The country has been bearing the brunt of upheavals of various sorts for last four decades. Over two million people, most of them, innocent, have lost their lives while millions rendered homeless. The Afghan nation that otherwise happens to be an industrious and resilient nation, was not allowed to exhibit its real skills and potential because of this turmoil. The peace deal, if it goes well, would ostensibly provide the Afghan people with an opportunity of not only exploiting their capabilities to the full, but also to play a constructive role at the world stage.

However, there are certain issues that may become a hard nut to crack for all stakeholders, especially the key stakeholder i.e Taliban and the incumbent Afghan government for both of them are supposed to sit together and chalk out the future road map as to how Afghanistan shall be governed and by whom. As per the deal, the Afghans will have to find a solution themselves taking everybody on board. There are many factions in Afghanistan that claim to have support of sizeable majority. All such factions will have to be taken on board for a lasting solution. It is the most difficult task, yet not insurmountable. Taliban, in the peace deal vowed to shun past and make a new beginning, which seems quite encouraging development. Former Afghan ambassador to Pakistan Mullah Abdus Salam Zaeef said after the signing of peace deal that Taliban of today are much different from Taliban of the past. According to him today's Taliban are fully alive to modern day advancements adding they have broadened and enlightened their world vision as well.

According to the deal, the US and allied forces will complete their withdrawal from Afghanistan within 14 months. In return Taliban will have to make sure their ranks are not used for attacks on US or allies and that they full cooperate to make a peaceful Afghanistan. As Taliban leaders would put it, the conditions laid down in the deal are easy to comply with and since there is strong resolve on the part of all Taliban factions that this time the opportunity shall not be allowed to go waste therefore there appears a potential likelihood of peace returning to the war-ravaged country.

Here one has to admit role of the neighboring countries particularly Pakistan, Uzbekistan and China both in ensuring lasting peace in Afghanistan and enabling Afghans to stand up on their own feet in the coming days. All these countries undoubtedly have played significant role in paving way for the Doha deal and it is expected that they would continue to work for stability in Afghanistan with same spirit and interest. And they have to do it for the sake of Afghan people and for their own sake for stability of these countries is directly linked to stability in Afghanistan.

As rightly pointed out by the Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan his country stands ready along with the government of Afghanistan and other international partners to participate in implementation of the railroad transport projects Mazari-Sharif - Heart and Mazari-Sharif - Peshawar which will connect Central and South Asia. Likewise, CASA 1000 is yet another important energy project that can be completed only when there is peace in Afghanistan. This energy project will ensure cheap electricity to Pakistan.

Taliban even in the deal did not withdraw from their status of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan but as Mullah Zaeef said this matter can be settled during intra-Afghan dialogue, which is likely to start from this month in Oslo, Norway. Further progress in this regard largely depends on the US administration as to how it conducts itself during this period. Unfortunately the US has a history of backtracking from its vows and pledges - a fact that makes this exercise a bit dubious. However this should not negate the opportunity the deal creates for Afghan peace process.

*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.



## AZERBAIJAN SPECIAL

# Azerbaijan continues its stride towards prosperity

*Elections to bring further prosperity and development in Azerbaijan; youth zealously take part in the entire process; international observers term the exercise transparent and up to the mark*

By Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

People of Azerbaijan exercised their voting rights in the recently held parliamentary elections on February 9 as a result of which new government came into being. These elections were important in many ways. For the first time a greater number of youths participated in the elections both as voters and candidates. The new parliament that emerged after the elections has vowed to carry forward agenda of President Ilham Aliyev that seeks to gear up reforms process in the country.

According to results, the ruling New Azerbaijan Party (YAP) won 69 seats in the parliament, the independent candidates – 41 seats, the United Azerbaijan Party – 3 seats, Party for Democratic Reforms – 1 seat, the Great Creation Party – 1 seat, the Popular Front Party of Whole Azerbaijan – 1 seat, the Azerbaijan Democratic Party – 1 seat and Civic Solidarity Party – 3 seats. During the process, a total of 76,000 surveys were conducted, with approximately 640-650 surveys at each constituency, said Birnbaum. The margin of error at each constituency was 3.6 – 3.9 percent.

19 political parties freely participated in the elections. Chief Election Commission of Azerbaijan remained neutral and impartial which instrumented to uphold the true spirits of international standards pertaining to fair, free and transparent election in the country.

According to official statistical data total voters were 5.3 million in which 6189 voted for the first time. Moreover, 79



President of Azerbaijan casts his vote

percent were males and 21 percent females candidates in the election which also highlighted positive development in the political system of Azerbaijan, the pioneer of secular democracy in the region and rest of the Muslim world since 1918.

Azerbaijan, an important transcontinental country with a population of around 10.14 million inhabitants, steadily continues its journey towards development and modernization after declaring its independence from Soviet Union in 1991. The architect of the Republic Heydar Aliyev incurred upon himself the onus of driving the nascent republic to a modern and forward looking

state where people of all nationalities, religions and faiths could co-exist happily. After passing away of Heyder Aliyev his son Ilham Aliyev stepped into shoes of his father with a view to not only furthering his agenda of development and harmony but to make Azerbaijan a leading regional and global player. And his efforts ostensibly bore fruit thus making Azerbaijan one of the leading political and economic players.

The incumbent government of President Ilham Aliyev ever since its establishment has been focusing zealously on improving the lot of especially those who do not have access to state of the art technologies. That

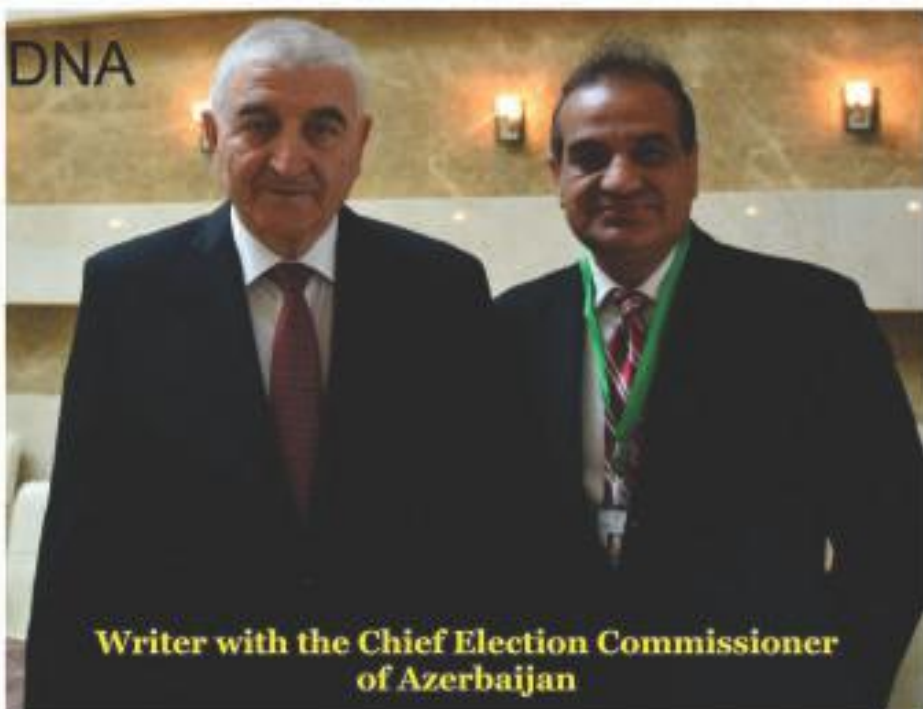


is why those living in remote areas such as Gabala and Quba—two wonderful cities of Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan under President Ilham Aliyev continues its march towards progress and prosperity. The govt top priority appears to be better facilitation of people by providing them all basic necessities of life. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation has been actively participating in building a new society and contributing to the social and economic development of the country, by implementing various projects in spheres such as education, public health, culture, sports, science and technology, environment, and social and other spheres.

President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation is Azerbaijan's First Vice President, First Lady, UNESCO and ISESCO Goodwill Ambassador Mehriban Aliyeva, under whose guidance the Foundation has undertaken a number of humanitarian projects in Pakistan as well. The Foundation immediately started relief work after the deadly earthquake in Pakistan. Since then the Foundation has established a number of schools, especially in Kashmir where mostly the needy children get education. The humanitarian work of this Foundation has not only won laurels for Azerbaijan at home but abroad also.

Both Pakistan and Azerbaijan share common views on many issues including Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenia forcibly annexed the Azerbaijani territory Nagorno-Karabakh in early 90s despite the fact that the international community declared that the area was a legitimate part of Azerbaijan. As a result of war hundreds of Azerbaijani people lost



**Writer with the Chief Election Commissioner of Azerbaijan**

their lives while tens of thousands were left homeless. Nevertheless both countries are holding peace negotiations on regular basis after ceasefire announced in 1994. Pakistan whole-heartedly supports Azerbaijan on this issue and has not recognized Armenia only because it continues to occupy Azerbaijani territory. Similarly Baku supports Pakistani's stand on Kashmir and believes in settlement of the dispute as per the UN resolutions.

Relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan are constantly on the move. The respective Azerbaijani ambassadors have contributed greatly towards strengthening of bilateral relations but

during the tenure of Ambassador Ali Alizada bilateral relations have been given new dimensions. Besides exchange of high level bilateral visits, trade and economic activity has also seen marked surge. Tourism happens to be yet another area where both countries have made huge strides in past few years. A 12-member observers' delegation from Pakistan, which happens to be one of the biggest, is a clear manifestation of close and brotherly relations between the two countries. Bilateral relations for sure will remain on the same positive trajectory even in the prospect. Azerbaijan government, after the parliamentary elections, has vowed to peruse the reform agenda with full force. The newly elected members of parliament while talking to Pakistani media delegation expressed strong resolve to work for the betterment of the country irrespective of their political affiliations. They supported the reform process and assured that once implemented, fate of people shall be changed altogether. They said present government under President Ilham Aliyev was fully alive to problems faced by people and assured an early resolution of these problems.

On the sidelines of the elections drill, the delegates were also taken to other cities of Azerbaijan. Pakistani delegation chose to visit Cave of Seven Sleepers in Nakhchivan and some other historical sites such as tomb of Noah and salt mine. The city of Nakhchivan is enriched with cultural and

### **SALT MINE IN NAKHCHIVAN**





religious heritage and attracts hundreds of tourists every year who come here to witness these sites. The government of Nakhchivan has taken all measures to preserve and look after these sites besides providing all sorts of facilities to tourists.

Religious tourism is yet another sphere where both countries can cooperate. Pakistani tourists must visit these sites especially Noah's tomb and seven sleepers cave as Quran has made an elaborate mention of this happening in Surah Qaf.



**Cave of Seven Sleepers in Nakhchivan**



**Tomb of Hazrat Noah in Nakhchivan**

## Chief editors of leading Pakistani media visit

### Report

BAKU (TREND/DNA) A group of leading media representatives from Pakistan arrived in Baku to cover the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan. As part of the trip, they visited Report News Agency. The delegation included Editors-in-chief and representatives of such Pakistani media as Diplomatic News Agency, CENTRELINE journal, ISLAMABAD POST, Express Media Group, National Herald Tribune, Pakistan Observer, Morning Mail newspapers, 24 News, and HUM News TV channels, Pakistan in the World magazine and others. Editor-in-chief of Report agency Murad Aliyev familiarized the guests with the activities of the agency and its employees. He also answered questions about the activity of mass media in Azerbaijan, the main challenges they face in their activity, as well as the coverage of the election campaign and the process of the upcoming February 9 snap parliamentary elections. Murad Aliyev noted that Report correspondents ensure comprehensive coverage of the election campaign and the day of voting in both Baku and the regions



of the country. For their part, the Pakistani colleagues shared their country's experience in this issue. They also discussed the issues of cooperation between the media of the two countries. DNA adds: The officials of REPORT news agency desired to have close cooperation with Pakistani media. The news agency also interviewed Chief Editor of DNA NEWS AGENCY/CENTRELINE AND DAILY ISLAMABAD POST Ansar Mahmood Bhatti and sought his views about the upcoming elections. The Pakistani journalist also highlighted various aspects of Pakistani media and as to how cooperation in this particular field can be enhanced.



## AZERBAIJAN ELECTIONS

# Pak media team visits AZERTAC news agency HQs; Chairman briefs of media cooperation

By ANSAR M BHATTI

**B**AKU, (DNA)— Azerbaijan and Pakistan enjoy excellent relations in all fields and these relations have grown steadily and strongly with the each passing day. Both countries have cooperated with each other on various forums and Azerbaijan is indebted to Pakistan for not recognizing Armenia that occupies Azerbaijani territory Nagorno-Karabakh.

Aslan Aslanov Chairman of the Board, Vice President of OANA and Azerbaijan State News Agency AZERTAC said this while talking to a media delegation from Pakistan. A 12-member delegation comprising senior media persons is currently in Baku to observe upcoming parliamentary elections to be held on February 09.

He said OANA was the biggest information agency in the region and under the framework of this information service Azerbaijan and various media houses have joined hands for exchange of news etc.

He said Pakistan was an important and brotherly country therefore Azerbaijani media outlets were keen to further expand and strengthen their cooperation with Pakistani counterparts.

He said they already had reached an MoU with Pakistani state owned news agency while such MoUs with other news agencies were also under consideration.

Aslan Aslanov also talked about Baku Humanitarian Forum and highlighted role of this forum in development and strengthening of Azerbaijan relations with other countries.

He said Heydar Aliyev Foundation headed by the First Vice President Mehriban Aliyeva was actively engaged in Pakistan on a number of humanitarian and relief projects.

He said AZERTAC had offices in 21 countries adding they will soon have an office in Islamabad as well. The opening of office in Islamabad is a manifestation



of our commitment and strong desire to expand and cement ties with Pakistan in all fields.

"The process to open AZERTAC office in Islamabad is in final stages. We have already shared a revised MoU with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan and as soon as we get a green signal from them we could establish an office", he added.

The Chairman said they published information in 80 languages adding the social media even in Azerbaijan was getting popularity at a fast speed. He said millions of people now use social media platforms to share information

and stay connected.

To a question Aslan Aslanov said the purpose of signing MoUs with various media outlets was to share information and experiences adding the social pages of their news agency were very popular and 90 per cent of especially the young people accessed our site through various social media platforms.

He said AZERTAC was founded by the Government of the Azerbaijan on March 1, 1920, functioned under various names during the Soviet period.

Giving a brief background, he said, the Agency restored its historical name after Azerbaijan regained state independence. From March 3, 1995 to January 17, 2000, the agency bore the name "State Telegraph Agency under the Cabinet of Ministers", and then was renamed "Azerbaijan State Telegraph Agency".

He further said, along with the official government information, AZERTAC wires in Azerbaijani, English, Russian, French, German, Arabic, Chinese and Spanish languages the round-the-clock news covering all spheres of life in Azerbaijan including politics, economy, culture, sports, health, environment and others.

Aslan urged the Pakistani media to join hands with them in order to further promote and develop bilateral relations adding media played an important role in strengthening bilateral relations.—DNA





# Azerbaijan's Parliamentary Election 2020: an overview

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan



Parliament election was held in the Republic of Azerbaijan on February 9, 2020 wherein people voted with free will. Neither any government department nor any regulatory

bodies intervened in the electoral process. Moreover, Chief Election Commission remained impartial and neutral during the pre & post electoral process.

19 political parties and a large number of independent candidates participated in the election for 125 seats. Every political party and independent candidate had equal right of contest, political campaign, public interaction, media projection, utility of virtual means and above all rallies. There was not a single incidence of engineered rigging in the entire electoral process and parliament election was held in free, fair and transparent manners.

According to latest report of the CEC the ruling party secured more than 80 seats and independent candidates also showed their strong presence by winning various seats in the parliament election. Victory of the ruling party is the vivid reflection of people's trust on the ongoing socio-economic structural reforms.

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) submitted its preliminary statement indicating some shortcoming in the election. It was mere error of human judgment in various procedures. Even Azerbaijan foreign ministry immediately responded to this statement and showed its disagreement on certain issues pertaining to so called shortcomings and labeled it mere procedural mistakes at individual levels. The foreign ministry statement upheld that snap parliament election was the reflection of Azerbaijan people's will for further politicization and democratization in the country. It showed its willingness to continue its cooperation with international organizations, including OSCE/ODIHR on a fair and constructive basis. It is now proved that the preliminary statement of the OSCE/ODIHR is full of misconceptions & misperceptions and self-contradictions.

More than 50 per cent candidates were below 40 year participated in the election. There were 5,573 polling stations. Total voters were 5.3 million. Most of them



were independent with higher education. More than 90 per cent of the 1,314 candidates from the 19 contesting political parties were university graduates. For the first time even facility/provision of exit poll was also allowed in the country. 6,189 people voted for the first time. 79 per cent of the candidates were males, and 21 per cent were females which showed vibrancy of Azerbaijan society and its traditions which granted the women right to vote in 1918 by the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic even before most of the Europe. Some 89,676 local observers and more

than 900 international observers were granted accreditation to observe the election. Some 199 representatives from 132 international mass media outlets were given access to cover the election. So, preliminary statement of the OSCE/ODIHR is baseless. In the last parliamentary election held in 2015, the ruling New Azerbaijan Party (YAP) won 69 out of 125 seats and according to latest figure it has now won 81 seats which reconfirmed that people of Azerbaijan trusted the socio-economic reforms of the government.

OSCE/ODIHR also mentioned low participation of women in the snap parliament election. In the last parliament election held in 2015 there was only 141 women participated in the election whereas, 344 women candidates nominated by the political parties an increase of 2.4 times. So, observation of the OSCE/ODIHR does not match with the reality.

OSCE/ODIHR statement also mentioned low turnout in the currently held parliament election. According to CEC turnout was acceptable as it was only 32 % in the local bodies election in 2019. It was 47 percent in the snap parliament election 2020 which showed that a free, fair and





transparent voting was carried out in the county. If there were any engineered rigging or rampant proxy voting as mentioned by the OSCE/ODIHR turnout would have been on higher side. The CEC ensured transparency in the process of nomination, registration of candidates, meetings with voters which showed that all conditions had been created for candidates in the parliament election.

Elections have been held in Azerbaijan on regular basis since its inception. Even Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (ADR) was formed, developed and survived through fair, free and transparent elections. The journey from electoral democracy to substantial and liberal democracy may not be achieved within a day, week, month or year.

On its part the Republic of Azerbaijan has been striving hard to achieve equilibrium between an economic sustainability and liberal democracy since its inception. The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (ADR) being pioneer secular democracy in the entire Muslim World and in the region laid out the foundation of political pluralism, justice, protection of basic rights of minorities and provision of basic human rights. The dawn of the Republic of Azerbaijan (AR) also continued the true democratic spirits of the ADR and excelled in every sphere of life and art of governance.

The SCO, CIS, OIC, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic-speaking countries (TURKPA) and the Inter-parliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA-CIS) and many more showed their complete satisfaction over the election process and termed it free, fair and transparent in all respects.

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) preliminary statement does not show the real picture about the election. It has some serious miscalculations and misperceptions too. It seems that despite highlighting the positive attributes of the snap parliament election, the statement confined only to its own fabricated and false notions which are in reality merely a mirage.

It pinpointed some so called serious shortcomings during the election process especially on the day of final political battle i.e. election day in counting and proxy voting. Foreign Ministry of Azerbaijan immediately responded it and termed it not true and factual. Procedural errors are commonly reported in all over the world and labeled it errors in human judgment. Azerbaijan also upheld it as human errors which had not been schemed or supported by any governmental organizations.

Being prominent regional expert of



Azerbaijan & CIS I suggest that the government of Azerbaijan and the Chief Election Commission should take some meaningful steps to enhance the volume of political activities in the country. Sincere efforts should be taken to change the system from "unicameral" to "bicameral" until the next parliament election in the country. It is suggested that "feasibility" of holding "joint elections" i.e. local/municipal & parliament may be a workable idea to increase political participation in the country.

There is scope of improvement in the political sphere of Azerbaijan because absence of real optics i.e. limited exposures of rallies, processions, corner meetings, hanging of posters, pamphlets and last not the least, door to door political campaigns always create elements of doubts and suspiciousness in the eyes of foreign international observers and organizations alike.

Media plays a crucial role in the election process and its meaningful interaction may further increase elements of fair, free and transparency in the election process. There is a vital need to formulate the future "strategies" for appropriate media coverage, projection and contribution in the days to come. Azerbaijan is a civilized country with one of the highest literacy

rates among the all the regional countries must find out "innovative means" to disseminate political messages, discussions and debates during the pre & post-election scenarios. FM radios, regulated "Youtube" Channels and series of interactive sessions among all the participating candidates during the electioneering may bring the desired goals of arduous participatory political system and turnout in the country.

Azerbaijan has its own ideal model of "multiculturalism" which is indeed basis of its democratic journey, political stability, social strength and last but not least economic sustainability. It is hoped that successful holding of snap parliament election 2020 will open new window of opportunities, exploration of untapped potentials, improvement in the process of operationalization and channelization of national resources and human capitals and will also cater the basic needs of the common people. Simply collective free will of its people/voters prevailed in the recently held snap parliament election in Azerbaijan. Ultimately, democracy secured victory over vicious circles, notorious schemes and ill designs of the regional as well as international forces and their franchises.

Being International Official Observer, I must appreciate the sincere efforts of the Chief Election Commission and strong political will of the government to hold a snap parliament election despite having comfortable majority in the dissolved parliament. The western international observes and organizations must understand the basic differences of a political system and social harmony and do not try to disturb the equation of survival and productivity. Every country has its own unique political parameters, converging to its traditions, culture and heritage and being a democratic country the Republic of Azerbaijan implements the ideal matching-box of politics and societal forces to foster its ongoing socio-economic structural reforms and consolidate its future persuasions of qualitative life for all the people.





## Seminar on Khojalay genocide

### Pakistan to continue supporting Azerbaijan on Nagorno-Karabakh: Senator Mushahid

*Ambassador Alizade savs double standards on Nagorno-Karabakh and Kashmir must be shelved; thanks Pakistan for whole-hearted support*



ISLAMABAD, (DNA) -The Khojaly genocide is one of the most serious crimes in history not only against the people of Azerbaijan but humanity as a whole said Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed Chairman Senate Defence Committee, on Monday.

He expressed these views at a Seminar on "Together for Peace and Humanity. End to Ethnic Cleansing and Genocide" dedicated to 28th anniversary of Khojaly Genocide organised by NUML in collaboration with the Embassy of Azerbaijan on Monday.

Other dignitaries of the seminar included Sakib Foric Ambassador of Bosnia and former President of Azad Kashmir Sardar Anwar.

The Director General National Institute of Modern Languages (NUML) welcomed the guests.

Senator Mushahid said Pakistan and Azerbaijan have always been on the same page. He stated that Pakistan faces a similar situation in Kashmir, so Pakistan is well aware of what the people of Azerbaijan sense and is very grateful to

the people of Azerbaijan for their support on the Kashmir issue.

The Khojaly genocide is most definitely one of the worst massacres the world has seen- the gravity and enormity of the situation is overwhelming and cannot be justified and the way the people of Azerbaijan have come out of this bilateral issue is highly commendable.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed stated that Pakistan has given unreserved support to Azerbaijan. He highlighted the commonality between the situations in Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh.

Pakistan and Azerbaijan have a solid history and in the future there needs to be greater coordination between both countries especially on the issues of Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh.

He said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan are linked by histories and intense exchange of thinkers. Pakistan has provided endless support to Azerbaijan and has consulted its efforts with Azerbaijan in highlighting this tragedy.

He also drew attention to the Human Rights report and UN resolutions which

described the event in Khojaly as "the largest massacre to date in the conflict".

He also highlighted the insensitivity of the international community, the silence of global media, and, no major actions from major powers. The Ambassador of Azerbaijan Ali Alizade gave a brief overview of the events of the genocide – the Khojaly graveyard is a symbol of all the atrocities that took place during this incident. He made it clear that the world should exercise same principles and rules while dealing with the issues of Nagorno-Karabakh and Kashmir. The world must stop exercising double standards, he emphasized.

He stated that history provides evidence that such events can occur in the future too, and to avoid this repetition he said that there has to be a uniform stand against this crime and the perpetrators need to be brought to justice.

The Ambassador was very appreciative of the friendship between the two countries and the solidarity between the two nations and acknowledged that Pakistan was one of the first countries which





# Seminar on Khojaly genocide



recognised this massacre as genocide. He stated that the Khojaly massacre is a bloody episode of human history and a bloody page of the policy of ethnic cleansing and genocide pursued by the Armenian nationalists against Azerbaijani people over a hundred years. He stated that the principle position of

both countries on humanitarian issues demonstrates their fidelity to international law and upholding of human rights and international human law and serves to reinforce the deep bonds of friendship between the two nations. The ambassador also quoted national leader of Azerbaijan Heydar

Aliyev who said on many occasions that Armenians had unleashed a systematic genocide of innocent Azerbaijani people. Ambassador Alizada called for collective efforts on the part of the international community in order to ensure peace and stability both in Nagorno-Karabakh and Kashmir. =DNA





## Azerbaijan Special

# Azerbaijan recognizes Pakistan support on Nagorno-Karabakh: Hikmat Hajiyeu

By A. M. Bhatti in Baku

BAKU, (DNA) – Hikmat Hajiyeu Assistant of the President of Azerbaijan and Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department, office of the President of Azerbaijan has said Azerbaijan accords immense importance to its relations with brotherly country Pakistan adding his country was indebted to Pakistan for supporting Azerbaijan on Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

He said Pakistan in fact was the third country after Turkey and Romania that recognized Azerbaijan therefore our relations are deep-rooted and have historical perspective.

He expressed these remarks while meeting with a delegation of senior Pakistani journalists, who are in Baku to observe parliamentary elections 2020.

He said Azerbaijan considers Kashmir as disputed area and calls for its resolution through UN resolutions and dialogue.

"Azerbaijan and Pakistan closely cooperate on various regional and international forums including the OIC. The OIC needs to address issue of Islamophobia. Azerbaijan is a country of religious tolerance; harmony and people hailing from various faiths and sects are living side by side in Azerbaijan".

To a question about early elections in Azerbaijan Mr. Hikmat said the parliament happens to be the executive branch of the government and the snap elections for sure would create harmony and further understanding.

He cited an example to further elaborate his point as to why the snap elections were called saying if you have a nice Apple processor but if the printer is not adaptable then you have to change it.

"The snap elections would help gear up reforms process in Azerbaijan and the new parliament is likely to support and augment the process of reforms in various fields", he added.

He said due to drastic steps taken but the incumbent government the level of poverty has decreased to only four percent while ratio of unemployment has also reduced considerably.

He said owing to economic and social reforms of the government Azerbaijan now happens to be the high income countries of



the world.

He said much emphasis has also been laid on improvement and development of infrastructure in the country and country now stands out as one of the most development states not only in the region but in the world also.

Hikmat Hajiyeu further said Azerbaijan is keen to enhance and strengthen trade and economic relations with Pakistan. Azerbaijan is also taking keen interest in Gwadar port adding Gwadar can really be beneficial.

When asked to comment on CPEC project and Azerbaijan's prospects of joining it, he said it was indeed an important project adding Azerbaijan was keen to enhance its links with various countries mainly thru road and rail links.

He told that a railway line from Azerbaijan to Iran was in the final stages and through Iran Azerbaijan can be connected with

Pakistan. Likewise from Pakistan Azerbaijan can have access to Chinese markets also.

Apart from political relations, Azerbaijan and Pakistan have cooperating in the defence field also.

To a question about direct air links he said there was a direct flight between the two countries however it had to be stopped because according to the airline it was not economically viable.

While agreeing with the preposition that direct air links were a sine qua non for strengthening of trade and economic relations, he said both sides have to find ways and means in order to resolve connectivity issues.

While identifying various avenues of mutual cooperation he said Pakistan is good in textile and Azerbaijan would like to encourage Pakistani exporters to export textile related products. This can certainly cement bilateral relations between two countries. Likewise, Pakistani mangoes are also very popular in Azerbaijan. Similarly Pakistani oranges are also very popular and Azerbaijan imports citrus from other countries. It can be yet another area which can bring both countries closer in terms of trade and economic relations.

He also underlined the need for deeper cooperation in tourism sector also. Both countries are blessed with a plethora of touristic attractions therefore tourists from both countries can be encouraged to visit these places. -DNA





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# Kazakhstan minister calls for further cementing of bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) - First Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Shakhmat Nuryyshev has said both Kazakhstan and Pakistan enjoy close relations adding both countries have huge potential to further promote and deepen these relations.

He expressed these views while speaking during an interaction with Pakistani media and intellectuals facilitated by think-tank CGSS.

The Kazakh minister along with his delegation visited Pakistan for the Inaugural Session of Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) between Pakistan and Kazakhstan.

The minister thanked the Pakistani hosts for facilitating the dialogue in a constructive and friendly environment.

He said both countries possess geographic and strategic importance and have been cooperating with each other on



proliferation. He said Kazakhstan happens to be the biggest producer of natural uranium, which is essential for developing civil-nuclear technologies.

Nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation have remained a hallmark of Kazakhstan's foreign policy since the country got sovereignty in 1991 and up to the present. Our country was

during the interaction also discussed ways and means to further enhance bilateral relations especially in trade, politics and economy.

Both sides also discussed cooperation in energy sector as well, Kazakhstan intends to export energy to neighboring countries through various initiatives including CASA 1000.



various forums.

The minister also talked about the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) which is an inter-governmental forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.

It is a forum based on the recognition that there is close link between peace, security and stability in Asia and in the rest of the world. The key idea of the Conference is based on the priority of the indivisibility of security, joint initiative and mutually beneficial interaction of small and large states.

He told that the idea of convening the CICA was first proposed by Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev at the United Nations General Assembly.

Minister Nuryyshev made it clear his country strongly believes in nuclear non

among those former Soviet republics, who inherited a massive nuclear arms arsenal of the late USSR. The uneasy dilemma of whether to keep or get rid of them was solved by the first President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev in favor of the latter. Following his decision nuclear weaponry was either dismantled in Kazakhstan or removed out of the country. Dilating further on bilateral relations the minister said both sides

Apart from those medicines, pharmaceuticals and textiles are other sectors that provide both countries an excuse to come close to each other adding both sides shall be able to further cement bilateral cooperation in these sectors also.

The minister assured that the Kazakhstan side will do its best to promote, diversify and strengthen relations with Pakistan. -DNA





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## Aviation ties between Pakistan, Indonesia to grow further: minister

Aviation relations between Pakistan and Indonesia can be made stronger. This was said by Federal Minister for Aviation, Ghulam Sarwar Khan during a meeting with Indonesian Ambassador, Iwan Suyudhie Amri. Ambassador was of the point of view that private airline; Lion Air is interested in starting flights from Lahore, Karachi or Islamabad to Jakarta on daily basis. He was of the view that nearly 2 thousand overseas Pakistani reside in Indonesia. Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Federal Minister for Aviation added that there is a dire need of more flight operation between 2 countries. Air Services Agreement between Pakistan and Indonesia was signed on January 14, 1966. The ASA stipulates multiple airline designation. PIA is the designated carrier of Pakistan while Garuda Indonesia is the designated carrier of Indonesia. PIA also has some intermediate points while going to Jakarta, including India-Colombo-



Rangoon-Bangkok-Kuala Lumpur-Saigon-Singapore. Similarly Garuda Indonesia has some intermediate points while coming to Karachi, including Singapore-Phnom-Penh or Bangkok-

Colombo or Bombay. And from Karachi the Indonesian airline also has some points beyond including Cairo or Beirut-Algiers-Rome-Paris-Amsterdam-London.

## Flight operation between Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan to start soon: minister

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) -Flight operation between Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan shall be started. This was said by Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Federal Minister for Aviation during his meeting with Eric Beishemhiev, Kyrgyzstan's Ambassador on Wednesday in Aviation Division. Federal Minister also added that Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan are brotherly countries. Our relations are warm and cordial based on trust and respect. Similarly, Eric Beishemhiev said that Kyrgyzstan is keen on enhancing ties with Pakistan. Ambassador was of the view that both countries should start a weekly flight. Federal Minister added that Aviation Division will consider this request of Kyrgyzstan under 5th Right of Freedom. It is important to note that Air Services Agreement between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan was concluded on October 14, 1993. The ASA stipulates multiple airlines designation.



## HR Minster Sherine Mizari visits Embassy of Palestine

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) - Federal Minister of Human Rights Sherine Mizari visited the Embassy of the State of Palestine and met Ahmed Rabei, Ambassador of Palestine on Wednesday.

During the meeting both leaders discussed matters of mutual interest.

Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Rabei said it was an honor for Embassy of Palestine to receive Sherine Mizari, Federal Minister of Human Rights, at the Embassy of Palestine in Federal Capital Islamabad.

Palestine Ambassador also briefed to the Federal Minister of Human Rights Sherine Mizari about the latest Palestinian political issues in Palestine including what so called the Deal of the Century. =DNA





# DNA News Agency gets membership of CPNE

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) = The Diplomatic News Agency (DNA) has got membership of prestigious Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editor (CPNE). The CPNE is the only body of Pakistan that comprises Editor of publications and news agencies.

The CPNE in its letter dated February 12, 2020 stated that the organization was pleased to grant associated membership to Diplomatic News Agency (DNA).

The Council further stated it believed that DNA will support the CPNE in order to carry forward the agenda of press freedom.

It may be mentioned here that CENTRELINE magazine which is a sister publication of DNA news agency is full member of All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS). The APNS is the body of owners of newspapers while the CPNE is the body of Editors of newspapers and news agencies.

DNA happens to be the youngest news agency of Pakistan, which started its journey in 2012. DNA is also included in the list of news agencies accredited with Ministry of Information, Govt of Pakistan.=DNA



## Nigerian High Commissioner praises NAB's excellent performance

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) – Major Gen @ Ashimiyu A. Olaniyi, High Commissioner of Nigeria to Pakistan called on Justice Javed Iqbal,

Chairman National Accountability Bureau at NAB Headquarters here today and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Justice (RETD) Javed Iqbal, Chairman National Accountability Bureau at NAB apprised H.E. Major Gen @ Ashimiyu A. Olaniyi, High Commissioner of Nigeria about NAB's National Anti Corruption Strategy in order to eradicate corruption from Pakistan and remarkable efforts to nab the corrupt elements as per law.

H.E. Major Gen @ Ashimiyu A. Olaniyi, High Commissioner of Nigeria to Pakistan lauded NAB's excellent performance of NAB under the dynamic leadership of Honorable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB in order to make Pakistan corruption free through concerted efforts to eradicate corruption from Pakistan.=DNA





**CEO Serena Hotels Southa and Central Asia  
Asia Aziz Boolani and his wife host dinner for outgoing  
Egyptian ambassador and new Italian ambassador**









# Serena Hotels bring premium Swiss Hospitality Executive Education to Pakistan



ISLAMABAD, (DNA) - Serena Hotels have partnered with one of the world's leading hospitality management schools, Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL) Switzerland, to launch a premium hospitality executive education programme for the capacity-building of senior to mid-level executives of Pakistan's tourism and services sector.

An exclusive gathering to launch the executive education programme was held on Sunday evening at Islamabad Serena Hotel which was graced by the Honorable President of Pakistan H.E Dr. Arif Alvi. The event was attended by the diplomats, government functionaries, corporate heads, academia and representatives from

services sector including tourism industry.

The executive education programme "Proficiency of Hospitality Management" will consist of 07 modules starting February and ending in December 2020. The participants to the programme include representatives from diverse







service sector organizations, i.e., hospitality, healthcare, banking, customer services, government and academia.

Specialised faculty from the world-renowned Swiss hospitality school, the EHL Advisory Services will deliver the course modules covering a comprehensive range of topics from people to revenue management, service operations, marketing communication, strategic hospitality and asset management - culminating in a globally accredited Certificate, "Proficiency of Hospitality Management" (PHM) for attendees.

Honorable President appreciated Serena Hotels for enabling this initiative and making an effort to bridge the gap which exists in providing service excellence. "The data shows that tourism in places like

the beautiful northern areas of Pakistan has welled into the millions in past few years due to efforts of the Government and improvement in the security situation. Pakistan is one of the most beautiful countries in the world and our hospitality industry needs to showcase this diversity and rich cultural heritage."

"We are delighted to take the first significant step in our partnership with Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne, Switzerland by bringing international executive education grounded in cutting edge knowledge, experience and innovation to Pakistan. "These best practices will allow us to reach and exceed global standards of excellence in Pakistan," said CEO Serena Hotels, Mr. Aziz Boolani.

Due to the country's immense potential in tourism, these sectors have been

identified as priority areas for youth engagement, investment and skill-building by the Government of Pakistan. "The versatility and timely implementation of this programme will expose managerial and executive professionals to world-class standards, so they can lead Pakistan's traditional hospitality with a detailed and courteous approach required to promote Government's vision," said Mr. Boolani.

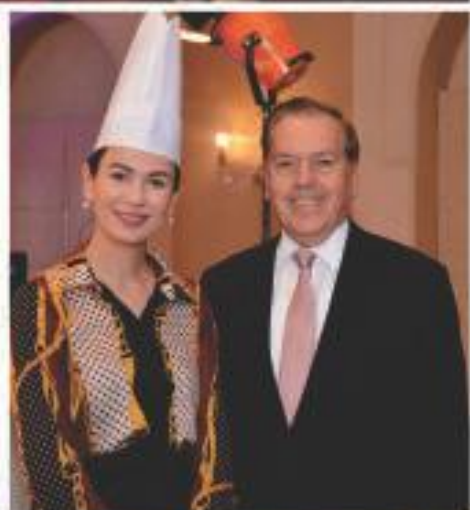
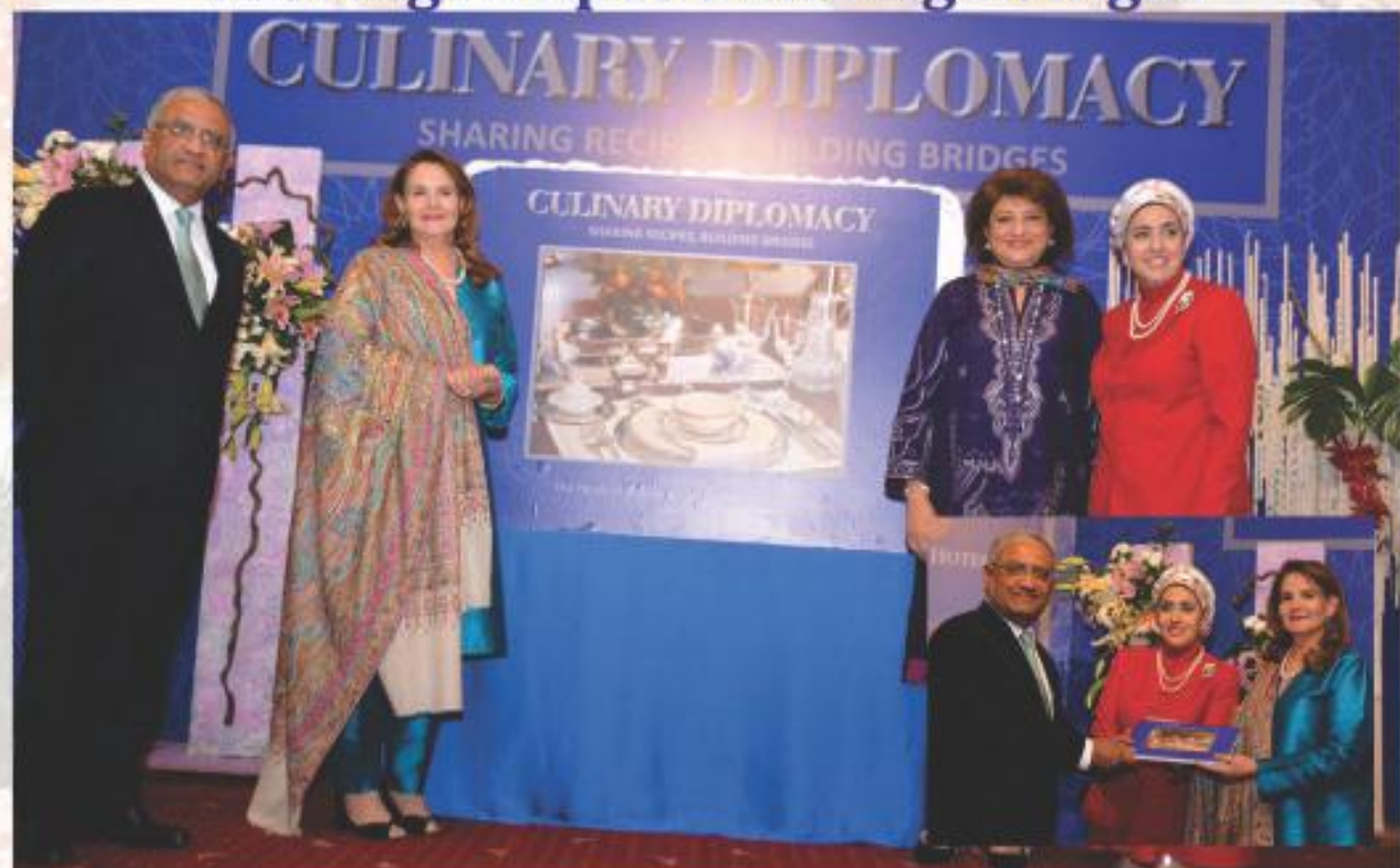
On the sidelines of Executive Education Programme, Serena Hotels will also conduct specialised workshops on avant-garde and innovative topics in digital tourism, service leadership for hospitality, tourism and service sector in Pakistan, alongside the modules ranging from People Management, Entrepreneurship to specific audiences. -DNA





# Serena Hotels Culinary Diplomacy

## Sharing recipes Building Bridges





# A 10 day Culinary Art Turkish Food Festival at Serena Hotel



Islamabad: The Islamabad Serena Hotel, in collaboration with the Embassy of the republic of Turkey will Inaugurate a 10 day long Culinary Art Turkish Food Festival at the grand Zamana Restaurant starting from 21st of February to the 1st of March in Islamabad.

This time the Food festival will also be held in our sister property Faisalabad Serena Hotel from the 2nd of March to the 3rd of March 2020.

The visitors will be transported to the magical metropolis of Istanbul as accomplished Turkish Chefs from the enchanting Ciragan Palace in Istanbul will prepare the best of the Turkish Cuisine.

We at the Islamabad Serena Hotel are delighted to welcome Sous-Chef Serdar Ongel, Chef de Partie. Davut Kutlugun and Pastry chef and chocolatier extraordinaire Servet Kanat, who are responsible for many of the superb meals at the Ciragan Palace Kempinski hotel in Istanbul, the only 17th century Ottoman imperial palace turned hotel in Turkey.

Turkish Cuisine is on the center stage with a wide variety of soups, mezze and kebabs which will be featured on the daily menu along with desserts and assortments. The sea food is also featured along with a live counter serving made to order

shawarmas. The chefs will use premium quality ingredients and delicate techniques, giving the diner an extraordinary experience. Turkish musicians will add magic to the event, playing mystical music with folk instruments such as the divan saz and cello.

Mr. Michel A. Galopin, General Manager of the Islamabad Serena Hotel, said, "We are thrilled to be able to bring international flavors and gastronomical delights to Pakistan. Familiarity with other cultures and cuisines is a way to experience the world and we are proud to partner with Embassy of the Republic of Turkey, Turkish Airlines, Ciragan Palace Kempinski Hotel Istanbul and Gateways International for our Turkish Food Festival."

His Excellency, Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul, ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Pakistan said, "We are honored to bring the original taste and tradition of Turkey to Pakistan. Such activities bridge cultural gaps between the two nations and incite more friendship."

The Turkish Food Festival is part of The Serena Hotel's Cultural Diplomacy Initiative. It is expected that the unique festival will bedazzle our guests. DNA







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*President  
Pakistan-Romania  
Forum (PRF)  
Zahid Maqbool  
hosts dinner for  
Romanian ambassador  
Nicolae Goia*





# CEO Monal Luqman Ali Afzal and His Wife Host Sumptuous Sunday Brunch

CEO and Founder of Monal Group Luqman Ali Afzal hosts lavish Sunday Brunch. Ambassadors/High

Commissioners and diplomats in large number attended the Brunch. Besides, leading figures of Islamabad business

community and administration also attended brunch.





# CEO Monal Luqman Ali Afzal and His Wife Host Sumptuous Sunday Brunch





# CEO Monal Luqman Ali Afzal and His Wife Host Sumptuous Sunday Brunch





# CEO Monal Luqman Ali Afzal and His Wife Host Sumptuous Sunday Brunch





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# ARMED FORCES DAY OF NEPAL CELEBRATED





## Birthday of His Majesty Emperor of Japan Pak-Japan relations from cordial to excellent says Minister Omar Ayub



ISLAMABAD, (DNA) – Federal Minister for Energy Omar Ayub Khan has said relations between Pakistan and Japan are from cordial to excellent adding both countries have been cooperating closely with each other in various fields.

The Federal Minister made these remarks while speaking as chief guest at the birthday reception of the Emperor of Japan Naruhito.

A large number of diplomats, federal and state ministers and Senators attended the reception.

Omar Ayub further said bilateral relations between the two countries date back to 50s and 60s when the Japanese leadership visited Pakistan and vice versa and set solid basis for strong and durable cooperation between the two friendly nations.

He said PTI government spearheaded by Prime Minister Imran Khan was all agog to further cement and promote relations with Japan.

Earlier the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Matsuda Kuninori expressed his wish to further strengthening bilateral relationship based on the introduction of Skilled Foreign Workers and Technical Intern System last year on top of the

traditional economic cooperation.

He also expected more Pakistani people to visit Japan especially on the occasion of 2020 Tokyo Olympic & Paralympics.

Later, Ambassador Matsuda along with the distinguished guests, cut a cake to celebrate the first official birthday reception for His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito after the national anthems of Japan and Pakistan.

23rd February, the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor, is celebrated as a national holiday in Japan. The Era of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito's reign is called Reiwa. Japan celebrated the beginning of the new imperial era of Reiwa or "beautiful harmony" as new Emperor Naruhito ascended the Chrysanthemum Throne on 1st May 2019, a day after his father Akihito abdicated.

The term "Rei-wa" (令和) consists of two kanji characters: "rei" (令) means beautiful, "wa" (和) means harmony. Moreover, this name "Reiwa" includes the meaning of culture coming into being and flourishing when people bring their hearts and minds together in a beautiful manner. =DNA







## Maldives President appoints Ahmed Saleem as Ambassador-at-large

MALE, (DNA) -President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has appointed Mr. Ahmed Saleem as Ambassador-at-large. The ceremony was held this morning at the President's Office.

Prior to this appointment, Mr Saleem fulfilled the role of Ambassador of the Maldives to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Saleem joined the Maldivian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1968. He had a long and distinguished career in the Maldivian Foreign Service (MFS) spanning for over 21 years, participating in numerous sessions of the United Nations General Assembly. In addition, he also participated in high-level meetings of the Commonwealth, Non-Aligned Movement, OIC, SAARC and many other international organizations. Mr Saleem also served as the 11th Secretary-General of the South Asian



Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) from 2012 to 2014. Ambassador Ahmed Saleem during his tenure in Pakistan contributed greatly towards cementing of relations between

the two countries.

During his tenure both Maldives and Pakistan achieved many milestones in all fields especially in the field of people to people relations. -DNA



# Independence Day and Liberation Day of State of Kuwait celebrated







## ***Ambassador of Tunisia meets Mayor Sheikh Anser Aziz***

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) – Ambassador of Tunisia Mr. Borhene El Kamel met Mayor of Islamabad, Sheikh Anser Aziz at his office on Wednesday.

Ambassador of Tunisia and Sheikh Anser Aziz, Mayor of Islamabad discussed matters of mutual interest including promising avenues of cooperation between the two capital cities of Tunisia and Pakistan during the meeting. =DNA





# SUNDAY TREKKING



**The youngest members of Sunday Trekking team Ignacio and Joaquim, spearheaded by General Manager Islamabad Serena Hotel Michel A Galopin were the young heroes of the Islamabad Sunday Trekking Team on the splendid Trail 6 and leading the team ahead by a comfortable distance, representing Argentina and Bolivia. Also represented were Belgium, France, Germany, Pakistan and USA on the Margalla Hills during an intimate and joyful trekking with loyal friends.**



## ASEAN CHAIRMANSHIP GOES TO VIETNAM



Handover ceremony of the ASEAN Countries in Islamabad (ACI) Chairmanship 2020 from The Ambassador of Thailand to Ambassador of Vietnam. ASEAN ambassadors attended the ceremony

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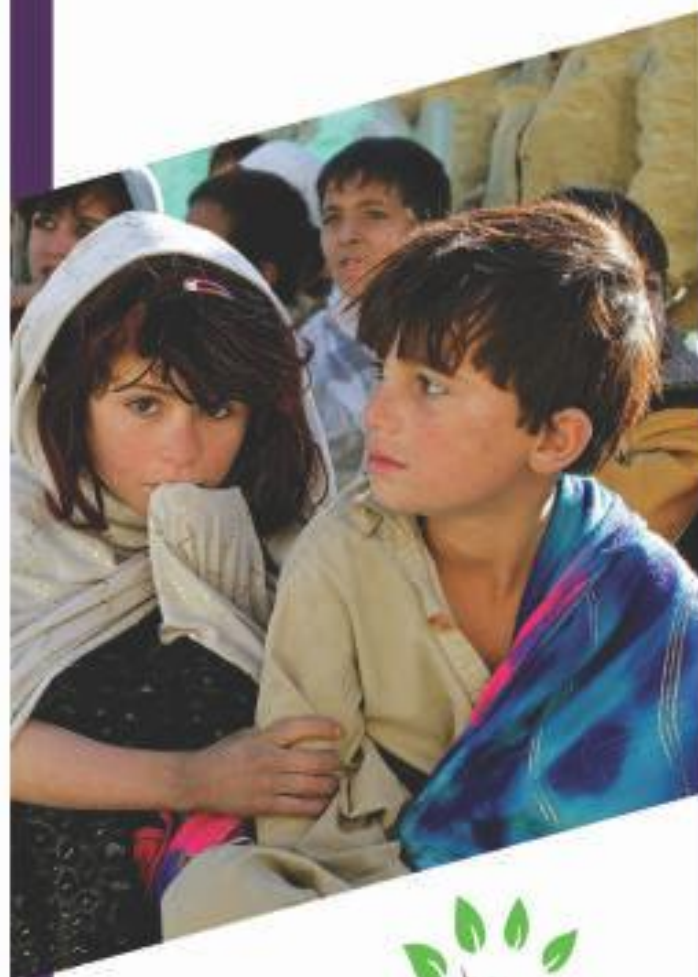


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- Providing basic health facilities to the under privileged
- Develop effective health care plans to provide access in remote areas

## EDUCATION

2

- To make education accessible to children in remote areas
- Facilitating learning and acquisition of knowledge
- Making strategies to reduce illiteracy

## CLEAN WATER

3

- To use resources to provide clean drinking water
- Awareness about the importance of clean drinking water in order to tackle infective diseases
- Installation of water filtration plants and digging of wells

## GREEN ENVIRONMENT

4

- Aim to raise the awareness of sustainable green environment
- Increase numbers of parks and plantation to reduce harmful effects of dangerous gases and chemicals
- To provide strategies for waste disposal mechanism

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

5

- Aim to support people to become creative entrepreneurs in order to stand on their feet
- Provide both financial and technical support to the deserving people
- Building financially stable nation

## HEALTH CARE:

6

- Aim to support people to gain self-confidence and improve decision making abilities for the best interest of their communities and for the whole nation
- Leadership training camps certificates and degrees
- Targeting remote areas for flourishing of the country



# Uzbek embassy organizes fashion show in the Capital

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) – Embassy of Uzbekistan in collaboration with Iqra University organized a fashion show "Encounter Culture Vol.II," featuring Uzbek Designers collection.

The fashion show provided the people of Islamabad with an opportunity of getting firsthand knowledge about various Uzbek traditional dresses.

The audiences lauded splendid work done by the fashion designers both from Pakistan and Uzbekistan and admired students of the Iqra University for befittingly showcasing these products. CEO Serena Mr Aziz Boolani and a large number of people hailing from various walks of life witnessed the fashion show. It was second show of this sort organized by the Uzbek embassy. First lady Mrs. Samina Alvi was the chief guest.

First lady Mrs Samina Arif Alvi while speaking on the occasion said that Pakistan and Uzbekistan have common history, culture and values. We enjoy very strong relations in cultural sector. We can promote our cultures through fashion that has universal appeal. Culture and Fashion are breaking barriers and bridging gaps among the nations.

She said that that in globalized world the fashion is important tool to increase people to people contacts. She said that Pakistan is multi cultured country. We have diversity of cultures. Moghals from Uzbekistan ruled sub continent for centuries. They introduced the culture, cuisine, art and craft of Central Asia to this region. This is a unique common factor among Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

She congratulated the organizers of the fashion show for hosting the event. Ambassador of Uzbekistan Furqat Sidikov in his remarks said ever since his arrival in Pakistan as ambassador he was trying to promote people to people and cultural links between the two countries.

The fashion show and all such events organized by the embassy in collaboration with its Pakistani partners was a clear manifestation of our strong and earnest desire to promote and deepen bilateral relations. =DNA





## Japan welcomes US-Taliban deal

ISLAMABAD: MATSUDA Kuninori welcomes the signing of peace agreement between the U.S. Government and the Afghan Taliban including the planned U.S. troop withdrawal from Afghanistan and commencement of intra-Afghan negotiations on February 29 in Doha, as very positive developments in the

Afghan peace process. On this historic occasion, Ambassador MATSUDA highly appreciates an important and constructive role of Pakistan in facilitating the peace process. He reaffirms that the Government of Japan strongly hopes that the forthcoming negotiations will make a steady and constructive

progress in order to realize an Afghanistan durable and comprehensive peace. He reiterates that Government of Japan will continue to actively contribute to the peace and stability of Afghanistan in collaboration with international community and look forward to working closely with Pakistan.

## Pakistan, Iran have huge potential to enhance bilateral trade: Ambassador

LAHORE, (DNA) - The newly-appointed Iranian ambassador to Pakistan Syed Muhammad Ali Hussaini has said that there is a huge potential to enhance bilateral trade between Iran and Pakistan.

During a meeting with PIAF chairman Mian Nauman Kabir, he had a detailed discussion on trade and economic relations between the two countries. He said that Iran and Pakistan should concentrate on trade and economic activities to further improve bilateral relations, saying that both countries should adopt new approach and forward with fastest pace.

Though trade between the two countries is growing gradually, but still it is below the potential, he said, adding that business organizations of the two countries should be given wake-up call so that they can play their due role for the strengthening of trade and economic ties.

Iranian envoy said that despite all odds, bilateral trade between the two countries was good. He hoped that mutual trade and economic relations would be stronger in future. He said that Pakistan and Iran have common borders and cultural bonds. Iran has always tried to strengthen the bilateral relations with neighboring countries and first priority was Pakistan. He said that Iranian embassy would extend full support to the trade delegations.

PIAF chairman Mian Nauman Kabir, on this occasion, stated that despite being brotherly countries, trade remains low. Hence, Pakistan and Iran must make collective efforts to explore new avenues. It has always been our struggle to promote bilateral trade and the PIAF has a very positive approach towards improving trade ties particularly with neighboring countries.



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ہمیں بھریور خدمت کا موقع دیں

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کراچی، محکمہ کوئٹہ	455,695 روپے	478,520 روپے
بلوچستان، آزاد کشمیر، سرگودھا، سیالکوٹ، مینا، مری، رحیم یار خان سے	463,445 روپے	486,270 روپے

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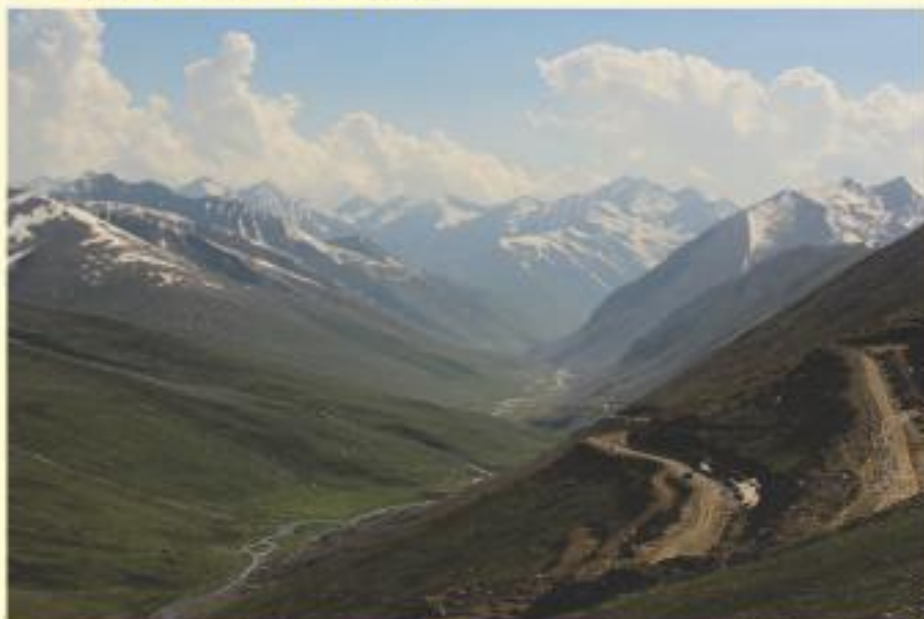


## Babusar Pass

**B**abusar Pass or Babusar Top (elevation 4,173 metres or 13,691 feet) is a mountain pass at the north of the 150 km (93 miles) long Kaghan Valley, connecting it via the Thak Nala with Chilas on the Karakoram Highway (KKH). It is the highest point in the Babusar Valley that can be easily accessed by cars. The Babusar Pass connects Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with Gilgit Baltistan. It is one of the most dangerous routes in Gilgit-Baltistan. Every year many deaths happen here due to the mountainous slopes, which are among the most dangerous in the world. The most common reason for death is the brake failure of cars due to inexperience. Babusar Top was originally known as Babur Top, originating from the fact that the Mughal emperor Babur used to pass through this area in the early 16th century. Nowadays however, it is commonly referred to as Babusar Top.[2]

The Kaghan Valley is at its best during summer (from May to September). In May, the maximum temperature is 11°C (52°F) and the minimum temperature is 3°C (37°F). From the middle of July up to the end of September the road beyond Naran is open right up to the Babusar Pass. However, movement is restricted during the monsoon and winter seasons. The Kaghan area can be accessed by road via the cities of Islamabad or Peshawar.

The mountain ranges which enter the Mansehra District from Kashmir are the offshoots of the great Himalayan system. In the Kaghan Valley, the mountain system is the highest of the area including the Babusar Top. This range flanks the right bank of the Kunhar River, and contains a peak called Malika Parbat, which is over 17,000 feet (19) and is the highest in the district. On the mountains the grasslands are also found where Gujjars and other nomads migrate



during the summer for grazing by their sheep, goats and other animals. On the north side there are mountains which are the extension of the same mountain system as that of the Kaghan mountains. This range diverges from the eastern side at Musa-ka-Musalla a peak (13,378 feet) (20), which skirt the north end of the Bhogarmang and

Konsh valleys, and sends down a spur to divide the two. Here also, like Kaghan, thick forests are naturally present, especially on the higher slopes. However, due to extensive exploitation, the thick forests are now usually found in the unapproachable areas.

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## Army chief Gen. Bajwa briefs EU envoys



RAWALPINDI, FEB 25 (DNA) - A European Union delegation led by Androulla Kaminara, Ambassador of European Union met Chief of Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, on Tuesday. Matters of mutual interest, regional security including Afghan

Reconciliation Process, situation at LOC and IOJ&K were discussed. Ambassadors of different countries including Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Deputy Head of Missions of France & Hungary, Charge

of Affaires of Greece, Attaché (Pol Affaires) of Austria and Senior Technical Advisor MOFA of Denmark was also part of the delegation. Visiting dignitaries appreciated Pakistan's role for peace and stability in the region. =DNA

## Indonesian embassy offers KNB Scholarship to Pak students

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) - Embassy of Uzbekistan in collaboration with Iqra University organized a fashion show "Encounter Culture Vol.II," featuring Uzbek Designers collection.

The fashion show provided the people of Islamabad with an opportunity of getting firsthand knowledge about various Uzbek traditional dresses.

The audiences lauded splendid work done by the fashion designers both from Pakistan and Uzbekistan and admired students of the Iqra University for befittingly showcasing these products.

CEO Serena Mr Aziz Boolani and a large number of people hailing from various walks of life witnessed the fashion show. It was second show of

this sort organized by the Uzbek embassy. First lady Mrs. Samina Alvi was the chief guest.

First lady Mrs Samina Arif Alvi while speaking on the occasion said that Pakistan and Uzbekistan have common history, culture and values. We enjoy very strong relations in cultural sector. We can promote our cultures through fashion that has universal appeal. Culture and Fashion are breaking barriers and bridging gaps among the nations.

She said that that in globalized world the fashion is important tool to increase people to people contacts. She said that Pakistan is multi cultured country. We have diversity of cultures. Moghals from Uzbekistan ruled sub continent for centuries. They introduced the

culture, cuisine, art and craft of Central Asia to this region. This is a unique common factor among Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

She congratulated the organizers of the fashion show for hosting the event.

Ambassador of Uzbekistan Furqat Sidikov in his remarks said ever since his arrival in Pakistan as ambassador he was trying to promote people to people and cultural links between the two countries.

The fashion show and all such events organized by the embassy in collaboration with its Pakistani partners was a clear manifestation of our strong and earnest desire to promote and deepen bilateral relations. =DNA



# Serena hosts high-profile discussion on Pakistan's digital economy

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) – A high-profile panel discussion on Pakistan's digital future attended by prominent players in the local digital industry was hosted on Thursday evening by Serena hotels as part of its Public Diplomacy Initiative called "Raabta".

The event titled "Reimagine our Digital Future – Preparing to thrive or survive?" was hosted by Raabta curator and prominent journalist Sidra Iqbal. Raabta is a nonpartisan public initiative by Serena hotels to initiate dialogue aimed

at creating awareness amongst diverse groups and networks on critical aspects of socially significant fields such as the economy, health and education.

A lively and thought-provoking discussion was held about the challenges facing the local digital economy in face of its rapid expansion, and the challenges

and opportunities this brings in terms of innovation, governance, job market, cyber risks, regulation and ease of doing business.

"The focus of today's event is to discuss the potential benefits and costs arising from global digital technology changes and, importantly, anticipate public policy



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<b>Ward No. 6</b>	Askari-13, Lalazar Lane No. 2, Mehtar-ul-Dayum Road, Askari-7, Askari-7, Dhoke Jinnah, Al-Murritz Colony, Dhoke Kalhor, Mubarak Lane, Askari-13, Lala Zar Lane No. 2, Lalazar Lane No. 2, Al-Murritz Colony, Dhoke Kalhor, Mubarak Lane, Khalid, Al-Murritz Colony, Zafar Mubarak Road, Mehtar-ul-Haq Road, Lalazar, Tulsi Village, Lane No. 5, Harid Town, Sher Zaman Colony Sher Zaman Colony, Lane No. 6 & 8, Lane No. 5, Sher Zaman Colony, Lane No. 5, Sher Zaman Colony	112040201 - 112040202 - 112040203 112040204 - 112040205 - 112040206 112040207 - 112040208 - 112040209 112040210 - 112040211 - 112040212 112040214 - 112040215 - 112040201 112040302 - 112040303 - 112040304 112040305 - 112040306
<b>Ward No. 7</b>	Ghousia Chowk, Nal Abad Tahir Mohri, Ghousia Street Colony, Ahran Colony, Ahran Shalimar Road, Lalazar, Tahir Mohri, Ahran Colony, Ahran Shalimar Road, Biscuit Factory, Dhamal Camp, Harit Lane, Ahran Colony, Ahran Shalimar Road, Lala Zar, Tahir Mohri, Ghousia Street, Shadman Colony, Jinnah, Ghousia Street, Raji Jan Street, Askari Street, Jinnah, Karna Chowk, Bokra Market, Nal Abad Jinnah, Nal Abad Tahir Mohri, Nal Abad Tahir Mohri, Nal Abad Tahir Mohri, Nal Abad Tahir Mohri	112060101 - 112060102 - 112060103 112060104 - 112060105 - 112060106 112060401 - 112060402 - 112060403 112060404 - 112060405 - 112060406 112060407 - 112060501 - 112060502 112060503 - 112060504 - 112060505
<b>Ward No. 8</b>	Dehri Hassan Abad Gali No. 1 & 2, Dehri Hassan Abad Gali No. 2, 3 & 4, Dehri Hassan Abad, Dehri Hassan Abad Gali No. 11 & 12, Dehri Hassan Abad Gali No. 4-A & B, 8, 9, 10, Qazi Road, Awan Street, Dehri Hassan Abad Gali No. 3 to 6, Dehri Hassan Abad Gali No. 4, Dehri Hassan Abad, DDO Road Dehri Hassan Abad, Lalazar, Dhoke Serna, Dehri Hassan Abad / Lalazar, Dehri Hassan Abad Raja Ahran Colony, Meharooz Lane, Dehri Hassan Abad	112050101 - 112050102 - 112050103 112050104 - 112050105 - 112050106 112050107 - 112050108 - 112050201 112050202 - 112050203 - 112050204 112050205 - 112050206 - 112050207 112050301 - 112050302 - 112050303 112050308
<b>Ward No. 9</b>	Harley Street, CMH, Indus Road 1 & 2, Tariq Abad, Indus Road 1, Tarqabad, Indus Road 2, Tarqabad, Dehri Hassanabad, New Lalazar, Harley Street, Changi No. 22, Nal Abad Tahir Mohri, Nal Abad, Tahir Mohri, Tahir Mohri, Tahir Mohri, Tahir Mohri, Gali No. 14, Tahir Mohri, Main Harley Street, Harley Street, Dhoke Fawzi Eshli, Riaz Abad, Dhoke Fawzi Eshli, Riaz Abad	112050601 - 112050602 - 112050603 112050604 - 112050605 - 112050606 112050607 - 112060201 - 112060202 112060203 - 112060204 - 112060205 112060206 - 112060207 - 112060208 112060209 - 112060301 - 112060302 112060303 - 112060304
<b>Ward No. 10</b>	Murree Road, Nasser-ul-Haq Street, Sir Syed Road, Sir Syed Road, Sir Syed Road Bank Road, Kachhi Road, Mair Hassan, Gali No. 2 to 6, Mair Hassan Civil Lane, Mair Hassan, Vithale Road, Tarqabad, MCS Quarters, Saghar Lane, MCS Quarters, Lalazar Colony, Aziz Bhatti Road, Ghousia Street, Bala Chowk, Alangir Road, Tufail Road, Farouk Road, Jhelum Road, Humayun Road, Tufail Road, Rafi Road, Tarqabad, Knight Road, Alangir Road, Tarqabad, Vithale Road, Tarqabad, Vithale Road Tarqabad	112030101 - 112030102 - 112030103 112030104 - 112030201 - 112030202 112030203 - 112030204 - 112030205 112050304 - 112050305 - 112050306 112050307 - 112050401 - 112050402 112050403 - 112050404 - 112050405 112050501 - 112050502 - 112050503 112050504 - 112050505 - 112050506







## Kazakh business delegation visits Islamabad stock exchange

ISLAMABAD, FEB 28 (DNA) – Birzhan Kaneshev- Deputy CEO, Kazakh Invest had a meeting with Mr. Zahid Latif- Chairman, Islamabad Stock Exchange & Member Advisory Board CGSS at Islamabad Stock Exchange.

During the meeting, Mr. Birzhan Kaneshev- Deputy CEO, Kazakh Invest gave a presentation about the Investment opportunities in Kazakhstan and explained the various avenues available in Kazakhstan for investment and business.

It was also discussed that, strengthening bilateral ties between Kazakhstan and Pakistan by initiating and presenting



business and trade opportunities could prove to be fruitful for the economy and business communities of both countries.

The meeting was also attended by

Islamabad Stock Exchange members and the senior management of Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad.=DNA

## Turkish wood furniture company launched in Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: The two brotherly countries Turkey and Pakistan have entered into a new era of close economic ties as Turkish business companies have started investing in Pakistan. Keeping in view the vision of PM Imran Khan for bringing foreign direct investment (FDI) in Pakistan, a Turkish wood working Brand MOOÖI Atolye has launched their factory in Pakistan right after the visit of Turkish President.

The Turkish woodwork industry had a vast legacy of embellishing decor and unique furniture style. Turkish Ambassador was the Chief Guest here today at the

inaugural ceremony who also cut the ribbon on the occasion.

This newly built factory would produce Kitchens Doors and Wardrobes in Pakistan as per the European Standard. It also has great experience of developing home interiors on European standards due to its large field of expertise on different trends and furniture varieties as per the international standards. Moreover, it had become more easier to provide all its variety in Pakistan as the company is shifting technology and human resources to Pakistan. DNA





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