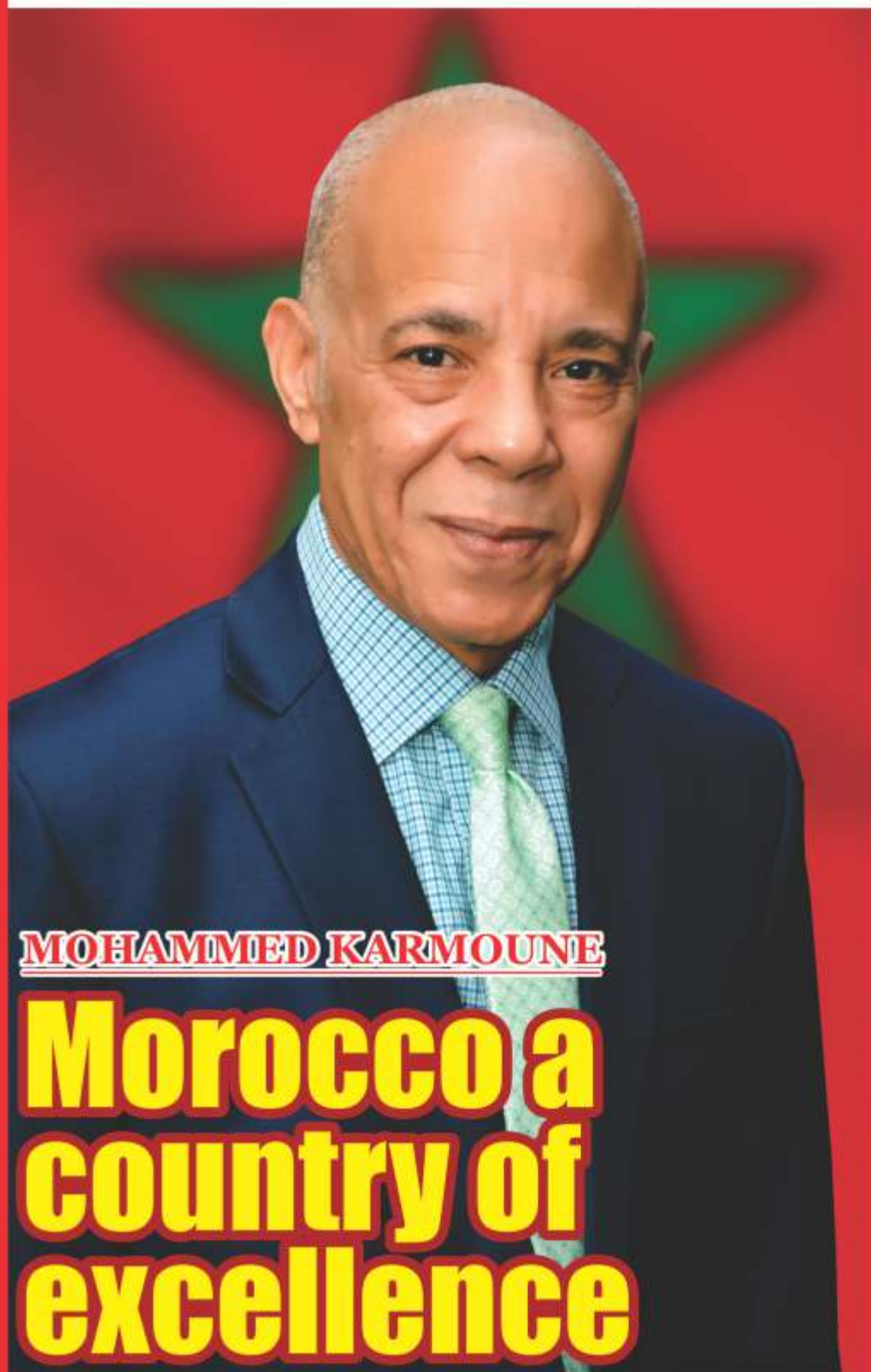


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Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine



MOHAMMED KARMOUNE

Morocco a country of excellence



It is honour to serve in Pakistan:
Chinese envoy

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Aziz Boolani: a symbol of positivity and optimism

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Hungarian ambassador plants tree at E-7 Park

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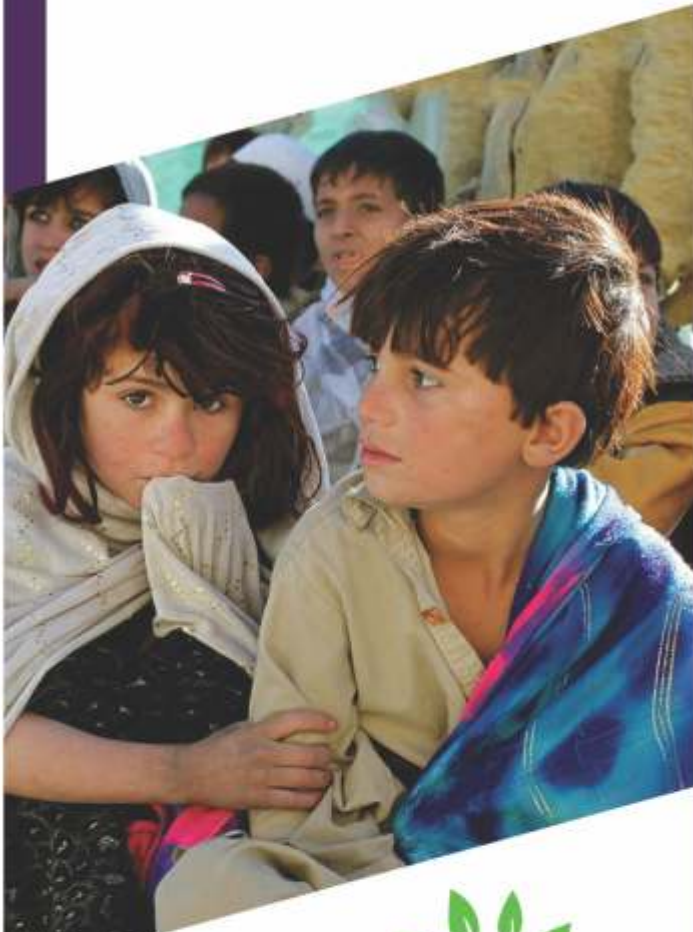
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1

- 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
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Nagorno-Karabakh is Azerbaijan



The valiant nation of Azerbaijan is set to regain its lost territory called Nagorno-Karabakh as the Azerbaijani forces have already re-taken a number of surrounding areas of the occupied territory. Both countries went into war when Armenians on September 27, 2020 attacked Azerbaijani areas killing innocent people. Then Armenia attacked second largest city of Azerbaijan called Ganga where many innocent people were killed and scores of others left wounded. The international community then moved and tried to broker a peace deal. Russia jumping into the fray, facilitated a meeting of leadership of both countries and 'succeeded' to win a temporary ceasefire. However ceasefire could not long for last as both sides accused each other of violating the ceasefire. It was Armenia that resorted to attack those cities which had nothing to do with the conflict while Azerbaijan forces kept their fight limited to the conflict zone only.

Now when the conflict has already taken a heavy toll especially on the innocent people of Azerbaijan, what will happen next and what will be the likely future of Nagorno-Karabakh? That is the question all stakeholders are trying to find an answer. Turkey, as we know, has openly supported Azerbaijan while Russia has shown cautious response to Armenian call for help for Russians can only help Armenia if any of the Armenian territory is attacked. And the Russians have categorically conveyed this to the leadership of Armenia. Azerbaijan leadership on the contrary is exercising maximum restraint despite provocations by the Armenians. Attack on cities like Ganja in fact is a sort of provocation. Armenia wants Azerbaijan to lose its cool and attack Armenia to take revenge and thus it could tell to the world, especially the Russians that look Azerbaijan has attacked Armenia so come to its rescue.

Armenia so far has not been able to garner support of the international community in its favour that is why its frustration is increasing with the each passing day. So much so, Iran, which used to support Armenia in the past, has now openly supported the Azerbaijan stand. The Iranian president in a recent message made it clear that Nagorno-Karabakh belongs to Azerbaijan. On diplomatic front this is ostensibly a major achievement for Baku.

As regards Pakistani stand, our government, establishment, civil society and media have whole-heartedly been supporting Azerbaijan. In a rare show of solidarity with the government and people of Azerbaijan the members of civil society arranged memorial corners in difference places in order to pay homage to the brave Azerbaijani forces.

Media support has also been forthcoming. Pakistani newspapers and periodicals published a number of articles highlighting various aspects of the issue. The Azerbaijan embassy in Islamabad spearheaded by Ambassador Ali Alizade has also been very instrumental in projecting and promoting the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh. Likewise disseminating of latest information about the on-going conflict also contributed greatly towards keeping the media fraternity abreast with what was happening on ground.

There are loud and clear calls from the international community and Azerbaijan that Armenia must be tried for war crimes as it has killed many innocent people. This demand makes sense and the world must take note of it because any complacency in this regard would encourage acts of aggression even in the prospect.

Analysts believe, Azerbaijan this time would like to take this conflict to its logical end, which means it will re-gain control of Nagorno-Karabakh. The Azerbaijani leadership may also be thinking on the same lines because the Armenian aggression has provided it with an ample chance of turning this act of aggression into an opportunity and settle this issue once and for all.

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. In April 2020 he launched Pakistan's first & only Diplomatic Newspaper Daily Islamabad *Post*.

Morocco A country Of Excellence

Ambassador of Morocco to Pakistan Mohammed Karmoune gave an exclusive interview to Daily Islamabad POST, CENTRELINE magazine and DNA News Agency. The ambassador spoke about bilateral relations as well as various aspects of Moroccan economy, trade and culture. He also talked about his country's efforts to deal with coronavirus. Here are excerpts from his interview.

Ansar M Bhatti

A country of excellence in an exceptional circumstance

In March, Morocco's strategy of containing the spread of Coronavirus was praised by certain European political figures and media outlets. During his statement before the National Assembly in Paris, French leftist politician Jean Luc Melenchon considered Morocco's response as inspirational; and said "Morocco has performed well in its plan to combat Covid-19 by commandeering its textile industry to make protective masks. France should be inspired by it." In neighboring Spain, the president of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Senate, Antonio Gutierrez Limones, described the Moroccan response as efficient and effective;

Italian News Agency NOVA also praised Morocco's plan of dealing with the Coronavirus threat as "unprecedented and the first of its kind in Africa".

On March 2nd, Morocco registered the first positive coronavirus patient on its soil. Since then, the country has embarked on a real race against the clock to avoid a health tragedy.

In this regard, Morocco had to take

immediate steps to defeat Covid-19.

An immediate response plan based on a series of preventive actions

Morocco chooses prevention and immediately adopts a series of drastic measures. Gradually, the kingdom barricaded its borders, closed schools and universities, cafes, restaurants, and non-



essential shops. The country canceled sporting, cultural and artistic events and eventually even closed all mosques and places of worship.

On March 18, a few days after the announcement of the first local case of contamination with COVID-19, Minister of Health called on the population to limit

their movements to the maximum and to apply voluntary confinement.

Free test

To halt the virus, Morocco facilitated, like South Korea, the testing by making it free and available to all individuals that may have been exposed to infected patients or that are simply not feeling well. As a matter of fact, before the first case was announced, more than 100 individuals had already been tested. Which makes Morocco, the only country in the MENA region effectively assessing, and harshly tracking the number of Coronavirus cases.

Massive public awareness

On television channels, as well as radio and social networks, the Ministry of Health hammers out hygiene rules and acts as a barrier to prevent the spread of the virus. Furthermore, the authorities are embarking on a massive awareness campaign, using criers to get the message out to as many people as possible.

A special solidarity fund to fight the pandemic and limit its economic and social impact

Leading the battle against the coronavirus will come at a price. To prepare, the King Mohammed VI ordered the creation of a



MOHAMMED KARMOUNE

fund dedicated to managing the pandemic. In less than a week, the country has managed to raise more than 30 billion Moroccan dirhams (3 billion Euros) by putting all its players to work, big business, senior civil servants, parliamentarians, senior officers, high ranking officers, politicians ... now is the time for solidarity. Several companies within Morocco's food industry also donated millions of food products to assist families during the lockdown.

This special fund dedicated to upgrading infrastructure and acquiring the medical equipment necessary to treat COVID-19 is also used to manage the health repercussions of the epidemic and cushion its economic and social impact. The whole country is invited to participate at its level in the national effort. To help the segment of the population most affected by the freezing of economic activity in the country, this fund notably, allowed the payment of compensation of 2,000 Moroccan dirhams per month (around 187 Euros) to employees affiliated to the National Social Security Fund who is currently on sick leave.

A billion dirhams has also been paid to the Ministry of Health to upgrade infrastructure and acquire medical equipment in preparation for a possible worsening of the epidemiological situation.

Military forces called in to reinforce

The images of the armored units that roam the streets leave no room for doubt, the army is also taking part in the fight against the coronavirus. The monarch gave his instructions to reinforce military medicine in the country's medical structures, in the form of medical and

paramedical personnel. The social services of the Royal Armed Forces and the royal gendarmerie will also be mobilized within this framework.

A new therapeutic protocol: Morocco relies on chloroquine

This is the treatment everyone is talking about. Morocco officially adopts the treatment of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine in the therapeutic management of confirmed cases of COVID-19.

In a circular dated Monday, March 23, Minister of Health, after consultation with the technical and scientific committee of the National Program for the Prevention and Control of Influenza and Severe Acute Respiratory Infections in the Kingdom, gave the green light to the introduction of this treatment in the therapeutic management of COVID-19.

As a reminder, the Moroccan government acquired from the Sanofi laboratory the entire stock of drugs marketed under the names "Nivaquine" and "Plaquenil" and manufactured at the Sanofi Maroc industrial site in Casablanca.

The stocks of this treatment initially indicated for treating and preventing malaria, were fully "made available exclusively to health establishments, with a strict protocol of use, subject to monitoring and control".

Strategy of transparency

The Moroccan government also made transparency and open-information its main weapon to win against the rapid spread by sharing daily with citizens any relevant information. As a matter of fact, all members of the Moroccan Government were tested and all of their results of the COVID-19 were instantly shared with the

public.

Ventilator and Thermometer (MADE IN MOROCCO)

Morocco plans to increase its intensive care beds capacity to 3000 as it allocated \$200 million to acquire health equipment to deal with coronavirus. 100,000 testing kits and collectors in addition to protective gear and other medicine to treat COVID-19 patients.

Morocco is also encouraging local institutions and universities to manufacture locally medical devices to assist to country's efforts in the fight against the novel coronavirus.

In this connection, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Digital Economy brought together a cluster of 20 researchers and engineers who invented two 100% Morocco-made devices, an automatic ventilator and, an infrared thermometer.

Morocco makes face masks compulsory due to coronavirus

Morocco made wearing face masks mandatory starting from April 7 for anyone allowed to go out during the coronavirus outbreak.

The masks were sold at a subsidized price of 0.8 dirhams (\$0.08) per unit. Those who wouldn't comply to wearing masks, could face prison sentences of up to three months and a fine of up to 1,300 dirhams. Textile factories across the country have been encouraged to produce face masks.

The Coronavirus shows the bright face of Moroccans: solidarity, synergy, and love for the homeland

Once again, perhaps it is more than what we are used to in the past but whenever the hardships, tribulations and natural calamities challenge us, Moroccans

demonstrate to the whole world the originality of their precious mettle. They stress that what unites them is greater than what separates them. This was evident by their comprehensive solidarity and mobilization in the face of the emerging coronavirus or "COVID-19" that afflicted all countries, as they did not delay their positive interaction with the high initiative launched by King Mohammed VI in March 2020, to accelerate the creation of a special fund to manage and respond to the epidemic.

This is without neglecting to mention the tremendous efforts made by the medical staff in the hospital centers, the security agencies in maintaining security and stability in all cities, and the educational frameworks in their keenness to continue giving lessons to learners, students, and trainees via the Internet. The work of the national media that works hard to educate citizens and provide them with the correct information also needs to be mentioned. As does the work of sanitation workers who watch the streets and neighborhoods, and other forms of solidarity and initiatives aimed at clustering against this epidemic, which threatens the lives of everyone, especially the elderly.

Despite the dangers of coronavirus on the health and lives of people, the pandemic revealed the bright face of the ancient Moroccan people in terms of nobility and noble values and contributed to strengthening the weaving of the social fabric. However, these noble people were not at any point in their glorious history in need of such disasters to revive the spirit of fraternity and cohesion in their depths. Moreover, this spirit is not strange for a society that has known for decades many forms of solidarity and interdependence among all its social strata, in various cities, villages, rural areas, and urban areas. It is based on what has been entrenched in the minds of its members from religious teachings and morals, and formed from them an authentic Moroccan culture rooted deep in human history.

This is because of the value of solidarity is among the most prominent high civilization values □□ that have roots in the depth of Moroccan history, and are the most established and enduring.

Perhaps among the most prominent manifestations of gallantry and chivalry recorded in these difficult circumstances of our contemporary history, there are some bosses of cafes and restaurants and places that have been closed from the commitment to continue to pay workers wages, and there is a category of large taxi owners who chose to share with their drivers their loss, and there is also owners have given up the leasehold entitlements of missing persons and their jobs until the return of things to normal ... Multiple and varied examples show to what extent the culture of solidarity has spread in our country...



Moroccans, despite the deviation that is taken upon some of them, are distinguished in the majority of them by the spirit of solidarity that we rarely find among other peoples, as they do not depend on doing good and undertaking good initiatives in secret and in public, individually or collectively, and whether it is related to surgeries or financial aid during religious occasions, academic seasons, etc., especially in crises such as we are today, which contributes to the consolidation of more values □□ of solidarity, brotherhood, friendship, compassion, and tolerance.

Morocco a model of unity, responsibility and resilience

King Mohammed VI called for unity on African leaders to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. The sovereign spoke on this matter with the presidents of Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal, to launch an initiative of African Heads of State aimed at establishing an operational framework to support the countries of the continent in their different phases of pandemic management.

Morocco also donated to the African Union Commission medical supplies that would boost the continental capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The donation represents the values of support



and solidarity between African Union Member States.

A strong signal for South-South cooperation

Concretely, the Kingdom of Morocco quickly went from words to deeds. Since Sunday, June 14, the cargo planes of the airline Royal Air Maroc are active again on the tarmacs of African airports.

In the wake of his commitment made in April 2020 to strengthen South-South solidarity, King Mohammed VI ordered the dispatch of medical aid to 15 sub-Saharan countries, with massive help: 8 million masks, 900,000 visors, 600,000 charlottes, 60,000 gowns, 30,000 liters of hydroalcoholic gel, 75,000 boxes of chloroquine and 15,000 boxes of azithromycin, all from Moroccan factories in accordance with the standards required by the WHO.

Conclusion

The measures taken by Morocco at the first stage of the COVID-19 outbreak is showing how much Morocco did not underestimate the situation and learned from other countries' mistakes.

In comparison to the majority of African countries, Morocco's strong institutions, peaceful society, robust infrastructure, and several achievements on food security, have definitely helped policy-makers to draw a prompt response to exacerbate the Coronavirus panic, and dismiss spurious information around it.

Morocco's public health sector might not be as sophisticated as Japan's for instance, however, this safety-preparedness approach is not only a winning strategy, but it is also unprecedented for the majority of MENA countries, and even for some European countries.

"Despite the fragile economic situation Morocco faced before the pandemic, the actions taken by the Government and all the other institutions show it is among the first countries globally to sacrifice its own economic welfare to prevent this virus from spreading." "This move, in turn, has inspired Moroccans to trust the Government's measures and help one another in this time of crisis.

"The Coronavirus situation shows the societal benefits of cohesion and solidarity with one another and shows how it is important to consider the positives of this difficult period, rather than just the negatives."



ISLAMABAD: Adam Mulawarman Tugio the newly arrived Ambassador of Indonesia in a group photo with the staff their families at the Indonesian Residence. The embassy staff warmly welcomed the new ambassador. DNA

Indonesia a wonderful place to live and visit

One is greatly touched by hospitality and humbleness of Indonesian people that, in my view, plays central role in their success in all spheres. We could see people walking around and saying “hello” and other greeting to us while we were either visiting a shopping place or a tourist destination. Even we came across people in civil dress but actually from the police department. They came to us asking about our nationalities and then revealing their identity that they were from the police and were here to protect tourists and visitors

Ansar Mahmood Bhatti delivered this speech during a function arranged by the Indonesian embassy for FAMTRIP participants, tour and travel industry. Here is the text of the speech.

Ansar M Bhatti



Well, first of all please forgive me if I make too many fumbles in my speech because frankly making a speech is an art and I do not know this art, at all.

But, since I have been asked to share my experiences and thoughts about these trips so I am here to share with you what I have observed and seen during these trips. I had the honour of visiting Indonesia THREE TIMES. First time I went alone to take part in a conference in Bali and then in

2018 and 2019 I visited this wonderful country as part of FAMTRIP. Courtesy, the Indonesian embassy in Islamabad.

The way the entire trip is executed right from the beginning to the end, is just amazing. I have participated in a number of such FAMTRIPs but the way this trip is organized is indeed praiseworthy. Everything is in order. Schedules are prepared and executed keeping in view the convenience of the participants, which seldom happens in such kind of trips.

We found people of Indonesia extremely warm though I often wonder why people who are otherwise so warm eat extremely cold food. But, then it was quite an experience of having cold food and now we are used to it.

One is greatly touched by hospitality and humbleness of Indonesian people that, in my view, plays central role in their success in all spheres. We could see people walking around and

saying “hello” and other greeting to us while we were either visiting a shopping place or a tourist destination. Even we came across people in civil dress but actually from the police department. They came to us asking about our nationalities and then revealing their identity that they were from the police and were here to protect tourists and visitors.

The idea of tourist police is unique and now in vogue in many countries. I first experienced this in Uzbekistan where tourist police has been taking care of tourists since 2017. The main task of this department is to monitor the tourists' safety, inform guests about potential threats in real time, as well as help in protecting their rights and interests. This I think is yet another feather in the cap of Indonesian tourism ministry when it comes to protecting visitors.

Indonesian people too are keen to come to Pakistan for especially religious tourism purposes. It is

now up to our side to reach out to them and invite them. It can be a major source of income for the government also. On way back from Umra or Hajj they can visit Pakistani places. Here the travel agents have a role to play.

EXPO

Since the FAMTRIP coincides with the TRADE EXPO. This is in fact a good idea because in this way participants can have knowledge about what Indonesia has to offer. The influx of potential buyers who attend this expo is a clear manifestation of its success and utility.

SUGGESTIONS

Frankly, I don't have anything particular to add when it comes to recommendations to further improve the program. The FAMTRIPS trips are always planned and conceived professionally and as per the SOPs devised by the FAMTRIP experts. What I can add or suggest here is that since the purpose of such trips is to provide more and more information to the visitors about Indonesia therefore it would be ideal if more and more destinations can be covered during the stipulated period. Of course, it may be a bit hectic to move from one place to another in a short span of time but then that is perhaps the true spirit and purpose of such trips.

SELECTION OF ACCOMMODATION

Then selection of accommodation is yet another area that can either make a guest happy or otherwise. Participants, especially media people would prefer an accommodation in the city center and fully equipped with communication tools such as Wifi etc. During my first visit in 2018, we had to experience some accommodation and communication issues maybe because that particular trip was outsourced to a third party. But in 2019, it was executed perfectly because this time officials from the tourism ministry were taken on board. I think this experience

proved a success and may be continued for future trips.

AIR TRAVEL WITH LESS TRANSIT

Another important aspect that can contribute positively or negatively to a FAMTRIP happens to be the selection of air route. The shortest possible air route with convenient transit time can surely make a guest happy and thus trip starts on a positive note. The same may apply for return journeys as well.

Frankly, I don't have anything particular to add when it comes to recommendations to further improve the program. The FAMTRIPS trips are always planned and conceived professionally and as per the SOPs devised by the FAMTRIP experts.

By and large, shortest possible routes are selected for Indonesia FAMTRIPS. However, last year due to some connection issues, the trip was organized thru Qatar and from there to Jakarta, which was obviously quite a long route. And participants had just a few hours before their first official meeting the same day. As we have been told that Lion Air, the budget airline of Indonesia, is planning to start its

operations from Pakistan. I think it would be easy to get to Indonesia after start of direct flights.

BANGKOK ROUTE

There is another suggestion to make this trip more interesting, at least from the participants' point of view. The group has a transit in Bangkok on both ways. Maybe on way back, a short stay of one or two nights can be arranged in Bangkok. Indonesian and Pakistani embassies in Bangkok may also be taken on board in order to make the short stay official also. This proposal can be given a try at least once. If it works, it may continue and if it does not, just forget about it.

But as I said the Indonesian FAMTRIPS are organized in professional manner that one can hardly find any shortcomings. I am sure thru such programs the Indonesian authorities have successfully projected a positive image of their country outside of Indonesia. Those who take part in such programs then serve as representatives and ambassadors of Indonesia in their respective countries, and I believe, that is the purpose a country would like to achieve through such an exercise.

Before I close my words, I have to recognize services of Ambassador Iwan S Amri, whose personal interest made these trips memorable. And Ambassador Amri could do all this through his executive arm which in this case happens to be Mr. Denny and his team. Of course, it was great team work that made the project of FAMTRIP a total success.

I wish and pray that this success story continues even in the coming days and I and my organizations are always there to fully support and encourage all such future endeavours".

The writer is the Editor Daily Islamabad POST, CENTRELINEMAGAZINE and DNA News Agency. He can be reached at centrelinemag@gmail.com

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Hungarian envoy plants saplings to begin his 2nd term

By planting this saplings he had made an humble contribution to Govt of Pakistan's tree plantation drive 'Ten Billion Tree Tsunami' spearheaded by Prime Minister Imran Khan and Ministry of Climate Change: Bela Fazekas

Ansar M Bhatti



ISLAMABAD: Newly-arrived Ambassador of Hungary Bela Fazekas along with Mehnaz Aziz Member National Assembly and Pakistan-Hungary Parliamentary Friendship Group planted a saplings in a Park in E 7 to begin his second posting as Hungarian ambassador in Pakistan.

Ambassador Fazekas also served as Hungarian ambassador to Pakistan from 2005 to 2009. While speaking on the occasion the Ambassador said, he came again to Pakistan to finish his unfinished agenda. He told the gathering that wanted to start his second term with something solid and

tangible.

The Ambassador said, by planting this saplings he had made an humble contribution to Govt of Pakistan's tree plantation drive 'Ten Billion Tree Tsunami' spearheaded by Prime Minister Imran Khan and Ministry of Climate Change.

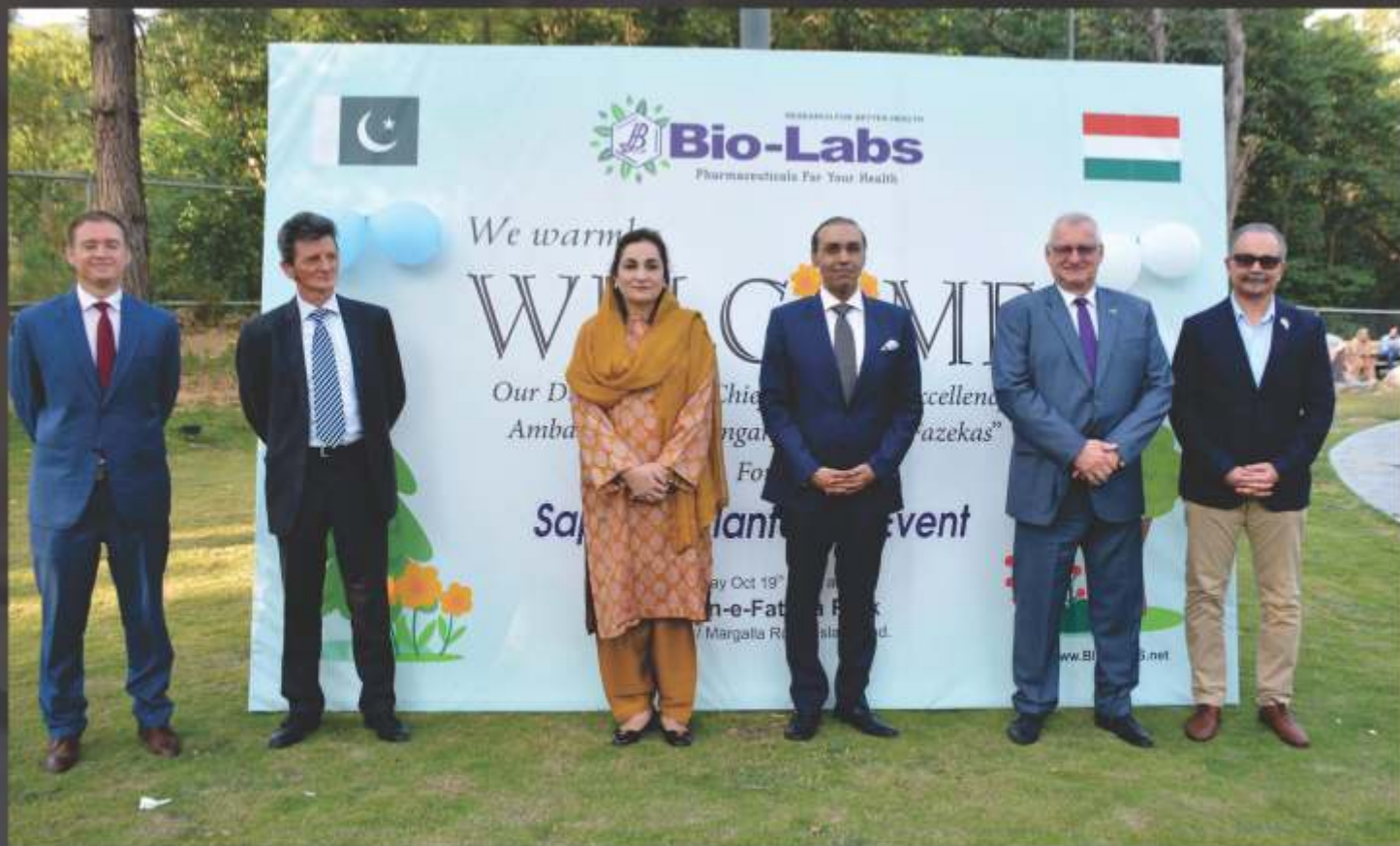
'In 2005 I was the ambassador; I traveled to Balakot, Muzafarabad and other places completely destroyed by deadly earthquake. Then I also heard that thousands of people died due to landslide. It could not have happened if there were no cutting of trees and massive deforestation.

Pakistan, he said is gifted with natural

beauty, which he could not found anywhere else. This country has the ability to develop eco tourism but in order to develop eco tourism you have to keep the country green, which can only be done by planting more and more trees.

The ambassador said, selfish people never plant trees, because they think the tree would never give shade to them, rather the tree will give shade to their children.

"I am planting this tree here because I strongly believe those who plant trees believe in the future. This tree is for the future Hungarian and Pakistani generations', he added.



Ambassador said in 2020 we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of



the opening of Hungarian embassy in Pakistan. He said he was keen to meet people from various walks of life during his tenure.

Ambassador Fazekas also thanked the



Bio Lab management for sponsoring and facilitating the event. He assured, he would do his best to further promote and strengthen bilateral relations.

Mehnaz Aziz Member National

***Mehnaz Aziz
Member
National
Assembly and
Pakistan-
Hungary
Parliamentary
Friendship
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thanked the
Ambassador for
inviting her in
the tree
plantation
ceremony.***

Assembly and Pakistan-Hungary



Parliamentary Friendship Group in her remarks thanked the Ambassador for inviting her in the tree plantation ceremony. She said Hungary was a beautiful country adding Pakistan



enjoyed excellent relations with Hungary in all spheres. She especially thanked the Hungarian government for providing scholarships to Pakistani students.

Aziz Boolani: a symbol of positivity and optimism

A.B Khan

A glass-half full person can be defined as an individual who looks at the world from a prism engraved with positivity, an optimistic being who drains the negativities from life's strainer and lives with an sanguine approach. Come year 2020, the world all over, Covid-19 pandemic painted the sky Red and global panic button went on an uninterrupted buzzer. Depression, pessimism, cynicism, glumness became order of the day and the prosperous business houses, entrepreneurs with start-up business models, striving companies and smiling faces transformed into chaos, perplexity, confusion with sadness and hopelessness calling the shots. Those who saw life as glass-half full started accepting it glass-half empty.

Meet Mr. Aziz Boolani, Chief Executive Officer, Serena Hotels South & Central Asia, a man who stood tall in this melancholic period, weathered the most exigent and difficult times of his illustrious career spanning over two decades and came out as a winner.

"To start with, we did not skedaddle or pressed the panic button although I had all the valid reasons to do so. Serena hotels all over Pakistan were running an occupancy level of more than 80% at the time the pandemic hit Pakistan and we came wobbling down like house of cards. Without exaggeration, within an span of two weeks, the occupancy hit the bottom rock and we were at 10% that too including our long term guests occupancy" informs Aziz as we settle down to talk about post covid-19 business struggle case study.

As the health care system, aviation industry, business hubs were caught in a whirlwind situation, hospitality industry too was no exception. Flight cancellations, visa rejections, border closures and evacuations of hotels and retreats sent the economy on a rollercoaster ride on a downward gear.

"Serena hotels biggest challenge after the announcement of the lockdown was how to cater to our long stay guests as we could not simply leave them in a limbo. So we shutdown one wing but kept the operations going although it was costing



us legs and arms, explains Mr. Boolani who looked at the matter from a corporate angle rather than financial.

The business hubs all over the world were in a scriptural state or if you can call in a SOS situation especially the tourism industry was the hardest hit along with the businesses directly attached to the industry. "We spent the first two months post lockdown in a very stressful position

as we did not want to layoff any of our staff. It is very easy to hire and fire, but our staff is our treasure trove. There is investment of years and years. Our employees have been with us through thick and thin. Plus we are well aware of the fact that many livelihoods are attached with these families so we took the bitter pill. Instead of layoffs we went for salary cuts to keep the boat floating

"informs Boolani.

The biggest challenge for the management at Serena hotels was how to control the two main incurring costs which are responsible for the operations and survival of the fittest. The Human Resource expenditure in shape of salaries and logistics and running cost of electricity, fuel, gas and other utilities bills. "I firmly believe and this is a tried and tested fact in my case that if one things positive, the vibes and ideas to overcome the challenges come quickly and I was right again. I sat down with different team groups and after many brain storming sessions we came up with a novel idea of launching Weekdays and weekend family packages. We thought what the need of the hour is and the answer was to lower down the stress level of the people. So we launched a family package at Serena hotels on very subsidized rates. These packages basically included all inclusive, stay at the Serena hotel, yoga classes, aerobic session, morning walks, Hi-Tea Spa facilities and big breakfast buffet every day. The concept of this package was to invite families who have been confined to their houses for months within limited place, many don't have big lawns or green areas to enjoy nature and live in a different environment other than their homes.

Secondly, the wizards at the hotel came up with the idea of providing working environment with a touch of home to those individuals and couples who need have been working from home. We did some math and by adding 1+1 we thought that lets split our café Rakaposhi into two sections, one to remain the regular coffee shop and the other reset for a work from home decor. Tables for single, and couple seating was re-arranged on hourly bases and packaged accordingly. For one hour booking, unlimited Wifi, Coffee with cookies for two hours the offering adds up soup and bread basket longer the hours, higher the temptation. If you breakdown the cost incurred at home with air-conditioning running for hours, two persons using two different rooms to hold zoom meetings, skype calls, this was a much better deal", informs Mr Bollani.

As the world is getting back to business so is the hospitality industry, trying to pick pieces from where they were left. Serena hotels as a principal opened up their main restaurant and one specialty restaurant to start off. For example in Serena Islamabad has only opened one main restaurant, i.e. Zamana restaurant and one specialty restaurant called Wild Rice. "In the new normal what we have done is that we extended our restaurants to outer gardens. Guest prefers to sit in the open. We have beautifully manicured lawns and

now both the restaurants that we have opened have substantial amount of seating capacity outside. In coming days it will be an ideal weather for an open air seating too he Informs with confidence. The Management is gearing up fast as reservations for conferences, Wedding

"Serena hotels biggest challenge after the announcement of the lockdown was how to cater to our long stay guests as we could not simply leave them in a limbo. So we shutdown one wing but kept the operations going although it was costing us legs and arms, explains Mr. Boolani who looked at the matter from a corporate angle rather than financial.

bookings; meeting halls have started coming in too. Room reservations though are slowly picking up in Serena hotels as travelling by air still needs second thoughts. The management plans to make Food and Beverage department fully operational in two to three weeks

period. The management has gone one step ahead in adopting SOPs during the pandemic and all Serena hotels are following the guidelines laid down by Government of Pakistan as well as AKDN,(Aga Khan Development Network). "We discourage guests not to roam around without mask. We provide masks to every guest who enters Serena hotels, and all our staff makes it mandatory to wear mask during in the vicinity. Kitchen too has been prepared as per accordance with the Standard Operations Procedures and so is the seating capacity at the restaurants and meeting rooms. The guests at the buffet tables are now being served by a waiter rather than self serving. We do not want the utensils, like serving spoons at the buffet to exchange hands, so a server will dish out the portion for the guests so that it's not touched by different hands" he explains

Serena hotels GB and KP have also been given permission to open for public and the response has been beyond our expectation. "We are doing even better than what we were doing last year. Surprisingly due to Covid and also opening up of new Motorway arteries, people have started to travel by road especially from Karachi. The health factor, fear of air travel has also contributed to this new trend. But the industry is still very much in grey area. Unless and until international airlines start to operate in full throttle and foreign travelers, visitors, business man do not start visiting Pakistan; it will be very difficult for the industry to be standing on its feet. I think resort occupancy will now see a surge in business than hotels in the coming days. The Covid has changed the mind frame of the travelers and holiday maker's worldwide as well. The stress level of the people has so high that they are desperate to have a break from their confinement progressive trend.

Covid-19 in simple terms has been a Health check for many corporate entities including Serena hotels. To me these five months have been a great learning experience. In routine one does not realize how much fat is in their in your organization. We started to cut down the cost but without compromising our brand image and without creating inconvenience for the guests. This we could have done it without COVID-19 epic but like I said, this became a health check as we did not cut corners but only extra fat. Secondly Covid-19 forced us to think of our own survival, sustainability and then growth. For survival we looked at cost cutting for sustainability we explored new vistas of growth as well as cost saving pockets and for growth we are working on various novel ideas.



Colorful graduation ceremony of Somali students

Ambassador of Somalia to Pakistan Khadija Mohamed Alмахzoumi thanks Pakistan for hosting Somalian students; bilateral relations to grow even stronger: Wajiha Akram

Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD, (DNA) – Ambassador of Somalia to Pakistan Khadija Mohamed Alмахzoumi, has thanked Pakistan for hosting Somalian students adding relations between the two countries have seen new heights in past years. She said our bilateral relations continue to make

positive strides in the right direction.

She expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of Graduation Ceremony of Somalian students studying in various Pakistani universities. She said a similar graduation ceremony was held here two years ago, adding she

will try to hold this ceremony on a regular basis.

Ms. Wajiha Akram, Chairman, Parliamentary Secretary Professional Education and Training was the chief guest while ambassadors of African countries were also present on the occasion along with officials from higher



education commission. The Ambassador appreciated the HEC and Pakistani universities for facilitating Somali students. She said that around 1200 Somali

students were currently studying in Pakistani universities. The Somali ambassador said a lot of Somali students have graduated from Pakistan and they

are now contributing greatly to the Somali society. Some of them have even reached the highest positions in Somalia. Ambassador said she was lucky to



be here with the Somalian students celebrating the graduation ceremony. She especially thanked those who wholeheartedly supported Somalia students in Pakistan.

Ms. Wajiha Akram in her speech, said the presence of Somali students in Pakistan speaks volumes for the deep rooted

relationship between the two countries. She said students are our future ambassadors who would for sure contribute greatly towards further strengthening of bilateral relations after completing their education. Some students of Somalia have established Urdu language institutes back in Somalia which ostensibly is a great honor

for our both nations.

Wajiha said since the 1960s we have had an important and solid mutual relationship with Somalia and great people of Somalia. The African continent is a rising regional giant with a population of 1.6 billion people. The continent, as we know, is rich with mineral resources and an exporter of energy



resources. Pakistan has a lot of goodwill in the region as the country has always championed the cause of the African countries. We must continue this path of mutual cooperation especially in the field of education, she added. Later the chief guest along

with Ambassadors of the African countries gave away certificates to the graduating students. A famous Somali singer came all the way from Somalia to perform on the occasion. His mesmerizing performance simply left the audience spell-bound. The students presented traditional Somali cultural dances, which added color to the event.

Pakistani people pay homage to victims of Armenian attacks

President ICCI, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan says that people of Pakistan are firmly standing with their brethren from Azerbaijan; Armenia is war criminal, says Ali Alizada

A.M.Bhatti / DNA



ISLAMABAD: – Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Ali Alizada has pledged that Nagorno-Karabakh will be fully liberated by Azerbaijan's valorous armed forces. The war crimes committed by the Armenia will be put to an end. He reiterated that Armenia must respect the United Nations Security Council resolutions and make an unconditional and immediate withdrawal from occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The ambassador, along with Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, president of





Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Investment (ICCI), was visiting the special corner established at Centaurus, the largest shopping center of Islamabad. The special corner has the latest photographs from the war affected region of Azerbaijan. The corner was established to commemorate the victims of Armenian aggression and to spread awareness about Armenian war crimes in Karabakh. Talking to media representatives, President ICCI, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that people of Pakistan are firmly standing with their brethren from

Azerbaijan. He further said that Armenia is an aggressor and has illegally occupied the Azerbaijan's lands. It is time that United Nations must put an end to the plight of Karabakh, Kashmir and Palestine. The ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Ali Alizada hailed the efforts of the President ICCI, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan for arranging the commemoration ceremony. He thanked government of Pakistan for its firm stance on the conflict and supporting Azerbaijan narrative. It may be mentioned here that

Azerbaijani forces have been fighting the aggressor Armenia in order to safeguards its national and territorial integrity. Armenia, so far, has targeted hundreds of civilians due to which many innocent people have lost their lives. A similar commemoration ceremony is planned in the Diplomatic Enclave on Monday October 26. The venue shall be open for laying of floral wreaths from 5 pm to 10 pm. Members of the diplomatic community shall lay floral wreaths in order to commemorate those who lost lives as a result of Armenian aggression.

THE ITALIAN HOSPITALITY

EXCULSIVE



ISLAMABAD: Amir Rana, Maria Ambassador of Italy Andreas Sultan, Naveed Miraj Ferrarese hosted a dinner for Daily and head of Press Islamabad POST and Section Italian CENTRELINE magazine at his embassy. The ambassador exchanged views with the guests and updated them on the latest situation in Italy. He also invited Gen ® Talat Masood, Imtiaz Gul, for international tourists. The guests enjoyed traditional Italian cuisines. The ambassador also told that the new Italian embassy construction work will start soon. He expected the project to be completed in 2021.



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The General Manager of the Islamabad Marriott Hotel

**Mr. Maurizio Romani greeting the
President of Bosnia H.E Mr. Šefik Džaferović**



Atif Ikram hosts lunch for UBG leadership



GM Marriott hosts poolside dinner for diplomats

The diplomats who attended the reception praised the initiative of the Marriott Hotel and the General Manager who provided them with an opportunity of interacting with their colleagues, especially the new comers

A.M.Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: General Manager Maurizio Romani hosted a poolside dinner for the newly arrived Ambassador and High Commissioners of various countries. A large number of diplomats attended the reception. The General Manager speaking on the occasion welcomed the new ambassadors and hoped they would

enjoy their stay in Pakistan. Mr. Romani said due to COVID 19 no diplomatic function was held for last many months. The Marriott Hotel therefore arranged a cake cutting ceremony. The diplomats present on the occasion cut the cake along with the General Manager. The diplomats who attended the reception praised the initiative of the

Marriott Hotel and the General Manager who provided them with an opportunity of interacting with their colleagues, especially the new comers. The guests were served with continental, Pakistani and regional cuisines which, they enjoyed very much.





Azerbaijan-Pak friendship is eternal and invincible

Dr.Fouzia Saeed, Director-General of Pakistan National Council of Arts said that the coronavirus pandemic has led to new ideas and projects in people; gives awards to the winners of the competition

Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Ali Alizada has expressed satisfaction with the high-level relations between Azerbaijan and Pakistan adding that Armenian aggression and provocations against Azerbaijan, its attacks on innocent people have always been condemned by the Pakistani people, society, and youth.

The Ambassador stressed that Pakistan has always stood by Azerbaijan in difficult times and thanked to the Government and people of Pakistan for their

continued support and

***Dr.Fouzia Saeed,
Director-General of
Pakistan National
Council of Arts, public
and media
representatives of this
country, participants
of the Art Competition
and the Embassy staff
attended the event.***

solidarity.

He expressed these views during an Award Ceremony for the winners of the Art Competition on "Azerbaijan-Pakistan Friendship is eternal and invincible" dedicated to the National Day of Azerbaijan, which was held in May-June of this year through the Embassy's social network profiles.

Dr.Fouzia Saeed, Director-General of Pakistan National Council of Arts, public and media representatives of this country, participants of the Art Competition and the Embassy





staff attended the event.

Sharing views on Azerbaijan-Pakistan friendship the ambassador stated that the purpose of the competition is to promote the affection, religious, cultural and heritage similarities of the two brotherly countries among Pakistani youth, strengthen people to people contacts and cooperation with youth as well as encourage their competences.

Ali Alizada noted that holding of the ceremony on the eve of the Anniversary of the restoration of Independence Day of Azerbaijan - October 18, under the motto "Azerbaijan-Pakistan Friendship is eternal and invincible" is a stimulus for strong unity of youth of the both countries and congratulated the winners and participants and wished them success.

Expressing her good impressions on the event, Dr. Fouzia Saeed, Director-General of Pakistan National Council of Arts said that the coronavirus pandemic has led to new ideas and projects in people. Speaking about the similarities between the two countries, the Director-General thanked the Embassy of Azerbaijan for its contribution to further strengthening the Azerbaijan-Pakistan friendship through such projects. Dr. Fouzia Saeed also stressed the necessity to further deepening relations between the two countries, which have always supported each other. At first, an exhibition of paintings of the Art Competition participants was viewed and a video was watched about Azerbaijan.

about the competition, mentioning about the real eternity and invincibility friendship between our countries and peoples, they emphasized that Pakistani people will always stand by Azerbaijan and strongly condemn the Armenian aggression and attacks against Azerbaijan.

At the end of the event, participants and winners of the competition were presented cash prizes, certificates and gifts.



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TENDER NOTICE ADVERTISEMENT No.43/2020

A. Offers are invited from manufacturers / suppliers for supply of the following:-

Sr. No.	Tender Enquiry No.	Description	Qty. (Nos.)	Opening Date
International Tenders				
1.	SNT-2026/20	Welding Fittings	134 Items	03 Dec, 20
2.	SNT-2027/20	Screwed Fittings	18 Items	03 Dec, 20
Local Tenders				
1.	LET-113/20	1. Diesel Genset (250 KVA) 2. Gas Genset (100 KVA) 3. Petrol Genset (10 KVA)	01 01 01	23 Nov, 20

Tender Documents for Tender Enquiry No. ADMIN:GM:12.2 can be obtained through Pay Order amounting to Rs. 500/- in favor of SNGPL from Admin Department, 5th Floor, Gas House, 21-Kashmir Road, Lahore. The tenders will close at 1530 hours and will be opened in public at 1600 hours, on the dates mentioned against each Tender at Gas House, 1st Floor, 21-Kashmir Road Lahore except Tender Enquiry No. ADMIN:GM:12.2 which will close at 1500 hours and will be opened in public at 1530 hours, on the date mentioned below at Admin Department, 5th Floor, Gas House, 21-Kashmir Road, Lahore. **Tender documents can be purchased, upto a day before opening date of each tender, from 1100 to 1230 hours on any working day.** Local manufacturers/suppliers desirous of quoting for above tenders are required to provide a copy of valid Sales Tax registration, Income Tax, and latest Professional Tax Certificates along with their request for purchase of tender documents. Before purchasing tender documents, an authorized representative of the bidder may first examine the tender documents available at the above mentioned address. For further information in International Tenders please contact Mr. Atif Mahmood, at telephone # 042-99201449 and Mr. Shahzad Ali for Local Tenders at telephone # 042-99065084. Tender fee is Rs.1,000/- (non refundable) each in shape of Pay order/ Demand Draft in favor of SNGPL. Amount of Bid Security is 2% (excluding GST) of total value of each bid. Tender Notice is also available at www.ppra.org.pk.

EXTENSIONS

B. The closing dates of following tender enquiries have been extended:

Tender Enquiry No.	Description	Extended Closing Date
SND-2156/20	6-4 Digital Domestic Gas Meters	26 Nov, 20
SND-2164/20	Built / Saddle / Socket Fusion Tool Kits with accessories	03 Dec, 20
SND-2171/20	Polyethylene Pipe 1/4", 1-1/4" & 2"	09 Nov, 20
SNT-2018/20	Assorted Size Orifice plates with / without Seal Rings	19 Nov, 20
LED-025/20	Meter Management & Stacking System	20 Nov, 20
LED-073/20	1. Network Switch 2. Network Cabinet 3. Network Cable (CAT 6 UTP)	25 Nov, 20
LED-079/20	IBM Security QRadar and IBM Security Guardium Software and Support Renewal	24 Nov, 20
LED-107/20	Color Printer Size A3	20 Nov, 20
LET-074/20	8-GHz Band Microwave Radio Link	18 Nov, 20
LET-090/20	SCADA Based Monitoring System	19 Nov, 20
ADMIN:GM:12.2	Provision of Cellular Phone and Data Sims Services for the Year, 2021	19 Nov, 20

CORRIGENDUM / ADDENDUM / CANCELLATION

A. Tender Enquiry No. SND-2171/20 "Polyethylene Pipe 1/4", 1-1/4" & 2" the Total Quantity to be read as 4,151,000 Mtrs. instead of existing one.
Gas will be provided during cooking hours in winter.



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It is honour to serve in Pakistan: Chinese envoy

Mr. Rong shall present his credential to the President of Pakistan in few days along with Ambassadors of USA and Indonesia.

Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: The newly appointed Ambassador of Peoples Republic of China Nong Rong has said it was indeed an honour for him to serve as the Ambassador of P.R. China to Pakistan. In his first Twitter message Ambassador Rong started his Pakistan stint by saying 'Assalam-o-Alaikum, Iron Brother'.

Upon arrival in Pakistan, Ambassador Nong thanked Amin the DCP Ministry of Foreign Affairs who received him at the airport.

He thanked Amin for his warm welcome and said that it is his great honor to be posted in Pakistan. China and Pakistan are good brothers and partners with special friendship.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is an important pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, China and Pakistan have carried out close anti-epidemic cooperation, which reflects the true nature of China-Pakistan relations of sharing weal and woe together.

Nong Rong looked forward to strengthening all-round exchanges and cooperation with all walks of life in Pakistan during his tenure, so as to promote the comprehensive and in-depth development of the China-Pakistan All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and jointly work for a Closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future.

It may be mentioned here that Ambassador-designate Nong Rong, arrived in Islamabad to assume the post. Ms Pang Chunxue, Minister-Counselor of the Embassy of China, and Mr Ammar Amin, DCP of the Protocol Division of Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, were present at the airport to receive the new ambassador.



On behalf of the Pakistani government, Ammar Amin warmly welcomed Ambassador Nong Rong. Amin said that Pakistan and China are all-weather strategic partners and iron friends. Friendly cooperation with China is not only the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy but also the consensus of all walks of Pakistani society.

The Pakistani side expects that Pakistan-China relations will be further improved during the term of Ambassador Nong Rong. Amin assured that Pakistan will provide all facilitation and support for the

Ambassador for continuous progress of bilateral cooperation in various fields.

On November 2, 2020, Ambassador Nong Rong met with the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Sohail Mahmood. Both sides discussed matters of mutual interest.

Pakistan and China enjoy excellent brotherly relations. CPEC has further cemented and diversified this relationship. As rightly mentioned by the newly arrived ambassador CPEC is a landmark project that would bring peace, prosperity and development in the region.

CEO and Founder of Monal Group Luqman Ali Afzal fetes new and outgoing office bearers of Islambad Chamber of Commerce and Industry





My Green Pakistan' plantation drive by RCCI

RCCI President Nasir Mirza apprised the participants of current and future activities of the chamber

Staff Report/DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has kicked off its Plantation Drive under My Green Pakistan at Gulistan e Fatima Park Islamabad here on Thursday. The event was attended by Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Muhammad Azam Sawati, Senator Faisal Javed Khan, and various ambassadors and high commissioners along with top executives of RCCI.

The Ambassadors said that climate change has badly affected different countries and added that his embassy will support RCCI efforts in promoting advocacy drives on tree plantation and rain water harvesting.

Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Muhammad Azam Sawati lauded RCCI efforts for the national cause and said that Pakistan is among top ten countries where glaciers are melting with fast speed and causing climate change. Climate change is directly linked with the economy of any country and we must all act now. We should promote these activities and work as a team to achieve one goal, i.e. Clean and Green Pakistan.

RCCI President Nasir Mirza apprised the participants of current and future activities of the chamber. He said that RCCI now has become the first Green Chamber of Pakistan by installing rain water harvesting and recharge systems

and solar panels at chamber building. He added that the prime objective of this event was to promote green culture among the community.

Group leader RCCI Sohail Altaf said that it is our collective responsibility to secure the future of our generations by promoting tree plantation and green initiatives.

Later chief guests along with ambassadors planted trees in the park to mark the Green Pakistan Drive under the auspices of RCCI.

Former Presidents RCCI, Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik, executive committee and a large number of civil society attended the ceremony.







Internship programs vital to equip the youth: Ali Alizada

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Certificate Distribution Ceremony of the Online Internship Program "Contemporary Dynamics of Azerbaijan" was held at Islamabad Club.

This Internship Program was dedicated to the 29th Anniversary of the Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan and was jointly organized by Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad, Pakistan and the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, from 4th August – 22nd September, 2020.

Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery HI(M), (Retd), President, CGSS and Major General Hafiz Masroor Ahmed (Retd), Vice President, CGSS while presenting remarks at the occasion thanked the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan for their support and collaboration. They also appreciated and congratulated the participants for successful completion and active participation throughout the program.

His Excellency, Ali Alizada, Ambassador of

the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan was the Chief Guest at the occasion. His Excellency appreciated the efforts of CGSS for organizing this Program. He stated that such programs must be organized in future also to equip the youth of both nations about the first-hand knowledge of the partner country. Such ventures are also fruitful in enhancing bilateral relationship between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. During his speech, he also mentioned the ongoing Azerbaijan and Armenia conflict and extended his gratitude to CGSS and Pakistan for their constant support in this regard. Furthermore, he stated that this has proved to be the most innovative venture for enhancement of people to people contact. This Internship Program was a success and has received acknowledgment in both Pakistan and Azerbaijan. He also stated that this Internship program allowed to get direct information from the 4 days July war and provocation of Armenia against

Azerbaijan.

Prof. Dr. Shabbir Ahmed – Director Area Study Centre, University of Peshawar, and Member Board of Experts, CGSS stated that this internship program aimed to increase the cordial ties between Azerbaijan and Pakistan and people to people contact with special focus on the awareness of Pakistani youth regarding our brotherly ties with Azerbaijan.

Professors for this Internship Program were selected from the most prestigious Universities of Pakistan and Azerbaijan. The Professors appreciated this initiative and stated that more such Programs must be organized where they can share their knowledge with the youth.

Students of this Program also presented speeches and thanked CGSS and Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan for providing the platform and opportunities to the students to enhance and effectively build their profiles.

Painting Contest, February 2020 "Uzbekistan Through the eyes of Pakistani children"



Uzbekistan embassy holds Uzbek language day function

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Charge d Affairs of Embassy of Uzbekistan COL. Saadulla A Tashmatov has said Uzbek language day is celebrated on regular basis. He said number of Uzbek language speaking people is increasing at a fast speed. He made these remarks while speaking during a function held at the Embassy

premises to celebrate the Language Day. The Charge d Affaires welcomed the guests. He in his brief remarks highlighted the significance of the event. He also gave certificates and awards to teachers who have been imparting Uzbek language education in Pakistan. The embassy also arranged an exhibition in

which handicrafts from Uzbekistan were showcased. Visitors took keen interest in the exhibition. A short video about the potentials of Uzbekistan was also screened on the occasion. He guests were served with traditional Uzbek cuisine, which they liked very much.



Renowned businessman Khalid Iqbal Malik hosts dinner for the newly elected members of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry





EXCLUSIVE

Around 751 Pakistani nationals benefit from Malaysian technical programme

the MTCP was first initiated at the First Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Sydney in February 1978. Subsequently it was established in 1980 as a manifestation of Malaysia's commitment to South-South cooperation: High Commissioner Ikram Ibrahim



SLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Malaysia Ikram Muhammad Ibrahim has said a total of 751 Pakistani nationals have received training under Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) adding over 34,000 officials from 144 countries have attended the MTCP so far. The high commissioner announced this on the occasion of dinner he hosted for the alumni of MTCP at the Malaysia Home. A large number of alumni, members of the civil society and media attended the dinner.

The high commissioner further said both Malaysia and Pakistan enjoy excellent relations. He said due to COVID 19 the MTCP could take place this year however he hoped the program shall resume from next year.

High Commissioner Ikram Ibrahim added, the MTCP was first initiated at the First Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Sydney in February 1978. Subsequently it was established in 1980 as a manifestation of Malaysia's commitment

to South-South cooperation.

In line with the spirit of South-South cooperation, Malaysia through MTCP has been sharing its development experiences and expertise with other developing countries.

He said, the MTCP is premised on the principle that the development of a country is dependent on the quality of its human capital and resources. The human capital development and capacity building programmes under the MTCP reflect

Malaysia's established commitment towards promoting technical regional and sub regional cooperation, as well as nurturing collective self reliance among the developing countries.

The high commissioner went on to say, the MTCP encompasses eleven key broad areas, namely professional services, public administration and management, economy and trade, science, technology and ICT, INDUSTRIAL, FINANCE, diplomacy, health services, humanitarian, academic, education and social development.

While dilating upon the objectives of the MTCP the high commissioner said the objectives include sharing development experience with other developing countries, to strengthen bilateral relations between Malaysia and other developing countries, to encourage and promote South-South cooperation and to encourage and promote technical cooperation among the developing countries.

Throwing light on MTCP cooperation framework the high commissioner said provision of long term fellowship and scholarship for post graduate and undergraduate courses at Malaysian public universities, provision of short term specialized training for participants at various training institutions and government agencies in Malaysian and study visits and practical attachment at participating



government agencies in Malaysia. Ambassador Abdul Basit spoke on behalf of the alumni and thanked the ambassador for hosting them at his residence. Ambassador Basit said he was deeply touched with the way Malaysia had made development in various fields, when he visited this wonderful country.

It may be mentioned here that for 30 years the MTCP was under the purview of the economic planning unit of the PM department of Malaysia. Since 2010 MFA Malaysia has been the custodian agency of the programme with the aim of providing the

synergy and support it requires in line with Malaysia's foreign policy.

As the focal point, MFA Malaysia is responsible to formulate policies, fund, coordinate, monitor and evaluate the MTCP. These entail prioritizing the developing countries of strategic interests, focusing on Malaysia's areas of expertise, offering demand-driven courses, cultivating potential participants who would later serve as friends of Malaysia fostering public private partnership and collaborating with new development partners beyond the MTCP's traditional partners.



Situation in Kyrgyzstan stabilised: ambassador

Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic noted that today Kyrgyzstan is a dynamically developing country with a diversified economy, where foreign investors are widely represented, including from Pakistan

A.M.Bhatti/DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan Erik Beishembiev has informed the media about the current internal political situation in the Kyrgyz Republic, noting that the situation in the country has stabilized, the legitimacy of the state power of the Kyrgyz Republic has been created and its executive bodies continue to operate in their regular mode.

It was noted about the formation of a new composition of the government and the entrustment of the powers of the Acting President of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov.

Ambassador Erik made these remarks during a press briefing on Friday.

Ambassador Erik Beishembiev stressed that the procedure for the transfer of power in the country passed peacefully in accordance with the norms of the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, and that the Kyrgyz Republic remains fully committed to all its international obligations and strict implementation of all previously signed bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements.

In addition, the Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic noted that today Kyrgyzstan is a dynamically developing country with a diversified economy, where foreign investors are widely represented, including from Pakistan, as well as a number of positive initiatives of the new government in protecting foreign investments. Ambassador



Erik Beishembiev emphasized the continuity of country in the development of mutually beneficial

trade and economic cooperation with its foreign partners.

To a question, the ambassador said both Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan enjoy excellent relations adding there were a number of areas where both countries could cooperation.

He said there was a huge scope of cultural cooperation between the two countries. He said trade and economic relations can also be given new dimensions as a land route was available for transpiration of goods from Pakistan and vice versa.

The ambassador said they were also trying to have direct air links and negotiations between the two sides were under way.

The ambassador also talked about a number of projects such as CASA 1000 which were under execution and after completion shall greatly contribute to further strengthening of bilateral relations.



Szia Adapts To Adversity As Covid-19 Hits Globally!

The COVID-19 has resulted in schools shut all across the world. Globally, over 1.2 billion children are out of the classroom.

Consequently, education has changed dramatically, with the distinctive rise of e-learning, whereby teaching is undertaken remotely and on digital platforms.

Sheikh Zayed International Academy, Islamabad has set a new benchmark of virtual learning through its unparalleled effort in ensuring to keep the learning door open for students of all age group levels. The situation, though seemed dismaying, yet it appeared as an opportunity for students to consume and for teachers to diversify.

SZIA Admin and teachers applied extra effort to engage students in online classes by revamping timetables, shifting discussions online, providing regular feedback to parents and monitoring students constantly. Effective communication with the parents proved vital in making all students feel supported.

SZIA made use of video conferencing platform like Zoom to hold classes and assessment software like Assessprep to conduct online assessments. The teachers found these tools extremely helpful to make classes even more engaging than the regular classroom.

Where most of the schools switched to a few hours of online learning, SZIA followed the regular timetable from 8:00-3:30 pm to ensure interrupted schooling during Covid-19.

Online Activities on Zoom:

To achieve the level of progress similar to a typical school days, students were engaged in interactive virtual activities. Teachers used a combination of both synchronous and asynchronous activities, creating a blend of traditional online learning styles with unconventional, more collaborative audio and visual tools. Working with a mix of activities made the content more interesting and exciting, increasing student engagement as the students shared, discussed and presented their ideas through online presentations.

Not only this, home-based scientific experiments were conducted online as the teachers designed experiments that students could do at home — ones that encouraged them to develop their scientific skills. MYP teachers even introduced programs that provided online science simulations and advanced Mathematical tools such as Geogebra to equip the students with the challenges of the forthcoming E-Assessments.

As feedback is an essential component of all effective learning environments —



including online, SZIA administration ensured students received feedback within 48 hours which created an eLearning experience that is informative, engaging, and motivational for the learner. Teachers at SZIA provided continuous support to the students during the eLearning process, with constructive feedback offered so that students can clearly identify which skills need to be improved.

End of Year Celebrations:

To recognise the students' accomplishments and to provide them a sense of successful completion of a disrupted academic session, end of year celebrations were creatively planned by the SZIA teachers under the visionary guidance of the Principal, Mrs. Wafaa Abdul Ghaffar. These online fun filled activities for Primary students included interactive games, cooking competitions and even a virtual trip to a Zoo. To make the experience more memorable for the students, parents were asked to bring a cake for their child so they could enjoy it online on Zoom with their friends.

Middle Years students enjoyed an online party with their friends sharing memories of various activities held at school. Students passed goodwill messages to their friends promising to stay connected to each other through these trying times.

DP2 Graduation Ceremony:

Taking into consideration the current circumstances, SZIA Administration held a Zoom session for the DP graduates with their parents and teachers. Students received the graduation cake, gown and cap as an appreciation gift from the school administration. DP Grads expressed their thoughts and emotions at this sentimental moment as they bid farewell to their Principal, teachers and classmates. Later, SZIA commemorated the success of the

graduating class of session 2019-2020 at the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in a novel fashion to make the day indelible for the students amid the restrictions of the COVID-19.

Clad in graduation gowns, caps, masks, gloves and face shields, SZIA Grads gathered in their private cars festooned with balloons and banners in a convoy headed by the Principal's car at the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates.

To ensure social distancing, students were instructed to remain in their private cars and briefly exit individually to receive the certificates of accomplishment from H.E Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi.

To remind the graduates of ethical and professional responsibilities, the Principal, Mrs. Wafaa Abdul Ghaffar, took a Graduation Pledge from the students, who stood three metres apart keeping safe distance. The students pledged to be principled, open-minded and caring, to uphold to help this world become a better place and to use their knowledge and logic to make decisions and choices for the best of humanity.

The ceremony concluded with a photo session of the graduates with the Principal, Mrs. Wafaa Abdul Ghaffar and cutting of a uniquely designed cake, prepared specially for this occasion.

The distinctively organised graduation ceremony provided an opportunity to the graduates to celebrate their success and remember that no matter the current circumstances seem dismaying, yet the future will be promising.

Last but not the least, it is expected that when the Pandemic is over and the world returns to the new normal, SZIA students will resurface with a new appreciation for how well they can navigate in both the real world and the virtual world.



INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids are invited from eligible manufacturers/suppliers/contractors with adequate past relevant experience and financial capabilities for the below captioned tender(s):

SR. #	TENDERS DESCRIPTION	TENDER NO	BIDDING PROCEDURE	CONTACT EMAIL
1	Supply, Installation, Commissioning & Testing of Hot Runner Injection Mold with accessories at Lube Manufacturing Terminal Korangi	LT/14725-NB	Single Stage - Two Envelope	nadeem.baig@psopk.com
2	Annual Contract of Cleaning and Janitorial Services at PSO House	AD/3950-FA	Single Stage - Two Envelope	faiza.ambreen@psopk.com
3	Installation of 12", 8" & 6" Double Block & Bleed Valves System at KTA	OP/14724-JA	Single Stage - Two Envelope	junaaid.ali@psopk.com
4	Procurement Of Exchange Server Solution & Migration From Lotus to Exchange	IT/14580-SSR	Single Stage - Two Envelope	shahood.asif@psopk.com
5	Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) based Motor Control System at Keamari Terminal A (KTA)	IT/14731-SR	Single Stage - Two Envelope	sarah.akber@psopk.com

TENDER FEE:- PAK Rupees 2,000/- (Non-Refundable) in favour of Pakistan State Oil Company Limited. (For Each Tender)

FOR S. NO. 1 TO 4	DATE	TIME
TENDER DOCUMENTS COLLECTION DATE & TIME	From 29.10.2020 to 12.11.2020	03:00 PM to 04:30 PM
BID SUBMISSION END DATE & TIME	16.11.2020	TILL 02:15 PM
BID OPENING DATE & TIME	16.11.2020	03:00 PM ONWARDS
FOR S. NO. 5	DATE	TIME
TENDER DOCUMENTS COLLECTION DATE & TIME	From 02.11.2020 to 16.11.2020	03:00 PM to 04:30 PM
BID SUBMISSION END DATE & TIME	26.11.2020	TILL 02:15 PM
BID OPENING DATE & TIME	26.11.2020	03:00 PM ONWARDS

NOTE: For Single Stage Two Envelope bidding procedure, commercial bid opening date and time will be communicated later to the technically qualified bidders only.

DOCUMENTS COLLECTION:

Bid documents for above tender(s) can be obtained from below mentioned address on submission of request on official letterhead of the bidder along with the tender fee(s), Copy of valid NTN, GST Certificate, Provincial Sales Tax Certificates (where applicable), CNIC (of owner/ authorized representative). Vendor should be an active tax payer.

Note:

For Tender # IT/14731-SR valid PEC Certificate Category C-6 or above in relevant Field of Specialization is also required

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Any party interested to participate in any of the tender(s) may send its request for tender documents in the following manner:

- Scanned copy of the duly signed and stamped request on official letterhead of the bidder shall be sent through email at the email addresses mentioned for each tender. In the subject of email, please mention "Tender Documents Collection Request - Tender No. _____" [Please mention the relevant Tender Number].
- Request shall be accompanied by scanned copies of the following:
 - Valid NTN
 - GST Certificate
 - CNIC of owner/ authorized representative
 - Evidence of deposit of Rs. 2,000/- as Tender Fee in the following bank account:
Title of Account - PAKISTAN STATE OIL COMPANY LIMITED
IBAN: PK30 HABB 0007 8640 3245 3217
Account No. 0786-40-3245-3217
Branch code 0786
HBL Plaza Branch
I.I. Chundrigar Road
Karachi.

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: Annual Contract for Operational Services at Company's Operated Retail Outlets. (RF/3905-KA), (Ext: 2273, Email: khawaja.a.tahir@psopk.com)

Reference to the original press advertisement dated 04.10.2020 and subsequent corrigendum dated 21.10.2020 for the subject tender. Please note that the bid submission and opening dates have been revised as per table below:

PARTICULARS	DATE	TIME
BID SUBMISSION END DATE & TIME	Extended from 26.10.2020 TO 02.11.2020	till 02:15 PM
BID OPENING DATE & TIME	Extended from 26.10.2020 TO 02.11.2020	03:00 PM Onwards

All other terms & conditions shall remain same.

This advertisement is also available on PSO website www.psopk.com/procurement and PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk

The bidders are urged to visit PSO & PPRA websites regularly for any further changes that may be updated by the Company, from time to time, keeping in view the ongoing situation caused by the Corona virus (COVID-19).

PAKISTAN STATE OIL COMPANY LIMITED

2ND FLOOR, PSO HOUSE, KHAYABAN-E-IBRAHIM, CLIFTON, KARACHI TEL: 111-111-PSO (776), Ext: 2209, 2230, 2237, 2246 and 2257

Website: www.psopk.com/procurement



New Chinese ambassador calls on FM Qureshi

ISLAMABAD : Newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong on Thursday called on Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi at the Foreign Office in Islamabad.

Talking to the envoy, FM Qureshi congratulated Nong Rong over assuming the responsibilities as China's ambassador to Pakistan.

Matters pertaining to bilateral ties, coronavirus situation, Pak-China friendship, CPEC and other issues came under discussion in the meeting. The foreign minister hoped that the relations between Pakistan and China will further improve during his tenure. On the occasion, the Chinese ambassador vowed that he will play his role for further strengthening ties between the two brotherly countries.

Earlier on September 18, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa had hosted a farewell dinner in honour of outgoing Chinese ambassador Yao Jing at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi.

During the interaction, matters of mutual interest, regional security and enhanced bilateral cooperation came under discussion, the military's media wing had said.

The COAS had thanked the ambassador for his services and appreciated his contributions for fostering strong ties between the two countries and support towards security cooperation, handling of COVID-19 pandemic and stance on Kashmir.



PAKISTAN STATE OIL COMPANY LIMITED

INVITATION TO BID FOR SUPPLY OF POL PRODUCTS

Bids are invited from reputed international suppliers for supply of Motor Gasoline, HSDFO and LSO as mentioned below:

S. No	Product	Period	Mode
01	MOGAS	01 st - 12 th January 2021	C&F
	HSDFO	01 st - 15 th January 2021	
	LSO	01 st - 15 th January 2021	
S. No	Product	Period	Mode
02	MOGAS-Comb	11 th - 15 th January 2021	C&F
S. No	Product	Period	Mode
03	MOGAS	16 th - 27 th January 2021	C&F
	HSDFO	16 th - 31 st January 2021	
	LSO	16 th - 31 st January 2021	
S. No	Product	Period	Mode
04	MOGAS-Comb	26 th - 31 st January 2021	C&F

FOR SNO 1	DATE	TIME AND VENUE
COLLECTION DATE & TIME	Up to 26 th Nov 2020	02:30 PM to 04:30 PM
BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME	27 th Nov 2020	TILL 10:00 AM
BID OPENING DATE & TIME	27 th Nov 2020	10:30 AM ONWARDS, at PSO House in the presence of bidders and their representatives only
FOR SNO 2	DATE	TIME AND VENUE
COLLECTION DATE & TIME	Up to 04 th Dec 2020	02:30 PM to 04:30 PM
BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME	07 th Dec 2020	TILL 10:00 AM
BID OPENING DATE & TIME	07 th Dec 2020	10:30 AM ONWARDS, at PSO House in the presence of bidders and their representatives only
FOR SNO 3	DATE	TIME AND VENUE
COLLECTION DATE & TIME	Up to 14 th Dec 2020	02:30 PM to 04:30 PM
BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME	15 th Dec 2020	TILL 10:00 AM
BID OPENING DATE & TIME	15 th Dec 2020	10:30 AM ONWARDS, at PSO House in the presence of bidders and their representatives only
FOR SNO 4	DATE	TIME AND VENUE
COLLECTION DATE & TIME	Up to 22 nd Dec 2020	02:30 PM to 04:30 PM
BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME	23 rd Dec 2020	TILL 10:00 AM
BID OPENING DATE & TIME	23 rd Dec 2020	10:30 AM ONWARDS, at PSO House in the presence of bidders and their representatives only

TENDER FEE IN THE FORM OF PDDC- Pak Rupees 2,000/- (Non-Refundable) in favor of Pakistan State Oil Company Limited (Separate For each product and for each period)

Note: Bid Bond amount and Bid Validity is mentioned in bid documents
Bid documents may be obtained from the following:

Procurement and Services Department
Pakistan State Oil Company Limited
2nd floor, PSO House, Khayaban-e-Ibrahim
Clifton, Karachi - 75600, Pakistan
UAN - 111-111-PSO (776)
Ext: 2281

E-mail: procurement@psopk.com, osama.sabir@psopk.com

Bids should conform to the requirements of the Bid documents. **Conditional Bids will not be accepted.** Tender advertisement is also available at PSO website: www.psopk.com and PPRA website: www.ppra.org.pk. For any queries/clarification please contact on the address given above.

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