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Dr. Junaid Zaidi

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wonders in
science & tech**



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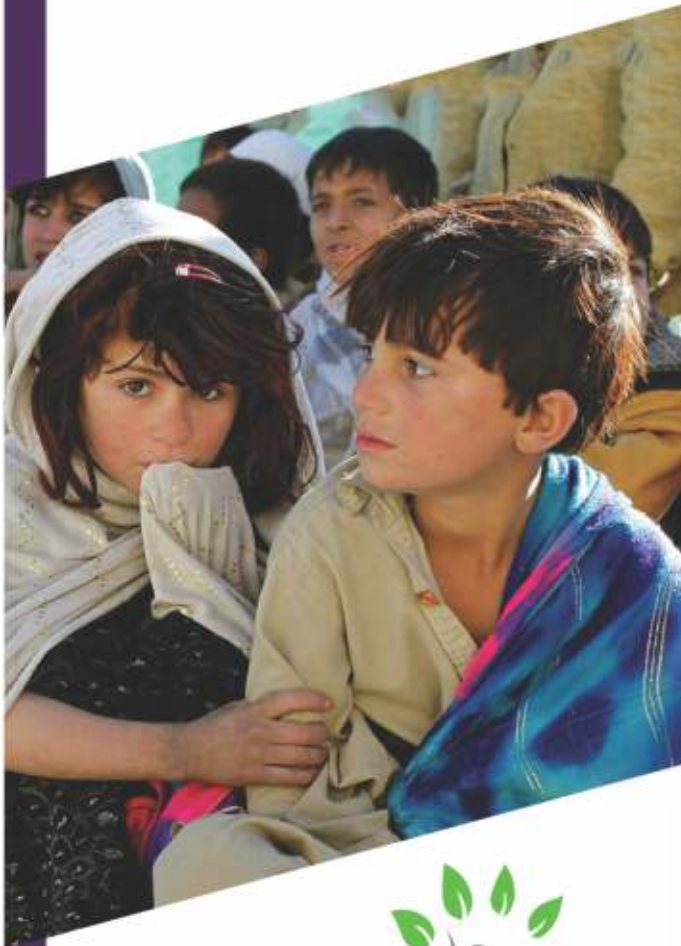


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1

- 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
- Leadership training camps certificates and degrees
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
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WILL SAUDI ARABIA RECOGNISE ISRAEL?



Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's reported visit to Saudi Arabia on November 22, 2020 and before that UAE and Bahrain's recognition of Israel has led to many controversies. A new debate is on whether leading Muslim countries such as Pakistan and Indonesia will also recognize Israel or not. But before we discuss Pakistan, Indonesian or for that matter other Muslim countries reaction, let us try to understand as to what led the UAE and other countries to give outright recognition to Israel and thus invite ire from most of the Muslim countries albeit it appears to be purely an internal matter of the states seeking normalisation of relations with

Israel or so is the stance of such countries.

We have to keep in mind that UAE-Israel interactions at various forums are not something new. As reports suggest, there are a number of people of Israeli origin living in the UAE for long time. Most of them have been actively engaged in business activities. Similarly, both countries, according to available data, have been cooperating with each other in the security domain also. The COVID 19 hit the UAE economy hard. Dubai especially suffered a lot as it had to undergo severe economic crunch because of the pandemic that restricted tourists to come to Dubai. UAE's Israel initiative, it is believed, is likely to prop up otherwise the sagging and sinking economy of the Gulf state.

As regards Saudi Arabia, Riyadh appears to be very much on board and may be ready to normalize ties with Israel however it has not done so owing to certain factors. The Saudi leadership perhaps is waiting for any other big Muslim country such as Pakistan or Indonesia to first recognize Israel. If these two countries do so then Saudis can do it rather easily. Nevertheless, both Pakistan and Indonesia have categorically ruled out any such possibility. And that may be a major factor that has led to straining of Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations.

Saudi Arabia is more concerned about its security for which it needs support and protection no matter where it comes from. The major threat, from Saudi perspective, stems from Iran. Well placed sources reveal that another factor that has contributed towards severing of Pakistan, Saudi ties happens to be the Iran factor. There is a view in Saudi Arabia that Pakistan, for past few years, has offered a number of incentives to Iran while completely disregarding its long-standing relations with the Kingdom- a view which, has been shelved by Islamabad many a time.

Israel ostensibly turns out to be the major beneficiary in the whole exercise for it will have now the opportunity of strengthening its foothold in the Gulf region. This arrangement will allow Israel to keep an eye on Iran and Pakistan as well. Israelis are well known for one thing- you give them room for standing, they will make room for sitting themselves. And once they sit, it is next to impossible to dislodge them. Therefore after few years it is very much likely that people having Israeli origin may occupy key positions within the governments of countries they will be living in. This starch reality has to be kept in consideration while giving the Israelis recognition and space.

All said and done, it is quite painful to see leading Muslim countries at the loggerheads these days. Muslim world has already been witnessing divisions and tumultuous times. The Israeli factor has just added fuel to the fire. There seems no one who could do its part to cobble together this fractured relationship. The OIC seems to be the key victim of this wheeling and dealing. On 21 August 1969 a fire was started in the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. Amin al-Husseini, the former Mufti of Jerusalem, called the arson a "Jewish crime" and called for all Muslim heads of states to convene a summit and thus OIC came into being. The OIC, therefore, after these recognitions will certainly lose its relevance.

Endnote: A top UAE diplomat who is quite familiar in Pakistan as well likely to be named as the first UAE Ambassador to Israel.

A. Usman

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*.

Dr. Junaid Zaidi

COMSATS doing wonders in science & tech

Idea of establishing a high-level Commission was conceived by Pakistani Nobel Laureate, Prof. Dr. Abdus Salam; COMSATS Varsity now ranks highest among world universities

Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: Dr. S.M. Junaid Zaidi Executive Director Commission on Science and Technology in South (COMSATS) has said despite limited resources

COMSTAS is doing excellent job in research; establishing centers of excellence and promotion of information technology among the member states.

He said a summary has been moved in order to get more funds allocation with this hope that the government shall allocate more funds in order to further improve and augment Commission's efforts.

While talking about funding of the Commission, Dr. Junaid Zaidi said Pakistan govt is providing host facilities while member states contribute to budget. COMSATS University is purely a govt institution and being run as per rule and regulations of govt of Pakistan.

Dr. Zaidi expressed these views during an interview with Daily Islamabad Post. Consultant Naeem Uddin was also present on the occasion.

While sharing some background information Dr Zaidi told, the idea of establishing a high-level Commission on Science and





Technology for countries of the South was conceived by Pakistani Nobel Laureate, Prof. Dr. Abdus Salam, in recognition of the increasingly widening gap of scientific knowledge and economic development between the North and the South.

It was realized that sustainable socio-economic development in the South cannot be achieved without building and sustaining indigenous capacities in science and technology and that the strengthening of South-South and North-South collaboration, and exchange of technical know-how, is imperative for the generation and sustenance of such capacities. Professor Salam's enthusiasm and personal contacts motivated a number of Heads of State/Government of developing nations to join hands for the establishment of the

Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS).

The General Meeting of the Commission is the highest forum of COMSATS, which is represented by the Heads of State/Government of COMSATS' twenty-seven Member States. COMSATS' membership is spread across three continents, i.e. Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The first General Meeting of the Commission was held in 1994 that led to the establishment of COMSATS itself, while the 2nd General Meeting was held in April 2012 in Islamabad at the level of Ministers/ officials nominated by the Heads of State/Government. During the 2nd General Meeting, the Chairpersonship of the Commission was passed on to the

Republic of Ghana with a consensus vote. The President of Ghana, is the incumbent Chairperson of COMSATS, who is now serving the second tenure after being re-elected in the 3rd General Meeting of COMSATS, held on October 2015, in Accra, Ghana.

It may be mentioned here that Syed Muhammed Junaid Zaidi known as S. M. Junaid Zaidi (born 19 July 1949) is a Pakistani scientist, entrepreneur and educator. He is the founding rector of the COMSATS University Islamabad.

Junaid Zaidi (S.I.H.I) took the post of the Executive Director of Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development (COMSATS) in Islamabad, Pakistan on February 27, 2017. Junaid Zaidi was born in Rawalpindi in 1949. After getting

his master's degrees in Mathematics and Physics from the University of the Punjab, in 1981 he got another degree in Operations Research from the University of Birmingham. He completed his doctoral work at the University of Birmingham in 1984, specializing in optimization of algorithms on networking. On July 19, 2012, Lancaster University, UK, conferred on Zaidi the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science. He has served the government of Pakistan as the Director General of the National Center for Technology Transfer, (1991-95) and as "Scientific Secretary & Chief S&T" with the Pakistan Council for Science and Technology (1995-98). From



1998 to 2017 he was the Founder Rector of the COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), which was awarded Charter by

the Government of Pakistan in 2000. After retiring from CUI, he is serving as the Executive Director of COMSATS, since March 2017.

His decorations include, Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Star of Excellence) Award by the President of Pakistan in 2006.

Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Crescent of Excellence) Award by the President of Pakistan in 2015. The NCR Corporation award "IT Pioneer 1987-1995" in the year 2000. Doctorate of Science Honoris Causa, University of Lancaster, 2012. Al-Farabi gold medal, awarded by the Academic Council of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU), 2018. Center of Islamic Finance - Special Award in 2017.

Dr. Zaidi further said currently two major programs are being run under the aegis of this Commission, one is the COMSATS University and the second is the Internet services. Recently we have worked on Tele Health Center program, which would help expecting women take care of their selves and their newborn babies. In Balochsitan alone we are establishing over 30 tele health centers. This program is being even followed in Jordan and other member states also.

Climate change, as you know, is yet another area that has acquired global attention due to



widespread changes taking place in this sector. In this regard we in collaboration with 22 other member countries are devising a plan in order to address challenges emanating from climate change phenomenon.

He said, the Commission is also running 24 centers of excellence. We are in the process of opening more and more such centers in various member states. For examples in Sri Lanka the primary education structure is excellent however they have some issues in higher education sector. We have proposed them to open a Center of Excellence on the pattern of COMSATS University. Negotiations are underway with the Lankan authorities in this regard and hopefully by next year we may have a COMSATS University in Sri Lanka also.

Likewise, Nigeria is yet another important country where there are about 112 universities in Nigeria, we therefore proposed the President of Nigeria to think about opening a center of

For examples in Sri Lanka the primary education structure is excellent however they have some issues in higher education sector. We have proposed them to open a Center of Excellence on the pattern of COMSATS University.

Negotiations are underway with the Lankan authorities in this regard and hopefully by next year we may have a COMSATS University in Sri Lanka also.

excellence in Nigeria also. We have proposed similar center of excellence to the Egyptian authorities also.

Dr Junaid Zaidi while talking about International Center of Chemical and Biological Center said this Center has helped Kazakhstan, Nigeria and China in the related fields. Chinese have agreed to build an industrial bio center in Pakistan. Chinese government has promised to incur all expenses in this regard. Pakistan would only allocate land for this center. Once completed, this Center shall help produce more experts in this field.

He further said Commission works in close contact with member diplomatic missions based in Pakistan. In this regard, meetings are arranged from time to time and I am glad to share with you that all member states missions participate in these meetings regularly.

Dr. Zaidi also talked about science diplomacy and shared various salient features of this policy. He told that main purpose of this policy is to encourage and promote initiatives in the field of science and technology.

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British envoy visits Murree Brewery with his family



The chief executive presented the guests with souvenir





RAWALPINDI: Dr. Christian Turner, British High Commissioner Chief Executive Murree Brewery Company Isphanyar Bhandara briefed the visiting guests about working of the factory. The British envoy was later taken to various parts of the factory.



Ambassadors of Switzerland and Hungary visit Murree Brewery. Chief Executive Isphanyar Bhandara welcomed the guests





The artesian at Work

AB Khan

The denizens of this tensile town for years have been served with a range of worn-out Italian cuisine variations on the same handful of dishes in the likes of overcooked pastas, thick crusted pizzas, under-cooked Ravioli's and cream filled Italian desserts offered from identikit menus where the guests can also spot Chicken Karahi, Chowmein and Cheese nans.

Zigolani, the Italian restaurant at Marriott hotel, Islamaabad is cut above the rest when it comes to bona fide Italian cuisine. The eatery's legitimacy has further been baptized with the arrival of its new Italian chef Paolo Collavii.

Traveling around the world for last forty years, the new Executive Chef at Zigolani has arrived in Islamabad and brings with him a rich experience from the world of

gastronomy as well as Italian culinary heritage and traditions. From Morocco to Greece, Kuwait to Singapore, Turkey to South Korea ,

Chef Collavii have been around, being part of the many pre-openings of bistros, cafes and restaurants in five star hotels, running kitchens in small as well as many metropolitan cities. However the first job of his career was as a trainee Chef at a cruise ship kitchen where he worked behind the burners for 5 years while in his teens.



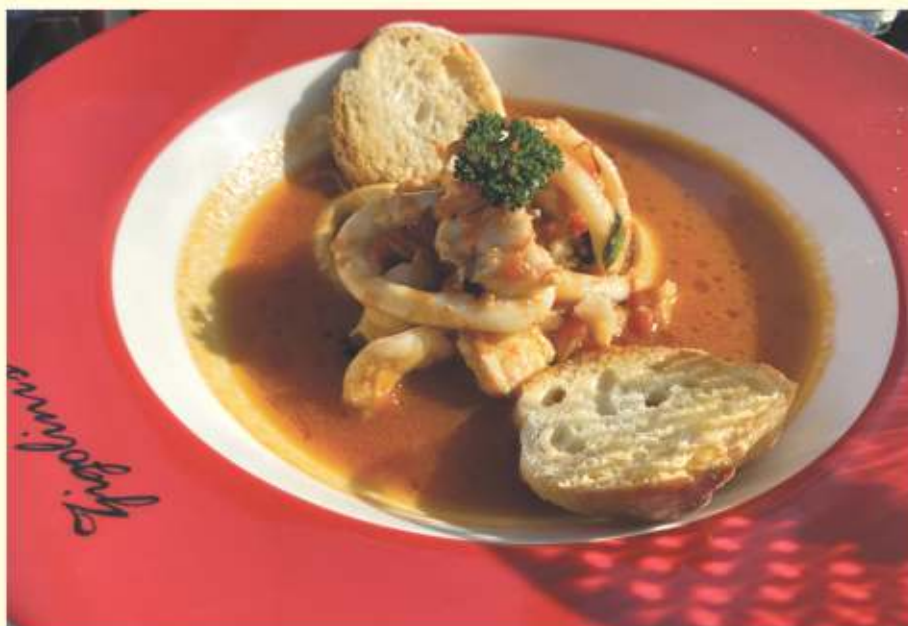
The menu at Zigolini offers a wide range of small starters, perfect for sharing, including a melt –in-the savories, moving on to the more solid affair with a selection from the main course in the likes of fish, lamb, beef and sea food dishes, either accompanied by Pasta' and Ravioli's or stand alone. However the flagship item at any Italian restaurant is "Pizza" and the Wooden –oven, handmade pizza prepared by the chef, is not only a treat for the taste buds but for the eyes as well. Garlic, mozzarella cheese and a few herbs of one's liking is what one can find at any Italian restaurant in Italy and now in Islamabad.

In a drive to make Zigolani, a paragon of purism, the new chef wants to offer an Italian menu that is veritable and powerfully evocative of each of the regions landscape picked up from across the length and breadth of Italy so that the culinary regionalism burns fiercely and is quintessential. The Risotto from the north, the ripe tomatoes from the south regions and the seafood treasure trove from the Arctic and Mediterranean seas

Due to the SOP's issued by the Government of Pakistan and the administration of Islamabad, Marriott hotel has creatively laid down dining tables in the big spacious driveway in open air to facilitate their regular visitors. The guest once seated can order from the menu's laid down on the tables from their Chinese restaurant, Dynasty, Royal Elephant, the Thai eatery, Dumpukht, the Pakistani restaurant and Zigolani.

As my temptation was to try the new chef's menu, the choice was obvious. The food began to arrive in a steady stream. Served as per the order close to the typical Italian culinary tradition, well structured antipasti arrived at the table with the cheese and charcuterie board which went with the saying that "you eat with your eyes". It was clear that an experienced hand is at work, it really did make a case in point.

Simple and delicious, the main course was accompanied by seafood, chicken, eggplant and beef dishes married to Pastas, Raviolis and risottos. Tagliata di manzo was the beef dish and is one of Italy's most popular meat savories. It's a





boneless piece of grilled beef, served in slices. Tagliare, means “to cut”. To make the beef Tagilata, all you need is high quality cut of beef and some herbs, balsamic vinegar reduction and rustic potatoes bursting out of their skins as explained by the chef. It is one of the most popular ways to serve it is alongside peppery arugula salad, with thinly shaved Parmigianino Reggiano and a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil and balsamic vinegar, the chef further elaborated

as I started to do justice to the dish. The beef texture was indeed strident and the aromatic taste of olive oil and balsamic vinegar doing a tango with green herbs, just took it to the next level. Peeking up from a deep puddle of soup was what chef introduced as Zuppa de pesce allo zafferano. “Usually it is served in a soup bowl, but I prefer a deep dish to make more space for the soup. The broth is made from the fish whereas red snapper,

squids and prawns was a party of three making their presence felt. I also used Saffron because in Pakistan, the quality is very good and it's not expensive as well”. He informed. On the side there were two pieces of crusty bread brushed with dry garlic rubbed before being roasted. The soup was simply mouth watering. The amalgamation of three seafood delicacies, swimming with vinegar and olive oil, It was a master class in brotherhood and it will slap you awake with the tinge and acidity.

The mastery of traditional way of cooking food depends upon how deep one has gone into the culture and tradition of its roots and with arrival of every dish, its texture, taste and above all, the presentation, it leaves no doubt in one's mind that chef Paolo Collavii knows what food, culture and tradition is all about. He knows and loves the Roman repertoire and wants to give it, the love it deserves.

It was worth sticking around for dessert as the chef has already warned to keep some room. In comes the Tiramisu on white platter, dusted with cocoa powder. It was hands down a mouth burst, served with its silkiness. Texturally, aligned, pregnant with mascarpone cheese, releasing its ballast of sweet syrup as you spoon it, was a star turn.



Azerbaijan envoy delivers lecture on Nagorno-Karabakh issue

The lecture was arranged by Rawalpindi Law College. The ambassador highlighted various aspects of the issue and how Azerbaijan armed forces valiantly fought and took its territory back from aggressor Armenia



RAWALPINDI: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Ali Alizade delivered a lecture titled "Settlement of international conflicts: Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, from diplomatic efforts to peace enforcement operation" dedicated to the death

anniversary (December 12, 2003) of the National Leader of Azerbaijan.

The lecture was arranged by Rawalpindi Law College. The ambassador highlighted various aspects of the issue and how Azerbaijan armed forces valiantly

fought and took its territory back from aggressor Armenia.

Later the staff of the college presented a shield to Ambassador Alizade and thanked him for gracing the occasion and sharing information with the participants.

Saudi Arabia wants to further strengthen trade ties with Pakistan



ISLAMABAD, (DNA) – Nawaf Saeed Al-Malkiy, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia said that Saudi Arabia wanted to further deepen and strengthen its trade ties with Pakistan as both countries have great scope to promote trade in many areas. He said that Saudi Arabia wanted to see Pakistan as a growing economy as it was a very important country for the whole Muslim Ummah. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The envoy said that Saudi Arabia intended to further expand its commercial and investment cooperation with Pakistan. He said that Pakistan has a lot of potential for economic growth that should be highlighted more effectively to attract foreign investors. He urged that the media should focus on projecting the positive things of Pakistan to change wrong perception about it. He said that misperceptions about Pakistan in foreign world needed to be changed to unlock its real economic potential. He assured that he would continue to work for further promoting trade cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Yasir

Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoyed very cordial relations, but the bilateral trade of around US\$ 3.5 billion was much below the real potential of both countries, therefore, strenuous efforts from both sides were needed to improve it. He said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were doing trade in limited items and they should focus on diversification of trade to achieve better results. He said that many high quality and cost effective Pakistani products including Halal food products, pharmaceuticals, textiles, surgical instruments, rice, fruits, dairy products, sports wears, leather products, financial services, insurance & IT services and entertainment products could find good market in Saudi Arabia and Saudi Arabia should focus on importing these products from Pakistan.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan emphasized that both countries should focus on strengthening B2B contacts, exchange of trade delegations and participation in trade fairs on reciprocal basis to improve trade volume. He said that Pakistan was establishing many special economic zones under CPEC and investors of Saudi

Arabia should explore JVs and investment in these SEZs. He said that Pakistan was working for a One Window for investors that would facilitate Saudi investors to invest in Pakistan. He said that ICCI would try to take a delegation to Saudi Arabia to meet with trade bodies of Saudi Arabia in order to explore mutual business collaboration. Similarly, ICCI would like to host a trade delegation of Saudi Arabia in Pakistan and would help them in exploring JVs and investment in Pakistani SEZs.

Mian Akram Farid, Chairman Founder Group ICCI lauded the efforts of Saudi Ambassador for improving trade ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. He said that Pakistani SEZs offered great potential for Saudi investors and they should explore JVs and investment in Pakistan. He said that ICCI was working for an industrial estate and Saudi investors have good prospects to set up industrial units in it.

Fatma Azim Senior Vice President, Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI, Aslam Khokhar and others also spoke at the occasion and shared ideas for further promoting bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries.

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Role of youth in unifying nations across the border

Ms. Palwasha Nawaz



The world is amid challenges ranging from regional conflicts, terrorism, and social disruptions to economic downturns, unequal development, and climate change. These global challenges call for a global solution with cooperation among states. Obsolete and dysfunctional principles of interaction between people are replaced by modern trends and patterns. Which offers a rationale coherence for upgrading and revising the

world's narratives and policies to keep up with the time. Likewise, the global structural reforms have paved the way for the states to indulge in multilateral integration in various aspects. In this context, to collaborate in multi-dimensional ways, the role of youth under the idea of community with a shared future is pertinent to highlight in present times. As this idea has become a strong narrative in transforming and integrating the globe in more domains, the youth can play a significant role in projecting this very idea to create harmony among countries. The primary contours of the idea underpin tolerance, fair relations, mutual respect, equality, and dialectical balance. Under this concept, the students and young entrepreneurs can have an ample number of opportunities to get international exposure, scholarships, participation in cultural exchange programs, and portray a better image of their country internationally. The world is a global village now, and the interaction among people is now in more diverse ways than ever before. Through the

internet, social media, and various other online platforms, the people to people contact has increased. The online educational and intellectual programs have made the way easy for the youth to collaborate and participate in different productive activities worldwide. Moreover, the vision of a shared future has also allowed intellectuals, academia, research centers, universities, and youngsters to get together under one platform and constructively integrate which would have a profound impact in establishing interconnectivity patterns. In this aspect, the paper aims to highlight the role of youth in unifying nations through their innovative ideas and skills. Also, this study gives the prospects for the students to diversify their patterns of education, constructive role, and opportunities under this very narrative of community with a shared future.

Role of a Community: Unleashing the Potential of Youth

The future of humanity relies on the young generation. The countries that do not facilitate their young generation are

likely to go grinding halt in the process of social development. When the young generation tends to get associated with communal activities, they develop strong abilities or skills needed for statesmanship. Their participation in the decision-making process is the key element in shaping a brighter future. In recent times, researchers, policymakers, diplomats, and governments are agreed on the view that interaction and participation of youth is a major element for robust community advancement. Youth engagement towards a constructive mechanism of cooperation is defined as "meaning full participation and sustained involvement of a young person in an activity, with a focus outside of him or herself". Furthermore, in public youth engagements, the research is amid two theories that reflect the pillars of meaningful interaction of youth in the global arena. a) positive youth development theory, and b) attachment theory.

First, the youth development theory attempts to explain the foundation of creating an effective and resilient community where the youth have interaction and positive engagement with the adults' support. In times of difficulty faced by the youth, the community will have the capacity to support youth. As the community is based on an inclusive and comprehensive vision, its role is substantial to discuss here. In this regard, the idea of a community with a shared future will give a new boost to the existing youth communities and councils. It will allow youngsters to overcome the adversities and adopt those vision which would nourish their career and lifestyle. Second, the attachment theory revolves around the concept of the long-term meaning full relationships. In the past, the theory has been used in the field of psychology to describe the bond between the mother and the infant. This can be seen in the prism of youth and the community as well. The role of community and persistent attachment of a young person with it envisaged the same relation that is to nourish youth abilities and provide them opportunities to enhance their potential. Having a strong view of the community with a shared future and the part of student councils would allow them to think in an outrightly new

As the community is based on an inclusive and comprehensive vision, its role is substantial to discuss here. In this regard, the idea of a community with a shared future will give a new boost to the existing youth communities and councils

direction and also contribute to the sustainable development of the society. When youth are allowed to freely participate, it curtails the orthodox problems of behavior. Despite feeling dis-engaged, hopeless, and undervalued, young students effectively participate in the process of soil advancement. According to research, student and youth who are associated with the community activities and tasks are less likely to use alcohol or drugs, drop out of college, and to get involved in any sort of anti-social or criminal activities. They hold optimistic and practical demeanors and a healthy mindset.

Shared Future: Role of Students and youth

Empowering youth, allowing them to participate, and providing them with beneficial opportunities in the community always results in a boon for social advancement. When the youth is engaged in multiple inclusive activities, it allows them to get exposure and have a focused direction to sustain. At an early stage with the assistance of the community, when students realize that they can influence the decision-making process, they eventually rise above all and come up with innovative and bright ideas. This learning and interactive process leads them to develop entrepreneurship and leadership skills.

The vision of a community with a shared future allows students to participate or interact from different platforms and take advantage of internship programs. It would allow the states to collaborate and share innovative ideas through intellectual forums. The global theme aims to eradicate prejudices and build communication grounds. It will create a coherent association among the countries and their people. Through this, a robust and standard apparatus of win-win cooperation among nations and youth can be achieved in the future. There are some prospects for the students that would help them to establish ways to unify the nation across borders:

Youth Activities under the Vision of a Shared Future:

- a) Hybrid conferences and sessions for soft skill development
- b) Interactive webinar to spark intellectual curiosity among students and youth
- c) Joint academic research projects on common areas of interest
- d) Joint cultural exchange programs to create harmony
- e) Constructive ideas sharing sessions
- f) Database to access the desired study material
- g) Community's tasks groups to accomplish mutual objectives

All the evolving modern political values and transformed trends i.e., Belt and Road initiative (BRI) which offers a plethora of opportunities for sustainable development across and within countries vision, the idea of a community with shared future and dialogue among civilizations have allowed countries to shed the orthodox ways of interaction and move towards a new trend of greater cooperation, collaboration, and interaction. The young generation could become the pioneer to commence the collaborative activity in an emerging new pattern. This implies huge responsibility for research institutes, universities, intellectuals, and think tanks to establish such constructive ways of interactions among the youth. In this regard, China and Pakistan have been doing remarkable efforts. A renowned Chinese university i.e., Communication University of China (CUC) has taken the initiative of creating a network of research centers for a community with a shared future. The research centers are created in collaboration with Pakistan, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Germany, Malaysia, and South Korea. One of the research centers i.e., Pakistan Research Center jointly established by the CUC delivers for this purpose. It has initiated prominent projects including an online internship program, conferences, round table discussions, etc. Also, bringing

together individuals and youngsters from different backgrounds and teaching about commonalities.

Each year, several scholarships and cultural exchange programs are being offered between Pakistan and China. In present times, the ratio of students has increased significantly. Both countries are hospitable and assisting each other in almost every domain. The educational and academic domain is vital for the students, trainers, and teachers. The aim of organizing such cultural events and scholarship programs is to make the youth and people to understand the rich culture and promote people-to-people contact. In this aspect, the research centers established in other countries allow this integrated network to offer more youth scholarship programs and enhance people to people connectivity. The international interaction would allow youth to come up with innovative ideas, eliminate prejudices, and bring people together to promote peace and harmony.

Ms. Palwasha Nawaz, is Deputy Director, Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future, Communication University of China (Beijing), China

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New Belarus Envoy Arrived In Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: The Govt of Belarus has appointed new Ambassador in Pakistan. According to a communiqué Andrei Metelitsa has been appointed as Ambassador designate extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to Islamabad Republic of Pakistan.

The ambassador-designate of Belarus has arrived in Pakistan. The Embassy of Belarus in Pakistan has formally announced arrival of the new ambassador.

The embassy has also written letter to all diplomatic and UN missions in Pakistan as well as Ministry of Foreign Affairs of

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Post COVID-19



**Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram,
Executive Director, Center
for Global & Strategic Studies
(CGSS), Islamabad**



**Mr. Shakeel Ahmad Ramay,
Member Board of Experts,
Center for Global & Strategic
Studies (CGSS), Islamabad**

World has been jolted by COVID-19 pandemic. It was un-expected and sudden. The impacts are multidimensional and multifaceted. The severity of impacts is unfolding in a timewise manner. The first victim was economy which was immediately stuck and bearing the full wrath of impacts. It is shrinking. World Bank predicted that the economy will be contracted by 5.2 percent in 2020. Foreign direct investment is exhibiting a negative trend. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) came up with the figure of 40 percent reduction, which means the global FDI in 2020 would be less than US\$ 1 trillion. It is happening after a long time, since 2005. Besides, it has been envisioned by UNCTAD that there would be further reduction of 5 to 10 percent in 2021, which is a scary prediction. Recovery in FDI is expected in 2022, which is still a long way to go.

The economic crises and drying investments are resulting in increasing extent of extreme poverty. World Bank report, Poverty and Shared Prosperity, has projected that 88 million to 115 million people will be added to extreme poverty (US\$ 1.90) group. The South Asia would be major hit and bear the brunt of the poverty. It was estimated that 63 percent of these extreme poor will be from South Asia. If we change the poverty line from US\$ 1.90 to US\$ 3.20, the number will jump to 223 million at global level and South Asia will account for 71 percent. It is happening after 20 years that the extreme would be on rise. It is

expected that it will affect the about 9.1-9.4 percent world population against the pre-Covid-19 projection of 7.9 percent. The COVID-19 has also wedged the most celebrated achievements of humanity like mobility. The COVID-19 has compelled people to restrict their movement. In some cases, the countries had to adopt complete lockdown. World is still struggling to find a way of unrestricted movement of people. International travel and shipments have also been severely squeezed. Tourism is another major sector which is bearing the brunt of COVID-19 and restriction on mobility. It is happening against the backdrop of cherished success in means of mobility like air, train etc.

The second wave of COVID-19 is further aggravating the situation. We have witnessed many countries are going back to lockdowns. The economic activities have further started to shrink. World institutes are working to analyse the effects of second wave of COVID-19. It is expected that the impacts would be more severe in 2021, if the second wave of COVID-19 continued. It would be a scary scenario, as world is already facing huge problems due to the pandemic. The COVID-19 has introduced two specific problems, which has no precedent in history;

1. Restriction on mobility
2. Closure of economies

Countries and regions are offering hefty relief packages domestically and globally. However, the focus is on domestic markets and economy. For example, USA has already offered more than US\$ 3

trillion. European Union has announced a package of 750 billion Euros. Unfortunately, the same commitment is not visible at global level. Owing to weak response many developing, and least developed countries are suffering the most. These countries were already facing problems due to food insecurity, energy crises, poverty etc. The global data showed that even before COVID-19 world was home to 600 million poor and 820 million people suffering from food insecurity. Further, 2 billion people were looking for safe drinking water and 1 billion were in need of electricity. 2.8 billion People lacked sources of good quality cooking fuel. World was struggling to find ways to take care of 263 million out of school kids. Unfortunately, the majority of these people are resident of global south or developing world.

The worst impact of COVID-19 is that the process of unilateralism and protectionism got accelerated among the big countries. Strong countries, especially the Western, led by USA seems less interested in cooperation, rather they are focusing on domestic front. It is creating a sharper divide between poor and rich countries. Now the poor countries are struggling to find a way for recovery by building cooperation with strong economies. It has culminated into three specific problems, which are pressurizing world;

1. Economic recession and poverty
2. Unilateralism
3. Protectionism

However, the analysis of past and history reveals that problems can only be solved by win-win cooperation, opening the borders and multilateralism. The situation also urges that world needs to work on multiple areas simultaneously, like economy and diplomacy. However, diplomacy would have to lead the way, as world is more fragmented at the present. In this scenario China is emerging as global player which can tackle the both dimensions of the problem. The reason of believe is sheer big size of economy, sustainability of growth even during COVID and partnership building style of diplomacy.

China has already showed the commitment and skills of partnership-based diplomacy through Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The SCO is one of the unique initiatives in many ways. The organization is home to 45 percent population and 25.88 percent land mass of world. Its contribution in economic sphere is also huge and

constitute 21 percent of global GDP. It is only organization which have four nuclear armed states e.g. China, Russia, Pakistan and India. Its contribution in global trade is 21 percent (US\$ 7.1 trillion). The sheer size of organization makes it a very relevant and principal player at the global stage.

Although the organization was created to settle the border issues among the member countries but in recent times it has phenomenally in all aspects. Now it is hosting 8 members, 4 observer states and 6 dialogue partners. Globally it is considered as one of the major diplomatic forums. In recent times China has also started the process of economic engagement and enhanced economic connectivity through the SCO. Hence, it is necessary to analyze the role of SCO in contemporary world and look how SCO can enhance role in role.

SCO and Economic Cooperation

The pre-COVID-19 efforts to enhance economic cooperation were focused on the traditional economic fields. China proposed a Free Trade Agreement many years back, to enhance the economic and trade linkages among the SCO members. It was suggested by keeping in mind the sheer market size of the SCO. On bilateral level China is already deeply connected with all countries e.g. China's trade with SCO countries is US\$ 337 billion. Russia (US\$ 106.65 billion) and India (US\$ 95.87 billion) were major trading partners in 2018.

President Xi Jinping recently has launched two specific initiatives. First, he established a dedicated economic zone with the name of "China-SCO Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration Zone". It has been envisioned that through the zone China will enhance relationship in the fields of trade, investments, technology, tourism etc. It is an excellent opportunity for SCO countries to benefit from it, especially in the context of COVID-19. As, we know COVID-19 has impacted the whole world and the economic opportunities are scarce. It will also pave the way for future free trade agreement among SCO members.

In the post COVID-19 era, President Xi has proposed that the cooperation in the digital economy. He urged it should be enhanced among the SCO members under the guidelines of UN. He emphasized that the COVID-19 reiterates the importance of digital economy, technology and cooperation. He advocated that with win-win cooperation we can reach at destiny of shared prosperity. China will be organizing a meeting of SCO members with name of "China-Shanghai Cooperation Organization on Digital Economy" next year. The announcement

of forum shows that China is serious in building cooperation and ready to take practical steps.

The initiative is need of the time, as COVID-19 multiple the importance of digitalization and role of technology in economy. As we know COVID-19 has restricted the mobility and human interaction. The technology helped to minimize the impact, as it helped to keep the supply chains functional. There is no second opinion that the China was on forefront to use the technology and demonstrate the successful deployment of technology. In this context the initiative by China to enhance the cooperation in digitalization economy will help the member countries. The biggest catch would be technology sharing by China. The successful implementation will encourage other countries to join hands with SCO and expand the cooperation at wider scale. The best part of initiative is that SCO will be host of the initiative, which will enhance the importance of SCO in coming years.

SCO and Diplomacy

SCO was created as a diplomatic forum to settle the most urgent issues of borders and border management among the members states. The successful implementation led to expand the scope of work. The expansion process is still going on. However, the core values of SCO are intact which emphasize on the need of "partnership building" not "alliances". The alliance building is favorite tool of global order at present. We can find number of organizations which have built on the concept of alliance. The prominent example is North-Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) including other. The basic flaw of alliance building approach is "alliance needs an opponent if not enemy".

The world is facing the outcome of "alliances" approach. Today we are living in fragmented world and fractured global order. The Western countries are trying to oppose the rise of any other country and applying all types of instruments to hinder the rise of any other great power. It has led to fragmentation, unilateralism and protectionism. The forces of globalization are on backfoot. The pioneers and once proponents of globalization are backing out. They are trying to introduce ways, which can hinder the process of globalization rather reverse the process of globalization. The most famous slogan of present days is "country first" which is entirely in opposite direction to globalization.

It is unfortunate reality that the big powers are not understanding the impact of COVID-19 and importance of cooperation. The COVID-19 has urged the

world leaders to cooperate, as cooperation is only way out to find ways to combat the impact of COVID-19. The situation also highlights that alliance building strategy will not serve the purpose. It can help few countries, but world will be losing.

In this context the approach of SCO, the "partnership" building can help world. The approach can pave the way for win-win cooperation under the auspices of UN. Although, the leading members China and Russia are already working to achieve the objectives of win-win cooperation but there is need to move fast. China will be hosting major event China-SCO Digital Economy Forum, under the auspices of SCO next year. The event can be used to lay the foundation to expand the cooperation at wider level. China and SCO can also look to enhance the participation and invite non-member countries to join the forum.

SCO can also launch a series of events and meetings to engage with non-member states and extend hand of the cooperation. As we discussed above SCO is home to 45 percent of world population, it can also serve as hope of world economic recovery due to its market size. China is already working to further open up but through the SCO, as an organization and platform, world can benefit in better way.

SCO can also introduce new form of engagement which would be based on the partnership and principles of equality. The equality among nations is a desired commodity and small countries are specifically looking for it. They are tired of the hegemonic or dominant behavior of big countries.

Future Role of SCO

In the light of discussion above, we have come up with following suggestions;

1. SCO should immediately launch a dialogue process with other leading forums of world like European Union
2. SCO should, on urgent basis, start to engage developing and least developed countries to give them hope of equality and cooperative world
3. Economic opportunities should be increased at SCO platform, especially in the aftermath of COVID-19 and its impact on global economy
4. To enhance economic opportunities, SCO should look ways to create formal linkages with Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China International Import Expo (CIIE) and Eurasia initiative of Russia among others
5. To spread message of SCO, the organization should create a dedicated window for engagement of civil society at larger scale

Nayyab Ali gets Franco-German HR award

German Ambassador, Bernhard Schlagheck, and French Ambassador, Marc Baréty, jointly presented this award to Ms Ali

A.M.Bhatti/DNA



ISLAMABAD: To mark the Human Rights Day, every year since 2016, on 10th of December, Germany and France have been jointly presenting the Franco-German Prize for Human Rights and the Rule of Law to 15 human rights defenders, as a symbol of the common values carried by Germany and France and an illustration of their joint commitment to the protection and promotion of Human Rights. This year, and for the second time since its creation, the Franco-German Prize for Human Rights is given to a Pakistani citizen. Ms Nayyab Ali has been presented with this award as an acknowledgment of her tremendous commitment for the defence and promotion of the rights of the transgender community and its inclusion in the Pakistani society.

As a researcher and renowned activist working on gender and minority inclusion issues, Ms Nayyab Ali has been a resource person for building law enforcement agencies' capacities and sensitization across Pakistan and for tackling the political, institutional and social challenges of the transgender community. Her expertise, experience and personal journey have led her to become the national coordinator of All Pakistan Transgender Election Network, to be an active member of the special committee formed for the review of the bill which became the Pakistan transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2018 and also to create the first school for Okara's transgender community. German Ambassador, Bernhard

Schlagheck, and French Ambassador, Marc Baréty, have jointly presented this award to Ms Ali to pay tribute to her inspiring engagement in favor of the rights of the members of her community and of vulnerable women and children.

The protection of Human rights is one of the overarching objectives of France's and Germany's external action, jointly with the European Union. This strong commitment is also reflected in the European Union's "Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP+)", granting third countries preferential trade access to the EU market with the condition of implementing a series of international conventions. Pakistan and Pakistani people have been beneficiary of the European Union's GSP+ since 2014.

SURESH NEW INDIA CDA IN PAKISTAN

Gaurav Ahluwalia will be leaving soon for his next assignment as Ambassador of India to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria



NEW DELHI (DNA) - Diplomat Suresh Kumar has been appointed as the new Charge d'Affaires at the Pakistan High Commission of India.

He is expected to take up the assignment in Islamabad shortly. Suresh is a 2006 batch Indian Foreign Service officer and has worked as deputy secretary at the Pakistan desk in the Ministry of External Affairs. Current Charge d'Affaires at the High Commission of India, Islamabad, Gaurav Ahluwalia will be leaving soon for his next assignment as Ambassador of India to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

Gaurav Ahluwalia had replaced JP Singh as deputy head of mission. But due to Pakistan, India tensions, the Indian High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria had to leave Pakistan. Consequently, Gaurav was tasked to act as Charge d'Affaires.

PREQUALIFICATION NOTICE

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF HOSPITALS, LABORATORIES AND DIAGNOSTIC CENTERS, SPECIAL UNITS LIKE ORTHOPEDIC, DENTAL, EYE CARE, DIALYSIS UNITS ON PIA APPROVED PANEL (FOR SIALKOT ONLY)

Application on prescribed proforma are invited from well established Hospitals, labs, Diagnostic Centers, Dental, Eye, Orthopedic, Dialysis, ENT units etc. for prequalification for enlistment on approved panel of PIACL medical division for a period of three years basis commencing from the date of approval for Sialkot. Existing panel will stand be dissolved after new panel is approved.

Who can apply:

1. Hospital dealing in all or any one of the specialty like dental care units, eye clinics, kidney hospitals etc.
2. Hospitals providing general (more than one) admission facilities must have at least 50 beds total for all facilities.
3. The hospital providing admission facilities preferably should have semi private ward, private rooms, and private A.C rooms.
4. The hospitals preferably should have fully equipped laboratory, x-ray department and arrangements of blood transfusion, properly equipped and staffed intensive care unit, properly equipped operation theatre, availability of consultants on call on round the clock basis, an attached drug store/pharmacy and proper arrangements to provide the prescribed diet to the patients.
5. Preferably there should be availability of email & fax.

Applications providing complete information with supporting documents must be submitted to GM Contract Management Supply Chain Management Department by **18-01-2021**. The tenders may be dropped in the tender box marked as "**Commercial Purchases**" placed at the Entrance of Supply Chain Management latest by 10:30 hours on the specified date. You may also send your tenders through registered A/D mail addressed to General Manager Procurement Supply Chain Management Department which must reach before the closing date and time mentioned above. Tenders will be opened at **1100 hours** the same day in the presence of bidders who wish to attend.

Applications received after stipulated date and incomplete in any manner shall not be entertained. PIACL shall not be responsible for any postal delay and reserves the right to accept / reject any / all applications in line with PPRA rules.

Complete RFP is available at

<http://www.piac.com.pk> and <http://www.ppra.org.pk>

For any query, please feel free to contact.

General Manager

Contract Management Division

Supply Chain Management (PIA)

Ph: 99044216, 99043081

Email: gm.cm@piac.aero,

contract.administration@piac.aero



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PID K 1795

PRCS, Jazz support 400 COVID-hit families with food supplies

DNA



PRCS Chairman Abrar ul Haq and Vice President Jazz Ibrar Khan hand a food pack to an affected person during a ceremony at PRCS, NHQ, Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Red Crescent Society in collaboration with leading internet and broadband service provider Jazz distributed 250 non-perishable food packs among the families affected by COVID-19 pandemic during a ceremony held at PRCS National Headquarters on Wednesday here while 150 food packs will be distributed among the families in Haripur.

PRCS Chairman Abrar ul Haq, Acting Secretary General Dr. Adeel Nawaz, Vice President Corporate & Economic Affairs Jazz Ibrar Khan, PRCS officers, staff and volunteers were among the participants. Speaking on the occasion, Abrar ul Haq

said PRCS, being an auxiliary to the Government of Pakistan, has been at the forefront of fighting coronavirus and augmenting the government's response to the pandemic in the country. PRCS established a 120-bed Corona Care Hospital in Rawalpindi within record 15 days where hundreds of patients have been treated.

"PRCS staff and volunteers are present across country and are actively involved in Covid-19 awareness campaign, distribution of PPE and hygiene kits, and provision of food packs to the deserving families affected by the virus," he said. Abrar ul Haq also hailed Jazz for playing

a leading role in supporting the most vulnerable segments of the society.

Commenting on relief support provided by the company during the pandemic, Jazz CEO Aamir Ibrahim said, "We realize that these are tough times for many families. Jazz has continued its support of organizations like PRCS because they help the vulnerable by providing critical and timely relief."

It is worth mentioning here that PRCS and Jazz enjoy a long-term partnership and have joined hands to support the community during several emergencies and disasters such as 2005 earthquake, 2009 IDP crisis, and 2010 floods.

Reeling Indian Juggernaut in the Himalayas



Abdul Rashid Shakir

India's hegemonic posture and expansionist designs in the South Asia can be well appreciated if we dissect its lethal miscalculations on economic and political fronts.

Economically, Indian authorities boasted of their upsurge in the emerging market countries, and their joining multi-trillion dollar economies club with \$2.8 Trillion GDP and export revenue of around \$324 Billion in 2019. Its impressive IT industry, with around \$147 Billion exports, tempted it to aspire for a bigger-than-stature role in international power politics. But ostensibly, blindfolded by this illusion of self-aggrandizement, Indian policy makers ignored their dismal performance on major socio-economic indicators. Raging poverty, alarming law and order, miserable condition of human rights and minorities mock at Indian claims of economic turnaround. Seriously hit by COVID-19 pandemic in recent times, its progress on any of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is not enviable. Moody's recently published revised economic growth outlook for 2020 shows India growing at -8.9%. Its poor score of Gini Coefficient, a gauge of income distribution inequality among population, further augments this bleak picture of Indian social fabric.

Politically India takes credit in being world's biggest democracy with a population of over 1.3 Billion. It is proud of inheriting British legacy of running democratic institutions. But unfortunately, it is oblivious of nurturing basic values needed for the democracy to flourish: higher literacy rate, economic

self-sufficiency, and freedom of expression through independent media.

Ground realities in India paint a gloomy picture. Firstly, India dropped 10 point to 51st position in Economist Intelligent Unit's 2019 Democracy Index that measures state of democracy worldwide in 165 independent states and two territories. They have cited erosion of civil liberties as the main cause of this sharp dip in democratic outlook of the country. Secondly, distribution of wealth in India is so skewed in favor of rich that Just 1% of its richest elite own 58.4%, and the richest 10% own 80.7% of country's total wealth. Thirdly, poor quality teaching and learning practices, especially for the children of Schedules Castes, Schedules Tribes and religious minorities, coupled with a custom of early marriages result in

early children drop out from schools. Currently more than 6 million school-age kids are out of school in India. Fourthly, India's place in Reporters without Borders's Press Freedom Index has dropped from 136th in 2015 to 142nd in 2020 due to oppressive policies of the ruling BJP government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

These fundamental flaws in assessing their economic and political worth led Indians to other fatal misconceptions about their diplomatic, tactical, and strategic prowess.

Diplomatically, India being sweet heart of major world powers, behaves like a spoiled child at all international forums, be it United Nations (UN), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), or

Financial Action Task Force (FATF). But it failed to understand that world powers are ignoring its whimsical wish list because of its bigger market, in order to secure their economic interests.

Tactically, India tried to assume role of a policeman in South Asia, bullying all its neighbors to stamp its authority in the region. However, quite recently, Nepal's stubborn stance on Kalapani, Lipu Lekh and Limpiyadhura areas, located at a strategic three-way junction between Nepal, India and China, is a humiliating blow to Indian hegemonic claims in the region.

Strategically, India is projected as a counter weight to China in the region. But historic thrashing of its so-called brave troops by their Chinese counterparts in a non-conventional clash with sticks and clubs in Galway Valley, Laddakh in June 2020 is an eye-opener, not only for Indian authorities but also for their international aides, especially in Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD) or Quad: an informal strategic alliance of the United States, Japan, Australia and India to counter increasing Chinese military and economic power in the region.

In the back drop of more than six-months long standoff with Indian troops across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, China has strategically cemented its position in the region. It is a massive defeat of India and its sponsors, rather launchers, to encircle China and gain a position of influence in the region. All Indian tactics, like putting a ban on around 150 Chinese Apps, to control China economically would prove counterproductive at the best.

Out of this deep sense of embarrassment, India is imploring China again and again to pull back its troops and maintain status quo in the area to give her an honorable exit from the crisis, but of no avail so far. Currently eighth round of border talks between the two countries has ended inconclusively.

Keeping the aforesaid in view, one can painlessly point at how sham and ill-founded sense of grandeur Indian civil and military establishments harbor. Pragmatism demands that better sense should prevail. India should come out of deep slumber to confront bitter realities plaguing its socio-economic order. It must put its own house in order before aspiring for a global role.

But historic thrashing of its so-called brave troops by their Chinese counterparts in a non-conventional clash with sticks and clubs in Galway Valley, Laddakh in June 2020 is an eye-opener, not only for Indian authorities but also for their international aides.

(arshakir.pmo@gmail.com)

JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS RISK REDUCTION

DNA



Photo: Weather surveillance radar established by Japanese Grant Aid in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is prone to natural disasters such as floods and landslides caused by heavy torrential rains, tropical cyclones, earthquakes and so on. Quite notably, every year Pakistan experiences heavy damages due to floods triggered by heavy monsoon rains during the monsoon season. Therefore, the Japanese government has been assisting Pakistan proactively, in the enhancement of weather surveillance capacity through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) since the 1980's, in order to mitigate the damage by flood.

Weather surveillance radars in Islamabad and in Karachi have already been put in place and a few others are planned to be constructed in Multan and

in Sukkur, in cooperation with Japan. These radars will cover almost the whole of Pakistan.

In addition, in 2019 the Japanese government through JICA has assisted in establishing the "Specialized Medium Range Weather Forecasting Center" in order to enhance not only the weather surveillance capacity, but also weather forecasting capability for Pakistan.

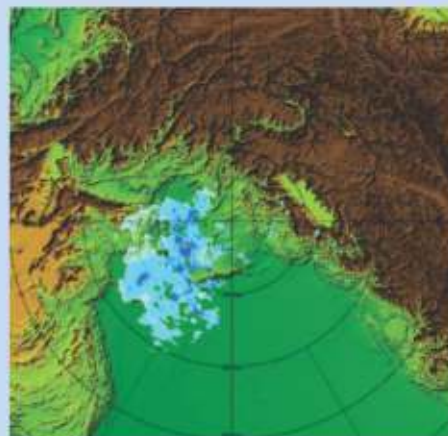
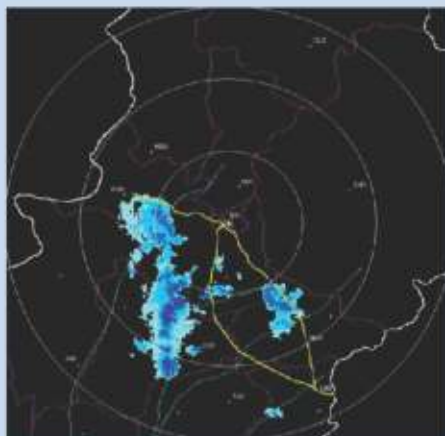
An officer from the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), mentioned that the "Capacity of weather forecasting has been enhanced by various Japanese assistance. We can now get exact positioning information of clouds through high-resolution images as compared to previous weather surveillance system. We can also provide advance weather information to local communities, identify heavy rain areas, and issue early warning to local residents living downstream of rivers which are expected to be flooded. Similarly, advance weather information can also be provided to the Islamabad international airport."

A Japanese engineer also said, "I am glad that the weather surveillance radars with the same state-of-the-art technologies as those of Japan are utilized in Pakistan."

(The White building located on the right side is old weather surveillance radar, also previously assisted by Japan)

During the monsoon seasonal floods in 2020, the "Specialized Medium Range Weather Forecasting Center" coupled with PMD's efforts enabled local residents to safely evacuate through the timely issuance of early flood warning, disseminated to local residents and related stakeholders.

Meanwhile, a recently occurring new phenomenon called the "urban flooding" which has devastated urban centers is being experienced in and around Karachi City. In this regard, the Japanese government through JICA continues to support Pakistan to mitigate the risks and damages from these expected natural disasters.



**Islamabad weather radar Image
(Left: old weather radar, Right: new weather radar)**



Australia Supports Inspiring Street Art

DNA

KARACHI: The Australian High Commission in Pakistan and I AM KARACHI today opened a series of public art murals across the streets of Karachi, painted by Australian artist Gabrielle Brinsmead and Pakistani artist Phool Ji.

The project aims to foster cultural connections between Australia and Pakistan and transform the public spaces in the city with inspiring art and positive messages.

Speaking at the opening ceremony on behalf of the Australian High Commissioner, Australia's Honorary Consul in Karachi Barrister Jahanzeb Awan shared that the themes of the art murals – women's empowerment and the environment – are key part of Australia's work in Pakistan.

"Art plays a major role in society, and it can be an effective and inspiring way to reach people with important messages. We hope these artworks will help to promote gender equality and women's empowerment and make us think about what we can do to help to protect our wildlife and habitats, as well as being a positive contribution to the city of Karachi," Barrister Awan said.

Australian painter and artist, Gabrielle Brinsmead shared that the climate of Karachi is similar to the climate of Northern New South Wales in Australia, where she grew up.

"I spent the last few months studying the intricacies of the flowers and leaves of bougainvillea, hibiscus and frangipane flowers, that are abound

in New South Wales as well as in Karachi. The more I look at, copy, sketch and paint them, the more wonderful they seem. I have combined shapes and colours of these flowers in the murals to draw attention to the richness and generosity of these plants, which grow and flower so effortlessly here," Ms Brinsmead said while talking about her artwork.

Executive Director of I AM KARACHI, Ms Ambareen Kazim Thompson said, "It is important to remember that only through tolerance and acceptance do cities and people grow strong and united. This project is a symbol of peace and harmony and a message of hope and positivity."

APNS bags Excellence Award at Beijing Advertisement moot

Hameed Haroon, President and Sarmad Ali, Secretary General All Pakistan Newspapers Society have congratulated members on Wining Excellence Award

DNA

KARACHI: "Hameed Haroon, President and Sarmad Ali, Secretary General All Pakistan Newspapers Society have congratulated members on Wining Excellence Award at the 2020 Beijing International Public Service Advertisement Creativity Competition. The All Pakistan Newspapers Society bagged the Excellence Award at the 2020 Beijing International Public Service Advertisement Conference Creativity Competition for their public service campaign on Covid-19. This was the second Beijing International PSA Creativity Competition in which countries from across the globe participated. The 2020 Beijing International Public

Service Advertisement Conference Creativity Awards was organized by the Publicity Department of Beijing Municipal Committee of CPC and Beijing Municipal Radio and Television Bureau. Last year, the conference and the awards were held at Beijing. However this year, keeping in mind the Covid-19 situation, the conference as well as the awards were held online. The entries were emailed while the jury sessions were held through video link across continents. It was after rigorous jury sessions, APNS won the Excellence Award for their public service during the tough times of the pandemic. The awards are specifically organized to recognize organizations that are contributing towards betterment of

society by spreading awareness and playing their part. The campaigns were welcomed from Print, Audio, Video and Interactive media. APNS submitted in both Print and Video, and won the Excellence Award for both categories. APNS launched a print campaign earlier this year informing masses about the pandemic, bursting myths and providing people with information to stay safe and healthy. The print campaign was supported by newspapers across Pakistan so that the word reaches out to the corners of the country and help people. The same was adapted for TV in the form a 40 seconds promo and was aired on various national channels as public service message.



Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaz Saeed Al Maliky reading daily Islamabad POST

Peace In Indian Ocean Region & Prevailing Geo-Strategic Situation

S.M Hali

The exercise has been aptly named "AMAN", which is the Urdu term for "PEACE". It signifies Pakistan's endeavor for peace while remaining fully prepared to ensure peace in the region. Pakistan Navy (PN) till to date had conducted six AMAN exercises, a multi-national naval exercise in the North Arabian Sea. This year's exercise is the 7th in number, which have been held biennially since 2007. All previous naval exercises of the AMAN series have been highly successful and not only were participated wholeheartedly by navies of friendly countries, ushering goodwill to Pakistan, but have also resulted in all participants including the host PN, gaining tremendous professional experience.

The slogan for the AMAN exercise "Together for Peace" sums up the entire gamut of Pakistan's aspirations. Not only Pakistan is desirous of maintaining peace but is also keen on including its friends, allies and partners in achieving amity. The world is currently embroiled in trials and tribulations of various types. Besides the war against terrorism, power projection especially in the maritime sphere has increased in the twenty first century. Alfred Thayer Mahan, the famed US naval strategist had rightly predicted that "Whoever controls the Indian Ocean dominates Asia. This ocean is the key to the seven seas in the twenty-first century, the destiny of the world will be decided in these waters."

Pakistan's eastern neighbour India is building a Blue Water Navy to fulfil its power projection ambitions. Every nation aspires to build up its defence capability, but India has hegemonic designs and has a history of trying to subdue its neighbours with its maritime capability. Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Bangladesh have suffered at the hands of India's domination syndrome. The US remains oblivious to China's declarations that it has no hegemonic designs, is keen to resolve issues with

its neighbours peacefully and instead concentrate on development and sharing its projects like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with countries of the region and beyond. Interestingly, BRI also has a maritime component, known as the "Maritime Silk Road". India perceives China as an opponent and is opposed to the BRI as well as its flagship project the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), especially the development of the strategic deep-water port of Gwadar. Since the port is located from where 35 percent of the world's oil supply flows from the Gulf of Hormuz to the west, both the US and India, perceive it as a threat from where China has the capability of choking the world's oil supply.

In this milieu, Exercise AMAN-21 comes at an opportune moment. Navies from more than 45 countries are expected to participate in the exercise. The rise in number of participants bears testimony to Pakistan's rising relevance in the international pitch. The Exercise has focused objectives, which include: projecting a positive image of Pakistan as a country contributing towards regional peace and stability; consolidating PN's position in the regional maritime arena; enhancing interoperability with regional and extra regional navies thereby acting as a bridge between the regions and displaying of united resolve against maritime terrorism and piracy. The Concept of the exercise has been designed to provide a common forum for: Information sharing, mutual understanding and identifying areas of common interests for group analysis and dialogues through International Maritime Conference; developing and practicing response tactics, techniques and procedures against asymmetric and traditional threats during sea phase of the exercise and Intermingling of multinationals with depiction of their respective cultures during cultural shows/ food galas.

Exercise AMAN-21 envisages hosting

numerous events of harbour and sea-phase. The harbour activities include, reception of the participating units, a grand opening ceremony, playing friendly sports matches and a Maritime Counter Terrorism demonstration by the elite PN Marines. The Sea Activities include an International Fleet Review which includes various operational activities/ exercises. Additionally, numerous other sea activities have been planned, which include simple maneuvers, surface practice firing with main armament and search and rescue operations amongst others. Exercise AMAN-21 shall bring honour to Pakistan and will raise the morale of Pakistan Navy for hosting a major multi-nation operational exercise and strengthen the confidence of the nation in the capabilities of the maritime guardians of Pakistan.

UK ENVOY GREETES PAKISTAN

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner to Pakistan Christian Turner has Congratulated Pakistan for its global leadership on Climate Action under Prime Minister Imran Khan's leadership.

In a series of tweets on Sunday, he said, Pakistan is leading the way on Climate Action by announcing no new coal power projects and with - 1 percent of global emissions but 5th most affected country. He said we are working together to tackle the threats of Climate Change.

Pak will not recognize Israel, Ashrafi tells Palestine envoy

Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Rabei thanked the Pakistani leadership for extending full support on the issue of Palestine.

The ambassador especially thanked the military leadership spearheaded by Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and Chief of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Lt. Gen Faiz Hameed for their whole-hearted support on the Palestine issue

Ansar Bhatti/DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative on Religious Harmony Allama Tahir Ashrafi has said Pakistan will not recognize Israel until just settlement of Palestine issue is found.

Talking to media persons at the Palestine embassy on Thursday Tahir Ashrafi said Pakistan has a clear stance on Kashmir and Palestine issues that they should be resolved as per the aspirations of Kashmiris and Palestinians. Allama Tahir Ashrafi said India has been sponsoring terrorist organizations.

Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Rabei received the guest and briefed him about the latest situation in Palestine. Tahir Ashrafi urged the international community to take its notice. The Special Representative said the incidents of forced marriage of non-Muslims and other such developments will be examined and facts about them will be brought forth.

Earlier, Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Rabei thanked the Pakistani leadership for extending full support on the issue of Palestine. The ambassador especially thanked the military leadership spearheaded by Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and Chief of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Lt. Gen Faiz Hameed for their whole-hearted support on the Palestine issue.

Ambassador Rabei hoped that soon Palestine shall become an independent state and Al Quds shall be free from occupation. The ambassador hoped relations between Pakistan and Palestine will grow further even in the coming days.

The ambassador also thanked Maulana Tahir Ashrafi for championing the cause of Palestine and people of

Palestine. 'Maulana Ashrafi is doing a great job in terms of highlighting the issue in a befitting manner'.



WFP chief urges world to help prevent famine



ROME (DNA): Waking up this morning in the beautiful city of Rome, it is hard to imagine that in about 400 AD this city experienced a massive famine that ended up killing almost 90% of its population. Students of history associate something else with that ancient date: the beginning of the Fall of the Roman Empire. Now, did the famine cause the fall? Or did the fall cause the famine? I think the answer is yes — both. Waking up in this wealthy, modern, technologically advanced world, it's hard to imagine us going through a famine like that. But my tragic duty today is to tell you: famine is at humanity's doorstep. For millions and millions of people on earth.

Failure to prevent famine in our day will destroy so many lives and cause the fall of much we hold dear.

On behalf of Secretary-General Guterres of the United Nations, our Board, our sister agencies, our incredible partners and donors and most importantly on behalf of 19,000

peacemakers at the World Food Programme, and for all those who came before us, especially those who died in the line of duty and their families who carry on, and on behalf of the 100 million hungry people we serve, to the Norwegian Nobel Committee, thank you, for this great honour.

Also, thank you for acknowledging our work of using food to combat hunger, to mitigate against destabilization of nations, to prevent mass migration, to end conflict and... to create stability and peace.

We believe food is the pathway to peace.

I wish today that I could speak of how working together we could end world hunger for all the 690 million people who go to bed hungry every night. But, today we have a crisis at hand.



US-Pakistan ICCI appoints President, SG for Pakistan chapter

Muhammed Ahmed, Malik Sohail appointed by US-Pakistan ICCI Both leaders vow to improve economic ties with the UN

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The US-Pakistan International Chamber of Commerce and Industry (US-Pakistan ICCI) has appointed two leading business leaders for their Pakistan chapter.

The Chairman of US-Pakistan ICCI M. Siddique Sheikh and the board of the chamber has approved appointment of Muhammad Ahmed as President of Pakistan Chapter for two years while Malik Sohail Hussain has been appointed as Secretary General for five years.

On the occasion, Siddique Sheikh has hoped that both the leaders will strive hard to bring business community of the US and Pakistan closer and play their due role in promoting the common cause of mutual understanding and prosperity.

He said that we are looking forward to the newly-appointed office bearers to promote trade, commerce, understanding, networking, linkages, exchange of delegations and sectoral exhibitions in the both countries.

Both the newly appointed businessmen said that we are thrilled to have an opportunity to represent the respected forum of US-Pakistan ICCI which has been serving businesses since long.

We will learn a lot from the talented leadership of the forum and our colleagues and help this great organization build on its success and tackle new challenges emerging on the horizon.

They said that promotion of SMEs will be high on their agenda as it is the backbone of Pakistan economy but it is facing many problems which must be resolved.



Muhammad Ahmed is a renowned businessman and CEO of leading Group of Companies in Islamabad who has served as President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce, rendered valuable services in fight against coronavirus, organised many successful events and strived hard to bring business community closer.

Malik Sohail Hussain has served on very important positions in FPCCI, SAARC CCI, ICCI, UBG and commands vast experience in holding different events and leading delegations to different countries including the US.

He is advisor to many important trade associations and chambers of commerce since a decade.

Pakistan's credible news service

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BULGARIA NEEDS AN EXPERIENCED ENVOY IN PAKISTAN

Ambassador Roumen not only focused on diplomatic relations but he spent much of his time in building people to people contacts. Likewise, culture was yet another sphere where Ambassador Roumen did quite well

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Bulgarian embassy in Islamabad needs a professional diplomat as the post is still vacant ever since services of Ambassador Aleksandar Borisov Parashkevov were terminated on corruption charges. Bulgaria and Pakistan have had

excellent relations. Respective ambassadors and charge d affaires who were appointed in Pakistan to represent their country, had put in their best efforts to promote and strengthen bilateral relations. In late 90s Mr. Angel served as Charge

D Affaires. During his tenure relations between two countries touched new heights. He remained in Pakistan for quite some time and contributed greatly towards cementing of Pakistan-Bulgaria relations. Mr. Angel is now a senior officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria.

Then came Mr. Roumen who joined the Embassy as Charge D Affaires and then was elevated to fully fledged ambassador. Mr. Roumen stayed in Pakistan for more than eight years. His was perhaps the best time when relations between Pakistan and Bulgaria witnessed new horizons.

Ambassador Roumen not only focused on diplomatic relations but he spent much of his time in building people to people contacts. Likewise, culture was yet another sphere where Ambassador Roumen did quite well.

Because of his benign nature and elegant personality he was able to make good friends in Pakistan. It is because of his selfless services that he is still remembered in Pakistan.

Keeping in view proximity of relations between the two countries, Bulgaria needs in Pakistan a diplomat like Ambassador Roumen who not only understands this region very well but enjoys impeccable reputation among Pakistanis and government circles.

Respective diplomats have done a lot to build a strong relationship with Pakistan therefore their efforts should not go waste. It is possible only if Ambassador Roumen or a diplomat like him is appointed in Pakistan.

“German sister” awarded the German Order of Merit

The honour is the highest tribute the Federal Republic of Germany can pay to individuals for outstanding services. From the Pakistani government, Minister of Health, Dr. Faisal Sultan, attended the ceremony

Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: On behalf of the German Federal President, German Ambassador to Pakistan Bernhard Schlagheck awarded Dr. Chris Schmotzer, medical doctor and director of the Leprosy Hospital in Rawalpindi, with the Order of Merit in a ceremony held at the German Embassy Islamabad.

The honour is the highest tribute the Federal Republic of Germany can pay to individuals for outstanding services. From the Pakistani government, Minister of Health, Dr. Faisal Sultan, attended the ceremony and commended the work of Dr. Schmotzer and her team.

Dr. Chris Schmotzer was bestowed the Cross of Merit for her tireless service to humanity. As director of the Rawalpindi Leprosy Hospital, she has





woman, she decided to devote her life to the service of humanity. In Rawalpindi and beyond, she is widely known and respected as a compassionate and devoted medical doctor who always gives priority to the treatment of sick and needy people. As a token of appreciation of the German Federal President for her tireless work, I gladly hand over the Cross of Merit to Dr. Chris Schmotzer."

been serving the Pakistani people for 33 years now, offering treatment to patients with leprosy, tuberculosis, eye and skin diseases as well as rehabilitation measures. Being member of the German Protestant Sisterhood of Christ-Bearers, the "German sister" – as she is called by her Pakistani patients – decided to come to Pakistan shortly after finishing her medicine studies in 1988. Since then, she has contributed to fight leprosy and tuberculosis in Pakistan. She also closely collaborated with Dr. Ruth Pfau and the Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre in Karachi.

During the awarding ceremony, German Ambassador Bernhard Schlagheck underlined: "Dr. Chris Schmotzer is a role model of true philanthropy! Thirty-three years ago, as a young



MOUNTAINS AND WELL-BEING WORLD'S POPULATION



Viladimir Norov

December 11 is International Mountain Day established by the UN General Assembly in 1992 and adopted by Agenda 21 during the UN Conference on Environment and Development.

The main purpose of this holiday was to educate the general public about the need to effectively use and protect mountain ecosystems and biodiversity in order to solve global environmental problems in mountain areas and rural development besides to strengthen the achievements of mankind in this sphere.

International Mountain Day is celebrated in many countries around the world, where people care about mountainous areas. Each year is dedicated to a new theme. The theme for this year's celebration is mountain biodiversity. On this day the UN General Assembly encourages the world community to organize conferences, seminars, round tables, and other events at all levels.

Mountains, including mountain ranges and mountain systems, occupy nearly one-fourth of the planet. It includes a huge part of the world's freshwater reserves and endangered species of fauna and flora. Mountains are also a popular destination for hiking and mountain climbing.

Half of the world's biodiversity areas are located in mountains and mountainous areas, where more than 15% of the world's population lives. About half of the world's population depends on the water, food, and energy resources that mountains contain.

Most of the people of the Earth inhabiting mountain valleys live below the poverty line, constantly suffering from natural disasters. In the absence of developed infrastructure, they are at risk of food security and employment opportunities, as well as has no access to adequate health care, education, and quality public services.

As a rule, the inhabitants of these areas, feeling their insecurity in the face of modern challenges, are forced to migrate to the cities. There is a decline of agriculture, degradation of arable land and loss of cultural diversity, knowledge, and dying national traditions and historical heritage.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization fully supports the celebration of International Mountain Day. With the continued degradation of life-sustaining natural resources of mountains: water, land, biological, mineral, recreational, and others, their protection and rational use are at the forefront of the national security system of the SCO countries.

Undoubtedly, mountain systems in the SCO area are an invaluable source of water, energy, and biological diversity. Our countries contain vast uplands, the main mountain systems of the Earth, where large glaciers are located.

In recent decades, there is an increasing trend of melting of mountain glaciers and their catastrophic reduction, which may lead to their disappearance in many areas of the world. The melting of glaciers has become particularly noticeable in the Tibetan Plateau. Glaciers in the

Himalayas are losing up to 8 billion tons of ice annually, and the rate of melting is increasing at an alarming rate.

The glaciers of the Tien Shan mountain system, which stretches from east to west across China, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, have lost about 27% of their mass and more than 18% of their area in the last half-century. Of the 8,200 glaciers in the Tien Shan, more than 2,000 have melted in the recent past. The international experts using the newest methods of climate forecasting have pointed the fact that half of the ice cap of Tien Shan will melt by 2050.

According to scientists, global warming will melt the ice caps of all mountains and glaciers in the next hundred years. Scientists note that the melting of many glaciers has accelerated in recent years. For example, the Jacobsen Glacier on Greenland Island has doubled its rate of melting after six years and is now shrinking at a rate of about 12 km per year. A group of European scientists said that Everest could lose up to 96 percent of its glaciers by 2100. Such scientific research was published in the journal "The Cryosphere". All this is due to the development of industrialization, the neglect of human nature, expressed by an increase in emissions of harmful substances into the atmosphere, drying up of rivers and reservoirs, as well as deforestation, which is a natural shield against pollution.

Scientists and environmentalists are seriously concerned about these phenomena, since such destruction of the ice cover may contribute to other environmental problems throughout the region, including a significant reduction in freshwater supplies.

It is also worth mentioning that one of the most well-known and at the same time major environmental problems - the drying up of the Aral Sea, which is closely related to this phenomenon. Scientists note that the salt from the bottom of the Aral Sea is carried by wind currents towards mountain ranges and settles on glaciers, thereby accelerating melting of the glaciers. Restoration of the Aral Sea ecosystem is a very difficult task, requiring financial investment and considerable efforts on the part of the world community.

The disappearance of glaciers can completely change the climate of the region, which will have a negative impact on the animal and plant life, as well as on

Scientists and environmentalists are seriously concerned about these phenomena, since such destruction of the ice cover may contribute to other environmental problems throughout the region.

many aspects of the socio-economic life of the population of mountainous areas.

Member States attach great importance to the integrated solution of mountain development problems. In particular, at the plenary session of the UN General Assembly, which was held on December 19, 2019, a resolution "Sustainable Mountain Development" presented by Kyrgyzstan and Italy was adopted. The resolution was also co-sponsored by 80 UN Member States including the SCO countries. The resolution stresses the importance of preventing glacier melting, reducing biodiversity and environmental degradation to ensure and maintain an acceptable standard of living for the residents whose economic activities depend entirely on the natural resources of mountain ecosystems.

The resolution also mentions initiatives of UN Member States to promote sustainable development of mountain areas, such as the proclamation, on the initiative of Kyrgyzstan, of the International Mountain Day in 2003 and the International Year of Mountains in 2002, the establishment of the Group of Friends of Mountain Countries, created in August 2019 in New York.

Considering the need to intensify work on systematic monitoring of mountain glaciers in 2009 at the conference on climate change in Copenhagen, Tajikistan initiated the establishment of the International Fund for the Protection of Glaciers and invited developed countries and international organizations to provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries to monitor and protect glaciers. The importance of this initiative was also noted during the meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime

Ministers) of SCO Member States held on November 30, 2020.

It is important for our Organization to comprehensively study the interconnectedness of environmental problems, exchange information and experience between specialized institutions, take conservation and restoration measures, diversify mountain economies, preserve specific mountain ecosystems, conduct scientific environmental research in mountain and hilly areas, and identify vulnerable mountain areas. In this context Kazakhstan's initiative to make a register of environmental problems in SCO is timely.

An undoubted priority for the preservation of mountain ecosystems and the improvement of the well-being of the local population of mountainous areas is the use of environmentally safe technologies. The parties are considering Uzbekistan's initiative, the SCO Green Belt Program, which is designed to unlock our countries' potential for the use and priority implementation of modern resource-saving and environmentally friendly technologies, exchange experience in manufacturing, installation, operation, and maintenance of modern energy-saving equipment, use of environmentally friendly technologies, creating new jobs, and improving the quality of life of the citizens.

Currently, one of the main normative documents of the Organization is the Concept of Cooperation of SCO Member States in Environmental Protection, which contributes to maintaining the ecological balance, ensuring environmental safety, promoting "green" development, and financing

environmental projects and programs.

It should be noted that in 2019, for the first time, the SCO launched a mechanism for the Meeting of Heads of Ministries and Agencies of Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States Responsible for Environmental Protection

During the meeting held in Moscow on September 27, 2019, the member states discussed a wide range of environmental issues and agreed on the possibility of establishing thematic Expert Groups of SCO Member States in the field of biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation, and mitigation, waste management. The parties stressed the need to raise the level of environmental education and awareness at all levels, and to carry out environmental research, including in mountainous areas.

The SCO is interested in interacting with the UN Environment Programme to jointly implement the environmental component of sustainable development. The organization will promote integrated management and protection of mountain ecosystems, taking into account the activities of relevant international and regional organizations.

Global climatic changes, widespread warming, are posing a direct threat to the ecosystem of mountains which urgently require the activation of efforts of the world community to adopt a set of socio-political, environmental, economic, and other measures to mitigate the consequences of this phenomenon.

To address these problems, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, together with the international community, will contribute to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Writer is the Secretary General of SCO.

Pakistan and the United States Partner to Prevent COVID-19 in Prisons

Islamabad, January 11, 2021 - From December 28 to January 7, the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) section collaborated with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Prisons Department to deliver PKR 9,762,700 in personal protective equipment (PPE), hand sanitizer, soap, and gloves to staff and inmates to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The provision of PPE for staff and personal hygiene items for inmates during the pandemic is part of an ongoing partnership between the U.S. Mission to Pakistan and the KP Prisons Department to improve prisons and build capacity of corrections officials throughout Pakistan.

Under this trusted partnership, INL and the KP Prisons Department remain committed to training prison department officials in basic and advanced correctional institution management and providing hundreds of its staff with security, protective, and digital equipment to enhance their capacity to manage prisons more efficiently and ensure security of prisons.



AZERBAIJAN GIVES 100 WHEELCHAIRS TO DIFFERENTLY-ABLED PERSONS

President of Pakistan and First Lady attended Distribution Ceremony of wheelchairs to the Persons with Disabilities and Exhibition of their paintings & handicrafts organized by the support of Heydar Aliyev Foundation in Islamabad

A.M.Bhatti/DNA

ISLAMABAD: Distribution Ceremony of 100 customized wheelchairs to the differently abled persons provided by the support of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, as well as an exhibition of their paintings & handicrafts were held at the President's House in Islamabad.

The President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi and First Lady Samina Alvi, government officials, MPs, public and political figures, media representatives attended the event.

Before the official part of the event, paintings and handicrafts of the special persons were viewed by the President and First Lady and the other participants of ceremony.

Welcoming the special persons and participants of the ceremony on behalf of the President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, first lady of Azerbaijan Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva, the Ambassador of



Azerbaijan Ali Alizada said that the rights and freedom, protection, decent living conditions of all persons with disabilities in the Republic of Azerbaijan are firstly guaranteed by the Constitution of Azerbaijan and as in Pakistan, their well-being is also under the constant attention of Azerbaijani government. Ambassador emphasized that a special role in the protection of persons with disabilities in Azerbaijan and beyond belongs also to Heydar Aliyev Foundation of Azerbaijan and by the initiative and support of the President of Foundation, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO and ISESCO, Hilale-Pakistan, First Lady of Azerbaijan Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva Heydar Aliyev Foundation continues implementation of the different healthcare, education, development, social and humanitarian projects in Azerbaijan and beyond, including in brotherly Pakistan, with the aim to serve humanity and strengthen friendship between two fraternal nations. Ali Alizada extended his gratitude to Heydar Aliyev Foundation and its President Madam Aliyeva for support of welfare projects and for the special attention towards Azerbaijan-Pakistan relations. Ambassador noted that the full realisation of the rights and well-being of disabled persons demand enormous time and collective efforts and along with the distribution of customized wheelchairs, the holding an exhibition of the paintings





and handicrafts of special persons has also the aim to bring their potential out, boost the self-confidence of disabled persons and showcase once again that disability is not inability, and by the support, love and protection special persons are able to make reality their abilities. Mentioning the various programs for the welfare of disabled persons running by the Government of Pakistan Ambassador Ali Alizada

thanked Dr. Arif Alvi, President of Pakistan for hosting this valuable event at Aiwan-e-Sadr and for his continued personal attention to this noble cause. Noting the Heydar Aliyev Foundation numerous humanitarian projects in Pakistan, as well as in many other countries around the world, The Chief Guest of the event, President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi stressed that the implementation of such programs is

really commendable and expressed his deep gratitude to the President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, first lady of Azerbaijan Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva. Expressing satisfaction with the high-level fraternal relations between Azerbaijan and Pakistan, the President reminded his visit to Azerbaijan for the Non-Aligned Movement Summit in 2019 and shared his impression by the special attention, care and hospitality shown to him in Azerbaijan. Speaking about the 44 days Patriotic War of Azerbaijan, the President congratulated Government and people of Azerbaijan over the liberation of its lands from occupation and victory on the aggressor country Armenia and asked to convey his special felicitations to President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev.

Emphasizing the importance of paying special attention to the persons with disabilities, President Dr. Arif Alvi talked about the projects being implemented by the government of Pakistan for further improvement of the welfare of persons with disabilities, and stressed the necessity to take care of them not only by the state but also by all public representatives.

At the end of the event 100 customized wheelchairs provided by the support of Heydar Aliyev Foundation of Azerbaijan have been presented to the beneficiaries representing Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Directorate General Special Education, Army Special Education Academy and Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP).



AL FARABI FORUM



PRESIDENT ALVI LAUDS SERVICES OF OUTGOING CUBAN ENVOY

Says Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Cuba

A.M.Bhatti/DNA



the need for cultural and parliamentary exchanges between the two countries.

The President expressed the hope that the outgoing Ambassador would continue to work to promote relations between Pakistan and Cuba. He congratulated the envoy on successful completion of his tenure in Pakistan and expressed best wishes for his future endeavours.

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan attached utmost importance to its ties with Cuba and wants to further enhance bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, economy, health and culture for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

He said that Pakistan deeply appreciated the Cuban assistance in the wake of 2005 earthquake by sending medical teams and providing scholarships to Pakistani medical students. The President gave these remarks while talking to the outgoing Cuban Ambassador, Mr. Gabriel Tiel Capote, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

While underlining the need to boost bilateral trade cooperation, the President said that both countries needed to identify and explore areas where the two countries can expand trade and investment cooperation. He also stressed

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OGDCL achieves milestone of adding massive production in short span

Shahid Salim Khan MD OGDCL says company remains a market leader in Oil & Gas production, contributing 48% in oil, 27% in gas & 37% in LPG production of the country

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), Pakistan's flagship Exploration and Production Company listed on Pakistan Stock Exchange & London Stock Exchange continued to contribute significantly towards the overall oil and gas production portfolio of the country during the last year.

The company remains a market leader in Oil & Gas production, contributing 48% in oil, 27% in gas & 37% in LPG production of the country. The company has made contribution of Rs. 130 billion to the national exchequer during 2019-20. During the quarter ended 31st December 2020, OGDCL successfully added oil & gas to the tune of 2666 Barrels per day of oil, 82.0 MMSCFD of Gas and 77 Metric Tons per day of LPG.

During this short span OGDCL has not only added production from new wells but also enhanced its production through optimization of production from already producing wells. According to the figures, OGDCL has acquired 1566 Barrels of

additional oil and 71 MMSCFD of additional gas by injecting wells while 1100 Barrels of oil and 11 MMSCFD of gas production enhanced through other efforts. The company also enhanced production of LPG and added 77 MTD in the system. This production enhancement by injecting 14 new

wells from all over Pakistan and adding substantial oil and gas in the national grid in short span of time was only possible due to dynamic leadership of MD/CEO of OGDCL and his team.

As per the detail and available data, OGDCL has injected Saand well # 1, Saand well # 2, Tando Allah Yar South West well #1, Togh Bala well # 1, Nashpa well # 10, Mangrio well # 1, Qadirpur well # 10, Umair well # 1, Qadirpur well # 53, Qadirpur well # 16, Qadirpur well # 17, Daru well # 1, Pasakhi Deep well # 6, Pasakhi West Deep well # 2 and commissioning of Nashpa compression project.

The newly injected wells and substantial increase in oil & gas production will not only add to the hydrocarbon in the network but will also bring significant savings to the exchequer in the form of import substitution. The increase in oil & gas production is also likely to help in mitigating ever growing demand of domestic consumers and industry.



Iran utilizing its full capacity to promote its ties with Pakistan: envoy

Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad organized an Online Conference on, Pakistan-China-Iran: Trilateral Cooperation: Opportunities and Way Forward"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad organized an Online Conference on, Pakistan-China-Iran: Trilateral Cooperation: Opportunities and Way Forward".

The conference aimed to examine the opportunities in trilateral cooperation, particularly the sphere of economic partnership. Moreover, the conference also highlighted the prospects of economic cooperation between Gwadar and Chabahar port in the region under China's Belt and Road Initiative.

The conference was commenced with the welcome remarks from Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Senior Member Board of Advisors, CGSS & Professor, School of Politics & IR, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan. He stated that it is a very timely initiative to organize this conference, there is huge potential in this cooperation and certain challenges as well, we must understand how to maximize the potential of triangular cooperation of Pakistan, Iran, and China.

Syed Mohammad Ali Husseini, Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan discussed Iran's vibrant Foreign Policy and relationship with China and Pakistan. He discussed Iran-Pakistan cooperation by emphasizing the neighborhood component and in the light of the commonalities of the relations. Discussing the bilateral relations, he stated that believes Pakistan is the gateway to Asia and Iran is the gateway to Europe. This has made cooperation inevitable for the two countries. Furthermore, Iran has resources and these resources can meet the needs of Pakistan and other friendly & countries. If Pakistan requires energy, Iran has rich resources. If Iran is a drought-stricken country that needs rice and agricultural products, Pakistan is a rich source of these products.

He also highlighted the development of economic and trade relations between these countries. Chabahar Port in Iran and Gwadar Port in Pakistan have great potential to strengthen the connection between both economies in the first

place and all countries in the region in the second place. He emphasized that the BRI and CPEC are undoubtedly favorable platforms for the development of regional cooperation, especially for the three countries of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the People's Republic of China.

He concluded by announcing, that Iran is utilizing its full capacity to promote its ties with Pakistan in all spheres including trade and economic relations, and welcomes any idea and initiative to achieve this objective.

Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Senior Member Board of Advisors, CGSS & Professor, School of Politics & IR, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan discussed Challenges in the path of China-Iran-Pakistan Economic Development. He highlighted that a new realignment process between all three countries is reemerging. The 400-billion-dollar Chinese investment for the next 25 years reported in US media in the middle of 2020 is good news for Pakistan.

While discussing the domain of domestic challenges he stated that the three states have to keep in mind that there are big potential challenges for their international and economic progress as well as stability. The second important challenge is the law and order issue. Pakistan has also been affected by propaganda and subversive activities against the economic corridor through BLA. He emphasized that Pakistan, Iran, and China have to deal with how to counter these rival powers who are trying to disrupt this trilateral relationship.

Furthermore, Pakistan and Iran's ports are very important for many countries in this region. The US propagated about the chain of pearls after Chinese infrastructure building was initiated in Gwadar, similarly, India can also be



rightly blamed for many of such activities. He concluded by emphasizing that we have to work together for this trilateral cooperation and be aware of various challenges like the one posed by the US-India alliance. If these three countries work together, they can effectively counter and neutralize these challenges.

Mashallah Shakeri, Former Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan & Member, Institute for Political & International Studies (IPIS), Tehran, Iran discussed implications of China-Iran-Pakistan economic ties for the US Interests in the region. He stated that the Chinese leadership has overtaken the reigns of many international organizations during recent times.

China has also replaced Russia's contentious position in the US foreign policy. He highlighted that the downward trend in the American economy will continue as their administration's misbehavior in the last four years was a major issue. Discussing the BRI projects, he stated that China and Pakistan are engaged under the CPEC initiative under the Belt and Road projects. It is interesting to see that as many as 16 countries are to join this initiative.

In event of Iran-China cooperation, CPEC can take a new look. He discussed, that this is the time for Iran to join CPEC. The geostrategic position of Iran can add to the value of CPEC projects. Iranian oil and gas resources can go to China through this route. Furthermore, Iran's geostrategic positions for countries like Turkey and Afghanistan can also play an important role in this regard.

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan, Member Board of Experts, CGSS & Regional Geopolitical Analyst discussed Iran's Economic Resurgence and Cooperation with China, countering the United States agenda of isolating Iran in the International system. He stated that it is indeed an important victory of China and Iran over Trump's policies and US imperialism. It is also a great example of vibrant Iranian diplomacy. Furthermore, Iranian geography also opens new routes for BRI projects. Cooperation in naval development will neutralize and equalize naval issues in the region. He further stated that Iran has found a partner in the form of China which is strong enough in the east to counter the west.

He suggested, for further strengthening of bilateral cooperation, a new entry point with Gwadar between Iran and Pakistan has been initiated which is the second border crossing between both

countries. Transcontinental railway project between Pakistan-Iran-China has also been agreed in the recent past. He concluded by suggesting that, we need to have collaborative efforts in the region to counter challenges imposed by the alliances of rival players in the region.

Prof. Deqiang Ji, Vice Dean, Institute for a Community with Shared Future, Communication University of China, Beijing, China discussed China's BRI and its significance for regional development. He highlighted that the Chinese leadership has continuously proposed working together and having a win-win relationship with all its partner countries. He discussed the importance of BRI projects for China and countries involved in it in the wider region. Moreover, he also emphasized that China has tried to avoid geopolitical tensions with different players and alliances working against it in the region. Discussing the bilateral ties of China and Iran, he stated that there can be better energy ties and initiatives for infrastructure building as the strategic location connecting both countries is very important. Highlighting the positive implications of BRI projects, he mentioned, regional connectivity and dialogue under the trilateral cooperation as well as multiple channels and dialogue initiatives for scholars and experts.

Prof. Wang Hu, Associate Professor, School for Southeast Asian Studies, Xiamen University, Siming-Xiamen, Fujian, China discussed, Prospects of China Pakistan and Iran Trilateral Partnership,

Challenges, and Implications. He emphasized that relations between these countries can be established through a trilateral partnership by establishing collaboration. To achieve a real trilateral partnership, we must include civil society participation and broader partnership. He suggested that civil society organizations and various enterprises can help in effective grass root development. Discussing the trilateral partnership of Pakistan, China, and Iran, Both Pakistan and Iran have friendly relations with China which can be beneficial in many ways. He also mentioned that BRI projects are important to establish friendly contacts and people to people relations amongst partner countries.

Dr. Qudsia Akram, Assistant Professor, IR, Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore, Pakistan discussed the Prospects of building cooperation and linkages between Gwadar and Chahbahar ports. She presented a detailed geographical overview of the Gwadar and Chabahar port. Discussing the concept of economic integration, she stated that it could be used as an instrument of foreign policy, where political considerations influence the choice of contracting partners. Gwadar and Chabahar present multiple opportunities for connectivity across the region. If geo-politics is isolated from geo-economics, then both ports could provide an impetus for growth for the entire region. Discussing the prospects of linkages and integration she emphasized that, diplomatic means should be utilized on all levels to achieve trilateral dialogues.



ISLAMABAD Ambassador of UAE Hamad Al Zaabi visited the Chinese embassy and met with the Ambassador of China Nong Rong The Chinese ambassador also presented a souvenir to the UAE ambassador. DNA

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