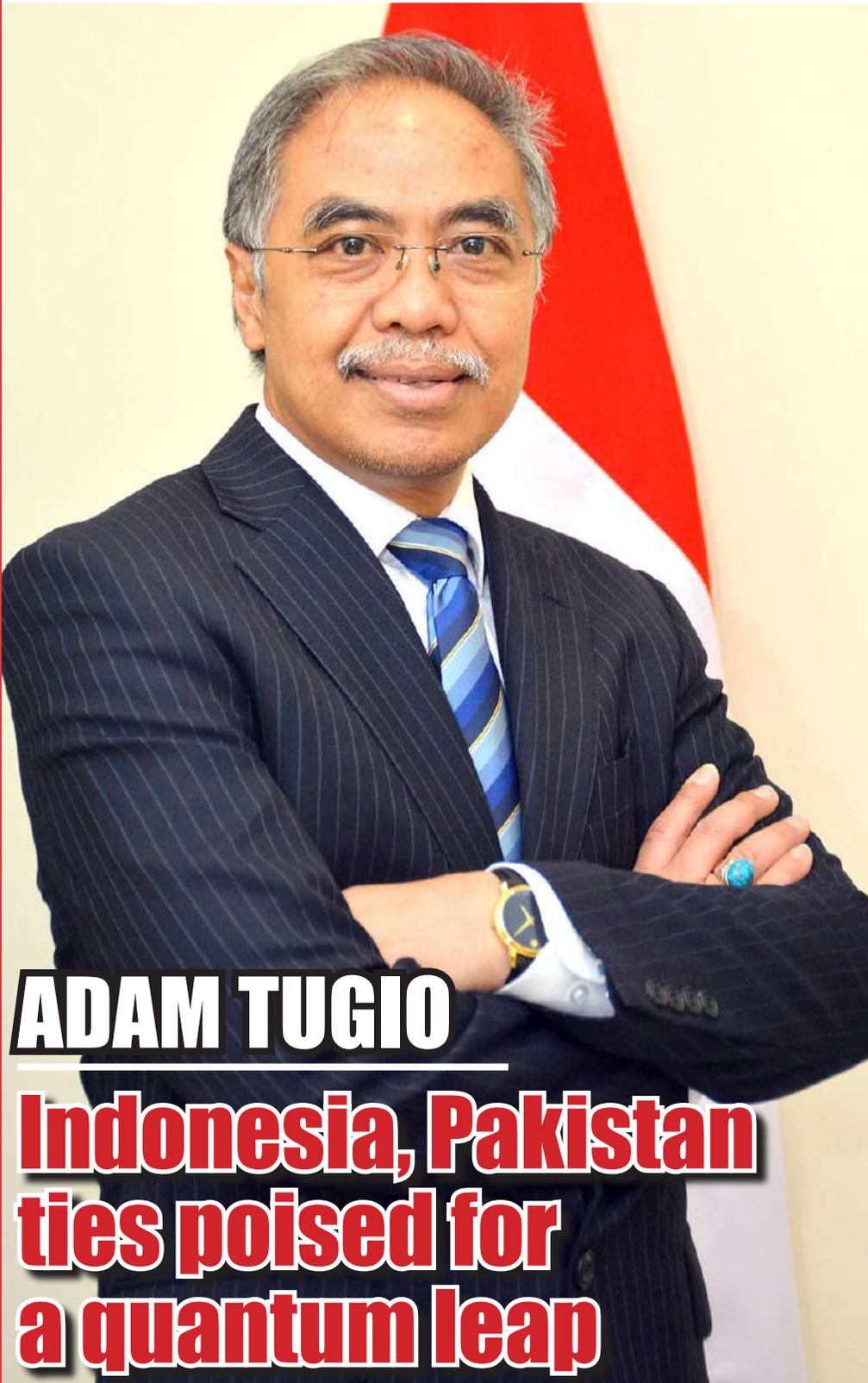


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ADAM TUGIO

Indonesia, Pakistan ties poised for a quantum leap



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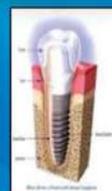
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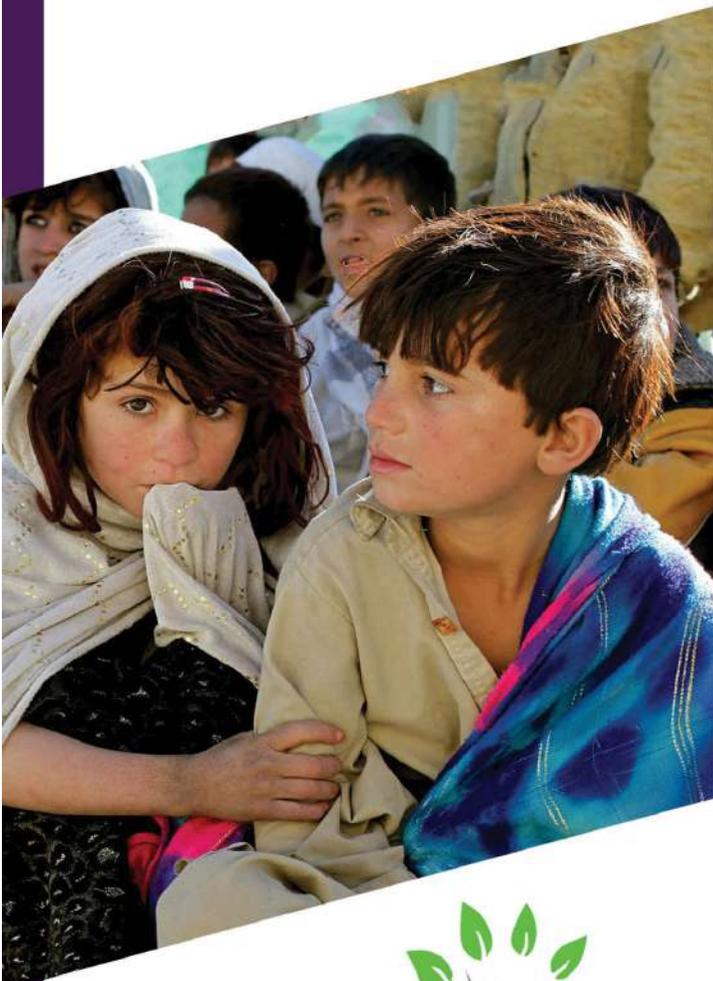


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1

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2

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CLEAN WATER

3

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

GREEN ENVIRONMENT

4

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

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

5

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

HEALTH CARE:

6

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



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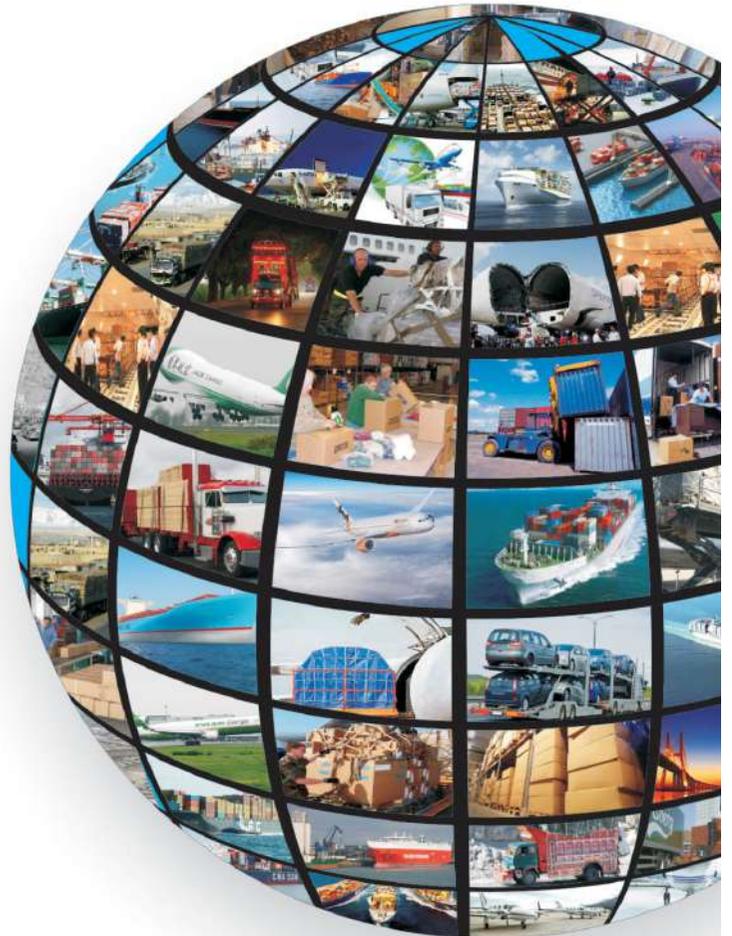
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Challenges ahead for the new Afghan govt



THE Taliban has finally unveiled much-awaited government, which has taken many by surprise for a variety of reasons. First, the announced head of the government is not the one which was expected. Mullah Baradar was widely seen as the likely head of the government but instead Mullah Hasan has been picked up for the job albeit for an interim period. Mullah Hasan was heading the powerful Taliban shura that used to make all key decisions. Then, there is nobody in the government from the opposition side, which means the idea of an inclusive government appears to have been shelved by the Taliban leadership, although it says the plan of an inclusive govt was very much on the table.

Similarly, no woman has been taken on board. This is one of the reasons that the initial response from the USA towards formation of the govt turned out to be hostile. As one of the Taliban leaders opined, the US response would have been hostile even if there were an all-inclusive set up. In that case the US would have come up with some other excuse. But practically the US stance on the issue does matter and Taliban need to have working relations with the leading power when it comes to recognition of the Afghan govt by the international community. This newspaper has published a story regarding internal differences among various Taliban ranks and after the announcement of the interim govt it appears the differences are still there. Taliban has not pronounced Mullah Hibatullah as the supreme leader because according to the previous reports some of the Taliban leaders do not seem eye to eye with this preposition. The nascent Afghan govt, which appears to be a stopgap arrangement according to Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid, has to face a number of challenges. The first and foremost task shall be how to form an all inclusive government. After the Panjshir episode, the top Taliban leadership is reluctant to take on board anybody from the Northern Alliance. But their friends both from within and without Afghanistan are said to have advised them accommodate the opposition parties as well, even if you don't like the idea. The economic challenges seem to be even of a bigger magnitude. For the moment Taliban does not have even a single penny to run the day to day affairs. The government servants including the police and military whatsoever have not been paid for last many months. Therefore the daunting task in front of the incumbent government shall be as to how and from where to generate funds. Cash aid from friendly countries such as China, Turkey, Qatar and to some extent Pakistan appears to be a quick fix solution. China has announced a grant of 31 million US dollars. This kind of aid ostensibly will have a price also but in the given circumstances that may be the only available way out until and unless Taliban comes out with something magical.

Then, creation of a military as well as police force shall also be a hard nut to crack because both these institutions have literally gone bankrupt. Majority of police and military personnel have either left the job or went into hibernation fearing a possible crack-down from the Taliban leadership. The allied forces trained and rather indoctrinated the security people against Taliban, and this is also a fact that these security people did their best to eliminate Taliban. In this backdrop, both can find it difficult to co-exist. ISI chief Lt. Gen Faiz Hameed's Kabul visit drew huge world attention, especially from the Indians. As a matter of fact he was not the only head of spy agency rather heads of Turkish and Qatari spy agencies were also present in Kabul that day. Pakistan was approached by some countries including the UK to help evacuate people via Torkham border. Pakistan could do this only with the approval of the Taliban leadership. It chiefly depends on Taliban as to how do they conduct themselves in the coming days. They have reiterated more than once that they would try to live up to the expectations in terms of formation of an inclusive government and ensuring that the Afghan soil is not used against any other country. Taliban need to be given adequate time to prove their commitments because realistically speaking Taliban has to start from a scratch therefore in some cases the govt may take more time than expected, to fulfill its vows made to the international community.

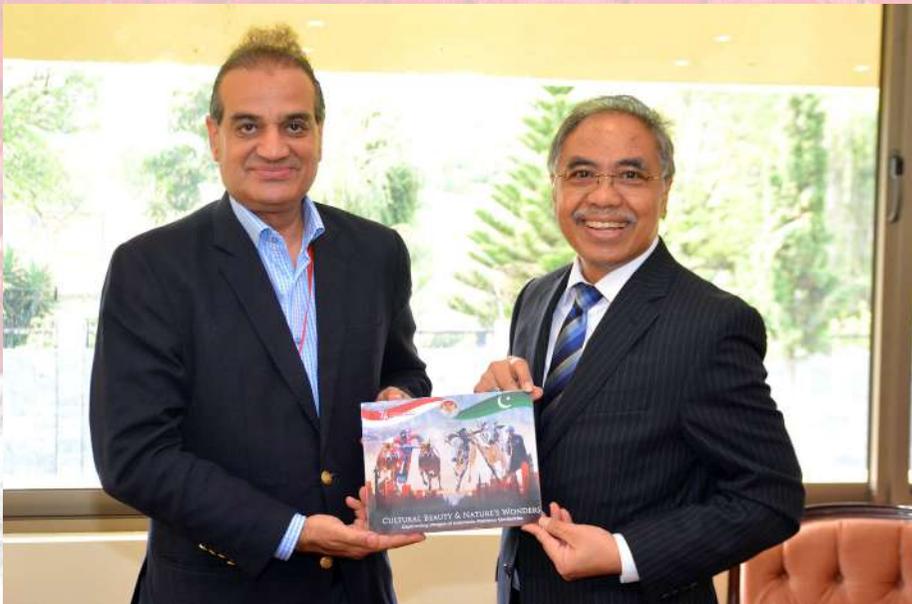
Ansar

Chief Editor's Profile: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti is a career journalist. He started off as District Correspondent of Daily The Muslim in 1988 from Gujrat. Later he moved to Islamabad and joined Pakistan Observer as Sub-Editor / Op-ed Writer, in 1993. In 1995 he again moved to The Muslim as Sub-Editor and he left The Muslim in 1997 to join THE Nation as City Editor and Diplomatic Correspondent, where he remained till 2002. His association with the 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 also served in Pakistan Telecommunication Company (PTCL) as Media Advisor/ Director Communication. He launched Diplomatic News Agency (DNA) in 2012. In May 2020 he launched Pakistan's First & only Diplomatic Newspaper Daily Islamabad POST.

Indonesia, Pakistan ties poised for a quantum leap

Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio says ASEAN-Pakistan collaboration has the potential to bring tremendous benefits for both sides; keen to enhance think-tank cooperation; ASEAN study centres being established in various institutions

Ansar Mahmood Bhatti



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan Adam Tugio gave an exclusive interview to Daily Islamabad POST. Ambassador Tugio talked about a variety of subject relating to bilateral as well as multilateral issues. He specifically talked about trade and economic cooperation between the two countries and shared his vision as to how this cooperation can further be strengthened. Here is the text of the interview.

1. Indonesia is celebrating its 76th Independence Day on 17 August 2021. Please share with our readers the significance of the Day and how do you plan to celebrate the event amidst prevailing Covid situation?

For every sovereign nation, Independence Day is a source of pride and a symbol of national unity. The 17th of August is a day of great significance for Indonesians because we honor their founding fathers' sacrifices for independence while also reaffirming our resolve to work hard in pursuit of wealth,

peace, and progress. This important day also gives an opportunity to celebrate national accomplishments and consider future plans of action.

Today, Indonesia is a vibrant democracy as well as a diverse and pluralistic society. We cherish the values of freedom and tolerance based on the principles of unity and diversity. As the largest economy in Southeast Asia, under the leadership of Indonesian President Joko Widodo, Indonesia has shown steady economic growth even in this turbulent pandemic time and has made significant social progress.

The Independence Day is traditionally celebrated across Indonesia with great enthusiasm. From the presidential palace to remote villages, the festivities include flag hoisting ceremonies, parades, competitions and cultural performances that reflect the national identity. However, the pandemic situation has certainly affected the routine life activities and big gatherings on this occasion would probably be difficult. But, the spirit to

celebrate is high as people are emotionally charged to reflect their association and love with their homeland. So, the celebration may be held virtually or at the limited scale this year but it would certainly not affect the vigor and sense of pride of the Indonesian people.

2. Covid has hit Indonesia hard like other countries. If you could briefly dilate upon the negative effects of the pandemic on the Indonesia economy and Government's measures to cope with this predicament?

The global economy has been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Small companies and the tourism sector have been hit hard by this pandemic. The impact of a pandemic is not confined to Indonesia. Following Eid Al-Adha, we have noticed an increase in the positive ratio. Around 25% of population have received inoculation as of August 1, but we observe that the virus is evolving. To prevent the virus from spreading, the Indonesian government has implemented social



restrictions in areas where the number of cases is high, which are reviewed on a daily basis to allow responsible economic activity to resume once the health situation has been stabilised.

The Indonesian government has set comprehensive COVID-19 policies. The National Economic Recovery Programs (NERP) offers a stimulus of up to IDR 700 trillion or USD 48 billion last year and almost the same amount for 2021. The stimulus will be used to support public healthcare, enhance social safety nets, and provide incentives to MSME's and business sector.

The health sector receives the largest allocation of USD 15 billion, followed by social protection with a total budget of USD 13 billion, MSMEs stimulus of USD 11 billion, and business incentive of USD 4.4 billion. After contracting to -5.32 last year, the economy is rebounding in the first semester of 2021, achieving its highest annual growth rate in 17 years. The expansion rate surpassed experts' expectations of 6.57 percent and was the best since the October-December quarter of 2004. The economy was bolstered by soaring exports, notably a 56 percent increase in commodities shipments, a resurgence in consumption and investment, and increased government expenditure.

3. Pakistan wants expansion and deepening of relations with especially the ASEAN countries. Do you think Pakistan's "Look East" policy can pay dividends?

I fervently believe that active ASEAN-Pakistan collaboration has the potential to



bring tremendous benefits for both sides. The ASEAN countries deeply appreciate "The Look East" policy of Pakistan and its strong desire to further expand the mutually beneficial cooperation. In the wake of ongoing geo-economic scenario, the importance of comprehensive ASEAN-Pakistan relations has also been increased significantly. The fast growing economy of the Asia Pacific region, which is the future hub of the world trade, offers a precious opportunity for cooperation and development. The Southeast Asian region is projected as centre of global trade activities with its combined population of over 649

million and a GDP exceeding USD 2.9 trillion or the fifth largest economy in the world. Moreover, Indonesia alone is a trillion dollars economy as well as the biggest economy in this region, which reflects the pattern of global trade trend towards this area.

Likewise, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), BRI initiative, Gwadar port are projects of immense importance in South Asia for the potential two-way investments. ASEAN has already gained substantive economic benefits from regional cooperation and peaceful conflict resolution strategies.





Therefore, as ASEAN's Sectoral Dialogue Partner, Pakistan could strengthen ties with ASEAN in the field of scientific research, education, IT, agriculture and through high-level interaction and connectivity with Pakistani diaspora living in Southeast Asia, which will certainly cement the bonds of friendship.

4. In the recent days, the Indonesian Embassy partnered with various think-tanks and organized webinars and conferences on Pakistan-ASEAN relations? How do you assess this activity? Besides, as the incumbent rotating chair of ASEAN Committee in Islamabad, what else do you have in mind to promote this relationship?

In fact, during my six-month tenure as Chairman of Asean Islamabad Committee (ACI), I have tried to enhance engagement with the think-tanks of Pakistan to create more awareness about ASEAN and to fur-

ther explore the possibilities of enhanced collaboration. The Indonesian Embassy has arranged several events in collaboration with think tanks like ISSI and CGSS, online courses, webinars with Vice Chancellors of Universities in Pakistan, especially to highlight the available opportunities and expand cooperation. I am glad that we have been successful in attracting the students through our efforts and there is renewed interest to know more about Southeast Asia among the Pakistani students.

To further enhance the people-to-people contacts, the Embassy has also been working to promote the establishment of ASEAN Study Centre and Indonesian Corners at some leading Pakistani universities for the benefit of students and book lovers to learn more about ASEAN and Indonesian literature, culture and other topics of interest. The Embassy is also in the process of publishing a "Coffee Table Book" that highlights the striking similarities in our geographically distant apart countries.

5. During past few years, we have witnessed enhanced economic activity between Indonesia and Pakistan. Are you satisfied with existing trade and economic cooperation or you think still more needs to be done?

We have certainly seen a healthy trend in economic activities between Indonesia and Pakistan during the last decade but still it does not reflect the true trade potential. Since there is always a room at the top, therefore, existing bilateral trade level could go much higher as vowed by the top leadership of the two countries. Indonesia and Pakistan with their combined population of almost half billion are the two emerging economies of young and talented people which make the prospects of bilateral investment and economic cooperation very bright.

Meanwhile, the Covid-19 pandemic is another hurdle, which is hampering the pace of trade activities. We are not sure when it will end,

therefore, the Embassy is utilising digital information technology tools to implement the new normal strategy and to develop linkages between the Chambers of Commerce & Industry of both sides. The strategy aims to ensure flow of information on business opportunities through virtual multi business meetings, virtual Trade Expo and introduce new investment plans. Another attractive opportunity for Indonesian trade sector is the ongoing CPEC project in Pakistan, which could serve as a prospective hub to increase Indonesia's trade and investment in south and central Asia. Several supporting factors, such as increasingly stable security conditions, pro-investor policies, a large population, big consumer market and talented millennial have also made Pakistan a promising investment destination for Indonesia. I trust that the real trade potential of our corporate sector is far above than the trade figures and what we need is more concerted efforts to materialize this potential.

6. Other messages you want to convey to the readers?

What a pleasant coincidence that our Pakistani brothers and sisters, like Indonesian, also commemorate their Independence Day in August. Let me take this opportunity, therefore, to extend my heartiest felicitations to the Government and the brotherly people of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of the 74th Anniversary of Independence of Pakistan. At this time of jubilation, I wish to pay tribute Pakistani brothers and sisters for making significant socio-economic progress. Pakistan is a lovely country of talented people and big potential. I am very glad that Indonesia-Pakistan ties are accelerating and consolidating with a fast pace in all important areas of bilateral interest. May the wonderful cordial relations and spirit of cooperation between our two countries continue to develop for the mutual benefit of our two countries and peoples.





Eurasian legal framework study cell established

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Eurasian Legal Framework Study Cell has been jointly established by Centre for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad, Area Study Center (Russia, China & Central Asia), University Of Peshawar and Mian Abdul Rauf Law Associates, Islamabad.

The vision of Eurasian Legal Framework Study Cell is to equip the coming generation with the requisite knowledge and producing experts in terms of Eurasian trade, commerce and investment laws and cross border regulatory framework.

The Eurasian Legal Frame-

work Study Cell will help developing the soft component of regional economic and political integration by making efforts for harmonizing and coordinating the regional legal regimes. The Study Cell will also help synchronize the lawfare among the relevant institutions in Eurasian region.

The cell will also facilitate in exchange programs of scholars and legal experts. It will also conduct research on aligning national laws/regulatory framework with the SCO legal framework.

On this occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding

was also signed between Centre for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad, Area Study Center (Russia, China & Central Asia), University Of Peshawar and Mian Abdul Rauf Law Associates, Islamabad. The MoU was signed by Mian Abdul Rauf, Former Advocate-General Islamabad & Prosecutor-General of Pakistan under the Protection of Pakistan Act, Prof. Shabir Ahmad Khan Director Area Study Centre, University of Peshawar and Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director CGSS on behalf of their respective organizations.

AIR LINK to go public with 'biggest ever' IPO

The firm also plans to venture into manufacturing and export of Chinese mobile phone brands, Muzaffar Piracha, CEO of Air Link says

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Lahore-based Air Link Communications, which assembles Chinese smartphone brands ITEL, Tecno, TCL and Alcatel, plans to raise over Rs 6 billion in equity through an initial public offering (IPO), the prospectus of the issue stated. The Air Link also distributes iPhone, Samsung, Huawei and Xiaomi handsets in Pakistan. JS Global Capital is the book runner to the IPO. In an announcement on social media over the weekend, JS Global CEO Kamran Nasir said that it will be the biggest ever IPO in Pakistan. In 2019, Faisalabad-based textiles manufacturer Interloop Ltd. raised Rs5.025 billion through the IPO. Air Link is offering 90 million shares, which will constitute 25% of the total post-IPO paid-up capital, at the floor price of Rs65, with a price band of 40% above the floor price, according to the prospectus. The IPO could value the firm at around Rs 25 billion, as per analysts. Book Building to the IPO will take place on August 30 and August 31, in which the investors will be eligible to subscribe 75% of shares. The remaining shares will later be offered to retail investors on September 6 and 7, according to the prospectus. Air Link has installed 8 assembly lines at its Lahore facility with a production capacity of 500,000 to 800,000 smartphones and feature phone sets per month, as per details on the official website of the firm. The facility has employed over 1,000 engineers and skilled workers. The firm also plans to venture into manufacturing and export

of Chinese mobile phone brands, Muzaffar H. Piracha, CEO of Air Link says in a video on the company's website. Muzaffar further said he was grateful to everyone for their unwavering support and trust in Air Link Communication. He also thanked Prime Minister Imran Khan and his team for providing a comprehensive policy that aims to incentivize local manufacturing of mobile phones in Pakistan.



Muzaffar H Piracha

In April this year, the prominent footwear exporter Service Global Footwear Ltd., raised Rs2.175 billion through an IPO to fund its joint venture with China's Long March Tyres. The IPO was over subscribed by 5.8 times. The Air Link IPO is expected to attract institutional as well as high net worth individuals in huge numbers, JS Global CEO Kamran Nasir said. The company intends to expand its sales outlets on over the rising demand for smartphones in the country.



374 Pakistani enterprises participate in 2021 SSACEIF

BEIJING: "A total of 374 Pakistani enterprises participate in this year's South & Southeast Asia Commodity Expo, among which 262 are exhibitors and 112 are purchasers," said Ms Li, who is responsible for the participating enterprises at the Expo and Investment Fair (SSACEIF) held online and offline in China's southwest city of Kunming. The 262 Pakistani exhibitors showcase 907 exhibits ranging from food, clothes, and motorbikes to handicrafts on the online platform, Ms Li told China Economic Net (CEN). The platform shows that the top 10 most-viewed Pakistani enterprises cluster in the fields of food, handicrafts and clothes, with Shan Foods Pvt. Ltd, Ismail Industries Limited, and Nadia Treasure topping the list. Launched in 2017, the SSACEIF has attracted more than 27,000 enterprises and provided the enterprises with services of the online exhibition, negotiation and signing over the years. The Forum has also worked with the China-South Asia Expo to promote the economic and trade exchanges and friendly cooperation between China and South Asian and Southeast Asian countries. The 2021 SSACEIF was co-hosted by the China Chamber of International Commerce, the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, China-ASEAN Centre and the Secretariat of China-South Asia Expo.

August 30 critical turning point in our history: President Erdogan

Turkish embassy organizes event to mark the anniversary

DNA

ANKARA: Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul on the occasion of 99th anniversary of Great Victory read out the message of the President of Turkey RECEP TAYY P ERDO AN. In the message the Turkish president said, 'We rejoice the 99th anniversary of the Great Victory, one of the cornerstones of our glorious history extending over centuries. I congratulate the August 30 Victory Day of our nation, of the Turkish Cypriots and of our citizens living in different countries of the world. On behalf of myself and my nation, I would like to thank all my friends and brothers who did not leave us alone on this day of pride.

He further said, on this occasion, I commemorate the Commander in Chief of our War of Independence, the founder of our Republic, Ghazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, and the esteemed members of our Grand National Assembly and the heroic soldiers of our army. The Great Offensive, launched under the commandship of Ghazi Mustafa Kemal, resulted in a decisive victory in Dumlupinar, after 4 days of hand-to-hand combat.

With this glorious victory enshrined in world war history, the Turkish Nation demonstrated that they would never accept a yoke on their homeland soaked with martyrs' blood. August 30 is one of the most critical turning points in our history, as it paved the way for the foundation of our Republic, and as our nation wrecked imperialistic intentions which forecast it a life span. Our nation, with this victory achieved despite all kinds of shortages and impossibility, once again demonstrated that these lands, which were made our home in Malazgirt in 1071, are our eternal homeland. The spirit, belief and will which inspired the



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul delivering message of President of Turkey. – DNA

Great Victory are setting the path for our nation today, as they did 99 years ago. The most important indications of this are the successes we have achieved in every field, from defence industry to economy, from foreign policy to energy, to the fight against subcontracted terrorist organizations which aim at the unity and integrity of our country.

Today, our country has become not only the hope for its 84 million citizens living within its borders, but also for its hundreds of millions of friends and brothers living in lands in our hearts, from the Balkans to Asia, from Africa to Europe. With the help of Allah, the support of our friends whose hearts beat with us, and the sincere prayers of our noble nation, we will live up to these hopes.

Despite some ill intentioned people among us, we will continue to defend the rights of the oppressed against the oppressors, and to strive for peace, justice and freedom to prevail all over the world.

Under the guidance of the faith which surged in Dumlupinar 99 years ago, 84 million of us will walk together towards our bright future with unity, peace and brotherhood. With these thoughts, I commemorate all the heroes of our War of Independence, especially Ghazi Mustafa Kemal, with gratitude. I wish Allah's mercy upon our veterans and martyrs who died for our country, our azan, our flag and our independence. Happy August 30 Victory Day to our nation and to all my brothers in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, the message concluded.

ISLAMABAD: Staff of the Turkish embassy attending a ceremony held to mark 99th anniversary of Great Victory, at the Turkish Embassy. – DNA



KOICA PROVIDES USD 12 million for drinking water project in Havelian

Korean ambassador says, Korean Government would support addressing water issues for friendship between the two countries and this project will improve people's quality of life by improving health indicators, achieve UN SDGs, and the water supply situation

Staff Report



PESHAWAR: KOICA provides USD 12 million for a safe drinking water supply system in Havelian, Abbottabad, KP Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Pakistan Office of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) KPK has signed a Record of Discussion (RoD) for a new grant aid project 'Gravity Based Safe Drinking Water Supply System in Havelian, Abbottabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan' on 24th August 2021, in Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) KPK office.

KOICA is a grant aid agency of the Korean government and has implemented various water, energy, and rural development projects in Pakistan. Mr. Yang Seokwoong, Country Director of KOICA, and Mr. Zakir Husain Afridi, Secretary of PHED the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, signed the Record of Discussion. Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Pakistan, His Excellency Mr. Shoukat Ali Yousoufzai Minister of Labour and Culture, attended the signing ceremony.

Taliban: Then and Now

The Taliban have won the war, but can they lead the peace?



Ishtiaq Ahmad

Ishtiaq Ahmad is the former Vice Chancellor of Sargodha University and Pakistan Chair at Oxford University. In his previous career as a journalist, he reported the rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan in the mid-1990s. This is his exclusive write-up for The Islamabad Post

EXCLUSIVE

NOW that the 20-year American imperial project in Afghanistan has become a footnote of history, it is time to focus on the victors of this war: The Taliban. Two comparisons are worth making here, one, the fundamental difference between the Taliban's debut rise to power and their current conquest; and, two, their expected conduct in power this time around like or unlike the previous one. History, current and past, provides the answer.

'Who are the Taliban?' So was titled my first news story from Kandahar in mid-1990s for an English daily in Pakistan. I was then a journalist and on a reporting assignment to travel to southern Afghanistan and investigate the instant rise of this Afghan militia. The Taliban had emerged as a ragtag group of madrassa militants under the leadership of Mullah Omar in response to years of Mujahideen infighting and oppressive rule. A major factor that contributed to the Taliban's rise was the support from the war weary Afghan public for their swift enforcement of justice, disarmament and rule of law in the areas under their control.

The Inside Story

However, as the following snippets from the inside story of the Taliban headquarter in Kandahar city during the month Ramadan in 1995 shall reveal, the actual tale about this religious militia was even then quite different from its public portrayal: "It's Friday afternoon (Feb.17). As we enter the exit gate of the headquarter, I see a dozen or so people standing along the driveway, as if waiting for some important guests to arrive. Ali, my Taliban companion from Quetta, alerts me that the Emir-ul-Azeem (as Mullah Omar was titled then) is among them. I ask Ali to request his leader for a short interview,

introducing me as a journalist from Pakistan. The message is passed. Mullah Omar looks at me and murmurs in Pashto asking whether I am fasting or not. Ali translates this to me. As soon as I say 'yes,' the Taliban leader utters something in Pashto, and the entire group bursts into laughter. Ali is quick to tell me why: 'Emir-ul-Azeem says these Pakistanis always lie.' A chill



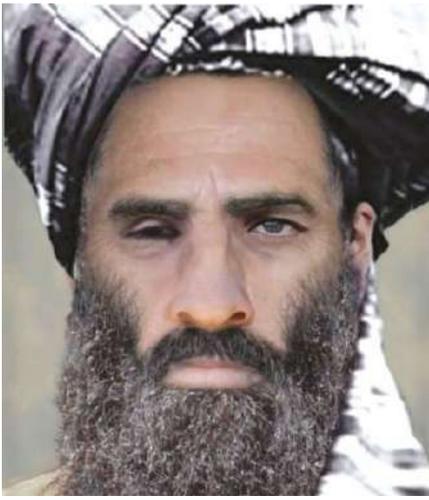
Ultimately, the Taliban remain a militant movement, rooted in religious bigotry, seeking to impose its brand of Islam on the Afghan people and desiring that the fellow Muslim nations shall replicate the same. The legitimacy of the Afghan Taliban movement lies in its ideological purity, which the Taliban leaders will try to uphold at all cost. Otherwise, they will lose their key public support base



runs down my spine, as the Qazi court is in session next door, awarding instant Islamic punishments.

"The conversation stops there, and I prefer to step aside. Soon the convoy of guests arrives. Mullah Abdul Salam Rocketi and his brother –recently released from the Quetta prison in a prisoners exchange deal with Pakistani authorities – are greeted with warmth and love. After brief conversation with him, Mullah Omar writes down war instructions on a paper foil taken out of a Silk Cut cigarette packet, which Mullah Rocketi then passes on to his commanders ready for the battlefield in Ghazni, the ninth Afghan province under Taliban attack.

"It rains heavily that evening. So, I take refuge in a Taliban barracks, but it is crowded and scary. Lucky enough, I find refuge inside the headquarter. Following Traveeh prayers, in a side room, I sit with some Taliban Shoora members on the carpet. The discussion over Afghan tea is mostly about whether to attack Kabul now or capture more Afghan provinces. All of them hate Hekmatyar, the Hizb-e-Islami leader, and are impatient to destroy his Charasyab stronghold to reach Kabul. They want to establish the true Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan and also replicate it in neighbouring Muslim countries. A Shoora member from the North proudly claims that over 100 Taliban have already joined the Islamic fight against Russian occupation in Chechnya. "Maulvi Amir Muttaqi (who would later serve as Information Minister in the Taliban government is currently a senior Taliban leader) and Mullah Mansoor (who succeeded Mullah Omar as Emir-ul-Momineen and was later killed in a US drone strike in Baluchistan)) also join in later. The discussion moves to more substantive issues.



Mullah Omar, former Supreme leader of Taliban

Both of them say, their leader is very clear about enforcing Hanafi form of Sunni Islam in Afghanistan, which is also an ideal system of government for other Muslim nations. From Taliban conversations, I can easily guess that they carry a deep sense of pride, for defeating the communist Soviet Union; mixed with a deep sense of betrayal by the Americans, for using and then abandoning the Mujahideen. Hence, now they want to defeat the remaining superpower. When asked why they partnered with America before, they rationalise it by saying: 'We joined the lesser evil to defeat the bigger evil, now we shall defeat the lesser evil.'

Hence, it is apparent from the anecdotal evidence presented above that the Taliban were quite clear at the initial stage of their debut rise to power about their political objective of establishing the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan. They also shared the Al Qaeda's agenda of exporting violence across the Afghan frontiers at the world stage, which is why the international terrorist outfit eventually found a safe haven under the Taliban rule. Moreover, the Taliban were also clear about their military strategy. Realising that mere public support was not enough to conquer the rest of Afghanistan, the Taliban were willing to forge unholy alliances with notorious Afghan warlords like Mullah Rocketi.

Yet, it took seven months for the Taliban to capture the south-western province of Herat in September 1995 due to the fierce resistance from its largely Shia Hazara population. And, it would take another year for the Taliban to conquer Kabul in September 1996. The last stronghold in the outskirts of the Afghan capital to fall was Charasayab, where the Hizbe-Islami forces of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar fought hard against the Taliban. The Taliban had first entered Mazar-e-Sharif in May 1997, but were routed within couple of days. They were finally able to capture this capital city of the ethnically Uzbek-dominated northern province of Balkh in August 1998. Moreover, even while ruling Kabul, the Taliban were never able to conquer almost 10

percent of northern Afghanistan, where the Northern Alliance retained control, with its ethnically Tajik-dominated leadership intact in the north-eastern Panjshir Valley.

The Swift Victory

The stark difference between the rise of the Taliban then and now is the sheer speed with which they have conquered entire Afghanistan within a fortnight – surprisingly starting the major military push from the north this time before the final assault on Kabul. The Taliban also pursued an effective military strategy, which was to choke the Afghan regime by denying it trade revenues, and energy and communication means, then encircle Kabul from the north and the rest of the sides. Well before the Afghan capital swiftly fell to the Taliban on August 15, they had established control over almost all the provincial capitals, except the Panjshir Valley, including Jalalabad in the east. Mazar-e-Sharif also quickly fell, despite President Ashraf Ghani's last-ditch effort to shore up alliance with the Uzbek militia of Rashid Dostum, who himself chose to flee.

Clearly, the hasty withdrawal of foreign forces – under the US-Taliban agreement that was signed last year without securing a ceasefire – emboldened the Taliban to reconquer the war-ravaged country without much resistance. With the US air support, the Afghan National Army was able to resist the Taliban for years, sacrificing tens of thousands of its soldiers. The denial of this support demoralised this army to the extent that its soldiers volunteered to surrender before the advancing Taliban combatants.

Despite this, the incapacitation of the Afghanistan National Defence and Security Force was a factor that contributed to the Taliban's blitz. With widely known corruption, ineptness and factionalism, especially its rank-and-file dominated by the erstwhile Northern Alliance, there was no chance that it would act as the last resort for the beleaguered Ghani regime's survival from the impending Taliban onslaught on the Afghan capital.

Once the Taliban reached the gates of Kabul, Ghani had no choice but to flee. First, he was betrayed by the old foxes like former President Hamid Karzai and the chief Afghan interlocutor for talks with the Taliban and his political rival, Abdullah Abdullah. Both are said to have played an instrumental role in persuading the provincial commanders not to resist the advancing Taliban en route to Kabul. Hence, it is no surprise that they are currently trying to reap the reward of this service by negotiating their role in the Taliban-led government.

Second, it is also believed that President Ghani had set up various meetings for August 15, and that he was forced to take the flight out of Afghanistan only after being told that a Taliban death squad had entered the city to execute him the same way as the Taliban had publicly hung the former Afghan president, Najibullah, by the pole in a Kabul square back in 1996. Thus, he simply feared for his life. Obviously, he had to subsequently create the pretence of "avoiding the bloodshed" for an act that was actually motivated by basic hu-



Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada, the current supreme leader of Taliban

man instinct – and understandably so.

Like before, in the Taliban's current conquest of Afghanistan, Panjshir Valley remains in the hands of their only opponents: Amrullah Saleh, the Afghan Vice President who has now declared himself as the President in Ghani's absence and Ahmed Massoud, the son of legendary Afghan commander Ahmad Shah Massoud and the head of the National Resistance Front of Afghanistan. The Taliban may again find it hard to capture this remote and inaccessible place. However, the fact the Taliban are in control of the entire country and turncoats like Abdullah have betrayed the cause of the Shura-e Nazar founded and led by late Massoud in the valley, means the odds are in the Taliban's favour.

The New Face

Meanwhile, the fate of the Afghans is once again in the hands of the Taliban. For the nations in the region and beyond, their return to power has also caused serious alarm. We are well aware of their conduct in power at home and in relations beyond the last time around. Can we expect the Taliban to act differently this time? There are two opposite perspectives on the expected conduct of the Taliban once again in power, one motivated by political interests and another by humanitarian concerns. The first one is offered by some official circles and seconded by the so-called embedded journalists or scholars. It holds that the Taliban have learned their lessons from the long war and will not repeat the mistakes made during their previous stint in power.

The 'change' argument is grounded in the Taliban's pronouncements from Kabul that they are not seeking to monopolise the government and are ready to share power with other Afghan parties and minority groups; that they have no objection to women at workplace or girls at schools as long as Islamic principles are being observed; and that they will not allow the use of Afghan soil by the Al-Qaeda or any other terrorist group for terrorist activities against neighbouring countries and the world.

However, the facts on the ground, as reported by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Human Rights Watch and major media outlets, confirm the veracity of the alternative perspective on the expected conduct of the Taliban while in government again. It is that the Taliban have already committed war crimes and ruled with fear in the areas under their occupation: executing captured soldiers, persecuting unarmed civilians, shutting down schools for girls, restricting women's movement in public, levying heavy taxes, so on and so forth.

Kabul has changed significantly during the last 20 years, not least because of the demographic explosion that has created a vibrant urban and educated middle class that has tasted the fruits of freedom, development and democracy. Therefore, for now, the Taliban have been careful in not enforcing their strict Shariah edicts on the public at large. However, there have been isolated incidents of repression by Taliban gunmen. The private media, including major TV outlets, have chosen to adapt to the new normal under the Taliban through self-censorship.

The Taliban have also reportedly not kept their end of the bargain in the February 2020 agreement with America: that they will not allow the use of Afghan soil by Al Qaeda or any terrorist group or individual against the security of the United States and its allies. Since then, the UN Sanctions Monitoring Committee has twice reported to the Security Council about the Taliban's persisting nexus with the Al Qaeda and its affiliate, the Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent.

As the recent bombing at the Kabul airport by Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP), which killed 13 US soldiers and several dozen Afghan civilians, suggests, the Taliban do have an ideological transnational Islamic rival to defeat in Afghanistan. No US soldier had died in Afghanistan since the US-Taliban accord in February 2020. Hence, this was indeed a departing salvo to the US military in the last days of its evacuation from Kabul. It is also most likely that the US was able to kill two ISKP leaders, including the alleged planner and facilitator, with the help of intelligence provided by the Taliban. Hence, at least in the case of ISKP, we can expect the Taliban to cooperate with the outside world to eliminate this relic of the ISIS.

Currently, the Taliban are in the process of forming a government, which they claim will be inclusive and based on power sharing. They have already stated clearly that the new political setup will not be democratic, as there will be no elections. It will be run by a leadership council, a jirga of sort, which the Taliban already have as a governing body of their movement.

In their agreement with the US, the Taliban had made no commitments on human rights, knowing very well the US was simply seeking face saving through this accord. Their pronouncements on preserving women rights or media freedom, though in accord with Shariah law and Afghan values, will be fully tested only once the government they lead comes into practice on the ground.

If my afore-cited recollection of the time spent with the Taliban leaders in their infancy, even if most of them are dead now, suggests anything, it is that the Taliban are Taliban, old or new doesn't matter. How can Mullah Haibutullah Akhundzada, their current Emir-ul-Momineen, be better than earlier two Emirs? Ultimately, the Taliban remain a militant movement, rooted in religious bigotry, seeking to impose its brand of Islam on the Afghan people and desiring that the fellow Muslim nations shall replicate the same. The legitimacy of the Afghan Taliban movement lies in its ideological purity, which the Taliban leaders will try to uphold at all cost. Otherwise, they will lose their key public support base. If left alone, the Taliban will do exactly what they did to the people before on the basis of religion, gender and ethnicity. If left unchecked, sooner or later, they will play host to Al Qaeda or other terrorist groups, once again jeopardising regional peace and international security. In any case, their wholesome victory in Afghanistan already seems to serve a glimmer of light for the world of extremism and political Islam.

The Current Challenge

Therefore, the current dilemma facing the outside world in dealing with the new rulers of Afghanistan is extremely acute. The key challenge will be to ensure that the Taliban strictly comply with their commitments on women and minority rights, freedom of speech and relations with the world. The Taliban-led regime will be in dire need of international financial support, which must also be made conditional on its internal conduct and external behavior.

The danger is that if the Taliban-led regime was ostracised by the outside world, it will most likely revert to the same puritanical venture as before, with deadly consequences for the Afghan people and the nations beyond. The US has frozen around \$10 billion Afghan foreign exchange reserves, and it still has the final say in decision of the IMF, World Bank and other international financial and donor organizations.

Thus, the Taliban have inherited a country that is not only difficult to govern due to pent up expectations of the youthful urban population in urban spaces like Kabul, but is currently short of cash even to meet basic needs of the people. Thus, the fear is that, after having been defeated and humiliated in Afghanistan, the US may try take revenge against the Taliban by squeezing the economic capacity of Afghanistan, by denying what is its due. The question is, will the US allies in Europe again bandwagon with Washington to worsen the economic challenge for the Taliban-led government? All these countries must be aggrieved for also have been humiliated by band wagoning with the US in the 20-year fruitless war as members of NATO.

So, ultimately, the international engagement, especially of the countries in the region, with the Taliban-led Afghanistan remains the only viable option. China and Russia abstained in the UN Security Council, as it resolved on August 30 to hold the Taliban responsible if they dithered on their public commitment to

respect human rights and allow the safe passage of the remaining foreigners and Afghans desiring to leave the country.

Now the mantle is on China, Russia and European powers to prevent the economic collapse of the post-American socio-political order in the war-ravaged nation. They must prevail in the UN-led global decision making to prevent the implosion of the Afghan state under the Taliban, which will surely taking us back to the 1990s and lead to the repeat of the deadly events that harmed the Afghans, the nations of the region and ultimately hit the symbolic pillars of US financial and military power: the destruction of World Trade Centre in New York and the damage to the Pentagon building in Washington, DC, on 9/11.

In the end, the 20-year war ended by damaging the leftover of American credibility as a global power as well as its moral standing in the world, if we also add the images of the Afghans clinging desperately to the sides of the US military planes and meeting their unfortunate fate after falling from the sky; or if we take into account the appeals on social media being made by the Afghan enablers left behind by the US and British armies as they cut and ran from Kabul to complete the withdrawal a minute before midnight of August 30.

The departing forces of the US have also left an additional expression of their recklessness behind, as they destroyed not just the military and civilian planes at the Kabul airport but also smashed its control tower and everything else that is need to regulate the air traffic. Of course, the Qatari and Turkish engineers may overtime be able to operationalize the airport, but this sort of behaviour cannot be expected from a country that claims to champion democracy and human rights the world over.

The Future Ahead

We can only hope that the Biden administration will build upon its correct decision to take the US out of an unwinnable war, by prevailing upon the "special interests" inside the US – the war machinery built upon the deep nexus between the Pentagon and CIA, and the defence contractors, the so-called military-industrial complex – not to punish the government of Afghanistan led by the force that defeated the US war machinery and exposed the "Special interests" in the manner never seen in recent history.

Through the international financial institutions and human rights organisations, the outside world can keep a constant tab on the Taliban way of governance, tightening the screws each time Taliban leaders waver from meeting global expectations. This is the point that China, Russia, Afghanistan's other regional neighbours and the European powers can make in the ensuing international debate on Afghanistan's future so as to ensure a working relationship and a healthy engagement with the upcoming Taliban-led political order in Afghanistan.

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Speakers support initiation of EU-Pakistan Business Forum

EU delegation has launched Forum to facilitate Pakistani SMEs, boost trade to European Union

Arij Ghaznavi



ISLAMABAD: The speakers during the first ever EU-Pakistan Business Forum unanimously supported and praised the idea of establishment of EU-Pakistan Business Forum and pledged their whole-hearted support to make the initiative a complete success. The speakers also eulogized the role of the European Delegation for taking a lead in this regard.

The speakers expressed these views on the occasion of launching of the Forum. Ambassador of European Union Androulla Kaminara, diplomats a large number of businessmen and members of the civil society attended the launching ceremony. Renowned businessmen Khursheed Barlas facilitated the event. The EU ambassador shared her vision to enable Pakistani SMEs to benefit from a wide range of GSP + concessions. She said, to make it easier for SMEs to op-

erate in the EU single market and beyond, the European Commission took actions to remove regulator and practical obstacles to doing business for the SMEs which provided opportunities for them to scale up their presence in the EU.

She wished to replicate this in Pakistan and said she was prepared to help the government and Pakistani business people to achieve this together. She added diversification into other sectors will boost trade and ultimately allow Pakistan to take full advantage of GSP plus.

The EU ambassador while responding to media queries said that a few days ago the EU heads of missions had invited the information minister Fawad Chaudhry for a briefing on the proposed PMDA. The minister told them that there was no draft as such. She said EU believes in the press freedom and

that message was conveyed to the minister as well.

It may be mentioned here that the inaugural event was attended by representatives of local SMEs from four sectors: Gems, Jewellery and Mining, Information Technology, Handicrafts and Fashion-wear as well as Travel and Tourism. The EU-Pakistan Business Forum initiative aims to provide opportunities for both EU and Pakistani businesses to work together to become engines of development and partnership and contribute to enhancing bilateral trade. During the first Islamabad session, the participants were apprised about how they could benefit from the European Union's GSP+ Scheme, that provides two thirds of tariff lines duty free access to the EU market with the rest on preferential duties.

Other sectors including the agricultural and auto-parts manu-



facturers will be included in subsequent meetings. The Pakistani economy consists of almost 3.3 million SMEs comprising of service providers, manufacturing units and start-ups.

SMEs make up over 30% of Pakistan's GDP, account for

approximately 25% of export generation and provide over 70% industrial employment. While in the EU, Europe's 25 million small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of the EU economy. SMEs provide two out of three

industrial jobs in the EU. The Business Forum will play a key role in bringing together SME's from the EU and Pakistan to enhance their export orientation as well as collaboration in technology transfer and promotion of businesses.

The Role of Republic of Kazakhstan in Bridging Gap between World Religions

Professor Dr. Muhammad Zia-Ul-Haq

INCREASING religiosity has made faiths very important in global affairs. Faith has become a significant force in the global society. Religion is a force of conflict resolution but it has been portrayed as a reason for conflict creation. In contemporary international circumstances religion has returned as a powerful force for construction or destruction. The effectiveness of religious is particularly felt in the area such as Kashmir, Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Chechnya, Pakistan, India, Northern Ireland, the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, and other parts of world which are acute zones of conflict. It is reported that Muslims, Catholic Croats and Orthodox Serbs of Balkan all are from same ethnic background and all three speak the same language and share the same race but divided by the religion. Religion is often considering at the fault-line along which the sides divide in global conflicts. The reason for tensions on the name of religion is its role in defining the identity. The twentieth century was dominated for ideology while the 21st century will be famous by the identity. The turn of focus from ideology to identity brought religious affiliations at the center stage of contemporary world.

Various types of regional, economic and ethnic conflicts are often turning towards religious dimensions which help exclusivists and extremist to use 'them and us' mentality for controlling attitude of the people on the name of religion and killing the innocents on the name of religion. No theology is legitimizing their actions but the causes and consequences of their action determining that how and where religions will be dealt in twenty-first century. Incidents such as 9/11 have illustrated us the ability of a few persons to bring their entire civilization into a conflict with other civilization—whether their fellow majority agrees or does not agree with their thinking or actions. Present circumstances dis-

close that extremism is not limited to any specific race, religion, or region. It is a global phenomenon and extremists are present everywhere. Some theorists are of the view that religions are as they were before and contemporary religiosity is simply a modern version of the old theory of despotism and some fanatical religious subscribe this theory. In our view the real dichotomy is not among world religions, but between exclusivists and extremists, on the one hand, and pluralists and inclusivists on the other.

Due to this dominating position of religions, Professor Hans King has rightly observed 'No peace among the nations without peace among the religions. No peace among the religions without dialogue between the religions. No dialogue between the religions without investigation of the foundation of the religions.'

First time in the history on this scale and frequency, there are the serious efforts at a global level for mutual understanding among world religion. In these global efforts the most effective and serious consideration to world religions was given by the HE Nursultan Nazarbayev, Founding President of Republic of Kazakhstan. After the independence, in the formative period of the republic of Kazakhstan, he realized that sustainable economic development is dependent on peace and pace is not passable without bringing world religions closer and bridging gap among their followers. For this great task President Nursultan Nazarbayev invited leaders of world and traditional religions to Astana in 2003. The First Congress of Leaders of world and traditional religions was held on September 23-24, 2003 in Astana. Leaders and eminent representatives of religions as well as honorable guests from 13 countries of Europe, Asia and Africa participated in the forum. It was decided in this first congress that a permanent secretariat of the congress of world and traditional Religions com-

prises of representatives of leaders and eminent personalities of religions should be established to promote following goals and objectives:

- promoting global dialogue among religions and cultures
- deepening and strengthening mutual understanding and respect among different religious communities
- development of the culture of tolerance and mutual respect as opposed to the ideology of hatred and extremism;
- cooperation and interaction with all international organizations and structures that pursue the goals of promoting dialogue between religions, cultures and civilizations.

To achieve these goals and objectives the Secretariat has organized up to know several congresses. As already mentioned first Congress of Leaders of world and traditional religions was held on September 23-24, 2003 in Astana. The participants of the First Congress decided to hold inter-religious summit on a regular basis and set up a working body. The Second Congress of leaders of world and traditional religions was held on September 12-13, 2006 in Astana on the theme of 'Religion, society and international security.' This Congress was held at the state of the art purposely built forum's permanent venue 'Palace of Peace and Harmony'. The second congress, which brought together 43 delegations from 20 countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and Americas, adopted 'The Principles of Inter-religious Dialogue' as core theme. On the basis of the recommendations the second congress International Centre for Cultures and Religions was established. 'The Role of Religious Leaders in Building a World of Tolerance, Mutual Respect and Cooperation' was theme of third Congress which held on July 1-2, 2009 in Astana. In this congress visionary leader of Republic of Kazakhstan proposed creation of a Council of Religious Leaders that would coordinate

the activities of the Congress, engage in interaction and cooperation with other forums and international organizations that pursue the goals of promoting dialogue among cultures and religions. The Fourth Congress of leaders of world and traditional religions, was held on May 30-31, 2012 in Astana with the theme 'Peace and harmony as the choice of mankind. The Council of Religious Leaders – which brings together leaders and eminent representatives of world and traditional religions was set up in this congress. The members of the Council have founded an alley called 'Rukhanijarasym' (Spiritual harmony) in the capital city of Kazakhstan. 5TH Congress of Leaders of world and Traditional Religions held on 10-11 June 2015 at Astana, Kazakhstan.

It acknowledged the important role of the Congress and the contribution of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the promotion of inter-religious and inter-civilizational dialogue to build a peaceful, just and safe world in the XXI century. The VI Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in Astana officially ended on October 11, 2018. The Congress united representatives of more than 80 delegations from 46 countries, including politicians, religious leaders of Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, as well as representatives of

international organizations. The participants adopted the final declaration outlining the role of the political and religious leaders in the maintenance of peace and stability.

All the initiatives of the republic of Kazakhstan through secretariat of world and traditional religions under the patronization of HE Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of Kazakhstan are contributing to bridge gap among the followers of world religions. It has not only created instructional framework for peace among world religion but also engaged religious leaders from all over the world representing all major religion in this great task. The substantive achievement of the secretariat is mutual respect and friendly relationship among the representatives of the world religions. The achievements of the pioneer work of the Republic of Kazakhstan are contributing in changing the differences into diversities.

The themes and sub themes that have been adopted in various interfaith meetings affirm that the present developments in science and technology require parallel progress in the relationship of followers of various religious and cultural traditions. The time has acknowledged the need for joint efforts by all major civilizations to promote a culture of dialogue on the basis of diversity, difference, plurality toler-

ance, freedom of expression, mutual respect and sincere readiness at the grass root level. Agreement on the agenda on the basis of common interests such as trans-cultural norms, spiritual satisfaction, justice and submission to the creature of the universe will lead dialogue to succeed.

The dialogue is the only hope for saving the world from clashes and conflicts among world civilizations; otherwise, hatred, violence and worldwide conflicts will continue taking religious dimension after feeding from misunderstandings, misconceptions, and misrepresentations. Confidence of human beings on the movement of dialogue lead us ahead and we will be able to talk on other matters that are important to all nations, such as holy places, ecology, food technology, medical ethic etc. Worldwide efforts against hunger, disease and natural disasters can be unified only after a better understanding, harmony and peace among the faiths through dialogue.

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COVID-19 origin tracing and cowboy diplomacy



Shakeel Ahmad Ramay
Political Economist

COWBOY diplomacy originated from USA and has prominent place in American global engagements. It has adopted an instrument to pursue and secure its interest at any cost or by any mean. The term was first coined by American press in 1902 to describe the diplomacy of Theodore Roosevelt Jr. President of USA. He introduced the phares of “speak soft and carry a big stick”. He applied it to tackle the diplomatic issues of his time. He was criticized by independent minds and peace-loving persons. Howbeit, the successive administrations happily adopted it and make it prominent part of their strategies. They refined the phares according to their needs and preferences.

President Reagan redefined the terminology and said, “talk tough and carry a big stick”. The declaration of USSR as Evil Empire was first sign of his talk tough policy and adaptation of cowboy diplomacy. USSR’s invasion of Afghanistan provided him opportunity to apply it. The success of Afghanistan and fall of USSR strengthened the hands of proponents of cowboy diplomacy.

President Bush took it new heights by using the phares of “you are with us, or against us”. It means there is no talk, only carry the stick. It was a sheer sentence of arrogance, which led the disturbance of global order. It resulted in the economic crises and ultimately withdrawal of USA from Iraq and Afghanistan. Unfortunately, USA did not learn from the mistakes and failure of cowboy diplomacy. Rather they are trying to find new avenues of implementation of cowboy diplomacy and China is new victim. They are not sparing any area of international relation and working really hard to implement the cowboy diplomacy against China. They even did not spare the human life-threatening virus of COVID-19. Although, COVID-19 requires cooperation but USA is moving in other direction. Since the outbreak of virus USA has launched a comprehensive campaign to malign China. It is happening at the highest level of government of USA. First, President Trump and Mike Pompeo were steering the campaign. Now President Biden and his administration have taken over the job. President Trump and Pompeo started to call it China virus and also engaged some countries to support USA. The campaign even continued during the most sever attack of COVID-19 on USA. Trump administration spent more time in criticizing China than putting efforts to control the COVID-19 in country. USA achieved nothing except the devastating results in the

form of infection and deaths in USA due to COVID-19.

It was expected that Mr. Biden will change the practices of Mr. Trump and bring some sense in American policies to fight COVID-19. It did not happen. It seems it was just change of hands; the policy is same. Rather it seems Biden Administration has accelerated efforts to blame China. They mobilized resources to create the confusion and undermine efforts to counter the COVID-19. Although, Biden administration is reversing many policy initiatives of Trump administration, but China is constant factor of both administrations. Rather new administration is showing more enthusiasm to spread fake news on COVID-19 to blame China. President Biden is portraying himself as the champion of anti-China rhetoric and campaign.

President has found new battle ground in the form origin tracing of COVID-19. USA has adopted all tools of smear campaign to pinpoint China. President Biden has ordered the intelligence community to come up with evidence of origin of COVID-19 by focusing China. So, administration wants evidence from intelligence community not from the science community. It clearly indicates that the USA has some other motives, instead of finding the truth. There is consensus among the many experts that the whole campaign is to contain the China and COVID-19 is only smoke screen.

It is open secret that prior to COVID-19, USA launched many initiatives to contain China including QUAD, Pivot of Asia, etc. USA also launched trade war, banned Chinese companies and restricted American companies to work with China in modern technology. President Trump even said that USA will not allow any country to surpass USA in modern technologies by referring the progress of China in technology. It is part of USA policy that USA will not tolerate any peer competitor and will do anything and everything to eliminate the peer competitor. It is perfect example of cowboy diplomacy in contemporary world.

COVID-19 is new instrument of cowboy diplomacy. Despite repeated warnings of possible disastrous results, USA is sticking to its policy. World Health Organization (WHO) in 2021 concluded that it is extremely unlikely that the virus comes out of laboratory. It was in response to propaganda that virus leaked from the Wuhan laboratory. Further, WHO report highlighted that the safety mechanisms and record of Wuhan lab is very comprehensive, and execution of safety measures are also very strict. There is no evidence of leak of virus of from laboratory. Ide-

ally speaking the debate on the subject should stop with this conclusion.

Unfortunately, it did not happen rather USA accelerated the campaign against China. Now USA is compelling the international community to accept the USA version and blame China. USA is again asking WHO to study the Wuhan laboratory. However, USA does not like the idea to inspect and study the USA laboratories. It is quite astonishing, a country which is asking for a comprehensive study of origin does not allow the inspection of its laboratories. China has asked many times to USA to open the Fort Detrick Laboratory for inspection and probe, but USA is not listening to this. China also offered if USA open Fort Detrick laboratory then China will also open Wuhan Institute of Virology. It is fair proposition, but USA is not giving any head to this proposal.

Therefore, many scientists and experts believe that the demand of USA is politically motivated. It does not have any substance. The purpose is only to malign China. This is another example of cowboy diplomacy. It is more dangerous option, as it directly relates to human life.

Despite all this negativity and smear campaign China is cooperating with the world to combat the challenge of pandemic. China has already provided more than 900 million doses of vaccine to world, especially to developing and poor countries. China is also aiming to provide 2 billion doses this year. China has also provided billions of masks to world. China is also providing oxygen generators, cylinders, protective suits etc. to world. President Xi at global health summit of WHO, in May 2021, also promised to provide US\$ 3 billion to help countries to counter the health and economic impacts of COVID-19. However, it is pertinent to mention here that no single country can handle this pandemic alone. There is need of cooperation. Thus, it is suggested that USA should come out of this mind set of witch hunting and working to strengthen the cooperation. There is no second opinion that USA is the most advanced country and has the technology to assist world in fight against COVID-19. USA can deploy these resources to help the poor and developing countries. It will be a win-win scenario. As, on one hand it will help to eliminate COVID-19 and on other hand it will improve the image of USA as global power.

In conclusion, cowboy diplomacy will not work against China, as China is powerful country. China also does not have fault lines; which USA can exploit. Thus, there is need to come out of this mind set of cowboy diplomacy.

30th Independence Day anniversary of Ukraine celebrated



Counter productivity of foreign invasions

MILITARY solutions and foreign interventions have never fixed political and societal problems. In occupied countries many people prefer their own rulers over foreigners as a means to preserving their freedom, culture and identity. Sirin Ebadi, a Nobel prize winning human rights activist, argues against western intervention. She implies that despite a regime's poor human rights record, gender discrimination and lack of democracy, any involvement by foreign powers would be undesirable and unhelpful. It would simply make matters worse. Instead, she insists that change must come from within, and points to the relatively strong women's movement in Iran compared with other Islamic states. The recent results of foreign invasions are a proof of their failure in building trustworthy institutions through outside interventions. Both in Iraq and Afghanistan, the main aim was on engaging and training people and not on constructing strong, loyal organizations. As the people were trained by international forces to fight their own, corruption and exploitation prevailed due to the lack of trust, purpose and identity. Lack of moral and crisis of identity was strong enough to convince everyone to give up once the decision of withdrawal had been made.

One thing that has been common in all the recent global invasions and their military trainings is a deep-rooted sense of instability, as a consequence of their downfall. America had faced great disgrace in Vietnam many years ago followed by other military blunders that it had staged since then, and as a result Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, among others have suffered the consequences. The countries, their people and the neighboring states have been made to suffer for superpower's follies. Always presuming that it will be better than before, foreign powers have not been able to derive a lesson from their mistakes. The scale of tragedy has worsened every time.

Now after spending two decades and more than trillion dollars, the US abandoned Afghanistan just to be handed over to the very people it had resisted in the first place. In a matter of days the Taliban retook a country, loaded with American weapons, corrupted with traitors, and filled with unsafe individuals. A professional soldier's potential is not just physical ability, but mental conditioning and discipline and most importantly his sense of loyalty. In the Ottoman Empire, the most elite and admired unit, the Janissaries were the private army of the Sultan. Well trained, lavishly dressed and of iron discipline. They were mostly converts who were often members of the Bektashi order. A Janissary's power was not just in his physical strength but also in keeping ranks, following orders, and standing against all odds. It was about fencing skills, following discipline, and staying faithful to the empire. A strong faithful unit was set as a basis for the loyalty of the Janissaries who led the Turks to many victories including that of Constantinople's. The Turks made a loyal, disciplined and highly trained unit that set an example across the world. A preference was laid over loyalty before their training to compose a strong unit of army for the empire.

The Afghans who had been fighting one another, their

neighbors and the Soviets for centuries are born in a fighting zone. But the US had always declared that its mission in Afghanistan was to train the Afghans to fight for their country. It seems apparent now that it was not about training the people but more about making the superpower image look good through media. The US intended on showing an ideal liberal platform and funded the free media projects that appeal to the audience who hold their campaigns.

These ideas are a means of manipulating one's way to sustaining the superpower image and having leverage over any country through its aid. The resulting trained army and government lacked trust, loyalty and stronger will for their nationalism.

Nowadays every country and their media stand in a fight against terrorism and its effects. The focus of every news and their analysis is on finding a solution to extremism and on building a more peaceful world. Studies have shown that the use of military force by foreign powers to subjugate or reform societies serves only to promote a larger number of suicide terrorists than would otherwise be the case. The birth of terror organisations like the Islamic State and al-Qaeda are byproducts of foreign invasion policies. Robert A. Pape, a professor of political science at the University of Chicago specializing in international security affairs, had compiled evidence to suggest that suicide terrorism is in fact a secular tactic rather than a religious one, and forms part of a broader campaign to remove an occupying force from the area perceived by the perpetrators to be their homeland. Pape's research found that every terrorist campaign and more than 95 percent of all suicide bombings had the objective of national liberation at their heart. He argues that suicide terrorism is not the result of an existing supply of fanatics but is a demand-driven phenomenon. And thanks to the failed interventions by more powerful countries who focus on their leverage rather than strengthening the local governments, it is a rising concern.

The global power politics has left Afghanistan and its people at a major humanitarian crisis. While the rest of the world needs to find a way to interact with them on fighting terrorism and acknowledging human rights, the best that can be wished for the sake of humanity is that the new Taliban government is more rational, with a realization for global recognition and aid. Matters cannot be made worse by blocking or discontinuing foreign aids just because there is no leverage through foreign intervention. Whether the Taliban swept an easy takeover due to the lack of morale or loyalty, any American or western sanctions will only prove counterproductive for the humanity and world peace. Supporting local governments for the sake of their people to avoid uprisings and regional chaos is one hope for humanity and global peace. – @WajeahaBilal



Wajeaha Bilal

Afghanistan: Post-Taliban challenges for the region



Munir Ahmed

TALIBAN'S brisk takeover of Afghanistan has shocked in particular the geopolitical security experts across the world. Many questions are being asked to the US about their huge spending there in the last two decades. What went wrong with the capacity and vigor of the Afghanistan army that was built with the taxpayers' money?

Key facts are very alarming that since 9/11, US squandered \$6.4 trillion on 'war on terror' including \$2.2 trillion in Afghanistan. It is almost \$100 billion on 300,000-strong Afghan Army and Air Force which roughly means spending \$100 billion every month on the Afghan War for the last 20 years. US had 25,000 military casualties in Afghanistan including 2448 deaths, about 250,000 Afghans lost their lives. According to the UN Security Council report of July 26, 2021, there are 12,000 foreign terrorists in Afghanistan, with the largest contingent of 6500 from Tehreek e Taliban Pakistan. World's largest US embassy in Kabul sprawling 15-acre compound and having 4000 staff including 1400 Americans along with NATO and other allies could not build a modern and contemporary Afghanistan with the funds spent there.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed speaking to a webinar organized by the Devcom-Pakistan has termed the current situation in Afghanistan as "monumental failure" of the US policy in Afghanistan. The US incompetence to plan, organize and implement even the airlift of its remaining staff from Kabul just because of the abrupt withdrawal of the remaining 2500 US troops through a self-imposed deadline, and then reversing that decision by bringing about 5200 US troops for securing the disorganized exodus of Americans and their staffers. It has propped up a narrow-based

corrupt self-serving Kabul Elite which had no roots in the Afghan masses and whose leader fled at the first sign of trouble.

The situation in Afghanistan has become worrisome for the neighbouring countries too as the Taliban's videos coming up show the same brutal behaviour with the natives despite many positive announcements. Perhaps they did not reach their own armed men roaming around the streets across all parts of Afghanistan. The savage and brutal spillover is expected to the neighbouring countries. Pakistan would be the main and easy target to fuel up the similar situation once again. In Islamabad, the Lal Masjid administration has already hoisted the Taliban's flag while the District Management has failed to take any action. Pakistan's interior ministry knows exactly how many mosques were captured by the students of the Lal Masjid, and taking any action against their headquarters in the centre of the city will flare up the situation in different parts of the federal capital. Tribal belts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan are ever active fault lines of extremism and terrorism though much significant has been done to eradicate the banned outfits.

Lt. General Retd Muhammad Asad Durani has advised the state institutions and government to take into confidence the Taliban's like minds in Pakistan before we see the spillover from Afghanistan's present situation.

In the given circumstances, the neighbouring countries core interest in Afghanistan shall be to strengthen unity among themselves and among different factions in Afghanistan. It is vital for the stability, territorial integrity and independence of Afghanistan. Pakistan, Iran, China, Russia and Turkey shall put every effort in to facilitate the formation of a rationally

inclusive and broad based government in Afghanistan through political consensus. They shall also ensure that Afghan territory should not be used for cross-border terrorism against Pakistan, or to harm the strategic and economic interests of other countries as was the case in the recent past. It is a good sign that Taliban are behaving more mature this time and talking to the neighbouring countries in their language. They have a more rational approach towards their own people from different segments of the society with exception to some brutal incidents.

Taliban's brisk takeover of the country without any strong resistance from the Afghan army shall not be taken as their wide acceptance in Afghanistan. Taliban's smooth sailing through all the parts could have been a planned conspiracy of some external forces to create chaos in the region against China's aggressive economic moves. However, we shall believe that only infrastructural and economic development in Afghanistan would lead to peace and prosperity in the region. All the neighbouring countries should support the government in Afghanistan that is acceptable to the natives and different political factions. It is possible only if the countries in the region forge a regional policy with China, Russia, Iran and Turkey at the core, plus Central Asian neighbors of Afghanistan including Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Call a conference of these countries inviting the USA too for a comprehensive plan for peace and stability in the region.

– The writer is a freelance journalist and broadcaster, Director Devcom-Pakistan, an Islamabad-based policy advocacy and outreach think tank. He can be reached at devcom.pakistan@gmail.com and tweets @Emmaysyed

Pakistan wants to strengthen ties with Italy: Imran Khan

Italian FM meets Chief of Army Staff also



Staff Report

Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio Italy's Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. Views were exchanged on the latest developments in Afghanistan as well as bilateral relations. The Prime Minister said that Pakistan had suffered enormously due to protracted conflict and instability in Afghanistan. As such, a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan was in the best interest of Pakistan as well as regional countries. The Prime Minister noted that, at this critical juncture, it was vital to stabilize the security situation in Afghanistan, take steps to consolidate peace, and preclude any mass exodus of refugees. In this context, preventing humanitarian crisis and stabilizing the economy were the most urgent priorities.

The Prime Minister stressed that the international community must stand in solidarity with the Afghan people, undertake positive engagement, and create

incentives for ensuring sustainable peace, stability and economic development in Afghanistan.

In the bilateral context, the Prime Minister stated that Italy was a vital partner for Pakistan and stressed the importance of enhanced collaboration in diverse areas, including trade and investments, defence, and people-to-people contacts. The Prime Minister also highlighted that the large Pakistani diaspora in Italy constituted a strong bridge between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Luigi Di Mario thanked Pakistan for the facilitation of its evacuation operations. He underscored Italy's commitment to enhance bilateral cooperation in diverse fields.

The Italian Foreign Minister also conveyed invitation to the Prime Minister to visit Italy. The Prime Minister extended invitation for Prime Minister Mario Draghi to visit Pakistan.

MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER QURESHI

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi held talks with Foreign Minister of Italy Luigi Di Maio. The talks covered the latest developments in Afghanistan and bilateral relations. Foreign Minister Qureshi shared Pakistan's perspective on the evolving situation in Afghanistan. Stressing the importance of a peaceful and stable Afghanistan for Pakistan and the region, the Foreign Minister highlighted Pakistan's efforts for regional peace, security and stability. The Foreign Minister underlined that it was vital to support the Afghan people at this critical juncture. He emphasized the importance of stabilizing the security situation in Afghanistan, preserving the peace, and preventing any mass exodus of Afghans as refugees. Foreign Minister Qureshi underscored the need for the international community to enhance engagement with Afghanistan with positive messaging and through constructive actions. In particular, he emphasized the imperatives of addressing the urgent humanitarian needs and ensuring economic stability of Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister also apprised the visiting Foreign Minister of his interactions with the leadership of the immediate neighbouring states of Afghanistan and efforts to evolve a coordinated approach. Noting Pakistan's facilitation of evacuation operations, the Foreign Minister reiterated support for Italy's endeavours. In the bilateral context, Foreign Minister Qureshi underlined the importance Pakistan attached to its relationship with Italy and affirmed the desire to further expand mutual cooperation in all fields. The Foreign Minister also expressed satisfaction at close coopera-



tion between the two countries in the multilateral fora, including the EU and the UN. The Foreign Minister invited the Italian Foreign Minister to visit Pakistan for the Second Ministerial Review under the Strategic Engagement Plan. Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio thanked Pakistan for supporting Italy's evacuation efforts and also noted the important role of Pakistan in support of efforts for region-

al peace and stability. He also expressed Italy's resolve to strengthen bilateral cooperation in diverse sectors including trade, investments, energy, higher education and people-to-people exchanges. Italy is home to one of the largest Pakistani diasporas in Europe. The two countries closely collaborate bilaterally, in the context of EU, and at the United Nations, especially on the issue of UN Security Council reforms.



MEETING WITH CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF

Luigi Di Maio, Foreign Minister of Italy called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), today. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security, current situation in Afghanistan & collaboration

in humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan were discussed. COAS said that Pakistan values its relations with Italy and we earnestly look forward to enhance mutually beneficial multi-domain relations based on common interest.

The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role in Afghan situation including successful evacuation operations, efforts for regional stability and pledged to play their role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

SPAIN, PAKISTAN HAVE GREAT POTENTIAL TO IMPROVE BILATERAL TRADE: AITOR SANTIAGO

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Spain and Pakistan have great potential to improve bilateral trade in many areas, which still remain untapped and businessmen of both countries should step up efforts to develop strong connectivity for promoting volume up to their real potential. This was stated by Aitor Santiago Garin, Economic and Commercial Attaché of Spain Embassy while interacting with the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

He said that the current bilateral trade volume between Spain and Pakistan was quite low with the bulk of Pakistan's exports to Spain confined to textiles products.

However, trade could be increased significantly by developing business linkages between the private sectors of both countries. He said that lack of awareness about Pakistani products

in Spain was a major trade barrier, which should be addressed to enhance trade ties. He said that Pakistani fruits including mangoes have great potential for exports and Pakistani fruits exporters should focus on complying with the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) standards to capture EU market.

He said that Pakistan should develop easy trade dispute resolution mechanisms to attract more foreign investors. He said that Spain gives great importance to Pakistan and there was an equal opportunity for Pakistan to penetrate European trade markets. He assured that the Spanish embassy would cooperate with ICCI in further increasing trade and economic relations between Spain and Pakistan.

Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Pakistan could export

many products at cost effective prices to Spain including mangoes, agro products, pharmaceuticals, sports goods, leather products, surgical instruments, IT products and Spanish importers should focus on Pakistan for imports. He said that Spanish cooperation in the tourism sector could help Pakistan to promote its tourism industry. He said that Pakistan was an emerging market for business and investment, therefore, the Spanish companies should consider technology transfer to Pakistan and explore JVs in our country to produce value added products.

He said that Pakistan could also provide outsourcing services to Spanish companies in IT and services sectors. He assured that ICCI would connect the Spanish companies with right counterparts in Pakistan for JVs and partnerships.

Fatma Azim Senior Vice President ICCI, Muhammad Aslam Khokhar and Muhammad Saeed Khan also spoke at the occasion and offered many useful suggestions to further enhance trade relations between Pakistan and Spain.

They said that ICCI would be in touch with the Spanish Embassy to increase the bilateral ties and bridge the gap between the business communities of both countries. Both sides also discussed a wide range of areas to strengthen the trade ties between the two countries.

Late Justice Muhammad Abdul Rashid

USTICE Rashid was born in the town of Sibi in Balochistan in 1933. His early schooling was in different parts of Balochistan and finished his intermediate education at the Government College Quetta. Soon after, he started working as a teacher. As a teacher he worked in Harnai, Dalbandin and Quetta. In Quetta, he worked in Sandeman and Special High Schools as an English teacher. During that time, he privately completed his BA and went to Lahore for his BT. He later earned his master's in History. In 1958 he appeared in the Central Superior Services (CSS) competition examination and passed. He was selected in the Civil Service of Pakistan (CSP). For CSP training, he attended the Civil Service academies in Lahore, Dacca and London.

He was a devoted family man. In 1960, he married Aziza Khanum and had two sons and a daughter. They were happily married for 52 years. Besides spending time and providing for his own family, he remained devoted to caring for his parents and widowed sister. He accompanied his parents for Haj, and at times he had to carry his father on his back during tawaf.

In the executive branch, he served in various positions such as Assistant & Deputy commissioner, Chairman Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Director of Basic Democracies and Caretaker Law Minister of Balochistan. He served these positions of power with courage, unmatched integrity and highest principles he believed in. He never compromised on his high ethics.

Sometimes he felt he was pressured in during his time with the executive branch. Being in the executive service he had the option to join the judicial branch of the service, which he eventually opted for. After some time in training, he was briefly appointed a civil judge. Later he served as Sessions Judge for a few years. Then, he served as the first Secretary of Law Department in Balochistan, and later as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of

Law in the Federal government. He was then sent to Harvard University in the U.S. for law review training. During that time, he was picked as the judge of the Sindh-Balochistan High Court. Since he was in the US, he had to be sworn in by the permanent Pakistan representative at the United Nations. He became the first Pakistani judge to take oath outside Pakistan.

On his return from the U.S., he joined the Sindh-Balochistan High Court in Karachi. After a constitutional amendment the Balochistan High Court was separated and located in Quetta. Justice Rashid joined two other judges to make up the new High Court. His judgements were always made according to the law and the constitution. Soon after his appointment, General Zia-ul-Haq imposed martial law in the country. Many military courts were established in the country to deliver so-called swift justice at the discretion of the martial law authorities. Often, non-violent crimes had harsh punishments, which were overturned on appeal by the high court. Several politicians were sent to jail for opposing martial law. Also, in Balochistan many politicians were detained. Their lawyers challenged the detention orders in the high court. He was instrumental in overturning their detention orders based on the rights guaranteed by the constitution.

In one notable civil criminal case, the martial court ruled that the defendant be punished by death. His attorney challenged the ruling in the high court. The martial law prosecutor was arguing the case and referred to a martial regulation. In this case, Justice Rashid told the prosecutor that the country has a constitution, and that there is no law above that, and any martial law decree can be challenged in the high court. In many cases, the court either reduced the sentences awarded in the martial law courts or reversed their judgements. Politicians from other provinces also challenged their detention in Balochistan High Court and got



their detentions overturned. The judgements of the Balochistan High Court did not sit well with Mar-

tial Law authorities or General Zia-ul-Haq. He was said to have called the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and complained about the Balochistan High Court. The Chief Justice responded that the judges have taken oath on the Constitution, and they have to make decisions based on this supreme law of the land. Zia-ul-Haq then reportedly asked how this could be changed, to which the Chief Justice replied that all judges asked to take a new oath in which the word "Constitution" is omitted.

Accordingly, a new Martial order was issued and requested all the judges of High Courts and Supreme Court to take a new oath specifically omitting the word 'Constitution'. Seventeen judges, including the Chief Justice and Justice Rasheed refused to take the oath. That was the end of his career as a judge. He was a man of strong will and strong principles. His personal ethics and principles did not allow him to take such an oath. Upholding his principles and highest ethics has been his legacy.

He practiced law in Sindh briefly, in Karachi and Sukkur. Later, he was able to revisit his passion for education when he was appointed Vice Chancellor of the University of Balochistan from 2000 to 2004.

Justice Rashid died in Civil Hospital Quetta after a brief illness on August 25, 2021 and is buried in his ancestral hometown, Sibi.

Experts Hold Discussion on Afghan Peace Process, Highlight Russia's Role In Afghanistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) had a Panel Discussion on 'Conversations on the evolving situation in Afghanistan: Russia's Role in Afghanistan,' fifth in a series of conversations CAMEA is having on Afghanistan – under its Conversations on the evolving situation Afghan series.

The distinguished speakers included: Ambassador Omar Samad, Nonresident Senior Fellow Atlantic Council; Dr. Alexander A. Kornilov, Prof. Dr. at Lobachevsky State University of Nizhni Novgorod, Head of Region Studies of Foreign Countries; Dr. Nigel Gould-Davies, Senior Fellow for Russia and Eurasia at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS); Ambassador Qazi M. Khalilullah, Executive Director Center for International Strategic Studies Sindh (CISSS) & Former Ambassador of Pakistan to Russia; Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI and Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG, ISSI, also took part in the discussion.

During her opening remarks, Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA, said that with the US withdrawal, the real test for Afghanistan has only just begun. It is imperative for the Taliban to engage with Afghan stakeholders and form a government that is inclusive and representative of all Afghans. This is a historic opportunity for all Afghans to come together and work for the future of Afghanistan. Despite previous differences, regional stakeholders, including Russia



are coming out of the woodwork to assume a more substantive role in the future of Afghanistan. Pakistan, Iran, Russia, China, and the Central Asian nations appear to have a common (regional) vision for the future of Afghanistan, which entails regional ownership, recognition of a negotiated settlement with the Afghan Taliban as a key component, inclusive political set up, as well as curbing transnational terrorist group, the illegal flow of arms and trade. Needless to say, in such trying times, Russia's role has been revitalized as a supportive regional actor highlighting Moscow's keen involvement in the peace process and is its desire to showcase itself as a leading player and advocate for peace and stability in the region.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad said that Russia has been striving hard for a peaceful Afghanistan and we see quite a bit of congruence between Russia and all regional countries in their approach towards amnesty in Afghanistan. Though the Taliban have given assurances, the challenges have however, only begun and we have yet to see to what extent will the Taliban live up to their commitments. It ap-

pears that at the moment all regional countries, including Russia are in a wait and see mode.

Dr. Alexander A. Kornilov said that Afghanistan cannot be conquered and cannot be won. Russia is not interested in the disintegration of Afghanistan. Officials in Russia have made it clear that if the Government in Afghanistan partners with regional countries, it will be able to counter all external and violent threats within the country. The sooner the Taliban form a government, the easier it would be for the group to communicate with other countries. Hence, in this regard, they should make a framework that ensures regional security. He also pointed out that Qatar and Turkey will now be actively and deeply involved in the process in Kabul. He said that the future government must be representative and inclusive, which will be sustainable for a certain period without facing any major internal political threat. With regards to the future role of India in Afghanistan, Dr. Alexander said that given that there is now more cohesion and trust between Russia, China and Pakistan, Pakistan is a very important country.

Dr. Nigel Gould-Davies said that the last time the Taliban ruled Afghanistan, it was a very difficult time and radiated various problems in Central Asia. Russia being a near neighbour of

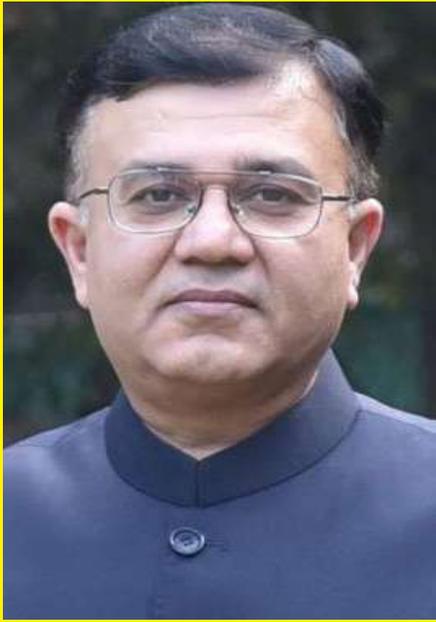
inclusivity in the future government in Afghanistan and does not want the Taliban to monopolize power. He also pointed out that increased coordination between all stakeholders is a positive de-

a very important country, including it in all important meetings held regarding the future of Afghanistan. Afghans must be allowed to govern their affairs and Afghan soil will not be used against any country and both Russia and Pakistan are hoping that the future Afghan government should be inclusive, without any external involvement. He stressed that the Taliban need the help of regional countries and should be provided due humanitarian assistance. He stated that Pakistan's agenda has always been peace because of its long border with Afghanistan due to which events in Afghanistan have affected almost all walks of life in Pakistan. There are a lot of expectations from the Taliban in the short span they have taken over. Hence, it would be prudent to wait till they announce the form and structure of their government. This time, the Taliban are in a better position to formulate and implement their policies, as opposed to the past. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood said that if the Taliban implement their assurances regarding respecting human rights and making an inclusive government in Afghanistan, then the country and region will enjoy peace and stability. He said that Russia has three key concerns; apprehension of extremism and terrorism, the possible flow of refugees and drug trafficking. Taliban have to fulfil their commitments about an inclusive government. He said Russia has adopted a dual approach, one of which is a diplomatic approach and one which encompasses securing their borders by conducting military exercises. He went on to say that one cannot ignore the plight of Afghan people who are asking for assistance. If trillions of dollars can be spent on war, a few dollars to help Afghan people will not be a difficult task. It is the collective responsibility of the international community to help Afghans, he said.



Afghanistan is rightly concerned about the evolving situation. He said the recent fall of Kabul was different from the past and this time, the Taliban are seen as a stabilizing force. He pointed out how right before the fall of Kabul, Russia conducted joint military exercises with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan at the Afghanistan border- a posture that had different meanings for different actors. In this regard, he said the Taliban must not look beyond the borders of Afghanistan and with respect to foreign forces, they must be assured that there will be no interference. He voiced his scepticism about how stable the Taliban government would be in the backdrop of reports of violence coming out from Afghanistan. He pointed out that the Taliban remain a banned organisation in Russia even though Russia is one of the first countries whom the Taliban have invited for the inauguration of their new government. Dr. Omar Samad said that Russia was recalibrating its position when the government of Ashraf Ghani was involved in corruption, mismanagement, and bad governance which eventually led Russia to open its doors for the Taliban. He said Russia wants

development. However, whether this can be consolidated will depend on how the Taliban run the country and whether they will be open to broad-based solutions. He was of the view that if the Taliban fail the credible expectations of the regional and international countries, the fall-out will result in the suffering of all the neighbouring countries, including Pakistan. On the high poverty levels Afghanistan has been experiencing, Ambassador Samad said this is a huge challenge for the Taliban and how the international community will handle this is interesting. There should be regional mechanisms in place as well as qualified individuals who can advise the government in this regard. It is also important to not fall back on the previous system of the 90s where Afghanistan was an NGO-run government. The needs and expectations of the people are now different, he said. Ambassador Qazi M. Khalid-ullah said that Russia knows that events in Afghanistan leave deep impacts on neighboring countries which makes the latter immediate stakeholders of peace in Afghanistan. This is also a primary reason that has led Russia to view Pakistan as



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Kamran Ali Afzal new Chief Secy Punjab

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan has approved the appointment of new Punjab chief secretary.

According to the sources, former federal finance secretary Dr Kamran Ali Afzal will replace Chief Secretary Jawad Rafique Malik. While, Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) director general Additional IG Rao Sardar will replace IGP Inam Ghani.

The sources said that the prime minister has given initial approval for the appointment of both the officers. It added that

the decision was taken during the meeting between the premier and the Punjab chief minister.

Meanwhile, the Establishment Division will issue a notification for the new chief secretary and the new IGP Punjab after the approval of the federal cabinet.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Punjab government is changing the chief secretary and the IGP for the fifth and seventh time, respectively in the PTI-led government's three-year tenure.

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D N A

DIPLOMATIC NEWS AGENCY

Malaysian envoy holds talks with PIA Chief

Malaysia to open for domestic tourists from Sept 16

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: The Chargé d'Affaires of Malaysia, Mr Deddy Faisal Ahmad Salleh met with CEO of PIA Air Marshal Arshad Malik. They discussed various topics of mutual interest related to aviation industry and ways to further strengthen the trade cooperation between Malaysia & Pakistan businessmen.

Apart from that the Chargé d'Affaires also appraised about the opening of

tourism in Malaysia.

The Malaysian government has decided to reopen its tourism sector to fully vaccinated domestic travelers via the travel bubble programme, starting with Langkawi for local domestic tourists from September 16. This pilot project, if successful will lead to reopening of the tourism sector to fully vaccinated foreigners in the future.



Serena Hotels' Raabta initiative focuses on empowering women

CEO Serena Aziz Boolani thanked the esteemed panelists for making themselves available for the event. He assured the audience that Serena Hotels will continue to host and support such events even in the coming days in order to generate a health debate on issues of utmost importance

A HIGH profile panel discussion on the celebrating female role model of Pakistan was hosted by Serena Hotels under the banner of Raabta, which is a nonpartisan public initiative by Serena hotels to initiate dialogue aimed at creating awareness amongst diverse groups and networks on critical aspects of socially significant fields such as the economy, health and education. The event highlighted the importance of empowering women in today's society. Speaking on this topic were prominent women that have excelled in their own

respective fields and are working on empowering other women to do so. The panel consisted of Abida Malik, Hadia Hashmi, Dr. Muniza Rizwan, Aliya Zafar, Kashmala Tariq and Sarbat Najeab. Sidra Iqbal hosted the event and asked questions on the topic from the panel. All the speakers had highlighted key points that are essential for empowering women, the discussion empathized on women being more economically empowered. Women need to have the support of their family members, and the government should bring out a narrative for this

topic through various platforms. The current position at which women stand in the society was discussed, where speakers raised the point that the society needs the efforts of male and female members both to progress. CEO Serena Aziz Boolani thanked the esteemed panelists for making themselves available for the event. He assured the audience that Serena Hotels will continue to host and support such events even in the coming days in order to generate a health debate on issues of utmost importance.







ڈیجیٹائزیشن آف لینڈ ریکارڈز

وزیراعظم عمران خان کے وژن کی عملی تعبیر

جیوگرافیکل انفارمیشن سسٹم کے ذریعے وفاقی دارالحکومت کی مکمل کیٹسٹل میننگ

- ▶ اودریز پاکستانیوں کی املاک کا تحفظ / آن لائن معلومات تک رسائی
- ▶ شہری و دیہی علاقوں میں حدود کا تعین اتمام خسروہ جات کی مکمل نشاندہی
- ▶ سیکرز ہاؤسنگ سوسائٹیز اور دیہی آبادیوں کا مکمل سروے
- ▶ اراضی ملکیت و املاک کے حوالے سے قانونی پیچیدگیوں اور سرخ فیتے سے نجات
- ▶ قیمت ما فیہا کا تدارک

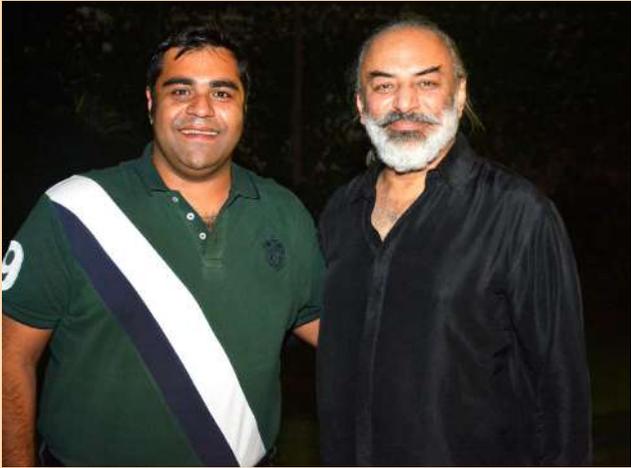
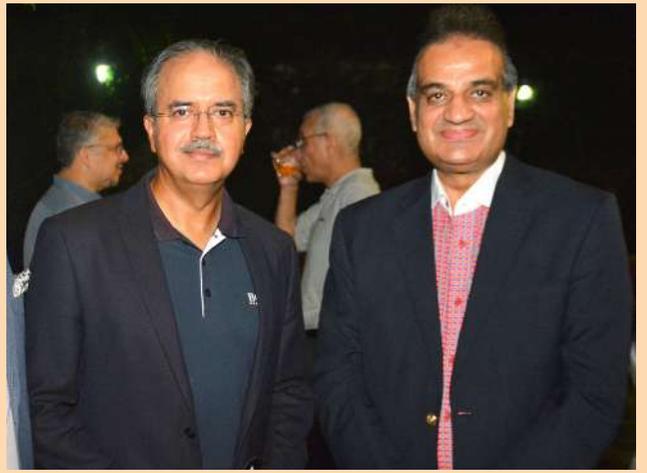


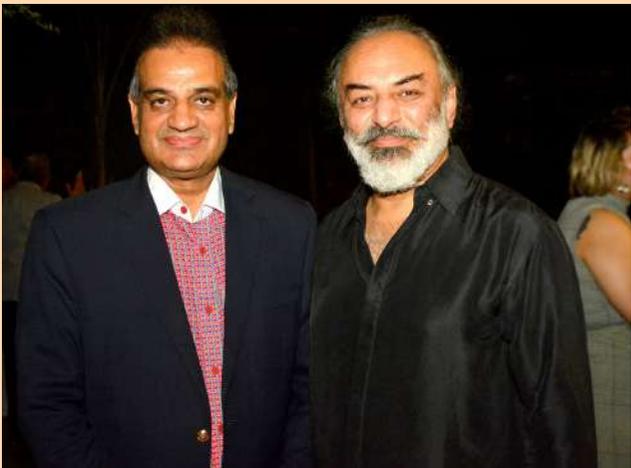
حکومت پاکستان

▶ مساویوں کی بجائے اب آن لائن نشاندہی ممکن ▶ درست قیمتوں کا تعین ▶ سروس ڈیلیوری سینٹرز کا قیام

Aftab Chaudhry hosts dinner for Ameer Khurram Rathore Pakistan High Commissioner to Canada







WARN AGAINST ISOLATING AFGHAN GOVT

Pakistan, Spain resolve to work for Afghan peace

Spanish agencies ready to help Afghan people says Jose Manuel Albares

Ansar M Bhatti



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Spain on Friday pledged to work together for peace and stability in Afghanistan. Both the foreign ministers also resolved to help generate funds for the struggling Afghans thru various forums such as donors conferences etc. The foreign minister made these remarks during a joint press stakeout at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi urged the world community to recognize the new reality in Afghanistan and engage with it for peace and stability. Addressing a joint news conference along with his Spanish counterpart Jose Manuel Albares after delegation level talks in Islamabad, he warned that isolating Afghanistan will have serious consequences and will not be helpful for the Afghan people, the region and the world at large.

He said the approach of intimidation, pressure and coercion has not worked and we got to adopt a new positive approach regarding Afghanistan. Alluding to the flight from Kabul to Doha, he said this safe passage is in sync

with the demand of the Europeans. He said we need to encourage the Taliban to stay on course.

The Foreign Minister regretted that the spoilers did not allow the intra afghan dialogue reach a conclusion. He said if there had been progress on talks things would have been calmer today. The Foreign Minister however said the world community should immediately focus on averting humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. He expressed satisfaction that a conference is taking place in Geneva to raise funds for the country.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Pakistan is contributing in its own way. One of our aircraft landed in Afghanistan yesterday with supplies of food and medicines. He said we will continue to extend humanitarian assistance through air and land routes. The Foreign Minister reiterated the call on the international community to take steps to avert economic collapse of Afghanistan. One of the ways is availability of resources and promoting economic activities. He suggested the decision of freezing

the Afghan funds will not be helpful and be revisited. On bilateral relations, Shah Mahmood Qureshi there are great opportunities for cooperation between the two countries in different fields. Given the changed security situation in Pakistan, he urged the Spanish counterpart to review the travel advisory.

In his remarks, the Spanish Foreign Minister said Pakistan is a very important partner for his country and the European Union. He said as both countries celebrate seventy years of the establishment of diplomatic relations, this is an excellent opportunity for us to reenergize the bilateral relationship. He expressed the strong desire to work closely with Pakistan and other regional countries to help the Afghan people. He said both Pakistan and Spain want stability, peace in Afghanistan and no spillover effect to the region. He said we want the humanitarian assistance reach the Afghan people. He said a donor conference on Afghanistan will be held on Monday where the pledges will be made. He said our agencies are ready to help the Afghan people.

CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN

Foreign Minister of Spain, Jose Manuel Albares Bueno, called on Prime Minister Imran Khan today.

The Prime Minister underlined the importance of a secure, stable and peaceful Afghanistan for Pakistan and the region. The Prime Minister added that the changed reality in Afghanistan required a change in the world community's outlook as well. He stressed that the well-being of the Afghan people had to be the utmost priority. The Prime Minister added that urgent measures were required to address the humanitarian needs of the Afghan people and to ensure economic stability of the country. The Prime Minister called for positive engagement of the international community to ensure the security situation in Afghanistan was stabilized, peace was preserved, and any mass exodus was precluded. Foreign Minister Albares lauded Pakistan's efforts to facilitate the evacuation of nationals and personnel of diplomatic missions and international organizations. The Prime Minister assured Pakistan's continued support in this regard. On the bilateral plane, the Prime Minister hoped that Pakistan-Spain relations would continue to be strengthened in all fields. The Prime



Minister also lauded the positive role of Pakistani diaspora in Spain. This year marks the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Spain and both sides would commemorate this milestone through specific events.

SPANISH FM MEETS ARMY CHIEF GENERAL BAJWA

Jose Manuel Albares Bueno, Foreign Minister of Spain called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ, today.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security situation including latest situation in Afghanistan and enhanced bilateral & defence cooperation were discussed. Both sides reiterated the combined resolve for provision of humanitarian aid and assistance to the Afghan people.

The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role in successful evacuation operations from Afghanistan, efforts for regional stability and pledged to play their role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.



Air chief says Pakistan has cordial ties with Morocco

Mohamed Karmoune commended the professionalism of PAF

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Morocco . Mohamed Karmoune called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office today. During the meeting, both the dignitaries discussed matters of professional and mutual interest.

. Mohamed Karmoune commended the professionalism of PAF and acknowledged its rising indigenous capacity in aviation industry. The Air Chief said that Pakistan and Morocco had longstanding religious, cultural and historical bonds which were manifested through strong ties between Royal Moroccan Air Force and Pakistan Air Force. The Air Chief highlighted that both the countries enjoy cordial relations and reiterated his resolve to further enhance the existing bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly countries.



Islamabad: Federal Minister for Information and broadcasting, Chaudhry Fawad Husain witnessing the MoU signing ceremony between Associated Press of Pakistan and Prensla Latina of Cuba. – APP

Chevening scholarship awarded to 42 Pakistani

The Chevening scholarships support study at UK universities for individuals with demonstrable potential to become future leaders, decision-makers, and opinion formers

Shujaat Hamza

ISLAMABAD: The British High Commission organised a virtual pre-departure event for Pakistani scholars who have been awarded the Chevening scholarship 2021-22.

This year, 42 Pakistani scholars have been selected through a rigorous recruitment process and will soon proceed to the UK to study a one year master's programme, funded by the UK Government's prestigious Chevening programme.

The Chevening scholarships support study at UK universities for individuals with demonstrable potential to become future leaders, decision-

makers, and opinion formers.

Over 3,000 mid-career professionals had applied for the programme and over 200 were interviewed, including applicants from all provinces of Pakistan.

The British Deputy High Commissioner Alison Blackburne congratulated the scholars and wished them success in the coming year. The online event was attended by Chevening scholars, British High Commission officials and Chevening alumni who were invited to share their experience of studying in the UK.

The selected scholars have chosen

courses in the top universities of the UK including University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, London School of Economics and Political Science, University of Edinburgh, Imperial College London and University of Sussex.

One scholar from Pakistan has also been selected for the Oxford Centre of Islamic Studies (OCIS) Fellowship to undertake an annual six-month period of independent study and research, focusing on the culture and civilisation of Islam and all aspects of contemporary Muslim societies in the global context.

The British Deputy High Commissioner Alison Blackburne said:

“Many congratulations to the selected scholars. I am delighted to announce that almost 60 percent of selected scholars from Pakistan this year were female - an increase of 20 points in the past three years. This contributes to our aim of achieving gender equality and opportunity for all. “Every year since 2018 the top ranking Chevening female scholar is given the prestigious Asma Jahangir Award. This year is special as we

have two joint winners of the award (Ayesha Ahmed from Quetta and Marvi Mahesar from Karachi) who have scored equal marks in the recruitment process.

“Chevening is a life-changing opportunity through which scholars can study in world renowned UK universities, meet other talented scholars from across the globe and bring back experience and knowledge to benefit Pakistan.”



New envoys present credentials to President of Pakistan

Pakistan greatly values ties with all countries: President Alvi

Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan attaches great importance to the promotion of trade, business and commercial cooperation with friendly countries under its new “geo-economics” policy.

He added that Pakistan wanted to promote connectivity, and regional peace and development by further expanding bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, economy, culture and tourism. The President made these remarks while talking to the Ambassadors-designates of Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Azerbaijan, Kingdom of Thailand, and the High Commissioner-designate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who made separate calls on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today.

Earlier, the Ambassador-designate of Kyrgyzstan, Totuiaev, Ulanbek Asankulovich, Ambassador-designate of Kazakhstan, Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador-designate of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador-designate of Thailand, Chakkrid Krachaiwong, and High Commissioner-designate of Nigeria,

Abioye Mohammed Bello presented their credentials to President Dr Arif Alvi at a ceremony. Congratulating the newly-appointed envoys, the President expressed the hope that they would play their role in further strengthening political, economic and cultural relations with Pakistan.

While talking to the envoys separately, President Dr Arif Alvi said that Pakistan’s unique geo-economic location offered tremendous opportunities for transport, trade, transit trade and ICT connectivity to the entire region. He observed that greater regional integration would help drive growth and socio-economic development in the entire region.

He also underscored the need to hold regular meetings of institutional mechanisms such as the Bilateral Political Consultations, Joint Ministerial Commissions, and Inter-Governmental Commissions, to further solidify bilateral relations with friendly countries. The President expressed satisfaction over the existing level of bilateral cooperation and wished the envoys success for their assignments in Islamabad.



Ambassador of Azerbaijan



Ambassador of Kazakhstan



Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan



Ambassador of Thailand



High Commissioner of Nigeria



INVITATION TO BID

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

SR.#	TENDERS DESCRIPTION	TENDER NO	BIDDING PROCEDURE	TENDERS AVAILABILITY
1	Supply of Underground Fuel Storage Tanks at ZOT, Habibabad&Faqirabad depots	RC-15589-SS	Single Stage - Two Envelope	These tenders will be available only through SAP Ariba Portal
2	Supply of Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) for PSO Retail Outlets at Central Store Keamari	RC-15590-SS		
3	Construction of boundary wall at KTC	CF-15591MA		
4	Supply and Installation of Fall Arrester system (16 bays gantry) at PSO Chakpirana Depot	CF-15592MA		

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

FOR S. NO. 1 TO 4	DATE	TIME
TENDER DOCUMENTS COLLECTION (THROUGH SAPARIBA) DATE & TIME	From 30.08.2021 to 14.09.2021	08:30 AM to 04:30 PM
BID SUBMISSION (THROUGH SAPARIBA) END DATE & TIME	16.09.2021	TILL 02:15 PM
BID OPENING (THROUGH SAPARIBA) DATE & TIME	16.09.2021	03:00 PM ONWARDS

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

Note: For Tenders # CF-15591MA and CF-15592MA; Valid PEC certificate copy is also required for issuance of tender documents.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

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

- Scanned copy of the duly signed and stamped request on official letterhead of the bidder shall be uploaded on SAP Ariba Portal. In the subject request letter, please mention "Tender Documents Collection Request - Tender No. _____".
- Request shall be accompanied by scanned copies of the following:
 - Valid NTN, GST/PST certificates, CNIC of owner/ authorized representative. Vendor should be an active tax payer.
 - Evidence of deposit of Rs. 2,000/- (mentioning the tender #) as Tender Fee in the following bank account:
Title of Account - PAKISTAN STATE OIL COMPANY LIMITED
IBAN: PK30 HABB 0007 8640 3245 3217
Account No. 0786-40-3245-3217 Branch code 0786 HBL Plaza Branch
I.I. Chundrigar Road,
Karachi.

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

INVITATION TO BID FOR SUPPLY OF POL PRODUCTS

Bids are invited from reputed international suppliers for supply of Motor Gasoline, Gas Oil, HSFO and LSFO as mentioned below:

S. No	Product	Period	Mode
01	MOGAS	01 st - 13 th November 2021	CFR
02	MOGAS-Combi	13 th - 15 th November 2021	
03	HSFO	01 st -15 th November 2021	
04	LSFO	01 st -15 th November 2021	
05	Gas Oil	01 st - 15 th November 2021	
06	MOGAS	15 th - 28 th November 2021	
07	HSFO	16 th - 30 th November 2021	
08	LSFO	16 th - 30 th November 2021	
09	Gas Oil	16 th - 30 th November 2021	
10	MOGAS-Combi	28 th - 30 th November 2021	

FOR S.NO 01	DATE	TIME AND VENUE
TENDER DOCUMENTS COLLECTION DATE & TIME	Up to 27 th Sept 2021	09:30 AM to 04:30 PM
BID SUBMISSION END DATE & TIME	28 th Sept 2021	TILL 10.00 AM
BID OPENING DATE & TIME	28 th Sept 2021	10:30 AM ONWARDS
FOR S.NO 02 TO 05	DATE	TIME AND VENUE
TENDER DOCUMENTS COLLECTION DATE & TIME	Up to 06 th Oct 2021	09:30 AM to 04:30 PM
BID SUBMISSION END DATE & TIME	07 th Oct 2021	TILL 10.00 AM
BID OPENING DATE & TIME	07 th Oct 2021	10:30 AM ONWARDS
FOR S.NO 06	DATE	TIME AND VENUE
TENDER DOCUMENTS COLLECTION DATE & TIME	Up to 11 th Oct 2021	09:30 AM to 04:30 PM
BID SUBMISSION END DATE & TIME	12 th Oct 2021	TILL 10.00 AM
BID OPENING DATE & TIME	12 th Oct 2021	10:30 AM ONWARDS

FOR S.NO 07 TO 10	DATE	TIME AND VENUE
TENDER DOCUMENTS COLLECTION DATE & TIME	Up to 20 th Oct 2021	09:30 AM to 04:30 PM
BID SUBMISSION END DATE & TIME	21 st Oct 2021	TILL 10.00 AM
BID OPENING DATE & TIME	21 st Oct 2021	10:30 AM ONWARDS

Tender Fee: Any supplier interested in participating in any of the tender(s) may send its request for tender documents in the following manner:

- Scanned copy of the duly signed and stamped request on official letterhead of the bidder shall be uploaded on SAP Ariba Portal. In the subject request letter, please mention "Tender Documents Collection Request – Tender No. _____" [Please mention the relevant Delivery Period and Product].
- Request shall be accompanied by scanned copy of the following:
Evidence of deposit of Rs. 2,000/- as Tender Fee (separate for each product and period) in the following bank account:
Title of Account - PAKISTAN STATE OIL COMPANY LIMITED
IBAN: PK30 HABB 0007 8640 3245 3217
Account No. 0786-40-3245-3217 Branch code 0786
HBL Plaza Branch , I.I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi.

Bid documents will be available and should be submitted through SAP Ariba Portal only.

Tender advertisement is also available at PSO website: www.psopk.com and PPRA website: www.ppra.org.pk.

For any queries/clarification please contact on the details below.

Procurement and Services Department,
02nd Floor, PSO House, Karachi
UAN – 111-111-PSO (776) Ext: 2281/2291
E-mail: osama.sabir@psopk.com

DISPOSAL OF SCRAP LYING AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS OF PSO ON AS AND WHERE BASIS.

Sealed bids are invited from eligible contractors with adequate financial capabilities for the below captioned tender(s):

SR.#	TENDERS DESCRIPTION	TENDER NO	BIDDING PROCEDURE	TENDERS AVAILABILITY
1	DISPOSAL OF LUBE RACKS AND DUST BINS, LYING AT RETAIL BUSINESS OFFICE, JEHLUM	ARR/1193-19-RK	Single Stage - One Envelope	These tenders will be available only through SAP Ariba Portal
2	DISPOSAL OF MISCELLANEOUS SCRAP, LYING AT MEHMOOD KOT INSTALLATION	ARR/1504-20-RK		
3	DISPOSAL OF CORRUGATED CARTONS, LYING AT LUBRICANT MANUFACTURING TERMINAL (LMT), KORANGI	ARR/1539-21-RK		
4	DISPOSAL OF MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS, LYING AT CHAKPIRANA DEPOT	ARR/1568-21-RK		
5	DISPOSAL OF ADDITIVES FSII & CILI IN DRUMS AND TOTES LYING AT Kemari Terminal-B, KARACHI	ARR/1618-21-RK		
6	DISPOSAL OF LUBE RACKS AND DUSTBINS, LYING AT RETAIL BUSINESS OFFICE, JEHLUM	ARR/1307-19-AW		
7	DISPOSAL OF MISCELLANEOUS MS SCRAP. CORRUGATED SHEETS, PLASTIC AND WOODEN SCRAP, LYING AT KEMARI TERMINAL-B, KARACHI	ARR/1409-20-AW		
8	DISPOSAL OF MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS & TOYOTA PICK-UP VAN, LYING AND STATIONED RESPECTIVELY ATMACHIKEY INSTALLATION	ARR/1426-20-AW		

FOR S. NO. 1 TO 8	DATE	TIME
TENDER DOCUMENTS COLLECTION (THROUGH SAP Ariba) START AND END DATE & TIME	From 30.08.2021 to 13.09.2021	10:30 AM to 04:30 PM
BID SUBMISSION (THROUGH SAP Ariba) END DATE & TIME	15.09.2021	TILL 2:15 PM
BID OPENING (THROUGH SAP Ariba) DATE & TIME	15.09.2021	3:00PM ONWARDS

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Any party interested to participate in the above tenders may apply through SAP Ariba link provided on PSO website also.

The following documents will be required for participation in the tender process:

- Request Letter
- Valid NTN
- GST Certificate
- CNIC of owner/ authorized representative
- Evidence of deposit of Rs. 2,000/- (for each tender) as Tender Fee in the following bank account:
Title of Account - PAKISTAN STATE OIL COMPANY LIMITED
IBAN: PK30 HABB 0007 8640 3245 3217
Account No. 0786-40-3245-3217
Branch code 0786
HBL Plaza Branch
I.I. Chundrigar Road
Karachi.

Please note that interested vendors not having Ariba Network ID are requested to register themselves on SAP Ariba Portal by clicking on the link below to access and participate in upcoming PSO tenders.

<https://psopk.com/en/about-us/business-partners/sap-ariba>

This advertisement is also available on PSO website www.psopk.com/procurement

PAKISTAN STATE OIL COMPANY LIMITED
2ND FLOOR, PSO HOUSE, KHAYABAN-E-IQBAL, CLIFTON, KARACHI TEL: 021-99207663
Website: www.pso.com/procurement

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

ZOO & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE

TENDER NOTICE

CDA invites sealed tender on percentage basis from animal Food & Feed supplier/firms having an experienced in supply of animal Food/Feed items to Government Departments.

Name of work	NIT Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Date & Time Receiving of Tenders	Date & Time of opening.
Supply of Food / Feed items for Animals of different wildlife enclosures, Islamabad for one year(2021-22)	Rs.70,63,818/-	Rs.191276/-	21-09-2021 at 11:00 AM	21-09-2021 at 11:30 AM

2. Tender Notice is also available on CDA and PPRA Website www.cda.gov.pk and PPRA Websites www.ppra.org.pk.

3. Tender documents along with additional Terms & Conditions and specifications can be obtained from the office of the Deputy Director (Zoo), Zoo & Wildlife Management Directorate, F-9 Park, Islamabad, CDA during office hours on cash payment of Rs. 5,000/- (non-refundable). No tender will be sold on opening date of tender.

4. Application for Tender shall accept on company printed letter head, bearing name, address and signature of supplier/contractor along with the following attested documents i.e valid CNIC copy, NTN number, original work order amounting to Rs.2.00 Million and performance and completion certificate of similar nature of work done performed previously during the last five years must be submitted before issuance of tender. The tender forms will only be issued to those suppliers/Firms who have at least two years experience in supply of food feed in Government Zoo and Wildlife Parks as well as department which procure animal food and feeds. No application will be entertained without these documents.

5. Tender will be received and opened on the above mentioned date and time in the office of the D.G Environment, F-9 Park, Islamabad by the committee in the presence of the contractors or his/her representative.

6. Interested suppliers/firms shall have to furnish Earnest Money in the shape of Call Deposit in favor of Drawing & Disbursing Officer (Zoo) from any scheduled bank of Pakistan with the application.

7. In case the total bid amount is less than 10% below the NIT amount, the bidder shall submit performance security bond in the shape of call deposit equal to the difference between NIT amount and total quoted amount less 10% of NIT amount. Performance security= NIT amount – Total Bid price – 10% of NIT amount. This Call Deposit shall be in addition to the Earnest Money of the work and shall be deposited at the time of submission of bids. Bids not carrying the performance security shall be rejected. The additional performance security will be released after satisfactory completion of the contract.

8. Successful bidder will be bound to furnish a Bank guarantee of any schedule Bank equal to 10 % of the total lowest accepted bid price to the D.G Environment within 20 days from the date of issuance of letter of intent.

9. Tender rates on percentage basis shall be written in figure, without any cutting/overwriting and same shall also be in shown in words without cutting/ over writing.

10. The tender documents must be accompanied with Non Relationship certificate, NTN Certificate, Non- judicial stamp paper worth of Rs.50/- or above & professional Tax Certificate from Excise & Taxation Department. No tender will be entertained without these documents.

11. The Authority may reject all the bids at any time prior to the acceptance as per PPRA rules. However, the authority shall upon request communicate to any contractor who submitted a bid, on the ground of its rejection of all bids, but not bound to justify those grounds.

12. The quantities mentioned in the BOQ are tentative it would be increase or decrease subject to availability of wild animal stock.

PID I 1289/21

(DR. MUHAMMAD BILAL KHILJI)
DEPUTY DIRECTOR (ZOO)

Attention!



Parent and Student Alert!

Beware of Unrecognised Institutions/Universities/Campuses in Pakistan

The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan recognises degrees of accredited universities/institutions from public and private sector in Pakistan along with their approved campuses as mentioned on HEC website. Besides, a list of illegal/fake institutions is also available on HEC website. The links are:

List of Recognised Universities/Institutions

<http://hec.gov.pk/english/universities/pages/recognised.aspx>

List of Recognised Campuses of Public and Private Sector Institutions

<http://hec.gov.pk/english/universities/Pages/DAIs/HEC-recognized-Campuses.aspx>

Recognised Foreign Collaboration Institutions

<https://www.hec.gov.pk/english/universities/Pages/Foreign-Collaboration-Institutions.aspx>

List of Illegal/Fake Institutions

<https://www.hec.gov.pk/english/universities/Pages/AJK/Illegal-DAIs.aspx>

It is hereby notified for awareness of the general public that **Islamic University of Pakistan, Sialkot is a non-chartered and unrecognised university**, hence its name is included in the list of illegal/fake institutions (available on HEC website). The students and parents are requested to check and verify the status of university/institution and its campus from the above-mentioned links before seeking admission, and are advised NOT to take admission in those institutions which are not listed on HEC website in the recognised list of universities/institutions/campus(s). Otherwise, degrees issued to the students studying in un-recognised or non-chartered institutions shall not be recognised by HEC.



Accreditation Section
Higher Education Commission
H-9, Islamabad, Phone: +92-51-90400000



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MURREE BREWERY

ISO 9001, 14001, HACCP & OHSAS Certified Company

44 MAZEY KI DOUBLE DOSE 77

- Trendy drink for trendy people -



MONAL

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FIESTA

