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Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine



MANUEL DURAN

Humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan needs to be avoided



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1

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2

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- Making strategies to reduce illiteracy

CLEAN WATER

3

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

GREEN ENVIRONMENT

4

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

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

5

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

HEALTH CARE:

6

- Aim to support people to gain self-confidence and improve decision making abilities for the best interest of their communities and for the whole nation
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Civil, military disagreement on recent transfers



THE social media especially remained abuzz with various conspiracies theories that all was not well between the civil and military leadership. While these notions may be true to some extent, however inside sources believe the fire fighting work has already been done and things are okay now. Prime Minister Imran Khan during the recent cabinet meeting him shelved any misunderstandings between the govt and the military leadership. He made it clear that military leadership and he were on the same page especially on the issue of the appointment of the Director General ISI. As we know, the military leadership announced some postings and transfers a few days ago whereby the incumbent

DG ISI Lt General Faiz Hameed was transferred and posted as the Corps Commander Peshawar while Lt. Gen Nadeem Anjum replaced Gen Faiz as the new DG ISI. Sources claim, the Prime Minister, who happens to be the actual boss of the DG ISI, had a different view about the posting of Lt. Gen Faiz Hameed.

According to the reports, Prime Minister Imran Khan wanted Lt. Gen Faiz Hameed to stay as DG ISI for at least another six months. According to him since he was closely dealing with the Afghanistan issue therefore he needed to continue with his current post to effectively manage Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan. Secondly, people had already started talking in the media that Faiz Hameed may be the new army chief – news which ostensibly disturbed the three senior most generals – all of them aspiring for the top slot. Sources claim, these three generals might not be happy with such kind of news as from the face of it, it sought to disparage their relevance. There is however another view regarding appointment of Faiz Hameed as the Peshawar Corps Commander. Since he is also an aspirant to become the next army chief therefore commanding of a corps is a sine qua non to be eligible for the race of the army chief. That is why Lt. Gen Faiz Hameed has been posted as the Corps Commander. There is no denying the fact that Pakistan Army is the most disciplined and professional institution where chain of command system works incredibly well. Therefore officers' direct contacts with the political leadership by and large are not taken well within the army ranks.

The Federal Information Minister Fawad Ch while talking to a media channel admitted there are some issues, but he categorically stated that the issues have been resolved. The Information Minister's clarification in fact generated another debate that if it were so simple matter then why so much controversy was allowed to rule supreme. The minister made it clear that it was the prime minister who was supposed to make the appointment of the DG ISI, which means the prime minister was not in the loop when the decision to appoint new DG was made.

The civil military relationship in Pakistan has always been at odds and perhaps that is the reason that no prime minister has ever completed his five year tenure. Now the PTI government, which was believed to have excellent relationship with the military leadership, seems to have set on a collision course and insiders believe if this friction continues to hold then early elections may be announced.

Pakistan is passing through a difficult phase these days. The govt has serious governance issues. Prices of daily commodities have sky-rocketed. Three years in office and still the government does not know where to go and how to run the country. The Afghan crisis, over and above, is becoming a hard nut to crack. Pakistan being the immediate neighbor and a stakeholder needs to have unity in its ranks in order to effectively tackle this situation. Under these circumstances the civil, military tussle would only add to our woes. As claimed by the government both sides have amicably resolved the issues therefore let us hope that a united approach shall be adopted towards regional as well intra-regional issues.

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.

MANUEL DURAN

Humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan needs to be avoided

Spain is now open for international tourists including those from non-European Schengen countries; 2021 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations

EXCLUSIVE

Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Spain Manuel Duran gave an exclusive interview to Daily Islamabad POST / CENTRELINE and DNA News Agency. Ambassador Duran talked extensively about bilateral as well as multilateral issues. He also touched upon latest Covid situation in his country and shared Spanish experiences of tackling the pandemic. Spain celebrates its national day on October 12, however due to Covid, a formal reception was not hosted this time



LET us begin with COVID-19 pandemic. Spain is one of the hardest hit countries. Please share with our Spanish gov't's preventive measures.

As for all countries across the world, COVID 19 impacted our country and our health system. From March 2020 Spain was learning as the pandemic was hitting, trying to respond to a challenge that no one could have barely foreseen in advance.

First of all, we need to be extremely grateful to all workers in the health sector, who worked day and night when the situation was critical, risking their lives for the sake of others.

Spain was hit hard by the first COVID wave from March to June 2020. In that period, special measures were taken. Restrictions to the movement of people had to be imposed. A confinement was put into place: people could only leave their houses for the strictly necessary (groceries, pharmacy, essential work, etc.). The confinement was lifted in May 2020 and as of July last year restaurants, hotels and shops started to open gradually.

Subsequent waves (so far, five waves have been registered by experts) also hit Spain, leaving a total number of 4.9 million people infected and 86,000 thousand people who died being COVID positive. One year and a half later, Spain is now prepared to tackle similar pandemics. For example, specialized hospitals have been built and specific units have been created. The Spanish government has tried, together with our European partners, to find the balance between imposing protection and safety measures and reviving our economy. Examples of this balance are the number of people allowed in shops, restaurants, hotels, etc; the mandatory use of masks and sanitizer in interiors, etc.

Finally, the vaccination strategy has

been a success in Spain. The vaccination campaign started in January 2021 with some target groups (citizens older than 80 years, health sector workers) and in August 2021 vaccination was general for everyone over 12 years old. As of now, 85% of the Spanish population is vaccinated.

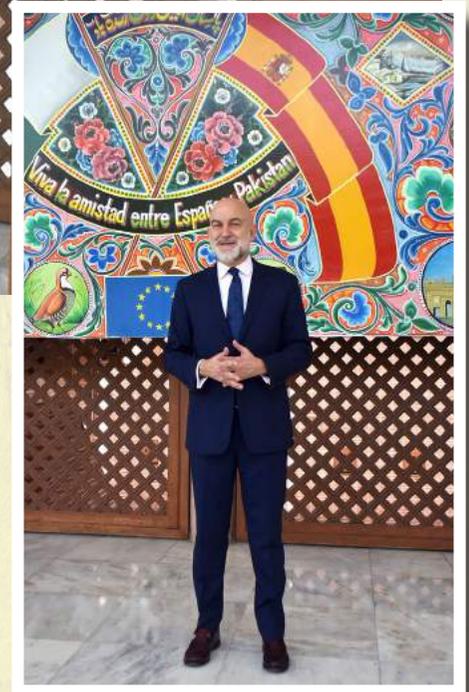
What is latest situation and when do you think Spain shall be able to receive international tourists? If it has already opened, then under what pre-conditions?

Spain is now open for international tourists including those from non-European Schengen countries. Pakistan is one of these countries but some requirements have been put into place: all tourists need to be fully vaccinated, at least 14 days before the start of the trip, with one of the vaccines approved by the European Union or the World Health Organization (with current data, Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Janssen/Johnson&Johnson, Sinovac and Sinopharm). Besides, an electronic certificate has to be digitally fulfilled before entering Spain.

The rest of requirements that applied before COVID to obtain tourism visas are still in place.

It is understandable that due to Covid the momentum in bilateral relations has also been disturbed. How do you plan to regain that momentum?

It is true that governments across the world in the beginning focused on the priority of tackling the immediate health and economic crisis that derived from the COVID19 pandemic. But during the crisis the Spanish government was not only looking inwards, rather the contrary, many exchanges on the topic were held with our European partners as well as in the framework of UN and WHO to share best practices and to coordinate measures.



Now that the vaccination campaign has been a success, it is the moment to breathe and focus on other areas beyond the health sector. In this sense and regarding Spain-Pakistan bilateral relations, 2021 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations. Spain was one of the first countries to recognize the independent state of Pakistan and in 1951 we opened our Embassy in Karachi, which later was moved to Islamabad. We are now in process of organizing a special cultural event to commemorate the 70th anniversary. Spain and Pakistan enjoy excellent bilateral diplomatic relations. Another example of that is the recent visit on September 10th to Islamabad of Mr. José Manuel Albares, Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs. Minister Albares had fruitful exchanges with the Prime Minister Imran Khan, the Chief of Army Staff, General Bajwa and his homologue, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. **We believe, all the Spanish troops**

and nationals stationed in Afghanistan were evacuated safely. How do you see the situation in Afghanistan after the pull out of US and allied forces?

Allow me first of all to thank Pakistan and the Pakistani government for all the assistance and the help to evacuate Afghan refugees from Pakistan to Spain. Without Pakistan's support, we would not have been able to achieve it.

I am the Ambassador of Spain to Pakistan, not to Afghanistan, therefore I am not the person to be asked the question on the situation in Afghanistan. But I can assure you that Spain is committed to the Afghan people: in the Geneva Donors Conference for Afghanistan, Spain committed 20 million euro in humanitarian aid for Afghanistan.

Of course, it would be premature for you to comment on the issue of recognition of Taliban govt by Spain, but what is your understanding that how the world may react on the recognition issue?

The priority for the international community is that humanitarian aid is delivered and that it reaches all people in need before winter starts. A humanitarian crisis needs to be avoided. This is the priority, together with the safeguard of the human rights, particularly for vulnerable groups, such as women, girls and minorities. Subsequent steps will be seen and analyzed together with the evolution of the situation in Afghanistan.



Italian Hospitality

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of businessmen and Industry experts led by Zahid Latif Khan, Chairman ISE Towers RMC were invited by Ambassador of Italy, Andreas Ferrarese at his residence for dinner. Newly elected President of RCCI Nadim Rauf was also part of the delegation. – DNA







DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Ambassador of Argentina to Pakistan, Leopoldo Francisco Sahores and others inaugurating tree plantation at the Argentina Park, in connection with the 70th anniversary of Pakistan-Argentina diplomatic relations. – DNA

Russian envoy extols Pakistan efforts for peace in the region

says PM billion tree move lauded by world leaders

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has expressed the desire to further strengthen bilateral relations with Argentina in different fields.

Addressing an event in connection with tree plantation at Argentina Park, in Islamabad on Monday, he said there is a great potential to bolster bilateral trade and attract investment.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi said we need to reactivate our Joint Business Council besides enhancing our parliamentary exchanges to further strengthen the bilateral relationship.

As regards Climate Change, the Foreign Minister said Prime Minister Imran Khan is leading from the front to deal with this challenge through tree plantation campaigns. He said his efforts have also been recognized by the world leaders.

Ambassador Adam Tugio launches Indonesian Batik Exhibition

Exhibition which is collaboration between the Indonesian Embassy, Islamabad and the Batik Studio, Islamabad aims at transmitting inspiring innovative ideas and skill development in creative mediums and fashion industry

Centreline Report

ISLAMABAD: The Indonesian Ambassador launched the Batik Exhibition titled “Indonesia Batik: Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity” at the Centaurus Mall, Islamabad on Monday. The Exhibition which is collaboration between the Indonesian Embassy, Islamabad and the Batik Studio, Islamabad aims at transmitting inspiring innovative ideas and skill development in creative mediums and fashion industry. President Pakistan Women Association Mehwish Sohail was the Guest of honor on the occasion while faculty and students from National College of Arts, Iqra University and Fatima Jinnah University were also present on the occasion. Ambassador Adam Tugio flanked by the guest of honor, GM Operations Centaurus Mall Irfan UIHaque, CEO Batik Studio Mohsin Qamar launched the exhibition by cutting the ribbon. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Adam Tugio said that because of the shared historical, religious and cultural linkages and remarkable similarities the possibilities for deepening of Indonesia’s relationship with Pakistan were enormous and hence promotion of people to people contact encourages the vital role that various stakeholders could play in contributing to the strength and vitality of the bilateral relationship.

He said that Indonesia was extremely rich in art and culture which were intertwined with religion and age-old traditions. The crafts of Indonesia vary in both medium and art form and as a whole the people are artistic by nature and express themselves on canvas, wood, metals, clay and stone, he added. The Envoy said that Batik was the most quintessentially Indonesian textile and historically the most expressive and subtle of the resist methods. Batik was intertwined with the cultural identity of the Indonesian people and, through the symbolic meanings of its colors and designs, expresses their creativity and spirituality. It was gaining popularity internationally as a wonderful creative medium and, no wonder, it has been added to the Representative List of UNESCO’s World Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity which is the theme of today’s exhibition as well, he elaborated. On this occasion, the Ambassador also informed that the Embassy will soon organize “The Pakistan Batik Design Competition” in collaboration with the Pakistani Universities. He mentioned that the top three winners of the competition will be sent to Indonesia’s world famous Bali Island for a free trip and get two weeks hands on training on Batik Technique and Designing at the prime Arts College of the Island. Batik textiles feature ornate motifs, patterns, and colors created by brushing or pouring hot wax onto undyed fabric. The fabric is then dyed, and the wax is removed with boiling water to reveal the patterns. This process can be repeated multiple times to create layered patterns with different colors. Although it is common to see the mass production of batik with technology and machines, it is still made by hand in many parts of Indonesia. There is a considerable market for this high-quality cloth. Batik is gaining popularity both in Indonesia and abroad and the fashion designers are incorporating batik textiles and designs into their range of collections. The list of batik products was ever getting lengthier and the striking beauty of batik handbags, bedspreads, curtains and tablecloths was indescribable. The Exhibition runs thru 11-13 October 2021 and displays some fine collection of batik and batik products.



Reviving Tourism amid the Pandemic

Adam M. Tugio

TOURISM is a great way to explore new destinations, learn about culture and history, and break out of our routine lives by tapping into the world of adventure. At another level, tourism also plays a critical role in helping nations build their economies. To raise awareness about the role of tourism at the international level, every year September 27 is celebrated as the World Tourism Day.

Over the years, tourism has been one of the fattest growing industries in the world. In addition to the opportunities for recreation and cultural exchange, tourism industry has emerged as a big source to generate employment opportunities, grow service sector and help earn foreign exchange. The tourism sector unlike other industries incorporates many industries, including lodging, transport, attractions, travel companies, and more. Hence, tourism is a remarkable phenomenon that spurs the overall economic growth worldwide.

Traveling both internationally and domestically has become increasingly common all over the world. As a result, both leisure travel spending and business travel spending have seen consistent growth over the last many years. Prior to the pandemic, Travel & Tourism (T&T) including its direct, indirect and induced impacts accounted for 1 in 4 of all new jobs created across the world, 10.6% of all jobs (334 million), and 10.4% of global GDP (USD 9.2 trillion). Meanwhile, international visitor spending amounted to USD 1.7 trillion in 2019 (6.8% of total exports, 27.4% of global services exports).

T&T direct contribution to GDP for Indonesia was USD 21.8 billion in 2019 while its total contribution to employment sector was at 10.1%. In Pakistan's case total T&T contribution to the



national GDP was USD 7.9 billion and accounted for 5.5 % of total employment.

The pandemic has brought a significant impact on the tourist sector. The sharp drop in visitor numbers is having severe economic and social consequences both inside and outside the tourism industry. As a result, the topic for this year's World Tourism Day, "Tourism for Inclusive Growth" is appropriate in the sense that it strives to assist those involved in the tourism sector in every possible manner. Many nations are ready to reopen their borders to overseas tourists after a successful vaccination campaign. The CHSE (Clean, Health, Safety, and Environment) certification program

has helped to adopt new health protocols. There is great optimism and confidence globally about recovery in the tourism sector and many countries are now gearing up to reopen tourist destinations as the vaccination campaign is getting into full swing.

To begin, one of the important strategies for reviving tourism is to promote domestic tourism in places or locales where the health situation is under control. In many economies the domestic tourists could replace a considerable portion of international visitors, if fully mobilized. The situation is unprecedented, and the coming months will show how successful governments will be in tapping domes-

tic tourism to fill the void left by international travelers.

Simultaneously, efforts must be made to improve hard infrastructure in order to reach touristic destinations and amenities facilities in order to provide visitors with a pleasant and pleasurable stay. Let us not overlook the power of word-of-mouth marketing as a powerful instrument for promoting certain locations. Second, in the recovery phase, countries can negotiate so-called travel bubbles to encourage international visitors. Establishing bilateral travel bubbles is an interesting option to revive tourism. The growing number of travel agreements is a testament to this. To revive tourism successfully, governments together with travel and tourism sectors should prepare phased tourism recovery plans, in which travel bubbles can be a stepping stone to a fully open regime. During the recovery phase, governments need to rebuild tourist confidence and encourage innovation and investment for a resilient and sustainable tourism sector.

Third, consumer behaviors have changed as a result of the pandemic, and the significance of having a strong social media presence has grown. To secure a stronger position for recovery, Destination Management Organizations (DMOs) should engage with influencers and operate across multi-channel platforms. Social media traffic has dramatically increased as consumers have utilized this as a tool to escape stringent lockdown restrictions. Certain changes are likely to become long-standing, as individuals will be more dependent on this to alleviate anxieties, and influencers should be a key consideration in travel recovery strategies. International surveys have suggested that younger groups will be the first to resume international leisure tourism, once restrictions are lifted. The social-media influencers, many of whom are drawn from these key demographics, will play a pivotal role in restoring that confidence and con-

tributing to the recovery of the tourism industry at large. This smart marketing through social media influencers will complement conventional approach with participation to international T&T Fairs.

Fourth, growing articulation between tourism and creativity has been encouraged by the search for alternative models of tourism development and the expanding creative economy. Adding creativity to tourism will become even more common diversification strategy, particularly in the field of cultural tourism.

The role of calendar of events in tourism destination development should also be noted. Today, it is not surprising that events have the power to affect the formation of a destination's image and can help with promoting, positioning, and branding it across the globe. A fruitful integration of event management into touristic activities will win success and attract numerous customers to the target destinations.

Fifth, one major trend that travel agencies and the tourism industry will have to adapt to in the future is the increasing global interest in environment friendly travel. Nowadays, a growing number of tourists have begun recognizing the negative impact their trips can have on affected regions. As a result, more and more global travelers believe in the importance of sustainable travel and green travel choices. People also prefer to avoid in-house congested areas in post-pandemic situations, thus open air and back-to-nature activities or eco-tourism might become a new trend for tourism attractions.

Finally, visual storytelling has been a big part of the tourism industry's toolkit. Visual imagery can say so much more than words alone, and under present scenario many travel brands from individual hotel chains to entire destination marketing initiatives will have to take their storytelling to new heights for the travel and tourism sector

recovery from the negative impacts of the COVID pandemic.

I recently visited Taxila and Lahore Museums and was highly impressed by the grandeur of the monuments there. I strongly felt the need of promoting and highlighting the Gandhara civilization not only through visual and performing arts but also essentially through the virtual reconstruction using computer-based simulations to bring these marvelous heritage sites to the wider international audience. Taxila could become a new holiest site for Buddhist pilgrimages to pay respect and devotion to Gautama Buddha like Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib for Sikh community. Pakistan has the capacity to do so since it has talented and creative workforce in the IT development industries.

Both Indonesia and Pakistan with roughly half a billion combined population offer great opportunities for the growth of bilateral tourism and only needed synergized modern marketing methods and visa facilitations to match its true potential.

Interestingly, the two countries have a lot of interesting social and cultural similarities to share. Moreover, both are gifted with enormous natural beauty, rich diverse heritage and unbeatable hospitality. From scenic natural beauty to unique culture and traditions, from delicious cuisines to creative minds, from indigenous art to attractive life style, the similarities are abundant and captivating.

They serve as a binding element to strengthen the cultural bridge between the two nations.

As the health situation is gradually improving, I expect travelers between the two countries will start coming to explore the appealing tourist destinations on sites. The Indonesian tourism industry is well geared to welcome and serve the Pakistani tourism sector for an enjoyable experience of adventure and hospitality.

– The writer is the Indonesian Ambassador to Pakistan. Views expressed here are personal.



ISLAMABAD: MATSUDA Kuninori, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, on behalf of the Government of Japan conferring the imperial decoration on Feroz Shah.– DNA

Pakistani businessman gets Japanese award

Mahnoor Ansar

Ambassador Matsuda hopes that this contribution will further promote and strengthen economic relations and mutual understanding between Japan and Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan has conferred the 2021 Spring Imperial Decoration, “The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette” upon Mr. Syed Feroz Alam Shah, Honorary Technical Advisor, Federal Board of Investment (BoI) and Director of National Engineering Corporation (NEC), in recognition of his dedicated contributions to promoting economic relations and mutual understanding between Japan and Pakistan.

MATSUDA Kuninori, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, on behalf of the Government of Japan on September 29 conferred the imperial decoration “The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette” upon Mr. Syed Feroz Alam Shah. The conferral ceremony was held at his official residence with limited participants, while taking infection prevention measures against COVID-19.

Mr. Syed Feroz Alam Shah has worked as Honorary Technical Advisor at the Federal Board of Investment (BoI) since 2010, supporting business ties between Japan and Pakistan, whilst simultaneously working as a director in the private sector. In terms of facilitation of new entrants to the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Pakistan, he dedicated to assisting entry of business in the Pakistani market. He additionally dealt with the complicated application process, cooperating with the Pakistani Government. Likewise, after formal introduction into the market, he contributed to working for the coordination of amendments to the SEZ Act to be more coherence with actual business activities.

Apart from his work furthering bilateral business ties, he has established “Pak-Japan Friendship Society (PJFS)” in 2000 in Balochistan with his brother, and been fulfilling a major role as the president from 2018. He has also contributed to establish “Pak-Japan Culture Centre in Quetta” which promote cultural exchange through introducing Japanese Movies, Japanese Marshal arts “Karate” and Flower arrangement etc. His activities is not just focusing on not only strengthening Economic ties but also cultural understanding between two countries.

Ambassador MATSUDA, while speaking on the occasion, congratulated Mr. Shah on receiving this prestigious imperial decoration by the Government of Japan and hoped to develop closer cooperative ties between two countries along with Mr. Shah.

The Ambassador expressed his sincere hope that this contribution will further promote and strengthen economic relations and mutual understanding between Japan and Pakistan as well as people-to-people contacts between the two friendly nations.



ISLAMABAD: Editor Daily Islamabad POST /Centreline magazine and DNA News Agency Ansar Mahmood Bhatti met with the Ambassador of Belarus Andrei Metelitsa. They discussed matters of mutual interest and how to further develop media cooperation between the two countries. – DNA

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ISLAMABAD: Zahid Latif Khan Chairman Asian Institute of ECO Civilisation Research and Development hosted dinner for Nader Hakakian President DDC Group USA, and newly elected President of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, at Islamabad Serena Hotel. A large number of diplomats, members of the civil society and business community attended the dinner. – DNA





30th Anniversary of Independence of Kyrgyzstan





MTCP program plays central role in cementing Malaysia, Pak ties

Malaysian govt has lifted the entry restriction for Pakistani citizens with permanent resident status, long-stay passes, businessmen investors, as well as students

Saifullah



ISLAMABAD: Deddy Faisal Ahmad Salleh the Charge d Affaires of the Malaysian High Commission has said MTCP reflects Malaysia's commitment to South-South cooperation, particularly technical cooperation among developing countries. He expressed these views while speaking at a get-together of MTCP alumni. Former Ambassador Abdul Basit, Director General Ministry of Foreign Affairs Aamir Atozai and other dignitaries also attended the event. Deddy Faisal further said, the programme was formulated based on our principle that the development of a country depends on the quality of its human resources. In addition, Malaysia sees MTCP integral towards strengthening mutually beneficial bilateral relations. MTCP emphasizes human resources development mainly through training and capacity-building courses including short-term courses at Malaysian public and private training institutions, and long-term courses at Malaysian public universities. Annually, Malaysia's flag-

ship MTCP offers more than 60 technical training and capacity-building programmes in vast areas of development in collaboration with leading local training institutions and international development partners, he added. He said, programmes such as agriculture, economy, finance and trade, education, environment, industrial technical training, diplomacy, public management and administration, professional services, social development and science, technology and ICT are offered by leading Malaysian training institutions, many of which are centres of excellence for training. 'To date, more than 34,500 participants from 144 developing countries have benefited from the various programmes offered under the MTCP since its inception in 1980'. A total of 752 participants from Pakistan have benefitted from the programme. We aim to encourage more future participation from Pakistani officials in the MTCP, as it would not only be beneficial for our bilateral relations

but it would also assist in the career development of the participants he added. Another good news for Pakistan is that this year 2 postgraduate students from Pakistan have been awarded MTCP Scholarship to do postgraduate study. The two of them will commence their study in University Malaysia Pahang and University Sains Malaysia respectively in the 4th week of October 2021. He said that Proton Pakistan, one of our flagship investment in this country, will be inaugurating its first vehicle assembly plant in Zulfiqarabad next week on October 13th. This event will mark the roll out of the first locally assembled SAGA in Pakistan. Saga which is an acronym for Safety, Achievement, Greatness and Ability is Malaysia's number one car since its launch 35 years ago. The Plant is owned and operated by Al-Haj Automotive, the Exclusive Authorized Distributor and also the Assemblers of PROTON vehicles in Pakistan. The opening of this plant will create 2,000 direct employment opportunities in its



first three years of operation and it is estimated a further 20,000 indirect jobs will also be created as a result of this new plant being commissioned. 'I place high hope that with the launching of this plant with its capacity of producing 25,000 unit of vehicle per annum will further strengthen economic ties between the two countries which currently stands at 1.39 billion US Dollars last year'. He said the Malaysian government has lifted the entry restriction for Pakistani citizens with permanent resident status, long-stay passes, businessmen investors, as well as students upon obtaining prior entry approval or My Travel Pass from the Immigration Department of Malaysia. Of course, with health protocols in check, all travellers needed to be fully vaccinated, undergo Covid-19 testing upon arrival and be quarantined for the period stipulated for all foreign arrivals by the Health ministry.





Mr. Isphanyar Bhandara presenting coffee table book "Gems and Jewels" Religions of Pakistan to the president of Islamic republic of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi at the presidency Islamabad.

Pakistan's first premier Hospitality and Tourism school has welcomed the first batch of students

DNA

Hashoo School of Hospitality Management (HSHM) in collaboration with Sheffield Hallam University, UK and in partnership with CTTI is pleased to announce the beginning of

their first academic year. The student orientation ceremony was hosted on 20th September 2021 at the auditorium of CTTI campus, Islamabad. During the ceremony, the students were shown the ropes of how their academic journey will

flow at HSHM. The students will be studying at HSHM CTTI campus Islamabad for the first two years, followed by the third year at Sheffield Hallam University, UK from where they will graduate with a BSc. (Hons) degree.



Russian envoy extols Pakistan efforts for peace in the region

Pak, Russia pledge to further cement and enhance bilateral relations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a virtual meeting with Russian Ambassador Danila Ganich, Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Muhammad Afridi underlined the need to work together to counter the challenges of climate change, poverty, Human rights and other issues of mutual concern. "Relations with Russia remains a key priority of Pakistan's foreign policy", said Deputy Chairman Senate while speaking virtually with the Russian Envoy here on Wednesday. During the meeting, issues of mutual interest, Afghan situation and overall regional situation were discussed.

Afridi underscored that relations between the two countries have improved significantly over the last two decades. While pointing to the recent telephonic conversation held between Imran Khan and the Russian President, and conversation on bilateral relations held between Foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi with his counterpart, the deputy chief of the Senate stated that both the countries have maintained contacts at high-level, which is of paramount importance.

Economic ties between the two countries were discussed in detail during the meeting. Discussing the gas pipeline project, Deputy Chairman Senate said that Pakistan is working towards early completion of the Pakistan-Stream Gas Pipeline Project. Meetings of the technical committee are being held regularly to finalise the Project, he added. Both the dignitaries stressed the need to further cement the bilateral relations between the Senate of Pakistan and the Council of the Federation as well.



Mirza Afridi

Discussing the impact of COVID-19, Afridi said that the pandemic has wreaked havoc on the lives and livelihoods of people across the globe. He commended the development of "Sputnik" vaccine by the Russian Federation.

"Both countries, being the member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APU), need to utilise these forums and work together for the creation of a prosperous and peaceful future of the world", Afridi remarked.

He noted that Pakistan and Russia have several institutional mechanisms in place i.e JCC, Joint working group on economic cooperation, Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism etc to discuss issues of mutual concern. This year the bilateral trade volume has swelled and hit a record 780 million US dollars, Afridi expressed with pleasure. Keeping in view the true potential of both the countries, he called for upswinging the trade volume to its desired level.

"The collaboration between the



Russian Amb. Danila Ganich

two sides in the field of Railways, Transport, Oil and Gas, Power Generation etc is satisfactory", Deputy chairman senate observed. The Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) on economic, trade, scientific and technical cooperation is a very useful institutional mechanism to discuss a range of issues, ideas and proposals to further enhance economic linkages", he underscored. Afridi hoped that the upcoming meeting of IGC in Moscow, to be held in Nov 2021 would be a meaningful engagement.

The Russian Envoy hailed Pakistan's effort for peace in the region. He said that Pakistan is an important country in the region, adding that Russia cherishes its cordial ties with such a significant country of the region.

During the virtual meeting, Afridi called for regular parleys between the two countries to enhance bilateral relations. He stressed the need for parliamentary ties between the two countries to further strengthen bilateral relations.

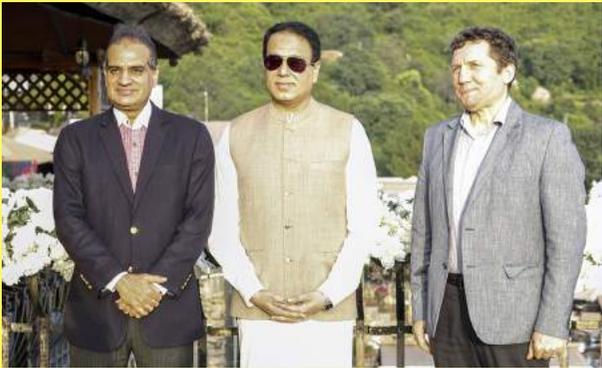
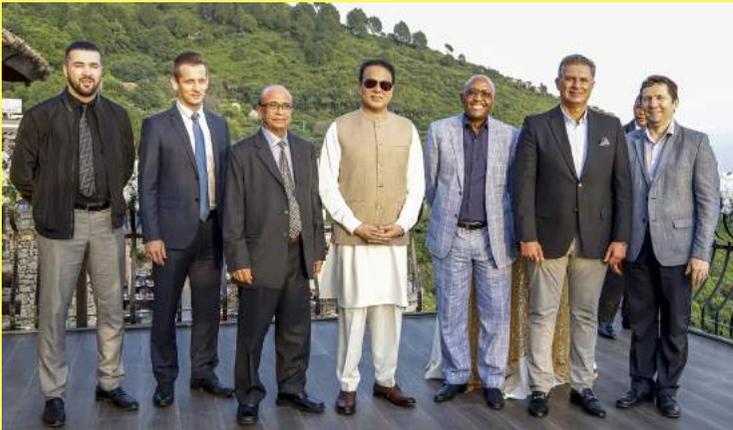
Diplomats enjoy Sunset dinner at Monal Tree House

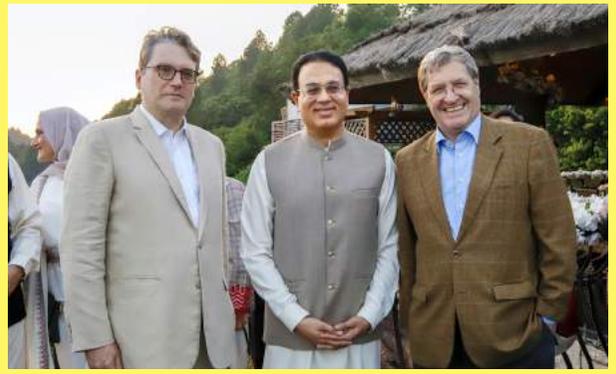
Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: CEO and Founder of Monal Group Luqman Ali Afzal hosted an annual sunset dinner for the diplomatic community based in Islamabad. A large number of ambassadors, high commissioners and diplomats attended the dinner. The guests enjoyed the Monal hospitality the most. The seven-course menu provided the guests with an opportunity of enjoying both continental and Pakistani cuisines. The diplomats praised the CEO Monal for providing them with an opportunity to meet their colleagues after a long time because the Covid situation had restricted their movement and social gatherings. Most of the diplomats were of the view that Monal happened to be their preferred choice whenever they had guests from their respective countries adding Monal offers a variety of culinary options.

– Full coverage shall be published in the coming issue of Centreline magazine.







Monal Tree House





“SAY NO TO CORRUPTION”
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

**NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY
(KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA REGION)**

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. NHA (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Region) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders who can prove their eligibility and qualification for the following **Special Maintenance and Bridge/Culvert Structure Maintenance Works** (F.Y. 2019 - 20):

Sr. #	Contract No.	DESCRIPTION OF WORK, LOCATION & ROUTE	Engineer's Estimate (Rs.)	Completion Period	Bid Security (Rs.)	PEC Requirement Category/ Specialization Codes	FINANCIAL COMPETENCE REQUIRED (RS.IN MILLION)		
							CF *	AWC **	AATO ***
i.	SM-KP-19-5015(S)	WIDENING AND REPAIR OF WORST SECTION OF NARROW ROAD PORTION BETWEEN KM-41+000 TO KM-46+000 ON N-95	290,434,589	178 days	5,850,000	C-3 & above CE-01 & CE-10	72.6	435.6	1161.7
ii.	BC-KP-19-5011(K)	REPLACEMENT OF BADLY DAMAGED EXPANSION JOINTS BETWEEN KM-1078 - 1079 (DUA BRIDGE), KM-1080 -1081 (TAZIRI BRIDGE) ON N-55 (OBR)	3,322,211	60 days	67,000	C-5 & above CE-01, CE-02 & CE-10	5	5	13.3
iii.	BC-KP-19-5012(P)	INSTALLATION OF INDIGENOUS EXPANSION JOINTS AT KM1219+900 (NBC) ON N-55 (IHP)	721,793	30 days	15,000	C-5 & above CE-01, CE-02 & CE-10	2.2	1.1	2.9
iv.	BC-KP-19-5013(S)	RECONSTRUCTION OF COLLAPSED RETAINING WALL DAMAGED DUE TO HEAVY RAIN/FLOOD BETWEEN KM-18+200 TO 18+800 ON N-90	1,621,945	90 days	33,000	C-5 & above CE-01 & CE-10	1.7	2.5	6.5
v.	SM-KP-19-5016(P)	REINSTALLATION OF DAMAGED/ MISSING STEEL LOUVERS BETWEEN KM-1692+000 ON N-5 (CHAMKANI INTERCHANGE)	904,915	30 days	19,000	C-5 & above CE-01 & CE-10	2.8	1.4	3.7
vi.	SM-KP-19-5017(S)	PROVISION/ CONSTRUCTION OF SIDE DRAIN PCC SHOULDER BETWEEN KM-40+100 TO KM-61+400 ON N-95	604,460	30 days	13,000	C-5 & above CE-01 & CE-10	1.9	0.910	2.5
vii.	SM-KP-19-5021(B)	SPECIAL MAINTENANCE WORK BETWEEN KM-90+000 TO KM-120+000 ON N-45 (TALASH AREA)	99,366,687	120 days	1,988,000	C-4 & above CE-01 & CE-10	75	149.1	397.5

viii	SM-KP-19-5012(B)	CONSTRUCTION OF SIDE DRAIN & RCC SLAB BETWEEN KM-94-96 ON N-45	20,442,407	178 days	410,000	C-5 & above CE-01 & CE-10	10.3	30.7	81.8
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*CF= CASH FLOW, **AWC = AVERAGE WORKING CAPITAL & ***AATO = AVERAGE ANNUAL TURN OVER

2. Open competitive Bidding will be carried out by adopting **“Single Stage Two Envelopes”** procedure. Bidders are required to be registered with Pakistan Engineering Council in required **Category** or above for the **Year 2021**, having Specialization Code as indicated in table above. **JOINT VENTURE (JV) IS NOT ADMISSIBLE ONLY FOR SERIAL NUMBER I & VII.**
3. Bidders can download bidding documents from NHA Website. The bidders are advised to visit the site before submission of bids. For any additional information, the interested bidders may contact the office of General Manager (Maintenance) KP, NHA Peshawar before the bid submission date within office hours. Bidders representatives would be required to present the **“Authority to submit the Bid”** while submitting the bids.
4. Bids shall be received on or before **October 12, 2021** upto **1200 Hours** in the office of the General Manager (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), NHA Office Complex, Chamkani Interchange, Peshawar. The Bidder shall submit **Two (02) sets of Technical Proposal & Financial Proposal** (one original and one duplicate copy in sealed envelope), against each Contract tabulated above. Each page of the technical proposal shall be numbered, signed and stamped by the bidder, as mentioned in the Checklist. Incomplete Bidding Documents shall be considered non-responsive and rejected accordingly.
5. The envelope containing **“Original Technical Bid”** will be opened on the same day at **1230 Hours** in the presence of bidder’s representatives who may choose to attend, whereas the duplicate copy of the Technical & Financial Bid shall be kept sealed. Sealed Envelope containing **“Financial Bid”** of technically qualified bidder(s) will be opened later, the date of which will be communicated after evaluation of the Technical Bids.
6. Bidders are required to have relevant experience of satisfactory completion of minimum Two (02) contracts of amount mentioned in relevant bidding documents in the last Five (05) Years. Letter of Acceptance, Contract Agreement, BOQs and Completion Certificate of similar contracts must be provided.
7. **Bid Security** shall be in the form of “Deposit at Call” or a “Bank Guarantee” issued by a scheduled bank of Pakistan, valid for a period 28 days beyond the Bid Validity date. Bid Security must be attached with the **“Technical Bid”**. Bid documents to be read carefully.
8. **Minimum Performance** Bond shall be 10% of the Accepted Contract Price, if the quoted bid price is upto 10% below the Engineer’s Estimate (EE). If the quoted bid price is beyond 10% below the EE, the Bidder shall have to provide **additional performance security** in shape of **“Bank Guarantee only”** for the balance lower percentage beyond 10% below the EE. Bid documents to be read carefully.
9. The Bidders are required to provide the following **Mandatory** certificates on Judicial Stamp Paper separately, duly attested by the Oath Commissioner/ Notary Public:-
 - a) Pending Litigation/No Litigation/Non-Blacklisting Certificate.
 - b) Minimum Professional Staff (as mentioned in the bidding documents) alongwith CVs and Undertaking that the staff will be available for execution of work at site.
 - c) Minimum Equipment/Machinery (as mentioned in the bidding documents) for execution of work at site.
10. The Firms providing incomplete, unsubstantiated, bogus and/or incorrect information are liable to disqualification and/or legal action. NHA reserves the right to reject any bid or all bids as per the PPRa Rule No.33(1).

**GENERAL MANAGER (MAINTENANCE)
KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA REGION**

NHA office Complex Chamkani Interchange Peshawar

Tel: 091-9225002/9225027, Fax: 091-9225003

Websites: www.nha.gov.pk, www.ppra.org.pk

PID (I)1891/21

GSP plus system has benefited Pakistan, says Ch. Sarwar

Zafar Bakhtawari hosts dinner for Punjab governor and Gohar Ejaz





Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: Governor of Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar said that he had earlier obtained GSP Plus to increase Pakistan's exports and would continue to do so with the same zeal for its five-year extension. For the development and prosperity of Pakistan, by providing access to Pakistani products in the European market will be made duty free. He made this remarks last night at a dinner hosted by Zafar Bakhtawari Secretary General United Business Group in honour of Dr Gohar Ijaz to celebrate the honorary Doctrate degree in recognition of his social services by punjab university . He said that for the first time in the 150-year history of Punjab University, an entrepreneur has been awarded an honorary doctorate degree for his social services and Of course, with such actions at the government level, the business community will play a greater role in social services.

Dr. Gohar Ijaz, Patron in Chief of All Pakistan Textile Mills Association, said that there was a time when he was indebted to the tune of Rs. 10 billion and he started to spend 33% of his earnings on social services. When he started, Allah Almighty started helping him from the unseen and as soon as he started it, he reached at the present stage of spending in social sector SM Munir, Patron Patron in Chief UBG, said that Dr. Gohar Ijaz was providing food to 20,000 people daily in the hospitals of Lahore and in the days of corona, he was continuously providing rations to one lakh

households. We must do things in life so that our marks will remain even after we leave and people will remember them because of such things.

Zubair Tufail, President, UBG, said that Dr. Gohar Ijaz is one of the best and most successful businessmen in Pakistan and the way he started his career as the Chairman of Jinnah Hospital Lahore The chain of services must move forward.

Former LDA chairman SM Imran said that Pakistan's business community should unite and work out a plan of action to solve their problems and we can fulfill our demands from the government only with the power of unity. Mr Imran said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has been working sincerely to move Pakistan forward economically and by working continuously for the last three years he has taught people like us how to work. Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General, UBG, said that Pakistan will not be able to become a prosperous and developed country unless the dignity of business person in this country is enhanced. He said that the policies of the country should be made in consultation with the business community.

Pakistan will never be able to achieve the goals that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal have dreamed of. Khalid Tawab, President, UBG Sindh, said that it is welcome that our second generation which includes Gohar Ijaz, SM Imran and Ahsan Bakhtawari. Along with having a keen interest in business,

they are also playing a role in social services. Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Secretary Information, UBG, said that the Prime Minister should include talented and successful businessmen in his foreign trips and only them such business forum abroad would achieve positive results.

In his address, Mian Akram Farid, Chairman, Founder Group ICCI, said that parents should pay special attention to the training of their children so that we can make our children an ideal businessman and an ideal Pakistani. Former Senior Vice President of FPCCI Hanif Gohar in his address said that Dr. Gohar Ijaz has set an excellent example by giving the share of deserving people from his profits according to Quran and Sunnah and the business community is proud of him.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce, said that Pakistan could be made a prosperous country by focusing on tourism and agriculture. Former Vice President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari in his address on the occasion said that Pakistan should work for the promotion of trade with its friendly countries in which Turkey, Azerbaijan and Central Asian countries republics are at the forefront. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhen Kistafin said that Pakistan is a great country of the region and our President has specially sent us to establish relations with Pakistan and his President will visit Pakistan this year.

Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawri hosts dinner for the Nigerian High Commissioner





CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Islamabad Electricity Supply Company is a leading power distribution company of Pakistan serving more than 3.26 Million customers with annual revenue base of over Rs.180 billion having operational jurisdiction that covers five districts namely Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Attock, Jhelum and Chakwal. IESCO is seeking to hire on contract basis high caliber professionals for the following position to lead the respective department. This is senior level career based position that provides a unique opportunity to be part of the management team of a leading Power Distribution Company of Pakistan. The candidates are expected to have demonstrated capability/potential for his respective responsibilities and proactive management style:

Sr. No	Name of Post	Job Profile	Qualification Experience	Salary Package, Tenure & Age Limit
1	Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	<p>This is a senior level management position directly reporting to the Chief Executive Officer and Board of Directors of IESCO. The incumbent shall be responsible for leading and managing the Finance, Treasury and Accounts department, ensuring that appropriate advice is given to the board on all financial matters, keeping proper financial records and accounts, and for maintaining an effective system of internal financial control.</p> <p>Ideal candidate should have strong business acumen and Judgment capabilities and experience of working in Senior Management positions preferably with Board level interaction.</p> <p>The candidate should have complete knowledge of Corporate Governance Rules of Public sector Companies and their compliance requirements.</p> <p>The incumbent shall have the following specific additional experience</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have worked in an ERP operating environment. Implementing and integrating ERP systems would be given additional consideration. He should have in depth understanding of internal Audit function in ERP environment, risk systems and controls that meet IIA Standards 2. Implemented inventory management and control systems, including policy and implementation of inventory/assets valuations, assets tagging/ registers/record maintenance and inventory obsolescence and write offs, required inventory ordering levels and frequency of inventory inspections in the field and in warehouses. 3. Formulated and implemented procurement control functions including an independent procurements oversight and associated financial controls system. 4. An understanding of the Pakistan electricity market, regulations and regulatory structure, tariff structures of the various segments of this sector and Distribution Companies in particular, and the evolving changes under consideration would be an added advantage for the candidate. 5. Work effectively with external and internal auditors of the Company to ensure the continuing financial integrity of all systems and obtain judgments and recommendations to improve the systems and the financial health of the company. 6. To develop a competent and high performing team of individuals to achieve the required high standards of work in the department 	<p>A member of recognized body of Professional Accountants with at-least Ten (10) relevant experience, in case of public sector companies having total assets of 05 billion rupees or more</p> <p>A person holding a master degree in Finance from a university recognized by the Higher Education Commission with at least Fifteen (15) years relevant experience, in case of public sector companies having total assets of 05 billion rupees or more</p> <p>At least three (3) years' experience as Head of Finance is essential.</p>	<p>Market based competitive salary package with Company maintained car and medical coverage. Initial contract shall be for a period of three years, extendable on satisfactory performance. There will be a six months probation and contract will be confirmed after first performance review shall be conducted after six months of appointment for contract confirmation</p> <p>Preferable Age Limit: upto 45 Years</p>

HOW TO APPLY:

Application forms are available on IESCO website. Applications should be submitted through internet on IESCO website www.iesco.com.pk and through post along with detailed CV, attested copies of testimonials, minimum three references and a recent photograph to the undersigned. Only short listed candidates will be contacted for interview.

NOTE:

- a) No application will be accepted by hand.
- b) Departmental candidates are required to apply through proper channel.
- c) IESCO is an equal opportunity employer; females are equally encouraged to apply.
- d) The competent authority reserves the right to cancel the advertisement or withhold the recruitment process without assigning any reason.
- e) Last date for submission of application is **October 20th, 2021**.

PID NO 2013

Director General (Human Resources)

Islamabad Electric Supply Company

Street No. 40, Sector G-7/4, Islamabad

Phone No. +92-51-9252080, Fax NO. +92-51-9253071

BEST SERVICES TO VALUED CUSTOMERS IS OUR PRIORITY.

Pakistan attaches great importance to ties with Korea, says Shafqat Mahmood



ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education Shafqat Mahmood has said Pakistan and Korea enjoy excellent relations adding there existed huge scope of further expansion of bilateral relations. Shafqat Mahmood expressed words on the occasion of National Foundation Day and the Armed Forces Day of Republic of Korea. Guests hailing from all walks of life attended the reception. It was second formal diplomatic reception after relaxation in the Covid restrictions. Shafqat Mahmood further said he had visited Korea on a couple of occasions and found the country a must-visit place. He said the way Koreans have progressed in various fields especially in the field of technology, is simply remarkable. Senator Mushahid Hussain Chairman Senate Defence Committee also spoke on the occasion and extended warm wishes to the Korean government and people on the occasion. He said Pakistan wanted to have enhanced and deeper cooperation with Korea. Ambassador of Republic of Korea Suh Sangpyo in his address said, the first state of Korea, Gojoseon, was

founded in 2333 BC, on 3rd October, and Korea celebrates the day as a Nation Foundation Day. So this year falls on 4353rd anniversary of the Republic of Korea. He added, the diplomatic ties between Korea and Pakistan were established in 1983. Since then, relations of the two countries have increased rapidly in manifold areas. In particular, this year we have witnessed many concrete outcomes in our relations. In just a couple of minutes we watched a video clip on what has been done this year between Korea and Pakistan. In Political area, last Wednesday, two days ago, Korean 1st Vice Minister came to Islamabad and held the bilateral Political Consultation meeting with Foreign Secretary. And in the current Afghan issues, Korea and Pakistan are closely cooperating with each other. A month ago, the two foreign ministers had a consultation by telephone and with full supports from the Pakistani government, 390 Afghan nationals were safely moved from Kabul through Islamabad to Korea. In economic area, Korean companies are increasing investments to Pakistan. In hydropower sector, already two hydropower plants are under

operation producing electricity in Pakistan and the hydropower projects which account 2 billion in total are ongoing. In automobile sector, Korean mark cars, Hyundai and Kia, are locally produced. In mobile phone business, Samsung electronics are establishing an assembly line Karachi and once established as planned by December, the factory will produce 3 million units of mobile phones a year and creating 800 local employees. And some of Korea-Pakistan joint ventures are already in Special Economic Zone. The ambassador said, Culture is one of the sectors that have expanded the cooperation. Korea and Pakistan soon to conclude MOU to preserve and promote Gandhara Buddhist heritage, which includes 4 million USD grant. This MOU is expected to facilitate the Korean Buddhist tourism project which was discussed when the president of Jogye order (i.e. biggest Buddhist sect in Korea) came to Pakistan in 2019. Korean music, dancing and drama are also popular in Pakistan. So they could be in Korea with more contacts and cooperation. Development cooperation is also expanding this year. When the Korean



delegation from Ministry of Finance visited in July, Korea announced the provision of the Economic Development Cooperation Fund of one billion USD for 5 years starting from next year. This fund is a soft loan to assist developing countries. The previous EDCF was 500 million USD for the years. Now in terms of the committed volume of EDCF, the number is doubled up. Grant assistance from the Korean development agency, KOICA, is also active now, 5 projects ongoing amounting 40 million dollar and next year 2 more projects amount 15 million US dol-

lar will be added up. 'In academic and research area, this year we harvested some concrete results. Based on the MOU between Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security of Korea IFANS and Islamabad Policy Research Institute of Pakistan IPRI, which had been inactive since the signing of MOU in 2011, the 1st seminar was organized in last June. In August, we signed a new MOU between Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security of Korea and Institute of strategic studies Islamabad ISSI. Before the end of this year at least two more seminars will be organ-

ized among IFANS and IPRI and ISSI'. Ambassador Suh said there were still many areas where both countries can further expand relations. For example, Senate and Parliament play key role for enhancing the bilateral relations, by giving an impetus and even make legislation for promoting relations. So strengthening cooperation between Parliaments of the two countries should be also an area of priority to the both countries. I'm sure that relations between Korea and Pakistan will be even more strengthened in the years to come, he concluded.



Azerbaijan ambassador calls for bilateral private sector cooperation

United Business Group Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, former Vice President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Bakhtawari and Secretary General of PTI Traders Wing Islamabad Waqar Bakhtawari at his embassy



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Azerbaijan Ambassador Khazer Farhadov has said that the private sector of Pakistan, Azerbaijan and Turkey should work together to promote trade, economy and investment within these countries. He expressed these views during a meeting with United Business Group Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, former Vice President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Bakhtawari and Secretary General of PTI Traders Wing Islamabad Waqar Bakhtawari at his embassy in Islamabad.

The Ambassador of Azerbaijan further said that air, railway and road links between Pakistan and Azerbaijan need to be established and he assured to pay special attention to these projects. He further said

that the trade volume between Pakistan and Azerbaijan is just 14 million US dollars which is not up to the mark and there is a huge potential for expansion in various sectors. Recently, it has established a link between Pakistan's rice exporters and Azerbaijan's rice importers, which will yield better results. UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari said that Pakistan, Turkey and Azerbaijan are three countries while they are one nation and they will soon try to bring the private sector of the three countries closer by holding Pakistan, Turkey and Azerbaijan Business Forum. Zafar Bakhtawari also called for the establishment of direct air links between Pakistan and Azerbaijan. Ahsan Bakhtawari, former vice president of the ICCI,

said that the exchange of business community delegations is important for the promotion of trade between the two countries he said that they would have virtual contacts before visiting Azerbaijan with a business delegation.

Waqar Bakhtawari, Secretary General, PTI Traders Wing, Islamabad, apprised the Ambassador of the problems faced by the two countries in terms of cargo shipment .he said that air cargo is too expensive, road and railway links are not working and sea route is much difficult for trade. special attention to build the infrastructure is required in this regard. Zafar Bakhtawari presented his book "Jahan Dost" which includes articles on Pakistan-Azerbaijan to the Ambassador of Azerbaijan.

وزیر اعظم پاکستان کا خواب ریاستِ مدینہ کی طرز پر فلاحی نظام معاشی ترقی۔۔ خوشحال عوام

پاکستان کامیاب کسان

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نیا پاکستان
سیستا گھر
سیکیم



کامیاب ہنر مند
صحت مند پاکستان

قرض حاصل کرنے والوں کیلئے صحت انصاف کارڈ
کے ذریعے ہیلتھ انشورنس

درخواست گزاروں کو اہلیت اور عملدرآمد سے متعلق بذریعہ ایس ایم ایس مطلع کیا جائے گا۔



وزارت خزانہ
حکومت پاکستان

مزید معلومات کیلئے کال سینٹر نمبر پر رابطہ کریں
051-7062013



عملدرآمد کا طریقہ کار

پروگرام میں اندراج کیلئے اپنا قومی شناختی کارڈ نمبر
5771 پر ایس ایم ایس کریں



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پروگرام کا مرحلہ وار آغاز
پہلے مرحلے میں گلگت بلتستان، آزاد کشمیر، خیبر پختونخواہ، بلوچستان
اور پنجاب اور سندھ کے پسماندہ اضلاع شامل ہو گئے۔



Pak-Bulgaria agree to enhance bilateral economic cooperation

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Bulgaria on Sunday agreed to enhance the bilateral economic cooperation in different sectors and intend ensure in the investment in different potential areas of both sides. Both the countries were agreed to initiate the proposal for the investment in different potential areas including Information Technology (IT), food Processing and Tourism Sectors for Investment, said press release issued by Board of Investment (BOI) here.

Secretary Board of Investment (BOI), Ms. Fareena Mazhar received Bulgarian Ambassador to Pakistan, Ms. Irena Gancheva in her office for discussed the different areas of cooperation economy and investment. The Bulgarian ambassador further highlighted that there are a lot of

opportunities and potential in terms of mutual investment between the two countries. The ambassador expressed special interest in Pakistan's IT sector from investment point of view and underscored the significance of Pakistan's strategic location as a gateway to Asian market.

She further said that Bulgaria shares its border with Turkey, making it the first country of European Union in terms of its geographical location with respect to Asia and it can serve as a gateway to the European market for Pakistan's products.

The ambassador shared that food processing specifically yogurt and cheese manufacturing were Bulgaria's areas of specialty and it would be a favorable sector to invest in Pakistan. An MoU was signed between Invest Bulgaria Agency and Board of Investment which needs to be implemented with full force, she said.

While Secretary BOI apprised the ambassador on regulatory reforms being introduced by the Board of Investment that have been making the business climate of Pakistan immensely investor friendly.

She further shared that the COVID situation in Pakistan has been improving and the government has handled the pandemic efficiently, making it easy for foreign investors to visit and safely stay in Pakistan.

Elaborating on priority areas of investment, Ms. Fareena said that the Pakistan government is encouraging investment in value-added textiles and food processing sector.

The Secretary assured that a virtual meeting between the Board of Investment and its Bulgarian counterpart: Invest Bulgaria Agency will be organized by end of this month to rejuvenate the MoU and further explore possible areas of cooperation.

Pakistan proud of its relationship with Azerbaijan: Chairman Senate

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani has said Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoy excellent relations adding the victory in the Patriotic War against Armenia shows resilience and bravery of the Azerbaijani people. He said President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev led the country from the front during the 44 days war. The Chairman Senate made these remarks on the occasion of Remembrance Day, organized by the Azerbaijan embassy. Federal Ministers, Senators and members of the civil as well diplomatic fraternity attended the event. Sadiq Sanjrani thanked the Azerbaijan ambassador for inviting him as chief guest. He extended warm felicitations on behalf of the Pakistan government and people on the historic victory. He said Pakistan was one of the first countries that recognized Azerbaijan. Pakistan is proud of its companionship with Azerbaijan adding bilateral relations would continue to grow with each passing day. Pakistan also condemns the Armenia terrorism committed against the innocent people of Azerbaijan. Pakistan sincerely recognizes the sacrifices rendered by the valiant Azerbaijani soldiers during the 44 day long war, he added. The Chairman Senate thanked Azerbaijan for its support on the issue of Indian occupied Kashmir. He also emphasized on further strengthening Pakistan-Azerbaijan parliamentary groups in order to further deepen the bilateral cooperation. Sadiq Sanjrani also congratulated President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev over the great success in the Patriotic War.

Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov while speaking on the occasion gave a brief account of the Patriotic War. The ambassador also thanked Pakistan for unwavering support during the war. He said people of Azerbaijan also owe a great deal to their Pakistani brothers and sisters for extending whole-hearted support. The ambassador told the audience that Pakistani flags fluttered on the streets of Azerbaijan, which showed great love of Azerbaijani people for the people of Pakistan. The ambassador said, the Patriotic War under the leadership of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, President Ilham Aliyev that ended with a victory of the brave Azerbaijani Army, opened a new era in the history of the Republic of Azerbaijan, established international justice and changed the realities in the region.

Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul also spoke on the occasion and said Azerbaijani forces fought bravely to re-take its territories from the Armenian occupation. He lauded efforts of the Azerbaijani leadership towards rehabilitation and reconstruction of the liberated territories in a very short span of time.





Pakistan, Indonesia have huge potential in trade, agri fields

Ansar M Bhatti

MINISTER FAKHAR IMAM CALLS FOR FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE TIES; SENATOR MUSHAHID ADVOCATES ENHANCED ACADEMIA AND PEOPLE TO PEOPLE COOPERATION



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam has said Pakistan and Indonesia have a long standing relationship, which is based on mutual trust and friendship. He said both our countries share many commonalities. Indonesia is the largest Muslim state while Pakistan happens to be the 2nd largest Muslim country. Syed Fakhar Imam expressed these words on the occasion of 76th Independence Day reception and 54th Asean Day, organized by the Indonesia embassy. Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Chairman Senate Defence Committee also attended the event as the guest of honour. Members of the diplomatic corps, business fraternity and media also attended the event. Syed Fakhar Imam thanked the Indonesia

government for extending scholarships to Pakistani students adding the exchange of youths can surely cement brotherly bonds between the two countries. The minister also stressed the need to expand cooperation between the two countries in the field of agriculture. He also shed light on Pakistan-ASEAN relations adding ASEAN provides a huge market for Pakistani products and vice versa. Currently Pakistan is the Sectoral partner of ASEAN and member of ASEAN regional forum. He said will try to take this engagement to a higher level. Senator Mushahid Hussain in his speech said he had a unique relationship with Indonesia because his father served in Indonesia as Pakistani's defence attaché and thus he spent his early life in Indonesia. Sena-

tor Mushahid added, both countries have a lot of things in common. Both have been part of Western colonialism; both have witnessed scourge of terrorism. He stressed to take this relationship forward. The ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio in his remarks said, this year marks the 76th anniversary of the Independence of Indonesia. 'I am glad that Indonesia has continued to keep steady momentum of progress and development since independence in 1945 despite formidable challenges'. He further said, Indonesia now is the largest economy in Southeast Asia with a GDP of almost 1 trillion dollars; the most populous Muslim country; the 3rd largest democracy in the world and home to one of the best historical and tourist sites in the world;



The ambassador added, Indonesia was committed to deepening and broadening cooperation with the international community in a range of areas including economic, cultural and educational links, counter-terrorism planning, climate change and interfaith relations; Indonesia and Pakistan share strong socio-cultural and religious bonds rooted in history. The bilateral relationship between the two countries is characterized by feelings of mutual trust, respect and goodwill towards each other. He said Pakistan holds great importance as a trusted friend and reliable development partner of Indonesia in South Asia. Fostering the excellent bilateral diplomatic ties and strong bonds of friendship has always been the priority of the top leadership from both sides.

He further said, we have been doing extensive efforts despite pandemic challenges to expand the level of bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest. Happily, we have seen improved trade figures, progress of political and defense ties, better connectivity among think tanks and academics of two sides and development of socio-cultural ties as a result of our joint endeavors.

Ambassador Tugio said, The year 2021 also marks the 54th ASEAN Day, which is celebrated on 8 August every year. ASEAN is one of the leading models of regional cooperation and reflects the combined spirit of the Association to contribute positively in the global community. Since its founding in 1967, the ASEAN has kept the positive momentum of gradual but steady growth. The region has frequently been referred as a symbol of economic development and regional integration; At present, ASEAN countries have a population of above 600 million and a combined GDP of around USD 3 trillion dollars making it the next economic hub of world trade. With this background, the importance of a stronger ASEAN-Pakistan cooperation is manifold. I believe that developing a mutually rewarding and comprehensive relationship between ASEAN-Pakistan holds great significance in the light of ongoing geo-economic and geo-strategic situations and formation of new regional alliances.







Since ASEAN is the fourth largest exporting economy in the world, contributing 7% percent to the total value of global exports, the expansion of trade linkages and people-to-people contacts would be very beneficial for Pakistan. The ASEAN states appreciate Pakistan's "Vision East Policy" and look forward to a more constructive partnership with Pakistan. He said, the presence of large Muslim diaspora in ASEAN countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei can also play a crucial role in stimulating the friendly relations. Moreover, the fast-expanding ASEAN economies offer lucrative investment opportunities in growing sectors of E-commerce, healthcare, science and technology, tourism and IT for a mutually rewarding association.

Therefore, fostering the ASEAN-Pakistan economic and diplomatic engagement must be a priority for both sides to gain the benefits of integration and cooperation. 'To this end, ASEAN Committee in Islamabad has taken several initiatives in collaboration with think tanks, universities and the business community and other partners to create more awareness about opportunities of economic growth, investment, people and land of our diverse region. I am pleased to see the presence of the representatives of these important stakeholders here tonight – together with diplomatic communities of ASEAN Dialogue Partners and Development Partners – to commemorate this auspicious occasion'.

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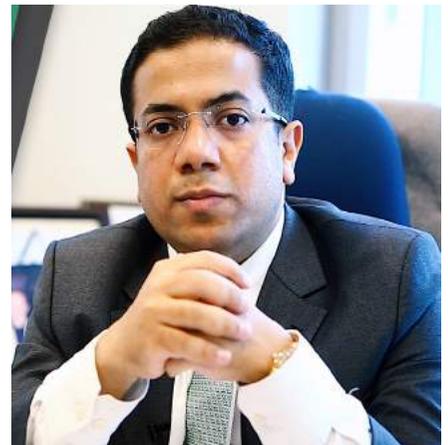
EXHIBITION AT SATRANG



ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner Geoffrey Shaw witnessing paintings exhibition at Satrang Art Gallery, Islamabad Serena Hotel. – DNA

Harvard Business Publishing publishes case study on the re-launch of KASB Securities

KARACHI: Harvard Business School Publishing has published a case study, titled KASB Securities – Reclaiming its Position as a Leading Brokerage of Pakistan. The case study has been written by Dr. Adeel Zafar, Fazal Jawad Seyyed, and Hafsa Ashfaq of Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). This is the first case study on a Pakistani fintech company and a stock brokerage which has been published by LUMS and Harvard Publishing. The case tracks the journey, challenges and strategic options which were facing, the founders of the company as they relaunched KASB Securities as a digital focused stock brokerage. The case study can be found on Harvard Business Publishing (click here for the link). KASB is one of the oldest capital markets institutions in Pakistan, established in 1953. It was relaunched in 2018 by Ali Farid Khwaja and Mahmood Bukhari. KASB's mission is to democratize investments and help people improve their financial wellbeing by providing them with access to investment products and financial education.



“As an alumnus of LUMS, I am delighted that a case on Pakistan's stock market will be available to students. We are humbled that our journey and mission has been chronicled as we think access to investment products is necessary for both financial wellness of the people and also for economic progress of Pakistan. Our team is on a mission to transform Pakistan's capital markets and we think digital tools such as KTrade app can bring investment access to everyone”. Said Ali Farid Khwaja, Chairman of KASB Securities.

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