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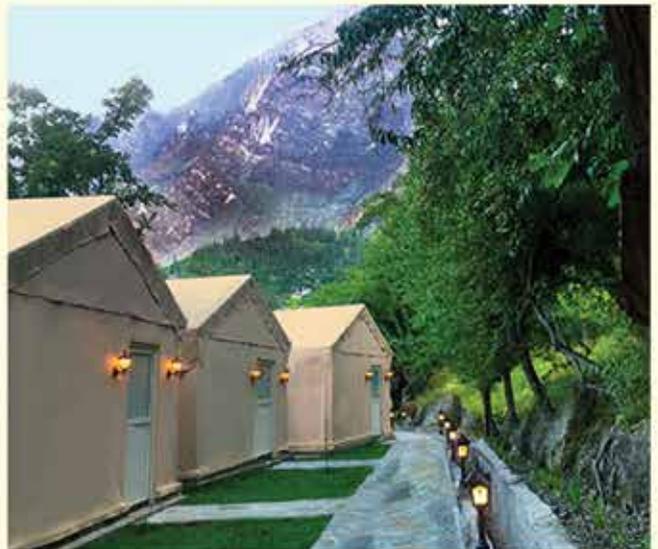
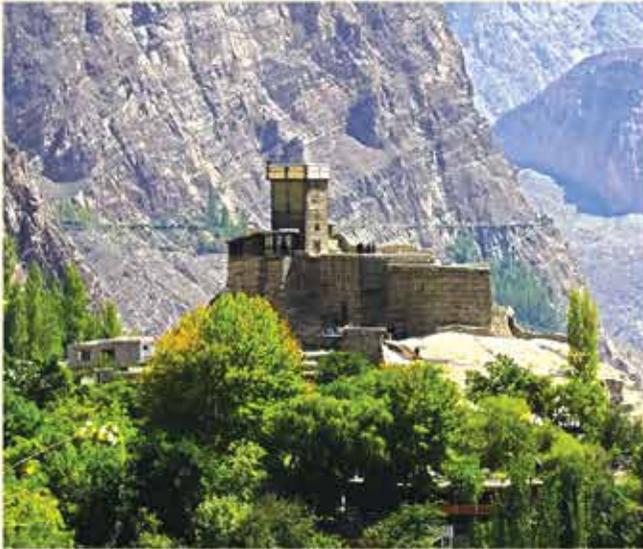
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Of PTI's long march and early elections



PTI Chairman Imran Khan in his early morning speech on Thursday announced to call off the long march by giving a six day deadline to the government for making an announcement regarding early elections and dissolution of the National Assembly. Both the PTI workers and the govt functionaries heaved a sigh of relief after this as nobody was in a mood of prolonged strife. Making the PTI men and women and even children sit under the scorching heat ostensibly was not a good idea therefore Imran Khan rightly decided to call it a day. It is believed that Imran Khan's decision not to organize a dharna was part of a deal reached between the government and the PTI leadership. The said deal of agreement was reportedly facilitated by the men from the Establishment. According to the arrangement the PTI would not stage a permanent dharna, rather it would hold a gathering, the PTI chairman will deliver a speech and then they will disperse. That is what exactly happened.

The option of PTI MPs returning to the parliament was also discussed. The Establishment people tried to convince the PTI leaders that they can be more effective while being part of the Assembly. Then, for the appointment of the caretaker set and the Chief Election Commissioner opposition's input was also a must but since they were not part of the Assembly therefore this consultation process cannot be done. The PTI nevertheless did not seem interested in returning to the assembly.

It may be mentioned here that the Shehbaz govt had already decided to step down and pave the way for the fresh elections, however it wanted to have an IMF deal first. Additionally the PML N wanted to celebrate the May 28 when the Pakistan government spearheaded by the then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif conducted nuclear tests. But the PTI suddenly announced the long march date, which turned the things topsy-turvy. According to sources, Asad Umar, Pervez Khatak and Shah Mahmood Qureshi took part in the Establishment-led talks. From the government side, Ayaz Sadiq, Asad Mahmood and Yousaf Raza Gillani participated. Talks, which continued for at least three hours, had yielded positive results in the sense that both sides agreed to avoid violence and bloodshed. But then suddenly both sides issued messages that there was no such deal, after some of the media houses broke the news of the agreement.

The reason why the government did not agree to step down immediately was it was believed as if the PTI had failed to woo people to their long march therefore why they should negotiate with the PTI who had, according to them, had failed to put up a big show. On the other hand the PTI leaders warned the government that it had miscalculated PTI might. The apex court of the country also tried to make both parties sit and sort of the issue. However the government reaction and miscalculation about PTI strength further aggravated the situation. From the face of it, it appears as if the government and especially the PML N has made its mind to call early elections. Its main concern was electoral reforms and passage of new amendments about the accountability body. All these tasks have successfully completed therefore the agenda seems to have been fulfilled. So what happens when the new elections are announced? Obviously a caretaker set shall be put in place, mostly consisting of technocrats. There are some solid rumors that the caretaker setup may continue beyond its three months stipulated mandate. Some say it may continue for even one or two years. The proponents of this idea are of the view that going to elections without thorough accountability would again bring back the same old faces. Which means the country would continue to reel under poverty; economic distress and social injustices. However, the problem in this scenario is that the caretaker set up perhaps cannot appoint the new army chief. But it may grant extension. As announced by the incumbent COAS he was not interested in any such thing. Whatever may be the future scenario, one thing is for sure that the country needs some respite from the grave economic crunch. We need to have stability sooner rather than later.

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.

Kazakhstan all set to hold referendum on June 05

EXCLUSIVE

DNA

THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION AIMS TO CORRECT THE POLITICAL COURSE AS WELL AS REGULATE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC MATTERS SO THAT PAST TENDENCY COULD BE REVERSED AND HELD IN CHECK

NUL SULTAN: Kazakhstan is conducting a referendum on June 5, to seek approval for amending the constitution to redefine the powers of different pillars of power and to safeguard the political and economic rights of citizens. The amendments will change the status of the parliament and also expand people's participation in running the affairs of the government.

Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, who assumed office in 2019 is proceeding to revise the constitution to remove and reverse provisions adopted during the 28-year tenure of his predecessor Nursultan Nazarbayev. Since the adoption of the first constitution in 1995, it has been amended four times in 1998, 2007,

2011, and 2017. Out of the current 99 articles in the constitution, 33 are proposed to be amended.

The amendments will also make a departure from the powerful presidential system to a democratic presidential form of government. President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who headed Kazakhstan for almost three decades and abdicated office in 2019 retained a package of privileges to avail a special status as the first president of the country. They were enshrined in the clauses adopted in 2000. In 2017 Nazarbayev bulldozed 91 amendments to entrench his influence over the country's political landscape



asserting privileges for himself as the founder of the state, the first president, and eventually the father of the nation. The present administration aims to correct the political course as well as regulate financial and economic matters so that past tendency could be reversed and held in check. The constitution, in its amended form, will prohibit the president from holding membership of any political party during office. It will also curtail the power of the president to wholly or partly limit/overrule the authority of a provincial governor, mayor, or district commissioner deputy who does not fulfill his election promises. More powers to parliament Instead of the earlier 15 members, the president will now nominate 10 members to the senate. Five of those candidates will be nominated by the assembly of Kazakhstan's ethnic communities. Six members of the constitutional court will be nominated by the parliament, three each by the national assembly and the senate, and four will be appointed by the president. All the changes will affect about one-third of the country's constitution. The chairman of the constitutional court, as well as the supreme court, can no longer be appointed solely by the president. The amendments will also simplify the registration of parties.

They will prohibit chairmen and judges of the constitutional court, the Supreme Court and other courts, chairmen and members of the central electoral commission, the parliament's auditing committee, military personnel, employees of national security agencies, and law enforcement agencies from being members of political parties, trade unions, or from canvassing in favor of any political party. The amendments will also create a right balance between the different branches of power and establish an effective dialogue between the government and the people. According to Nurbolat Gabbasov, an expert at Kazakhstan's Institute of Eurasian Integration, the referendum is a major step to transform the political course in Kazakhstan. The new changes are aimed at bringing systematic transformation to the country's political setup and will bring a balance between different pillars of the states. The constitutional reforms also mark systemic measures to eventually enable a transition from the super-presidential model to the presidential republic, the redistribution of several powers, strengthening the role and status of the parliament, expanding the participation of the population in governing the country, and strengthening the constitutional mecha-

nisms for protecting the rights of citizens, says Kazakh politician Erlan Karin. Redistribution of power One peculiar feature of the forthcoming referendum in Kazakhstan is that the president has initiated constitutional reforms which are not intended for concentrating his powers but rather redistributing them to other institutions, said Karin. He hoped that the upcoming referendum on constitutional reform will create the legal basis for an effective and more balanced model of relations between the state and society. The parliament's audit committee, which oversees expenditures, will be given additional prerogatives and its chairman will report to the parliament twice a year. Additionally, the constitution will ban the president's immediate family from holding political and leadership positions in the public sector. Moreover, when it comes to ownership rights, the land, and its subsoil will be declared the property of the people of

The parliament's audit committee, which oversees expenditures will be given additional prerogatives and its chairman will report to the parliament twice a year. Additionally, the constitution will ban the president's immediate family from holding political and leadership positions in the public sector. Moreover, when it comes to ownership rights, the land, and its subsoil will be declared the property of the people of Kazakhstan. For the first time, the set of amendments does not pursue the goal of strengthening the executive power marking a crucial difference from the past's practice, says Kazakh member of parliament, Aidos Sarym.

"On the one hand, this is an attempt to create the right balance between the different pillars of power, while on the other, the role of the parliament will be strengthened by establishing the auditing committee. It may be seen as a new measure for asserting accountability. The chamber will keep all budgetary activities in check. Additionally, the constitutional court is being created at the top of the judicial system, where citizens will be able to appeal," said Sarym.

Restructuring governance system

On March 16, Tokayev proposed a program for political reforms. On April 22, a task force of leading law experts and jurists prepared the draft of changes and amendments to the constitution for pursuing political reforms. Kazakh political scientist Daniyar Ashibaev described the referendum as a vote of confidence in President Tokayev, who has been advancing democratization and reforms through the exercise.

New President wishes prosperity to all Hungarians



Says her country was ready to mediate on the Ukraine issue

DNA

BUDAPEST: Katalin Novák President of Hungary in her inaugural speech said, she arrived here with gratitude in her heart. I am grateful to have here with me the young and old of our family, and that I can address you with them around me. I am also grateful that we are together in such numbers! I salute all the Hungarians in the world, also those who are following us with watchful affection from afar. This is the first time I am addressing you as the President of the Hungarians. I thank you for your trust expressed by my election. Primarily, I view your trust as a source of responsibility. My responsibility towards those supporting me is to not disappoint them. But I am also responsible for those who are as yet distrustful and disapproving. As President, I have the responsibility to showcase what my homeland, Hungary and my compatriots, the Hungarians mean to me, and how I see the life we share and the place we occupy in the world. My actions will follow from this personal Hungarian world view of mine. Here we stand together, in the heart of Europe, in our country's capital, in the middle of the Carpathian Basin, at the Main Square of the Nation. But we also stand united in the intent and the will – „after the decades of the twentieth century, which led to a state of moral decay” – to build a better, more beautiful, more peaceful, more prosperous and safer life for the Hungarians

in the 21st century. Although the sun is shining today, and we Hungarians have many reasons to rejoice, to feel proud and to celebrate, a dark cloud is casting its shadow over our lives. This shadow is the war. This is not the virtual reality of videogames, no CGI, no photo-shop. Neither is it a war movie. This is the bloody reality that our grandparents personally experienced during the Second World War; a reality we only know from the stories they had told us. Until now, for most of us, war has not been a real threat or a foreboding reality, but an avoidable risk reminding us to be vigilant. This has been the case even though the Yugoslav War had gone on in our neighbourhood for ten years. Now, in Ukraine, the blood of wounded soldiers and of civilians is real, the tears of families torn apart, the tears of those who mourn their lives are 2 real, the cries of children, the roar of tanks and the barrage of gunfire is real. The shock is real, the fear is real. The invasion of Ukraine – as we recovered from the initial shock – demanded immediate, yet well thought-through, viable responses from all, including us. On February 25th, as the first refugees arrived in Hungary, we rushed to their help without reflection, taking a course of action we instinctively considered selfevident. Bereg, Szabolcs and Szatmár, the local mayors, the churches and the aid organisations, the government and our country's

citizens all took action simultaneously. We are willing to play a mediating role between the warring parties to facilitate the continuation of peace talks. We insisted on respect for the rights of Hungarians in Ukraine until now, we are insisting on these rights now, and will continue to insist on these rights even after the war. Hungary is a sovereign country, will stand up for its interests, is not afraid of conflicts, and can defend itself and its position forged through painful experiences. We have not changed. We are still the same as the Hungarians who fought for their freedom in 1848, in 1956 and 33 years ago. Why is it then, that in the regions of the world where our bravery was once saluted we are less and less seen that way? Our parents and grandparents – having endured through the 20th century that seems unendurable in retrospect – handed down to us the qualities of selfesteem, tolerance, survival skills and a fighting spirit. She said, her task was to find the depth and the height where Hungarians belong together in a matter of course manner. I will find and highlight those aspects of our life that go beyond the usual antagonisms of party politics. I feel obliged to understand the arguments shaping the various positions, and to help even those accept the majority's decision whose opinions proved to be shared by a minority. The cradle of sovereignty is the family.

Otto Kurzendorfer appointed as Serena Hotels new GM



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Aziz Boolani, Chief Executive Officer Serena Hotels South & Central Asia announced the appointment of Otto Kurzendorfer as the General Manager of Islamabad Serena Hotel. Otto Kurzendorfer, a German national brings over 30 years of international hotel experience to the hotel. Prior to joining Islamabad Serena Hotel, Mr. Kurzendorfer has worked for luxury hotel brands including Regency, Kempinski, Inter-Continental, Le Meridien, Sheraton and several LHW affiliate

hotels in Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UK, Germany, and Taiwan. His professional emphasis focuses on team development, motivation, and engagement to ensure the hotel guests and visitors are always looked after in a friendly, professional, and personalized manner.

Moving to Pakistan, Mr Kurzendorfer and his family are delighted with the opportunity to contribute positively to the hotel and community development while immersing in a new culture and country and look forward to contributing to the continuous growth of Serena Hotels.

ISPR



RAWALPINDI: A delegation of All Pakistan Newspapers Society called upon the Director General ISPR Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar at Rawalpindi. The delegation included Sarmad Ali, Naz Afreen, Mueeb ur Rahman Shami, Kazi Asad Abid, Shahab Zuberi, Imtihan Shahid, Umar Shami, S K Niazi, Gauhar Zahid Malik, Mumtaz Tahir, Mehtab Khan, Awais Khushnood, Syed Ayaz Badshah, Haroon Shah, Waqarudeen, Waseem Ahmed, Younas Mehar, Zahida Abbasi, Ansar Mahmood Bhatti, Fauzia Shaheen, Rukhsana Saulat, Sayed Nadeem Qadri.— DNA

Malaysia's economy to expand by 5.75 per cent

Malaysia a gateway to ASEAN for Pak products

The Acting High Commissioner of Malaysia Deddy Faisal says I urge both Malaysian and Pakistani businesses, chambers and associations to have more frequent interactions, besides leveraging on each other's strength and capacity



DNA

MANDIBAHUDDIN: The Acting High Commissioner of Malaysia Deddy Faisal has said Malaysia has always been an open trading nation and preferred investment destination and will continue to remain so driven by our Unique Value Proposition to investors. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is optimistic that Malaysia's economy will expand by 5.75 per cent this year, driven by pent-up domestic demand and continued strong external demand. This is in line with the government's growth projection of between 5.3 per cent and 6.3 per cent for 2022. Our economy expanded by 3.1 per cent last year.

The Malaysian envoy expressed these views while speaking at the Mandi Bahauddin Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He further said, Malaysia's financial sector remains resilient and that it was encouraged by its reforms that focused on inclusion, economic transformation, and a sustainable economy. This was clearly reflective of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob's Keluarga Malaysia concept which focuses on inclusion, togetherness and gratitude aimed at bringing the people together in helping the He said Malaysia's ongoing investment promotion efforts have successfully kept us on the map of investors. We believe that it is crucial to keep our investment policies relevant, resilient and responsive to the evolving ecosystem. Towards this end, Malaysia is currently undertaking

concerted efforts to review existing policies and restructure our investment strategy to ensure that implementation of high-impact projects can be expedited.

Guided by this aspiration, the Malaysian Ministry of International Trade and Industry is spearheading a holistic reform of Malaysia's investment agenda. This new agenda will be premised on the National Investment Aspirations (NIA) which will navigate Malaysia towards a regional investment hub with a view to increasing economic complexity, creating high-value jobs, extending domestic linkages, developing new and existing clusters, and improving inclusivity. 'Our new investment strategies will provide the necessary impetus to pursue high-technology and sustainable investments as well as to intensify innovation, striking a balance between economic and environmental sustainability while reducing dependency on foreign labour, in line with global benchmarks in environment, social and governance'. He called upon the business community of Pakistan to be the partner & catalyst for reform, to drive sustainability and to contribute to their collective goal of shared prosperity. Look at Malaysia as a gateway to the ASEAN market. Furthermore, investors will be able to leverage into the opportunities opened up by RCEP which provides a market of 3 billion people. He added, Pakistan is, and remains an important economic partner for Malaysia. This is demonstrated most prominently by our bilateral economic, trade and investment relations, which continue to grow from strength to strength despite the global challenges throughout the decades.

'I urge both Malaysian and Pakistani businesses, chambers and associations to have more frequent interactions, besides leveraging on each other's strength and capacity. Let us work together to enrich the value of our investments. Let us restart, recover, revitalise and reform towards greater economic resilience and progress'. I would like to record my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Mandi Bahauddin Chamber of Commerce & Industry for inviting me to your beautiful city. I am delighted to meet everyone, particularly to engage with prominent businessmen of this city. It is a privilege to be here to speak to you at meeting to connect Malaysia and Pakistani businesses as well as sharing with you Malaysia's economic updates.

Trade, at its very foundations, is about people connecting across the world. It is about understanding each other and cooperating for the good of all nations and our economies. The resilience of our trade relies on the depth of these global connections, but these connections cannot only have trade at their core. 4. We must have people connecting, across families, politics, education, tourism, work and so many other walks-of-life to truly develop robust relationships between nations. It is then, from these relationships based on broad way to connect, that we can build robust, resilient trade for the prosperity of all, he concluded.

SCO SUMMIT IN UZBEKISTAN

SCO Countries to play key role for global economic integration, says Ambassador

DNA

ISLAMABAD, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Aybek Arif Usmanov on Sunday said that Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member Countries could play a key role in global and regional economic and trade integration in the current scenario. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has important member countries in terms of geo-economic and geopolitical position, including developed economies, which can play an important role in the development of global and regional economies through this organizational platform, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan told. The SCO countries' trade and economic bloc can combine the markets of the European Union and Eurasia for trade interests by merging South Asia and Central Asia, he said.

The Ambassador said that in the same way, world trade can be linked by gaining market access to key trading regions such as Association of SouthEast Asian Nations (ASEANs) and the Middle East through this important global trade bloc, which is expected to accelerate in the world of trade. He said that Uzbekistan, as the chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization annual summit 2022 of the SCO Heads of State Council, was hoisting on September 15-16 in Samarkand. The Uzbek Ambassador said that Pakistan and Uzbekistan have a very important role to play in providing trade and economic integration to the SCO member countries, which will usher in a new era of economic integration in all member countries.

He said that technology, information technology and renewable energy would be the major topics at the SCO summit this year which would help in reshaping trade and economic relations between the member countries. There will also be sessions on telemedicine at the Summit this year, which has led to the introduction of many facets in the medical field after Covid-19, which could open up new avenues for economic cooperation in the member states, he said. He said that at the same time, member states are likely to sign agreements on renewable energy?

He said that women empowerment is a major issue which will be discussed in the member countries and future strategy will be worked out on it. The Ambassador said that the leadership of the SCO countries, including the Central Asian countries, is now fully committed to the economic and trade integration of the member countries and increase in bilateral trade and economic activities. Ambassador Usmanov said that facilities and road and rail links are very important in bilateral and transit trade which will increase economic activities in SCO countries. He said that the logistics and transportation sector is of utmost importance in this regard which needs to be strengthened.

He said that sea routes need to be opened for trade and at present a trade agreement has been signed between Pakistan and Uzbekistan through Karachi and Gwadar ports. He said that in this regard a connectivity terminal will be built in the city of Tirmuz in Uzbekistan, which will connect Pakistan with Central Asian countries including Euroasain and European and maritime markets. He said that SCO member countries need to be connected to the Iranian ports of Chabahar and Bandar Abbas in order to be commercially and economically connected to the markets of the Middle East and other ASIAN countries. "We need a new economic dimension and paradigm shift to increase our bilateral and transit trade," he said.

Similarly, new drivers of economic growth, including technology,



information technology and e-commerce, need to be adopted, he added. He said that there is a strong hope that regional trade and economic relations at the multilateral level will increase?

In response to a question, he said that apart from agreements between Pakistan and Uzbekistan at the national level, consideration is now being given to enhancing bilateral economic and trade relations between the provinces and major cities.

In which agreements have been reached between the province of Punjab of Pakistan and the province of Namangan of Uzbekistan, he said. Similarly, agreements have been reached with the Pakistani cities of Lahore and Peshawar and the Uzbek cities of Samarkand and Surkhandarya to increase economic cooperation.

Ambassador Usmanov said that Uzbekistan is committed to economic connectivity, development and regional prosperity, which will lead to harmony and peace in the region. It requires a joint strategy and efforts from SCO member countries, he said.

He said that the SCO Summit will have 80 sessions in which the member countries will focus on tourism, technology, transportation and industrial innovation. Thus, there will be 40 different sessions of the summit in Samarkand city for which various sectors, hotels and tourist places are being constructed for the convenience of the delegates coming to the city.

“Thailand and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation: A Gateway to the Muslim World”

The Deputy Prime Minister’s trip to the 48th Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC achieved two valuable goals. It promoted and strengthened the role of Thailand in a key international forum



Thanawat Sirikul

In the past two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on people’s health and the economy. It has also severely curtailed the promotion and furtherance of international cooperation, which is arguably one of the very tools needed to drive and revive Thailand’s economic growth and development. The reopening of Thailand, the resumption of people-to-people contact and the convening of important meetings under key frameworks of cooperation all represent golden opportunities that must not be missed. Instead, they must be taken full advantage of, in order to expand

the type of cooperation that is strategically targeted towards assisting post-COVID recovery of the Thai economy. It should come as no surprise then, that H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, travelled to Islamabad, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, to attend the 48th Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-CFM 48) on 22-23 March 2022. Currently, the OIC comprises 57 member countries whose combined population stands at approximately 1.5 billion people worldwide. It is, therefore, irrefutably the premier intergovern-

mental organization of the Muslim world. It represents an important platform for Thailand to share her efforts on promoting multiculturalism and pluralism in Thai society and the Southern Border Provinces through policies that respond to the needs of Thai Muslim communities in the country. The OIC also serves as a forum for the exchange of knowledge and information. Most importantly, it is a gateway through which cooperation between Thailand and the Muslim world can be further enhanced. With the presence of so many of his esteemed counterparts during the said meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister



pansion of economic opportunities, will also have impact, such as cooperation in the area of human capital investment. The Islamic Development Bank (IDB), under the aegis of the OIC, offers scholarships to Thai Muslim communities in Thailand. Similarly, the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, provides training courses in fields which Thailand has expertise, for OIC member countries under the framework of multilateral and bilateral cooperation. TICA offers training courses, for example, on sustainable development and public health to various countries in Asia and Africa. Thailand has also continued to provide assistance to Muslim minorities and communities under the framework of the United Nations. In addition, Thailand has access to the Islamic Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) as an observer, to further cooperation on capacity building programmes.

was able to hold bilateral meetings on issues of mutual interest with key member countries of the OIC such as Saudi Arabia, whose bilateral relations with OIC have recently been normalized, Bahrain, Egypt, Turkey and the OIC Secretary-General, all with a view to promoting bilateral cooperation and expanding economic opportunities for Thailand. A case in point is that currently the Office of the Central Islamic Council of Thailand, as the National Halal Accreditation agency of Thailand, and the Halal Standard Institute of Thailand, have joined the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SIMIC) as observers. The latter plays a crucial role in formulating and certifying global halal standards and so the implementation

and certification of these standards will increase the opportunity for Thai halal products to be exported to Muslim countries and Muslim communities the world over. This represents an enormous market with high potential for growth. Engaging with the OIC and strengthening relations with OIC member countries therefore, is not only beneficial but critical for Thailand, if we are to realize the government's vision for Thailand to be a leading country in the development, production and export of agricultural products and food products that are internationally recognized at the global level through Thai Halal standards and the use of religious principles, science and technology and innovation, by 2027. Other areas of cooperation, beyond the ex-

The Deputy Prime Minister's trip to the 48th Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC achieved two valuable goals. It promoted and strengthened the role of Thailand in a key international forum and it deepened market links with Islamic countries, both undeniably needed in the next phase for Thailand's post-COVID economic recovery. The trip also reinforced the understanding that the OIC is an important gateway for Thailand to foster strong and meaningful people-to-people contact, not only for Thailand's Muslim communities with other Muslim communities all over the world, but for each and every one of us to benefit from and appreciate.

– The writer is the Deputy Director-General, Department of Information Ministry of Foreign Affairs





Heydar Aliyev – Architect of Modern Azerbaijan

The situation in Azerbaijan was gradually exacerbating. As a result of a crisis in the government, the country was on the verge of civil war...

D.N.A

10th was the 99th birthday of the national leader of Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev. Today the Azerbaijani nation are once again expressing their respect and gratitude for the fond memory of the great leader. Heydar Aliyev, a great leader of Azerbaijani nation, who was a brilliant personality, a visionary leader and a brave man, made an exceptional contribution to the history of the country and played a great role in the formation of modern Azerbaijani statehood. He devoted his entire life to his nation and always served the people with dignity. Both in the Soviet times and in the years of independence, in the most crucial moments for Azerbaijan and its people, the leadership qualities of Heydar Aliyev, his wisdom, thoughtful policy and bold steps saved Azerbaijani nation from great troubles. The people of the country believed in him, loved him and always supported him. Thanks to Heydar Aliyev's leadership in Azerbaijan during the Soviet period, the republic developed successfully and rapidly. In July 1969, Heydar Aliyev was elected the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan and became the head of the Republic, which was one of the most backward republics of the Soviet Union. As a result of 13 years of tireless work of Heydar Aliyev, Azerbaijan became one of the most advanced republics of the Soviet Union. In above-mentioned period that a high pace of industrial development was achieved in Azerbaijan. The infrastructure created at that time still serves the development of the independent Azerbaijan today. Heydar Aliyev's principled position and personal qualities were highly valued by the Soviet leadership. That's why he was appointed as the first deputy chairman of the Council of the Ministers of the Soviet Union in December 1982. While working in this position, Heydar Aliyev led the most important areas of the USSR economic, social and cultural life. During those years the works he had done had certainly contributed to the sig-

nificant development of Azerbaijan. While he was in charge of many very important sectors in 1982-1987, he had major plans related to the further development of Azerbaijan. Heydar Aliyev always paid great attention to Azerbaijan and provided his help. In 1987, after removal of Heydar Aliyev from all positions without any grounds, Azerbaijan lost a huge pillar. From that time on, a great injustice was shown against Azerbaijani people and republic. As a result, Azerbaijan was faced with a deep internal political crisis.

On January 20, 1990, Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union committed a great crime against the Azerbaijani people. The bloody tragedy of January is a monstrous crime, a monstrous crime against our people. More than a hundred innocent people were brutally killed. Hundreds of others were wounded and went missing. Heydar Aliyev immediately stood up to this injustice. On 21 January 1990, he went to the Permanent Representation of Azerbaijan in Moscow. Heydar Aliyev condemned the Soviet leadership in this heinous act, and expressed solidarity with the Azerbaijani people. With this he demonstrated once again that the problems, interests and grief of the Azerbaijani people were above everything for him, more than anything else for him, and he had to be with his people in hard days.

After that, Heydar Aliyev left the ranks of the Communist Party which he had served for many years. And then he went to his homeland and arrived in Nakhchivan, where he was born. The Azerbaijani people began to rally around him. The people of Nakhchivan united around Heydar Aliyev, elected him chairman of the Supreme Majlis (Parliament), and he defended Nakhchivan from Armenian occupation. Thanks to him, tremendous mobilization work was carried out, self-defense detachments were set up and the occupation of Nakhchivan was prevented. It was on the initiative of Heydar Aliyev that the tricolor flag of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, after a long break since 1920, was approved at a session of the Supreme Majlis of Nakhchivan as the official state flag. This was the beginning of a path leading to independence of Azerbaijan. The situation in Azerbaijan was gradually exacerbating. As a result of a crisis in the government, the country was on the verge of civil war and faced the peril of losing independence,

the people of Azerbaijan demanded to bring Heydar Aliyev to the power, and the then leaders of Azerbaijan were forced to officially invite Heydar Aliyev to Baku.

On June 15, 1993, Heydar Aliyev was elected chairman of the Supreme Council (Parliament) of Azerbaijan, and on June 24, by a resolution of the Parliament, he proceeded to fulfil the authorities of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. On October 3, 1993, as a result of the nationwide vote, Heydar Aliyev was elected President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

From the mentioned date, a period of stability started in Azerbaijan and it continues to this day. Important decisions were made and political reforms were launched. Economic reforms were launched and principles of a market economy began to be applied as fundamental principles. Azerbaijan achieved to establish relations with the international communities. In 1994, the Contract of the Century was signed. It has played an exceptional role in the history of the Republic of Azerbaijan and economic development. In 1995, the Constitution of the independent Republic of Azerbaijan was adopted. In addition, a political and legal assessment was given to the 20 January tragedy.

Besides, Heydar Aliyev, who spearheaded the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline project, did much to attract huge western capital to Azerbaijan, which created many new jobs and lead to the development of several fields.

Following the path outlined by the great leader, Azerbaijan managed to build a strong economy. Over the last years, there has been no other country in the world developing economically as fast as Azerbaijan. Thanks to Heydar Aliyev today, Azerbaijan sits among great nations in the global arena. The visionary Azerbaijani leader took active steps for making country a regional transport hub as well. The country is now acting as a bridge between East and West, North and South.

The National Leader of Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev always had special attention to Pakistan and called relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan brotherly and strategic.

Azerbaijan's modern history cannot be imagined without Heydar Aliyev. Azerbaijani nation always committed to the policy of genius leader. The policy pursued by Heydar Aliyev is being successfully continued by President Ilham Aliyev.

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Azerbaijan embassy hosts grand National Day reception

Direct flights which started from Karachi, Lahore to Baku in March, 2022 (Islamabad to be started in coming weeks) is also another milestone that was achieved between Azerbaijan and Pakistan





Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan, while speaking on the occasion of the National Day of Azerbaijan said, that May 28 is celebrated as the Independence Day of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan Democratic Republic which was the first democratic secular republic in the Muslim East was established on May 28, 1918. He said, the measures taken during Azerbaijan Democratic Republic were important in terms of establishing the foundations of independent statehood and determining the future direction of development. The establishment of democratic rights and freedoms, recognition of equal rights of all citizens regardless of ethnic and religious affiliation, giving women the right to vote even before many European countries, declaring the Azerbaijani language the state language, paying special attention to the development of education and culture, the establishment of the national army and security structures clearly characterize the scale, essence, and meaning of the policy pursued by the government of the Republic. Ambassador Khazar said, after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the people of Azerbaijan established an independent Republic of Azerbaijan based on the traditions

of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. Under the leadership of National Leader Heydar Aliyev, tremendous efforts were done and steps were taken to strengthen the restored independence. 'Today, under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, the process of development of democratic, legal, secular state and civil society in the Republic of Azerbaijan continues successfully. These successes are reflected in all aspects of Azerbaijani people's lives. As a result of the victory in the war the liberation of Azerbaijani territories from Armenian occupation in 2020, and the surrender of Armenia are natural consequences of Azerbaijan's achievements under the leadership of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, President Ilham Aliyev'. After the restoration of Azerbaijan's independence in 1991, Pakistan was one of the first countries recognized independence of Azerbaijan, he added. Further dilating on the bilateral relations the ambassador said, Azerbaijan and Pakistan are bound by the relations of strong friendship, brotherhood and strategic partnership based on historical and cultural roots. The two countries have always supported each other both bilaterally and within international organizations. 2022 marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations be-

tween Azerbaijan and Pakistan. The relations forged between peoples of both countries are among the primary factors conditioning our inter-state cooperation. It is pleasant that throughout these 30 years, Azerbaijan-Pakistan relations, underpinned by mutual trust and confidence, have developed exponentially, and new directions of our engagement have been identified. Today, the high level of political relations and mutually beneficial cooperation in the economic, defense industry, humanitarian and other spheres are gratifying. Azerbaijan-Pakistan Intergovernmental Joint Commission and around 10 Joint Working Groups under this Commission serve the further improvement of the relations between brotherly countries. He said, direct flights which started from Karachi, Lahore to Baku in March, 2022 (Islamabad to be started in coming weeks) is also another milestone that was achieved between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. It gives an impetus to further deepen people to people contacts with easily visa obtaining procedure, to increase number of tourist from both countries, as well as to serve to expand economic cooperation, increase trade and raise the level of relations between business communities of the two countries.

Iranian embassy holds Al Quds Day function



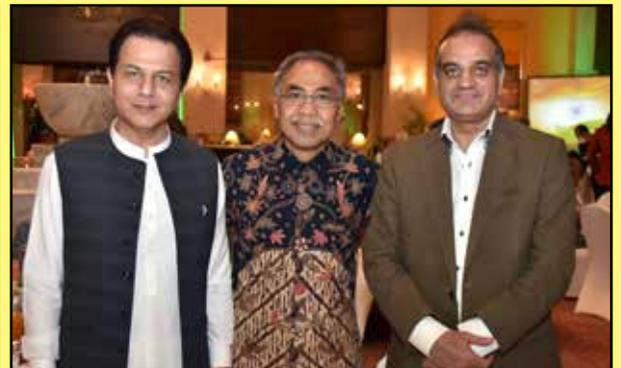


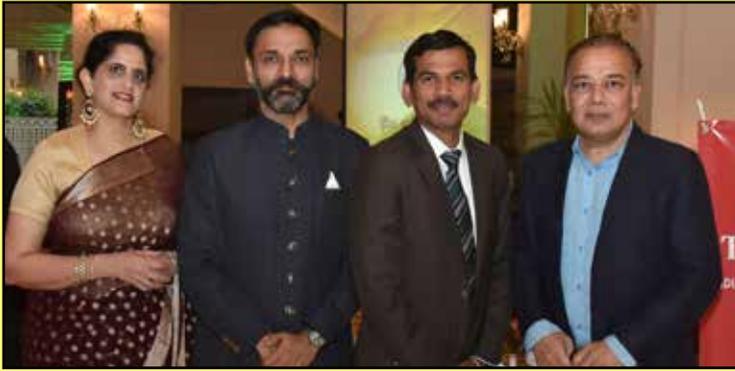
Sardar Yasir Ilyas CEO The Centaurus hosts dinner for Kazakhstan delegation





Indian High Commissioner hosts iftar dinner for Pakistani friends





ICC1 President and Sheikh Aamir Waheed host grand dinner for diplomats and business community





Khalifa bin Zayed, a statesman, friend of Pakistan and leader of humanitarian philanthropy



Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi

WE feel the pain and sadness on the demise of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, whom pure soul departed to almighty Allah after a busy and distinguished leadership, guidance, benevolence and giving. The sorrow and sadness was felt on all faces, pain squeezed all hearts, and all homes were devastated by the passing away of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, which expresses with all sincerity the unity of blood, history and a common destiny.

We have all lost an exceptional leader who came in difficult times, and he passed it with success, ability, wisdom and patience, to make way for us and paved it broad that we could walk on it with full strength and confidence through time. We lost a seasoned leader and a righteous son, who united and did not separate, who built and did not destroy, who preserved and did not abandon, who brought everyone together on the path of goodness and construction, a man who combined the art of leadership and the ability to guide with simplicity, humbleness and humanity, that's why he was close to everyone's hearts.

H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan The sad demise of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan is a great loss for the world of peace, tolerance and human giving. It grieved our world with the forfeiture of this leading figure who sought throughout his life to promote peace, stability and security in all parts of the world, to avoid wars and every tribulation, and to spread the values of brotherhood and tolerance among all, as there were no limits to his humanitarian and charitable giving. During his rule, the UAE-Pakistan relations witnessed dynamic leaps of partnership between the two countries, and the late Sheikh Khalifa, "may Allah rest his soul in eternal peace" had a special affection in his heart for the people of Pakistan, and immensely cared for the interest of the Pakistani community residing in the Emirates, and the people of Pakistan respectfully exchanged this love for him.

This great leader holds a great and deep place in the hearts of Pakistanis.

Sheikh Khalifa was known to practice a number of hobbies, including falconry, and Pakistan was his favorite destination for practicing this hobby, as this was reflected in his many attentions, especially through his support for a number of environmental projects, including falcon and Houbara bustard breeding and releasing programs and bustards, especially in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

From the east of the earth to its west, the humanitarian approaches of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan will be memorialized in history, especially in Pakistan which witnessed during his rule an increase in the humanitarian, charitable and development work provided by the UAE to assist the brothers in Pakistan.

The UAE-Pakistan Assistance Program (UAEPAP) which was launched in 2011 with the aim of help the Pakistani people in facing the effects of the devastating floods in 2010, is a qualitative leap on the path to assist development and stability in Pakistan under the guidance and support of the late father, especially since the program adopted a comprehensive development approach.

In January 2019, the administration of UAE-Pakistan Assistance Program, and within the framework of the third phase of the project, commenced implementing 40 development and humanitarian projects in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan with a cost of \$200 million financed by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development. The implementation of the third phase projects came as a continuation of the projects implemented by the UAE-Pakistan Assistance Program during the first and second phases in many Pakistani provinces and regions during the period from 2011 to 2017, which totaled in 165 projects at a total cost of about \$420 million. The third phase project included five main areas: roads, bridges, education, health, water supply and agriculture sector, in addition to providing many humanitarian aids including distribution of food to the needy and displaced populations, and implementing polio vaccination campaigns.

In implementation of the directives of the late H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the then President of UAE, the Emirates Polio Vaccination Campaign, which was carried out in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan during the period from 2014 to the end of last September, provided 418,956,226 doses of polio vaccines for more than 71 million Pakistani children under the age of five years.

In 2005, when a very strong earthquake jolted Pakistan, the UAE under the directives of Sheikh Khalifa, took the initiative to send relief items, aid, and rescue and relief teams to the earthquake victims and injured, in addition to appropriating \$100 million to provide urgent relief aid and to establish housing for thousands of victims affected by the earthquake. Sheikh Khalifa also ordered the establishment of field hospitals in the areas that were affected by the earthquake in order to provide urgent medical assistance and provide medicine and treatment for the injured and wounded, in addition to the participation of the UAE search and rescue team to assist in rescue and recovery operations in the most affected areas that the rescue teams have not yet reached.

In conclusion, we thank the good emotions of the Pakistani people and officials and their sincere condolences towards the leader of the UAE. We highly appreciate the declaration of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan of national mourning, and flying the flags at half-mast for three days in mourning for the late His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE "may Allah have mercy on him". And the UAE will remain in the footsteps of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, "may Allah bless his soul" in the era of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan "may Allah protect him", who was elected unanimously by the rulers of UAE states as President of UAE to accomplish the journey of progress, elevation and prosperity, and to strengthen of well-established relations with Pakistan and other countries to achieve the hopes and aspirations of the peoples of the world for good and development.

Bulgarian embassy hosts music event



Africa and Pakistan have all reasons to boost cooperation

Ambassador of Morocco Mohammed Karmoune who is also the Dean of the African Group says Pakistan has announced the opening of six new embassies in Africa which is a welcome step



Mahnoor Ansar / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Morocco Mohammed Karmoune who is also the Dean of the African Group, has said the 54 countries of the African Continent have signed in Kigali on March 2018, the African Continental Free Trade Area with the aim of creating a single market for goods and services. This trade bloc forms now the world's largest free trade area that constitutes a market of 1.4 billion consumers.

As of the beginning of May 2022, 43 of the 54 signatories (80%) have ratified the African Continental Free Trade Area, but the Agreement entered into force on 30 May 2019, 30 days after the 22nd instrument of ratification was deposited with the African Union Commission. He expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of the Africa Day event organized at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Ambassador Karmoune further said,

as we go back to history, we recall the year 1961 when heroic, distinguished late leaders of African continent gathered in Casablanca to go over and trace the political situation prevailing at that time in Africa and launch the spirit of Pan-Africanism, the said conference called the *GROUP OF CASABLANCA* was the prelude of the



birth of the Organization of African Unity in 1963. Today is indeed is an opportunity to continue exploring the best ways and means to consolidate the Continent's relations with Pakistan. This large market is indeed an opportunity for Africa and Pakistan to boost their economic cooperation, he added. He said, many important initiatives have been made to unlock the potential of investments and trade between Africa and Pakistan.

'I am referring here to the policy of engagement with Africa initiated since 2017 to deepen Pakistan's presence in Africa in terms of diplomacy, trade and investment. Pakistan organized at the end of January 2020, the first Trade Development Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, to highlight the potential of trade relations with African countries. The second Pakistan-Africa Trade Development Conference was organized in Lagos, Nigeria from 23-25 November 2021'. On the Diplomatic front, the Ambassador said, Pakistan has announced the opening of six new embassies in Africa. As African group



of Ambassadors and Heads of Missions in Islamabad, we welcome these initiatives, which have had a positive impact on the trade volume between Pakistan and Africa. From 2019 to 2020, trade exchange between Africa and Pakistan had reached 4.18 billion dollars.

Now after these two trade development conferences, we would like to see Pakistani investors overcoming their timidity and engage in joint ventures with African investors in the fields of agriculture, industry, mine extraction, banking, information technology, digital economy, renewable energy, textiles, pharmaceutical industry, agro-food, transport and infrastructure, etc. More actions are needed to boost investments and to further increase trade volume between Africa and Pakistan. I am thinking, for example of the following actions:

1-Organizing more trade fairs in both Africa and Pakistan to give the chance to business people to meet, to exchange information and to partner in different economic fields.Cooperation can further be reinforced by focusing on areas of mutual interests

2- Organizing seminars between African Chambers of Commerce and Industry and their Pakistani partners to exchange information on business opportunities in both Africa and Pakistan and to share expertise in different domains. 3-Considering seriously the creation of Joint ventures with African businesses in order to strengthen the mutually beneficial partnership between Pakistan and Africa.

4-Promoting the establishment of direct maritime links between Africa and Pakistan in order to facilitate trade exchange. 5-promoting direct air link to facilitate people's mobility and visits of business delegations.

6- Pakistan and African countries have also to examine the possibility of establishing a financial institution, which will accompany businesses in their development.

7-Promotion of cultural cooperation between Pakistani and African universities. The cultural cooperation and people to people exchange will further promote friendship and understanding.

8- Promotion exchange of visitsbetween business delegations in the two directions.

9- Considering flexibility in issuance of visas for businessmen in order to facilitate their mobility between Africa and Pakistan and vice versa.

In conclusions he said, that the Covid-19 pandemic and what is happening around the world, global change has had a deep impact on the major economic activities and has severely disrupted trade and supply chains but all these has been a wake-up call for us to invest in health, agriculture, education and infrastructure at a time major parts

of the world are facing many challenges such as food and health securities, water scarcity, youth unemployment, gender equality, women empowerment and many other issues. 'Let us then give a new dynamic to Africa -Pakistan relations for the mutual benefits of the two parties, as we all hope for peace, stability, security, more development and wellbeing of the peoples of nations of the world'.

He also thanked the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mr. Muhammad Shakeel Munir, the Vice-President. Muhammad Faheem Khan, the Secretary General Mr. Majid Shabbir, and all the staff of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry for welcoming us in this beautiful auditorium to celebrate Africa Day with our Pakistani brothers.

Ambassador Karmoune especially thanked Mr. Zafar Bakhtawari, Chairman of Pakistan Africa Friendship Association & Former President ICCI for his support in organizing this event.



Chairman REIT Zahid Latif Khan hosts holder of key of Roza e Rasool



Jordanian Ambassador visits FPCCI capital office

Ambassador says Jordan has strong and historic relations with Pakistan based on mutual respect and common values



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Jordanian Ambassador to Pakistan Ibrahim Al-Madani visited FPCCI Capital Office Islamabad yesterday and met Vice President FPCCI Umar Masood-ur-Rehman and Chairman Coordination Mirza Abdul Rehman and discussed Bilateral trade and various issues including investment promotion. Jordanian Ambassador Ibrahim Al-Madani said that he is committed to provide all possible facilities to Pakistani businessmen in joint ventures, including finding investment opportunities in Jordan. He further said that Jordan has strong and historic relations with Pakistan based on mutual respect and common values.

"We intend to enhance our bilateral trade relations by intensifying our engagement with the private sector in Pakistan," he said. The most important way to increase bilateral trade is through business-to-business cooperation and people-to-people contacts. He said that in the coming months there would be high-level visits by trade delegations. The two countries will not reap the benefits unless both sides show interest. The ambassador said that Pakistani

products that can be exported to Jordan include fabrics, garments and agricultural seeds, machinery and spare parts, oil, juice, cotton, fiber optics, paper, leather and many more. Jordan exports to Pakistan fertilizers, iron, pharmaceuticals, plastics, processed food products, some agricultural products and machinery.

FPCCI Vice President Umar Masood-ur-Rehman thanked Jordanian Ambassador Ibrahim Al-Madani for visiting the FPCCI Capital Office and said that we have a long history of bilateral trade while the volume of trade is very small. He drew the attention of the Jordanian Ambassador to the Special Economic Zones of Pakistan and said that Jordanian companies could reap the full benefits by setting up their own manufacturing plants in Pakistan as labor in Pakistan is much cheaper than in Jordan. He said that in order to remove trade barriers and increase trade volume, the business community of both the countries must be brought closer.

Umar Masood-ur-Rehman added that there are excellent investment opportunities for Jordanian investors in various sectors of Pakistan's economy, including energy, tourism, information technology, food processing, agriculture, dairy development,

furniture, hotel industry and development of tourist destinations. Therefore, Jordanian investors should take full advantage of these opportunities. Former President of Islamabad Small Chamber and Convener of FPCCI Standing Committee on Real Estate Tahir Arain, President of Haripur Chamber Muhammad Saleem Awan, Vice President Malik Umair Khalid and Group Leader of Islamabad Chamber Abid Khan and others were also present on the occasion.

Mirza Abdul Rehman Chairman Coordination FPCCI Capital Office Islamabad while talking to the Ambassador of Jordan said that promotion of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Jordan is necessary, increasing the volume of trade between the two countries needs time. He said that there are vast investment opportunities in Pakistan and promotion of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Jordan is necessary. He further said that Pakistan has immense investment opportunities in oil, gas and minerals sectors besides tourism.

The experience of Jordan's tourism sector can be used for development in the sector. Finally, Umar Masood-ur-Rehman and Mirza Abdul Rehman presented the FPCCI shield to the Jordanian Ambassador.

Flamenco dance performance provides a real feast to Islo people

The artists will also perform in Faisalabad, Lahore and Karachi. Ambassador Duran deserves kudos for introducing this sort of music in Pakistan



Flamenco dance performance provides a real feast to Islo people



Flamenco dance performance provides a real feast to Islo people



Flamenco dance performance provides a real feast to Islo people



Staff Report / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Spain in collaboration with the Islamabad Club organized Flamenco dance performance in the beautiful laws of the Islamabad Cricket Club, adjacent to Pakistan Sports Complex. The venue is recently inaugurated with the efforts of the Cabinet Secretary and Administrator of the Islamabad Club Ahmed Nawaz Sukhera, who himself happens to be a great lover of Cricket and a Cricketer himself. Ambassador of Spain Manuel Duran in his brief remarks introduced the Spanish artists to the audience besides giving a brief description of what the artists were going to present. The audience could not resist themselves to shower huge applause on the artists after witnessing their spell-binding performance. The artists will also perform in Faisalabad, Lahore and Karachi. Ambassador Duran deserves kudos for introducing this sort of music in Pakistan. During his tenure he has facilitated a number of such performances. The last performance that was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs drew huge interest.

The ambassador said, last year we celebrated a very special anniversary: 70 years ago diplomatic relations between Spain and Pakistan started by establishing in 1951 our first Embassy in Karachi, which was then moved to Islamabad.

Since then, me and all my predecessors have been working with one goal in mind: strengthening ties between our coun-

tries and peoples, increasing contacts and encouraging Pakistani citizens discover all that Spain represents: an open, friendly country, with a long and rich history that connects us with the rest of the world. As you know, Spanish culture is immense and diverse, the result of centuries of evolution and contacts with other peoples. 'And I would like today to focus precisely on culture: the Spanish Embassy has brought a flamenco music group directly from Seville, Andalusia, to Islamabad. Today will be the starting point of a tour that will take them to other cities'.

While talking about the dance, he said, flamenco, even if it needs no introduction: Flamenco is one Spain's most valuable world intangible cultural heritage manifestations, as listed by UNESCO. It is a mix of dance, singing and clapping. And the roots of flamenco, though somewhat mysterious, seem to lie in the Roma migration from this subcontinent to Spain between the 9th and 14th centuries. These migrants brought with them musical instruments, such as tambourines, bells, and wooden castanets, and an extensive repertoire of songs and dances. Once in Spain, these traditions merged with the art of the gypsies living in the Southwest of Spain and flamenco was born. As you see, even if 6,500 kilometers separate our two countries, culture brings us together and shows us how close we can be. I hope you enjoy today's cultural show. 'I would like to hand a small token of gratitude and respect to the honorable Administrator, Mr. Ahmad Nawaz Sukhera, and to the respected Secretary, Mr. Sheharyar Mirza'.

China and Iran are Expanding Military Cooperation



Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer

CHINESE minister of national defense Wei Fenghe visited Tehran in April 27, 2022 and met with high profile personalities of Iran. Wei Fenghe expressed that Iran sees China as a Strategic partner. The close cooperation of both the countries would provide security particularly in the current critical and tense situation. The intentions of both the countries demonstrate that their cooperation may lead towards deep strategic cooperation.

After meeting with President Ebrahim-Reiss, the two sides agreed to expand all areas of cooperation, including the military, while reiterating their shared commitment to protecting fundamental interests, which they called the West's "unilateral, domination and external intervention." Admittedly, it emphasizes mutual inattention. United States. After meeting with AFGS, the two countries "agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in joint military exercises, exchange of strategies, training matters and other common areas."

Due to Baqeri's strong defense diplomacy, Iran's relations with the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) have become closer in recent years. In 2019, Baqeri became the first Iranian armed forces chief of staff to visit China since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. In addition, Wei Feng's visit was the third high-level PLA delegation to visit Iran since 2016, which coincided with Baqeri's appointment as head of state. It shows that there is more going on below the surface.

China has reaffirmed its commitment to peace and security in the Middle East and the Gulf. At the same time, he criticized the United States for imposing unilateral sanctions on Iran and proposed a series of forgotten alternative security frameworks for the Gulf, which undermined the US-led security umbrella in the region. It may ensure the prosperity of Beijing and the free flow of oil.

China has been considered suspicious of arms supply to Iran during the sanctions and it also has been cautious with Iran over the UN arms embargo, which was in effect until October 2020. Once sanctions lift, private and state-owned companies may seek to diversify their portfolios

by selling military assets. China was the largest supplier of weapons to both sides during Iran-Iraq war, they bought more than 7.75 billion Arms in the late 1980s. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, China took advantage of a flaw in pre-2006 orders to continue supplying weapons to Iran after the years of sanctions.

These weapons were anti-ship missiles, surface-to-air missiles; armored personnel carriers, surface-to-air missile systems, air search radar and missile launch catamarans systems reached Iran. Strengthen the denial of disproportionate territory. In recent years, Iran has used its control over this strategic barrier of Strait of Hurmoz, through which is one-fifth of the world's oil passes, to attack passing tankers and shoot down US drones. For their own reasons, China and Iran are trying to develop A2 / AD capabilities on their shores to counter US and allied navies. Both countries practice drowning American aircraft carriers in make-ups. He has also helped develop long-range anti-ship missiles, demonstrating how Chinese companies can boost Iran's development of indigenous weapons.

In March 2010, it was reported that Iran had begun manufacturing Chinese-designed Nasr-1 anti-ship missiles. Just four years ago, during the 2006 Lebanon war, four Israeli navy soldiers were killed by an Iranian derivative of a Chinese C-802 subsonic anti-ship cruise missile launched by the Iranian proxy Hezbollah.

Since the lifting of sanctions in 2020, bilateral arms purchases have not been reported, possibly due to Tehran's economic woes and possible backlash from Iran's rivals (especially through US Executive Order 13949). But Iran's defense industry is showing interest in Chinese weapons, especially fighter jets. The possibility of future deployment of Chinese J-10 fighter jets in the Persian Gulf was raised by former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and there is no question of a jet trade for energy.

With the possibility of a resumption of the nuclear deal, may allow Tehran to gain greater access to funds could lead to a growing concern for the arms trade with Washington and its allies.

Some analysts have ruled out the possibility of China becoming a major arms exporter to Iran in the post-sanctions period, but as the Lebanon war and recent bombings have made clear, Chinese technology is in the wrong hands. Drones, dual-use and missile technology are also of concern. Unlike other major arms suppliers in the region, China is not a party to the Wassenaar Agreement, which could make it the largest supplier of armed drones in the Middle East Region.

Because Iran can manufacture its drones locally, Tehran's opponents currently use Chinese drones exclusively. Reports have revealed Chinese support for the local production of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in the Gulf States, including a recent joint venture between China and Saudi Arabia to develop military drones in the kingdom. Given China's high-quality, low-cost drones, as well as its ability to transfer knowledge and upgrade Iranian UAVs, the possibility of bilateral cooperation in this emerging field cannot be ruled out.

In January 2021, Beijing sources confirmed that Iran and Pakistan had gained access to China's BeiDou satellite navigation system for military purposes. Although current Iranian ballistic missiles rely on guidance methods rather than satellites, BeiDou can help the Iranian armed forces determine launch locations and target positions, especially with intelligence support and other strategies. In contrast, satellite navigation is suitable for controlling surface-to-surface ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and drones within a range of 500 km.

During the recent years, both the country have increased their military cooperation with their navies visiting each other's seaports and organized joint naval drilling in the Indian Ocean. In March 2021, China Iran has signed a 25-years strategic cooperation agreement. It also covers all variety of cooperation and economic activities from oil and mining to establishment of industries in Iran. The improvement of strategic and defense cooperation between China and Iran would have a remarkable impact in diffusing unilateralism and fighting terrorism in the region.

TBTTP must not be destroyed



Mumtaz Ahmad Bhatti

NO attention has been paid to maximizing forest cover, maintenance and protection of forests. The forest department has always been neglected by the governments. During the PML-N regime, Mian Nawaz Sharif started planting in the name of Green Pakistan all over Pakistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. When the PTI government was formed in KP, the Billion Trees Tsunami Project was started in KP on the orders of Imran Khan. The Billion Trees project worked faster than Green Pakistan. When Imran Khan became the Prime Minister, the Billion Trees project was successfully completed. Encouraged by the success of the Billion Trees Project in KP, Imran Khan announced a major project called the Ten Billion Trees Tsunami Project in all four provinces, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. Fifty percent of the funds in all four provinces were from the federal government and fifty percent from the provinces while Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan are being given 100 percent funds from the federal government. Many times the Forest Departments also face shortages of funds. Despite all the difficulties, the forest departments continued to work hard for the success of TBTTP. now TBTTP is being praised all over the world. Imran Khan as Prime Minister paid special attention to TBTTP. Now, after the success of No Confidence, MianShahbaz Sharif has become the Prime Minister. The PML-N government, being in op-

position, was very critical of the TBTTP. PML-N leaders believe that there is a lot of corruption in this project. Negative thinking of PML-N and other opposition parties regarding this project is not correct. I wrote many articles on TBTTP, visited and saw plantations in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and all four provinces several times. Kotli, Rawlakot, Bagh, areas of Azad Jammu and Kashmir have very beautiful plantations and the survival rate is also very good. Sundarani Forest has been named as Reserve Forest, which falls in Ghotki Taluka, Ghotki District, with a total area of 2251 acres, which is under the administrative control of Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Station Division Sukkur, north of Indus River. The entire area of the Sundarani forest was under encroachment and has been cleared of encroachments / forest land grabbers and the "Green Pakistan Program - Restoration of Forest Resources in Pakistan" (Ten Billion Tree Tsunami) Tree planting has been done under the title development scheme. Program) Now the total area of Sundarani forest is under tree cover and stored area. Much better work has been done throughout Sindh with regard to the Ten Billion Tsunami Project. In Sindh, full attention has been paid to local species. Seeing the beautiful forests of Kekar, Sundarani Forest is one of the beautiful forests of Pakistan. Hosh Mohammad Shar, Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Division, Sukkur said that it is important to plant trees but even more important is to protect the planted

plants. After 1927, Deodar has been planted in Murree.beri trees has been planted in Sargodha Circle. Plantation of eucalyptus in the Northern Zone has been discouraged and local varieties have been planted. Due to the struggle of CCF Northern Zone Shahid Rashid Awan local varieties of trees were given priority, otherwise more and more eucalyptus plants were being planted earlier. According to sources, the PML-N government wanted to take political revenge on PTI through this project. In the midst of their revenge, punishment will be meted out to those forest officers who worked hard day and night for the success of this project. The Ministry of Climate Change should avoid people who are spreading false information against TBTTP. If the Ministry receives a complaint of corruption against a forest officer, it should be investigated first and irrefutable evidence should be collected instead of immediate action and media trial. If any fault is found then action should be taken against it otherwise forest officers should be allowed to work. There are many professional complainants in our society who make false applications for personal gain. Officers dealing with false complaints suffer mental anguish and waste their time in futile inquiries. The PML-N government should continue all projects of national interest including TBTTP. Projects of national importance should not be politicized. If the best projects are closed due to political revenge, it will be a national loss.

Norway, Pakistan enjoy excellent relations, says Ambassador

On the occasion the Ambassador also shared Norwegian point of view on the Russian aggression against Ukraine





DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Norway Mr. Per Albert Ilsaas has said Norway and Pakistan enjoy excellent bilateral relations adding people to people relations between the two countries were also warm and cordial. He said, the Norwegian-Pakistani Diaspora, one of the largest in Europe, was an important bridge between the two countries – and contributed to making his job as Norway’s Ambassador to Pakistan a rewarding and enjoyable one.

Ambassador Ilsaas expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of Norwegian Constitution Day reception he hosted at his residence. A large number of diplomats, members of the business community, govt officials and media persons attended the reception.

He further said, Norway was a significant investor in Pakistan. Telenor Pakistan, was the largest single Norwegian investment in Pakistan, and one of the largest European investments.

‘I am sometimes told by interlocutors I meet in Islamabad and elsewhere that Telenor is leaving. Telenor is here to stay.

Today, it plays a role in creating a positive impact in the lives of over 50 million citizens of this proud country. It will continue to do so in the future’.

While talking about Scatec ASA, another Norwegian company, the Ambassador said, the company is now embarking on a landmark energy project, the construction of a solar power plant in Sukkur, in Sindh, in partnership with the Pakistani company Nizam Energy.

‘We are very excited about this project, which I had the opportunity to discuss in good meetings with Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and Minister of Imtiaz Ahmed Shaikh in Karachi last week. It is an environmentally friendly project that, when completed, will generate 150 MW of renewable energy and create scores of jobs’.

In order to promote and strengthen business relations between the two countries the ambassador said, a key priority for this Embassy over the next years will be to support representatives of business and industry from both countries engaged in trade and economic cooperation. Pakistan and Norway have the potential to trade

more and do more business together.

Sharing information about the Constitution Day, he said, the Norwegian Constitution dated back to 17 May, 1814, in the midst of a “transition” from the Danish to the Swedish crown. Inspired by the American and the French Revolutions, the Norwegian constitution established the division of power between the executive, the legislative and judicial branches, based on the principle of popular sovereignty.

On the occasion the Ambassador also shared Norwegian point of view on the Russian aggression against Ukraine. He said, Russia’s action was a clear and unacceptable violation of international law. It was a flagrant breach of the most fundamental rules of international relations: respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of UN member states.

He extended whole-hearted support to the people of Ukraine and hoped that their fight against the aggressor will bear fruit one day. He thanked the guests for joining them besides thanking the Embassy staff and collaborators from different companies for making the event a success.

AMBASSADOR ADAM TUGIO STRESSES STRONGER ASEAN PAKISTAN TIES

The guest speaker from Indonesia explained that ASEAN has no fix models for partnership and the partnerships it maintains were diverse and dynamic and variable



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Adam Tugio has suggested a two pronged strategy to strengthen Pakistan ties with ASEAN. He said that while Pakistan needs to further develop its relationship with ASEAN states on bilateral levels but these ties should also take institutional route through ASEAN Secretariat that is headquartered in Jakarta. Ambassador Adam was speaking at the 6th session of the Online Internship Program “Contemporary Dynamics of Indonesia” which titled “The Miracle of ASEAN”. The OIP is being jointly organized by the Embassy and University of Peshawar. Further elaborating, the Envoy also stressed that the Pakistan should take full advantage of the recently concluded plan of actions extended for two years. He said that there were eleven potential areas that were identified by the two sides for collaboration including those of politics, economy and social & Cultural spheres. He suggested that scholarship programs for the students from the ASEAN countries could help a lot in promoting people to people contact and general public interest in Pakistan. Ambassador Tugio mentioned that since last one year he has made sincere contributions in promoting relationship between ASEAN and Pakistan. He also mentioned of the publishing of the booklet that

outlines the potential areas for cooperation between ASEAN and Pakistan. The speaker at the OIP session, Prof. DinnaPrptoRaharja, a senior public policy advisor and a tenured Associate Professor in international relations at the Department of International Relations of Bina Nusantara University, said that the ASEAN was the fastest growing regional bloc in the world and Indonesia was at its heart being the largest country in SEA, over 270 million in population, 108,000 km in coastal lines, 17,504 islands, 8.3 million square km in territory, 3 time zones, over 1,300 ethnic groups, 300 languages, 6 religions & many traditional faiths.

Dr. DinnaPrptoRaharja appraised the participants about the history and background of the ASEAN and said that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the Founding Fathers of ASEAN: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. She said that Brunei Darussalam joined ASEAN on 7 January 1984, followed by Viet Nam on 28 July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999, making up what is today the ten Member States of ASEAN.

While outlining the evolution of political security contents of ASEAN meetings, Dr. Dinna mentioned that the Bangkok Declaration 1967 was primarily aimed to

accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region. She said that Bali Concord 2 was a historic milestone which provided the framework to achieve a dynamic, cohesive, resilient and integrated ASEAN Community. She also described the ASEAN Structure and its various organizational functions and discussed the objectives and scope of ASEAN partnerships with various frameworks such as ASEAN+ 1, East Asian Summit and ASEAN + 3. She also outlined other partnership frameworks like Sectoral Dialogue Partnerships that included Pakistan, Norway, Turkey and Switzerland.

Dr Dinna informed that ASEAN Charter calls for ASEAN to develop friendly relations and mutually beneficial dialogue cooperation and partnerships with countries and sub-regional, regional and international organizations and institutions through the conferment of the formal status of Dialogue Partner (DPs), Sectoral Dialogue Partner (SDPs) and Development Partner.

The guest speaker from Indonesia explained that ASEAN has no fix models for partnership and the partnerships it maintains were diverse and dynamic and variable. She said that ASEAN approach to partnership is that it interest remains central in engagements with the countries without fixing the mechanism in prompting cooperation and problem resolution. She said that Pakistan is one of ASEAN Sectoral dialogue partner while other countries included Norway, Turkey, and Switzerland and the ASEAN has different emphasis and levels of cooperation with its Sectoral Dialogue Partners. She informed that economy, democracy and issue of terrorism were the highlights of the ASEAN cooperation with Pakistan.

Responding to a question she said Indonesia is the country that were very much interested and eager in strengthening Pakistan ties with ASEAN. However, she noted that there were other countries in the ASEAN and they have their own priorities and understanding of importance of

enhancing ties with Pakistan. She said that Indonesia is there to support Pakistan but Pakistan needs to build stronger ties with other ASEAN states as well that would eventually help cement its ties with ASEAN.

Dr. Syed Hussain Shaheed Soherwordi, Head of Department of International Relations on the Comparative study on SAARC, thanked the Indonesian speaker for the elaborate presentation on the ASEAN history, evolution and contemporary challenges and noted that contrary to the ASEAN success SAARC which was founded with the similar vision has remained unsuccessful in meeting its objectives. He said that economy and intra-regional trade has remained hostage to the politics in the South Asia region. He said that while EU and ASEAN were fully benefitting from the regional and economic cooperation, the South Asian states were busy locking their horns with each other and their 96% exports were destined outside South Asia. He said that India has its border with almost every SAARC country and has issues with each one of them. He said that SAARC was still a volatile region and the SAARC countries needed to work together to make it stable and attractive for the foreign investment. He said that Afghanistan has remained one of the instability factor in the region but extremism was rampant and common issue in the region. He noted that India had progressed well economically and had established economic ties such as with ASEAN, EU and USA but it has not encouraged developing of economic ties with its neighbors. He added that SAARC countries having same products range were competing each other in the international market and in the process damaging the regional economy.

Dr. Soherwordi said that poverty, illiteracy, economic and industrial backwardness, over population, environmental degradation were common issues among the SAARC states and they should fight together all these ills. He said that there was dire need to for the SAARC countries to learn lessons from the ASEAN Countries.

Pakistani activist receives Commonwealth Points of Light Award

PAKISTANI lawyer and activist Tahera Hasan received the Commonwealth Points of Light Award for her efforts promoting the wellbeing of orphaned, abandoned and stateless children. Points of Light Awards are given to outstanding individual volunteers who are making a positive change in their community.

Having been a strong supporter of adoption, Hasan specialises in family law and custody cases. She founded the Imkaan Welfare Organisation in 2012, which now runs a shelter and recreational centre for orphaned and abandoned children in Karachi's Machar Colony, a squatter settlement home to nearly 700,000 people. Hasan has also set up a mother and child healthcare centre there.

In addition, Hasan helps in the adoption of orphans and stateless children, helping reduce both infanticide and child abandonment. Imkaan, she says, was founded on the principle that "each and every child not only has the right to live but to thrive". Tahera Hasan said: "It is an honour and privilege to receive the Points of Light Award. It is a recognition for the work of all those involved on a day-to-day basis, highlight-



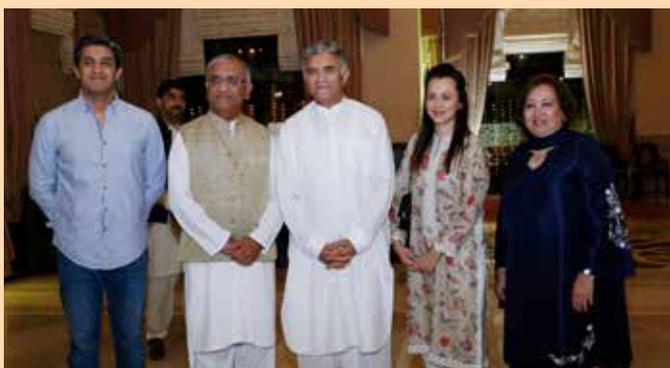
ing and fighting for the rights of stateless and marginalised communities in Pakistan. The right to citizenship, identity and more specifically children's rights, is a neglected subject. This award goes a step forward in bringing these issues to the forefront." UK High Commissioner to Pakistan Dr Christian Turner said: "Tahera is making a big impact on the lives of some of the most vulnerable children in Pakistan. This recognition of her work is a testimony to the long-standing and deep ties that UK, Pakistan and other Commonwealth nations share."

CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani hosts grand Quawali night at Islamabad Serena Hotel









CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Water Supply Directorate

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited on percentage basis at NIT cost from the Contractors duly enlisted with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in appropriate category / Code and having valid PEC license, along with NTN /GST number as applicable for the works as detailed below:-

S#	Name of Work	NIT amount in PKR	E/Money amount in PKR	Tender Fee Non Refundable amount in PKR	Tender receiving Date/Time	Tender opening Date Time
1.	Replacement of 15" dia PRCC line with 16" dia M.S line in Green Belt for feeding Sector F-7, Islamabad.	42,818,548/-	1,284,556/-	5,000/-	30.05.2022 11:30 AM	30.05.2022 12:00 (Noon)
2.	Replacement of 15" dia PRCC line with 16" dia M.S line in Green Belt for feeding F-8 Sector, Islamabad.	38,134,474/-	1,144,034/-	5,000/-	30.05.2022 11:30 AM	30.05.2022 12:00 (Noon)
3.	Providing / Laying of HDPE / M.S conduction line at different Tube Wells of H & I Series, Islamabad	9,262,034/-	277,861/-	5,000/-	30.05.2022 11:30 AM	30.05.2022 12:00 (Noon)
4.	Construction of 10 th avenue from IJP Road to Srinagar Highway, Islamabad (Phase-I) shifting of water supply line.	36,238,335/-	1,087,150/-	5,000/-	30.05.2022 11:30 AM	30.05.2022 12:00 (Noon)
5.	P/I of deep well turbine pumping sets complete with motors of different capacities at various locations.	49,782,874/-	1,493,486/-	5,000/-	31.05.2022 11:30 AM	31.05.2022 12:00 (Noon)
6.	P/L of 16" dia HDPE line from 21" dia PRCC line of Center Sump to Poona Faqiran Plant.	21,506,531/-	645,196/-	5,000/-	31.05.2022 11:30 AM	31.05.2022 12:00 (Noon)
7.	Replacement of 18" dia PRCC pipe line with 18" dia MS line at different locations from RL-1 water works to Shakar Parian Reservoir.	24,122,644/-	723,679/-	5,000/-	31.05.2022 11:30 AM	31.05.2022 12:00 (Noon)
8.	Replacement of valves of different dias at Korang Water Works.	1,973,562/-	60,000/-	3,000/-	31.05.2022 11:30 AM	31.05.2022 12:00 (Noon)

- Tender forms / documents for the work mentioned at serial No.1 to 2 can be purchased on cash payment (non-refundable) from the office of Dy. Director (Distribution North), CDA located at Room No.157, for the work mentioned at serial No.3 can be purchased on cash payment (nonrefundable) as mentioned above from the office of Dy. Director Production-II located at Room No.160, for the work mentioned at serial No.4 can be purchased on cash payment (non-refundable) from the office of Dy. Director (Distribution South), CDA located at Room No.155 and for the work mentioned at Serial No.5 to 8 can be purchased on cash payment (non-refundable) as mentioned above from the office of Dy. Director Production-I located at Room No.166, First Floor, Mayor Secretariat, Melody Sector G-6, Islamabad respectively during working hours. Last date for submission of application for purchase of tender form document is 27.05.2022 till closing hours.
- Applications on original letter Pad for issuance of tender documents shall accompany the name, address(s), signature of contractor and valid enlistment / renewal of Firm with PEC, attested copy of CNIC, Professional Tax Certificate active NTN/GST Number and at-least two number of work order in last two financial years.
- The owner of firm should submit the application and collect the tender documents by himself. In case of representative copy of CNIC along with general, special power of attorney through respective court must be attached with the application. The attorney holder must be legitimate and should not be the employees of any Government / Semi Government Institute.
- Earnest Money in shape of call deposit generated only from firm account bearing name of firm in favor of concerned Dy. Director as per S.No.1 from local scheduled Bank of Islamabad must accompany with the application. Without call deposit no application for issuance of tender will be entertained. Cash/cheque will not be accepted.
- Tenders for the works mentioned above will be received and opened by the Director Water Supply, CDA at Room No.16, Ground Floor, Old Naval Headquarter, Melody Sector G-6, Islamabad in the presence of Contractors are their authorized representatives who care to attend.
- The contractors who are interested to participate in above mentioned tenders, they will have to submit their experience certificate along-with performance certificate of complete works of similar nature (at least 02) during the last three financial years while submitting application, otherwise the tender will not be issued.
- The contractors will submit the documents as per instructions of tender documents along with their tender, without which tender will be liable for rejection.
- The relative of tendering Authority should not be entertained for participation in tendering.
- The Bid Security of all bidders would be deposited in the CDA Bank account and same should be returned after the acceptance of the contract with the successful bidder.
- In case the total bid amount is less than 10% below the NIT amount, the bidder shall submit call deposit as performance security equal to the difference between NIT amount and total quoted amount less 10% of NIT amount. That is required performance security = NIT amount – total bid amount – 10% of NIT amount. This call deposit shall be in addition to the earnest money for the work and shall be deposited at the time of submission of bids. Bids not carrying the performance security shall be rejected. The performance security of the successful bidder shall be released after completion of the project.
- PEC Certificate 2021-22 and professional tax certificate in original will be seen before issuance of tender.
- CDA may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to acceptance of bid proposal. CDA shall upon request, communicate to any contractor or Supplier who submitted a bid or proposal, but is not required to justify those grounds.
- This notice may be seen at CDA web site No. www.cda.gov.pk and PPRA website No. www.ppra.org.pk

Director Water Supply, CDA

PID NO. 7856-21

Estd.



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