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## Pakistani politics



PTI Chairman Imran Khan's press talk on November 6, 2022 can be regarded as a classic example of politicians' helplessness they have been faced with perhaps ever since the creation of this country. Despite being the head of the leading political party and a former prime minister he has not been able to get his First Information Report registered (FIR). The irony of the fact is that he had to face this unseemly situation in the province where his own party happens to be at the helm of the affairs. The Supreme Court of Pakistan then had to intervene to get the FIR registered albeit it was not the FIR the PTI was looking for. However, after this episode it became quite evident for Imran Khan and his party that Ch. Pervez Elahi appeared to be the Chief Minister sans authority. Or, he was playing on both sides of the wicket. This also remains a fact the situation was still the same when Imran Khan was the prime minister but since at that time he and his government were enjoying the benevolence of 'powers-that-be' therefore all was considered well. The PTI used to take pride in the fact that it was on the same page with the Establishment, a nexus which, according to it, had brought 'peace and stability' in the country. Now they are at daggers drawn simply because the same page arrangement is not available anymore.

Imran Khan, ever since his ouster, has been selling the idea that he won't accept a weak government and would prefer to sit in the opposition if he does not get a two-thirds majority in the coming elections. Probably, he wants to make a point here that there is no reason in accepting the government if the chief executive has no powers. Here lies a contradiction between what he says and what he actually practices. He had pointed out in his press conference that the actual authority in Punjab lied somewhere else. If it would be a matter of weak control or no authority at all, then the non registration of his FIR was a good excuse for him to call it a day in Punjab. He would have got rid of the Punjab government soon after his own police refused to register his FIR. Ostensibly, his action would have earned him more respect and credibility. But he has not risen to the occasion simply because he knows the success of his long march largely depended upon the Punjab government. If he lost Punjab, it means he lost the trump card, making things difficult for him in terms of holding of early or even on time the general elections. There are some encouraging aspects of Imran Khan's resistance as well. For sure, he will be remembered for putting up stiff resistance to the forces of the status quo. He needs full marks for becoming the voice to those who could never dare to challenge these forces. Many people genuinely believe that something good will come out of what is happening these days. But there is no dearth of people who are of the view that once the 'same page' arrangement stands revived, the forces of status quo shall again prevail and life would then go on as usual. At one point, nobody could even imagine that Nawaz Sharif and his party could come to power again. Same goes for the PPP as well. Both these parties are not just in power but they are sharing power, which is not less than a miracle keeping in view past animosity between these parties. So who knows that in the coming days PTI shall again be calling the shots and PML N and PPP would be on roads demanding justice for them!! Unfortunately this very vicious circle has been impeding Pakistan's march towards self-reliance and progress.

Imran Khan has conditionally agreed to the Prime Minister proposal to constitute a full court commission to probe the Wazirabad firing incident. He is of the view that a fair inquiry cannot take place if three persons he had nominated including the PM, Interior Minister and spy agency official were not removed from their posts. This demand, for sure, will not be acceptable for the government therefore the idea of formation of the full court commission may never see the light of the day. Even if such a commission is formed, there is a strong possibility that the probe will never be completed. The assassination of Benazir Bhutto on December 27, 2007, still remains a mystery despite the fact that her own party remained in power for five years after her murder. The government on its part ought to engage with the PTI seriously and must not try to put out fire with petrol. This approach would only multiply our woes. A better sense needs to prevail for the country cannot afford any further escalation.

*Ansar*

**Chief Editor's Profile:** Ansar Mahmood Bhatti is a career journalist. He started off as District Correspondent of Daily The Muslim in 1988 from Gujrat. Later he moved to Islamabad and joined Pakistan Observer as Sub-Editor / Op-ed Writer, in 1993. In 1995 he again moved to The Muslim as Sub-Editor and he left The Muslim in 1997 to join THE Nation as City Editor and Diplomatic Correspondent, where he remained till 2002. His association with the The News spans over three years from 2002 to 2005 as columnist. In 2005 Mr. Bhatti switched over to Khabrain Group as Columnist / Special Correspondent. In 2010 he was made Resident Editor of The Post, a sister publication of daily Khabrain. In 2010, he launched his own publication Centreline. He has authored two books on European Union. He also served in Pakistan Telecommunication Company (PTCL) as Media Advisor/ Director Communication. He launched Diplomatic News Agency (DNA) in 2012. In May 2020 he launched Pakistan's First & only Diplomatic Newspaper Daily Islamabad POST.



# French ambassador briefs media about humanitarian assistance

Staff Report / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of France Nicolas Galey has said following the unprecedented floods that hit Pakistan, the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, wished to mark the solidarity of France and the French people with the people of Pakistan.

In consultation with the Pakistani authorities, France quickly dispatched emergency equipment and military experts from the French civil security service to the field to assist in relief operations and respond to urgent humanitarian needs.

Ambassador Galey expressed these views while addressing a press conference along with the French Defence Attache Col. A Presson. The ambassador further said, on September 3, a special chartered flight arrived in Karachi, carrying emergency equipment (including 83 high-capacity water pumps and more than 200 tents, as well as other non-food items) and a military medical team consisting of 4 doctors and 4 nurses, as well as a military team of 4 technicians to operate the water pumps. The



French medical team remained on the ground for two weeks in Badin district in Sindh, working alongside their Pakistani colleagues from the Badin military hospital, to provide hundreds of medical consultations each day. As for the team of trainers, it was able to train more than 50 Pakistani technicians in the use of water pumps. He said, from October 7 to November

5, 40 French civil security experts were deployed in Dadu district in Sindh to operate water purification equipment brought directly from France. The military team provided 600,000 liters of drinking water to the local communities (1,000 beneficiaries/day). As an indication of support towards the reconstruction of flood-affected areas, France provided a 50-meter-long Bailey-type bridge that will soon be deployed by the Pakistani authorities in Sindh district, he added.

These operations were being carried out within the framework of the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM).

In a further expression of support to flood-affected communities, France allocated 1 million EUR to three French International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) for relief operations for a total of 90,000 beneficiaries in 3 provinces:

- Action Against Hunger (ACF) for an integrated project combining health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), agriculture, food security and livelihood for close to 30,000 beneficiaries in the districts of Kambar Shadadkot and Khairpur in Sindh;

“ Ambassador Galey said, the French government has also allocated 1 million euros to the World Food Programme (WFP) for an integrated Nutrition – Safety Net Programme for pregnant and lactating women in the districts of Qambar Shadadkot and Khairpur in Sindh ”





- Secours Islamique France (SIF) for a multi-sectoral emergency assistance to 40.000 beneficiaries in the districts of Quetta, Killa Saifullah, Pishin and Lasbela, in Balochistan;
- Médecins du Monde (MDM) for the deployment of three mobile health teams, for 20.000 beneficiaries, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (districts of Nowshera, Charsadda and Chitral).

Ambassador Galey said, the French government has also allocated 1 million euros to the World Food Programme (WFP) for an integrated Nutrition – Safety Net Programme for pregnant and lactating women in the districts of Qambar Shahdadt and Khairpur in Sindh. This programme will

provide emergency food assistance, life-saving nutrition preventive packages, and cash grants to 5.400 direct beneficiaries, and 32.400 household members. Finally, beyond public assistance, a number of French companies also contributed to support flood stricken communities [Total, Bureau Veritas and others] through direct donations or contributions to non-profit organisations to provide immediate support to rehabilitation activities, he concluded. The Defnece Attache Col A Presson in his remarks appreciated the role of Pakistan Army for providing fool proof security to the French humanitarian workers.

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# Islamabad *Daily* POST

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**Chief Editor: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti**

**Deputy Editor: Abid Raza**



# Italian artists steal the show by mesmerizing performance

Staff Report / DNA

Serena Hotels, Italian embassy join hands for a noble cause; CEO Serena Hotels appreciates the generous support of the Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese



**ISLAMABAD: CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani, Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese, General Manager Islamabad Serena Hotel Mr. Otto and others posing for a picture with the Italian artists. – DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels hosted a fundraising Opera Performance in collaboration with the Italian Embassy. The talented and world-renowned Performing Artist Mr. Rame Lahaj who was accompanied by Mr. Matteo Pais, gave outstanding performances, and engaged the audience with his well-known pieces. He has performed in prestigious Opera houses of the world. Among his most notable roles are Alfredo (La Traviata), Duke of Mantua (Rigoletto) and Rodolfo (La Boheme). Rame Lahaj is the first artist from Kosovo and has won the most prestigious and important prize “Operalia” in 2016 for his extraordinary performances. He was accompanied by Repetiteur who is the Artistic Coordinator at

Arturo Toscanini Foundation in Parma and is a vocal coach and honored pianist who is well known for his international master classes to upcoming young artists. Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan. H. E. Andreas Ferrarese in his remarks on the occasion said the purpose of holding the gala event was to help the flood affected families.

He added, another purpose of the event was to introduce the famous opera music in Pakistan. The ambassador hoped that the event will contribute towards further promotion of cultural linkages between the two countries.

Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels appreciated the generous support of the Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Andreas





Ferrarese for joining hands with Serena Hotels in not only raising funds for the flood relief but for strengthening the bonding between Pakistan and Italy through such cultural exchanges, and he expressed, how such cultural exchanges are key in fostering great bonds between the two nations. This event is the 4th fundraising event organised by Ser-

ena Hotels in collaboration with different diplomatic missions and will continue to play the role in supporting the less privileged citizens by utilizing its hotels platform. It was an evening dedicated to building close cultural ties with the Italian Embassy, while creating an opportunity to generate funds for the flood victims.







# ROMANIA PROVIDES FUNDING FOR PAK FLOODS FLASH APPEAL

Romanian FM Bogdan Aurescu says well-being of children top priority

D. N. A

ISLAMABAD: Romania has voluntarily donated 75,000 Euro to the UNICEF Floods Flash Appeal in response to the devastating flooding that hit Pakistan in 2022. The Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bogdan AURESCU, stated in a Tweet that the well-being of the children lies at the very heart of Romania's official development assistance efforts. The Ambassador of Romania in Pakistan, His Excellency Niculaie GOIA, stated that Romania has always been close to Pakistan and our common



efforts together with the European Union are supplemented by this voluntary contribution to UNICEF Floods Flash Appeal. Romania works closely with its partners in order to improve stability in Pakistan's most vulnerable impacted areas". It is hurtful to see that a country like Pakistan which contributes less than 1% of the world's carbon footprints is suffering so much devastation from the global warming" the Ambassador added. Through the EU measures, which have now raised a total of 135.8 million euro, Romania is also part of Pakistan's recovery from devastating floods.

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# Defence Day of Romania celebrated

## Romania, Pak co-op in defence expanding

Ambassador of Romania Nicolae Goia acknowledged excellent professionalism of the Pakistani army

Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Romania Nicolae Goia has said Romanian Armed Forces, completely reformed and modernized up to the NATO and European Union standards are assigned to foreign missions, contributing alongside of the allied and partner countries to the common effort of keeping peace and stability worldwide. In compliance with the commitments deriving from the international treaties, agreements and memoranda whose signing party is, Romania had contingents of different sizes from all services – Army, Air and Naval Forces – available to multinational coalitions authorized to carry on peace support, humanitarian assistance, collective or individual operations in the framework of UN, NATO, OSCE and EU-led Observing, Monitoring, Liaison and Training teams. Ambassador Goia expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day of Romania. He along with Defence Attache Col Cristian Raducu hosted a reception. Mal Gen Fiaz Hussain Shah was the chief guest. The ambassador further said Romania celebrates each year, on October 25th, the Day of the Romanian Army. October 25, 1944, the Romanian Army Day, signifies the date of complete liberation of north-western Transylvania from foreign ruling and administration. 'The liberation of the entire national territory of Romania was achieved by the heroic fights in the World War II of over 525,000 fully employed troops between August 23 and October 25, 1944. Nearly 58,000 of them were killed or injured. Losses incurred on the enemy stood at 89,934 troops, 76,275 of whom were taken prisoners. It is worth mentioning that after 25th of October the Romanian army had continued to fight until the end of the war contributing substantially to the liberation of Hungary and Czechoslovakia'. Ambassador Goia said, the years of contribution to foreign missions meant for the Romanian Armed Forces the maintenance, almost continuously, of a military force of variable sizes, integrated into UN, OSCE, NATO and EU missions carried out in Africa and Asia, in the theatres of operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Western Balkans. Almost 40,000 Romanian troops took part in different operations and missions out of national borders, gathering a valuable professional experience extremely useful in the transformation, oper-







ationalization and interoperability enhancement process of the Romanian Armed Forces with their NATO and EU counterparts. Romanian Armed forces wisely and skilfully planned their combat forces to fight the war on terror far away from the national borders, proving their capability and determination to fully carry out their missions. Romania remained consistent with its commitments to support the international community in the fight against terror. The contribution of the Romanian troops to the collective defence, peace keeping and restoration missions to enforce the stipulations of the UN Security Council Resolutions, of the international legislation and law reveals that the Romanian state complies consequently and in full faith with the commitments agreed with the allies and partners, according to the international legislation and treaties whose signing party is Romania. By performance and professionalism, dedication and determination, the Romanian Armed Forces are a true ambassador for Romania's image worldwide! He said, unfortunately, we are living in a very complicated security environment. The world

of today, the security challenges we have to deal with every day, along with the war going on at NATO and EU borders, as well as Romania's border with Ukraine – all these prove that we need to be ready to defend our common values and freedoms and grant security and stability. Moreover, Ukraine's security means European and Euro-Atlantic security. In line with the NATO and European Union's policy, Romania stands in full solidarity with the people and government of Ukraine in the heroic defence of their country, helping Ukraine to uphold its fundamental right to self-defence with unprecedented levels of support as a response of Russia's full-scale, brutal, unprovoked and unlawful invasion of Ukraine 'I am very pleased to underline the excellent cooperation existing between Romanian and Pakistani armies which have developed over the years into a true and mutual beneficial partnership. Since there is not time to elaborate on the multifaceted and complex character of the cooperation, I will only mention that on October 12th this year, during his official visit in Romania, the Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad

Khan Niazi performed symbolically the initial welding work on the keel of the third vessel built for Pakistani Navy at Damen Shipyard Galati and cut the first plates of steel for the construction of the second batch two Damen OPV 2600 multi mission patrol vessels'. Ambassador Goia said those vessels will provide the Pakistan Navy with a highly effective search and rescue capability, and allow it to play an important role in safeguarding international trade routes from piracy and other threats like drugs and human trafficking and terrorism. 'Also, between 10-12 November, the 3rd session of Joint Military Committee will take place in Bucharest and I am sure that during this activity new domains of cooperation will be identified'. He acknowledged the excellent professionalism of the Pakistani army, the deep patriotism of its men and women in uniforms, the sacrifices they made in fighting terrorism, their presence in multiple international coalitions authorized to participate in maintaining peace, humanitarian assistance and other operations meant to ease the sufferings of the people in different regions of the world, he added.



# Czech embassy, Serena Hotels host Fusion Cello Concert

The cello concert was dedicated to raise funds for the rehabilitation of the displaced flood affectees



**D. N. A**

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels and the Embassy of the Czech Republic organised an evening of classical collaboration where world renowned violoncellist duo Jiri Barta and his son Josef Barta along with students from the Musicology department of National College of Arts performed extraordinary fusion pieces along with classics such as Bach.

While celebrating the National Day of the Czech Republic, the cello concert was dedicated to raise funds for the rehabilitation of the displaced flood affectees. The event was well attended by people from all walks of life, including the members of diplomatic missions, corporate sector, and business community, where an ensemble of musicians from the Musicology department of the National

College of Arts joined the Barta duo to create an eclectic blend of unique Pakistani and Western fusion playing traditional local melodies and rhythms, that enthralled the audience. Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels, appreciated the generous support of the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Pakistan, H.E. Tomas Smetanka in joining hands with Serena Hotels in raising funds for the relief and



rehabilitation of the flood affectees. He also thanked the audience for their support and generosity in raising funds for this noble cause. Serena Hotels as a responsible Corporate citizen has been active in supporting the flood affectees. The Company is matching the funds donated by the Hotel Guests and Associates, in addition to various fundraising events organised in collaboration with other diplomatic missions.. The relief goods, i.e., food supplies, and tents, are being distributed directly as well as through international NGOs under the banner of "Jazba-e-Khidmat – In the Spirit of Compassion" initiative. It was an evening dedicated to building close cultural ties while creating an opportunity to generate funds for the relief efforts.



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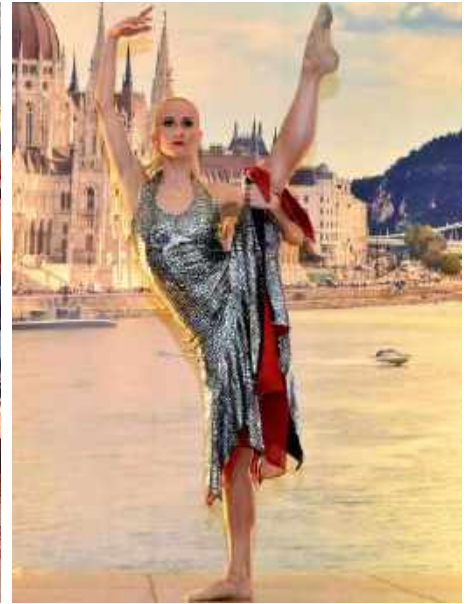
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# Hungarian National Day reception celebrated in style

Cultural dances leave everybody spell bound; Ambassador Bela Fazekas says Punjab University built by a Hungarian professor







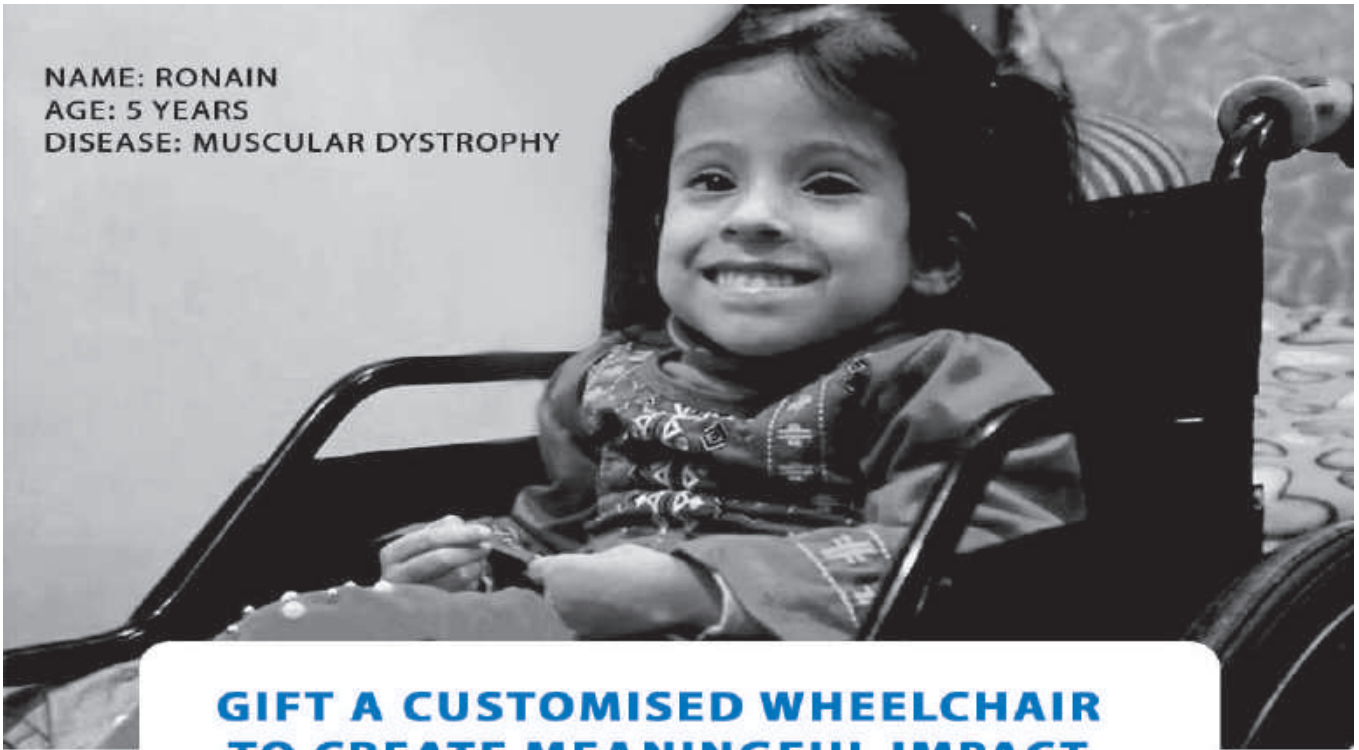
## Mahnoor Ansar / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Hungary Bela Fazekas has said on the 23 October 1956 a student protest in Budapest turned into a national uprising for freedom and democracy against communist dictatorship. Two weeks later the Russian aggression crushed the heroic struggle of the freedom fighters. Two hundred thousand Hungarians left the country. Today 66 years later Europe is witnessing another Russian aggression. The Ambassador expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of National Day of Hungary. A large number of diplomats, government functionaries; members of the civil society members attended the event. Federal Minister/Chairman BOI Ch. Salik Hussain was the chief guest. The real feast of the event was a cultural performance by the two young Hungarian artists whose dances left the audience spell-bound. The ambassador further said Hungary and Pakistan established diplomatic relations only in 1965, but people-to-people relations between Hungary and this part of the subcontinent have started much earlier. Not everyone knows in this country that the oldest university of Pakistan, the University of Punjab was founded in 1882 by a Hungarian professor. The cultural and intellectual life of the 19th and early 20th century Lahore would not have been so rich and vibrant without the small community of Hungarian artists, professors, orientalists who lived there. Last year we finished the largest ever Hungarian cultural project in the capital of Punjab, the restoration of eleven paintings of the Sikh gallery painted by a Hungarian artist in the 19th century. Ambassador Fazekas added, Hungary is not a big power. Neither politically, nor economically. But our globally renowned rich cultural herit-

age, the internationally recognized high quality of our higher education gives us a soft power status. Each year more and more foreign students choose Hungary for their studies, including hundreds of Pakistanis. Currently nearly 3% of all foreign students in Hungary are from Pakistan. And this percentage is going even higher next year as the Hungarian Government decided to double the number of State Funded scholarships for Pakistan from the current level of 200 to 400. 'Equally important is our economic and commercial cooperation. The frequent mutual visits and meetings between our ministers, parliamentarians, high-ranking military officials provide a solid political basis for enhancement of our economic and trade relations. In fact, our trade has doubled in the last two years. There are more and more Pakistani-Hungarian joint ventures in the field of water management, agriculture and food industry'. He said, the flagship of the Hungarian companies present in Pakistan is the MOL, which is one of the largest foreign investors in the oil and gas industry and the second largest producer of oil in Pakistan. I am very grateful to the MOL Pakistan company, to its management for their gracious sponsorship to the Embassy events including this reception today. A real performance is worth a thousand words and that is why after the speeches he invited the guests to witness very exciting cultural journey with the help of two young Hungarian dancers. Ch. Salik Hussain in his speech thanked the ambassador for inviting him and providing him with an opportunity of sharing his thoughts on the occasion. He said Pakistan values relations with Hungary adding these relations would continue to grow even in the coming days.



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# Çiragan Palace Chefs star at Serena Turkish Food Festival

## Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels hosted Culinary Artists from Çiragan Palace in an elaborate Turkish Food Festival, which was launched on the 1st of November with a fundraising event, which featured the classical trio of talented performing artists, Osman Kirklikçi, on Oud, Şükrü Türkmen on Solfege and Serkan Özdemir on Cello.

The Food Festival was inaugurated for the public on the 2nd by the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye Mehmet Pacaci, featuring food by renowned chefs Serdar Ongel, Chef de Cuisine, Davut Kutlugun, Sous Chef, and Yalcin Kokmen, Chef de Partie, from Çiragan Palace Kempinski Istanbul and classical music performances by the talented trios.

Experience a truly Turkish Experience with the 4-day festival held in the Zamana Restaurant, from November 2, 2022, to November 5, 2022, at Islamabad Serena Hotel, is part of the Cultural Diplomacy Initiative, which focuses on creating and cultivating diplomatic ties. Pakistan and Türkiye, share a bond that dates back to 75 years of friendship and support. This Culinary Arts festival was a collaboration between Serena Hotels and the only 17th-century Ottoman imperial palace and hotel on the Bosphorus, Çiragan Palace, Kempinski, Istanbul.

Ambassador of Türkiye to Pakistan, Mehmet Pacaci appreciated the chefs and musicians who came from Türkiye to promote Turkish culture & cuisine among Pakistanis and to Serena Hotels for supporting such an event here in Islamabad. It transports Pakistanis to Türkiye, as the Zamana Restaurant is transformed into a Turkish wonderland, to enhance the guest experience of Turkish Culture & Cuisine.

Otto Kurzendorfer, General Manager Islamabad Serena Hotel, said, "Serena is delighted to welcome back chef de cuisine, Serdar Öngel, sous partie, Davut Kutlugün and chef de partie, Yalcin Kokmen for the fourth year in a row, who are responsible for many of the superb meals at the Çiragan Palace Kempinski in Istanbul. We are happy to work with the embassy of the Republic of Türkiye on their national day and their support in organizing the Fund Raising Gala Dinner to raise funds for the flood affectees. An amount of 4.6 million rupees were collected from the Gala Dinner, which was hosted an evening before and was well attended by people from all walks of life, including the diplomatic community, corporate sector, and busi-



ness community whose contribution will help provide relief for the flood affectees. The Turkish Food Festival at Zamana Restaurant in Islamabad Serena Hotel is a constant that used to be held yearly, until

COVID-19, and has been revived again to enhance cultural exchanges between Pakistan and Türkiye, as Pakistan celebrates the National day of Türkiye deepening bonds between the two Nations.



# Col Mahmoud hosts grand reception to mark Egyptian Armed Forces Victory Day









# Victory Day of Azerbaijan celebrated

The ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov says during the times of occupation, more than one million Azerbaijanis became refugees and IDPs



## Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov has said 8 November marks Victory Day in the Republic of Azerbaijan every year as during Armenia kept Azerbaijani territories under illegal occupation almost 3 decades. Despite the decisions and resolutions of the leading international institutions, Armenia ignored all these decisions and resolutions and continued to illegally occupy almost 20 percent of our territory. Ambassador Khazar expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of the Victory Day reception organized by the Azerbaijan embassy. Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif was the chief guest while Minister for Defence Production Israr Tareen also attended the event. The ambassador further said, during the times of occupation, more than one million Azerbaijanis became refugees and IDPs.

Our people became the subject of ethnic cleansing. UN Security Council adopted 4 resolutions demanding immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from our territories but these resolutions were never implemented. 2 years ago, in 2020 under the leadership of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, President Ilham Aliyev, our army liberated Azerbaijan's territories from Armenian occupation and Armenia was forced to sign an act of capitulation, thus acknowledging Azerbaijan's historic victory. Azerbaijan ensured its territorial integrity, and the fundamental rights of nearly one million displaced Azerbaijanis were restored.

He said everything was razed into ground, cities and villages, buildings, historical monuments, 65 out of 67 mosques was destroyed by Armenia during the times of occupation. Even the graveyards were desecrated, destroyed, and looted.

Right after the liberation, Azerbaijan started large-scale restoration and reconstruction works in the liberated areas. In 2021 and 2022, the Azerbaijani Government allocated nearly \$3 billion to the large-scale reconstruction and restoration activities in the liberated lands. I would like to inform you that 2 international airports namely Fuzuli and Zangilan International Airports were built within very short period of time.

'The Great Return program started by Government of Azerbaijan. First Azerbaijani IDPs have already returned to liberated Zangilan region's Aghali village, which was rebuilt based on the "smart village" concept. I must also mention about Pakistan's support. Brotherly Pakistan from the first day of the former Karabakh conflict, as well as the during Patriotic War in 2020 morally and politically supported just position of Azerbaijan and it has been highly appreciated by the Government and people of Azerbaijan', he concluded.





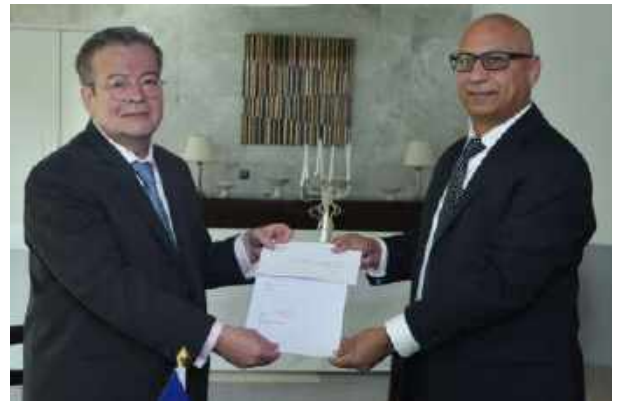


# France allocates 1mn EUR for flood victims

Money given to three French international NGOs; Ambassador of France Nicolas Galey hands over cheques to these NGOs







### Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: France has allocated 1 million EUR to three French International Non-Governmental Organisations for humanitarian relief operations for flood-hit communities in Pakistan. These relief activities will provide critical assistance to vulnerable households, and contribute to reducing loss of lives and improving living conditions in flood-affected communities. France's financial assistance has been earmarked for the following relief operations: Action Against Hunger (ACF), for an integrated project combining health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), agriculture, food security and livelihood for approximately 30 000 beneficiaries in the districts of Kambar Shadadkot and Khairpur in Sindh. The project will include the deployment of a healthcare clinic, the distribution of

semi-permanent latrines, the rehabilitation of water supply schemes, and the provision of livestock kits and seeds. Secours Islamique - France (SIF), for a multi-sectoral emergency assistance to 40 000 beneficiaries in the districts of Quetta, Killa Saifullah, Pishin and Lasbela, in Balochistan. The project will include the distribution of food packs and shelter kits, the rehabilitation of water supply systems, the distribution of hygiene kits and school kits, and the distribution of fodder and medicines for livestock, and the distribution of seeds and agricultural inputs for agricultural land rehabilitation. Médecins du Monde (MDM), for the deployment of three mobile health teams, for 20 000 beneficiaries, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (districts of Nowshera, Charsadda and Chitral). The project will include the provision of primary health care services,

medical equipment, and medicines. French Ambassador, Nicolas Galey, said: "French international non-governmental organisations, together with their Pakistani partners, play an essential role in providing humanitarian assistance to flood-affected communities. The French government is pleased to support Action against Hunger, Secours Islamique - France and Médecins du Monde in their relief operations. This financial support builds on other support provided by France, including the mission in September of a French medical team, the distribution of high-capacity water pumps, the provision of emergency equipment (tents, kitchen sets...), the current French civil security-led water purification operation in Dadu district, and the procurement of a portable bridge in the coming weeks", he added.



# Serena Hotels' awareness event on breast cancer

Experts on the panel included Dr. Ayesha Isani Majeed, Dr. Abida K. Sattar, Ms. Shireen and Aizaz Chaudary







## D. N. A

ISLAMABAD: “Our sustained and continuous efforts of raising awareness regarding breast cancer are yielding results, as women in far-flung areas of the country are becoming aware of the deadliness of breast cancer, since a rise in early-stage breast cancer detection is being reported in health care centres all over Pakistan.” These remarks were expressed by the Honourable First Lady of Pakistan, Begum Samina Alvi; an active advocate for breast cancer awareness, during her keynote address at a high-profile panel discussion on Breast Cancer Awareness hosted by Serena Hotels under the banner of Raabta – a Public Diplomacy initiative. Raabta is curated by renowned broadcast journalist Sidra Iqbal, and uses the convening power of Serena Hotels to bring thought leaders, policymakers, experts, and the civil society together to advance debate and curate knowledge about important socio-economic topics. The experts on the panel included Dr. Ayesha Isani Majeed, Head of Radiology Department and Incharge Federal Breast Cancer Screening Center at the Pakistan Institute for Medical Sciences (PIMS); Dr. Abida K. Sattar, Head of Breast Surgery at the Aga Khan University Hospital Karachi; Ms. Shireen Gheba an author, blogger, painter, and a cancer survivor, diagnosed in 2021 who is now cancer free; and Mr. Aizaz Chaudhary, the Director of Institute of Strategic Studies and former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, who is also a male survivor of breast cancer. With 2.3 million diagnoses in 2020, breast cancer is the most common cancer in women and the second most common cause of cancer-related deaths in women worldwide. Pakistan has the highest

prevalence of breast cancer in Asia, with 1 out of 6 women expected to be diagnosed with the disease at some point in their lives. The honourable First Lady appreciated the efforts of Serena Hotels for annually organising awareness sessions for the public, though the utilisation of the Raabta Platform, as it has a valuable outreach and the discussion of the experts and cancer warriors is indeed an inspiration for all. Sidra Iqbal remarked that with 90,000 women being diagnosed with breast cancer every year and the high death rate from the disease, indicates a dire need to break the cultural and traditional barriers to disease prevention and cure. Dr. Ayesha Isani Majeed stressed that yearly mammograms for women over 40 and regular breast self-examinations should become a part of women’s self-care routine. She informed that the Federal Breast Cancer Screening Centre at PIMS is the first public sector facility in Islamabad which offers initial screening and detection, biopsy, ultrasound and mammography to patients under one ceiling, and was built to facilitate the growing demand of patients especially those unable to afford the costs of private hospitals. Dr. Isani also spoke of the need to create support groups for those suffering from the disease as the willpower to fight the disease played a major role in recovery. Mr. Aizaz Chaudhary said that there was a need to target men in awareness campaigns by distributing pamphlets and informational material. Sharing his personal experience, he said he faced a delay in diagnosis due to the ignorance related to the prevalence of male breast cancer. Dr. Abida K. Sattar from the Aga Khan University Hospital said that the disease is often hereditary, and it has nothing to do with the character of a woman as surmised by some ignorant segments.



# Republic Day of Kazakhstan celebrated









# EURO VILLAGE CELEBRATIONS ATTRACT HUGE INTEREST

This edition of the Euro Village is special because this year the European Union and Pakistan celebrate 60 years of diplomatic relations: EU Ambassador















## Mahnoor Ansar / DNA

ISLAMABAD: European Union and its member states organized a festival “Unity in Diversity” for the residents of Islamabad and Rawalpindi to experience European culture and heritage, music and food. Large numbers of people, especially families flocked to “EuroVillage” at the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) to enjoy the festival. Through games and quizzes, interactive information displays, and various activities, visitors learned what the EU’s motto “Unity in Diversity” means in practice and how it applies also to Pakistan. Euro Village, which already attracted over 8,000 visitors in the past editions, took place for the first time after a gap of three years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Dr Riina Kionka in her welcome remarks said, “We cherish the diverse cultures, languages, religions, histories and identities that coexist in Europe. They are part of our wealth, they shape our shared values, connect us and give us a joint sense of purpose. It is this common understanding of shared values and diversity that lies at the heart of our relations with the world – including with Pakistan.”

She further added, “This edition of the Euro Village is special because this year the European Union and Pakistan celebrate 60 years of diplomatic relations. This partnership in development, trade and political engagement, manifests that we are stronger together. Our partnership has evolved over the decades, as have Pakistan, the European Union and the world.” As a symbol of this partnership, an EU-Pakistan friendship truck was displayed for the first time at the event. The truck will be

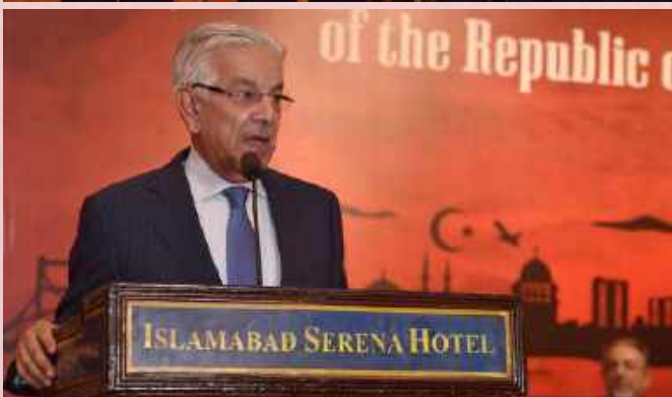
travelling all around the country to reach Pakistani youth in various universities across the country and offer a window into the strong connection between the EU and Pakistan.

EuroVillage was organized by the diplomatic missions of the European Union and Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania and Sweden. It included information and activity booths for both adults and children with interactive games, selfie corners, food and an opportunity to meet the diplomatic team and learn about areas of partnership. The event also featured live performances by European performers and Pakistani artists including Asim Azhar and Shae Gill. The EU and Pakistan are bound together by a shared history. The partnership has progressed since 1962 in tandem with the European integration process. In 2019, the EU and Pakistan adopted a Strategic Engagement Plan with the common goal of building a strong partnership for peace and development rooted in shared values, principles and commitments.

This plan facilitates cooperation on a wide range of issues, including dialogues on counter-terrorism, education, democracy and human rights, migration, climate change, energy, trade and economics, and culture. Pakistan is a major development partner of the EU, with one of the largest EU programmes in Asia. Together as “Team Europe”, the European Union and its member states have assisted Pakistan during the Covid-19 pandemic. In response to the catastrophic floods in Pakistan, Team Europe, including Norway, committed a total of €123 million, in addition to in-kind assistance, for the immediate relief and early recovery of the flood-affected population.



# 99th Anniversary of the Republic of Turkiye celebrated















## Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkey Dr. Mehmet Pacaci has said 99 years ago on October 29, 1923, the Republic of Turkiye was established under the leadership of Gazi Mustafa Kemal, after a victorious war of independence. The ambassador made these remarks on the occasion of the National Day of Turkiye. Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, was the chief guest while former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Gen Zubair Mahmood Hayat, Hina Rabbani Khar, Faisal Karim Kundi, Shazain Bugti and others also attended the event. Ambassador Pacaci also welcomed guests from Turkiye including chefs and musicians who presented spell-binding performances. The ambassador also read out the statement of the President of Turkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The messages reads, "I greet you with my most heartfelt feelings, affection and respect. Today we altogether feel the pride and the enthusiasm of celebrating the 99th anniversary of the foundation of the Republic of Turkiye. The President message further said, 'we pursue our uninterrupted struggle to elevate the Republic of Turkiye, which we founded by paying heavy sacrifices 99 years ago under very difficult conditions, above the

level of contemporary civilizations. Thanks to the democracy and development revolutions, which we have achieved in the last 20 years we removed not only the obstacles raised before the national will but also the thick walls placed between the people and the Republic. We transformed Turkiye into a county with an exemplary democracy an impressive economy, whose diplomacy is followed with interest and which preserves its national unity and brotherhood in the strongest way possible despite all attempts of sabotage. We strive to set up a peace and prosperity zone around us through our entrepreneurial and humanitarian foreign policy, from ending the humanitarian tragedy in Syria to finding a solution to the Russia-Ukraine crisis. As the country which provides the highest amount of humanitarian aid in proportion to its national income, we run to the rescue of all oppressed, victimized, and needy persons regardless of the origin, belief and differences'. The musicians from Turkiye presented their mesmerizing performances and received applause from the audiences. The guests were also served with Turkiye delicacies, which they enjoyed the most. It may be mentioned here that the Islamabad Serena Hotel will also organize Turkiye Food Festival thus providing the food lovers with an ample chance of relishing various Turkish delights and delicacies.



# Malaysian envoy given a warm send-off

Abdul Mubdi Osman, Acting High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam hosted the reception



## D.N.A

ISLAMABAD: A reception was held in Islamabad Serena Hotel on 26 October 2022 to bid farewell to the Malaysian envoy, Mr Deddy Faisal bin Ahmad Salleh. It was hosted by HE Abdul Mubdi Osman, Acting High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam. Mr Deddy Faisal is leaving on Friday, 28 October 2022 at the end of his diplomatic posting. He arrived in Islamabad on 19 August 2019 and has served as Minister Counsellor at the Malaysian High Commission in Islamabad for 3 years 2 months and 10 days. The reception was attended by the who's who of the Islamabad community including High Commissioners of the Commonwealth countries, Ambassadors, Senators, Parliamentarians, prominent businessmen and members of the Chambers of Commerce. Those who attended the reception expressed their appreciation and admiration for the friendship and great cooperation extended by Deddy Faisal during his posting to enhance and strengthen the relation between Malaysia, Pakistan and also countries around

the region. They also commended that the Malaysian envoy is an exemplary diplomat who is always proactive and maintains a close network with all layers of the Pakistani society. Reminiscing about his good time spent in Pakistan, Deddy Faisal said one good thing about being a diplomat was that you make friends and establish networking wherever you go. The job was made easier with Pakistan being Malaysia's good friend especially in both bilateral and multilateral platforms. Pakistan and Malaysia he said enjoyed deep, cordial, friendly bilateral relations and the people here have always been generous, hospitable and friendly. He remarked that he looked forward to an enhanced and more intense economic activities between the two countries as Pakistan has been taken out of the list of jurisdictions under increased monitoring or often externally referred to as the "grey list" of FATF in which Malaysia has often provided valuable support to Pakistan. Malaysia and Pakistan will further strengthen

and expand the bilateral economic, trade and investment ties in the traditional and non-traditional sectors, including by leveraging on the strategic location of both countries to serve as a trade gateway to the vast market in the Southeast Asian, East Asian and the South Pacific regions, and the South Asian, West Asian, Central Asian and Southern Chinese regions, respectively, he added. Throughout his posting in Islamabad, Mr Deddy Faisal said that his country's bilateral relations with Pakistan have witnessed an upward trend which was reflected in exchange of visits at the highest political level and signing of important agreements. Mr Deddy Faisal reaffirmed the strong and enduring bonds between the two fraternal countries marked by warmth, cordiality and mutual trust. It must also be noted that bilateral trade between Pakistan and Malaysia saw remarkable uptick as the country's exports increased to US\$460 million - the highest figure ever in 2021-22 taking total trade volume to US\$ 1,723 million







# Ambassador invites Pak business to invest in Nepal

The President of the Chamber and members appreciated the visit and information on business opportunities in Nepal. They expressed their eagerness to translate the Nepal-Pakistan relations into economic field



## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Nepal Tapas Adhikari visited the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) in Islamabad and had a meeting with the Chamber President Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh and office bearers of the Chamber. During the meeting, he shared the features of Nepal-Pakistan relations that both countries enjoy excellent bilateral relation based on friendship, mutual trust and cooperation and now it is a time to translate the goodwill of two countries into economic cooperation and interactions. Both countries are aspiring for development and need to maximize the economic opportunities whatever available with them for the benefits of people. He also shared the Government of Nepal economic policies to attract foreign direct investment that could be useful to them to promote trade and investment. As neighboring country, both Nepal and Pakistan are members of SAARC and have similar cultural and social backgrounds. Since the Chamber has great role to mobilize the entrepreneurs

and businessmen, I suggested them to visit Nepal to explore business opportunity. I also shared that Nepal is a hub of adventure tourism and it has excellent hospitality industry in South Asia and suggested them to visit Nepal with friends and family for their official or personal business to enjoy Nepali hospitality, food, culture and other tourism activities. The President of the Chamber and members appreciated the visit and information on business opportunities in Nepal. They expressed their eagerness to translate the Nepal-Pakistan relations into economic field. They assured that they will make a program to visit Nepal to explore business opportunities and to interact with Nepali businesspersons and assured full cooperation of Chamber to the Nepal Embassy in promoting Nepal-Pakistan economic relations. FPCCI is an umbrella organization of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Pakistan. Established in 1950, FPCCI is playing an active role in presenting problems of trade, industry and environment and safeguarding the interests of the private sectors in Pakistan. It has offices in Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta and in Karachi.



# Along this River, We are All One

**Aima Nadeem Chaudhary**

The writer is the A-Level student at International School Lahore, former science president and sustainable architecture researcher

**A**BOUT 5,000 years ago, a civilization budded along the coast of the River Indus - also known as the Indus Valley Civilization. Over the course of thousands of years, this civilization expanded and grew; however, it stands true even today that before matters like caste and creed came into existence, there was only one thing uniting everyone: A river and a sense of belonging to it.

As the prodigy of a civilization that lived harmoniously under one united name, preserving monuments that exhibit this harmony is essential. One prime example is that of the Katas Raj temples near Chakwal; a manifesto of cultures from the 7th century that is now in ruin. Apart from the Hindu temples and Buddhist stupas present there, the site is best known for the lake that exists at its heart. I had the opportunity to not only see this lake - which according to a fascinating myth was formed when Shiva, the God of Destruction wept over the death of his wife Sati - but also research its chemical composition to check its impurity. To this day, the lake acts as a religious and cultural nexus for the Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh communities. Even after thousands of years, the temples are a sustainable architectural masterpiece with a flux of cultures and influences incorporated into their construction. All the temples at the site can be divided into two categories. Firstly, the ones that have been directly influenced by the Gandhara tradition. Secondly, those that have been inspired by the Kashmiri temples whose chief characteristics were dentils, trefoil arches, fluted pillars, and pointed roofs. Most of these temples were in a very ruined condition, built of soft friable sandstone which was crumbling away.

The remains of the temples also form an important link in the history of this region and South Asian temple architecture. The temples have plain masonry walls and cantoned corner pilasters, and the sub-shrines are elevated to form a series of cornices with tiny intermediate rows of pillars and a crowning ribbed dome. The picture on the left below shows the Hanuman Temple which has been largely influenced by Kashmiri architecture and is undecorated and lime-plastered. It houses a series of rock stairs that cover three storeys and lead to a roof (shown on the right). The roof offers a spectacular view of the police station made during the British era and shows its relatively modern architecture. But its most unique architectural characteristic is the presence of a lake at the very center of the temples whilst keeping the construction safe from damage due to water. This was made possible because the mandirs and balconies, as well as the pillars made to support them, were made purely from piled-up stone. This, along with the limestone domed roofs that prevented the accumulation of rainwater, shows the sustainable design of the complex.

The site is also famous for the Sat Ghara - meaning the seven temples that have been dedicated to different Hindu deities. These include the Ramchandra Temple, Hanuman Temple, Shiva Temple, etc which have been used as worship places by pilgrims over the years. These temples can be approached via a set of limestone stairs that have been



recently added. Out of the seven temples comprising the Sat Ghara, only four are left and are open to tourists now. The remarkable architectural design calls for a further approach to sustainable restoration to utilize the vast potential the site has for tourism. Restoration projects for the temples have been initiated twice now, once in 2006 when the Deputy Prime Minister of India, Advani, visited the temple complex, and secondly in 2017 under Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The picture below on the left shows the limestone stairs that were recently added. On the left, colorful designs on the roof of the Ramachandra temple are shown.

The Katas Raj Temples showcase the shared culture and heritage of a variety of groups. However, the distortion of the understanding of shared cultural monuments due to biases has caused a step back from the very river that links us. And I wonder, if we had abandoned the River Indus all those 5,000 years ago and focused on our individual differences, where would we be today?



# National Day of Algeria celebrated





# Accord for peace in Northern Ethiopia to usher in new era of prosperity: Envoy

The envoy said all the stakeholders were required to show collective resolve to Implement landmark agreement as it was high time to keep this tragic period behind us for future of Ethiopia which had vast potential to emerge as a modern prosperous nation

## D. N. A

ISLAMABAD: Ethiopian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula has said that the permanent end to two-year conflict in Tigray region under the peace accord, signed between the Government of Ethiopia and Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF) on Wednesday 02 November 2022 would usher in a new era of development and prosperity by ensuring lasting peace in Ethiopia. He told the media on Thursday that it was a victory for the people of Ethiopia as the two-year conflict in Tigray region had finally come to an end. We are committed to peace and our government will play its part in implementing the agreement

The envoy said all the stakeholders were required to show collective resolve to Implement the landmark agreement as it was high time to keep this tragic period behind us for future of Ethiopia which had vast potential to emerge as a modern prosperous nation. He believed that a political solution was only way forward to keep Ethiopia harmonious and unified in diversity, adding his government takes pride in making it possible under the leadership of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. H.E. Jemal Beker extended gratitude to African Union Commission and the AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria and his team members for achieving the feat. He also thanked the Government of South Africa and its nation for hosting the peace talks and commitment to achieve this ground breaking success.

He expressed gratitude for the brave members of the Ethiopian National Defense Force and the people for their resilience and courage during the trying times. Highlighting the objectives of the agreements, the envoy said the parties to the accord had agreed to a “permanent cessation of hostilities” to ensure a conducive environment for laying the foundation of sustainable peace. He said the accord’s salient features also included restoration of the Constitutional order across the country, implementation of political solutions for the political problems, provision of a framework to address matters arising out of the conflict and their accountability, reconciliation and rehabilitation of social bonds, commitment to address the underlying political differences and formulation of a framework for monitoring and verification of its (accord) implementation. He said the parties to the accord would be bound to respect territorial integrity, sovereignty, human rights, democratic and constitutional norms and above all the unity of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. H.E. Jemal Beker said unhindered access to the all-in



need of humanitarian assistance, the use of humanitarian aid for humanitarian purposes, and respect for the African Charter of Democracy, elections and governance were also among the other provisions of agreement.

He said under the agreement, the permanent cessation of hostilities would not only be limited to ending the armed aggression but also required cessation of all forms of hostile propaganda, rhetoric and hate speech.

H.E. Jemal also expressed gratitude for the people of friendly countries who stood by the Ethiopian nation and extended unwavering support for ensuring peace, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ethiopia which opened a new chapter in ensuring Ethiopia’s stability and prosperity.

The ambassador said it has been agreed in the agreement to restore the federal authority in the Tigray region including control of the federal institutions and agencies by the Ethiopian government. He said the agreement was a major breakthrough which would help the current Ethiopian government in carrying out the reforms crucial to transform the country into a modern prosperous state.





LAHORE: RCCI President Saqib Rafiq along with Group Leader Sohail Altaf poses for a group photo with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman after meeting at Governor House Lahore. – DNA

# کاتاریخی

# کج

بجلی کاریٹ  
13 روپے فی یونٹ  
فکسڈ

کھاد بنانے والی  
فیکٹریوں کو  
سستی گیس  
کی فراہمی

3 لاکھ ٹیوب ویلز  
کو سولر پر  
منتقل کرنے کیلئے  
بلاسود قرضے

گندم کے بیج کے  
12 لاکھ تھیلوں کی فراہمی

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# کسان پی

ٹریکٹر کے پارٹس پر ڈیوٹی کم کر کے 15% کردی گئی	استعمال شدہ ٹریکٹرز کی درآمدی ڈیوٹی پر چھوٹ	دیہی علاقوں کے نوجوانوں کیلئے 50 ارب روپے کے آسان قرضے	یورپا کی مد میں 30 ارب روپے کی سبسڈی	ڈی اے پی کھاد فی بوری قیمت میں 2500 روپے کمی	1800 ارب روپے کے زرعی قرضے

بے زمین باریوں کیلئے  
5 ارب کے بلا سود قرضے



سیلاب سے متاثرہ علاقوں میں

خوشحال ہوگا کسان... ترقی کرے گا پاکستان



# The empire of two capitals

Usman W. Chohan

**W**HEREAS most great nations have built singular capitals whose ethos has guided national narratives and designed national strategy, some powers have instead had “two capitals” that operate on conflicting and competing logics. Beijing, for example, is the singular capital of the People’s Republic of China, and it thus drives both the geostrategic and geoeconomic objectives of the Chinese state in a concerted, harmonious manner. In other words, the economic community and the security community in China are of one mind, enabling them to conduct effective “geoeconomics,” which is a function of both strategy and economics executed in tandem.

The United States, by contrast, has “two capitals” that proceed from conflicting logical premises. It has what we might call the “New York community” (i.e. Wall Street) that is driven by a market-based logic of cointegrating economies and generating profits, but it also has the Washingtonian “DC Crowd” which operates on traditional hard-security lines. The NY Crowd is driven by titans such as Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan, while the DC Crowd draws upon institutions such as the State Department and the Pentagon.

During the Cold War, it was the DC Crowd that maintained primacy in directing US policy, arguing from a siege-mentality for competition with Moscow for the preservation of security and hegemony, and fighting through proxies across the entire world as a battlefield. Thanks to help from Pakistan and some other countries, the DC crowd emerged triumphant in the early 1990s, having cemented a monumental effort into achieving a unipolar world at the mercy of a victorious empire. At that point, however, the New York crowd stepped in more forcefully in directing US policy, and it argued that, since we had arrived at the “end of history,” it would be important for an economics-led prism to guide the US in the century ahead. This is because an economic-orientation would assure (their) prosperity and keep a “soft power” leash on the world, which would be far more palatable, and far less expensive, as an instrument of empire. With respect to what was then seen as the next big threat (China), the New York crowd pacified the DC folk by continually arguing that Peking would follow in the footsteps of Taipei and Seoul, which is to say that economic cooperation and invest-

ment would come first, and in time Peking would come around to the American way of thinking (free-market capitalism and Western-style democracy). Truly, Taipei and Seoul were governed by authoritarian right-wing regimes in the mid-20th century, but through economic development they shed those hard skins and became genteel democracies and bastions of capitalism, even surpassing the United States in terms of “prosperity” along certain metrics. The NY crowd thus had a credible template, and steered the American public away from the intergenerational fatigue of Cold War adversarialism. American companies then poured enormous investment in China, building up a vast manufacturing base that was complemented by managerial expertise, transfers of technology (ToT), and the acculturation of business best-practices.

China in turn further opened up and became the largest untapped market for capitalist surplus production, gobbling up everything that foreign tastes could satiate. For most American multinationals, China became the single biggest driver of profits and earnings-per-share, thus generating enormous bonuses for the New York executives who chomped on fat cigars and boasted to investors about their “China exposure” in quarterly earnings calls. When I worked on the buy-side (global asset management), my single biggest question to investor relations teams and executives was on their exposure to the Chinese market. This factor would drive my financial modeling, and help determine my judgment on the future path of multinationals in question. China was simply the main story - indeed, the only story; and New York was smitten with China’s wonderful economic future. However, the mood began to change after 2016, when Donald Trump was elected US President, and his administration began to levy hefty penalties on China, including trade sanctions and other measures inimical to economic cooperation and mutual benefit. The Trump administration had come to realize that China’s economy was well on its way to surpass the United States by 2030, and yet, it hadn’t followed the same path as Seoul or Taipei. It still had the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), which was largely admired by the Chinese people for its transformative economic policies that offered a clear-cut counter-narrative to the American model of economic and social development. China had

accomplished the single greatest economic miracle in human history, lifting 700 million people out of poverty within two generations, a feat that took the West far longer to achieve, and of course the West was receding into decline in any case.

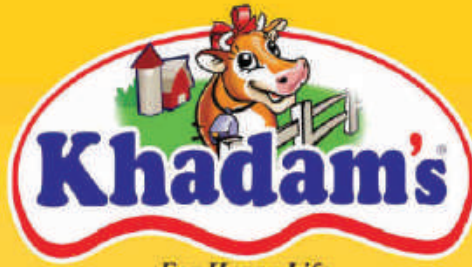
By this point, the DC crowd had forcefully challenged the New York folk who had grown fat on the riches of commerce with China. They pointed out that China had a strengthening array of both hard and soft power assets, and if timely action isn’t taken, the American Empire would fade from view without even firing a shot at China. The NY Crowd had taken two decades to realize their proposal of converting Peking into its acolyte, but instead China was already chipping away America’s primacy, and that too on the back of American technological, managerial, and material largesse!

Since then, even as the Trump administration failed to be re-elected, the Biden administration has pursued an equally harsh, if not harsher, approach against China. The DC crowd and its Cold War mentality are back in full swing, and the New York crowd is today both embarrassed by the shortcomings in attaining their final objective, and by increasing diatribe against their winnings from engagement with China. A flurry of recent books has demanded accountability from Wall Street for making so much money by helping China to rise, while leaving the American worker in the dust and American economy in shambles (particularly after Covid-19).

This is the drawback of an empire with two capitals: they may follow competing (and contradictory) approaches towards maintaining hegemony, and may come to blows as the zenith of the empire wanes and its power begins to fade. There are, however, many sympathetic voices that still argue for a cooperative approach between the US and China, not just within New York, Peking, and even some Washington; but also from around the world as countries attempt a tenuous balancing act between two titans. However, the voice that argues for international economic cooperation, sadly, is being drowned out, and the world will pay a heavy price as the DC folk relegate the NY folk to ignominy.

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