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# Economic and political crises



**T**HE September 2, 2023 strike, organized by Jamaat-e-Islami in response to the alarming surge in petrol and electricity prices, can be hailed as an unequivocal success. The overwhelming participation resulted in the closure of a majority of businesses, sending a powerful message. Although such widespread protests and strikes may not immediately sway the rulers, they undeniably lay the groundwork for more frequent and impactful demonstrations in the future. The nation has experienced a series of economic and political challenges in recent years. These challenges can be traced back to the moment when Nawaz Sharif was removed from office through a court order, a decision that many perceived as being based on tenuous legal grounds. It's important to clarify

that this doesn't absolve the Sharif family of corruption allegations. Over the years, they have accumulated significant wealth during their tenures in both provincial and central government positions. However, what stood out was the sentencing of Nawaz Sharif in a case that had not previously been discussed or debated at any stage, raising questions about the fairness and transparency of the legal process. The primary catalyst for his removal ostensibly stemmed from his deteriorating relationship with the Establishment of the time. He had probably become 'unmanageable' hence he has to be removed. Then in 2018 the project Imran Khan was launched with this hope that he shall behave and remain within his limits. The relationship worked well for the initial two years nevertheless things started getting bad and then from bad to worse when Imran Khan tried to fly independently. His wings were consequently clipped and a hotchpotch type government was put in place to run the day to day affairs. It was a disorganized and chaotic government, struggling to manage the nation's day-to-day affairs. Regrettably, this government proved to be a resounding failure, causing significant harm to the country's economic and political landscape. The leader of this government Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif dissolved the National Assembly few days before the stipulated term in order to get maximum time for electioneering.

The paramount concern remains: will there be sustained economic and political stability, regardless of whether the elections are conducted within the next 90 days or later? Regrettably, the outlook for our nation's political and economic future appears far from promising. The treatment meted out to certain political parties, their leaders, and their supporters speaks loudly of a dismal political trajectory for our country. The establishment of a government through gerrymandering and political maneuvers is destined to exacerbate our existing challenges. In the recent past, we have witnessed similar scenarios with both the PTI and PDM governments, and these experiences have only compounded our difficulties. In contemplating the future prospects of the three leading contenders vying for the coveted position of Prime Minister – Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif, and Imran Khan – the ever-changing political landscape implies that all three might not necessarily be in contention for the highest office. Just as the caretaker prime minister can be surprising, the permanent prime minister might also catch people off guard. Nawaz Sharif, in particular, faces a challenging journey if he wishes to reenter the race. His foremost obstacle appears to be his legal sentence and his relationship with the Establishment. For many observers, it seems that he has yet to gain the confidence of the establishment, primarily due to his previous stances towards the institution and its officials. Shehbaz Sharif, often referred to as Shehbaz Speed, faced significant challenges during his one and a half-year tenure as the country's leader, which unfortunately did not result in effective governance. His leadership period appeared to multiply Pakistan's existing problems rather than resolving them. The once-promising image of a 'reformer' and 'do-gooder,' carefully cultivated during his time as Punjab's chief minister, quickly faded when he took on the role of prime minister. This experience, marked by a lack of success and impact, raises doubts about whether the powers-that-be would be inclined to repeat such a leadership choice in the future. Pakistan happens to be a land of miracles, however no miracle is expected to occur in case of Imran Khan. Even if he decides to follow 'his master voice' even then his chances to become the prime minister any time soon are dim. Those who are close to him staunchly believe, what sets him apart from other politicians is his 'unwavering' commitment to his 'principles', whereas many of his peers tend to pivot their stance opportunistically for personal gain.

*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.



**MESSAGE FROM H.E. MR. ADAM M. TUGIO  
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**



The commemoration of the 78th anniversary of Independence of Indonesia this year is a fascinating journey of transformation and nation building marked by significant political, economic and social developments. On this auspicious occasion, I extend my warmest felicitations to all the Indonesians residing in Pakistan and across the globe. *"Moving Forward for an Advanced Indonesia"* is the theme of this year's independence celebrations reflecting the strong desire for a prosperous and resilient Indonesia as envisioned by our founding fathers. Freedom is the most important treasure of any nation together with stability, unity and continuing collective economic growth. Indonesia has strong commitments to upholding democratic values and protection of human rights to promote prosperity and social justice to all Indonesians. In celebrating this special day together, the whole Indonesian nation renews its dedication to move ahead together for more progress and unity.

At present, Indonesia is the world's third largest democracy and a progressive democratic country among the Muslim world where Islam, democracy and modernity coexist peacefully. Under the leadership of President Joko Widodo, Indonesia pursues an active foreign policy with an inclusive approach to promote fair and just international order, respect to national integrity and international law. This year Indonesia holds the ASEAN Chairmanship. This diverse region with a population of more than 650 million has achieved remarkable economic growth. ASEAN's combined GDP is now the fifth largest in the world. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which entered into force on 1 January 2022 makes ASEAN, together with 5 dialogue partners, one of the world's biggest trade area that contributes to 30.2 percent of global GDP, 27 percent of global trade, and 29 percent of Foreign Direct Investment. RCEP will eventually strengthen regional integration and enhance a favourable environment for better trade relations in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

As regards bilateral diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Pakistan, it is heartening to note that both countries have achieved many significant milestones after gaining independence. Our bilateral relations are a fine example of multi-dimensional constructive engagement and productive cooperation. Economic progress and political stability have always been the priority of our top leadership. Both the countries have a combined Muslim population of around 500 million, strong democracies and enjoy important geo-strategic positions in their regions with a lot of religious and cultural similarities.

The story of our progressive bilateral relationship remains incomplete without highlighting the significant contribution of Indonesian founding father President Soekarno. President Soekarno laid the groundwork for strong bilateral ties with his four successive visits, warmth of goodwill and unconditional support for Pakistan. President Soekarno was also an active promotor of intensive cooperation among the developing countries and hosted the Asian-African Conference in Bandung in 1955 which served as antecedent for the establishment of the Non Aligned Movement. UNESCO adopted in May 2023, archives of President Soekarno's speech at the 15th session of UNGA titled "To Build the World Anew" as a Memory of the World (MoW). This will complete the other two MoW previously adopted by UNESCO: the golden archives of the Bandung Asian-African Conference of 1955 and the First Non-Aligned Movement in Belgrade of 1961.

History and tradition brings Indonesia and Pakistan closer together. The keen interest and efforts to promote bilateral ties by President Soekarno served as a profound basis for the advancement of close ties, supported by a number of bilateral agreements in all areas of mutual interests. Today, our partnership encompasses cooperation in a wide spectrum of areas including in the political, economic, education, defence, science and technology, culture and tourism realms. The Joint Ministerial Committee was established last year, paving the way to a more structural engagement to our bilateral relations. The two countries have been in close consultation to also revisit the 2013 Preferential Trade Agreement with the objective to expand trade and commercial activities.

With these positive developments, I am certain that the future holds an expansion and deepening of our friendly bonds and collaboration, people-to-people ties and commitment to remain actively engaged at bilateral and multilateral levels. We look forward to working closely with the Government and people of Pakistan as well as the Indonesian-Pakistani diaspora on both sides towards meeting this objective. It is my sincere hope that Indonesia-Pakistan will harvest even more achievements, which can be achieved by maintaining this dynamic momentum cooperation across all fields.

**Long Live Indonesia-Pakistan Friendship  
Indonesia-Pakistan Dosti Zinda baad!**



# Remembering President Soekarno and His Legacy



# to Build Strong Foundation for Indonesia-Pakistan Relationship

Soekarno, the first President of the Republic of Indonesia, was an internationally acclaimed world leader, who is still remembered and respected for his significant contribution in promoting world peace with his progressive views and vision. Soekarno's vision, determination and dynamic energy inspired not only Indonesians but people around the world. He was a born leader and legacy of his struggle for Indonesia's independence is still significant in the present era.



Recently, UNESCO has designated Soekarno's famous speech titled "To Build the World Anew" as the Memory of the World (MoW) because of its historic significance in May 2023. The speech was delivered at the annual session of the 15th UN General Assembly in 1960 and made a great impact on the global stage.



Photo Credit: id.theasianparent.com

In his statement at the 15th Annual Session of UNGA, President Soekarno also introduced the national philosophy and ideology of Indonesia known as PANCASILA which captures universal values:

- (1) Belief in one God
- (2) Just and civilized humanity
- (3) Unity of Indonesia
- (4) Democracy
- (5) Social justice.



Simultaneously, he reminded the international community to remain vigilant in addressing global injustice and respecting fundamental freedom and human rights.

## Soekarno the founding father of Indonesia

Born in 1901, Soekarno was a founding father of Indonesia, who spearheaded his nation to independence and became the first President of the Republic of Indonesia. As a visionary statesman, revolutionary politician, staunch nationalist and freedom fighter, he earned huge respect and admiration both in Indonesia and among the international community. Soekarno was widely acknowledged by the world as a strong supporter of independence movements around the world and successfully challenged domination of colonial powers at that time.

Soekarno's dynamic leadership and oratory skills helped mobilize and unite the diverse Indonesian population in their quest for independence. His strong sense of nationalism and dedication to the cause of Indonesian independence inspired millions making him the country's first truly national figure. He was a graduate from Bandung Institute of Technology in civil engineering and his political activities began in his early years at the university. He was one of the prominent student leaders, who advocated independence from the Dutch occupation and a member of the Indonesian National Party. The late 1920s witnessed the rise of Soekarno to a position of prominence among political leaders. During his rise to power, Soekarno didn't fight with guns but with his brain, his writings, and most important of them all his charisma that manifested in his roaring speeches.

In that speech, President Soekarno underscored the importance of equality, respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity among states disregarding their size or their respective socio-economic development. He also urged the UN to undertake reform process for improving its functioning as a global representative institution and to create fair opportunities for the newly independent states to take part in contributing to the world's peace and security. Soekarno's bold statements were ahead of his time. Fast forward to today's world, the issue of the reformation of the UN as global institution remains relevant regardless of how the context and geopolitical circumstances have altered since 1960. It was the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who in 1997 launched a more consistent approach to initiate the reform of the organization through Track One and Track Two reform proposals.

Indonesia is a multicultural nation with over 17,000 islands and diverse ethnic and religious groups. Therefore, the founding father of Indonesia Soekarno wisely devised the state ideology of Pancasila that encompassed the country's diverse society. The principles enshrined in five principles of Pancasila also provided basis to Indonesia's National Motto "Bhinneka Tunggal Ika", meaning Unity in Diversity. Soekarno's vision of Indonesia as a democratic country with pluralistic communities was comparable to Quad-i-Azam's vision of Pakistan as a democratic and inclusive country where people from all backgrounds and religions could live in peace. Both of the country's founding fathers strongly supported social justice, economic prosperity for all citizens, and the value of national unity and tolerance.

## Soekarno and Non Aligned Movement (NAM)

At the international arena, one of Soekarno's most significant accomplishment was hosting Asian-African (Bandung) Conference held on 18-24 April 1955 in Indonesia. The Conference brought together leaders from 29 Asian and African countries to promote decolonization process and to raise voice against imperialism. The 1955 conference marked the first summit-level meeting of the leaders of Asia and Africa and served the antecedent to the creation of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) - a movement advocating for decolonization and strengthening relations between newly independent countries by expressing their neutrality in light of the Cold War rivalries. The Asian-African Conference in Bandung produced fundamental principles governing interstate relations which are still considered important. 'The Ten Principles of Bandung' was a political statement containing basic principles that would guide the efforts of developing countries to promote peace and cooperation in the world. Even today, the Conference's intellectual and political legacy of Soekarno, holds great significance for developing countries, sparking and stimulating regional initiatives for solidarity of Asia and African Union and South-South cooperation. The leaders of the Joint Secretariat who played important role in the success of Asian-African Conference (KAA).



From right to left: Prime Ministers Ali Sastroamidjojo of Indonesia, Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Muhammad Ali Bogra of Pakistan, U Nu of Myanmar, and Sir John Kotelawala of Sri Lanka. This image was taken on July 9, 1955. Archive by ANRI.

Soekarno's commitment to the struggle for independence for countries in Asia and Africa was one of the main foundations that formed the basis of Indonesia's diplomatic strategy in achieving strong foreign policy goals. Asian-African Conference in Bandung (1955) is part of Indonesia's diplomatic strategy to strengthen its role and influence at the international level and help create a more just and equitable global political atmosphere. As a prominent figure in Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Soekarno advocated for maintaining neutrality and independence from the Western and Eastern blocs during the Cold War. Following the vision of Soekarno, the Non-Align Movement (NAM) is central to Indonesia's foreign policy and focuses on issues such as disarmament, economic development and achieving Sustainable Development Goals, poverty alleviation, establishing a just world order and international peace and stability.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Right of self defence</li> <li>• Equality of all nations</li> <li>• Peaceful dispute settlement</li> <li>• Non intervention or non interference</li> <li>• No use of force against the territorial integrity</li> </ul> | <p><b>10 Principles<br/>of Bandung<br/>(Dasa Sila)</b></p> |
|--|--|

- Promotion of mutual interests and cooperation
- Respect for justice and international obligation
- Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity
- Respect for the purposes and the principles of the UN Charter
- Non collective defense to serve the particular interests of any of the big powers



New momentum to galvanize Global South cooperation was seized during the 50th anniversary of the Bandung Conference of Asian-African by the adoption of the Declaration of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP) in 2005. Furthermore, the 60th anniversary of the Bandung Conference of Asian-African was held in 2016 hosted by President Joko Widodo.

Today, Non-Aligned Movement has become the largest forum worldwide after the United Nations consisting 120 member states and representing almost 55% of the world population. NAM continues to become a positive power amid global geopolitical dynamics. It guides member states to work together to promote unity and cooperation between the Global South (developing countries) based on mutual interest, to preserve international peace and security and to realize social-justice in international economic system.

## Soekarno's active role in strengthening Indonesia-Pakistan ties



Indonesia and Pakistan cherish strong bonds of friendship marked with lot of historic, religious and cultural similarities. These fraternal relations even precede the birth of the two countries as both the nations stood with each other during their respective freedom struggles. Soekarno, as a charismatic figure and proclaimer of the independence of the Republic of Indonesia, had a very significant role in forming and strengthening diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Pakistan. On 17 August 1945, when Sukarno proclaimed Indonesia's independence from the Netherlands, then-President of All India Muslim League, Quaid Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah called on the Muslim units of the British Colonial Army stationed in the Far East to unite with their Indonesian compatriots against the Dutch colonial aggression. The participation of some 600 Muslim soldiers from the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent in the Indonesian War of Independence remains a glorious chapter in the history of both countries.

Around 500 soldiers gallantly sacrificed their lives during the war and they are remembered with respect by both nations as heroes. Later, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's personal connection to the Indonesian freedom struggle again manifested further when he ordered to restrain a Dutch plane at Karachi airport carrying supplies for the colonial army in Jakarta. The successive meetings between Soekarno and Pakistani leaders right after the independence had been the starting point of a productive relationship between the two countries. With progressive political views and an anti-colonial spirit, Soekarno sought to strengthen relations with Pakistan and other countries in South Asia. This successful effort was marked by the opening of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1950. This journey, from the period of the struggle for independence to the present day, is full of important moments that mark cooperation, solidarity, and friendship between the two nations.



On 17 August 1995, Indonesia celebrated the golden jubilee of its independence and honored Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah with the highest Civil Award of "ADIPURA" and granted Independence War Awards to the living ex-Pakistani soldiers in recognition of their role and contribution to the independence of Indonesia.

President Soekarno visited Pakistan four times during his tenure in office, in 1950, 1953, 1958 and 1963. During this period, President Iskandar Mirza and President Ayub Khan visited Indonesia in 1958 and in 1960 respectively. President Soekarno was also the first Indonesian president to address the Pakistani Parliament on June 26, 1963.



The frequent interaction of President Soekarno with the top leaders of Pakistan has great historical significance for as it laid the foundation of close cooperation and strong bilateral ties based on shared history and values, mutual trust and common interests. Following the establishment of the Indonesian Embassy in Karachi on January 23, 1950, the two countries sealed the Treaty of Friendship in Jakarta on April 21, 1953 and signed the Protocol to the Trade Agreement between the Government of Indonesia and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Jakarta, January 11, 1965. Soekarno's efforts to promote economic ties between Indonesia and Pakistan exemplified his commitment to fostering solidarity among newly independent nations and establishing strong international relations.

## Tributes to President Soekarno

Soekarno was considered by his fellow countrymen and global citizens as a progressive leader who was persistent in his pursuit of independence and justice, both on a national and international level. His pivotal role in founding the Non-Aligned Movement, which helped developing nations preserve their neutrality and fight against pressure from major blocs in international politics, earned him high honors. Many countries in the South have paid tribute to Sukarno for his efforts to promote independence and liberation from colonialism. Soekarno Streets in Phnom Penh, Cambodia; Cairo, Egypt; Ankara, Turkey; Rabat, Morocco;

Following President Soekarno's visits to Pakistan, high-level visits between the two countries kept on increasing. With the exception of the third Indonesian President, B.J. Habibie, all successive Indonesian presidents had visited Pakistan reflecting the importance which Indonesia attaches to Pakistan as a trusted friend. In this connection, President Joko Widodo's state visit to Pakistan in 2018 was a historic moment that gave new momentum to the two countries' bilateral relations. More structural relationship is also envisioned with the establishment of Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) by Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi and Foreign Minister of Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto in December last year.

In recognition of his continuous efforts for freedom from colonialism and equal rights, many countries in the world have paid tribute to Sukarno in the form of different monuments. Soekarno Streets in Phnom Penh, Cambodia; Cairo, Egypt; Ankara, Turkey; Rabat, Morocco; Soekarno Drive in Dili, Timor Leste; and Soekarno Crescent in Ottawa, Canada are just a few examples. Three monuments of Soekarno have also been built in Algeria, Mexico and Pakistan, as an expression of respect for Soekarno's role and contribution for the cause of developing countries in the South.

Soekarno Square in Khyber Bazaar in Peshawar, Soekarno Bazaar in Lahore and Soekarno Tower in Larkana are symbols of friendship and acknowledgment of his great contribution in developing exemplary fraternal ties between Indonesia and Pakistan. Moreover, Indonesia-Pakistan historic connections and cultural similarities have further strengthened the growing bilateral ties.

Despite being geographically apart, there are many aspects of each culture that are closely related. The influence of Islamic faith and tradition, rich art and music, delicious food and unique customs are some of the elements that bring people of our two brotherly countries emotionally and spiritually together.





Today, Indonesia and Pakistan with their combined population of almost half billion are two emerging economies and rapidly expanding their cooperation in a multiple areas of mutual interest including political, economic, socio-cultural, educational and security affairs. Both countries will commemorate a significant turning point in their historic relationship in 2025 when they celebrate 75 years of establishment of diplomatic ties. The bilateral trade reached all times high in 2022 to USD 4.2 billion and number of visitors from both countries is on the rise for business, education and tourism.



*Pakistani students recipient of fully funded scholarship from Indonesian Government.*



**CULTURAL BEAUTY & NATURE'S WONDERS**  
*Captivating Images of Indonesia-Pakistan Similarities*

The educational linkages are playing a vital role in cementing a more fruitful people-to-people contacts. And we are happy to note that there have been increasing numbers of Pakistani students in the last three years pursue high level education in many best universities in Indonesia. The interactions at grass root level will eventually help strengthening bilateral relation between our two countries.

Now, Indonesia and Pakistan stand firm among the comity of nations as vibrant democracies and resilient nations with progressive outlook. The contribution, vision and consistent struggle of Soekarno and Muhammad Ali Jinnah has always been the source of inspiration in pursuit of achieving prosperity and stability for the two nations. The people of the Indonesia and Pakistan truly recognize and acknowledge the inspirational roles of their respective founding fathers, Soekarno and Quad-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, in their struggle for national independence and laid the foundation of strong nation and established the principles of mutual development, friendship and respect that define Indonesia-Pakistan bilateral relations today. Their legacy will continue to guide Indonesia and Pakistan to become more prosperous countries and to contribute positively for global peace and justice and socio-economic betterment of the world.

# Ethiopia's First Year in Pakistan: A Journey of Friendship and Growth

## Opinion

Jemal Beker Abdula

AS the sun rises on this momentous day, we mark the first anniversary of the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. With immense pride and gratitude, I share my reflections on a year that has been nothing short of extraordinary – a year of cultural discovery, economic promise, and an unbreakable bond of friendship and solidarity.

On August 29, 2023, I had the honor of presenting my credentials to H.E. Dr. Arif Alvi, President of the Islamic Republic as an Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the FDRE to Pakistan. His warm embrace of our embassy was embodied in his words: "We, Pakistan, welcome you with open-minded, open-hearted, and open-door policies." These words set the tone for the journey that followed, and I have witnessed the embodiment of this spirit in every engagement with Pakistani government officials, politicians, business community, dedicated civil society members, and above all, the wonderful people who have shown boundless affection not just to me, but to the entire Ethiopian nation. Allow me to encapsulate this remarkable year. From the moment I assumed the role of Ambassador to Pakistan, my foremost priority was to build the image of Ethiopia in this country. With unwavering dedication, I directed my efforts towards enlightening the Pakistani public, business leaders, media, and civil society about the vast potential for business, trade, and investment within the FDRE.

Yet, I cannot emphasize enough the pivotal role played by Pakistani media and civil society. These dynamic forces have stood at the forefront, working to foster the Ethiopia-Pakistan friendship. Through an array of programs and events, they have illuminated the vast opportunities that lie in collaborative ventures between our two nations. Economic cooperation emerged as a vital avenue of exploration, for bilateral trade had been stood at a mere 78 million US dollars due to the lack of robust institutional ties. Identifying this challenge, I endeavored to bridge the gap by advocating for the establishment of strong institutional linkages. In February 2022, we celebrated a milestone as both nations signed a groundbreaking trade agreement, laying the foundation for the expansion of commercial and business relations.

In the following month, a historic delegation of 75 Pakistani businessmen embarked on a transformative journey to Addis Ababa. This



marked a watershed moment as the realms of business, trade, and investment were explored like never before.

My heart swells with gratitude for the Pakistani business community, whose resounding response not only made this delegation a resounding success but also resulted in the signing of pivotal Memorandums of Understanding in the realm of trade and investment. The momentum was perpetuated as a 50-member high-level delegation from Ethiopia graced Pakistan's shores, arriving on the maiden flight of Ethiopian Airlines. The gracious reception by the Sindh Chief Minister's Cabinet, in the middle of night, exemplified the sincere warmth and brotherhood between our two nations.

Under the guidance of H.E. Ambassador Misganu Arega, Minister of State of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, these collaborative efforts culminated in the signing of multiple Memorandums of Understanding in fields spanning trade, science, and technology. Subsequently, distinguished delegations from the health and textile sectors participated in various expos and exhibitions in Pakistan. The business chambers of Pakistan emerged as pivotal players in fostering closer ties, organizing the "Ethio-Pakistan Business Forum" across key cities. This platform has magnificently facilitated a tighter integration of our business communities.

In fostering people-to-people connections, the focus laid on the launch of Ethiopian Airlines operations in Pakistan. Beyond mere travel, this marked a gateway not only to Ethiopia but to the entire African continent. Pakistani universities extended a hearty welcome, planning to start a special quota for Ethiopian students,

thus furthering the academic partnership. In retrospection, I feel compelled to touch upon the avenues that remain unexplored. The economic landscape beckons the Pakistani business community to consider Ethiopia as a novel economic destination – a gateway to the vast expanse of Africa.

Ethiopia's demand for pharmaceutical, surgical, sports equipment, and construction materials perfectly aligns with Pakistan's expertise, while in return, Ethiopia's agricultural treasures, such as coffee, tea, pulses, oilseeds, and vegetables, beckon Pakistan. Ethiopia's remarkable journey towards a double-digit economy is a testament to the transformative power of reforms initiated in 2018. With focused efforts to address bottlenecks in FDI, trade, and business services, progress is evident across pivotal sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, mining, tourism, and ICT. A shared commitment to combat climate change has united our nations. Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative, conceived by Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed, stands as a beacon of hope and launched here in Pakistan by the FDRE Embassy. Having witnessed Pakistan's vulnerability firsthand during the devastating flood of 2022, I embarked on a mission to distribute relief items to affected regions, a memory etched forever in my heart.

The manifestation of our union is underscored by a mutual demand made by our heads of state at COP27 – a call for a climate fund that stands as a testament to our shared responsibility. In the realm of security, collaboration against terrorism holds immense promise, safeguarding not only our nations but the global community.

Looking ahead, Ethiopia is resolute in advancing our bilateral relationship with Pakistan. The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia envisions a future brimming with potential across various domains including the economy, education, tourism, and culture. As I conclude, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the people and government of Pakistan for their unwavering support. Your solidarity during Ethiopia's non-permanent candidacy in the United Nations and your unwavering stand in the UN Human Rights Council reaffirms the strength of our bond. We stand by Pakistan, just as Pakistan stands by Ethiopia. Together, we shall tread the path of shared history, united in our resolve.

**Ethiopia-Pakistan Dosti Zindabad!**

*– Jemal Beker Abdula is the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to Pakistan*

# Jaranwala incident — moving beyond condemnation



**Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi**

**I**N a single day on 16 August 2023, around 19 churches in Jaranwala were ransacked. The mob rampaged through the prominent Christian areas of the city to accomplish its dastardly mission, which had begun on the pretext of defiling of Holy Quran by two Christian brothers. The vigilante mob had gathered strength from the neighborhood by playing into their religious emotions that demanded that an act of blasphemy be responded to with equal force. According to the report, an announcement was made through a mosque calling upon the faithful to take revenge not from the two brothers who were blamed for desecrating Quran but from their entire community—from its children, its women, and its elders. In no time, the city was engulfed in hatred emanating from a story that had neither been investigated nor reported to the police. Unfortunately, by the time the police took control of the situation, the damage had been done. If reports from the crime scene are to be believed, the police allowed the game of hate to take place without intervention. Moreover, like always, not until the news broke out on national media did the police gather muscle to make a foray. Until now, hundreds of miscreants have been hauled up, along with the two brothers blamed for dishonoring Quranic pages. The Jaranwala incident is part of a series of violent acts perpetrated on minorities in the name of religion. The way the drama unfolded, it is convenient to blame the external forces to have manipulated the event to nudge Pakistan towards a failed state emblem

further. I cannot rule out the probability that Pakistan's foes, both within and without, may have scripted this bloody theatre. However, I cannot also turn my sight away from the failure of Pakistan as a state to prevent such incidents from happening, either.

As part of the Pakistan Ulema Council's mission to strengthen interfaith harmony in Pakistan, we hurriedly managed to contain the situation from spilling further. We rallied Christian leadership from across Pakistan and jointly condemned the incident.

We resolved not to allow such incidents to sever our relations as one nation—Christians and Muslims. However, this is a patchwork that we, as the propeller of interfaith harmony, have been doing whenever such a situation arises. The real work is to originate from the state. Only then will we be able to end such incidents? The unforgivable part of this entire story is the ease with which the people's religious feelings were manipulated, just like it was easy to manipulate their religious sentiments four decades back. We have not progressed in building character in our nation. Would I be wrong to assert that this country is a group of people lacking a common objective that helps in character building? When the Army Public School incident occurred, the state assigned itself the duty to address not the symptoms—terror-related incidents—but the cause—extremism—in society. The awakening to this realization was formulated into a National Action Plan. It was a 20-point agenda agreed upon by all the political and religious parties and fringe elements as an appropriate policy response to thrust back the rising tides of terrorism. Under the plan, a constitutional amendment was made to allow the Pakistan army to trial the terrorists in the military courts with an apparent objective of turning the wheel of justice in the right direction. Many terrorists were hanged to death; terror financing was choked, proscribed organizations were restricted from raising themselves in new attire; registration and regulation of religious seminaries were carried out with effective results; FATA was merged into KP, the use of social media in terror assistance was stemmed, militancy in Punjab was brought down, Karachi operation

was completed successfully with the result that target killing was reduced to zero, sectarian violence had almost diminished, though belatedly NACTA was revived. The dissemination of hate material through newspapers, media, and other sources was controlled, and the media was restricted from giving airtime to terror-related activities. I must say that Pakistan. Army did a tremendous job assisting the civilian government in lending wings to the NAP. Nevertheless, despite all the successes, our failure to revamp the criminal justice system of Pakistan—one of the 20 points NAP agenda—had rendered weak the entire edifice of the National Action Plan.

The criminal justice system is a formation of multiple pillars, such as academia, law enforcement, forensic services, the judiciary, and corrections. They support the idea of legal justice to protect the citizens' life and property and ensure the implementation of law and order. Since the Jaranwala incident, I have repeatedly said that had we tried and given exemplary punishment to the culprits of the Gojra and Joseph colony incident, we might have stopped yet another attack on minorities.

I would urge the government of Pakistan to focus on creating a system whereby people are educated about blasphemy and how it should be approached. Training people on how to react if their religious sentiments are attacked is required. Congregational setups such as Juma prayers and church masses should be used to highlight the importance of interfaith harmony.

The Pakistan Ulema Council has formed a high-level committee of 20 members, which includes senior religious leadership from Christian and Muslim communities. This committee aims to probe the reasons for the Jaranwala incident in light of previous happenings to identify gaps and recommend measures to bridge them. Over the last year, there has been a considerable reduction in incidents related to blasphemy. Therefore, the sudden spike is both worrisome and detrimental to the future.

The sense of community is as important as trust in the justice system of a country for the society to progress. It is time to move on from mere condemnation to address core issues.

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**Mumtaz Ahmed Bhatti**

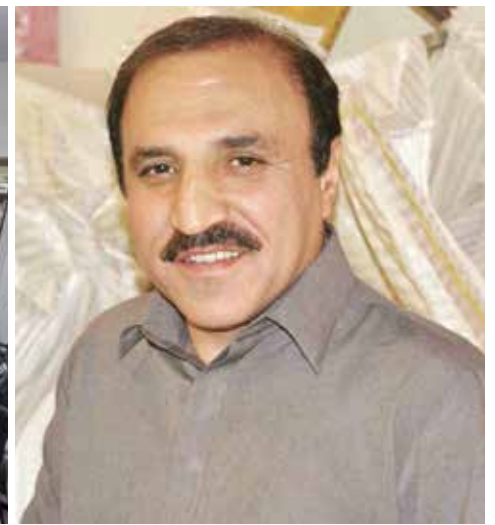
# Remembering a Hero: Nation's Tribute to Shaheed Baz Muhammad Khan Kakar

ON August 8, a tragic event shook the region as Shaheed Baz Muhammad Khan Kakar lost his life. This devastating incident prompted a wide-ranging condolence reference that united people from all walks of life, including Balochistan's Governor, Abduloli Khan Kakar. The gathering showcased an outpouring of genuine emotion and solidarity for the hero. A condolence seminar, honoring the memory of Shaheed Baz Khan Kakar, was meticulously organized at the prestigious Five Star Hotel in Quetta. The event drew individuals from every segment of society, illustrating the profound impact and respect that the late Baz Khan Kakar commanded. Eminent figures, including educators, attended the reference in significant numbers, underscoring the importance of the occasion. Lal Muhammad Kakar, undertaking the responsibility of carrying forward the legacy of Shaheed Baz Khan Kakar, demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the cause. The condolence reference saw an exceptional display of unity, as individuals from various spheres, such as national and provincial lawyers, politicians, academics, literary figures, and religious leaders, came together to honor the memory of Shaheed Baz Khan Kakar. Notably, Lal Muhammad Kakar has consistently organized significant events since 2016. He established the Shaheed Baz Muhammad Kakar Foundation, which initiated a series of charitable endeavors. These initiatives included the establishment of modern libraries to benefit the students and public of Balochistan, a move that was wholeheartedly embraced by the populace. Governor Balochistan Abdul Wali Kakar acknowledged the immense loss that the martyred Hero's demise had caused. He described Shaheed Baz Kakar as a principled, ideological, and highly respected jurist with a deep compassion for the underprivileged in Balochistan. The Governor emphasized that it was essential to perceive the broader impact of such tragedies, as they not only took individual lives but also struck at the heart of entire communities. The continued acts of terrorism that claimed lives, leaving widows and orphans in their wake, were condemned by the Governor. He stressed the need to raise awareness against terrorism and called for a united effort to counter this threat. Shaheed Baz Muhammad Kakar was not only a lawyer but also a leader within society. The Governor encouraged legal professionals to emulate the ideals and dedication displayed by the shaheed hero. He urged lawyers to live their lives akin to Shaheed Baz Muhammad Kakar, so that their actions would leave a lasting positive impact on the world. The Governor paid tribute to the parents who had given birth to a son of such noble character. The sentiments expressed by Participants of condolence reference highlighted the enduring influence of the Hero and the commitment to carry forward his mission. Amidst the remembrance, the pressing issue of justice for the victims of the August 8, 2016 suicide blast was raised. The families of the martyrs are still awaiting justice. The legal community's dedication to seeking justice was evident, as they discussed pending review petitions in the Supreme Court. Senior jurist Ali Ahmad Kurd Advocate reiterated the commitment to never forget the sacrifices of the martyrs and to continue advancing their cause. The condolence reference for Shaheed Baz Muhammad Khan Kakar demonstrated the depth of emotion and unity that emerged in response to a tragedy. The gathering reflected the love and respect people held for the late hero, as well as their commitment to continuing his mission. The legacy of Shaheed Baz Khan Kakar serves as a reminder of the enduring impact one individual can have on society and how his memory can inspire collective action towards justice, unity, and progress.

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# Serena Hotels organised an evening dedicated to seasoned mountaineers of Pakistan

D.N.A

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels under its Adventure Diplomacy initiative has always been active in supporting mountaineers and other high-altitude sports in Pakistan. Serena Hotels sponsored Samina Baig, the acclaimed young female mountaineer from Pakistan for her early summits when there was little to no support available to the mountaineering community. Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO of Serena Hotels, mentioned Samina was the start of our sponsorship of the Adventure Diplomacy Initiative and since then, we at Serena Hotels have been actively promoting different high altitude adventure sports, through different activities. Samina went on to summit the world's top 7, starting from Mount Everest to K2, she was award-

ed the Pride of Performance in 2015 along with her brother Mirza Ali Baig. Sirbaz Khan, another renowned high-altitude mountaineer who has summited 12 of fourteen of the eight-thousanders is another adventure sportsman who denotes his earlier achievements to Serena Hotels due to its patronage. He is among the very few who did so without the use of supplementary oxygen, which is an extraordinary feat. The evening was dedicated to celebrating all the skilled mountaineers of Pakistan such as Sirbaz Khan, Sajid Sadpara, Samina Baig, Nazir Sabir, Ashraf Aman, Mirza Ali Baig, Abdul Joshi, Abdul Jabbar Bhatti, to name a few. Nazir Sabir and Ashraf Aman, veteran mountaineers shared their inspirational stories to motivate the aspiring mountaineers in attendance. The attendees observed one minute of si-

lence in honour of the precious lives lost in the pursuit of dreams for 'Ali Akbar Sakhi' who lost his life during his expedition to K2, the legendary 'Muhammad Ali Sadpara' and the recent loss of 'Muhammad Hassan'. The Nepalese Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Tapas Adhikari, also graced the occasion with his presence and exchanged insights with the guests as 8 of the of the Fourteen eight-thousanders are in Nepal. Also in attendance was the Canadian First Secretary for Political and Public Affairs at the High Commission of Canada, and an adventure sports enthusiast Ms. Amanda DeSadeleer. This event was meant to showcase the immense talent of Pakistan and present those whose dreams are accomplishing the impossible with the chance to meet others who can help, inspire them to keep climbing and aiming high.





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# A day to celebrate Ukraine's resilience



**Jane Marriott CMG OBE and Markian Chuchuk**

**U**KRAINE is celebrating its 32nd Independence Day anniversary today i.e. on 24 August. The Day this year in not being celebrated in the same mood and manner as previous years, nevertheless it is a day to celebrate the strength, resilience and identity of the Ukrainian people. Ukrainian unity has never been stronger than it is today, almost 18 months since Russia's full-scale illegal invasion in February 2022. The history of the Ukrainian state dates back at least one and a half thousand years, to 482 AD, when the city of Kyiv was founded. Declaring independence in 1991, Ukrainians finally began to walk the long-awaited path towards democratic development, reforms and European integration. But this centuries-long struggle has been brutally curtailed due to the aggressive behaviour of Ukraine's larger Russian neighbour to its east. Ukraine's Independence Day is celebrated just ten days after Pakistan's, but the Ukraine-Pakistan relations started long before official diplomatic ties were established in 1992. Back in the 1960s and 70s, Ukrainian specialists contributed to Pakistan's economic growth through its support to key Pakistani industries, for example the construction of Pakistan Steel Mills in Karachi and hydroelectric plants in Tarbela and Kalabagh. For decades, Ukraine has played a vital role in supporting Pakistani military strength and its ability to defend its people. And Ukraine has been a nation that has extended its hand to Pakistan in times of need, aiding it during times of poor harvest. At the peak of the "grain crisis" in 2020, Ukrainian traders covered two-thirds of the grain deficit in Pakistan, exporting more than 1.2 million tons of wheat to feed Pakistanis.

**“Eighteen months ago, Putin thought he would overwhelm Ukraine in three days. He underestimated the resolve of the Ukrainian people, the skill and determination of their Armed Forces, and the world's commitment to Ukraine's independence”**

This could not contrast more starkly with Russia's despicable behaviour based on vested interest – something that has not only caused untold suffering in Ukraine, but has directly impacted the lives of ordinary citizens around the world. From the bustling streets of Karachi to the serene mountains of Gilgit-Baltistan, the consequences of Putin's actions reach us here. Pakistani people feel the pinch as prices soar, pushing the most vulnerable citizens even closer to the brink. The cost of fuel has skyrocketed and the price of wheat has risen dramatically. Russia's unilateral decision to withdraw from a vital international grain deal means every roti and naan will now cost more. Economists say Putin's invasion has cost Pakistan up to 1% of its GDP, pushing more and more Pakistanis into poverty. In its just struggle, Ukraine relies on its military forces along with the assistance from its international friends and partners. What is at stake is not just Ukraine's future but the UN Charter and international law, which support the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of all countries. We must never let countries attempt to rewrite borders by force. The UK, a long-standing friend of Ukraine, is inspired by the ongoing resistance and bravery

of the Ukrainian people in the face of Russian aggression and atrocities.

Eighteen months ago, Putin thought he would overwhelm Ukraine in three days. He underestimated the resolve of the Ukrainian people, the skill and determination of their Armed Forces, and the world's commitment to Ukraine's independence. Putin's military strategy clearly has not worked: he is isolated on the world stage. Over 40 nations, ranging from China to Turkey, the UAE and South Africa, attended the Peace Conference in Saudi Arabia. Over 20 countries have now committed to helping Ukraine win the war through military support. The UK and our

partners will continue to provide Ukraine with humanitarian, economic and military aid until Russian forces leave, which would be the quickest path to securing a just and sustainable peace. Ukraine will win this war and we must all stand with them for as long as it takes. The Ukrainian spirit shines brightly. In Ukraine's hour of need, we call for the people of Pakistan to continue to support their brothers and sisters in Ukraine. Russia's invasion will fail. Moscow cannot hope to outlast Ukraine's resolve and international support.

– Jane Marriott CMG OBE is the British High Commissioner to Pakistan and Markian Chuchuk is the Ukrainian Ambassador to Pakistan  
– Courtesy Express Tribune



# Monal Group carries out tree plantation drive at F 9 Park

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: The Monal Group carries out a tree plantation drive on 14th August to celebrate Independence Day. The Monal Group carried out a tree plantation drive at F-9 Park in Islamabad on 14th August to celebrate the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan. The senior management of The Monal Group as well its employees and families participated in the activity in which more than 250 different trees like Bottle Brush, Jacaranda, Pine and Arjuna were planted. This is part of a larger initiative being undertaken in collaboration with the CDA in which approximately 5,000 trees will be planted in Islamabad and

Haripur, KP in the coming months. The first tree plantation activity in this drive took place at Lake View Park towards the end of July where approximately 250 saplings were planted and further plantation drives are planned in the Margalla Hills near Gokina Village and in Haripur, KP in the second phase of the drive. The Monal Group has been at the forefront of similar initiatives in the city since the early 2000s and has been providing road-side assistance and cleanliness along the route to Pir Sohawa as well as assisting with manpower and resources for fighting wildfires in the Margalla Hills. The latest initiative was the deployment, maintenance and replenishment of bird nesting and feeding poles in

parks in Islamabad, which are now home to a wide variety of local birds. Speaking at the occasion, the Founder & CEO of The Monal Group, Mr. Luqman Ali Afzal said that climatic changes are severely affecting developing countries and it is incumbent upon civic authorities and responsible organizations to help mitigate these effects in every possible capacity. He further added that trees help urban centers remain cool during hot summer months by providing shade and releasing water vapor in the atmosphere, improve air quality by absorbing pollutants in the air, provide necessary support to the ecosystem by regulating water and soil conservation and provide habitat for wildlife and birds in the cities.





# Republic Day of India celebrated







# Serena Hotels honour the Special Olympics Squad

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels under the banner of Sports Diplomacy, honoured the Pakistani squad that represented and made history with their spectacular wins for the country at the Special Olympics held in Berlin, Germany, from June 17th to 25th, 2023. These exceptional athletes secured 80 medals, including 11 gold, 29 silver, and 40 bronze medals in total. This achievement has brought pride to Pakistan and garnered admiration from all 176 participating countries. The Head of the Delegation and Chairperson of Special Olympics Pakistan, Ms. Ronak Lakhani, expressed her gratitude to Allah and praised the outstanding performance of



the athletes. She appreciated the hard work put into preparing for this auspicious event, saying how it had paid off in such a massive scale of wins. She mentioned the efforts of unified partners and coaches and how they played a pivotal role. Lakhani also acknowledged the parents for their support in

nurturing the athletes and thanked Serena Hotels for making the evening all about the special athletes and celebrating their win as it adds support and bolsters their self-confidence. Mr. Haseeb Abbasi, the Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM) Athlete Leader 2019-2023 Special Olympics Pakistan and eminent motivational speaker, and winner of 2 gold medals for cycling in the 2013 Special Olympics Asia Pacific Regional games, at age 17 appeared in a TEDx Talk wowed the world through his story and is now a motivational speaker with a web channel which he uses for motivational messages for people with special abilities spoke about his journey and that of the winners of the 2023 Olympics.



# Pakistan greatly values relations with Uzbekistan: Gohar

**Ambassador Usmanov says the new constitution the Ambassador said, the New Constitution adopted this year in Uzbekistan reflected the changes and reforms implemented by Uzbek Government the check and balances between Public-State-Parliament**

say it on authority that there is a genuine and strong will among the Uzbek people and the government officials to further solidify relations with Pakistan. He hoped that both countries shall benefit from each other's experiences in all fields.

Ambassador of Uzbekistan Aybek Osmanov in his speech said Uzbekistan and Pakistan enjoy excellent brotherly relations adding these relations shall further be strengthened in the days to come.

He said, What a honor and exceptional privilege for me to be posted for the third time in this great country Pakistan and to be a humble servant of the re-connectivity between our two regions and nations.

'I'm extremely grateful to the President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Hon Dr. Arif Alvi, the Government of Pakistan, Pakistan army Navy and Air force for great achievements we gained in our connectivity'.

The ambassador further said in last years our brotherly cooperation has been elevated to a level of the strategical partnership due to confidant political dialogue, strengthening the trade and industrial, technological projects as well as the active military cooperation between our armed forces. The ambassador said, only in last 2 years we together have increased nearly half billion of bilateral trade via brotherly Afghanistan based on Transit and Preferential trade agreements. No doubt that our teams along with our colleagues will reach very soon the goals of recently signed 1 bln Trade and Industrial cooperation Road Map. He thanked Dr. Gohar Ijaz for gracing this occasion as official Chief Guest! 'Let me tell to this audience the secret as there are no businessmen or bureaucrats from Pakistan like Dr.Gohar Ijaz who so frequently have visited so many Uzbek regions (Ferghana, Andijan, Samarqand, Bukhara, Tashkent, Termez and Jizdaq etc.)'. 'During his fruitful meetings with my President, Prime Minister and uzbek entrepreneurs Dr. Gohar Ijaz has in detail devised the longtime and mutually beneficial Strategy for further increasing the trade



## Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce and Industries Dr. Gohar Ijaz has said Pakistan greatly values its relations with Uzbekistan adding the brotherly ties have given new dimensions. He said Uzbekistan is making progress by leaps and bounds under the visionary leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

He expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of the 32nd Independence Day of Uzbekistan.

The minister further said Uzbekistan is gifted with natural resources. The country has expertise in the agriculture sector as well therefore both Pakistan and Uzbekistan can cooperation in this particular sector as well. Gohar Ijaz said he had visited Uzbekistan many times and therefore can





investment and industrial cooperation between our countries and businesses'. Only this year after successful high-level summits of my President and Prime Minister of Pakistan we had conducted the 8th Joint ministerial commission in Tashkent. And nowadays we are implementing new connectivity projects with the help of Chambers of Commerce's and industrial associations in Islamabad and all provinces of Pakistan, the ambassador added. While talking about the new constitution the Ambassador said, the New Constitution adopted this year in Uzbekistan reflected the changes and reforms implemented by Uzbek Government the check and balances between Public-State-Parliament. 'New structure of the government with effective, compact and public administration - 1) will be serving the people under the new disposition Human-Society-State; 2)

will provide the political stability, strengthening of the economic development, further strengthening of social protection of the nation; 3) will implement the cooperation with foreign partners, increase the internal and external integrity and region to region connectivities'. The Hon President of Uzbekistan H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev in his address on the 32nd Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan has stressed that large-scale work carried out in recent years and the results achieved serve as a solid foundation for strengthening. A clear confirmation is that over the past six years, the gross domestic product in the country has grown by more than 1.5 times, and the number of business entities - by 2 times, industrial growth has exceeded 40%. "We must never forget that natural resources are wealth that belongs to future genera-

tions. Only united - we are a one nation, only together - a strong country!", Shavkat Mirziyoyev said. He said, particular attention of our nations and brotherly neighbor nation is the construction project of the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan railway. Last month in Tashkent new project office was established and in Islamabad trilateral recent meeting of the project office (Uzb-Pak-Afg) hosted by the Government of Pakistan (Ministry of Railways) three countries have signed the Protocol upon the feasibility studies, financing and construction of this Game changer project. 'Let me express my believe that every next year meetings will be resulted with new significant inputs for the further cementing of brotherly relations and re-connectivity between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.'

# Victory Day of Türkiye celebrated

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan congratulate the August 30 Victory Day of our honourable nation, of the Turkish Cypriots, and of more than 7 million Turkish citizens living all across world



## Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Türkiye Mehmet Pacaci and Naval Attache Capt (N) Goksel Ortamevzi hosted Victory Day reception, which was attended by a large number of guests hailing from various walks of life. Lt. General Muhammad Ali Quarter Master General (QMG) Pakistan Army was the chief guest while Senators, former members of the Parliament and civil and military high ranking officers attended the reception. Ambassador Pacaci in his speech welcomed the guests and extended his heartfelt feelings, affection and respect.

The Ambassador also read out the message of the President of Türkiye. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Here is the text of the interview.

“On this proud day, as we reach the 101st anniversary of the Great Victory, I would like to congratulate the August 30 Victory Day of our honourable nation, of the Turkish Cypriots, and of more than 7 million Turkish citizens living all across the world.

On behalf of myself, my country and my nation, I would like to thank all our friends who share our joy of celebration.

The August 30 Battle of the Commander-in-Chief is one of the most critical milestones in our nation’s centuries-long struggle for survival. In the words of Ghazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the Great Victory is “a great achievement that once again exemplified in history the enormous might and heroism of the Turkish Army, Turkish Officers and Command Staff”.

With this victory, which is the “immortal monument of the Turkish Nation’s idea of freedom and independence”, our nation declared to the whole world that it would not let its will be subjugated and its independence and future compromised.

The love of freedom, which is the most distinguished characteristic of our nation, still exists very strongly today. The epic resistance, first and foremost, against the July 15 betrayal and the response of our nation to the attacks on our survival in recent years have repeatedly demonstrated how our will remains alive and strong. The same unwavering will is behind our determination to build the Century of Türkiye, which we announced at a time when the world was shaken by deep crises. We created the infrastructure towards this end with the initiatives we brought to life in every field in the last 21 years, and provided our country with every capacity for this great ascent. With the elections of May 14 and May 28, which were a full celebration of democracy, we passed another critical threshold on the path towards our goal.

As a result of the elections, where we once again witnessed the strong support of our nation, we expedited our policy to provide more services and achievements. We will make Türkiye more powerful and raise it above the level of contemporary civilizations with the new steps we will be taking in the upcoming period.

We will definitely turn our vision of the Century of Türkiye into reality. And we will achieve this as 85 million people coming together hand in hand and heart to heart. As a nation that overcame many difficulties, endured many attacks and thwarted many conspiracies, we strongly believe that our future will be much brighter and more prosperous than today. May Allah remove the obstacles in our path and grant us success. With these thoughts in mind, I commemorate once again with gratitude Ghazi Mustafa Kemal, the founder of the Republic of Türkiye and the Commander-in-Chief of the Great Offensive, and his comrades-in-arms. I wish Allah’s mercy upon all our martyrs and ghazis’.





# ASEAN DAY CELEBRATED







## Serena Hotels signs a MoU with Connect Hear for inclusion of the hearing-impaired

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels joined hands with ConnectHear to enable an environment of access and inclusion for people with disabilities. ConnectHear is a one-of-a-kind mobile application with real time sign language interface facility to facilitate persons with hearing impairment. The unique product is the brainchild of Azima Dhanjee and Arhum Ishtiaq. Miss Dhanjee grew up as a child of hearing-impaired parents, making sign language her mother tongue and turning her into an interpreter for her parents. Making it a pivotal reason for her to develop this application for ease of accessibility and inclusion for

all who suffered from this condition. Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO of Serena Hotels mentioned that Serena Hotels is an equal opportunity employer, and many people with disabilities work for the team. He expressed his desire to see this application succeed. Currently, this application's utilisation will be in Islamabad Serena Hotel for the Food & Beverage outlets and the reception. The plan is to implement it in other areas of the hotel after the trial run, and subsequently in the rest of Serena Hotel properties across the globe. He emphasised the need for the service industry to be more cognizant in offering inclusive services. This Memorandum of

Understanding between Serena Hotels and ConnectHear highlights a new era for the facilitation of people with disabilities, this partnership provides the application with a visible platform for others to follow suit. Serena Hotels is one of those unique brands which has always tried to empower the communities through its different Initiatives; Sports, Public, Adventure, and Culture, and create change by empowering all through it to foster bonds and bolster economic growth in our areas of operation location, and we look forward to a positive outcome of this application, helping us provide more opportunities for all. – DNA



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## Serena Hotels Raabta: Breaking silence – mental wellbeing for healthier tomorrow

ISLAMABAD: Raabta Serena Hotels Public Diplomacy initiative has always provided a platform for complex yet much-needed discussions. It is time that these issues are identified and addressed head-on. The apparent lack of awareness and proper medically and professionally trained staff, it has become crucial to bring forth the taint attached to these health problems and start understanding the importance of it. COVID saw a rise in mental stress-related issues in people of all ages, and a rise in domestic abuse, suicide, and overall mental health was observed highlighting how important it has become to address this matter immediately. The curator of Raabta, Ms. Sidra Iqbal, a vocal advocate of social issues related to gender inclusion and diversity, introduced the diverse lineup of panelists, which included prominent people from the field. The panelists were Mr. Kamran Rizvi a motivational speaker and an expert in capacity building. Ms. Rukhsar Khurshid is a relationship management professional with expertise in relationship counseling. Dr. Nausheen Kazmi, a mental health expert at Shifa International Hospital, is one

of the most prominent psychiatrists currently in the Capital. The last panelist Ms. Sabahat Bokhari is the Director of Diversity and Inclusion at Jazz, with a clear mission to cultivate cultures of belonging, ensuring a holistic approach with encompasses strategic design, cross-cultural facilitation, and leadership development, making her the perfect fit for the event. The event had people of different strata of society, members of diplomatic missions, government officials, members of corporate sector and academia attending it. The discussion is based on mental health and the importance of recognizing if a loved one requires help to deal with it. The panel also emphasised the importance of reaching out promptly for help to understand and treat it as per the severity as identified by certified professionals. Q & A session followed the discussion where the audience, comprising a variety of people from different strata of society engaged with the panel of experts. The discussion was broadcast live to those unable to attend in person to provide access to the discourse for all wishing to participate. —DNA



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## SERENA HOTELS PESHAWER



## KYRGYZSTAN KEEN TO EXPAND TIES WITH PAKISTAN: AMBASSADOR

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan Olanbek Totuiaev has said on August 31, 1991 Kyrgyzstan gained its independence and nowadays is on the path of pursuing sustainable development goals, implementing significant reforms and taking steps for growth in all spheres. Kyrgyzstan is comparatively young country, but the history of the Kyrgyz nation lasts for more than 3000 years. Our nation within this long period has achieved lots of successes, as well as periods of decline. As one of the most outstanding of them, I can point out the creation of the great Kyrgyz Khaganate. He made these remarks while speaking on the occasion of the Independence Day of Kyrgyzstan. Federal Minister for Culture Jamal Shah was the chief guest. The ambassador further said, today Kyrgyzstan is actively developing state, which is intending to build strong interconnections with its foreign partners, create stable and prosperous economy and grow its value on the international arena. The legislation of my country is being permanently modernized, we are adopting new initiatives and actively implementing digital technologies in all spheres in order to grow the efficiency of all interstate processes. 'My country is following the path of multivectoral foreign policy, aimed to develop mutually beneficial relations with all its international partners. We are interested in building fruitful partnership with all nations, especially in terms of people-to-people contacts, as well as cultural and humanitarian linkages'. He said, Kyrgyzstan today is actively developing project on construction of railway connection "China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan". This initiative will contribute to the increase of the level of connectivity in our

region. He added, Kyrgyz people are looking forward to strengthen ties with brotherly people of Pakistan, taking into account deep common history, single religion and numerous cultural similarities. The bilateral relations between Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan are described as friendly, also have a rich history and many things in common from the perspective of religion, culture, language and traditions. For the last years our countries have organized significant number of visits on different levels, are actively cooperating within the framework of various regional and international organizations.

I am confident that by our joint efforts, we can build prosperous and developed region for the future of our nations. – DNA





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# 66th Independence Day of Malaysia

## Malaysia blessed with a rich tapestry of cultures, traditions

*As High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan,  
I am proud to bear witness to the strong and enduring  
bond of brotherly ties between Malaysia and Pakistan*

**D. N. A**

ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Malaysia Azhar Mazlan has said Malaysia values its unity in diversity blessed with a rich tapestry of cultures, languages, and traditions. 'As we progress into the future, we have forged a strong sense of nationhood which is deeply-rooted in our aspiration, shared values, mutual respect among our diverse ethnicities'. The high commissioner made these remarks on the occasion of 66th National Day of Malaysia. A flag hoisting ceremony was performed on this occasion. He further said, 'on this auspicious occasion of the 66th Independence Day of Malaysia, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations and sincere felicitations to fellow countrymen and countrywomen residing in Pakistan with a wish... 'Selamat Hari Kebangsaan. Malaysia MADANI : Tekad Perpaduan Penuhi Harapan'. High Commissioner Mazlan added, as Malaysians living abroad, we should be proud of our beloved nation taking cognizant of the success stories Malaysia has achieved since independence as a progressive dynamic country. 'We

take immense pride in multiculturalism which has been the bedrock of our strength, unity in diversity. Over the past six and a half decades, Malaysia has achieved significant growth in nation building'.

As High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan, I am proud to bear witness to the strong and enduring bond of brotherly ties between Malaysia and Pakistan. The excellent diplomatic ties strengthened by close people-to-people contacts have contributed to an even closer relationship between Malaysia and Pakistan. In this context, I intend to take our relationship to a higher level, he added. 'On this auspicious occasion, I would like to call on all Malaysians to reaffirm commitment to chart our future together premises on Malaysia MADANI principle of inclusivity, tolerance, and progress'. H.E. Azhar Mazlan said, let us march ahead with unity in our hearts and determination in our souls. Like our forefathers before us, we should strive and work harder for a Malaysia we can be proud of for the generation to come, he concluded.





**ISLAMABAD:** Regional Director of a leading Chinese company visited offices of daily Islamabad POST in order to explore business opportunities in the field of media. The Editor Ansar M Bhatti presented her his book. – DNA

# PAEI DELEGATION MEETS AMBASSADOR OF MOROCCO

The Moroccan ambassador accepted the invitation and assured that he will fully participate in the third Pakistan International Property and Construction Expo

D N A

ISLAMABAD: Today PAEI Delegation led by Mr. Khurshid Barlas Founder Chairman Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry met with Ambassador of Morocco to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Mohamed Karmoune along with Mr. Fahad Barlas convener Exhibition, Mr. Amin ur Rahman EC Member, Mr. Shumraiz EC Member PAEI, In the meeting, Chairman Khurshid Barlas invited Moroccan ambassadors to Participate in "3rd Pakistan Housing and Con-

struction Exhibition" that will be held on 17 - 19 November 2023" at Pakistan China Friend Center Islamabad. And he said that a large number of different business community from Various Builders, Developer, Allied Construction, banking projects and tourism industry will participate in three days property exhibitions across the country. And also told about the international pavilion at the exhibition. The Moroccan ambassador accepted the invitation and

assured that he will fully participate in the third Pakistan International Property and Construction Expo. During the conversation, the Ambassador of Morocco to Pakistan Mohammad Karmoun said that there is a long-lasting relationship between Pakistan and Morocco. In the end, Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry also presented the shield to the Ambassador of Morocco, Mohammad Karmoun.







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**TENDER NOTICE**

Cantonment Board Rawalpindi being procuring entity invites sealed bids on the basis of MES Schedule of Rates 2021 (amended upto date) on percentage above / below or at par basis for schedule items and market items rate basis for non-schedule items as per “**Single Stage Two Envelope Procedure**” under Rule 36(b) of PPRA Rule 2004 (as amended upto date), from the PEC registered contractor / firms having valid and updated registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in relevant category for the year 2023-24, RCB’s approved contractors and also are on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue for execution of following work: -

Sr.	Name of Works	Amount Rs. (M)	Earnest Money (Rs)
1	S/F of 40HP Turbine Pump and remaining civil works at UGT Dk. Mustaqeem	4.50	90,000/-

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

1. Bidding documents / Tender forms can be obtained on the cost of Rs.3,000/- on submission of applications from the date of publication of advertisement in newspapers / PPRA Website but not later than **11/09/2023**.
2. Bidding documents will be deposited in tender box (**to be placed in front of office of the Asstt. Secretary, Rawalpindi Cantt Board, the Mall Rawalpindi Cantt**) on **15/09/2023** till **1330 HRS**. Technical Bid will be opened on the same date at **1400 HRS**, in the presence of the bidders or their authorized agents.
3. Financial bid of successful / qualified bidders will be opened after 10 days of the opening of technical bid.
4. Tender / Bidding documents can be obtained on any working day during office hours from the office of Cantonment Board Rawalpindi at The Mall Saddar Rawalpindi Cantt on or before closing date / time of tender bid. Price of bidding document as per Tender Notice (non-refundable).
5. Technical bid will be entertained to those firms who have valid PEC registered certificate having appropriate category as described in bidding documents.
6. The “**Technical Proposals / Bids**” of the firms / contractors will be evaluated in accordance with laid down evaluation criteria mentioned in bidding documents.
7. **The Financial Bids / Proposals** of only technically responsive bidders will be opened after evaluation of Technical Bids in the presence of bidders / their representatives (who may like to attend) in the office of the Cantonment Board Rawalpindi on the date & time to be notified later on whereas the Financial Bids of technically non-responsive bidders shall be returned unopened to the respective contractors.
8. The validity of Tender rates shall be minimum upto 180 days as per PPRA / PEC Rules.
9. Technical Bid will be entertained keeping in view the relevant PEC’s Category, Criteria and Job Specialization.
10. The Cantonment Board reserves the right of demanding the analysis of the quoted rates from concerned bidder, to check their responsibility and workability.
11. The quantum of work may vary as per PPRA Rules and lowest bidders shall be bound to execute the work on similar rates / terms & conditions.
12. Conditional / incomplete tenders / bidding documents wherein necessary details are missing will not be accepted.
13. In case if the lowest tendered rate is less than prevailing MES Ruling rates contractors shall have to deposit performance security / guarantee as per PPRA Rules within 07 days, in case of failure the already deposited 2 % earnest money shall be forfeited.
14. Successful tenderer shall have to execute an agreement (at their own cost) on non-judicial stamp paper of appropriate value for faithful execution of the contract.
15. Other terms & conditions pertaining to the works can be seen in the Office of the Cantonment Board Rawalpindi at any working day during office hours.
16. Rawalpindi Cantonment Board / Executive Officer reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders (prior to acceptance) as per PPRA’s Rules No.33 (1) due to any reason thereof.

**Cantonment Executive Officer,**  
Rawalpindi

**PID (I) No.1341/23**



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