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Affairs

National Day of Thailand



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EDITORIAL

Budhist Heritage in Pakistan

Pakistan is endowed with a large number of ancient sites and historic structures. Indeed, these historic assets are our link with the past. In an age when globalization is all pervasive, it is Pakistan's ancient linkage that provide us with a distinct identity. Lest we forget, since this seems to be our best kept secret from the outside world that Pakistan is a treasure house of ancient heritage spanning over scores of centuries.

Pakistan is home to Mehrgarh, Moenjodaro and Harappa, it is the land of the spectacular Gandharan civilization as the seat of Buddhism, the devotional carvings of the Hindu Shahi temples of the Salt Range and Tharparkar, the stately funerary clusters of Makli, Multan and Uch Sharif, a fusion of local treasured and imported accurate, representing successive Sultanate dynasties, the heart-expanding chahar-baghs and jewels like edifices of the greatest kingdom of the world, established by the young ruler of Farghana, and the Sikhs emulating the Great Moghuls, and the shared legacy of eclectic architecture with its European overtones, a bouquet of the British who colonized this land.

It is not only the ancient sites and historic monuments but equally the historical urban cores, stretched from the peaks of the Khyber in the farthest north to the southern-most edge of the mighty Indus river, Peshawar, Multan, Thatta and Karachi, and scores of other living cities with their historic environments, all valuable in our search for and understanding of our cultural diversity. For Buddhism is concerned, it had taken root in areas forming Pakistan about some 2300 back under the Mauryan king Ashoka. Buddhism has a long history in the present day history of Pakistan— over time being part of areas within Bactria, the Indo-Greek Kingdom, the Kushan Empire, ancient India with the Maurya Empire of Ashoka, the Pala Empire, the Punjab region, and Indus River Valley areas which fall under the present day Pakistan.

Talking about the Buddhist heritage alone, there are hundreds of sites scattered across Pakistan. Among them are the Dharmarajika Stupa in Takht-i-Bahi in Khyber Pukhtoonkhwah, the Votive Stupa, Shinggardar Stupa, the Amluk Dara Stupa situated in Taxila and iconic Buddha statue in Swat. During the last about four years, Bamala in Khyber Pukhtoonkhwah has emerged as a major Buddhist heritage site after the remains of a 1700 years old sleeping Buddha statue were discovered there.

The city of Taxila, about 35 kilometers from Islamabad, with its riches of archaeological sites is generally regarded as the first stop by the foreign tourists particularly Buddhists. Most of the Buddhist archaeological sites in Taxila were built between 600 BC and 500 AD and are

located around the Taxila Museum. For over a thousand years during the heydays of Gandhara civilization, Taxila has remained a centre for promoting sculpture, architecture and education in Buddhism. Over 50 sites of archeological importance are scattered within a radius of 30 kilometers around Taxila and all of them are based on the life of Lord Buddha.

Some of the most important sites of Taxila are Dharmarajika Stupa, Bhir Mound, Sirkap, Jandial Temple and Julian Monastery. Relics relating to Buddhist heritage in Taxila are displayed in a chronological order at the Taxila Museum which attracts thousands of foreign as well as domestic tourists to explore the Buddhist heritage every year.

Another Buddhist site of archaeological and historical importance is in Takht-i-Bahi which is located about 170 kilometers from Islamabad in Khyber Pukhtoonkhwah. The site comprises ruins of an ancient Buddhist monastery situated high atop a 152-meter hill. During the Buddhist period of the Gandhara Kingdom to which Takht-i-Bahi belongs, some 1000 BC to 7th century, the area that is now Northwest Pakistan and Southwest of Afghanistan contained numbers of such complexes. Takht-i-Bahi was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1980 as the largest Buddhist archaeological site dating back to the Gandhara period. In addition to two stupas, it has many other relics and remains.

Pakistan is an Islamic country but still cultural heritage and historical monuments of all other religions and faiths are duly preserved and protected as such but still its rich heritage makes it as an important pilgrimage site for the followers of Buddhism everywhere. There is need for linking Pakistan to the International Buddha Circuit given its classical Buddhist heritage in abundance.

Preservation of heritage along with religious tolerance quite obviously is key to restoring the confidence of pilgrim-tourists and religion especially minorities regions are also being preserved and maintained. The contemporary Buddhist population in Pakistan is around 1492, may be little more or so.

The Pakistan Government is paying special attention to promotion of tourism and has taken number of steps including easing visa restrictions for the tourists as well as foreign investors for boosting tourism as well as exports.

The authorities concerned in Islamabad should also plan on priority basis organizing package tours for visitors from China, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and other countries including trips to the Buddhist sites at Takht-i-Bahi, Swat, Peshawar and Taxila.

Up, Close & Personal with Thai Ambassador HE Mr. Chakkrid Krachattwong



Interview by S. A. Chaudhry and Ali Toori

Born on September 28, 1969, HE Mr. Chakkrid Krachattwong is the current Ambassador of Thailand to Pakistan. He is happily married to Mrs. Pornrat Krachaiwong. He is holding - Bachelor of Arts (International Affairs), Thammasat University and Master of Arts (Political Science), Sangamon State University, USA

He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Third Secretary, Division I, Department of European Affairs. He served as Second Secretary, Division I, Department of European Affairs and Second Secretary, Royal Thai Embassy, Lisbon; First Secretary, Royal Thai Embassy, Lisbon; First Secretary, Latin America Division, Department of American and South Pacific Affairs; First Secretary, Secretariat to the Department of American and South Pacific Affairs; First Secretary, Royal Thai Embassy, Islamabad; First Secretary, North America Division, Department of American and South Pacific Affairs; Counsellor, North America Division, Department of American and South Pacific Affairs; Deputy Consul-General, Royal Thai Consulate-General, Chicago; Director, International Organizations Administrative Affairs Division, Department of International Organizations; Director, Information and Communication Technology Center: Consul-General, Royal Thai Consulate-General, Sydney; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.



The Economic Affairs had a candid discussion with HE Mr. Chakkrid Krachattwong particularly focusing on long lasting bi-lateral trade relations, diplomatic ties, religious tourism, COVID-19 cooperation, free trade agreement, etc. between Thailand and Pakistan. Here are the excerpts of the interview;

The Economic Affairs: Pakistan and Thailand are marking the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations this year. What would you like to say in this regard and what kind of activities have been planned to celebrate the 70 years of enjoying a good and long-standing bilateral relations between the two countries? I would also appreciate if you could give a historical background of the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Thailand.

H.E. Chakkrid Krachaiwong: Well, Thailand and Pakistan enjoy a long-standing bilateral relations, based on cultural and historical background. On this 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our two countries, we both the countries are celebrating our long-standing bilateral relations and we are expecting a number of activities to happen in this regard which is reflective of our strong relationship. Coincide with this, the Thai Embassy and Islamabad Cycling Association, recently organized a "Green Cycling Event" in commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between Thailand and Pakistan along the Constitution Avenue. It also symbolizes the "looking forward" of the relationship. So, there are a number of other activities being planned to celebrate the 70th

anniversary of the diplomatic relationship.

On this eve, we are also jointly making a football with a logo of marking the 70th anniversary of our relationship. The football is being made by the prominent Pakistani factory, as we all know that Pakistan is the leading producer of good quality footballs which are also used in the FIFA world cup. The rubber and elastic to be used in the football would be provided by Thailand. So, the cooperation between Pakistan and Thailand would not only benefit the two countries, but also the world at large. One of the important milestones of this relationship for the past 70 years, was the royal visit by their Majesties King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit visit to Pakistan in 1962. Not only the late King Adulyadej, but the present King Maha Vajiralongkorn also visited Pakistan three times when he was the Crown Prince of Thailand.

The Princes of Thailand also visited Pakistan and she opened the current building of Thai Embassy in Diplomatic Enclave. This is how we give this important value to our relationship with Pakistan. Not only that, we also had the visits by prime minister, presidents as well as the people-to-people. We have quite a big Pakistani community living in Thailand. We also have those Pakistanis who can speak Thai. We also have seen the increase of tourists' visits between our two countries even during the Covid time.

Thai people started coming here in Pakistan and I think this is important that not only the Thai people, but also

the rest of the world should know Pakistan. Because what is important is that Pakistani and Thai people have a lot of similarities in common. Pakistani people are very generous and accord warm hospitality to their guests. So, it is very important to come and to know how fairly Pakistani people are. Similarly, the cultural and civilization is also very important not only for Pakistan, but also to the civilization of the world.

The Economic Affairs: As you mentioned tourism in Pakistan, what do you see the potential of religious tourism in Pakistan, because we have a shared and rich history of Gandhara civilization in the country, besides other beautiful tourist sites in our Northern part of the country. Also whether the Thai government is willing to help restore the centuries old historical and sacred sites...?

H.E. Chakkrid Krachaiwong: You talked about the beautiful sites, actually, Pakistan has many beautiful natural tourist sites, particularly in Northern Pakistan. I have seen a lot of my friends started to come to visit Hunza and some other natural beauties in Pakistan which they could not believe that is actually happening on earth and which is here in Pakistan. I also visited Gilgit just a month ago and when we came back and put our photographs on the social media and people started commenting as to how these

beautiful places are. I think, more and more people are now attracted to come and visit Pakistan's beautiful sites. I think this is also a new place for the younger generation to come and discover it.

Regarding the religious tourism, you know Taxila has been in our books for a long time and we all have been reading about Taxila, because many of our ancient places are there in Taxila. Many of Thai people do not know that Taxila is here in Pakistan. When they knew, they were quite amazed that what they had read before in books about Taxila, is actually a town in Pakistan. So, this is quite interesting for Thai people not only because of the Buddhism that flourished in this area by those times, but also its historical background.

So, those who want to educate their wisdom, they have to come here. Now the Thai people are realising more and more that this is the civilization that can be linked to Thailand. On this 70th anniversary of our relations, the Thai government through our embassy, is working on a project to prepare a container, showing the Thai and Gandhara arts together, which would be presented to Taxila museum. We have been working together with Department of Fine Arts, Thailand. This container that would be placed in Taxila museum which combines the Thai and Gandhara arts





into this container.

However, the travel of the tourists has come down due to the Covid-19 situations. Currently, the government of Pakistan has put Thailand on Category-C and not allowing people from Thailand unless there is a valid reason. If this is relaxed and the Covid situation becomes normal, I hope more Thai people would be coming to visit Pakistan.

The Economic Affairs: Has Thailand also put Pakistan on the same Category-C?

H.E. Chakkrid Krachaiwong: No, people from Pakistan, including myself, can go to Thailand if they have a visa. Upon arrival in Thailand, they will have to quarantine and pass through the procedure adopted to handle the Covid situations. The visa procedure is quite normal of every type, business, visit, student etc.

The Economic Affairs: Excellency, the world is once again in panic to deal with the fifth wave of Coronavirus due to the Omicron variant. Do you believe both Pakistan and Thailand can cooperate with each other and share each other's experiences to cope with the new wave of Covid-19 together...?

H.E. Chakkrid Krachaiwong: Of course, not because of this variant, but we have a common enemy and in this battle, we understand that we have to deal with collectively and share our experiences. In this battle, you cannot leave anyone behind. We have to go together and we have been working together since the beginning of the pandemic because there are some Thai people who are here and some Pakistanis who are in Thailand. We are working closely with the Pakistani Embassy in Bangkok and also our embassy here. We have been able to manage flights to send Thai people from here and the Pakistanis from Thailand to come here during the pandemic.

I would also like to share here that not only the cultural exchanges and the history that we share together, we both also have good trade ties. Our trade has been going year by year and before the

Covid time, our trade has been reached to US\$ 1.6 billion in 2018-19. But as far as the latest information, from January 2021 to October 2021, the bilateral trade stood at US\$ 1.5 billion. So, if the rate is following this way, we might be able to see a much high record of the two-way trade. It is important to note that despite the pandemic, we have been able to keep the trade on its right track.

The Economic Affairs: What are the key areas of the two-way trade?

H.E. Chakkrid Krachaiwong: The major Thai exports to Pakistan are vehicle parts, some chemicals, rubber/plastic used in making footballs while we import from Pakistan a lot in terms of fisheries, animals and we are also working on Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two countries. The good news is that we have completed 12 out of 13 chapters of the FTA and we are working with the Pakistani side to finish the last remaining part of the FTA. Now we are waiting for Pakistani side to respond to our request for the next meeting to continue the talks towards the finalization of the FTA. Our ministry of commerce has been asking the Pakistani side for the meeting. If it happens, I think the FTA can be concluded.

The Economic Affairs: What are the agreed points of the FTA?

H.E. Chakkrid Krachaiwong: Since the negotiations are still ongoing and it is not appropriate to share it.

So, we have to wait until the talks conclude. When it is completed, it would be an opportunity for the business community and both sides would be benefited from it. We have very good quality products. Not only the Thai products, but also we can export the raw materials that can be used here in Pakistan. We also have some investment here, not very much, but the important is that one of the famous Thai companies – which has the highest volume of investment in Thailand and China, and they come here and it is based in Lahore. They are also seeking to expand their investment also to Islamabad and it is a good sign. Another company, Thai Union, is also working in Pakistan.

The Economic Affairs: What are other areas, where Thai companies are working in Pakistan and what are the others areas where Thai companies can invest in?

H.E. Chakkrid Krachaiwong: Currently, these two companies are still working in Pakistan. I there is possibility of helping the akwa animal products, and also food products, because I love Thai mangoes, but when I came here and tasted Pakistani mangoes, I was quite amazed to see such delicious mangoes. And also the fishery products that we import from Karachi, but it would be very important if the food preservations techniques are applied on the fishery products. It might be a possibility to preserve them in canes which might be a good idea.

The Economic Affairs: Has any Thai company shown any interest in automobile sector and the rubber



industry in Pakistani?

H.E. Chakkrid Krachaiwong: Not yet.

The Economic Affairs: Any future plan in automobile sector? Because, Pakistan has opened the automobile sector for foreign investors...?

H.E. Chakkrid Krachaiwong: I haven't heard about the plan. But, what important is that, Pakistan's potential must be explored. I think Pakistan's embassy in Bangkok is working very hard towards that end. Even myself, as I am the ambassador of Thailand and it is my wish that somewhat promote Pakistan to become

known in Thailand as well. For this, tourism is the right way and I think it is the good policy of Pakistani government to open up its tourism for the people to come in. with that trade and investment would also come more and it would also pave the way for more companies to come and invest in Pakistan.

The Economic Affairs: I have heard that some Thai companies have express willingness to come and to establish tourist sites in Pakistan. What would you like to say on that?

H.E. Chakkrid Krachaiwong: Well, I also have heard about them. They are some of the travel agents who



are trying to promote the tourism from Thailand to here. I think more and more people will be willing to come to Pakistan once the covid situation gets normal. I think Pakistan has a great potential in tourism industry and there is a room for investment in this sector.

The Economic Affairs: Is there also a window of opportunity for more Pakistani products to go to the Thai market?

H.E. Chakkrid Krachaiwong: As I mentioned, Pakistani fishery products are quite good, but there is a need to lay focus on preservation of these foods. Warrix Sports, a well-known Thai company, is also in touch with Pakistani companies here for a joint venture on the sports products, such as footballs and other products related to sports.

The Economic Affairs: Would you please also like to shed some light on the third Joint Economic Commission.



H.E. Chakkrid Krachaiwong: We have two kinds of mechanism – the political consultations and economic consultation. We are looking into all the issues of common interest under these mechanisms. We are also providing technical cooperation to Pakistan, including through offering scholarships to Pakistani students through Higher Education Commission (HEC). There are a high number of Pakistani students who are currently studying in Thai education institutions. While we also have Thai Muslim students, studying in seminaries as well as in the Islamic International University. We have quite a family like relations with these students and the embassy is helping them. These Thai Muslims coming into Pakistan are benefiting us at home, as they are not only taking the religious education, but also learning English and Arabic languages as well as other technical courses here. Many of them are also helping us in back in our hospitals.

The Economic Affairs: Do you believe that the special economic zones (SEZs) under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CEPC) would also be an

opportunity for Thai companies to invest in?

H.E. Chakkrid Krachaiwong: Of course, the Thai companies will be beneficial. But I think they have to come and study the ground situations themselves. At the embassy, we are sending information back to Thailand and also our Economic Affairs Ministry about the opportunities here. I think, Pakistan Embassy in Bangkok is also engaged in promoting in Thailand the investment opportunities in Pakistan.

The Economic Affairs: Any high-profile visit during the near future from Thailand?

H.E. Chakkrid Krachaiwong: Not yet, because of the Covid situations.

The Economic Affairs: What do you like in Pakistani foods?

H.E. Chakkrid Krachaiwong: Well, I like Biryani very much. I also like fish and the Pakistani mangoes which are very delicious.

Pakistan-Thailand Relations

A Lasting Friendship

By Sahebzada A. Khan



It is indeed a pleasure to contribute to Monthly Economic Affairs, Pakistan, especially on the 70th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Kingdom of Thailand. The logo of the anniversary was launched on 08 October 2021, to kickstart the celebrations. There are numerous activities being planned in Pakistan and Thailand on this momentous occasion. These activities are an opportunity to celebrate our achievements and identify the opportunities, where we can further synergize to achieve our mutual goals and aspirations.

Thailand and Pakistan are long-trusted friends. Ours is an enduring relationship that was best described by His Majesty Late King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great, in his address to a State Banquet during the royal visit to Pakistan in March 1962: "The friendship between Pakistan and Thailand has been longstanding and gathers strength through the passing of time. The reason for this is simple. Our two peoples have much

in common. They are peaceful by nature." These words of great wisdom and foresight encapsulate Pak-Thai friendship, that continues to prosper. The current King of Thailand, His Majesty Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua, expressed similar sentiments during my royal audience on presentation of credentials, in Bangkok, recently.

The two strong pillars of our affinity are shared history and culture. History reminds us of our close association, which goes back to the South Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO). The Cold war era also provided an anchor for Pakistan-Thailand relationship, when both countries became close allies. In the post-Cold war period, our two brotherly countries sought to reinforce bilateral relations through deeper cooperation in trade, investment, education, science & technology, security, defence, culture, and tourism.

Interestingly, the socio-cultural linkages between Pakistan and Thailand can be traced back to ancient

times of the Buddhist Gandhara heritage of Pakistan - with Taxila at its heart. Pakistan is home of some of the most prominent and well-known Buddhist heritage sites in the world. We have a UNESCO world heritage site located there. Also, another Buddhist world heritage site is located in an area called Gandhara, at "Takht-i-Bahi Monastery". Precious Buddhist relics, for example the Fasting Buddha image, is well preserved in Lahore Museum. Furthermore, there has been discovery of world's oldest "Sleeping Buddha" statue, near the Bhamala Stupa in Haripur District

Pakistan is promoting Buddhist tourism among Thai tourists. We attach high priority to deepening people-to-people contacts through greater cultural projection and increased two-way tourism. Apart from the religious tourism, we are also focussing on tourism from Thailand to our mountainous regions in the north, known for their breath-taking beauty and scenic landscapes,

To commemorate our 70 years of friendship, the

Embassy of Pakistan of Pakistan in Bangkok is organizing the following events;

- A 'Pakistan-Thailand Friendship Week is being held by organizing seminars and related activities highlighting our cultural linkages, involving joint performances by Pakistani and Thai artists
- Issuance of joint commemorative stamps, signifying the theme of 'Buddhist World Heritage
- Reciprocal naming of a major road or avenue in our two capitals, to honour our leaders - Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and His Majesty King

Pakistan is promoting Buddhist tourism among Thai tourists. We attach high priority to deepening people-to-people contacts through greater cultural projection and increased two-way tourism.



Bhumibol Adelyadej, The Great. The centrepiece would be the "Gandhara Exhibition," at National Museum Bangkok, focussing on the Buddhist heritage of Pakistan and influence of the Gandhara art in Thailand. This exhibition would highlight the common heritage, so carefully preserved in Taxila, Takht-i-Bahi, Peshawar and elsewhere in Pakistan. Preparations are underway for sending over hundred original artifacts from Pakistan to Thailand

The Pakistani and Pakistani-origin community, comprising around 8,000 and 250,000, respectively,

are expected to take active part in these celebrations, including a cross-section of the Thai civil society. I would also like to mention that generations of Thais of Pakistani origin, contributed to the Thai economy and have seamlessly integrated and thrived in Thailand.

Current policies of both countries recognize each other's importance and the potential of forging a closer partnership. Thailand's "Look West" policy complements Pakistan's "Vision East Asia" policy. Pakistan has made a policy shift from geopolitics to geo-economics. Geo-economics is the guiding force in

Pakistan's vision of development centred on connectivity, partnerships, and a peaceful neighbourhood.

Pakistan seeks to leverage its geo-economic location to promote connectivity and act as an economic, trade and transit hubs. As part of our development strategy, we are offering economic hubs to partners.

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the prime manifestation of the development through connectivity paradigm. We see a similar approach in Thailand's Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) and other connectivity projects. This has enormous potential for our bilateral cooperation.

Let us shift gears to our bilateral economic relations. While our bilateral trade has grown steadily in recent years, reaching an all-time high of US\$ 1.68 billion in 2018. This figure, however, does not commensurate our business potential. This upward trajectory was, unfortunately, interrupted in 2020, due to Covid-19. I am, however, pleased to note that our bilateral trade is

back on track, as during 2021, there has been a quantum jump of over 80 percent, in our bilateral trade, compared to 2020. Interestingly, the Pakistani public and private sectors are very keen to participate in the forthcoming trade related events in Thailand: (1) Thaifex-Anuga Asia- 22, (2) Style Bangkok 2022, and (3) Bangkok Gems and Jewellery Show-2022. Both countries are also

actively engaged in negotiating to finalize a mutually beneficial 'Free Trade Agreement (FTA),' termed as "Pakistan-Thailand Free Trade Agreement (PATHFTA)". Pakistan and Thailand are also preparing for the 3rd "Ministerial level Joint Economic Commission", at the earliest opportunity.

Pakistan is the second largest trading partner of Thailand in the South Asian region. Both countries have significant trade interdependencies and following a positive bilateral trade trajectory, over the last many years, apart from year 2020. Pakistan and Thailand also share the distinguishing advantage of strategic geographic locations in their respective regions.



Interestingly, the socio-cultural linkages between Pakistan and Thailand can be traced back to ancient times of the Buddhist Gandhara heritage of Pakistan - with Taxila at its heart. Pakistan is home of some of the most prominent and well-known Buddhist heritage sites in the world.

Thailand has a competitive advantage in major industrial production sectors, agriculture, food processing and construction. It has undergone a monumental industrial and social transformation amid rapid economic growth and development for over half a century. It is now the second largest economy with fourth highest income per capita in the ASEAN region. It has successfully shifted its economy from agriculture to export oriented manufacturing, while

integrating key production sectors, particularly automobiles and electronics, into regional value chains.

Thailand has also been successful in attracting foreign direct investment, particularly in export-oriented sectors. The industry contributes to 36% of Thailand's GDP. Looking ahead, Thailand has already entered the next phase of development under "Thailand 4.0" plan focusing on innovation, technology, sustainable



economic growth, and social development. Currently, Thailand has moved up to upper middle-income country, by a structural transformation. This reform program encompasses areas called “S-curve innovative sectors”, which includes high-tech automation, robotics, aerospace, bioenergy, and biochemicals, digital and medical and healthcare, SME promotion, state-owned enterprises, infrastructure, and digital economy.

Government of Pakistan is also treading a similar path, ushering into a new era of infrastructure development, investments in energy sector, industrialization, modernization of agriculture and IT revolution, based upon the economic game-changer of 'China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)'. Pakistan has traditional strengths in various sectors like textiles, leather, surgical and sports goods, agro-based products and cement and sugar industries. We are gaining rising strengths in light engineering, IT, software and

defence production sectors. Both the countries can benefit in future industrial and sectoral cooperation in the areas of their respective strengths.

Despite facing the economic and trade related challenges posed by the pandemic, it is heartening that our bilateral trade has rebounded with a quantum leap. The total volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Thailand in Jan-Sep. of year 2021 has been recorded as US\$ 1,314 million, showing an increase of 80.15% over the same period of last year. Thailand's exports to Pakistan amounting to US\$ 1,171 million have increased by 85.39%, while Pakistan's exports to Thailand amounting to US\$ 143 million have increased by 46.44% over the exports of last year during the same period. This positive trajectory of bilateral growth is far above the Thailand's global trade growth of 23% and exports growth rate of 15%. (Figure in US\$ million)

Trade	2020 (Jan.-Sep.)	2021 (Jan.-Sep.)	% Change
Pak Exports	98.02	143.54	+ 46.44
Pak Imports	631.67	1,171.03	+ 85.39
Total Trade	729.69	1,314.56	+ 80.15

The major exports of Pakistan to Thailand constitute fish/seafood (65%), textile products (9%), garments (5%), ethanol (4.8%), surgical goods (2%), minerals (2%), chemicals, fruit concentrate, rice, and sports goods. While Thailand's major exports to Pakistan constitute automobile parts (22%), chemical products (11%), synthetic filament (8 %), polymers of ethylene

& propylene (7.5 %), rubber products (5%), auto engines (5%), machinery/parts, yarn, electrical switching apparatus, ginger, and maize seeds.

Thai companies have also expressed keen interest in investments in Pakistan and many have been materialized. Amongst the major investments, the



Thai food giant “Charoen Pokphand-CP Group” has a strong presence in Pakistan, where they have invested in the poultry sector. In the recent past, “DAIDO Kogyo Company., Ltd, Thailand” entered into a joint venture with “Atlas Autos (Private)., Ltd, Pakistan” to manufacture motorcycle chains in Pakistan.

investment facilitation and incentives by Pakistan are playing a pivotal role in attraction of new investments. In a study conducted in 2019 by the BOI-Thailand, Pakistan has been identified as having huge potential for investments for Thai companies in auto sector, food processing, fisheries, and tourism sectors.

I am happy to inform that that during 2021, Pakistan received investment in a relatively new sector of 'aqua-feed manufacturing', from a very significant Thai company i.e., “Thai Union Group Public Company., Ltd,

The establishment of 'Special Economic Zones (SEZs)',

The writer is ambassador of
Pakistan to Thailand.



گیس لیکج کی صورت میں جان لیوا حادثات سے بچنے کیلئے:



فورا کھلی ہو میں آجائیں



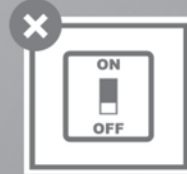
گیس کا مین والو بند کر دیں



کھڑکیاں اور دروازے کھلے رکھیں



سوئچ آن یا آف مت کریں گیس لیکج کی از خود مرمت ہرگز نہ کریں



ماچس ہرگز نہ جلائیں



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گیس سے متعلق کسی بھی قسم کی ایجنسی صورتحال کی اطلاع فوری طور پر
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Buddhist Heritage of Gandhara

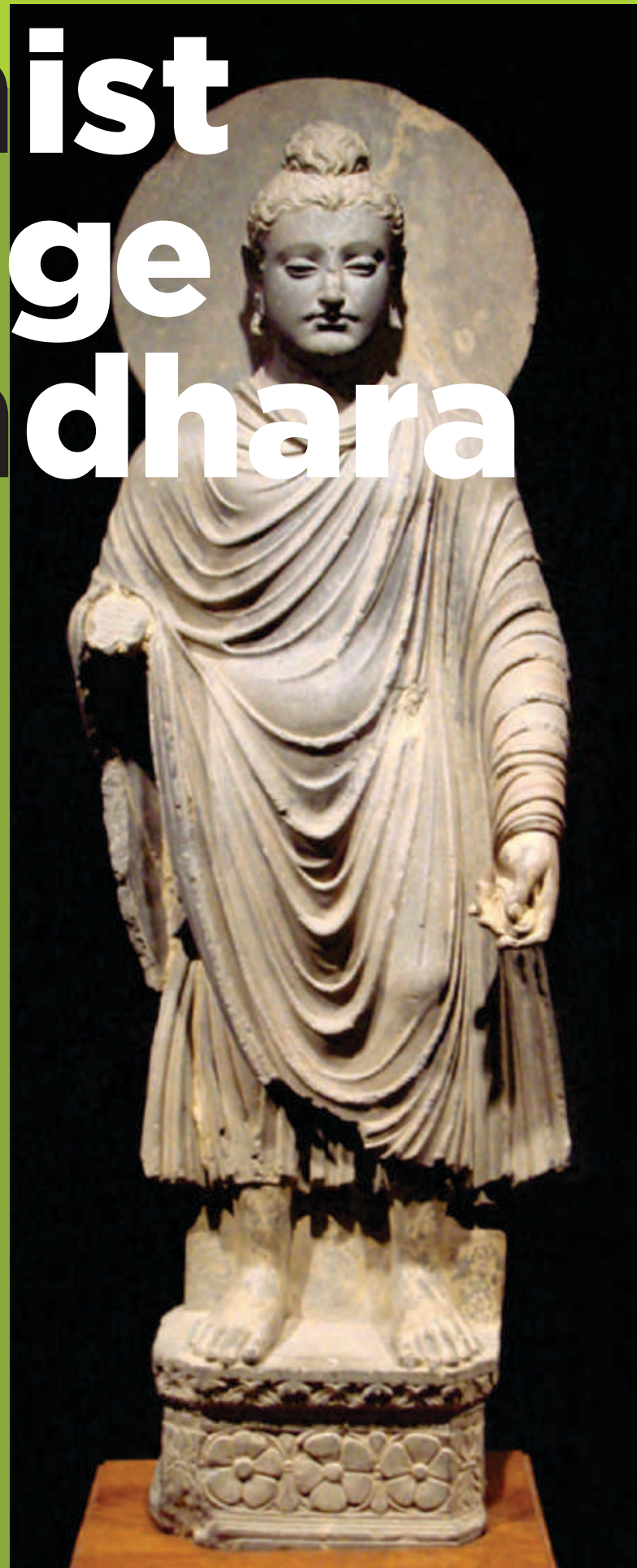
By Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf Khan

Buddhism was founded by Gautama Buddha (6th-5th century BC), but this faith could hardly receive popular recognition and could truly spread in the lifetime of its founder beyond the boundaries of Magadha and Benaris or the eastern India, where he preached his doctrine for decades. Buddha is a historical personage, who lived between ca. 563 and 483/478 BC or thereabout.

Accurate information about Siddhartha Gautama Sakyamuni, the Sakya prince in the Nepalese Terai is shrouded by the legends recorded by his followers after centuries of his demise. He attained enlightenment to become Buddha (the enlightened one) and discovered a way to salvation, which he taught to his followers.

It was only after the conversion of Asoka Maurya to Buddhism in 262 BC that Buddhism attained the dignity of a state religion and spread to other parts of the Sub-continent and beyond. Asoka had sent Buddhist missionaries to preach Buddhism in various parts of his domain and even beyond his borders. We know from Sinhalese Chronicles, the name of the Buddhist apostle Madhyantika, who was sent by Asoka to Gandhara and Kashmir in c.256 BC to spread the gospel of his new faith among his subjects on the North-West Frontier. It was due to his efforts that Buddhism became the dominant religion of Gandhara (Peshawar Valley).

The construction of stupas or tumulus over the relics was not unknown in India before the times of the Buddha. Chinese pilgrims Fa Hien and HuienTsiang frequently mentioned the ancient stupas erected over remains of the former Buddhas over those near a town in the Sravasti district; over those of Kramchanda and Kanakamuni of Kapilavastu. While discussing the stupa cult Marshall narrates as





whatever the of these monuments which were seen by the Chinese pilgrims, the fact that they were said to be the graves of the former Buddhas indicates that the practice of raising such memorials over the dead was at least looked upon as an age-old custom. After the death of the Buddha, stupas were raised over his body-relics.

His body relics were distributed among the eight major tribes and enshrined at Rajagriha, Vaisali, Kapilavastu, Allakappa, Ramagrama, Vethadijoar Pava, and Kusinara, besides the shrines erected by Drona and the Mauryas. From these and other traditions it is abundantly clear that the erection of stupas must have been a familiar institution in India even in the time of the Buddha. But it is equally clear that among the Buddhists themselves the stupa did not become an object of marked veneration until the time of Asoka.

Early Buddhist literature is replete with information about the buildings within the sangharama and furnishes the most meticulous details regarding the life of the brethren, but in none of the books which can be ascribed to a time anterior to Asoka is there a word about the building or cult of stupas. Such an omission would be unimaginable if these memorials had been venerated by the early Church, as they afterward came to be by the latter. No doubt the eight stupas in which the Buddha's relics reposed were objects of reverence from the time of his death onwards, but there

is nothing to show that the stupa was adopted as a recognized emblem of the Buddhist faith before the time of the Maurya emperor. It was Asoka who gave the first impetus to this remarkable cult by opening seven of the eight stupas referred to above, subdividing the relics of the Blessed One among all the principal towns of his realm and erecting a stupa of imposing dimensions over each portion. From the time of Asoka onward the cult of the relic-stupa rapidly developed, and that very soon the stupa itself, whether it contained any relics or not, came to be regarded as the most outstanding and ubiquitous emblem of Buddhism and worthy of worship for its own sake.

Thus, before the beginning of the Christian era, the stupa had become the nucleus of every sangharama in the land and was looked upon as the outward and visible manifestation of the Faith. Archaeological excavations in the Gandhara region and particularly in Taxil valley exposed many Buddhist shrines belonging to the 3rd century BC and 5th century AD. Among them, the earliest one is the Dharmarajika stupa erected by Asoka the Great in the 3rd century BC.

The art of Gandhara is primarily religious and was employed already in the services of the Buddhist faith. The Buddhist art of Gandhara did not remain confined to its geographical boundary but spread rapidly with the passage of time to the areas in the north of Swat and even beyond Indus



to the Taxila valley. This fact is elaborately supported by the discovery of many Buddhist sites in these regions where a large number of sculpture scenes of Buddhist mythology have been discovered during excavations. The Buddhist art of Gandhara which flourished here from the 1st to 8th century AD was originated in this area and was first recognized in the remains of shrines and monasteries. It is also called Greco-Buddhist or Romano-Buddhist art because it contains some elements which are certainly of western origin.

The art of Gandhara is called Hellenistic as it was inherited from the Greek and Indo-Greek Kingdom which then flourished in Bactria, Afghanistan, and part of northern Pakistan during the 3rd-2nd century BC. The term Romano-Buddhist refers to the western influence as depicted in the architectural composition of the sculptures showing the artistic tradition of the Mediterranean

empire dating to the 1st century AD. However, it may be remarked that the western artistic influence in the sculptures of Swat and Gandhara promoted the concept of the Buddhist religion, as is predominantly manifested by them.

This strongly supports the theory of continuity, as in the sculpture, there is a visible blending of western and eastern ideas. The Buddhist art widely spread to foreign countries and is found in Afghanistan in the areas bordering the former Soviet Union and beyond the Indus in the Taxila valley. The major sites in Peshawar valley, Swat, Malakand, Dir, Buner, Bajaur, Hazara, and Taxila have yielded thousands of sculptures from the religious establishments lying around them. Most of the sculptures uncovered from the various sites in the Gandhara area are worked in stone, stucco and terra-cotta, metal, and paintings.

Many of these are in black, soft

blue, grey, and greenschist stone quarried from the hills of Swat, Dir, and Buner, sandstone and Kanjure stone (a type of porous limestone) sculptures are also found in the Taxila Valley. These sculptures made in different types, depict various Jataka stories and scenes from Buddhist mythology such as the birth of Buddha, his childhood, the renunciation, the departure from his palace, the enlightenment, attainment of Buddha-hood under the Bodhi Tree, the first sermon in the Deer Park, and the various events of his life leading to his death (Parinirvana), the division of his ashes and their burial in stupas at various places. The art saw several periods in its evolution, each period adding new features to the common art trend of Gandhara.

The writer is former director Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations & President Archaeological Association of Pakistan



Buddhism in Pakistan



By Dr. Muhammad Hameed

The history of Buddhism in Pakistan can be traced back to the middle of the third century BCE when Asoka, (Ashoka), the famous king of the Mauryan dynasty founded by Chandragupta Maurya, accepted Buddhism after the Kalanga war. Philosophy the religion by which winning hearts through respect instead of bloodshed/war influence Asoka to such an extent that he decided to change his faith and converted to Buddhism.

This was the first time when Buddhism got the royal patronage when Asoka declared it as "State religion" due to which eco of the faith spread throughout his empire. Many practical steps were taken to spread the philosophy, teachings, and ethics of the religion. Missionaries were sent to all parts of the Mauryan empire, including present-day Pakistan, to preach to the people and practice a new code of life.

Inscribing the philosophy and teachings of Buddhism, particularly related to the behavior of living beings (humans, animals, and even Plants) on rocks is also one of the examples of the efforts made by Asoka. These are known as "Asokan Rock Edicts" located at different intervals of the ancient trade routes. The famous Shehbazgarhi Rock Edicts in the Mardan district are in the best state of preservation.

Present-day Gandhara which mainly comprises the North-

Western parts of the country received equal attention which is clear by the fact that the king ordered to build religious shrines in the form of Buddhist Stupas, one at Taxila and the other at Swat. These are the earliest stupas in the region and makes the beginning of Stupa architecture. These also have the sanctity to house holy relics of the Buddha. The one in Taxila is more important due to its name as it is called 'Dharamrajika Stupa'. So, in this way, Buddhism found its first home in Taxila from where it spread into the Gandharan mainland.

Buddhism got the second boost, this time, even more, stronger, during the period of great Kushan ruler, Kanishka. It was during this period when all aspects of the religion including art and architecture developed in Gandhara due to which the region became the cradle of Buddhism. A huge number of Stupas and Monasteries were constructed the perfect examples of which we find in Taxila, Mardan, Buner, Dir, Swat, and Peshawar. Some of the most popular religious establishments such as Konal, Mohra Mohradu, Julian, Bhamal, Takht-e- Bhai, Jamal Garhi, Ranigat, and then in Swat provide the essence of the Buddhist faith and its monastic traditions.

The element which makes these places more attractive and significant is the profusely decorative art applied on the walls



The Government is actively promoting Buddhist Tourism to showcase the common heritage so carefully preserved in Taxila, Takht i Bhai, Peshawar, Buner, Swat, and elsewhere in Pakistan. Pakistan has opened it for international tourists and travelers and objectifying its glorious heritage.

of stupas and monasteries in the form of narrative art. The sculptures and panels depicting the life story of the Buddha were used to adorn the shrines. For the first time, Lord Buddha was depicted in human form and thus followers of Buddhism could easily understand the complete life story of the Buddha. The Buddhist art of Gandhara is also among the key collections of Peshawar, Taxila, Lahore, and Karachi Museum.

Buddhism in Thailand and the Shared Heritage

Buddhist heritage in Pakistan is famous throughout the world. Religious shrines in the form of Stupa and Monasteries have been explored, excavated, documented, and even preserved in Taxila, Peshawar, Swat valleys. Statues, sculptures, and reliefs depicting different life episodes of the Buddha have been displayed in various museums of the country.

Thai Buddhist heritage in the form of more than 40000 temples, monasteries, artifacts, images is the best chronicles of the origin and development of Buddhism in

the country. The heritage provides us the mirror through which grandeur of the faith and association of the Thai community. The association with Buddhism is deeply rooted and it covers a history of more than two thousand years. Archaeological, as well as historical sources, speak about the fact that during the period of Asoka, missionaries were sent to this part of the world as well for the propagation of Buddhism.

They preached the Theravada version of the Buddhist faith which is the oldest Buddhist school. The philosophy and teachings of the faith which were introduced in Pakistan and Thailand were the same, thus making it a shared religious heritage. In Thailand, Theravada school is being practiced and the earliest glimpses of which we still find in the oldest religious canons and narrative art. In the larger perspective, both the nations share similar archaeological, historical, religious, and cultural traditions dating back to 2300 years ago.

The strong religious bond, based upon Buddhism, has shaped up the

modern high valued relationship between Thailand and Pakistan. On both sides, important events like national days, festivals related to Buddhism and Gandhara art, religious tourism, etc are celebrated with the active participation of high officials and the general mass of these two historic nations.

The Museum of Buddhist Arts in Bangkok, Pattaya, Nongprue, and other collections are also equally important. These museums must establish close connections with museums in Pakistan where we have the treasure of Buddhist art having beautifully manufactured art pieces. Museums of both countries should organize regular exhibitions, temporary as well as permanent to make people aware of the common history and heritage.

As the National Day of Thailand is approaching, the best way to celebrate the special day of the Kingdom of Thailand is to highlight the shared historical, cultural values, and heritage of Buddhism and Buddhist arts from Pakistan and Thailand. The Buddhist art



Present-day Gandhara which mainly comprises the North-Western parts of the country received equal attention which is clear by the fact that the king ordered to build religious shrines in the form of Buddhist Stupas, one at Taxila and the other at Swat.

pieces from the collection of different museums of Pakistan should be highlighted and can be loaned to the concerned consulates for arranging temporary exhibitions. This shall certainly be fruitful for strengthening the mutual communal bond between the two countries.

enjoyed close and cordial relations since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1951. Both sides have exchanged high-level visits and enhanced close cooperation in the areas of politics and security, economic cooperation, and people-to-people relations.

Tourism and Economic Perspective
The mutual understanding and trust between both countries is the bedrock of Pakistan- Thailand friendship. The linkage between our land and people is traced back in ancient times, to the Buddhist Gandhara heritage of Pakistan with Taxila at its heart. The mutual manifest is in close collaboration at the UN, ARF, ACD, ACEAN, and other regional and international forums.

Pakistani writers and academia is portraying the positive picture of Pakistan. The archaeologists of Pakistan are exploring the new paradigms of Buddhist art and highlighting the vibrant culture of the Buddhist heritage ranging. Cultural Cooperation
People-to-people contact is one of the most important aspects of bilateral relations.

There are thousands of Thai nationals living in Pakistan and a huge number of Thai students are studying in various educational, professional, and technical institutions of Pakistan. The numbers of Pakistani and Thai tourists have been growing. The Thai-Pakistan academic ties can shape strong bonds based upon heritage and culture-orientated research. Thailand and Pakistan have

Relations with Thailand have also grown from strength to strength. Bilateral trade has grown steadily. A Free Trade Agreement is currently being negotiated with Thailand. More people from Thailand and the region are visiting Pakistan, which apart from its scenic tourist destinations, cultural and historic attractions, is also home to the rich Buddhist heritage that flourished in Gandhara and is of great interest to followers of Buddhism around the world. Cooperation in the field of defense and security has also expanded, and a bilateral agreement is close to conclusion.

Yet there is immense potential in trade and investment, culture and tourism, defense, and educational, scientific, and technological cooperation.

The Government is actively promoting Buddhist Tourism to showcase the common heritage so carefully preserved in Taxila, Takht i Bhai, Peshawar, Buner, Swat, and elsewhere in Pakistan. Pakistan has opened it for international tourists and travelers and objectifying the glorious heritage of Pakistan.

Pakistan has very rich potential for



religious tourism especially Buddhist heritage and Gandhara Civilization. In the early 1960s, expanding on ancient Buddhism connective potential in Pakistan, the Buddhist past has served marvelous to promote and highlight the shared culture. Buddhism was placed at the center of Pakistan's historical origins in museum exhibits, archaeological publications, and historical addresses from the 1950s to onwards.

Buddhist Gandhara can play a very deep and pivotal role in the development of strong cultural and religion-based ties between Pakistan and Thailand Buddhist art is adding very good dimensions in the relationship of Pakistan and Thailand.

As this government is promoting religious tourism, Buddhist art is also very much highlighted and last year a delegation of Thai monks visited Pakistan and they were given state protocol. The delegation applauded the efforts of the Pakistani government for the promotion and preservation of Buddhist art and architecture and Buddhist heritage.

Educational ties of Pakistan and Thailand

Buddhist monastic schools, colleges, and universities in Thailand are playing exceptional roles in teaching all aspects of Buddhism. Some of these institutions such as International Buddhist Studies College (IBSC) have been providing world-class teachings of the faith. The Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University in Bangkok, established in 1887, has a unique similarity as the University of Punjab in Lahore was founded in 1882.

Both institutions are the larger academic centers of excellence and have been contributing a lot since their existence. The



NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER REGULATORY AUTHORITY (NEPRA)

ویکسین لگوائیں۔ زندگی بچائیں۔
پاکستان کو کرونا سے بچانا
اب آپ کے ہاتھ میں

Power with Safety

بجلی حفاظت کے ساتھ

بجلی کے حادثے کی صورت میں، متاثرہ شخص کو براہ راست ہاتھ مت لگائیں۔
بجلی کو منقطع کر دیں یا خشک لکڑی یا پلاسٹک یاری سے تار ہٹائیں

NOTICE OF ADMISSION /HEARING

All stakeholders, interested/affected persons and the general public are notified that Sukkur Electric Power Company Limited (SEPCO) has filed petition with the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) for the determination of its tariff for supply of electric power for the FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE PETITION

1. The petitioner has requested the following;

		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Units purchased	MkWh	4,317	4,482	4,593	5,505	5,979
T&D Loss	%	35.3%	34.4%	33.4%	32.4%	31.4%
Units to be sold	MkWh	2,793	2,942	3,059	3,721	4,102
Power purchase cost	Mln Rs.	58,940	70,135	79,711	99,734	115,598
O&M	Mln Rs.	954	1,137	1,356	1,553	1,780
Depreciation	Mln Rs.	6	6	6	6	6
Return on Asset Base (RORB)	Mln Rs.	5	6	6	6	6
Provision for bad debts	Mln Rs.	1,687	2,332	3,302	3,963	4,953
Finance Cost	Mln Rs.	4,443	1,640	1,640	1,640	1,640
Other Income	Mln Rs.	(98)	(99)	(99)	(99)	(100)
Distribution Margin Cost		6,997	5,022	6,210	7,068	8,286
Total Revenue Requirement	Mln Rs.	65,937	75,157	85,921	106,802	123,884
Average Tariff		23.60	25.55	28.09	28.70	30.20

2. In terms of rules 6 of NEPRA (Tariff Standards & Procedures) Rules, 1998, any interested person who desires to participate in the proceedings may file an intervention request within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Such intervention request shall state the name and address of the person filing the same, objections and the manner in which such person is or is likely to be substantially and specifically affected by any determination in the proceedings. The intervention request may also contain the contentions of the person making the same, the relief sought and the evidence, if any, in support of the case. In the intervention request, the intervener may specifically admit, deny or explain the facts stated in the petition and may also state additional facts which are relevant and necessary for reaching a just and informed decision in the proceedings. The intervention request shall be signed verified and supported by means of an affidavit in the same manner as in the case of the petition. The intervener shall also serve a copy of the intervention request duly attested as true copy on the petitioner or his authorized representative and the petitioner may file a rejoinder to the intervention request which shall be filed within 7 days of receipts of copy of intervention request.

3. Any person may also file the comments in the matter within 7 days of the publication and the Authority, if deemed fit, may permit participation of such person into the proceedings and also may consider those comments in the final determination.

4. All stakeholders and interested / affected persons are also informed that in order to arrive at a just and informed decision, the Authority has also decided to hold a hearing in the subject matter according to the date, time and venue as mentioned below:

Date: November 29, 2021
Time: 10:00 AM
Venue: Online

5. Following link may be used for participation in the hearing through Zoom;
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88083530812>

All communications should be addressed to:

Registrar NEPRA
NEPRA Tower, Attaturk Avenue (East), G-5/1, Islamabad
Phone: 051-2013200 Fax: 051-2600021, E.mail: registrar@nepra.org.pk

Copy of the petition and issues framed for hearing can be obtained from NEPRA office or from website: www.nepra.org.pk

نوٹ: نیپرا دفاتر میں داخلے کے لئے کرونا ویکسینیشن سرٹیفکیٹ فراہم کرنا لازمی ہے۔

PID(I) 3312/21



As this government is promoting religious tourism, Buddhist art is also very much highlighted and last year a delegation of Thai monks visited Pakistan and they were given state protocol.

Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University offers the best courses to study Buddhism, its philosophy, art, and even offers degrees in Mahayana Buddhism, the school which exclusively developed in Gandhara.

The University also has the honor to host the secretariat of the International Association for Buddhist Universities. With such a huge academic setup of studying Buddhism in Bangkok only and offering degrees in English, the international linkage with universities in Pakistan can be easily established by organizing seminars, conferences, workshops, training sessions about the origin, development, spread, and modern statues of Buddhism not only in these two countries but throughout the world.

Similarly, Mahamakut Buddhist University and The World Buddhist University are among the top prestigious academic institutions. The Mahamakut Buddhist University has already sound academic linkages with top universities of the United Kingdom. On the other hand, top universities in Pakistan such as the University of the Punjab, Lahore, Quaid e Azam University, Islamabad, Hazar University Mansehra, and the University of Peshawar have a long history of teaching Buddhism and Buddhist art of Gandhara. In these universities, various courses related to Buddhism are offered at BS, MS, and Ph.D. levels.

However, the academic cooperation and linkage between the universities of both countries should be established for the better in-depth study and understanding of Buddhism, its philosophy, ethics, and teachings along with heritage. In Pakistan, we have the treasure in the form of the earliest sacred

Buddhist literature and narrative art but understanding about Buddhist religion is lacking. Thai community and scholars have that knowledge that can be transferred to academia in Pakistan. There should be faculty and students exchange programs where scholars and students of both countries can come and learn through interaction.

Memorandums of Understandings should be signed between academia to explore more and more opportunities such as Scholarships for research students. Relevant authorities and consulates in the major cities of Thailand and Pakistan have an all-important role to play. They can organize events in collaborations with the local communities (Thai community in Pakistan and Pakistani Community in Thailand) and academia, bring them close, and lay the foundation of a strong connection. I often witness activities arranged by a Bangkok-based organization known as the "Overseas Pakistani Thai Association."

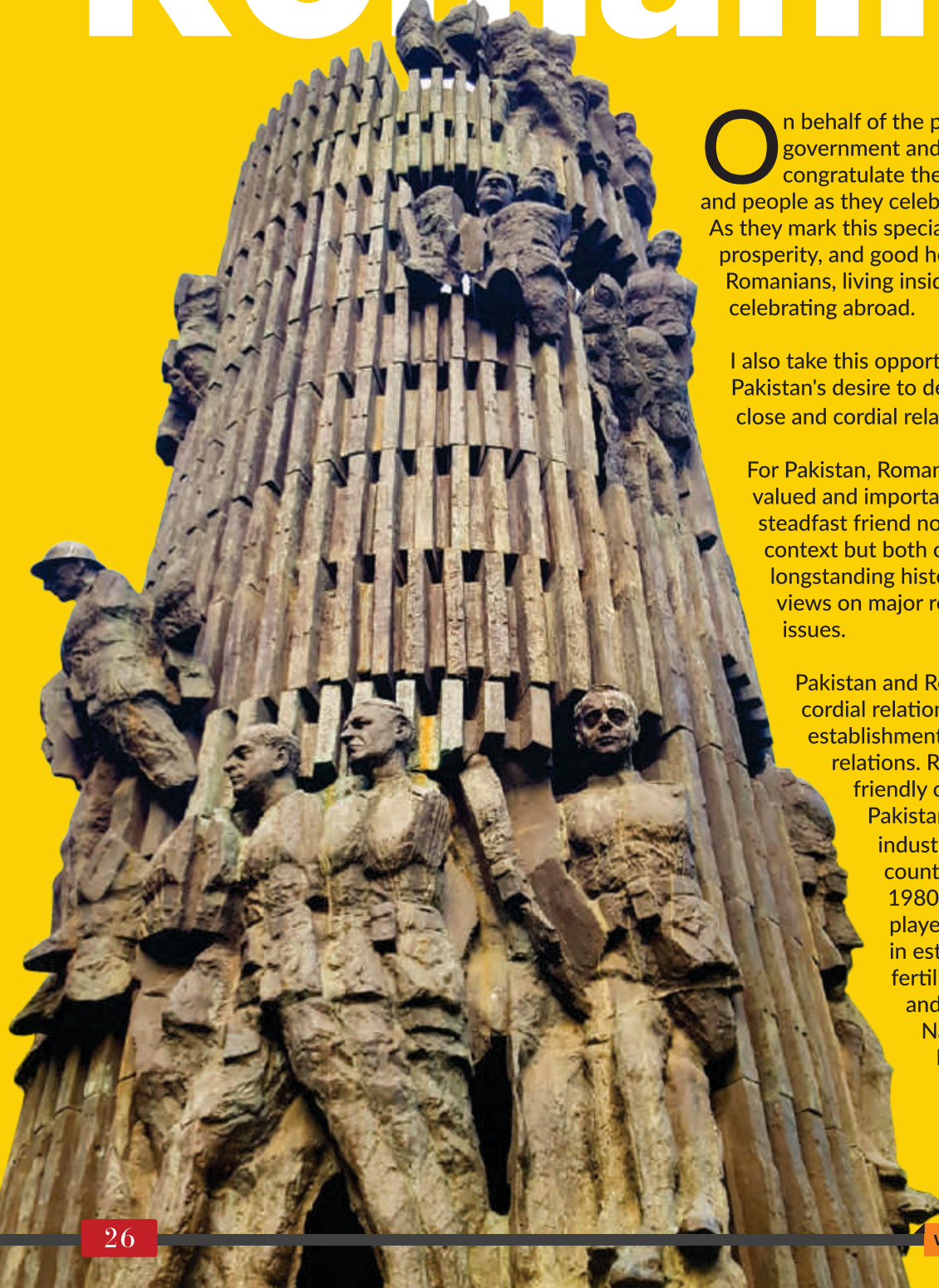
Their work is very much impressive and duly acknowledged by the whole Pakistani Community living in Thailand. Such dedicated associations can also be taken on board for organizing an academic event either in Pakistan or in Thailand where researchers, scholars, experts, and students from both countries can sit together and prepare a future strategy to establish long-lasting academic ties.

The writer is Chairman, Department of Archaeology, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.



Great Union Day of Romania

By Dr. Zafar Iqbal



On behalf of the people of the government and people of Pakistan, I congratulate the Romanian government and people as they celebrate Great Union Day. As they mark this special day, I wish peace, prosperity, and good health to all the Romanians, living inside Romania or celebrating abroad.

I also take this opportunity to reaffirm Pakistan's desire to deepen our longstanding close and cordial relations with Romania.

For Pakistan, Romania has always been a valued and important partner and steadfast friend not only in the bilateral context but both countries have a longstanding history of having similar views on major regional international issues.

Pakistan and Romania have enjoyed cordial relations ever since the establishment of formal diplomatic relations. Romania extended its friendly cooperation during Pakistan's efforts aimed at industrialization of our country in 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. Romanian engineers played a commendable role in establishing cement and fertilizer plants in Pakistan and expanding our National Oil refinery in Karachi.

Pakistani nation looks at these icons of friendship with



commendation and gratitude. Our deeply entrenched bilateral economic relations during these decades have become a permanent feature of the strong ties between our two countries.

Over the past two decades or so, both Pakistan and Romania have traversed political and economic trajectories that were more regional in character. This led both countries to focus more on their own regional dynamics.

However, during the past few years, there has been an increasing realization by both countries that there is a need to reset our economic relations on the earlier path of deeper collaboration and support. The reasons for the above reorientation are obvious. While Pakistan can serve as a cost effective, energy and transport corridor for Romania, with its China-

Pakistan Economic Corridor, Romania can also assume the role of nodal point for Pakistan's easy access to the rest of Europe through the former's well established port system. Furthermore, both countries can benefit more through direct cost-effective trade,

rather than sourcing these commodities indirectly. One can therefore safely say that it is a win-win scenario for both our countries.

Regular high level exchange of views is a feature of our bilateral relations with this important European country in those years. We engage with Romania on bilateral fora as well as on the platform of the European Union. Romania has been supportive to Pakistan during our interaction with the European Union.

It was under the EU Presidency of Romania that Pakistan and the European Union inked their Strategic Engagement Plan (SEP), which provides the framework for greater cooperation and stronger ties between the two sides. The Embassy remains engaged with the Member of the European Parliament (MEPs) to apprise them about our issues which can be addressed in the European Parliament, thus increasing our trade with the European Union including Romania.

Various spheres of our relations including political



leadership's engagement, academia & think tank collaboration, cooperation in higher education, and trade and commerce are witnessing significant improvement.

Regular high level contacts between the two

For Pakistan, Romania has always been a valued and important partner and steadfast friend not only in the bilateral context but both countries have a longstanding history of having similar views on major regional international issues.

countries continue to further strengthen our friendship. In October last year, Foreign Secretaries of both countries had a detailed exchange of views. Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi had a telephonic conversation with the Foreign Minister of Romania in summer this year. This was

followed by a meeting between the two Foreign Ministers in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly Session.

Both sides are expected to hold the next session of Bilateral Political Consultations soon. We are also working together to have an exchange of visits at the Foreign Ministers level which could be possibly followed by VVIP level exchange of visits.

If the pandemic allows and the visits could be realized, these could further boost bilateral engagement between Pakistan and Romania.

Enhancing think tank and academic collaboration as well as cooperation in higher education with Romania remains one of our priorities. In December 2020, the Middle East Political & Economic Institute Bucharest signed an MoU on collaboration with the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad.

This year two more MoUs have been signed between Pakistani think tanks and their Romanian counterparts - one between Romanian Institute of Europe and Asia Studies (IRSEA) and the ISSI Islamabad and another between IRSEA and Centre for Global and Strategic Studies (CGSS) Islamabad.

Academic linkages have also been facilitated between universities (Bucharest University and Politehnica University on Romanian side Punjab University and Quaid-e-Azam University on Pakistan's side).

Trade and economic relations between our two countries have significantly enhanced. This year's January to October trade figures show 78 percent rise in Pakistan's export to Romania.

I believe, our partnership in economic area has significant potential to grow further for the benefit of our two peoples. For expanding Pakistan's exports to the entire spectrum of Romanian import market, we conducted a market research last winter.

This market research report categorized the Romanian import commodities into three broader segments; the first segment wherein Romania's overall imports are valued at more than US\$ 01 billion annually, the second wherein Romania's imports are valued over US\$ 100 million but less than US\$ 1 billion (or US\$ 1000 million), and the third segment wherein Romania's imports are valued at less than US\$ 100 million per annum.

Over the past two decades or so, both Pakistan and Romania have traversed political and economic trajectories that were more regional in character. This led both countries to focus more on their own regional dynamics.





Among these three segments, the report which was shared with all the chambers and trade related organizations in Pakistan, recommended enhanced focus on specific items.

In terms of services sector, Romania's main focus of imports includes Commercial services; Travel; other business services; Transport; as well as Telecommunications, computer, and information services. At present, Romania remains dependent on the EU countries and the US for its imports. Among the EU countries, Germany, UK, France and Italy are the main service providers to Romania.

Pakistan is currently focused on Construction sector of Romania for provision of semi-skilled and skilled labor. We also have a very limited presence in Romania's IT as well as oil & gas sectors in terms of skilled technical and professional expertise. For

Pakistan, Telecommunications, computer, and information services could offer prospects.

In terms of the products that Pakistan is currently focusing in terms of exports to Romania, apparel sector, optical items and toys are the three areas where Romanian imports are currently witnessing an increase in demand while for textiles and products of animal origin, it remains stable.

In addition, in cotton, leather and rice sectors, we enjoy significant comparative advantages as well as unexplored potential that could be explored.

Accordingly, the five priority existing areas where Pakistan could enhance its focus include Apparel, Home textiles, Cotton (fabric), Skins, leather & products thereof, as well as Rice. Based on the parameters of Actual Exports, Export Potential and



For Pakistan, Romania has always been a valued and important partner and steadfast friend not only in the bilateral context but both countries have a longstanding history of having similar views on major regional international issues.



**CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PLANNING WING
(Directorate of Regional Planning)**

PUBLIC NOTICE

**ILLEGAL/UN-AUTHORIZED LAND SUB-DIVISION NAMEDLY
“SAFARI GARDEN, BANI GALA BARA KAHU ROAD, ZONE-4,
ISLAMABAD” SPONSORED BY M/S CAPITAL PROPERTY,
HAVING OFFICE AT MAIN SIMLY DAM ROAD, SERI CHOWK,
BARA KAHU ISLAMABAD.**

1. It has come to the notice of this office that **M/sCapital Property**, having office at Main Simly Dam Road, Seri Chowk, Bara Kahu Islamabad advertising & marketing an illegal land sub-division in the name of **Safari Garden**, situated at Bani Gala Bara Kahu Road, Zone-4, Islamabad over an area measuring 162.5 kanals without the prior approval of the Authority and hence **illegal/un-authorized**.
2. As per provisions of ICT (Zoning) Regulation, 1992 (amended, 2010) and Revised Modalities & Procedures framed for Planning and Development of Private Housing Schemes in ICT Islamabad, **No Housing Scheme can be floated/launched in Islamabad** by the private sponsors **without approval of CDA**.
3. The sponsors of “**Safari Garden**” have not obtained any approval from CDA and therefore this housing scheme is **illegal/unauthorized**.
4. General Public accordingly, through this public notice, is **Cautioned and Warned** in their own interest to refrain from indulging in any sale/purchase of plots in the illegal housing schemes till the sponsors obtain NOC from CDA after fulfilling the requisite formalities. Before making investment of the precious money, public should have ensured the legal status of the scheme from CDA. Website www.cda.gov.pk may also be visited for updated status and approved Layout Plans of the schemes. **In case of any fraud/loss, CDA will not be responsible**.
5. The Sponsors, Sellers, Builders, Developers, Advertisers, Promoters, Estate Agents, etc. of this Illegal/Un-Authorized Housing Scheme are also warned through this Public Notice to refrain from carrying out such illegal activities. The concerned Directorates of CDA are already engaged in taking action against Illegal Scheme. M/s IESCO, SNGPL, PTCL, etc. also requested, Not to provide their Service Connections to such Illegal/Un-Authorized Housing Schemes.

**DIRECTOR REGIONAL PLANNING
Ph: 051-9252613**

PID (I) 3227/21



Untapped Potential, the specific items that we could focus on in terms of enhancing exports to Romania could include (i) Men's or boys' suits, ensembles, jackets, blazers, trousers bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts (other than swimwear); (ii) Bed linen of cotton, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen; (iii) Toilet/kitchen linen of terry fabrics; (iv) Woven fabrics of cotton, (containing 85% or more by weight of cotton, weighing more than 200 g/m²); (v) Apparel and clothing accessories, of leather or of composition leather such as gloves; and (vi) Semi-milled or wholly milled rice.

We are working with Pakistani and Romanian economic/trade entities to create an enabling environment wherein business communities of both sides could interact more and feel facilitated. Our main focus, in this context, is on establishing a direct interface among business communities, establishing institutional linkages between different Chambers of the two countries, providing information on Pakistan's export market to Romanian business entities, sharing details of Romanian companies involved in different business activities with the relevant Pakistani counterparts, and expediting services for Romanian business delegates travelling to Pakistan. Creating awareness as well as providing swift information are among our top priorities. I believe enhanced awareness about Pakistan among the Romanian business firms and vice-versa helps both sides make informed business decisions and leads to a sustainable improvement in bilateral trade.

The Embassy continues to focus on promoting Pakistan as a source of replenishing inventories for Romanian importers. Apparel, home textiles, cotton, rice, and leather products have significant unexplored export potential in Romania.

For Pakistani exporters, it is important to take cognizance of the market mechanism in which Romania is operating as a member of EU. Pakistan is a beneficiary of EU's GSP Plus Scheme which provides zero duties on two-thirds of tariff lines. We, thus, avail preferential treatment on our exports if we meet EU standards.

I am sure that, through coherent plans and right focus, relations between Pakistan and Romania will further strengthen in the coming days in diverse areas including trade and commerce, human resource, higher education, culture, security and defence.

In the end, again I wish all the Romanians celebrating at home or abroad a happy Great Union Day! La multi ani Romania!

The writer is ambassador of Pakistan to Romania.



Oman Celebrates 51st National Day of Renaissance



Courtesy of the Embassy of Sultanate of Oman

The Sultanate of Oman marked the 51st National Day of the Renaissance on 18th of November. The event came around at a time when Omanis ponder about the achievements made so far and braced for further accomplishments, with firm resolve, under the astute leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik who pledged to hold high the banner of Renewed Renaissance, since he assumed power in the country on 11 January 2020.

The Renewed Renaissance kicked off on a high note when His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik called

upon the people of Oman to do their best to enrich domestic development and foster progress in all fields. This is considered one of the major principles of Renewed Renaissance in its quest to attain the supreme national objective of “making Oman the central point in all that we strive to achieve”—an objective whose salient features already materialized in terms of updated laws and refurbished programmes of action across all sectors.

In the beginning of this year, under a Royal Decree, promulgated the (updated) Basic Law of the State to serve as a basic pillar of continuous efforts to shape a



better future for Oman and its citizens and to build a solid ground for their Renewed Renaissance. The Basic Law of the State comprises 98 articles “enhancing the institutions of the State, safeguarding its territorial unity and its social texture, protecting its cultural foundations and consolidating public rights, liberties and duties”.

The Basic Law of the State lays down a stable mechanism of transfer of rule, which reflects positively on political and economic aspects and affirms the principle of sovereignty and independence of the judiciary. It also serves as a basis of rule in the State. It makes education compulsory till the end of the Basic Education stage. It establishes a scholarly method for thought, development of talents and encouragement of innovation—which all conform with Oman Vision 2040.

The Sultanate of Oman stands out for its exclusive practice of Shura-based democracy, set up on solid grounds emanating from Omani life realities. Shura practice evolved through various stages till it developed into present-day “Council of Oman”, with its bicameral chambers— the “State Council” and “Shura Council”. Each stage saw the addition of systems and laws that reinforce the tradition of Shura and respond to the expectations of citizens. To this effect, His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik issued Royal Decree No. 7/2021 promulgating Council of Oman Law, which comprises 78 articles.

To contain coronavirus (Covid-19) that wreaked havoc in countries of the world, the Sultanate of Oman formed a Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. The Supreme Committee has been taking 'moderate' decisions and precautionary measures that ensure the safety of citizens and residents, while at the same time catering to social and economic implications on this benign land.

The Supreme Committee is responsible for cooperation with the departments concerned and

regulating social response. It worked for the procurement of internationally approved vaccines and oversaw the implementation of a national immunization campaign. This was commended by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik when he chaired the Supreme Committee's meeting on 18 August 2021 at Al Maamoura Palace in Salalah. His Majesty said that, “This improvement could not have happened had it not been for the appropriate decisions taken and the efforts exerted by the departments concerned in the Sultanate of Oman, albeit the health sector.” His Majesty the Sultan lauded the “high sense of responsibility shouldered by all members of society through abidance with the decisions and the measures set by the authorities concerned to safeguard public health—individuals and society at large”.

The decisions resulted in the improvement of Covid-19 indicators in the Sultanate of Oman, which, the reports said, registered great decline in mortality, infection and hospitalization rates, while recovery from the disease reached 98.5%.

Meanwhile, the government accorded special attention to the ensuing economic impacts of Covid-19. The decisions, which took into account the fallouts of the pandemic on establishments and companies, included exemption from fines of some services. Special exemptions were sanctioned to small and medium enterprises and holders of Riyada Card for Entrepreneurs. This is in addition to a package of incentives for borrowers, individuals, banking institutions, financing and leasing firms.

The designation of a Youth Day in Oman (26 October) reflects the attention accorded to the young generation by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik. It asserts the leadership's deep conviction in the potential of youth in promoting the country's development. Speaking at a meeting of the Council of Ministers he chaired in October 2021, His Majesty the Sultan underscored the significance of devising a mechanism and for opening channels of

communication with youth to explain all the requirements of the development process in all sectors. He gave directives to listen to youth and study their needs and aspirations. He also instructed governors and the authorities concerned to hold regular meetings with youth for this purpose. He advised the officials to raise issues of interest or concern to youth, listen to their opinions and help them perform the role expected of them in contributing to the comprehensive nation-building march.

The attention accorded by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik to Youth is also reflected in the Royal support to employment initiatives, a set of which came around in May 2021, when coronavirus pandemic had its greatest toll on local and global economic conditions, leading to the shrinkage of the labour markets. The Royal attention resulted in the launch of an executive plan to provide more than 32,000 jobs.

His Majesty the Sultan also chaired a meeting of the Supervisory Committee of the National Employment Programme (NEP) on 5 July 2021. This placed employment in the realm of national priorities. His Majesty the Sultan reiterated the importance of the NEP when he presided over a Council of Ministers on 15 June 2021, during which he gave directives for “devising suitable solutions to provide jobs in all departments of the State (the public sector) and private sector firms, provide analysis of jobseekers' data and follow them up until they join the labour market”.

Omani women's affairs take centre stage in the Renewed Renaissance thought of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, who has been keen that women

enjoy their rights guaranteed by law and operate alongside men in different fields of national service. Attention to women is one of the “national fundamentals” of the country.

Oman has been endowed with many bounties and a loyal people bound by bonds of love, collaboration and solidarity. This became crystal clear through public support to the efforts exerted by the government of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik in the aftermath of the recent tropical cyclone /Shaheen/ that made landfall in Oman on 3 October 2021. His Majesty the Sultan's response was prompt. He gave orders to form a ministerial committee for the assessment of the damage incurred to citizens' homes and properties in the governorates that took the brunt of the cyclone. The aim was to provide quick relief to the families and alleviate the impacts of the tropical condition.

The university's articles of association were issued in June 2021. In the same month, the Council of Ministers approved the setting up of a branch for the university in the Governorate of Musandam. It comprises a number of specializations reflecting the Royal attention towards the development of the governorate and the realization of sustainable, comprehensive development there.

In the same context, the College of Duqm was established in September 2021 in the Governorate of Al Wusta at the Special Economic Zone in Duqm. The university is governed by the laws regulating universities and colleges in the Sultanate of Oman and the hopes attached on the National Research and Development Strategy 2040 in line with Oman Vision 2040.

Royal directives to set up six schools to the tune of



RO 8,850,000 will raise the number of scholarly institutions to 2,430 schools, 11 government and private universities and 18 private colleges.

Under its Renewed Renaissance, Oman continued to accord attention to environment protection, both at the local and global levels. To this effect, His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik issued a Royal Decree last August (2021) to establish the Khor Kharfout Nature Reserve in the Governorate of Dhofar, taking the number of such sanctuaries to 21. The Sultanate of Oman also ratified many international agreements related to the environment protection and legislations for the same purpose at the local level.

The decline and fluctuation in oil prices and precautionary measures to address the impacts of Covid-19 affected the economies of many countries of the world. Since Oman is not isolated from the global community, it had to take measures to address the situation. These included the initiation of a medium-term Fiscal Balance Plan (2020-2023). Last April (2021), His Majesty the Sultan chaired a meeting of the main committee tasked with the National Programme for Fiscal Balance to follow up the progress of the programme in its second year. The programme was designed to bring down the general debt and to secure financial sustainability.

His Majesty the Sultan endorsed the initiatives submitted by the departments concerned in a bid to develop the schema of social protection. This affirms His Majesty the Sultan's follow-up of the conditions of citizens to ensure the sustenance of decent livelihood for them and to alleviate the fallouts of this challenging stage. The 10th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), the first leg in the executive plan of Oman Vision 2040, which is based on four axes comprising 14 'national priorities', 88 'strategic goals' and 68 performance indicators.

The Tenth Five-year Plan seeks to achieve a number of goals, among them "activating the economy, upgrading the efficiency of management of public finance, realizing balance among measures for rationalization of public spending, espousing disciplined financial expansion policies, accelerating the rate of implementation of major strategic projects and government-private partnership projects,

attracting more direct foreign investments, visualizing growth trends based on expected oil price rate of \$48 per barrel during years of the plan and enhancing governorates' participation in achieving goals of Oman Vision 2040".

The plan targets average annual growth of 3.2% in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) through emphasis on promising economic sectors like converting industries of high technological content, agriculture, fisheries, fish farming, food and agriculture industrialization, transport, warehousing and logistics. Total estimated revenues of the State Budget 2021 stood at RO 8.64 billion calculated on the basis of oil price rate of \$45.

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Governorates Development Programme, which emerged in implementation of Royal Decrees, will allocate RO 10 million to each governorate during the period of the Tenth Five-Year Plan (2021-2025)—at a rate of 2 million a year. The programme envisages the execution of 28 strategic programmes and it will contribute to the goals of Oman Vision 2040.

The Economic Stimulus Plan (ESP), endorsed by the Council of Ministers in

March 2021 is based on five axes

comprising incentive schemes on

taxes, fees and incentives for the

improvement of the business and investment

climate, incentives for small and medium enterprises, incentives for the labour market and recruitment, banking incentives aimed to rally efforts for the alleviation of Covid-19 impacts on the national economy and other incentives to promote economic recovery, back up economic activities and attract foreign

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investments.

These financial procedures, topped by the medium-term Fiscal Balance Plan, showed positive results, as Oman registered growth in total revenues by 22.6% and a 58% decline in deficit by the end of September 2021.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expected in a report issued in September 2021 that economic activities in the Sultanate of Oman will recover and that Oman will achieve 2.5% GDP growth in 2021 and 4.2% growth by 2023. The IMF also commended the measures undertaken by Oman while addressing the fallouts of Covid-19, as well as the country's fiscal discipline and enhancement of business environment and support for stricken economic sectors.

The measures undertaken by Oman improved its credit rating in various agencies, including Moody's, which amended the Sultanate of Oman's rating from "negative" to "stable" in October 2021 (according to 3Ba rating). Moody's expected that public debt in Oman vis-à-vis the GDP will decline from 80% in 2020 to 60% in 2024, as well as the decline of the annual government funding needs to GDP from 22% in 202 to 10%. Standard and Poor's also amended its future outlook for Oman from "stable" to "positive".

Meanwhile, Fitch pointed out last May that the Fiscal Plan contributed to the improvement of scenarios for Oman's financial position and expected a 6.1% decline of Budget deficit to GDP this year (2021). It also expected a 3.3% economic growth for Oman by next year (2022).

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ouraging environment through legislations, ports, free zones and logistics, coupled with a unique strategic location in the meeting point of global commercial markets, political stability and security.

The ports of Duqm, Salalah and Sohar boast a range of advanced facilities that enabled them to achieve quick finalization of tasks and cut the distance between world ports. This is in addition to the free zones in Duqm, Al Mazyouna, Salalah and Sohar and upcoming Khazaen hub in the Governorate of South Al Batinah. Investment incentives like tax exemptions extending to more than 30 years and foreigners' 100% ownership of properties, among other incentives, add another fillip to the Oman's position. The political and regional changes that happened during the Renewed Renaissance period proved that the Sultanate of Oman's foreign policy stands on firm grounds. Oman advocates principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, positive contribution to safeguarding international security, promoting common public interest through dialogue and understanding among countries and nations.

These principles were affirmed by Oman before the 76th UN General Assembly in New York last September. "Under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, the Sultanate of Oman pursues its commitment to the basic fundamentals of its foreign policy embodied in good neighbourliness, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, respect for international law and international charters and support for cooperation among countries. Oman considers the settlement of disputes by peaceful means and through harmony and tolerance as a civilized conduct that leads to better and more lasting results than disputes can achieve".

Oman's persistent strive to serve global peace stem from its support for many initiatives and issues, like its backing to the positive developments emanating from Al Ula Summit in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Oman hailed the success of the efforts of reconciliation led by the State of Kuwait. In international podiums, Oman continued to reiterate the legitimacy of the Palestinian cause and the demands of Palestinian people. It also supported the settlement of the Yemeni issue through comprehensive political settlement, working in line with the initiative.

tatives of Saudi Arabia and the UN and US envoys. This is besides Oman's stand for peaceful handling of the Iranian nuclear file and Oman's continuous condemnation of all types of terrorism.

Under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, the Sultanate of Oman adhered to commitment to truthfulness and objectivity through its political stands enhanced by its original values of moderateness.

His Majesty the Sultan's visit to the Kingdom of Saudi

Commander. The development of the SAF covered all aspects due to their tangible role in defending this nation, protecting its territories and safeguarding its gains. This Royal attention was symbolically demonstrated by the visits of His Majesty the Sultan to the 11th Infantry Brigade's command, Thumrait Airbase, the Royal Navy of Oman and the Sultan's Special Force. The SAF saw major growth in all its military and technical sectors "so that these sectors could continue to be the strong bastions that defend and protect all territories of the country from end to end."

National days of countries constitute symbols of pride and dignity. In Oman, they are moments of contemplation in the past and the future of the country, a time to remember the Founder of Modern Oman and its Blessed Renaissance, the late Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Bin Taimour. His memory pulsates in the heart of every Omani, man and woman, who incessantly pray for him in gratitude for his good deeds for the nation and its loyal people over 50 years. The achievements made by the late Sultan Qaboos are stark and manifest in every sphere of life.

He sowed and cultivated true faith in the people. From our past experiences, we have to derive new, strong will and firm resolve to work in full cooperation and collaboration—rallying our resources and energies and exhibiting self-denial in performing our duty in a manner that facilitates all difficulties and overcomes all challenges as we embark on accomplishing our national missions for the good of Oman and its noble people.

Arabia in July 2021 and his meeting with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud is a strong evidence about the deep-rooted relations between the two countries. This first visit of its kind culminated in the establishment of the Omani-Saudi Coordination Council and opened wide vistas of cooperation among the two countries in different fields, particularly economic areas.

The Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) and other security and military departments earned the attention of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, the Supreme



CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY STREET LIGHTS DIVISION-II

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited on percentage basis for the following works from contractors / firms duly enlisted with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in appropriate category & Codes having validity / renewal of PEC license, Electrical License issued by Electrical Inspector Islamabad for execution of Electrical & Mechanical Works in Rawalpindi / Islamabad and NTN & GST registration with FBR.

Name of works	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Date & time of receipt of tender	Date & time of opening of tender
Rate Running Contract for repair/Maintenance and operation of Traffic signals/blinkers installed at various intersections in Islamabad 2021-22.	Rs.11,718,063/-	Rs.351,542/-	24-11-2021 11:30AM	24-11-2021 12:00PM

1. Tender Documents can be purchased up to 22-11-2021 before closing hours against payment of Rs.3,000/- (Non-Refundable) in shape of Cash from the office of Deputy Director Street Light Division, Shop No.01, Bazar No.08, Street No.57, SectorG-6/4, Islamabad. No application for tenders will be received after schedule date and time.
2. Tenders will be issued to those firms who provide copies of valid PEC License for the current financial year having appropriate Category / Codes EE-04, EE-06, EE-11 and valid Electrical License issued by Electrical Inspector Islamabad renewed for the current financial year 2021-22 and NTN & GST registration certificates with active status along with written request on original letter pad of firm / contractor. PEC Certificate, Electrical License & Professional Tax Certificate 2021-22 in original will also be seen before issuance of Tender document.
3. Bid Security / Earnest Money shall also be accompanied with the request in the shape of Deposit at Call (CDR) clearly indicating the Name of Firm issued by local scheduled bank in favor of Deputy Director, Street Light Division-II, CDA and should be generated only from firm's account. Cash / Cheque or open CDR without indicating name of firm will not be accepted and No application without Bid Security / Earnest Money will be accepted for issuance of tender.
4. The tender will be issued only to those firms who provide an undertaking on Stamp Paper worth not less than Rs.50/- that the firm / contractor are not black listed by any government, semi government or autonomous body in Pakistan and also undertakes that if any information or document provided by firm for issuance of tender document is found incorrect or fictitious the firm is liable for legal action under the law. Without the undertaking tender will not be issued to firm.
5. The tender will be issued only to those firms who provide list of adequate Tools, Plants & equipment for operation and maintenance of traffic signals / blinkers and also provide at least 02 work orders in the field including satisfactory completion certificate issued by head of any government department along with application being sensitive job relating with public safety.
6. If the contractor wants to participate in the tendering through representative, the contractor will provide general / special power of attorney duly attested by respective court and only to legitimate attorney holder would be allowed to get tender documents.
7. Tenders will be opened by Director E&M (Maint) in his office located at Room No.05 Ground floor "P" Block Pak Secretariat Islamabad on schedule date and time.
8. CDA may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal. The CDA shall upon request communicate to any supplier or contractor who submitted a bid or proposal, the grounds for its rejection of all bids or proposals, but is not required to justify those grounds.
9. In case of any Gazetted / Occasional Holiday(s), the tenders will be opened on the next working day.
10. The additional valid documents mentioned in IB-11 of tender document must be submitted by the firm while submitting the tender, otherwise tender will be liable for rejection.
11. The Bid Security / Earnest money of unsuccessful bidders will be retained / deposited in CDA bank account and released in the favor of firm's account only after acceptance of contract.
12. Tender Notice can be seen on both CDA website www.cda.gov.pk and PPRA website www.ppra.com.pk, whereas, tender Notice can be downloaded from CDA's website www.cda.gov.pk.

Deputy Director
Street Lights Division-II, CDA.
Contact No.0300-9189525

Pakistan & Finland Relations: 70 years of Friendship

By Zahoor Ahmed



December 6 is the national day of the Republic of Finland. On this day, Finns everywhere fly their blue and white flag and bake delicious cakes with blue and white icing. Traditionally, Finnish families light two candles in each window of their homes to signify offering hospitality to wanderers.

While Finland has a harsh climate and small population of 5.5 million, the country is one of the most advanced nations in the world primarily on account of its achievements in the fields of education and innovation. Today, it has a highly industrialized, largely free-market economy with one of the highest per capita output and standard of living in the EU. Finland also ranked at the top of the UN's annual World Happiness Report 2020. It is also world leader

in democracy and gender equality. The country became the first European nation in 1906 to give women right to vote and run the Parliament.

Finland is blessed with clean air, abundant forests, spellbinding Northern Lights and richest water resources including over 185,000 lakes. The country is one of the least exposed to natural disasters because of its 73% forests and environment friendly quality.

The relations between Pakistan and Finland, which were established in January 1951, have always been characterized by mutual respect, understanding and collaboration. This year, the two countries are also celebrating seven decades of their diplomatic ties. To



commemorate this landmark, the two Foreign Ministers exchanged letters of felicitation which capture the strength and breadth of Pakistan-Finland relations.

In his letter of felicitation to his Finnish counterpart, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the marking of 70 years was an important milestone in the political and diplomatic history of the longstanding and friendly relations. He termed Finland an important development partner of Pakistan and expressed confidence that the collaboration would grow stronger.

Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto in his letter to Foreign Minister of Pakistan said the two sides in recent years witnessed a growing interest towards cooperation in education, Information Technology, digital solutions and sustainable management of natural resources. He mentioned that a number of leading Finnish experts were active in Pakistan particularly in areas of energy and IT sectors. He also said Pakistani textiles, food products and sports goods were well-known and appreciated in Finland.

There have also been a number of significant high-level contacts between the leadership of the two countries recently. In September 2021, Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met his Finnish counterpart in New York on the sidelines of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly. The two Foreign Ministers discussed bilateral relations as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest. Earlier in November 2020, the two Foreign Ministers also had a telephonic conversation in which the two sides appreciated the positive developments in bilateral relations and exchanged views on a broad range of subjects including Covid-19 pandemic, Afghan peace process, situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K), and cooperation at multilateral fora. Pakistan also participated in the Conference on Afghanistan hosted by Finland in 2020. Finland appreciates Pakistan's key role in evacuating people who were on Finland's list from Afghanistan.

Both countries are also regularly holding bilateral political consultations which allow them to review the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and identify opportunities and possibilities for further cooperation

The relations between Pakistan and Finland, which were established in January 1951, have always been characterized by mutual respect, understanding and collaboration. This year, the two countries are also celebrating seven decades of their diplomatic ties.

Major Finnish companies including Nokia, SSM, Wärtsilä, Stora-Enso and Vaisala are operating in Pakistan. A Finnish company Stora Enso has established a joint venture called Bulleh Shah Packaging Limited with Packages Pakistan. The current bilateral trade volume of USD 90 million is gradually increasing.

in political, economic, trade, investment, education and cultural fields. Pakistan-Finland Parliamentary Friendship Groups have been established in both houses of the Pakistani Parliament and Pakistan-Finland Business Council is operating for many years. Finland has been one of the major historic troop contributors to the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).

People-to-people contacts between the two countries are gradually expanding as well. Since 2015, Pakistan has included Finland in the list of countries with which it permits dual nationality. The Pakistani community in Finland, estimated at around 5000 persons includes a number of outstanding Pakistanis, particularly in the field of ICT, working in Finnish companies and enterprises and each year hundreds of brilliant Pakistani young men and women study at Finnish universities.

Education is key area for collaboration. The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTEC), Pakistan and Turku Vocational Institute (TVI), Finland signed an MoU in January 2021, which

covers training of trainers and job specific trainings, mutual accreditation of technical and vocational training institutes, establishment of joint institutions and exchange of trainers, mutual cooperation in development and implementation of virtual training modules, and blended learning. As a follow up on the MoU on 26 May 2021, the Pak Finnish Institute of Hospitality and Culinary Arts was established in Lahore.

The two countries have also started cooperation for training of teachers in the world renowned Finnish pedagogical methods for which an MoU was signed on 1 July 2021 between Finnish Global Education Solutions (FGES) and Iqra University School System (IUS).

Finland-Pakistan Business Council (FPBC) was established on 31 October 1985 and is one of the oldest Business Councils operating in Pakistan. It has held several Finland-Pakistan Business Summits. Pakistani and Finnish companies have been collaborating in sustainability energy, ICT & telecom, construction, textiles, dairy products, agriculture,





Finland is blessed with clean air, abundant forests, spellbinding Northern Lights and richest water resources including over 185,000 lakes. The country is one of the least exposed to natural disasters because of its 73% forests and environment friendly quality.

paper industry, fertilizers, banking.

Major Finnish companies including Nokia, SSM, Wärtsilä, Stora-Enso and Vaisala are operating in Pakistan. A Finnish company Stora Enso has established a joint venture called Bulleh Shah Packaging Limited with Packages Pakistan. The current bilateral trade volume of USD 90 Million is gradually increasing this year despite Covid. While Pakistani exports to Finland in 2020-2021 grew by 14 % amounting to USD 31.9 Million as compared to 2019-2020 and remittances were up by 29.8% in 2020-2021 as compared to previous year, there is much unexplored potential for further deepening and broadening our economic relations.

It is my honour to be concurrently accredited to Finland while based in Stockholm. We have an Honorary Consul General, Mr. Wille Erola, based in Helsinki. I paid a visit to Finland from 27-29 September 2021 for the first time after the easing of Covid travel restrictions and called on the Foreign Minister Mr. Pekka Olavi Haavisto, Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade Mr. Ville Skinnari, Permanent State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Matti Anttonen and other senior

officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Interior.

During my visit to Aalto University, a major centre of learning in Helsinki, I discussed how to further enhance our collaboration in higher education with Vice President Mr. Hannu Seristö. I also visited Heureka Science Center, a leading Science Museum, which has collaboration with the Science Centre recently inaugurated by the President of Pakistan. I had the pleasure of meeting with a number of dynamic Pakistani entrepreneurs, researchers and high professionals based in Helsinki, who are contributing to the Finnish economy but at the same time enthusiastic to play their role in the development of Pakistan. As we celebrate 70 years of our friendship, the future of Pakistan's relations with Finland is bright. We share aspirations for developing these relations based upon innovation, technology and quest for education.

The writer is Ambassador of Pakistan to Sweden and Finland.



صحافت آزاد صحافت محفوظ



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پروٹیکشن آف جرنلسٹس اینڈ میڈیا پروویسٹنل ایکٹ 2021

محفوظ زندگی کا حق

پیشہ ورانہ ذمہ داریوں کی آزادانہ اور بغیر جانبدارانہ انجام دہی اور آزادی اظہار رائے کا حق

کسی بھی فرد یا ادارے کی جانب سے جبر، تشدد، خوف دہراس، دھونس، دھمکی اور جبری گمشدگی کے خلاف تحفظ

نئی زندگی، گھرا اور ذاتی خط و کتابت (شمول ایکٹرا تک گفت و شنید) کی پراسیسی کا حق

اپنی خبر کے ذرائع کو مخفی رکھنے کا حق

انسداد دہشت گردی اور قومی سلامتی کے قوانین کی میڈیا پروویسٹنل کی پیشہ ورانہ سرگرمیوں کو روکنے کے خلاف نا حق استعمال کی روک تھام

میڈیا پروویسٹنل کی شکایات کی آزادانہ تفتیش اور فوری ازالہ کیلئے سرگرمیوں کا قیام

میڈیا پروویسٹنل کے خلاف دھمکی آمیز، جارحانہ اور تشدد کا ردائیوں کو فوری اور موثر تفتیش اور قانونی کارروائی سے مستثنیٰ حاصل نہیں ہوگا



عمران خان
میں روشنی ہوں
ہر اک طرف پھیلنا ہے مجھ کو
مجھے وطن کے تمام گوشے اجالنے ہیں
ہر اک جلی سے ہر اک مکان سے
سیاہ منظر نکالنے ہیں
(امجد نواز)

Over 9 Million
Overseas Pakistanis
are

Celebrating

Landmark Legislations

.Right to vote for them

.Electronic Voting

Thank You

Prime Minister

IMRAN KHAN

You Fulfilled your
Promise

You Proved Your Loyalty
with the Expatriats



Sen. Saifullah Nyazee
Chief Organizer
PTI

Congratulations

On the
Beginnings
of a new
Era in
PAKISTAN



Fawad Chaudhry
Fed. Minister
Info & BC

شکریہ - عمران خان

**Expatriats will vote only for
Honest and Credible Leaders
not for
Dishonests, Thieves, Robbers**

The most popular leader in Overseas Pakistanis
Imran Khan = 93%



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