



Positive Post

A Media Publication by the students of Mass Communication and Media Studies

February in History

Feb 2, 1948: Urdu is declared the national language of Pakistan.

Feb 8, 1949: Azad Kashmir Government shifts its capital

Feb 9, 1951: First census begins in Pakistan.

Feb 21, 1956: Constituent Assembly decides the country shall be a Federal Republic known as Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Feb 2, 1957: President Iskandar Mirza laid down the foundation-stone of Guddu Barrage.

Feb 24, 1960: Presidential Cabinet decides to name the new Capital as Islamabad.

Feb 3, 1960: Prominent poet and Pakistan's Guinness world record holder Dr. Muhammad Saeed Fazal Karim Beebani born in Rawalpindi.

Feb 16, 1971: Korakaram Highway, linking China and Pakistan, opened.

Feb 13, 1973: Begum Rana Liaquat Ali becomes first woman to assume office of Sindh Governor.

Feb 21, 1974: Pakistan recognizes Bangladesh.

Feb 22, 1974: Islamic Summit Conference starts in Lahore; 22 heads of state participated.

Feb 1, 1978: Allama Iqbal's Lahore house is declared national monument.

Feb 5, 1990: Kashmir Solidarity Day observed for the first time

Feb 22, 1992: Nawaz Sharif introduces yellow-cab taxi scheme.

Feb 11, 1996: Cricket World Cup jointly hosted by Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka.

Feb 23, 1997: Nawaz Sharif launches "Qarz utaro Mulk sanwaro" scheme. Declares Sunday, instead of Friday as weekly holiday.

Feb 20, 1999: Pakistan Crushed India by 46 runs in inaugural Asian test championship

Feb 21, 1999: Lahore Declaration is signed by Nawaz Sharif & A. B. Vajpayee.

Feb 16, 2009: Pakistan government announces a truce with Taliban, accepting a system of Islamic law in the Swat valley.

Google pays tribute to Edhi on 89th birth anniversary



On the occasion of his 89th birth anniversary, Google honoured world renowned philanthropist Abdul Sattar Edhi with a doodle of the man who was fondly known as the 'Angel of Mercy', on Tuesday.

Abdul Sattar Edhi was born on February 28, 1928 in Gujarat but then migrated to Karachi after partition. After noticing that people in Pakistan were without shelter, food medicine and clothing, he begged people for donations. Edhi was able to convert a small room he had into a dispensary which serviced the poor. Very soon, people began to trust him and provided him with donations to help the poor, hungry and destitute in Pakistan.

Here's what was posted on Google's doodle section about the Pakistani philanthropist

about the social worker

"In 1951, he established the Edhi foundation, which is funded solely by private donations. The foundation, which operates 24 hours a day, provides a variety of social services from homeless shelters to medical care all free of charge and has helped thousands of people around the world in times of need. Most notably, the foundation operates the world's largest volunteer ambulance network in Pakistan. "In my entire life I have driven no other car except my ambulance," Edhi said.

Abdul Sattar Edhi expired on July 8, 2016 from kidney failure. During the last days of his illness, Edhi stated that he preferred to be treated in Pakistan rather than abroad and earned further laurels from the

general masses.

Thousands flocked to the National Stadium of Karachi when he had died to partake in his funeral, which was followed by a guard of honour by the army before he was laid to rest.

Courtesy: The News

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Pakistani researchers develop a calligraphy-based Urdu font for the Internet

Native speakers of the Urdu language instinctively know that the language is read from right to left but the numerical values mentioned within an Urdu sentence are read from left to right. To the untrained eye, however, the Urdu language has a lot of rules and variations.

The Urdu writing system is cursive so different letters join together to form a ligature (sequence of Urdu characters occurring without space).

The alphabet is highly context sensitive; each letter is written in a different form based on whether it is placed in the beginning, middle or end of a word, or if it occurs in isolated form by itself.

Many of the letters share a common base form but they differ by diacritical marks placed either above or below them.

All these rules are known to a

calligrapher, whose expertise is the writing of Urdu in a simple and beautiful font. Nasrullah Mehr is one such Pakistani calligrapher.

He is renowned for his work and received the Yousaf Sadidi award by the Governor of Punjab in 1998.

He has been in the business for more than 30 years and has done calligraphy for various books, magazines and newspapers.

Enter the internet age, however, and his business dries up rapidly.

His son, Zeeshan Mehr, had joined the family trade and after business slowed down, he taught himself computer programming so he could come up with a more refined Urdu font for the internet.

This work took the father-son duo 10 years to complete.

However, they lacked the visi-



bility and credibility to bring their Urdu font to the mainstream. They didn't know how to carry out the scientific rigor of evaluation of their font, and their lack of finances and resources was proving to be a big hurdle in their path.

Pakistani Researchers Lay the Foundation for Building Urdu Speech Recognition System With the support of Dr. Umar Saif, Vice Chancellor of Information Technology University (ITU) and the technical assistance of linguistic technology

expert, Dr. Agha Ali Raza, from ITU's Center for Speech and Language Technologies (CSaLT) laboratory, they have developed a new Urdu font with enhanced sensitivity to the intricate Nastaliq style in which the language is written by calligraphers.

In contrast to previous computer Urdu fonts, this new font looks beautifully hand-crafted, with a very small footprint so that it can be quickly rendered by Internet browsers.

Courtesy. Dawn

Book festival in Gwadar

LITERARY, film and theatre festivals are now very much an essential part of the cultural calendar of Pakistan's metropolitan cities. Throughout the year, such events take place in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad, where literati gather to discuss the questions of the day and artists display their work for the public. However, in the country's secondary cities, such cultural activities are less frequent. Moving into the hinterland, they are practically non-existent. That is why it was heartening that a four-day Gwadar Book Festival, which ended on Sunday, was held in the Balochistan port town. Usually, Gwadar is in the news either for its role as a critical node in CPEC, or for the militancy that affects Balochis-



tan in general. To see efforts in this town to promote cultural activities, therefore, is laudable.

Speakers from Karachi and Quetta attended the event; these included author Mohammed Hanif. As Mr Hanif rightly pointed out, while much of the media focus is on Balochistan's troubles, the province's cultural richness is

not given equal coverage. While indeed the stories of violence and political problems cannot be ignored, Balochistan should not be viewed through a one-dimensional security prism. The province's cultural activities, reflecting its people's thoughts, feelings and aspirations, must be encouraged to allow the rest of the country to get a fuller view of what this complex, ancient

society is all about. In this regard, the Anjuman Taraqqi-i-Urdu secretary Fatima Hassan's announcement at the book festival that the body would establish a Gwadar office must also be lauded. Other activities at the event, such as plays by children in Balochi and the screening of films by young film-makers from small Balochistan towns such as Jiwani and Pasni, also helped showcase the latent talent of the province. Cultural activities in Balochistan and cultural exchanges with other parts of Pakistan can play an important role in 'normalising' the situation in the province and building inter-provincial bridges, at least on the cultural front.

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistani duo showcases lighter side of country for fed-up millennials

Millennials in Pakistan aren't too different from millennials across the world – they cackle at memes and share videos of politicians doing hilarious things. At the same time, they're fed up with mainstream media and its obsession with current affairs.

They yearn for an alternative voice that's hip, trendy, and has a human-oriented approach. One that transcends major headlines and gives insights into how ordinary citizens go about their daily lives.

Childhood besties Ali Gul and Ali Ahsan knew large media companies in Pakistan were skipping this niche altogether. The aspiring techies built Mangobaaz, a new media startup modeled loosely on BuzzFeed, to appeal directly to millennial needs.

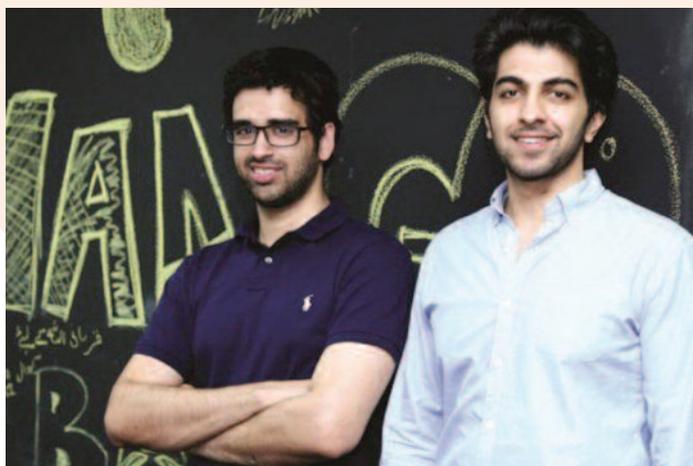
The idea for the company came when both were in Silicon Valley working at different startups. Ali Gul was at Benos – an event marketing automation firm – and Ali Ehsan at Okta, an enterprise security company.

The US-educated pair were hired right out of college and had a promising career in tech ahead of them – but felt like they weren't creating enough impact. As their companies grew, they felt as if they were being siloed into specific roles and yearned to learn more.

Both moved back to their home country in early 2015 to get an idea of what to do next.

"The ethos of Vice – being counterculture in its approach – was something that really inspired us. We wanted to show different facets of society," explains Ali.

Building a niche Mangobaaz started as an exper-



iment – to see if the content resonated with audiences and whether its social feeds exhibited any traction. After some promising signs, the young duo went ahead and registered it as a formal company in September 2015.

A couple of months later, some web pieces went viral. The website crashed due to overloaded servers. That's when Ali and Ali realized they'd found their sweet spot.

"The biggest initial challenge was bringing a team together. We didn't have much money to pay our writers and we needed to hire people that believed in us and the vision. We must have done thousands of interviews," laughs Ali.

Both entrepreneurs also understood that they couldn't stick to the dying model of display advertising as a primary source of revenue. Native advertising was the future – but very few brands in Pakistan were comfortable with this approach.

"They kept asking us about our prior experience and how we've built viral campaigns in the past. It was tough," reminisces Ali.

The Salam Award for Imaginative Fiction

Slowly, the deals started to roll in. In December 2015, they ran a month-long campaign on behalf of a telco. The largest contract they grabbed was for a cool US\$30,000 spread across three months. Ali doesn't say which company they worked with, but claims it's a leading multinational brand.

Last year, the fledgling company locked in a seed round of US\$115,000 led by Fatima Ventures. That made it the first new media company in Pakistan to raise VC funding

There are others, like Parhlo and Shughal, but they haven't quite captured audience attention the way Mangobaaz has.

Ali adds that the startup is already profitable. It made a modest return in 2016 – rare for such a young company – but the decision to seek out an investor was due to a desire to "grow exponentially, not incrementally."

"We'll keep investing our profits back into operations, but one of the priority areas for us now is video content. We're expanding our team and trying to grow aggressively," he notes.

Drawing inspiration The site's also locking in a fair amount of traffic. Ali says they get about two million page

views per month, but SimilarWeb claims the figure is actually closer to one million. Videos published directly on Facebook also account for about three million views, according to the founders.

There's no way of independently corroborating this information, but its videos are funny, engaging, and well-produced. A recent piece on a popular local politician in Pakistan breaking through security went viral.

"My family's been in the media business for 75 years. We have our own production studio and we've used a lot of these existing resources to help us grow," explains Ali.

Most of the creative process behind Mangobaaz's content comes from scraping trends from the internet. The team is constantly tracking comments on existing posts in an effort to understand what users want to consume. Additionally, they sometimes reach out to the community directly to solicit ideas.

This Pakistani startup is revolutionising the way people travel

"It's mostly about honing in on all the noise," notes Ali.

The Lahore-based techie-cum-comedians understand there's a long road ahead. They dismiss any talk of an exit strategy, saying that's not on the horizon for now and that ideally they'd want to go public.

"We're still in our nascent stages. Our main goal is to push the boundaries in this market," explains Ali.

This article originally appeared on Tech in Asia.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Pakistan's Blind cricket team broke its own record and is on a roll!

The Pakistan Blind cricket team can hardly put the wrong foot forward in the on-going World Cup T20 in India as they stay well and truly on course to lift the elusive trophy in the backyard of their arch rivals.

The openers dominated the West Indies bowlers right from the outset and set up a solid platform with an opening stand of 198 runs.

Pakistan's flawless track of run form in the tournament has now seen them win eight matches in a row with the side moving from strength to strength with every passing match. In their latest outing, the men in green smashed their own world highest score record after they notched up a massive 373 run-rate against the West Indies on Wednesday and went on to win the match by 182 runs. Pakistan's previous record of 364 runs was also against the same side back in 2012.

Pakistan set up this mammoth total courtesy of the brilliant batting display from their openers Mohammad Jamil and Riasat Khan. Jamil scored a fantastic 100 off just 36 balls whereas Khan scored 94 runs off 32 balls but was unfortunate



to miss out on a well-deserved century. The duo dominated the West Indies bowlers right from the outset and set up a solid platform with an opening stand of 198 runs.

Other Pakistani batsmen in the shape of Mohammad Zafar (46 off 14 balls), Mohsin Khan (32), Matiullah (27) also chipped in with valuable contributions towards the end of the innings to propel Pakistan to this huge total. In reply, the Caribbean side could only muster 191 runs in their allotted 20 overs and were never really in the hunt to chase down the total. The half century from Dennal Deboya Shim was the only positive outcome of the Windies innings. Sajid Nawaz, Mohammad Akram, Riasat Khan, Anees Javed and Mohsin Khan grabbed a wicket each for Pakistan.

The confident Pakistani side will look to cap off their group stage matches with a win in their final match against Australia on Thursday and hence register their ninth consecutive win in the tournament.

Due to the nature of this type of cricket, the sweep shot is a must-have stroke for a batsman because the bowlers bowl under arm with ball bouncing and rolling at ankle length most of the time. The hand-eye combination is extremely vital and even the slightest misjudgement can land you in trouble in the form of losing your wicket or even suffering injuries. Keeping in mind the trouble these visually-impaired men have to endure in order to excel at this level, it is amazing how the Pakistani team has managed to come up with spirited performances in every match of the tournament thus far.

With both the neighbouring countries already in the semi-final, there are high chances of an Indo-Pak final in Bangalore on February 12th.

Pakistan's old foes and defending champions, India, are also going through a solid campaign so far, despite losing to Pakistan in their pool match. With both the neighbouring countries already in the semi-final, there are high chances of an Indo-Pak final in Bangalore on February 12th.

Pakistan lost to India in the 2012 final by 29 runs, but this time around they would be looking to go one step further and lift the title. Considering the already deteriorating condition of sports in Pakistan, the victory will go a long way in inspiring the whole nation and hopefully bring back the glorious days of sports in Pakistan.

Although most of the Pakistanis are eagerly waiting for the Pakistan Super League (PSL) to begin, they must not forget to keep an eye on their National Blind cricket team which is giving its all to bring the title back home to Pakistan.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

PSL2 begins with majestic opening ceremony in Dubai

The second edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) is set to begin with the opening ceremony at Dubai Cricket Stadium.

The 27-day tournament will feature the same five franchises who took part in the opening edition, as Islamabad United will start their title defence against Peshawar Zalmi on Thursday.

Harbhajan Singh comes out in support of Peshawar Zalmi

The opening ceremony will feature performances from Pakistani pop singers Ali Zafar, Shehzad Roy and Jamaican star



Shaggy.

Unlike last time where all five captains were Pakistani's, this time only two franchises are being led by the local players. Pakistan Test

captain Misbahul Haq will captain United, whereas newly selected ODI captain Sarfraz Ahmed will lead Quetta Gladiators.

Pakistan Super League: Islamabad United gear up for title defence

Other franchises will be captained by former New Zealand skipper Brendon McCullum (Lahore Qalandars), veteran Sri Lankan Kumar Sangakara (Karachi Kings) and former West Indies two-time World T20 winning captain Darren Sammy (Peshawar Zalmi).

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Indus Valley Civilisation comes alive as Moen Jo Daro conference kicks off

For three days, the ancient Indus Valley civilization was brimming with archaeologists and researchers as the landmark International Moen Jo Daro Conference kicked off on February 9, 2017.

Scholars are visiting from the United States, Spain, Italy, France, Japan and a number of them from different parts of Pakistan.

Inaugurating the session, Unesco Pakistan director Vibeke Jensen pointed out how the setting of Moen Jo Daro is vulnerable to human and natural influences. If not preserved, this site will be lost, she said. It is an important and timely conference on one of the metropolis of the Indus Civilisation and one of the important heritage sites in Pakistan, she added.

The responsibility of preserving this ancient site does not only lie with the government but also on the local community, academia, tourists and visitors, she said.

The conference will give us an opportunity to discuss the current state of conservation and



what needs to be done to further strengthen ongoing efforts at the site, she said.

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, who was also present for the inauguration, spoke about how the Sindh government's culture department will learn from the scholars and researchers presenting their valuable contributions and execute the recommendations presented during the conference.

"Resources will not be a problem," boasted Shah. "We love our heritage sites and we will be able to achieve our targets to preserve and protect other such sites in the province."

Shah took a short trip down memory lane when he recalled how Zulfikar Ali Bhutto took a similar initiative in 1973 when he organised an international symposium to mark the 50-year celebrations of the excavation of one of the urban centres of the Indus Valley Civilisation. He added that this conference will be a learning experience for everyone and we allow everyone to contribute for the betterment of Sindh's heritage.

"I am certain that these proceedings shall not only bring together current research on Indus Valley Civilisation but shall also discuss the means of promoting academic interaction," said Sindh culture, tourism and antiquities

minister Sardar Ali Shah. "It will help initiate discussion on conservation of the threatened site of Moen Jo Daro."

Speaking about conservation efforts currently under way, the minister pointed out that dry core drilling, recommended by Unesco, has been carried out and completed. "We stand committed to follow the recommendations of the technical committee in order to achieve the objectives for which the National Fund for Moen Jo Daro was created," he added. "Our ministry is undertaking to create a corridor from Makli to Moen Jo Daro which connects cultures and overcomes distances."

In his keynote speech, archaeologist Dr Kaleemullah Lashari said that there are still certain threats to the rich remains of the Indus Valley Civilisation even though although we have been able to tame the river.

The drain of antiquities from Pakistan is a great menace and puts Pakistan under stress. It must be curbed and curtailed, he stressed.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Nigar Johar has become the third female two-star general in the history of the Pakistan Army

Nigar Johar has become the third female two-star general in the history of the Pakistan Army.

Major General Johar, a medical corps officer, was among the 37 brigadiers who were promoted last week.

37 Brigadiers of Pak Army promoted to Major-General rank

Approval for their promotions was given at an Army Selection Board meeting which was presided over by Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa.

In 2015, she was featured in an Inter Serv-



ices Public Relations video honouring women in the armed forces. At the time, she was the deputy commandant of Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Rawalpindi.

Pakistan Army honours women serving in armed forces

In the video, she says, "Pakistan is my country and I was born here. I was raised here and I think there is no match to Pakistan to anywhere in the world," while adding, "Think of all the Muslim countries, think of all those developing nations. This is the only country which has had female general officers. No one else," she added.

Courtesy: Dawn

KLF kicks off 8th edition by giving voice to the voiceless

The eighth Karachi Literature Festival (KLF) kicked off on Thursday with a fiery speech in English of author Ayesha Jalal, followed by writer Mustansir Hussain's 'Tarar' dialogue in crisp Urdu.

During his speech, Tarar talked about how an adviser to the prime minister had noted that after Zarb-e-Azb, the need of the hour was a 'Zarb-e-Qalam', implying a war with the pen. "[He forgot] for a while that the pen is really the voice of the voiceless," said Tarar.

According to Tarar, it was the hallmark of KLF that diverse communities living within the city were given a single platform to boost their cultural heritage. "Diversity comes with KLF."

He was of the view that instead of looking towards the rivers of Ganga and Jamna, we should look towards the rivers of Punjab and Sindh for our cultural heritage to leave imprints on the sands of time.

Calling literature 'the old rusted key', he said that 30 years back, it allowed one to say that people with a difference of opinion



would tolerate each other. "Now 30 years down the road, [we] are willing to accuse the other as a blasphemer and take them away to an unknown destination."

As the KLF is also celebrating the completion of 70 years to Pakistan's independence, Jalal called out for 'mature introspection'.

Reflecting on the need of independence, Jalal said it was due because the people of the Indo-Pak region had fallen 'slaves to barbarity'. However, she noted that we are in a 'chronic state of national depression that stems from that time'.

She talked about how Lord Mountbatten said about Pakistan that 'they were hoping to

put up a tent and no more'. At the time of the creation of Pakistan, they hardly realised 'it wouldn't collapse but turn into a concrete building leading to be a military barrack'.

"Democracy is not a magic wand to be waved at the time of election [alone]," she asserted. "It requires one to work on it." Talking about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), she said that it will 'in large part determine the country's future'.

From shaming late General Ziaul Haq's seed of extremism sown in our midst, Jalal called for 'a Pakistan that needs a better education system [and] notably better social scientists to channelise a constructive debate'.

She was of the view that it was KLF and Coke Studio, which had really 'pioneered the artistic scene in the country'. She called for Jinnah's ideals to be upheld, in particular, the rule of law. "[It is something we have been] striving for the past seven decades," she said.

From co-founders of the festival, Ameena Saiyid pledged to give a diverse culture year after year to the people of Karachi while Asif Farrukhi promised to bring 'A basant of books in our midst'.

Accolades

Three books were awarded prizes at the eighth Karachi Literature Festival. They were:

KLF Pepsi Non-Fiction Prize went to Raj at War by Yasmeen Khan

KLF Getz Pharma Fiction Prize went to The Spinner's Tale by Omar Shabid Hamid

KLF Infaq Foundation Urdu Literature Prize went to Urdu Literature in Contemporary Times by Nasir Abbas Syed

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Rahat Fateh Ali Khan appointed ambassador of British charity by Prince Charles

Rahat will be promoting the good work of British Asian Trust, which is focused on alleviating poverty in South Asia.

Rahat Fateh Ali Khan has been announced as the ambassador of the British Asian Trust by Prince Charles.

The announcement was made at the fourth annual dinner of the trust at the Guildhall, London, Prince Charles, who is the president of the trust, announced Rahat's appointment as ambassador.



The British Asian Trust was founded in 2007 by the Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales and focuses on alleviating poverty in South Asia.

The singer also joined forces with performer Naughty Boy and gave a performance at the annual dinner.

The maestro is very honoured to be given the title and hopes this will be his chance to give back to the community.

Courtesy: Dawn

Mystic Music Festival kicks off today

The two-day 15th Mystic Music Sufi Festival will kick off at Alhamra Cultural Complex, Qadhafi Stadium.

It was announced by Usman Peerzada from the Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop at a press conference held at Alhamra Cultural Complex on Friday.

Usman was flanked by Tasneem Peerzada and Saadaan Peerzada.

He said the festival would bring together 26 singers from all over Pakistan, and there would be some 400 performers, including musicians, who would delight people through their art. He said Sufiana Kalam promoted tolerance and over the years one

could see that youth was more into performing and listening to the mystic music. Through this festival, the Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop would celebrate Sufi theme and diversity of Pakistani artistes.

Referring to World Performing Arts festival that could not take place after 2008, Mr Peerzada said they had requested the chief minister to provide them with financial assistance so that a festival of such a big scale could be held in Lahore. He said the CM was positive about the festival and the theatre workshop had two meetings with him in this regard. He hoped that if government would provide financial assistance the



World Performing Arts Festival would take place in November. Saadaan Peerzada said, "Sufi music is a strong part of Rafi Peer's image and we believe that Sufi music is an effective tool to bring about a revolutionary change in society".

The artistes who would perform

on the first night of the festival (today) are Rizwan Mozzam, Ali Sethi, Akhtar Chinar Zehri, Zarsanga, Shah Jo Raag Fakirs, Niazi Brothers, Nighat Chaudhry, Krishan Lal Bheel, Chaand-Soorj, Gonga Mithoo Saien, Mian Miri Qawal and Bushra Marvi.

Courtesy: Dawn

Leaders of nine countries in Islamabad to attend ECO Summit

All eyes were on Islamabad on Tuesday as leaders from regional countries were given a traditional Pakistani welcome with a 21-gun salute, senior dignitaries welcoming them at the Nur Khan Air Base and later driving to the capital where all roads are bedecked with spring flowers and huge billboards with portraits of the guests.

Already in town are President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Sooronbay Jeenbekov and Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon.

As the Economic Cooperation Organisation's 13th Summit meeting gets off today (Wednesday), representatives heads of state and government arrive from a region "that stretches from the Himalayas in the East to the West of Dardanelles and from the Arabian

Sea in the South to Russian Urals and Siberia in the North". Pakistan hopes that the summit will go a long way to provide the potential for progress, prosperity and development of its 450 million people. "The long-term prospects of ECO depend on renewing the necessary political will of all member states and to find common ground in promoting effective regional cooperation and on establishment of efficient and effective institutions that can transfer actual benefits to all member states," said Adviser on Foreign Policy Sartaj Aziz while addressing the Council of ECO Ministers.

The summit was preceded by a meeting of senior officials and the Council of Foreign Ministers. Highlight of the Summit will be Pakistan through Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif assuming office of the chairman of ECO and the adoption of the Islamabad Declaration.

Pakistan will also showcase the China-Pakistan Economic



Corridor (CPEC) at a time when many of the ECO leaders have expressed interest in joining it, especially Iran and Turkey.

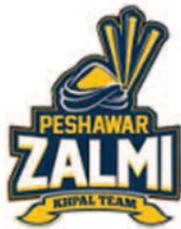
The prime minister in his brief message said that it is a privilege for Pakistan to host the 13th ECO Summit and he would like to extend a very warm welcome to all honourable guests to his beautiful country.

The secretary general called on the premier at the Prime Minister House. Nawaz expressed the hope that the outcomes of the summit in the form of the Islamabad Declaration and ECO Vision 2025 would fur-

ther enhance regional integration, connectivity and help advance economic prosperity in the region.

The prime minister appreciated the secretary general and his team for their preparatory work for the summit. The ECO secretary general thanked the prime minister for hosting the summit and for the excellent arrangements. He appreciated Nawaz Sharif's vision for regional connectivity and greater regional integration. He reaffirmed the role of the ECO secretariat for fully implementing ECO initiatives and moving the organisation forward for the benefit of its member states.

Courtesy: Dawn



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