

### Pak-NL Bilateral Commercial Ties.

Pakistan's exports to the Netherlands till 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020 stood at US\$ 621 Million, which is 13.5% more than the previous year in the same period i.e. (from July-December). Total Imports till 30<sup>th</sup> December stood at US\$ 233.3 Million, which is a year on year decrease of 40%. Meanwhile, total remittances stood at US\$ 22.5 Million, showing a growth of 78% against the same period of the last Financial Year. Moreover, total FDI Inflows till 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020 reached US\$ 107.8 Million, showing an increase of 56% from last year.



### History Made On K2

Heartiest congratulations to team of **Nepali** mountaineers on first-ever winter ascent of **K2 Pakistan**, world's second-highest mountain.



# Newsletter

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

September—December 2020



*Rush Lake* is a high altitude lake located in Nagar Valley, Gilgit-Baltistan, near **Rush Pari Peak**. At 4,694 meters, *Rush lake* is one of the highest alpine lakes in the world.

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### Roshan Digital Pakistan Account State Bank of Pakistan.

On 29<sup>th</sup> September Embassy of Pakistan, The Hague in collaboration with the State Bank of



Pakistan organized a webinar on "SBP INITIATIVES TO FINANCIALLY CONNECT NON-RESIDENT PAKISTANIS (NRPs) WITH THEIR HOMELAND". SBP Team gave a detailed presentation on the benefits of sending remittances through formal channels. They also explained investment schemes for NRPs. Pakistani community in the Netherlands has been making significant contribution to Forex reserves of their homeland.

### Appreciation Certificate.

On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020, Ambassador Shujjat Ali Rathore handed-over an appreciation certificate from Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi to Mr. Anwar Ali Kash, for his outstanding services for the Pakistani community in the Netherlands, during the Pandemic. The Ambassador hoped that Mr. Kash would continue his good work for the community. Mr. Kash, while expressing his gratitude to the Foreign Minister said that such tokens of appreciation infuse renewed spirit in workers like him.



### 8<sup>th</sup> Round of Pakistan-The Netherlands Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC).



The 8<sup>th</sup> round of Pakistan-The Netherlands Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) was held in a virtual format on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Special Secretary (Europe) Dr. Aman Rashid and Director-General for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands,



Mr. Thijs van der Plas, led their respective delegations. The two sides discussed whole range of bilateral relations, including political, economic, trade and investment, climate change, cooperation on multilateral issues and developments in their respective regions. While expressing satisfaction at the steady growth in

bilateral ties, it was reiterated that high-level interactions were necessary for further strengthening relations. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the level of cooperation at international fora, including at the UN and agreed to continue supporting each other.

### Ambassador's Advisory Council of Businessmen.

Ambassador of Pakistan to the Netherlands has constituted an Advisory Council of Businessmen ('the Council') to seek real inputs from Pakistani businessmen. The members have been selected from amongst the businessmen involved in trade with Pakistan in the Netherlands. The first meeting was held with the businessmen. A brief presentation on current bilateral economic relations was given followed by a discussion on priority sectors for enhancing Pakistan's export share in the Dutch Markets.



### Ambassador's Advisory Council of Professionals.

A meeting with Pakistani Professionals was held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Proposals put forth by the members to attract Dutch FDI were discussed. The Ambassador also briefed members about Science Diplomacy initiative of MoFA and urged them to register on the web portal to become part of the knowledge community of Pakistan.



### Economic Diplomacy.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi presided-over the second virtual meeting on Economic diplomacy with the Ambassador's of select missions from around the world. In his briefing to the Foreign Minister Ambassador Shujjat Ali Rathore briefed in detail about the steps taken by the Pakistan Embassy Netherland to enhance bilateral trade as well as attracting more Dutch investment in Pakistan. The Foreign Minister appreciated the efforts made by the Embassy, resulting in significant increase of exports to the Netherlands. The Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi urged all Mission to make Economic diplomacy as their key priority.



### OPCW's Virtual Meetings.

During the pandemic, the Mission actively participated in all OPCW related activities. Most of the interaction was virtual. Pakistan has been a founding member of the OPCW and also held the prestigious position of member of Executive Council since its inception. As Member of OPCW's Advisory Body on Budget & Finance, Mr. Aizaz Khan, DPR to OPCW, attended all of its meetings in the virtual format.



DPR to OPCW, Mr. Aizaz Khan speaking at one of the OPCW virtual meetings.

### Rotary End Polio Now Tulip Campaign 'At The International School of The Hague.

On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Embassy of Pakistan, The Hague joined 'Rotary End Polio Now Tulip Team' to mark solidarity with the partners in fight against the disease in Pakistan. Ambassador Rathore planted tulips to launch the campaign. Rotary took the initiative to free the world of the illness poliomyelitis in 1985. This initiative was embraced by the WHO, UNICEF and CDC. Later the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation joined this mammoth task. Since 2013, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has matched every US\$1 Rotary commits to polio eradication by US\$2, up to \$100 million per year. Approximately US\$ 1 billion is spent yearly in these programmes.



Ambassador Rathore informed the audience about the hard work put in by Govt. of Pakistan to eradicate this debilitating disease. Through July-to-September, vaccination campaigns of unprecedented scale i.e. 40 Million children were vaccinated by 260,000 workers, who braved all the odds. Later, Ambassador Rathore along with Ambassador of Afghanistan to the Netherlands H.E. Mohammad Asif Rahimi to launch 'Rotary End Polio Now Tulip Team' campaign planted tulips in the lawn of The International School of the Hague.





### Meeting of CFC Governing Council.

Thirty Second meeting of the General Council of CFC was held on 8-9 December 2020. Due to Covid-19, meeting was held online. The Ambassador, in his message to the members, highlighted the social and economic problems that Pakistan and other developing countries have undergone recently.



Reiterating Pakistan's commitment to support in achieving its objectives, the Ambassador impressed upon the developed countries and the international organisations to support CFC by enhancing their assistance to help stabilize the commodity sectors of the developing countries that have suffered a severe set back in the pandemic.

### Bilateral/OPCW/Community Relations/Commercial Interactions The twenty-fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP-25) held in The Hague.

Due to the Covid-19, restrictions were placed by the Dutch Government to hold the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP-25) in two sessions. Therefore, it was decided in the General Committee that the first



phase of the CSP-25 will be held from 30<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and the second phase will be held before the end of the April 2021. Pakistan's delegation was led by Ambassador Shujat Ali Rathore and assisted by Deputy Permanent Representative to OPCW, Mr. Aizaz Khan.

### Webinars

#### 1. Remittances / Roshan Digital Account (SBP on board).

A webinar was arranged on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 as a follow-up of the first session chaired by Ambassador on 25 Sep, 2020. The webinar received positive response from the Community. It helped explaining issues related to remittances. The Community feedback helps improve services by SBP and the commercial banks, which is evident from the fact that remittances from the Netherlands have reached US\$ 22.5 Million with 78% growth in first six months of this FY.

#### 2. Investment Opportunities in Maritime Sector of Pakistan (M/O Maritime, TDAP Services Div. and BOI on board) held on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct, 20.

Around 20 Dutch companies having global presence participated in the event. The Ambassador and other speakers highlighted opportunities in maritime sector of Pakistan. Three companies Kotug, Boskalis and Port-Xchange showed their interest for submitting project proposals / B2B meetings.



#### 3. IT/ ITES Sector of Pakistan held on 02<sup>nd</sup> November, 2020 with collaboration of BOI, TDAP Services Div. and PSEB on board.

The Ambassador chaired and opened the session by highlighting the quality of Pakistan's IT Sector professionals and the recent growth of services in the sector. A presentation was given by MD PSEB to Dutch companies. Dutch companies showed keen interest for starting JVs in Pakistan. As a follow up, B2B sessions have been planned as per demands from both sides.

#### 4. Export of Food and Packaging Sectors (with TDAP and Dutch Exhibitors).

The event focused on potential of specialized foods (vegan, free-from and organic) exports and future trends/ requirement of packaging in EU. Leading exporters and trade bodies in food sector participated. The Ambassador urged Pakistani exporters to join the Expo being held in June 2021 to explore the Dutch market, which offers immense potential in this sector. Pakistani exhibitors are being facilitated for participation in the Expo as follow-up

#### 5. Tourism Attractions and Investment Opportunities held on Dec, 2020 (with the collaboration of TDAP Services Div, PTDC, BOI and provincial Tourism Depts).

Around 60 participants, including Dutch individuals, organisations, and tour operators along with Pakistani counter-parts attended the event. The Ambassador briefed about variety of touring attraction in Pakistan. In response, 3 companies have shown interest in taking tourist delegations to Pakistan by April 2021. Dutch companies also expressed interest in exploring Aviation touring potentials.

