

**Developments at the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of Conference of States Parties of OPCW**

On 20-22<sup>th</sup> of April the second part of the 25<sup>th</sup> session of Conference of States Parties (CSP) was held. Ambassador led the Pakistan delegation.

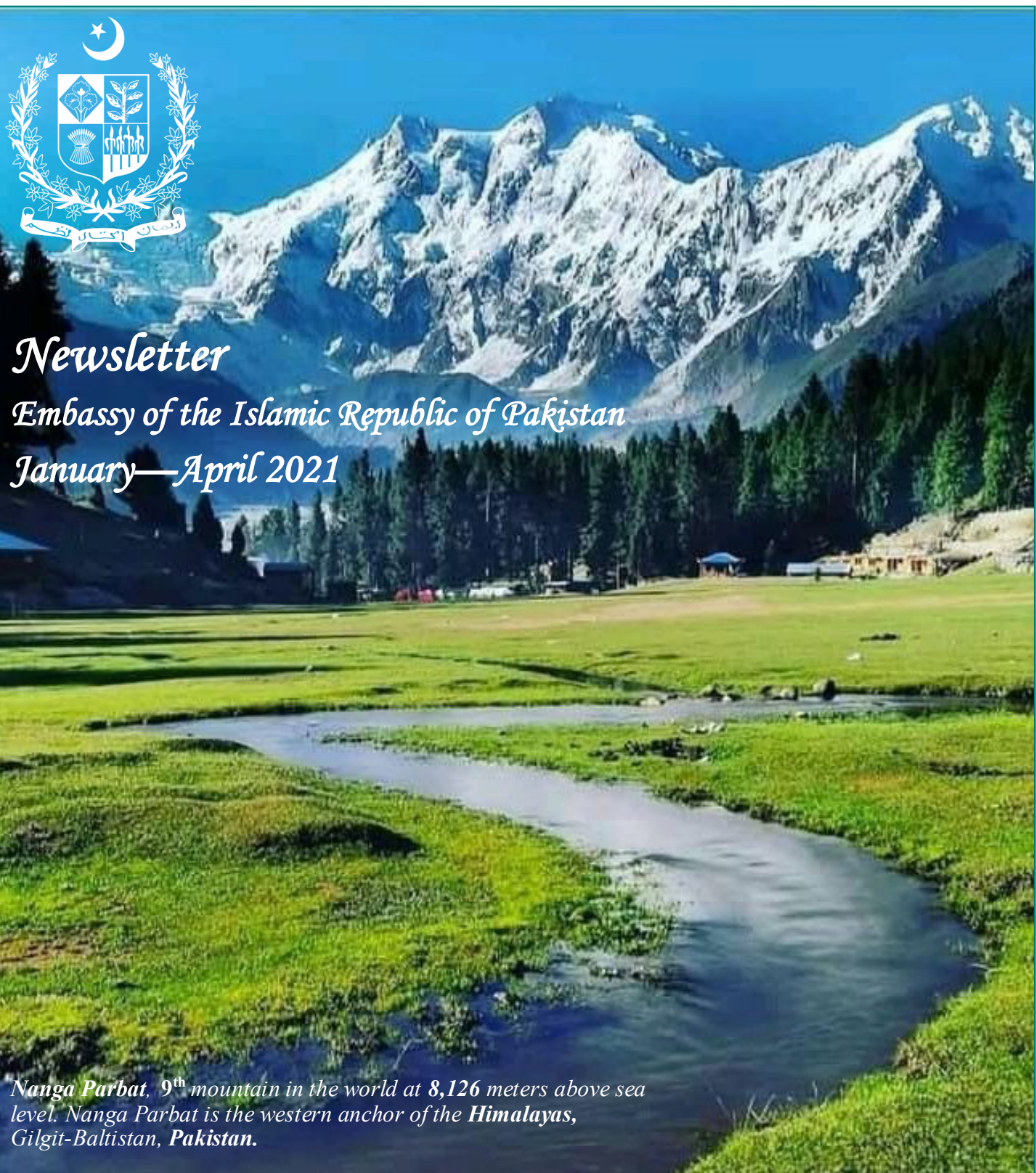


**Exports to Netherlands Increase in the New Financial year**

During July 2020 to April, 2021 total Exports of Pakistan grew by 19.8 % to the tune of US\$ 1041 Million while the imports recorded were US\$ 383.93 Million, showing a decrease of 33.5% (Source: M/O Commerce/PRAL). Total FDI Inflow during July 2020 to March 2021 was US\$ 187.5 Million registering a growth of 65 %. Total Remittances have been US\$ 33.7 Million registering a decline of 30.9% (Source: SBP). The reason for decline of remittances is due to use of Roshan Digital Accounts by the diaspora.



*Newsletter*  
*Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan*  
*January—April 2021*



*Nanga Parbat, 9<sup>th</sup> mountain in the world at 8,126 meters above sea level. Nanga Parbat is the western anchor of the Himalayas, Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan.*

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### Meting with Secretary of State for Justice and Security

On 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, Ambassador Shujjat Ali Rathore met with Ms. Ankie Broekers Knol, Secretary of State for Justice & Security (Minister for Migration of the Netherlands) at her office to discuss progress in Pakistan- EU Cooperation in the area of migration and Pakistan's interest in setting up a bilateral mechanism with the Netherlands. In this regard Ms. Knol stated that the



Dutch side was ready to send a technical delegation to Pakistan and discuss issues related to migration, human trafficking and human smuggling.



### Meeting with IKEA Management

On 20<sup>th</sup> January, Ambassador Shujjat Ali Rathore held a meeting with Mr. Ehsan Turbaz, International Relations Leader of IKEA, a multinational conglomerate dealing in 12,000 products. The objective of the meeting was to persuade IKEA management to consider Pakistan for setting up their manufacturing plants and retail stores as well as increasing their sourcing from Pakistan. Mr. Turbaz stated that IKEA



is buying around 40% of its textile products from Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. The Ambassador presented Pakistan as a fit case for IKEA to explore business opportunities.

### Meeting on Reducing Divisive Stereotypes in School Textbooks



On 21<sup>th</sup> January 2021, Mr. Aizaz Khan DHM had a valuable conversation with Professor Jozef Ritzen on the subject of 'Reducing Divisive Stereotypes in School Textbooks'. Prof. Ritzen (born 3 October 1945) is a retired Dutch politician and economist. He received his PhD degree in 1976 from the Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam with the thesis "Education, economic growth, and income inequality metrics". The thesis received the Winkler Prins Prize as the best economics dissertation in the period 1975–1978. Prof. Ritzen postulates that by removing devise stereotypes in text books, both India & Pakistan could move forward in their bilateral relations.



### Ambassador's Meeting with Members of the Advisory Council of Businessmen

A Meeting of the Ambassador's Advisory Council of Businessmen was held on 31.03.2021. Presiding the meeting, the Ambassador briefed the members about the current state of trade, FDI and the remittances. All the key indicators were in favour of Pakistan, especially the exports which registered a robust growth despite the corona crises.

The council also discussed problems / issues faced by business community. Ambassador invited suggestions about enhancing exports of Pakistan to the Netherlands. The Members were also briefed about the virtual trade show being planned by the Mission. The members appreciated Roshan Digital Account initiative of the Govt. of Pakistan and acknowledged its popularity in the Pakistani diaspora.



### Ambassadors' Meeting with Director of Clingendael (Netherlands Institute of International Relations)

On 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021, the Ambassador had a virtual interaction with Mr. Ron Ton, Director of Clingendael (Netherlands Institute of International Relations) in which he discussed the possibility for extending tailored training programme for the Foreign Service officers of Pakistan aimed to equip them with modern



### Ambassador's Meeting with the Executive Board of the Common Fund for Commodities – CFC

On 20<sup>th</sup> April, the Ambassador participated in 71<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Executive Board of the Common fund for Commodities - CFC (an intergovernmental financial institution established within the framework of the United Nations.) which provides financing to organizations and enterprises engaged in commodity value chains in its member countries. The Ambassador appreciated the role of CFC in assisting the developing countries to enhance socioeconomic development of their commodity producers. Besides informing the house of impact of Covid-19 on Pakistan's commodity sector, the Ambassador urged the club of rich economies and donors to increase their contributions for enabling CFC to help contain adverse impacts of Corona crises.





### Ambassador Meets with Mr. Jarmo Stoopman, General Manager of Vopak LNG

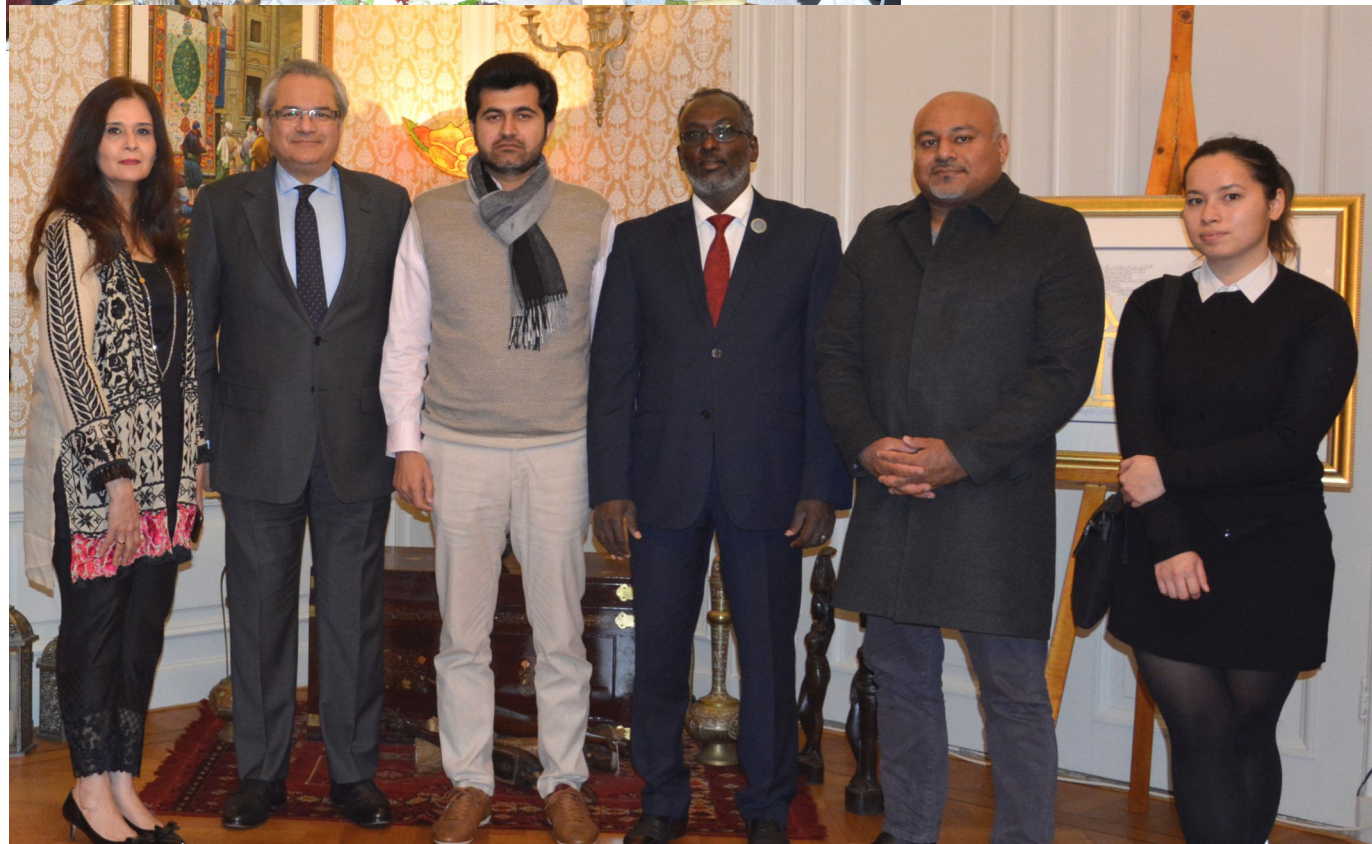
On 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021, the Ambassador held a meeting with Mr. Jarmo Stoopman, General Manager of Vopak LNG Holding B.V. Mr. Jarmo stated that Vopak was generally satisfied with the business in Pakistan, however, issues like delay in allotment and

handing-over of land for the new Terminal needed immediate attention by the Govt. of Pakistan. The Ambassador assured him of full support from the Embassy in raising the issue at the appropriate levels.



### IPC Election Observer Delegation

Ambassador Shujat Ali Rathore hosted a dinner in honour of IPC Election Observers delegation, which visited Netherlands to observe Parliamentary Election of the House of Representatives held from 15 - 17 March.



### Flag Hoisting Ceremony to Commemorate the 81<sup>st</sup> Pakistan Day – 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2021



A flag hoisting ceremony was held at Pakistan House, The Hague to mark the Pakistan Day celebrations. In view of the Covid-19 restrictions, imposed by the Dutch government, the community members attended the event virtually. The ceremony was streamed live on the Embassy's Face book page. National flag was hoisted and messages of the President and Prime Minister for the occasion were read. The Ambassador in his address stated that Pakistan was passing through testing times, as the pandemic had returned with a vengeance for a third time. He advised that the Diaspora should be aware of the severity of the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic and observe the restrictions placed by the government and stay safe. The Ambassador stated that the Government of Pakistan had made economic security as the corner stone of its policy and Paki-

stan had exported goods worth more than US\$ 1 billion to the Netherlands last year. The ceremony ended with prayers for the prosperity, safety and economic stability of Pakistan and for the freedom of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).







### Ambassador Meets Ms. Pascale Grotenhuis

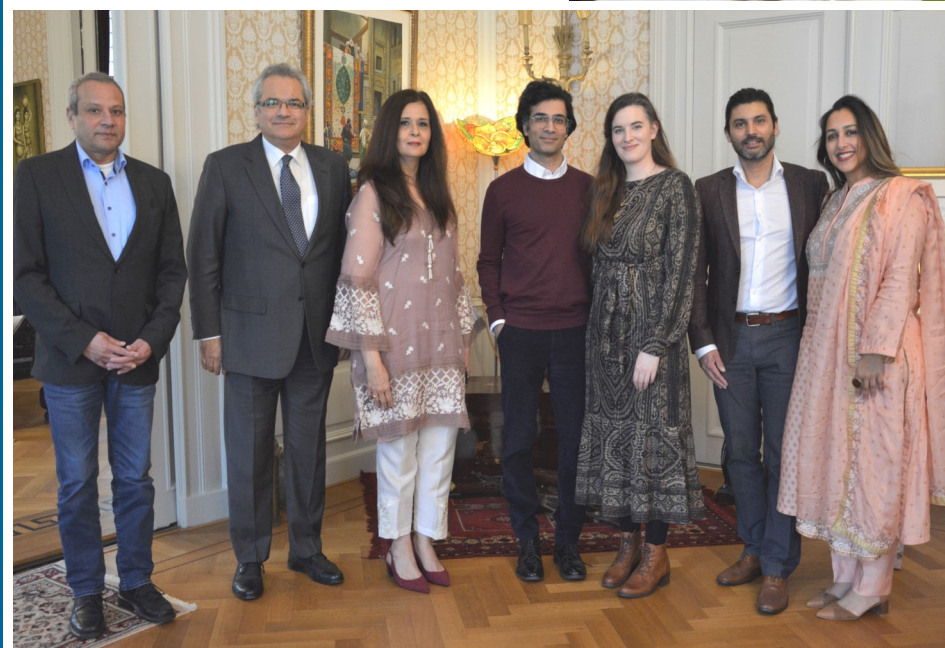
On 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Ms. Pascale Grotenhuis, Director Social Development Department and Ambassador for Women's rights of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, called upon Ambassador Shujjat Ali Rathore and discussed with him avenues of mutual cooperation in the realm of Higher Education and other tailor-made training programmes for Pakistani students and teachers, in the context of 'Orange Knowledge Programme'. The Ambassador stressed that it was essential that Pakistan should be placed in either group 'A' or 'B' countries of 'Orange Knowledge Programme'.

### Ambassador's Meeting with IT Professionals

On 11<sup>th</sup> March, the Ambassador held a meeting with Pakistani entrepreneurs Mr. Saad Ansari and Mr. Yasir Khokhar who have founded an IT company Necterra and developed a product *Ida*. Ida is a Dairy Farmers' (digital) Assistant, helping farmers to run a more productive farm. The product is popular amongst the Dutch farmers and is being exported to 16 countries as well. The Ambassador ap-



preciated achievements of the young entrepreneurs and extended them an invitation to collaborate with the Mission in arranging a webinar on Pak-Netherlands collaboration in Dairy and Livestock sectors. He also urged them to initiate projects in Pakistan to which they agreed.



### Kashmir Solidarity Day Commemorated in The Hague

On the occasion of 5<sup>th</sup> February - Kashmir Solidarity Day, a protest rally by the Kashmir Peace Forum was held in front of the Indian Embassy in The Hague. The protesters in their speeches, demanded that



the Indian government end their gross human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) and give the Kashmiri people their just right of self-determination.

### Ambassador Meets with Mr. Joel Voorderwind, Member of the Dutch Parliament

On 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021, the Ambassador met with Mr. Joel Voorderwing, Member of Dutch Parliament, leader of the Christian Union Political party, which is a part of the coalition government led by Premier Mark Rutte.



### Ambassador Meets with Professor Ilyas IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February, the Ambassador held a meeting with Prof. Ilyas of IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, to explore opportunities for collaboration with the institutions in Pakistan to improve water management and irrigation systems to have a meaningful impact on agriculture and social lives of the farmers.

