

Sacrifice from Neighboring Countries - From Xenel in the news attachment - PAKISTAN TO MAKE ANY SACRIFICE FOR SAUDI ARABIA: PM - Arab News, 01 December 2006

(Arab News, 01 December 2006)

PAKISTAN TO MAKE ANY SACRIFICE FOR SAUDI ARABIA: PM

By Tabinda al-Ghazala 'Pakistan Times' Foreign Correspondent

JEDDAH (Saudi Arabia): Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Thursday vowing to stand by its Saudi brethren said Pakistan will make any sacrifice for the safety, integrity and sovereignty of Saudi Arabia.

Speaking here at a meeting with President of the **Xenel Group Mohammad Alireza**, Prime Minister Aziz spoke of the rich, historic and strategic relationship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in defence, security cooperation and economic areas will continue to flourish in the times ahead.

The event was attended by royal princes, ministers, leading investors, members of the civil society.

He spoke of his meeting with King Abdullah, the custodian of the two holy mosques, on Wednesday and said he was deeply impressed by the charismatic personality.

He also appreciated the vision and desire of King Abdullah in unifying the Ummah to enable it meet future challenges.

The Prime Minister informed the gathering about Pakistan (Js economic growth and achievements in science and technology and said the country was open for business and provided opportunities for growth.

He said Pakistan would help Saudi Arabia in meeting shortage of skilled manpower by sending in more skilled hands in various sectors.

He said Pakistan would require cooperation in all fields and added both the countries were playing a stabilising role in the region.

The Chairman of **XENEL** spoke of his successful business in Pakistan and urged other businessmen to explore the opportunities available.

The Prime Minister also inaugurated the building of Pakistan International School in the Al-Rehab district to meet the long standing demand of the expatriates in Saudi Arabia.

The Prime Minister also unveiled the plaque for the new Consulate Complex building.

Call to Pakistanis

According to another report, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz Thursday asked the Pakistani community working in Saudi Arabia to work with close cooperation with the Saudi brothers and play their due role to promote positive image of the country and further strengthen brotherly relations between the two countries.

Addressing Pakistani community here after inaugurating school building and performing ground breaking ceremony for new building of Consulate General, the Prime Minister said, "Pakistani expatriates are the real ambassador of the country, therefore, they should play their due role to further promote bilateral relations and trade ties."

The Prime Minister asked them to play a more proactive role in bringing the two countries more closer by strengthening business ties and people to people contacts.

He said the purpose of his visit was to enhance ties between the two friendly countries.

The Prime Minister briefed the community about his meetings with King Abdullah and Saudi leadership in Riyadh and Jeddah and said that both the countries have expressed the resolve to further strengthen their ties for the mutual good of the two peoples.

He said his discussions with Saudi leadership were focused on enhanced trade, economic, and diplomatic ties besides defence and security cooperation.

Aziz said the Saudi leaders particularly noted the progress made in the country and said he has discussed the opportunities to further cooperate in all fields.

The Prime Minister apprised the community about the progress made by the country in the past few years.

He told them that the country has moved ahead rapidly in areas of economy and turned it around from the brink of bankruptcy to be one of the top ten reforming countries.

Prime Minister Aziz said poverty has declined, while the per capita income has doubled in the past six years. He said it was all owing to the broad-based reform agenda pursued by the government in social sector, judicial, political and economic spheres.

He said there were still several challenges, but the government was cognizant of these and taking measures to address these.

Aziz also informed the community about country's role in strengthening the Ummah and for projecting the true image of Islam.

The Prime Minister while talking about the recently passed Women Protection Act said, the objective was to bring about amendments to remove legal lacunas. He said no law in the country could be made that is against the injunctions of Quran and Sunnah, according to the Constitution of Pakistan.

Shaukat Aziz said the parliament for the first time in the country's history will complete its term and free, fair and transparent election will be held on time.

He said the Pakistan Muslim League government was committed to the betterment of the people and initiated several development schemes.

Shaukat Aziz said media in Pakistan is free and about 50 new tv channels in private sector are working.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan has given certain options to get the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir resolved through negotiations and desires a just and peaceful solution that is acceptable to the Kashmiri people.

Regarding Afghanistan he said Pakistan desires a strong, stable country as any lawlessness can have a negative impact on its neighbours.

He said Pakistan has provided a grant of US 250 million dollars for the development in Afghanistan.

Referring to recent visit of President Hu Jintao of China to Pakistan, he said the two countries have entered a Free Trade Agreement and new avenues of cooperation have opened with greater collaboration in defence, science and technology.

The Prime Minister appreciating the new building of Pakistani school in Jeddah expressed the hope that it will provide a chance to the Pakistani community to get better and quality education.

The Consul General of Pakistan in Jeddah Masood Akhtar speaking on the occasion highlighted the details of the new building of the Consulate.

He said Pakistani community donated generously for the help of the quake victims and sent Rs. 50 million to Pakistan

<http://www.pakistantimes.net/2006/12/15/top2.htm>