

Pak envoys discuss foreign policy challenges in neighbourhood

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Islamabad: Pakistan's ambassadors to 14 countries yesterday began a three-day meeting here to discuss the foreign policy challenges the country faces in the "immediate and extended neighbourhood."

The envoys' conference is being held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in which Pakistan's ambassadors to 14 countries of South Asian Association of Regional Countries (SAARC) and Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) are taking part.

"The conference will focus on the foreign policy challenges that Pakistan faces in its immediate and extended neighbourhood, in the light of developments within the region," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

The conference was inaugurated by Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz, who asked the envoys to be proactive in their diplomacy in order to meet the challenges.

The envoys will also deliberate on connectivity in the region and would formulate recommendations for the consideration of the leadership.

According to sources, Pakistan's relations with India and Afghanistan will be prominent in the discussion.

The envoys will also discuss how to increase links with the Central Asian countries as Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is keen to deepen ties with these nations.

In the meeting, the envoys would formulate policy guidelines for the government.