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PRESIDENT DR. ARIF ALVI**

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During the one-day visit, Sheikh Mohamed also affirmed his keenness to develop cooperation with Pakistan to further improve relations between the two countries.  
"My close relationship with Pakistan started at a very young age, during my childhood. And I'm lucky today to be in Pakistan in my first official foreign visit during 2019. My sincere wishes for success and prosperity to the government and people of Pakistan," official news agency WAM quoted Sheikh Mohamed as saying.

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Spouse of Egyptian Ambassador and President of the Heads of Missions' Spouses Group**

Social media is an excellent platform to display the beauty of Pakistan and how attractive it is as a tourist destinations... We are trying to explore and create opportunities that allow us to promote our cultures in Pakistan, make stronger social connections with the spouses of the Pakistani authorities and benefit the Pakistani community at large... Our main outreach activity at the moment is a book comprising more than 130 recipes from 48 countries and we plan to launch it in March 2019

**Exclusive Interview of  
Fawad Rana  
Chairman Lahore Qalandars**

My aim is to raise the profile of PSL & LQ onto the global stage to help Shine a positive light on Pakistan



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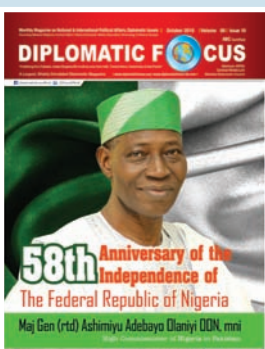
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Mian Fazal Elahi

Balancing relations with all the Gulf countries has been a successful point of Pakistan's foreign policy. Especially ever since the assumption of power by Imran Khan, the focus of government has been further strengthening the relations with these friendly countries and this is reason we saw not only Prime Minister Imran Khan visiting Saudi Arabia and the UAE for a number of times but the delegations from the Gulf also came in good numbers which is a clear reflection that the bonds are further cementing.

Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Qatar was also important one to further the bilateral relations with the fraternal country which have seen steady growth in recent years. The subsequent meetings of Prime Minister Imran Khan both with the Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani and his counterpart Abdullah Bin Nasser Bin Khalifa Al Thani provided an opportunity to both sides to discuss future cooperation in energy as well as other important sectors. During his stay, PM Imran Khan also held important meetings with Qatari investors and businessmen who reportedly expressed great interest to invest in Pakistan. As the government is focused on ease of doing business and taking measures to facilitate the investors, we are confident that just like Saudi Arabia, UAE and Malaysia, the investors from Qatar will also be forthcoming and take advantage of investment opportunities in different sectors

The articles, columns, Opinions are published in Magazine in good faith. However, the contents of these writings may not necessarily match the views of the Editor/Publisher/Organization.

### Important Announcement

It has been announced for the general information that Mr. Mian Assad Ullah has been appointed as Editor In Chief of the Monthly "Diplomatic Focus" for the UK/EU Edition. He is entitled to participate official /non-officials diplomatic engagements, events, national days, social evenings/gatherings, press conferences/interviews and can be contacted for all kinds of stuff including articles, supplements and advertisements etc). It is requested to all Diplomatic missions and government high officials of UK, please contact with Mr. Mian Assad Ullah on His mailing address, 4 Ipswich Road, SW17 9RH, London. Cell number: +44-7961005954/ 2087694850, Email: uk.diplomaticfocus@gmail.com, assadmian1@gmail.com



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**DIPLOMATIC FOCUS**

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# Pakistan confers Saudi Army Chief with Order of Excellence award



# President expressed satisfaction at close defence cooperation between Pakistan & KSA



By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Dr Arif Alvi conferred Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon Chief of the General Staff, Royal Saudi Armed Forces, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia General Fayadh Bin Hamed Bin Ragad Al-Rowaily in a special Investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, NI (M) and other senior officers were also present during the ceremony. Later on, Chief of the General Staff, Royal Saudi Armed Forces also called on President Dr. Arif Alvi. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Pakistan attaches great importance to its unique and brotherly relations with Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which are based on mutual trust and wishes to expand cooperation in all fields.

He expressed satisfaction at close defence cooperation between the two countries which has further scope for growth particularly in the field of defence production. He also highlighted the ever accelerating trade and investment relations between the both countries. He underlined that Pakistani expatriates are making tremendous contribution to the progress and development of Saudi Arabia and they can play an important role in implementation of Vision 2030 projects. Chief of the General Staff, Royal Saudi Armed Forces, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia General Fayadh Bin Hamed Bin Ragad Al-Rowaily thanked the President and the Government of Pakistan for this honour and hoped that bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries would further grow in

future.

The Saudi Army Chief also co-chaired the fifth round of Pak-KSA JMCC meeting with Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Committee General Zubair Mahmood Hayat. Among other things, the meeting focused on regional security situation, bilateral military engagements, and training cooperation between the two countries.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoy deep-rooted defense ties, with the armed forces of both the countries conducting joint exercises in Pakistan and the Kingdom on a regular basis.

Both the nations enjoy multi-faceted cooperation at various levels, too. Recently, Islamabad and Riyadh agreed to further enhance the existing cooperation in diverse fields.







## Pakistan greatly values

*its close fraternal and brotherly relations with* **Saudi Arabia**

**PRESIDENT DR. ARIF ALVI**

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring

President Dr. Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan greatly values its close fraternal and brotherly relations with Saudi Arabia and is also desirous of further enhancing these relations in all fields. The President said this while talking to Governor of Tabuk, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia HH Prince Fahad Bin Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, who called on him in Islamabad. The President emphasized that recent leadership level interactions will further cement the relations between the two countries. He expressed satisfaction over the accelerating trade and investment relations. He underscored that Pakistan remains committed to the protection of

Harmain Sharifain. The President stated that Pakistani expatriates are making valuable contributions in the progress and development of Saudi Arabia. He added that Pakistani community can play an important role in Vision 2030 projects. Governor Tabuk, HH Prince Fahad Bin Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud said that the people and Government of Saudi Arabia hold the people and Government of Pakistan in very high esteem. He further said that strong brotherly relations which exist between the two countries are mainly because of close people-to-people contact and the services and role of Pakistani community in the progress and development of Saudi Arabia. He hoped that



Saudi Arabia. "We want to further strengthen cooperation through frequent exchanges" Sanjrani said. Chairman Senate said that Pakistan wants peace in the region as durable peace is direly needed for sustainable development. The Senate Chairman also recalled his recent visit to Saudi Arabia and said that high level interactions provided an opportunity to discuss important issues including ways and means to further boost bilateral cooperation through investment. He also thanked the Saudi side for warm welcome and hospitality during his visit and termed it a manifestation of cordial and brotherly bond between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. He said that the visit would further pave the way for enhanced institutional linkages and deepen cooperation in different sectors.







# Qatar Emir extended his support for Pakistan in diverse fields



By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring

Prime Minister Imran Khan met the Qatari leadership and discussed bilateral relations, with a focus on economic cooperation between the two countries. The Qatari premier also hosted a dinner in the honour of the visiting delegation.

Prime Minister Imran Khan held a one-on-one meeting with Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani at Diwan-e-Amiri and discussed strengthening of trade relations, as well as joint investments, energy, food security and military cooperation.

According to Qatar News Agency (QNA), the





# Prime Minister Imran Khan thanked Qatari leadership for the announcement of providing jobs to as many as 100,000 Pakistanis

delegation-level talks were also held between the prime minister and the emir. All issues of bilateral nature, especially strengthening of the economic and trade relations between the two countries, were discussed during the one-on-one and delegation-level talks.

The two leaders also exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues of mutual concern.

The prime minister was accompanied by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Finance Minister Asad Umar, Petroleum Minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan, PM's Adviser Abdul Razak Dawood, Special Assistant Syed Zulfiqar Abbas Bukhari, Board of Investment Chairman Haroon Sharif, Chairperson Task Force on Energy Nadeem Babar and Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua.

A joint statement issued at the conclusion of the prime minister's two days visit said that the "Qatari Emir also extended his support for Pakistan in diverse fields". It said that the prime minister visited Qatar on the invitation of Sheikh Tamim.

In the one-on-one meeting between Premier Imran and Emir Sheikh Tamim, matters related to bilateral relations and international scenario came under discussion. Sheikh Tamim also congratulated Khan for assuming charge as the prime minister of Pakistan, the statement added.

The joint declaration said that Prime Minister Imran Khan thanked Qatari leadership for the announcement of providing jobs to as many as 100,000 Pakistanis. Khan also invited Qatari Emir to visit Pakistan, which was accepted by Sheikh Tamim, the statement read.

Also, chairmen and senior representatives of various Qatari business organisations and groups separately met the prime minister and discussed matters of bilateral and mutual







interest. Those who met the prime minister included Sheikh Faisal Bin Qasim Bin Faisal Al-Thani, Chairman Qatar Business Association; Hassan Al Thawadi, Secretary General Supreme Committee for Legacy and Delivery (FIFA 2022); Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim bin Mohammad Al Thani, Chairman Qatar Chamber and Sheikh Nawaf bin Nasser bin Khaled Al Thani of the NBK Group.

The visit was at the invitation of the country's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. Upon their arrival, the delegation was received by Qatar's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Soltan bin Saad al-Muraikhi at Hamad International Airport.

In December last year, Qatar had opened a visa facilitation centre in Islamabad for swift processing of visas of members of the Pakistan workforce wishing to work in Qatar. Doha has also promised 100,000 jobs for Pakistani workers, and the government is in talks with the Qatari government to adjust skilled members of the labour force returning from Saudi Arabia.

Prime Minister Imran Khan met the Chairman of Qatar Businessmen Association (QBA) Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Bin Faisal Al-Thani accompanied by Mr. Hussain Alfardan, two of Middle East's leading businessmen. QBA expressed interest of its businessmen in investing in Pakistan. The investment areas include hospitality, large-scale manufacturing, transportation and food production. This meeting was followed by a meeting with Mr. Hassan Al-Thawadi, Secretary General of the Supreme Committee of Delivery & Legacy who briefed the Prime Minister on FIFA 2022 preparations. He also promised to focus on encouraging skilled manpower import from Pakistan. QBA businessman Sheikh Nawaf Bin Nasser Bin Khaled Al-Thani also called on the Prime Minister representing the NBK group. The Prime Minister also welcomed a delegation of Qatar Chamber led by Sheikh Khalifa Bin Jassim Bin Mohammed Al-Thani accompanied by Qatar's leading importers. The meeting concluded with a resolve to increase imports from Pakistan and providing a bilateral framework of trade which will enhance





# **Sheikh Tamim also congratulated Khan for assuming charge as the prime minister of Pakistan**

Pakistani exports to Qatar.

Meanwhile, representatives of the Sikh community in Qatar called on Prime Minister Khan and thanked him for the ground-breaking of the Kartarpur corridor. They said that by laying the foundation stone of Kartarpur corridor, Prime Minister Khan had won the hearts of Sikh community.







# Pakistan & UAE

## wows to more cooperation

By Mian Fazal Elahi

On the invitation of Prime Minister Imran Khan, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, paid a state visit to Pakistan. His Highness was accompanied by a high level delegation comprising cabinet members and senior officials. The Crown Prince was received by the Prime Minister at the Nur Khan Airbase, and accorded a ceremonial reception at the Prime Minister's House, which was followed by a tete-a-tete and delegation level talks. In a special gesture of warmth and cordiality, Prime Minister Imran Khan accompanied the special guest to the Prime Minister's House. The Crown Prince visited Pakistan after twelve years. Crown





# THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED THANKS FOR THE GENEROUS BALANCE OF PAYMENT SUPPORT OF US\$3 BILLION

Prince, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed and Prime Minister Imran Khan held



wide ranging talks focusing on all areas of bilateral relations. Taking note of the positive trajectory of relations, the two leaders expressed their determination to further strengthen this historic and mutually beneficial relationship.

During the one-day visit, Sheikh Mohamed also affirmed his keenness to develop cooperation with Pakistan to further improve relations between the two countries.

"My close relationship with Pakistan







started at a very young age, during my childhood. And I'm lucky today to be in Pakistan in my first official foreign visit during 2019. My sincere wishes for success and prosperity to the government and people of Pakistan," official news agency

WAM quoted Sheikh Mohamed as saying. He also expressed optimism about the new generation leading Pakistan. "They provide chances at building hope and establishing prosperous foreign relations over years to come."



They also discussed various issues of regional and global importance, and noted that a complete identity of views on these issues serves as the basis of long-lasting and trusted friendship. Prime Minister Imran Khan briefed the Crown Prince on the situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the plight of Kashmiris. The two leaders underscored the importance of effectively pursuing the various initiatives taken for a strengthened strategic bilateral economic relationship including working on a long term investment framework agreement. They also resolved to take all necessary measures to deal with matters related to trade enhancement, and decided to form a Task Force to achieve this objective. The Prime Minister expressed thanks for the generous Balance of Payment support of US\$3 billion. He noted that this financial support shows the UAE's continued commitment and friendship that has remained steadfast over the years. He also welcomed the UAE's interest in investing in Pakistan's oil and gas, logistics, ports and construction sectors. Prime Minister Khan and Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed noted that the forthcoming Pakistan-UAE Joint Ministerial Commission, to be co-chaired by the respective Foreign Ministers in Abu Dhabi in February 2019, can play a pivotal role in chalking out a comprehensive roadmap, and in fast tracking the approval of pending agreements and MoUs. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the on-going defence and security cooperation, and resolved to explore further collaboration in the areas of training, joint exercises and defence production. The Prime Minister congratulated the leadership of the UAE for declaring 2019 as the year of Tolerance. He noted that this was the best way to pay tribute to the vision and legacy of HH Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. The two leaders reiterated their strong belief that only by espousing the principles of tolerance, inclusivity, non-interference and focusing on a people centric development agenda, can the region attain sustainable peace and stability. They



strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and expressed their resolve to work closely to root out this scourge. The Crown Prince recognized the efforts and unparalleled sacrifices made by Pakistan to eliminate terrorism and extremism. Prime Minister Imran Khan thanked the UAE leadership and its people for their continued commitment to Pakistan's socioeconomic development in the shape of Pakistan Assistance Programme. He thanked His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for his support to eradicate polio from Pakistan. Prime Minister Imran Khan briefed the UAE leadership about his government's people centric reform agenda, and the steps taken to promote transparency and accountability at all levels of government. To counter white collar crimes including money laundering, the two leaders instructed the concerned authorities to expedite the finalization of the Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement. The Prime

## PM Imran Khan congratulated the leadership of the UAE for declaring 2019 as the year of Tolerance

Minister briefed the Crown Prince about the efforts Pakistan was making to support and facilitate the Afghan-owned and Afghan-led reconciliation process. He also appreciated the role UAE was playing by hosting reconciliation talks in Abu Dhabi. The two leaders agreed to work closely for the lasting peace and stability of Afghanistan. The visit underscored the strength and substance of the Pakistan-UAE special relationship, which is based on the spirit of mutual affection and deep trust, and is rooted in age old civilizational, religious, cultural and commercial affinities. The two leaders expressed their resolve that while building on this strong and proud legacy, they would continue to strive for progress, prosperity and stability of both the UAE and Pakistan. The Crown Prince expressed his sincere appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and his delegation.

\*\*\*





By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Agency



President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan has always remained a steadfast supporter of United Nations and the principle of its charter and will continue to play its active role in its support. The President said this while talking to President of UN General Assembly Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces, who called on him in Islamabad. President Dr Arif Alvi drew the attention of the UN General Assembly's President to the atrocities being committed by Indian security forces in Indian Occupied Kashmir. President Dr. Arif Alvi underlined that national agenda of Pakistan perfectly aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations. He said that Pakistan is proud to have contributed substantially to global peace through our robust participation in UN Peacekeeping Missions. He emphasized that we will continue to play our role to making this world a better, safer and more prosperous place for all. Discussing the UN Security Council Reform, President Dr. Arif Alvi underscored that it is an important issue for all member states. He stressed that Pakistan wants this reform process to proceed on the basis of consensus which should be reflective of the aspiration of all member states. On the occasion, President UN General Assembly said that at the UN we are trying to make this "Parliament of the World", a body more relevant to the needs of the people around the world. President Dr. Arif Alvi also commended the vision of President of UN General Assembly Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces and hoped that UN will be further strengthened during her tenure and will make considerable headway in conflict prevention and resolution, and in addressing major outstanding issues on its agenda including Jammu & Kashmir.

President of the UN General Assembly, Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa, called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at his office. The Prime Minister commended the President for her leadership and efforts aimed at empowering the disadvantaged and marginalized people, noting that these priorities were in tune with the Governments' people-centric agenda. He also briefed the President on Government's plans for creation of jobs for young Pakistanis, launching of a massive poverty alleviation programme, five million housing units and billion tree tsunami. The Prime Minister drew the attention of the President to the massive human rights violations in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir that have been documented in the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights report of June 2018. He called early establishment of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate these abuses, as recommended by the UN. Referring to blasphemous caricatures, the Prime Minister conveyed the deep anguish of the people of Pakistan on such attempts to hurt the feelings of billions of Muslims. The

# UNGA President lauded Pakistan's efforts for peace & reconciliation in Afghanistan





Prime Minister urged the President to play her role in dissuading elements that carried out such hurtful acts. The importance of building harmony and inter-religious understanding and dialogue was also underlined. The General Assembly President expressed deep appreciation to the Prime Minister for pursuing an agenda that is anchored in the welfare of people. She also lauded Pakistan's efforts for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan and its exemplary hospitality of millions of Afghan refugees.

H.E María Fernanda Espinosa President United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) also called on the Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Dr Sania Nishtar at BISP headquarters Islamabad. Dr. Maleeha Lodhi Pakistan's Permanent representative to United Nations also attended the meeting along with other representatives from United Nations. Chairperson BISP, while welcoming the delegation, briefed in detail about the overall scope and operational aspects of the program. H.E María Fernanda Espinosa appreciated the work and effort being put in by the organization at the national scale for poverty alleviation and socio-economic activities in the country. Terming the program as "Revolutionary Program", she expressed that it is more of a complete strategy for poverty reduction, which will have surely far-reaching impact on the society.







By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Afghan President Muhammad Ashraf Ghani made a telephone call to Prime Minister Imran Khan to discuss the recent efforts for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. President Ghani expressed his gratitude for Pakistan's sincere facilitation of these efforts, initiated by the US Special Representative for Peace and Reconciliation in Afghanistan, Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad. Prime Minister Imran Khan assured President Ghani that Pakistan was making sincere efforts for a negotiated settlement of the conflict in Afghanistan through an inclusive peace process, as part of shared responsibility. President Ghani invited the Prime Minister to visit Afghanistan at his earliest convenience. Prime Minister Khan reciprocated by inviting President Ghani to visit Pakistan. Both leaders also agreed to remain engaged and create an environment for resolving all outstanding issues.

Later on, Special Representative of the United States of America for Afghanistan Reconciliation, Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad concluded his visit to Pakistan to follow up on the discussions held in December.

During the visit, Special Representative Khalilzad met Prime Minister Imran Khan, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Secretary Tahmina Janjua, Chief of the Army Staff Qamar Javed Bajwa and members of the diplomatic corps in the federal capital said a statement issued by the US Embassy here.

During the consultations, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to advance the Afghan peace process.

Ambassador Khalilzad highlighted that all countries in the region would benefit from peace in Afghanistan.

## President Ghani expressed his gratitude for Pakistan's sincere facilitation

### Efforts for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan







## ZULFIKAR BUKHARI MEETS IRAQI PRESIDENT

# Pakistani labor force in Iraq came under discussion

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Zulfikar Bukhari, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development, called on Iraqi President, Barham Salih, at his office in Baghdad. Both the dignitaries discussed the issues of mutual interests. Pakistani labor force in Iraq came under discussion. Zulfikar Bukhari apprised the Iraqi President that Pakistan seeks an increase in its labor force in Iraq amid the development activities in the country. The

meeting included the agenda of importing more Pakistani skilled and non-skilled manpower to Iraq. Zulfikar Bukhari said that the economic potential of Iraq is not to be underestimated. The economic possibilities in the country present unprecedented opportunities for Pakistani workforce, he added. Zulfikar Bukhari said that all the economic sectors in Iraq have the potential to see extraordinary growth in future and Pakistan has ample supply of manpower that can prove to be crucial for

the development activities in Iraq. Both the dignitaries agreed upon creating a mechanism to increase supply of Pakistani manpower to Iraq on the occasion, Zulfikar Bukhari emphasized that the government of Pakistan is committed to facilitate overseas Pakistanis. More opportunities will present themselves to Pakistanis in future, he said. There is a positive response being received from Gulf countries for the import of skilled and non-skilled manpower from Pakistan.

The economic potential of Iraq is  
not to be underestimated:  
Zulfikar Bukhari



# AMAN

## An Initiative to Collaborative Peace

By Sagheer Ahmad

Robert D Kaplan contends that the Greater Indian Ocean, stretching eastward from the Horn of Africa including Indian Subcontinent all the way to the Indonesian archipelago and beyond may comprise a map as iconic to the 21st century as Europe was to the 20th. With all the geopolitics in motion, he hoped that, this century will be less violent (relatively peaceful) [connotation mine] than the last one, but to a similar degree, it could have a recognizable geography. So today's Greater Indian Ocean is Yesterday's heartland. In this greater water stretch that there lies a ganglia of global energy routes and quite seemingly inexorable rise of developing Asian nations.

The major part of this recognizable geography is its western half which has remained at the spot light of maritime, economic, military and diplomatic activities in the post cold war era. The zone is a vital conduit that offers trade routes to Africa, the Asia-Pacific region, the Middle East, and Australia but is equally challenged by a proliferation of security threats. The transnational nature of these threats and vast but relatively less regulated sea realm required a collaborative approach at regional as well as international level.

Pakistan is a major player in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and is playing its role as a responsible maritime nation to promote regional peace and harmony. In the same



spirit it embarked upon an initiative in 2007 called AMAN series of Exercises. It has also been a chief contributor in Combined Task Forces (CTF) and initiator of Regional Maritime Security Patrol (RMSP) while still retaining its active engagement with CTFs. The RMSP has the potential to draw regional countries to join hands in a coordinated framework that assigns the maritime security mandate of the region to the countries that are located within it. While seas used to be regarded as common heritage of mankind in pre UN Convention on Law of the Sea (1982) era, the newer coordinated initiatives subject them under collective responsibility in the Kaplan's less violent 21st century especially in the western Indian Ocean. In the words of Quaid e Azam, one of our founding principle of state was to "have peace within and peace without". That was to live peacefully and maintain cordial / friendly

relations with the world at large including our neighbours. Recently in his message on Defence Day of Pakistan, Prime Minister Imran Khan said that "Pakistan believes in peaceful co-existence". In the same spirit present Naval Chief Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi has reiterated that "Pakistan does not harbour any aggressive designs, and our forces, including the Navy, are fully prepared to face any challenge", and that "any disguised or unnatural arrangement for supremacy would not succeed, nor would it serve the purpose of peace and stability". He also asserted on many occasions that "Pakistan's desire for peace should not be mistaken for weakness". In fact the desire for peace is the cornerstone of Pakistan's aspirations that echoes in speeches

of almost all civil and military leaders.

AMAN is an Urdu word which means 'peace' in English. It is a biennial exercise with a purpose to promote cooperation and interoperability between the regional and extra regional navies operating in the IOR. With its kick start in 2007, 28 countries participated in the exercise that proved to be an instant success. So far in the series, five exercises have been conducted which have seen increased participation from our friends and partners.

AMAN - 19 is scheduled in the month of Feb 19 making it the sixth one. So far 43 countries have confirmed (still counting) their participation comprising naval platforms, Special Operating Forces (SOF), Marines, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams, and Observers. Australia, China, France, Italy, Japan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, UK and US are regular





contributors to name a few. The idea of multi-national naval exercises is not a new one and has past precedent in different regions across the world. The net sum advantage is mutual cooperation and harmony apart from sharing of experiences and interoperability in the hour of need.

The AMAN concept revolves around collaborative maritime security by building partnerships for making sea a safer place for sea fearers and merchant shipping. Exercise has following salient objectives:

- Develop coalition building and multi-layered security cooperation that promotes a safe and sustainable maritime environment.
- Enhance tactical interoperability between regional and extra regional navies thereby acting as a bridge between the regions.
- Project positive image of Pakistan as a country contributing towards regional peace and stability.
- Consolidate Pakistan Navy's (PN) position in the regional maritime arena.
- Display of united resolve against terrorism and crimes in maritime domain.
- Intermingling of multinationals with depiction of their respective cultures.

The exercise programme is a nice assortment of harbour and sea activities with a flavour of ceremonial, international culture and sports activities apart from hardcore military maneuvers and exercises to hone skills / practicing responses against Maritime Security threats. The programme also includes International Maritime Conference (IMC) under the aegis of National Centre for Maritime Policy Research (NCMPR). NCMPR has been instrumental in hosting large participation of visiting navies in a very conducive environment in the previous AMAN exercises. The topics have been ranging from prevailing maritime threats to wider subjects of fishery preservation to climate change remedies under an overlying theme of maritime security in IOR. The proceedings do not end there, rather NCMPR analyzes the ideas shared at this forum to extract and design relevant policy options, response strategies and operating procedures for the government and the regional countries to formulate viable strategies against the most pressing issues.

Exercise AMAN with an enduring slogan as "Together for Peace" has consolidated to become a jewel in PN calendar of activities being considered as one of the top forums in the region for collaborative naval activities. It is a testimony of PN's accumulated professional acumen, knowledge, expertise and well worked-up naval tactical procedures that can accommodate a much larger participation of



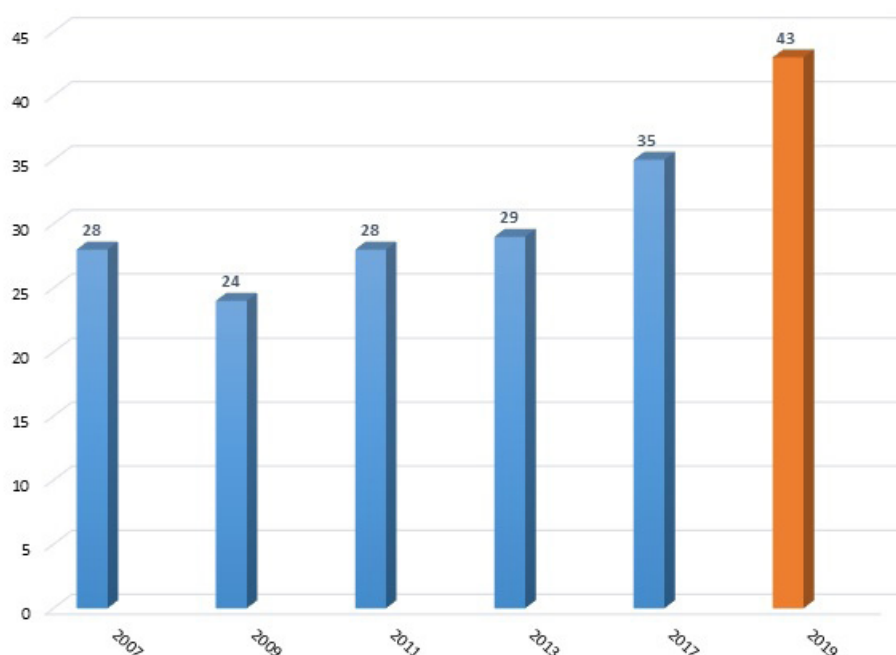
platforms at sea. Taking leverage of having commanded CTFs for number of times, it provides confidence to the participating navies to join hands in protecting global commons, share experiences, and rehearse responses while at the same time acknowledging PN to be a reckonable Naval Force.

Let us hope that our shared desire for peace gains winds as we continue to endeavour towards a world defined by harmony and peace

in general and North Arabian Sea in particular. "Peace is the beauty of life. It is sunshine. It is the smile of a child, the love of a mother, the joy of a father, the togetherness of a family. It is the advancement of man, the victory of a just cause, the triumph of truth". Menachem Begin

**The author regularly contributes articles about Indian Ocean and related issues and can be reached at: [sagheer.ahmaddss@gmail.com](mailto:sagheer.ahmaddss@gmail.com) and twitter @sagheerapcss**

AMAN Participants





By Mian Fazal Elahi

## Exclusive Interview



My aim is to raise the profile of

**PSL & LQ**  
onto the global stage to help

Shine a positive light on

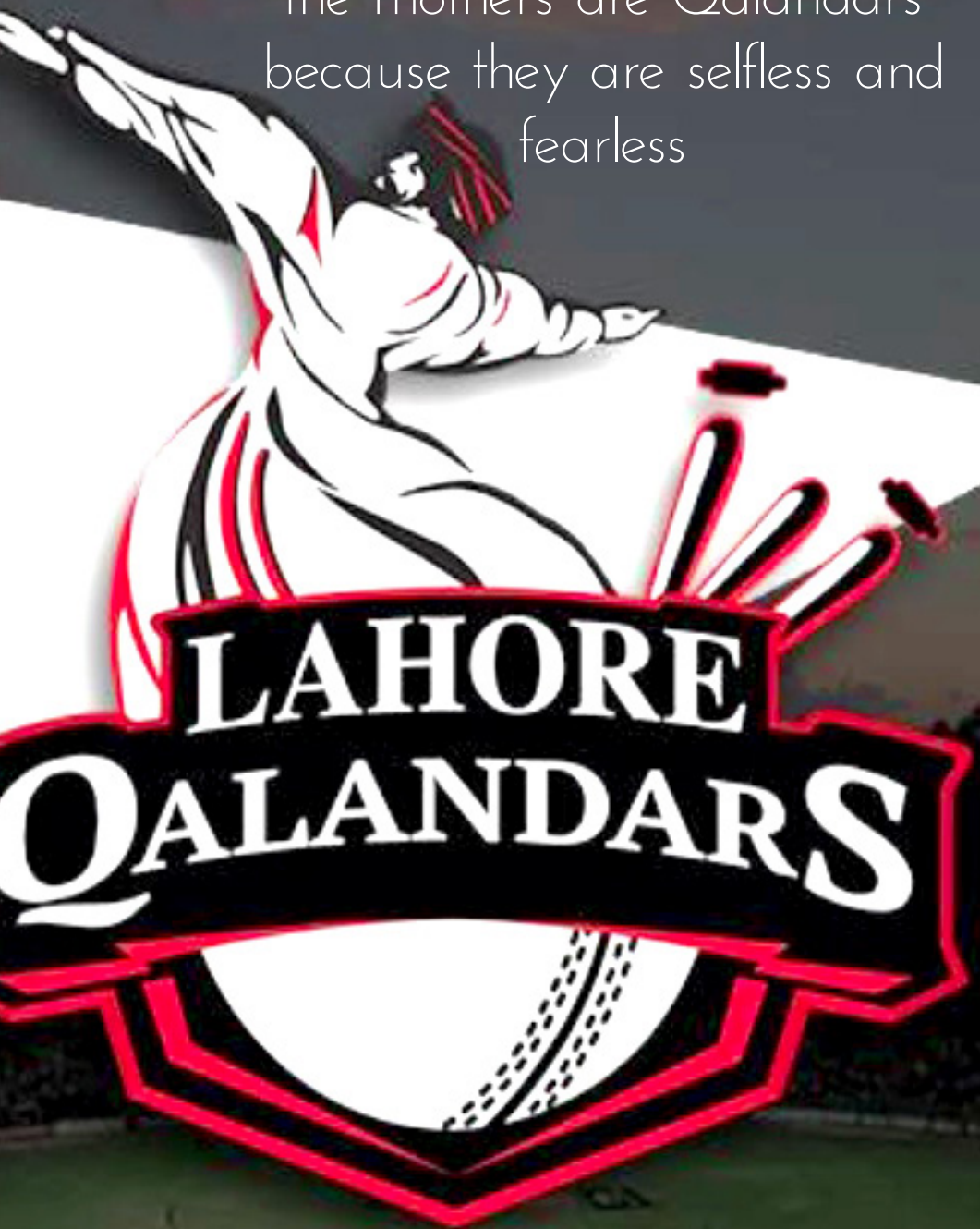
**Pakistan**

# Fawad Rana

Chairman Lahore Qalandars



The name Qalandar is dedicated to my mother, in fact all the mothers - I believe the mothers are Qalandars because they are selfless and fearless



**DF: Most of the people are not familiar about your past life so I would like to know about your childhood memories, family background, education and how you started your business career?**

First of all, thank you for this opportunity. My beginnings are humble and very similar to the average youth of Pakistan; I was born in Sialkot and as one of 9 siblings. I left my home at a very young age to pursue financial independence and help secure a better future for my family in Lahore. My father and mother had raised us stressing simply the importance of education; while my youth was spent among the streets of Lahore doing various odd jobs in the creative industry while studying in Govt collage Lahore, upon the insistence of my father I ended up getting a petroleum Engineering Degree from UET; which along with my experience in the theatre industry became the foundation of my success. I started my professional career with then Pakistan Burma shell, now Shell Pakistan; later, I moved to Middle East on my elder brother Dr. Suhail's instruction to build my professional career. I will tell you one day full story- haha!

**DF: Sure! Our readers will wait for that story. You always put Pakistan first, without any doubt you are such a patriotic person so what makes you so attached with your country?**

The people of Pakistan are descended from one of the oldest civilizations in the world; the Indus Valley civilization. Along with such ancient history comes with it the ancient knowledge and culture that has been passed down through the generations and has resulted in the Pakistan we know today, I have always seen the bright side of our country; and once you see that it is impossible not to keep falling in love with our food, our music, our hospitality and most importantly our people.

**DF: You are a renowned businessman in Pakistan and you are the first man who introduced Pakistan Super league in Pakistan so how did you get the idea to initiate Pakistan cricket league?**

It is a misconception that I initiated the Pakistan Super League; but it is the work of a number of talented and visionary individuals who have worked tirelessly to help make the PSL a success. Personally; I wanted to give something back to the country that made me who I am, I relished the opportunity to do something for the huge youth of Pakistan and to bring smiles back on the faces of our people.

**DF: There was a time people not even hear about the word PSL and admire IPL you are the first one to invest in the PSL played a vital role in making PSL a successful brand. What makes you so emotionally involved in sports?**

My relationship with sports stretches to my childhood; playing hockey and cricket on the streets and watching my heroes play at Gaddafi





#### Is there any philosophy behind that?

The name is dedicated to my mother, in fact all the mothers - I believe the mothers are Qalandars because they are selfless and fearless. Also the name "Lahore Qalandars" highlights the Sufi culture of Lahore, Punjab and Pakistan which is all about love, tolerance and peace. 'Qalandar' is a true representation of what Pakistan stands for, a country for its people regardless of their cast, ethnicity or religious affiliations.

**DF: Is that True, you have sung the official song of LQ for PSL season 3 and it is also written and composed by you?**

Yes, the song was composed, written and sung by me, through the help of talented musician J Ali and my poet friend Afzal Sahir based in Lahore.

**DF: You are working nowadays on giving**

We have trialed  
over 500,000/-  
young aspiring  
cricketers across  
Pakistan, Kashmir  
and Gilgit  
Baltistan

Stadium. I understood that the happiness, clarity and opportunity that comes with sports is not often present in other mediums, and with a lack of international sports in our country; I did not want the next generation to miss out on the love, happiness and sadness that sports allowed me to feel.

**DF: You always pay well for-bidding of foreign players and local players as well. What are the advantages of this form of business**

#### ownership?

The advantages of this form of business ownership help both the Lahore Qalandars brand and also the PSL brand as a whole. My aim is to raise the profile of PSL and LQ onto the global stage to help shine a positive light on Pakistan, and this is one incentive to show that we are able to compete with the best.

**DF: What is the reason for choosing the name "Lahore Qalandar" for your PSL cricket team?**



chance to new and young players to show their talent in Cricket by launching talent hunt tournament. How much do you succeed in finding new players who play a role in winning the trophy for Lahore Qalandars?

It's called "player development program" we have trialed over 500,000/- young aspiring cricketers across Pakistan, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan The goal of our program often extends beyond the PSL; obviously our primary goal is to find talent to help us achieve success on the



We have been mostly unlucky with injuries affecting our strike bowlers every season but we have also had some of PSL's best bowling performance

field; but the purpose of the PDP tournament is also to help give the youth of Pakistan an opportunity to showcase their talent and a platform and pathway beyond Pakistan. Our four PDP players are being trained in Australia and recently won Abu Dhabi T20 cup played among the best league team around the world

**DF: What is the biggest issue for running this kind of business? What is the future for this type of business and you consider PSL in the category of business or it is just for fun?**

The largest issue for running this kind of business obviously stems from the majority of the tournament taking place in UAE; as a result the purpose for which we bought the team is not being fully fulfilled. In sha Allah! This year we have 8 matches in Pakistan and as the league transitions fully to Pakistan, the business itself will become more profitable and viable.





**DF: Your brother Atif Rana is considered as your right hand in business. Is it really true? What is the role of your brother in achieving the success in your life?**

Yes, I would consider Atif Rana a big component of the success of Lahore Qalandars and PSL; his man management skills, and marketing vision has helped raise the brand to new heights; despite being my brother he also remains the most qualified person to handle this role. I called him marketing wizard with golden heart. It is his vision and effort that has helped make Lahore Qalandars a household name throughout Pakistan and across the world wherever Pakistani lives. We are three brothers and partner in LQ. The youngest Sameen Rana is the team Manager, COO and finance director. Sameen also look after cricketing affair with Aqib Javed. Working with your brothers does allow you an extra degree of security and comfort, but it is important for us that business decisions are made ahead of personal ones.

**DF: In 2018 PSL the bowling side performance is not so good and you talk with many cricketers including Brett Lee but unfortunately no one joined you, so this time you overcome the weaknesses in bowling?**

To understand our bowling side; we have been mostly unlucky with injuries affecting our strike bowlers every season; Mustafizur and Yasir shah in the first season and Sohail Khan in the later season. It is also important to remember we have also had some of PSL's best bowling performance including Yasir Shahs 4 wickets for 7 runs and Shaheen Afridis 5 wickets for 4 runs. This time we have selected a squad able to overcome injuries to our main bowlers and batsmen

**DF: How much motivated are you to win PSL trophy for Lahories this time?**

My purpose for buying the team was to give back to the Lahories everything they have given me my whole life; You know in my song I mentioned "I will be very proud for rest of my life if I found the Lahore there "in life after death" Can't translate properly. My next goal is to bring the PSL trophy and win the final in Karachi, In sha Allah!

**DF: What piece of advice would you like to give to college graduates who want to become a good entrepreneur?**

In order to become a good entrepreneur; nothing is small. You have to keep yourself busy and keep learning. Remain honest to yourself and remain honest in your goals and the combination of hard work and intelligence is one that nobody in the world can beat. Make the future one; you will be proud to live in.

Pakistan Zindabad!



**My purpose for buying  
the team was to give  
back to the Lahories  
everything  
they have given me my whole life**





By M.Saeed Yousafzai

After two seasons the Lahore Qalandars are determined to make amends, the Qalandars management has assembled a powerful squad that features some of the most destructive batsmen of the instant format.

New Zealand legend Brendon McCullum leads the team for the second successive year and is an important part of arguably the most fearsome top-order in the tournament with the likes of the six-hitting-machine Chris Lynn and Pakistan's ICC Champions Trophy hero Fakhar Zaman complimenting his daring batting style. Umar Akmal has been a consistent run-getter for Qalandars; he's likely to occupy one of the top four spots in the batting order.

There is also a surfeit of all-rounders at their disposal, Aamer Yamin, Bilawal Bhatti and the promising Sohail Akhtar offer balance to the eleven. The bowling line-up is impressive too with spin twins Yasir Shah and Raza Hasan backing the wiles of Bangladeshi quick Mustafizur Rahman and Sohail Khan, imported from Karachi Kings.

# Lahore Qalandars!

## NAME OF SPORT & SPIRIT







# Pakistan's place in artificial intelligence and computing

**By Dr Arif Alvi**  
**President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan**

In the world of science and technology, it is being said that we are at the beginning of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The first that lasted from 1760 to 1840 brought in the age of mechanized production. It was the result of new materials like iron and steel, which combined with new energy resources of coal and steam, led to 'mass production', and a factory system with division of labour. The second industrial revolution from 1870 to the early part of 20th century was the result

of electricity, and the internal combustion engine. Both powered industrial machines and made transport possible. Besides this for the first time, communication of messages by telephone and telegraph did not involve physical movement of messengers. Raw human physical labour yielded to machines, while ideas started moving very fast in the ether surrounding us. Mass production led to huge gains and opened the way for individualised mass consumption of today.

The third revolution that followed 60 years later was the digital revolution of information technology and most of you who read these lines have seen it happen. It was brought in by semiconductors, mainframe computing, silicon, personal computing, cellphones and the internet. The worldwide web, sensors and cameras, combined with increasing ability to acquire and store data in the last two decades, has led to an exponential increase in data itself which has left the ability to analyse it, phenomenally mismatched and far behind.

The fourth industrial revolution has now begun, and Pakistan must step in to take part in shaping this change to benefit from the fruits the world has yet to see. The ability of technology to crunch data and then to extract valuable information from billions of inputs in a matter of milliseconds has been improving exponentially since the last few decades. It is marked by emerging technology breakthroughs primarily in the following ten areas, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Internet of Things, 5G Broadband, 3D printing, Autonomous Vehicles, Cloud Computing, Blockchain like Distributed Ledgers Technology, Biotechnology and Precision Medicine, and Augmented Reality. Klaus Schwab in his book 'The Fourth Industrial Revolution' states that previous industrial revolutions liberated man from animal power, made mass production possible and brought digital capabilities to billions of people, but the fourth is fundamentally different. It is characterized by a range of new technologies that are fusing the physical, digital and biological worlds, impacting all disciplines, economies and industries, and even challenging ideas about what it means to be human.

Reasoning has been the biggest strength of humankind but now it can be relegated to machines, to potentially be performed at a magnitude that could not have been imagined before. Raw, brute crunching of data was done earlier by supercomputers like the IBM Deep Blue, which defeated Gary Kasparov in 1997. Deep Blue was tutored in the basics of chess and had in its memory the strategy employed by grandmasters in thousands of games previously played. It could evaluate 200 million positions every second and had a significant advantage over its human combatant in that it was accurate, tireless, and remembered millions of calculations while considering its future moves.

Now, this year, comes along a machine learning program, Alpha Zero made by Alphabet, that has a unique Algorithm, the latter term being a latinisation of the name of Al-Khwārizmī who also authored the science of 'Algebra'. Alpha Zero's algorithm for



learning of chess, started with no knowledge of the game beyond its basic rules, the way a human would start, but then it played against itself millions of times and learned from its mistakes. Confoundingly in a matter of hours it taught itself enough to take on the best computational beast in chess that existed, the program called 'Stock fish'. Alpha Zero thought smarter not faster. While Stock fish was using brute computational force to calculate chess moves with 60 million calculations per second, Alpha Zero with its self-learning algorithms examined only 60,000 calculations per second and beat Stock fish hollow. In a nutshell this is Artificial Intelligence and machine learning. While we register this, consider it to be Stone Age compared to 'quantum' computing, that may soon become a reality.

The convergence of data with massive storage and analytical abilities when applied to available genomic and health data will be creating phenomenal change in human health. 'Epic' for example, a US health service provider, has trillions of health data-points on more than 100 million people. The analysis of such meta-data can exponentially improve diagnostics, treatment, and even prediction of disease that may emerge in a population. An AI-based machine at Manchester University has discovered a compound effective against drug-resistant malaria. Release another algorithm-based computer program comprises two neural networks that can be thought of as a teacher and a student. The teacher neural network knows the rules behind chemical structures of about 1.7 million known biologically active molecules. By working with the teacher, the student neural network learns over time and becomes better at proposing molecules that are likely to be useful in new drugs. Combining CRISPR the gene sequencing and editing technology with AI drug development programs can dramatically revolutionise health care.

New drugs combined with advanced diagnostic tools will lead to effective

personalized treatments. Augmented reality and virtual reality will overlay data related information on the real world whether meant for travel, or even in surgery where layers of tissue shall not have to be dissected in search for diseased foci as the surgeon would be able to see the whole thing in three dimensions before dissection. Doctors may be able to implant living cells that will not be targeted by body's own immune processes, to manufacture effective drugs within the body.

Artificial Intelligence is a dual use technology. Besides commercial applications it also has a major use in the military, in aerial warfare, avionics, smart bombs, weaponized drones, even in disinformation campaigns and cyber security.

Increasingly machines, for example autonomous vehicles are making decisions with little intervention by humans. Some understanding of this new reality, though in its infancy has enabled, seven out of top ten largest companies of 2018, Apple, Amazon, Alphabet, Microsoft, Facebook, Ali Baba and Tencents to become economic powerhouses of this decade. Societies that cope positively with the technological impact of the fourth industrial revolution will have a far better economic and social future. Pakistan should have the knowhow and vibrancy to absorb this new wave like a sponge and soak our abundant youth into a fast-track learning phenomenon that will change our destiny.

The economic footprint of this emerging revolution is enormous. While 90% of future jobs will require some level of digital literacy, augmented reality alone currently valued at \$2 billion is expected to grow to \$200 billion in two years. According to Gartner Inc., in 2020 AI will become a positive net job motivator creating 2.3 million jobs. Soft-tech openings in Canada alone are forecast to reach 200,000 by the year 2020 and it has tweaked up its immigration programs to welcome such specialists. Global business value derived from artificial intelligence will increase from a value of \$692 million

in 2017 to \$1.2 trillion in 2018, and it is forecast to reach \$3.9 trillion by 2022. Out of this huge chunk, in my discussions with the Pakistani diaspora in the Silicon Valley, they are optimistic that if the right decisions are made, Pakistani software exports may even reach \$30 billion by 2023. Optimistic it may be, but we should accept this challenge as it does not require brick and mortar investment but only intellectual upgradation of our educated youth.

Pakistan needs to be well placed, as our future economy and defence systems will strongly depend on our own skills to be a part of the great revolution that is knocking on our doorsteps. Rather than be a consumer that makes us totally dependent on foreign software and hardware even at crucial times, we must become a player and manufacturer of the new systems ensuring phenomenal economic dividends as well as our own security. We are going to produce this new talent for Pakistan, but their skills will also be in huge demand throughout the world.

Why don't I find Pakistan in this booming landscape? There is a consensus that the software engineers we produce are not what the market demands. This mismatch needs to be corrected by a responsive, dynamic curriculum in our universities. For this I would be working with the Vice Chancellors of the universities that come under the patronage of the President as Chancellor. However, for our immediate needs, as this software world is changing too fast, we have decided to top up the knowledge of existing software engineers, and to train newcomers also, in a crash course for 100,000 youth this year, under the President's Initiative on Artificial Intelligence and Computing. The program can be viewed at [www.piaic.org](http://www.piaic.org)

John Dewey, the American philosopher-educationist, very appropriately said that 'If we teach today's students as we taught yesterdays, we rob them of tomorrow'. Let us give tomorrow, today to the Pakistani youth.

*Courtesy to The Nation*



**President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the ceremony of "Presidential Initiative on Artificial Intelligence and Computing" in Karachi on January 20, 2019.**





The second economic priority of the PTI government is that growth shall now have to be led by exports, investment and productivity instead of consumption and imported finance capital. I mention exports first because a country earns its foreign exchange primarily by virtue of this sector. And foreign exchange earnings are required to fill our huge financing gap and escape from the debt dependency trap. The readjustment of the exchange rate by bringing it at par with its actual market value has helped in restoring competitiveness of our exports. Furthermore, the government has also reached an agreement with the export sectors with regards to freeing up their entire stock of working capital stuck up with FBR in the shape of pending refund claims. This government will no longer use the entrepreneur's capital to cover up and finance its own shortcomings in raising revenues or funding showcase projects. On this same note, the government has also taken the unprecedented step of bringing at par the energy costs that our exporters face. LNG and Natural Gas mix is now being supplied to them at the regional average rate of USD 6.5 per MMBTU. A similar approach is being worked out when it comes to the electricity tariffs that shall be notified at 7.5 cents/KWH for the export sector. With these measures in place, the export sector in 2019 will be able to unleash its real comparative advantage and earn the much needed foreign exchange for Pakistan.

Another much debated subject these days is interest rates. One would be justified to ask the question that how the government on one hand claims to be promoting 'investment led growth' whilst on the other hand is raising interest rates, the act that in theory discourages investment? Firstly, the need for raising interest rates arose when the rupee was devalued. Devaluation causes inflationary pressures to rise in the economy and in order to prevent the rise in prices from forming a spiral and going out of control, the interest rate had to rise simultaneously. However Pakistan's interest rate in Real Terms (adjusted for inflation) is approximately 4% now. That's the same rate in real terms that is prevalent in all countries in our region. Furthermore, fresh data with regards to interest rates and investment is painting a very different figure from what many would predict. The 'private sector credit off take' in the economy in the first quarter has risen by more than 400%. This means that current interest rates are not stifling

# The economy in 2019

By Hammad Azhar

The writer is the Minister of State for Revenue, Government of Pakistan

investment at all. The explanation for this seems to be that once the 'crowding out' phenomenon that was mentioned above was eliminated, the suppressed appetite of the private sector for loans came into play. This phenomenal growth in private sector loans is a much needed development and this trend shall continue into 2019.

Studies point out that apart from restrictive economic policies that were hindering savings and investment in Pakistan, there are two additional features in play. Security and Taxes. The security situation has significantly improved over the years following the successful 'Zarb-e-Azb' operation conducted and led by the military. However, little attention has been paid to the most complicated and business unfriendly tax policies and laws in place. Whilst Pakistan is 136th in the rank of the 'ease of doing business' index, we are 173rd when it comes to 'complicated tax systems' as per a World Bank report. This means that taxes are right now the single biggest hindrance in the way of investment in the economy and the current government is formulating bold initiatives in this regard that shall be rolled out in 2019. For example, 'With-Holding' taxes on filers is nothing but a 'red tape' as most of the sums under this head are adjusted in the annual return anyway. Similarly, for the non-filers, this tax has only acted to reduce the 'Cash to Deposits' ratio in the economy. As per some calculations that take into account the 'multiplier effect' of deposits and subsequent lending in the banking system, it is estimated that up to Rs 6 trillion can potentially be made available for private sector lending if the disincentives from transacting in the banking system are removed and the government in 2019 fully intends upon beginning to phase out these distortionary taxes.

I now turn towards the question that affects each one of us; overall economic activity. As mentioned above, the general policy paradigm was in need of a shift, from 'consumption' towards 'investment'. This shift in economic priority entailed a readjustment in the fiscal and monetary policies of the country. 'Change' is always accompanied by a certain degree apprehension and uncertainty. We indeed see that in our economy now and it is understandable. We are witnessing a correction or a 'hang over' from the over consumption of the past as we sail away from that approach towards a more sustainable and structurally sound economic model. However, as the contours of this new economic approach become clear and an investment focused and pro-business set of policies and framework is put in place, we expect this uncertainty to be swiftly replaced by investor confidence and growth.

2019 shall be a year in which Pakistan shall take significant steps towards improving its 'ease of

doing business climate'. A new tariff policy aimed at rationalizing duties on imports of raw materials, machinery plus simplification in taxes and filing procedures for Individuals, Corporations and Businesses shall be announced. Taxes shall no longer be used purely to raise revenues. The aim of the separation of Tax Policy Division from FBR's administration is precisely to phase out all taxes that have added to the cost of doing business in Pakistan and replace them with measures that create incentives for SME's and businesses.

Reforming Pakistan's tax laws is an extensive subject and a Tax Reform Implementation Committee that I head has already been notified. It is composed of the original authors of the famous and well written Tax Reform Commission Report that was never followed up with policy. My next article will be devoted purely towards the issues of upcoming 'Tax Reforms' so I leave this subject with the comment for now that the government will not shy away from undertaking bold measures at simplification and ease of filing taxes and reforming FBR into a business friendly entity in 2019.

Entrepreneurs and businesses in Pakistan have to deal with multiple government departments that require extensive time and workforce to deal with. The methods these departments employ in the name of compliance with outdated legal statutes and their wide ambits mean that businesses and especially SMEs are put at a serious disadvantage and feel harassed. Therefore, the scope and powers of these departments is being revisited and shall be reviewed in conjunction with the provincial governments.

2019 is also expected to be the year for foreign investments in Pakistan. CPEC shall be entering its second phase that shall be more focused on trade and industry, moving on from infrastructure. This shall play a pivotal role in terms of technology and skills transfer to our economy. Multi-national companies from sectors ranging from automobiles, telecommunications, energy, electronics and others have also expressed their interest to invest in Pakistan. Our sizeable population and a young demographic holds great and yet untapped potential for any investor. In the coming year, we are confident to see these interests transforming into tangible foreign investments.

To sum up, the economy has averted the immediate severe balance of payments crises and all macro-economic indicators are showing positive trends towards stabilization. The general paradigm of fiscal and monetary policies has been realigned towards exports, investment and productivity growth. In the days to come, bold steps will be put in place to facilitate both foreign and local investment and dramatically improve the ease of doing business climate in the country.





By Senator Rehman Malik

**The writer is Chairman of think tank “global eye” & former Interior Minister of Pakistan**

Governments around the world derive respect from their citizens through good governance and fear and deterrence of law, which they implement indiscriminately. While the governments enforce rule of law through state functionaries, it also provides for due indemnity to the relevant officials who perform their functions within the parameters of law and in good faith. Every state has evolved a system of punishment to ensure respect for the law and harmony in society. This system instils the belief that fear of punishment would deter crimes in the future.

The prompt and indiscriminate dispensation of justice law not only generates respect for the law but also creates deterrence against breaking of the law. It is the fear of the law, which creates deterrence to stop the people committing a crime and this deterrence, in turn, becomes an invisible cop to control the crime. In other words, fear and respect of law are correlated in the criminal judicial system. At the same time, the fear carries negative fallout in the society if this fear of law takes the shape of a tool of victimisation based on vendetta, extraction, humiliation and fear of losing their belongings & job and fear of non-protection of their investment and protection of life. Fear is an unpleasant emotion caused by the threat of danger, pain, or harm whereas deterrence is the act of discouraging an action or event through instilling doubt or fear of the consequences.

The history of various countries speaks of their efforts to address the challenges faced by those countries, including fighting wars, to stand higher in the world community. On the contrary, it is ironic that our national leaders are themselves demonising the country portraying it as the most corrupt country on the international forums as well as in the media. They are portraying every Pakistani as money launder, drug supplier and rape criminal etc. The revengeful attitude of the government

towards the opposition is never going to benefit the country. The rhetoric of corruption without indiscriminate accountability is not creating any deterrence or fear of law rather supporting the narratives of the criminals.

The ICJ, which leaked the Panama Papers, hit the 140 well-known politicians from around 50 countries of the world. The Panama Leaks within a few hours shook the foundations of power around the world. It triggered the resignation of Iceland’s Prime Minister while President Mauricio Macri of Argentina started getting calls to resign. If we look closely into the names, all of those were regarded as the great or respectful leaders.

I am a great supporter of accountability through courts of law and not through media trial or through publicised investigation and propaganda, which not only negates the maxim of law that “every person is innocent unless proven otherwise” but also brings disrepute to the accused person as well as to the country. The accountability of politicians and bureaucrats through media has, on one hand, caused embarrassment to our own country as well as the countrymen, but on the other hand, we also rant about lack of investment in the country because the investors are fearful of their security and life as well as the fear of loss of their investment due to frauds or unstable investment environment. The fear of the investors is the product of non-existence of any legal deterrence against violation of laws. When the investor feels insecure in terms of his security to life and investment, he takes his investment to other countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Canada, and Thailand rather investing in his own country.

For God sake! The government must undertake the accountability of all the corrupt elements through the application of relevant laws by the competent courts but not through social media propaganda, press conferences or electronic media. The extra-judicial accountability of any person accused of corruption or corrupt practices is having negative effects on the relevant state institutions, which ultimately fail in their duties to protect the rights of the citizen against any injustice. The bureaucrats, bankers and other officials are now scared, and they are not ready to give their honest input in the files, as they are scared of interrogation and implication in any case in future.

We, as a state, have only promoted the fear rather than promoting the idea of accountability in our business community and investment sectors through the indiscriminate application

of laws. Let me call it as “fear technology” in the name of accountability to terrorise various factions of society, including businessmen and the potential investors. This fear technology is eating away comfort zone for general public and investors, including government officials.

This fear technology has almost paralyzed our bureaucrats with fear of humiliation even in performing their normal duties. The present government has so far also failed to give confidence to the officials and business community to work fearlessly. I have a firm belief that the government is almost at halt at present because of the fear of insecurity induced in the minds of official functionaries. The government has to enhance the sense of security to all the stakeholders for better governance and transparent accountability through accountability reforms. We as a nation have to halt the use of fear technology, which is highly detrimental to the entire governance system. Let us be accountable as a nation for our every act and let the State ensure not to promote or adopt the use of fear technology to overpower the opponents to run the government.

I fully appreciate and endorse the views expressed by CJP Mr Saeed Khosa that “let us also discuss how the legislature can be restricted to its legislative domain and how the legislators can be held back to their legislative role rather than encroaching upon the executive domain through development funds and through interference in appointment, posting, transfer or promotion of public servants which is the main breeding ground for misuse of authority, corruption, lack of merit, inefficiency and the resultant bad governance”.

The bureaucrats need constitutional protection for their legal and honest actions taken in good faith whereas politicians need to be treated with respect rather are subjected to media trial. Similarly, the business community needs to be respected and protected for their services to the country and any action against above all should be initiated only once a crime is established. The accountability laws should be reformed to put an end to the victimisation and accountability agencies should follow the law strictly and should be liable to accountability and punishment in cases of false prosecution.

**The writer is Chairman of think tank “global eye” & former Interior Minister of Pakistan. And can be reached at Email: [rmalik1212@gmail.com](mailto:rmalik1212@gmail.com), Twitter @Senrehmanmalik, @GlobalEye\_GSA, WhatsApp +92332559393**



By Mian Fazal Elahi

Photography Ramzan Mughal

Exclusive Interview

**THERE ARE A LOT OF**  
**Misconceptions about Pakistan**  
Basically formed by the media

Pakistan is a very hospitable country & Pakistanis are very warm and generous

**Mrs. Ghada Ahmed**

Spouse of Egyptian Ambassador and President of the Heads of Missions' Spouses Group



**DF: Excellency, Mrs. Ghada Ahmed! Thank you for accepting to give us this interview amidst your busy schedule.**

It is my pleasure, thank you for having me. Diplomatic Focus is a very respectful publication. You have a very good team that comprehensively covers all the diplomatic events that take place during the month, and your in-depth articles and interviews are always informative.

**DF: You have been here in Pakistan for over a year now. How do you find Pakistan?**

Pakistan is a very hospitable country and Pakistanis are very warm and generous. There is a lot in common between Egyptians and Pakistanis. We are both Muslim nations who have civilizations that are deeply rooted in history. We have both been influenced by many cultures which created our rich characters and diverse experiences. Both countries have family-centered social systems. Just like Pakistan, Egyptians have big extended families. We revere our elders and are extremely socially-responsible towards our families. We also have as nations many similar challenges and dreams.

**DF: For sure, before you came here you had some expectations about Pakistan, how far were they true?**

There are a lot of misconceptions about Pakistan basically formed by the media that focuses on individual events and inaccurate and exaggerated information. However, we talked to people who had been here before, and they were a great help. And thank God, I love it here and I feel very safe and comfortable. Pakistan also has great potential as a touristic destination. It has amazing scenic areas; mountains, coasts and valleys; it has good food, monuments that are historically diverse, and above all very generous and hospitable people. I believe it should be present on the world tourism map.

**DF: Egypt has civilizations that goes 7000 years back and wonderful nature, and is a very important touristic destination. What advice can you give Pakistani people on this?**

Egypt considers tourism one important source of national income and we value our monuments and our tourists as well. I think the best promotion to Pakistan will, at the beginning, be Pakistanis themselves. Social media is an excellent platform to display the beauty of Pakistan and how attractive it is as a tourist destination. People on YouTube, Instagram, Twitter and Facebook get hundreds of thousands of views in very little time. Secondly, every visitor/tourist who comes once and is satisfied with the experience becomes an ambassador for Pakistan when he goes back home, so tourists and foreign visitors should be able to get the best treatment and services. Monuments and old buildings of historical value should also be very well-taken-care of,

## **Social media is an excellent platform to display the beauty of Pakistan and how attractive it is as a tourist destination**

and tourist agencies should be encouraged to make partnerships with their counterparts in other countries to exchange tour trips.

**DF: Can you please tell us about the position of women in Egypt?**

Historically, women were highly respected in Ancient Egypt and they had the same standing before courts in all legal issues. Women were always portrayed standing right next to their husbands, never behind them. Many pharaohs were women, and this was not only the highest political position but the highest religious position as well since a pharaoh in ancient Egypt was a God. For example, Pharaoh Queen Hatsheput, was said to have been one of the most knowledgeable people of her time, she became queen not only by virtue of her ancestry but also by her knowledge of theology and other worldly sciences of the time. She ruled in the 15th Century BC and she revived Egypt's trade with many other civilizations present at the time and her days witnessed







political stability and a large number of building projects that are still present till today. it is worth mentioning that all museums that host Egyptian monuments today all over the world house monuments that were created during her time. There are many other famous ancient Egyptian Queens like Nefertiti, and Nefertari.

#### **DF: What about The Islamic Era?**

In Islamic times, we also have some very worthy examples. An interesting story takes place in the 13th century AD. Queen Shajar al-Durr was the Spouse of King Al-Malik as-Salih Najm al-Din Ayyub. She is famous for the role she played upon her husband's death. The King died at a time of unrest, the Crusades were advancing towards the Northern coast of Egypt. She hid the news of the King's death for 80 days in which she ruled the country and she made decisions that saved Egypt. She gave orders to block the advance of the Crusades, and upon the arrival of Turanshah, the King's son to Egypt in February 1250, he went to the battlefield right away. She then announced the King's death and announced his son ascent to the throne. In April 1250, the Crusade troops were all defeated and King Louis IX was captured.

#### **DF: And in Modern times?**

In modern times, women are not any less prominent. At the beginning of the 20th century, Lotfia al-Nadi (1907-2002) was the first woman pilot to earn an aviator's licence in Egypt and the Middle East. We also have Nabaweya Moussa (1886-1951) who was one of the founding feminists of the Egyptian Feminist Movement in the 20th century. She gave many lectures and wrote articles on women's education and health. Also, Safiyya Zaghloul (1876-1946), was the spouse and partner of Political leader Saad Zaghloul, and she was by his side during the 1919 revolution, and photos of this revolution document how Egyptian women stood side by side with the men in the face of the British occupation. She also became a central figure in al-Wafd political Party after her husband was exiled and she played a great role in the National Movement that sought the independence of Egypt.

Today women in all parts of Egypt whether in cities or the countryside work in various fields and play a prominent role in their families and communities, side by side with the men. Women are strongly present as businesswomen, government officials, factory workers, teachers, doctors, etc. They fill many positions as ministers, diplomats, ambassadors,

**We are trying to explore and create opportunities that allow us to promote our cultures in Pakistan, make stronger social connections with the spouses of the Pakistani authorities and benefit the Pakistani community at large.**

and in many other high-ranking positions.

#### **DF: Your Excellency, you are heading the Group of Spouses of the Heads of Diplomatic Missions, Can you share little bit about group and what are your activities?**

Our group was formed in May 2018 with the aim of bringing the spouses of Heads of diplomatic missions together to achieve more social interaction, and this soon developed into more outreach to the Pakistani government and people. We are trying to explore and create opportunities that allow us to promote our cultures in Pakistan, make stronger social connections with the spouses of the Pakistani authorities and benefit the Pakistani community at large.

#### **DF: Tell us more about these outreach activities.**

Our main outreach activity at the moment is a book comprising more than 130 recipes from 48 countries, all contributed by embassies, particularly Ambassador's spouses and spouses of Heads of missions. We tried through this book to reflect our very special cuisines. The book is very rich and diverse, and we are all really proud



of it. It is currently in the design stage and we plan to launch it in March 2019. The book shall be put for sale in Pakistan and all the revenues of the sales as well as the sponsorship the book has got shall go to a charity organization here in Pakistan. So we are trying to create manifold services through the same activity; we're promoting our cultures here in Pakistan; we are presenting a good book that I consider a gem for all food lovers especially those interested in international cuisines; and we are also giving back to the Pakistani community through the charity donation.

**DF: So do you as a group coordinate with other similar groups?**

For sure, there is the PFOWA which is the Pakistani Foreign Office Women's Association. On the personal level, we all know each other well and we get together on various occasions, the most important of which is the Annual Bazaar which they organize every year. It is a very important event for all of us and we always care to participate. And this has always been the case before our group was even created.

**Our main outreach activity at the moment is a book comprising more than 130 recipes from 48 countries and we plan to launch it in March 2019**

It is always a pleasure for us to receive their invitation, and a pleasure to invite them to our functions.

**DF: What are your future plans as President of this group?**

Once we are done with the cookbook, we plan to make one big book donation to a Pakistani public library that shall comprise books from different parts of the world donated by their embassies as well. It is still an idea and we have not started collecting the books yet. I believe these books will also be an asset to the library that shall receive them and a treasure for Pakistani students from all fields of specialization.

**DF: Thank you very much Mrs Ghada Ahmed, thank you for this interview and we wish you all the best**

You're most welcome. It was my pleasure.







## THE ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN THE COUNTRY WILL TRANSLATE INTO POSITIVE CHANGES FOR THE MEDIA INDUSTRY:

# President Dr. Arif Alvi

By Bilal Zafar

Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE) in its Pakistan Media Convention-2019<sup>1</sup> has issued a joint stance in which steps are discussed to overcome with the issue of depressed media and warning has given that all anti media attempts would be resisted for strengthening the forth pillar of democracy. The CPNE Secretary General Dr Jabbar Khattak has unconstrained the salient features of the convention.

President Dr Arif Alvi said that media was playing a crucial role in strengthening the democratic culture and values in the country, adding that the economic progress in the country will translate into positive changes for the media industry.

“Media should support the government by allocating considerable space and time for public awareness on issues, like inheritance rights and stunted growth of children,” he said while addressing a media convention titled “Media and Democracy: Towards Free, Independent and Sustainable Media in Pakistan”, organised by the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE) in Islamabad.

President Alvi suggested that the media industry should create its own revenue streams instead of depending on the advertisements given by the government.

Highlighting the need to develop self-reliant business models for media houses, he said that freedom of the press was a fundamental right

but it should be exercised with “responsibility and self-regulation”.

“We believe in freedom of press, but we also believe in responsibility of the press,” the president said while responding to CPNE office-bearers’ concern over the media policies of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government.

**We believe in  
freedom of  
press, but we  
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the press:  
President  
Dr. Arif Alvi**

The president also spoke of the diverse trends in the current age and said the young generation was hooked on the social media rather than print publications.

Speakers at a seminar also vowed to continue their struggle to ensure press freedom amid pressure from certain quarters by upholding the traditions of objective journalism and make joint efforts so as to save print media from dying.

Information Minister Fawad Chaudhary also addressed the event and advised the media to adopt a sustainable business model which was not dependent on the government.

“Ultimately, the media should have a sustainable model that is not reliant on the government,” the minister said, urging the council to conduct a study on the recent crisis plaguing the industry.

He extended the government’s help but said the CPNE was the best platform to conduct such a study and establish as to who was responsible for it.

The minister urged the media to support a positive narrative regarding the country’s economy. “A sustainable media is necessary for creating a stable economy,” he said, adding that the media’s narrative should be “economy-friendly”.

Referring to the problems of the media industry, Fawad said advertisements worth Rs300 million to Rs350 million were issued to the print media during the ongoing month.

Speaking about the advertisement campaigns, he estimated that approximately Rs2.7 billion were spent on digital media marketing.

“The [share of] digital advertising in the industry will be at Rs7bn in the next five years,”



the minister said while urging print media to develop its digital versions.

He clarified that speaking of new developments was not tantamount to discouraging media and reiterated that the government stood by the print media industry. However, he added, a long-term solution to the issues was needed. Addressing the participants, CPNE President Arif Nizami highlighted restrictions on the right to information and expressed the concerns of certain newspapers.

He said that self-regulation should be practiced but ground realities must also be realised. "Big media houses should contribute to the endowment fund so that the Press Council of Pakistan can play its due role." Nizami also said the entire mechanism of media organisations was evolving with rapid technological innovations and the role of editors was diminishing. "Now agenda-driven journalism and editors have been left with a limited role," he added.

Zaffar Abbas said the editors' institution needs to be strengthened and CPNE has a key role to play in this regard. Aijazul Haq said the prevailing situation required belt-tightening measures so as to pass through the critical phase. "One needs to adopt innovative models to meet the emerging challenges. Not only public advertisements have shrunk, but commercial advertisement has decreased as well," he added.

Senior journalist Wusatullah Khan said media owners always fought for their own interests and no unity was forged.

The Convention threadbare discussed the danger of freedom of expression and freedom of media amidst heated speeches delivered by the participants and delegates. The participants reiterated their pledge to resist resolutely any step to suppress the freedom of print and electronic media come what may. The convention unanimously agreed that none would be permitted to take any step to usurp

the democratic rights of media restored after a prolong media struggle.

The Declaration said that the proposed legislation of media is synonymous to attack on human rights including access to the information, freedom of media, democratic traditions. The Declaration expressed its grave concern over keeping the media stallholders at distance during process of the proposed laws regarding media saying that all such exercises would be and harmful and futile.

The Declaration warned that unnecessary interference of state or non-state and govt. in the freedom of media would in no case be accepted and would strongly opposed and resisted at all cost. Participants of the convention conveyed to the high ups that democracy is the fundamental need and base of free media saying that free media always played in a democratic society a significant role in the free flow of and access to information for the people, attention towards the affairs of the people, concentration on freedom of expression and protection and promotion of human rights.

The Declaration said that media practitioners have perception of responsible disallowing unethical media practices on screen and in print. The Declaration stressed that unethical media practices should in no case be permitted. Therefore emphasis should be laid on a unanimous voluntary based code of ethics with independent Media Commission for hearing the violation cases of unethical practices on screen and in print monitored by voluntary media bodies.

The declaration is of the view monitoring of violations should be sent by the media voluntary bodies to proposed Media Commission.

The Declaration stressed the need for practical steps to promote enabling environment for extension of freedom of expression and freedom of media and recent latest advancement of media technology to pave the

way for devolution of benefits to the far flung areas, deprived cities and rural areas.

Despite 18th amendment, devolution of power from federation to provinces in respect of media affairs could not be transferred to the local level from the federation to provinces. Hence restriction, denial and powerlessness of basic rights at local level is still in existence.

The convention protested against 'ignoring' small, medium and regional newspapers in the distribution of govt. advertisements by federal ministry of information and described it as poisonous.

The so-called policy of transparent and fair distribution of govt. ads is producing no result leading to economic killing of small, local and regional newspapers. Therefore, a judicious and result oriented policy should be evolved for the distribution of govt. advertisements. It will go a long way to bring stability to the local and regional newspapers.

The convention welcomed the assurance held out by the federal information minister to implement the proposals made by the CPNE to resolve the problems of local and regional newspapers. In the convention, the Minister was told that the print media in Pakistan was gradually switching over to latest modern techniques to meet the requirements of market.

The media's  
narrative should  
be  
"economy-friendly:  
Fawad Ch.





# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Exchanging Views With MAJ. GEN. (RETD) Ibrahim Yali Mohammad (Osta Alemandani), Ambassador of Jordan At Parliament House, Islamabad on January 03, 2019.



Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Exchanging Views With Mohammed Ebraheem Mohammed, ambassador of Bahrain At Parliament House, Islamabad on January 03, 2019.



Ambassador of China to Pakistan, H.E. Yao Jing Called on Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Sahibzada Muhammad Mehboob Sultan In Islamabad on January 11, 2019.



Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform and Statistics Division Makhdum Khuro Bakhtyar talking to Ambassador of China, Mr. Yao Jing, who called on him at Islamabad on January 15, 2019.



Ambassador of China to Pakistan, H.E. Yao Jing Called on Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, Ghulam Sarwar Khan in Islamabad on January 18, 2019.



Federal Minister for Power Division, Omar Ayub Khan in a Meeting With Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Yao Jing at His Office in Islamabad on January 17, 2019.



German Ambassador, Mr. Martin Kobler called on the Finance Minister, Asad Umar in Islamabad on 17-01-2019.



Finance Minister, Asad Umar in a Meeting With Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan, H.E. Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul in Islamabad on January 18, 2019.



# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Ambassador of South Korea to Pakistan, KWAK Sung-kyu Called on Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistan & Human Resource Development, Syed Zulfiqar Bukhari In Islamabad on January 17, 2019.



UAE Ambassador H.E. Hamad Ubaid Ibrahim Salim Called on Federal Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmed in Islamabad on January 02, 2019.



Japanese Ambassador, Takashi Kurai During His Farewell Call on Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, Industries & Production and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood in Islamabad on January 7, 2019.



Federal Minister for Defence, Pervaiz Khattak in a Meeting with Ambassador of Japan Takashi Kurai, Who Paid A Farewell Call on Him in Islamabad on January 08, 2019.



High Commissioner of Canada, H.E. MS. Wendy Gilmour Called on Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Sahibzada Muhammad Mehboob Sultan in Islamabad on January 09, 2019.



Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan, H.E. MR. Sherali S. Jononov Called on Federal Minister For National Food Security & Research, Sahibzada Muhammad Mehboob Sultan in Islamabad on January 09, 2019.



Austrian Ambassador Nicolaus Keller called on Federal Minister for water and Resources Faisal Vawda in Islamabad on 09-01-2019.



Advisor to the Pm on Commerce, Textile, Industries & Production and Investments, Abdul Razak Dawood in A Meeting With Deputy Ambassador Netherlands, H.E. MS. Josephine Frantzen in Islamabad on January 16, 2019



# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Ambassador of Iran Mr. Mehdi Honardoost called on Speaker National Assembly Mr. Asad Qaiser at Parliament House on 22.01.2019.



Speaker National Assembly Mr. Asad Qaiser Presenting Shield to Defence Attaché Azerbaijan Colonel Mehman Novruzov in Parliament House on 23.01.2019.



Speaker National Assembly Mr. Asad Qaiser in a Group Photo With Foreign Services Attaches/advisers in Parliament House on 23.01.2019.



Ambassador of China to Pakistan, H.E. Yao Jing Called on Federal Minister for Defence Production, Ms. Zubeida Jalal in Islamabad on January 23, 2019.



Mohammed Nafees Zakaria, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK Shaking hand with Neil Holland, Vice-Marshall of the Diplomatic Corps after their meeting at Foreign & Commonwealth Office in London on 22-1-2019.



Secretary Economic Affairs Division, Noor Ahmed and French Ambassador Marc Baret exchanging documents after signing Credit Facility Agreement for Peshawar Sustainable Bus Rapid Transit Corridor project in Islamabad on January 22, 2019.



EU Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Jean-Francois Cautain and IUCN Country Representative Mahmood Akhtar Cheema called on Advisor to Pm on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam.



# Diplomatic Focus Thru Lens



Group Photo of The Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi With The Graduates of 38th Diplomatic Course At Foreign Services Academy, Islamabad on January 24, 2019.



Austrian Ambassador, H.E. Nicolaus Keller Called on Chairman Board of Investment, Haroon Sharif in Islamabad on January 24, 2019.



Federal Minister For Power, Omar Ayub Khan A Meeting With A Delegation of Danish Renewable Energy Investors Led By Danish Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Rolf Michael Hay Pereira Holmobe, at his office in Islamabad on January 24, 2019.



Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey, Syrus Sajjad Qazi in a Group Photo With Pakistan and Turkish Delegations at the 6th Round of Pakistan-turkey Bilateral Consultations on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Issues Held in Ankara.



Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Masood Khalid (Center) With Acting Consul General Shangal, Consul General, Consul General Guangzhou and Consul General Hongkong (L to R) at the Embassy of Pakistan, Beijing.



Federal Minister for Aviation and Privatization, Muhammad Mian Soomro Shaking Hand with Hamad obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, Ambassador of UAE who Called on him in Islamabad on January 24, 2019.



# China's Chang'e-4 probe makes

## Historic Landing on Moon's Far Side

By Agency

China's Chang'e-4 probe touched down on the far side of the moon, becoming the first spacecraft to make a soft-landing on the moon's uncharted side, which is never visible from Earth.

The probe, comprised of a lander and a rover, touched down at the preselected landing area at 10:26 a.m. (Beijing Time), the China National Space Administration (CNSA) announced.

With the communication assistance of the relay satellite Queqiao (Magpie Bridge) the probe sent back the first-ever close-up photograph of the moon's far side, opening a new chapter in lunar exploration.

After the Beijing Aerospace Control Center sent an order at 10:15 a.m., the Chang'e-4 probe, launched on Dec. 8, 2018, began to descend from 15 km above the moon with a variable thrust engine being ignited, according to CNSA. The Chang'e-4's relative velocity to the moon was lowered from 1.7 km per second to close to zero, and the probe's attitude was adjusted at about 6 to 8 km above the lunar surface.

At 100 meters up, the probe hovered to identify obstacles and measured the slopes on the surface. After avoiding the obstacles, it selected a relatively flat area and descended vertically and slowly.

The probe then landed in the Von Karman Crater in the South Pole-Aitken Basin.

"It's an important milestone for China's space exploration," said Wu Weiren, chief designer of China's lunar exploration program.

"It is a perfect display of human intelligence," said Jia Yang, deputy chief designer of the Chang'e-4 probe, from the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST).

"Landing on the far side of the moon is more risky than landing on the near side. The rugged terrain on the far side has raised many problems," said Sun Zezhou, chief designer of Chang'e-4 probe, from CAST.

"But solving those problems might help lay the foundation for future space exploration. High-precision landing is a necessity for further exploring the moon and asteroids. We hope to be able to reach the whole moon and even the whole solar system," Sun said.

The moon is tidally locked to Earth, rotating at the same rate that it orbits the planet. Therefore, only one side of the moon is seen from Earth, leaving the far side a mystery before the age of spacecraft.

Many lunar orbiters have shown the moon's two sides are very different: the near side is relatively flat, while the far side is thickly dotted with impact craters of different sizes.

Scientists believe that the lunar crust on the far side is much thicker than the near side. However, the reality is still a mystery, and only on site exploration will reveal the truth.

"The far side of the moon has unique features never before explored on site," said Zou Yongliao, director of the lunar and deep space exploration division of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

"The exploration of this virgin land by Chang'e-4 might bring breakthrough findings."

The probe will conduct low-frequency radio astronomical observation, survey the terrain and landforms, detect the mineral composition and shallow lunar surface structure and measure the neutron radiation and neutral atoms to study the environment on the far side of the moon, according to CNSA.

For astronomers, the far side of the moon is a place of ideal tranquility, as the body of the moon shields against radio interference from Earth. From there, they can study the origins

and evolution of stars and galaxies, peering into the dawn of the universe.

Chang'e-4's low-frequency radio astronomical observation on the moon's far side will fill many gaps in astronomical observation.

The probe also took six live species - cotton, rapeseed, potato, arabidopsis, fruit fly and yeast - to the lifeless environment to form a mini biosphere, which is expected to produce the first flower on the moon.

Chinese space engineers also plan to measure temperatures on the surface of the moon day and night.

The Chang'e-4 mission, including the probe, the relay satellite Queqiao and a micro satellite orbiting the moon, is equipped with four payloads developed through international cooperation, providing more opportunities to the world's scientists and combining human expertise in space exploration.

Johan Koehler, head of Solar System Science and Space Situational Awareness, Swedish National Space Agency, said the exploration of the far side of the moon was a great achievement by China. "We are very happy to be a part of it."

Named after Chinese moon goddess "Chang'e," China's lunar exploration program, which began in 2004, includes orbiting and landing on the moon, and bringing samples back to Earth.

"Exploring the far side of the moon is one contribution China is making to the world. Although we still don't know what we might find, this exploration might influence several generations," said Shen Zhenrong, a designer of the lunar rover.

Wu Weiren said: "Exploring the unknown is human nature. The moon is a mysterious world to us. We have a responsibility to explore and to understand it. Exploration of the moon will also deepen our understanding of Earth and ourselves."



# Farewell reception in honour of outgoing Envoys of Japan & Tajikistan

Dean of Diplomatic corps and Ambassador of Turkmenistan H.E. Atadjan Movlamov hosted a farewell reception in honour of the outgoing Ambassador of Tajikistan Sherali Jononov and Ambassador of Japan Takashi Kurai. H.E. Atadjan Movlamov, highlighted the services and contributions of the outgoing envoys and paid them rich tributes. H.E. Atadjan Movlamov welcomed and introduced the new designated envoy H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Almadani Ambassador of Jordan to Pakistan. A large number of Ambassadors from the Diplomat Corps were present to bid farewell to their colleague.





# Exhibition showcases history of Japanese martial arts

Featuring the history of Japan's Martial Arts, the Embassy of Japan and the Japan Foundation, in collaboration with the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) organized an exhibition titled "The Spirit of Budo: The History of Japan's Martial Arts" here at Islamabad. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, inaugurated the exhibition. The exhibition "Spirit of Budo: History of Japanese Martial Arts" is a travelling exhibition and has been to many countries before coming to Pakistan for the second time. The travelling exhibit features reproductions of bows and arrows, elaborate helmets, armory and swords traditionally used in "Budo" which is literally translated to martial arts but attaches more importance to spiritual aspect of cultivation of oneself through developing both body and soul. This exhibition presents an evolution over more than one thousand years of Japanese martial arts from battlefield combat techniques called "Bujutsu" to

popular sports or physical exercise to train the body and cultivate the spirit, which is called "Budo". The event also included live Judo, Karate and Ninjutsu performances by Pakistani masters. The special feature of this exhibition is that it shows the historical developments of Japanese martial arts from the 8th century to the 19th century through which visitors can see how the spirit of martial arts is still inherent in the daily lives of the Japanese people today. Speaking at inaugural ceremony, H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, said that the Japanese "Budo", together with their techniques and the weapons that were actually used, have become so immensely popular overseas that they are often seen as representative images of Japan. Ambassador Kurai said that through this exhibition it is expected that visitors discover not only the history of Japanese

"Budo" but also the aesthetic awareness and creativity of the people of Japan. "Japanese Budo" is one of the most important and inseparable aspects of Japanese culture and is becoming to be more and more appreciated in the world.

"I am very glad to see the keen interest and popularity of these among Pakistani people, particularly, the young generation of Pakistanis", said Ambassador Kurai.

F.S Ninja Academy's chief instructor Irfan Bhatti and his assistant Naveed Anwer Bhatti, who are providing martial arts training in 60 schools of the twin cities and 10 institutes, and their students performed the Ninjutsu style of judo, karate and sword amid applause from the audience.

Pak-Japan Friendship Forum president Khalid Malik said that the aim of the show is to popularise Japanese martial arts and strengthen cultural ties between the two countries.









# Ambassador Kurai bids farewell to Pakistani friends

Ambassador of Japan Takashi Kurai is down-to-earth humble, friendly person and always pays attention to details. During his less than three years stint as ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Kurai and Madam Rieko Kurai visited all the major cities of Pakistan and befriended quite a large number of Pakistanis hailing from diverse professions. Madam Kurai too kept socially active all this while and even participated in floral societies exhibitions and various sessions as a participant. Their affection and love were equally reciprocated by their Pakistani friends and colleagues from the Diplomatic community who respected and considered them a loving couple and great friends. Ambassador and his wife hosted a reception at their residence upon completion of his diplomatic term to bid farewell to 'the wonderful country of the friendly people. He is on way to join Japanese mission in Ukraine later this month.







President Dr. Arif Alvi talking to Ambassador of Japan Takashi Kurai, who paid a farewell call on him in Islamabad on January 08, 2019.





# *Azerbaijan Embassy organized Seminar on* **“From Martyrdom to Independence”**





## Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi called on Ambassador Jauhar Saleem

**M.Saeed Yousafzai**

Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi Editor, CEO & Publisher of “Diplomatic Focus” a renowned Pakistani English Language Magazine called on His Excellency Mr. Jauhar Saleem Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Germany

and discussed matters of mutual interests and issues related to Pakistani community in Germany. Mr. Elahi appreciated the role and the steps taken by Ambassador Jauhar Saleem for welfare of Pakistan community in Germany. Mr. Mian Mubeen Akhtar Bauru

Chief of “Diplomatic Focus” in Germany and President of Pakistan-German Press Club, Berlin was also present at the occasion. Latter, Mr. Elahi met with Pakistani Community members and Matters relating to the welfare of Pakistani Community in Germany were discussed.



## Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi called on Ambassador Shafqat Ali Khan

**M.Saeed Yousafzai**

Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi Editor, CEO & Publisher of “Diplomatic Focus” a renowned Pakistani English Language Magazine called on His Excellency Mr.

Shafqat Ali Khan Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Poland and discussed matters of mutual interests and Matters relating to the welfare of Pakistani Community in Poland were discussed.







By Dr Farid A Malik

After the breakup of the mighty Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) on December 26, 1991 politics of the left suffered a serious setback. Centrist parties emerged with flavours of both left and right. Instead of ideology, focus shifted on economic growth. Privatisation, Globalisation, de-regulation became the buzz words. Free market approach was adopted worldwide. While the global economic order is in a big mess today as humanity stands divided between haves and have-nots. Only People's Republic of China has been able to manage its course of human development.

Last year I had a chance to interact with the Russian Ambassador. On my straight question, I got an honest answer as follows, 'today the country is moving towards capitalism', 'Socialism' has been left behind. While the comrades still gather at the Red Square in Moscow to celebrate the Bolshevik Revolution of October 1917, the government of Vladimir Putin is moving in the opposite direction.

The right wing onslaughts of Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher forced the progressive forces to move towards the centre but it did not help. The retrogressive elements became stronger as they faced little resistance. Instead of marginally right or left of centre the political pendulum has now swung in the extreme right direction. The era of centrist politics is coming to an end negative ideologies are back.

There were several upheavals in the 20th century. Three major revolutions and two world wars took a heavy toll of human lives; the struggle eventually resulted in equitable distribution of wealth. Welfare of the masses became the focus of many advanced nations. In March 1969, Pakistan came close to a revolution when the first dictator was

toppled. Charles De Gaulle barely survived in France. So far the 21st century remains barren despite skewed distribution of wealth and resources together with its resulting human miseries.

Extreme right wing nationalist parties are gaining grounds in the West. With deregulated economies this can prove to be lethal. Socialists are in disarray. While poverty is on the rise worldwide, the rich are getting richer by the day. Human sufferings are all over. Homelessness has become rampant even in the developed world. The government of PTI has decided to build shelters to place a roof over their head, which is a good move.

Nordic welfare states provide hope for mankind. China has emerged as a true People's Republic. While it all started in Medina, the Islamic world is in bad shape mired in corruption, conflict and lawlessness. The Prime Minister (PM) has repeated his pledge to create a welfare state on the lines of "Riyasat-e-Madina". With a population of 220 million people, Islamic Republic of Pakistan needs a pro-people system of governance where the focus of the state is on the masses not just the classes.

'Workers of the world unite, they have nothing to lose except their chains', and this is the inscription on the tombstone of Karl Marx the founder of pro-people socialist doctrine. It is time for the progressives of the world to unite before they are politically annihilated and the world moves back into the dark ages of unbridled, deregulated capitalism 'a la' Donald Trump style.

In the sixties, progressive politics became popular in Pakistan. Bhutto launched his People's Party on a socialist ideology; he called it "Islamic Socialism". After him the party moved to the centre Pakistan Muslim League (N) came out of Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad (IJI) with right wing leanings. After

coming into power it too moved to the center. Today the country has no real ideological party in the political arena. Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) the far right political coalition did not fare well. The leadership of the two centrist parties is in serious trouble. Nawaz Sharif has been convicted, while Asif Zardari is close, lack of ideology has resulted in massive unbridled corruption.

PTI is talking about a welfare state but in its fold are several discredited leaders of the past. The party has to set its future course. The myriad of problems being faced by the country calls for major ideological commitment to change. Progressive politics is the need of the hour in the Islamic Republic similar to the People's Republic of China. Focus has to be on the suffering masses. 'Riyasat Hogi Maa Jaisi' (The State will be like a mother). Deprivation of the people has to be addressed without delay or excuse. Issues of 'Roti, kapra aur Makan' (food, clothing and shelter) have to be resolved. As a nation we could not build 5 million permanent dwellings in seven decades now the challenge is to double them in the next five years. It is a colossal task which poses a serious challenge to the professional leadership entrusted with the undertaking. The cold war should be started against the corrupt who have usurped the resources of mankind pushing them into deprivation. Ideology of greed has to be challenged by progressive politics. Comrades of change have to get organised to take on the retrogressive forces of status-quo to deliver the meaningful change required for the uplift of the common man. Politics of greed has to be replaced with genuine commitment to service of the suffering masses.

**The Writer is Ex-Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation.**

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Photo by Ramzan Mughal

# AHC-PCB empowering girls thru cricket

The Australian High Commission (AHC) and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) with the support of Serena Hotels hosted the 4th AHC-PCB Girls' Cricket Cup at the Murghzar Cricket Ground, Islamabad.

The AHC-PCB Girls' Cup 2019 involved teams from four schools: Special Education School for Girls with Hearing Impairment H-9; Mashal Model School Bari Imam; Pakistan Sweet Homes H-9/4 and Islamabad Model School for Girls I-9/1 Islamabad. The girls attended a five-day coaching clinic in the lead-up to the competition conducted by first class women cricketers and PCB coach Farrukh Hayat. Australia's Acting High Commissioner to Pakistan, Brek Batley congratulated the schools on their participation and welcomed the continued support of the PCB and Serena Hotels for the annual PCB-AHC Girls' Cricket Cup. He also presented an autographed bat of Australian Cricket Team to the best player of the tournament.





# NIGERIAN EMBASSY COMMEMORATED ARMED FORCES REMEMBRANCE DAY

Nigerian Embassy hosted a reception to commemorate Armed Forces Remembrance Day at Serena hotel, Islamabad. High commissioners, ambassadors, senior military officers of the Pakistan Armed Forces, defence advisers and attachés of different countries, the private sector's business community, civil society and journalists were greeted by Nigerian High Commissioner retired Maj Gen Ahsimiyu Adebayo Olaniyi and retired Brig Gen Nasiru Usman Muktar. Vice Admiral Ather Mukhtar was the Chief Guest on the occasion.









# Mr. Shakil Ahmed CEO of Shakil Express, Islamabad hosted a get together reception at his residence in the honor of Diplomatic Community





# Romanian Embassy Celebrated “Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union” in Islamabad

Romanian ambassador H.E Nicolae Goia hosted reception to mark EU Council presidency at Srena Hotel Islamabad. Members from diplomatic Community, senior military and government officers of the Pakistan, the private sector’s business community and civil society graced the event.





# Royal Thai Armed Forces Day marked in Islamabad

Colonel Satja Raktiprakorn, the Thai defence and military attaché hosted a large reception at Marriott Hotel last week on the occasion of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Day. High commissioners, ambassadors, senior military officers of the Pakistan Armed Forces and attachés of different countries, the private sector's business community, civil society and journalists graced the event.











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## Mrs. Ghada Ahmed

Spouse of Egyptian Ambassador and President of the Heads of Missions' Spouses Group