

# CENTRELINE

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine



**Nawaf Saeed Al Maliki**

**Sovereignty of all states should be respected**



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## PECA ordinance meets its fate



THE Islamabad High Court (IHC) has rescinded the Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) Amendment Ordinance, which included new regulations to prosecute journalists. The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and its Pakistan affiliate, the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), have welcomed the court's decision to overturn the PECA Amendment Ordinance and congratulate Pakistan's media on this historic victory. Similarly the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) and other media bodies have also welcomed the decision and termed it a victory for the freedom of the press. On April 8, the PECA Ordinance, originally issued in February 2022, was deemed 'unconstitutional' by the IHC. Justice Athar Minallah, Chief

Justice of the IHC, stated that the ordinance breaches Article 19 of the Constitution, which ensures the right to freedom of speech, as well as Articles 9 and 14. The four-page order stated that free speech, protected under Article 19 of the Constitution, and the right to receive information, protected under Article 19-A of the Constitution, are essential for a society's development, progress, and prosperity, and that their suppression under the PECA ordinance was unconstitutional and contrary to democratic values. "The criminalisation of defamation, protection of individual reputations through arrest and imprisonment and the resultant chilling effect violates the letter of the Constitution and the invalidity thereof is beyond a reasonable doubt", the ruling stated.

"The Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022, and promulgation thereof is declared as unconstitutional, invalid beyond reasonable doubt and it is, therefore, struck down", the court added. The court also ordered the Interior Ministry to investigate the actions of officers from the Federal Investigation Agency's Cyber Crime Wing, which had resulted in widespread abuse of power and significant infringement of individuals' fundamental rights. The court's verdict has been widely welcomed by media stakeholders. The IFJ said: "This landmark overturning of the PECA Ordinance is a significant step toward restoring freedom of expression and press in Pakistan. However, there is dire need to increase efforts to ensure that all Pakistani journalists and media workers enjoy unfettered independence. Long-term democracy and the rule of law require a free, independent, and responsible media." The previous PTI government led by Imran Khan spoiled its relations with the media from the outset. It tried to muzzle the press through coercive means. The then Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry during his first stint as the minister tried to damage the print media. According to him the future belonged to the digital media therefore there was no need to have newspapers anymore. This approach created disenchantment and disappointment among the media practitioners. The news agencies used to get some sort of financial support from the government in order to subsidize their expenses but the PTI government soon after coming to power was done away with that subsidy. The amount in question was peanuts but as a matter of fact hundreds of families were being fed because of that grant. Then the government tried to introduce Pakistan Media Development Authority (PMDA), which was an attempt to control the electronic media. Huge fines and corporal punishments were recommended in that law. But due to colossal opposition from the media stakeholders the government had to withdraw the law. Then came this PECA law. It was basically meant to regulate social media. The government this time implemented the law by shelving the concerns of the media stakeholders and the political parties. The battle was then taken to the courts and finally the Islamabad High Court declared the law null and void and hence the media fraternity heaved a sigh of relief. But in the meantime relations between the government and the media houses became extremely tense. It is hoped that the incumbent government would do its best to address genuine issues of the media industry. At the same time, it would avoid indulging in futile exercise of enacting laws seeking to curb the freedom of the press.

*Arshad*

**Chief Editor's Profile:** Ansar Mahmood Bhatti is a career journalist. He started off as District Correspondent of Daily The Muslim in 1988 from Gujrat. Later he moved to Islamabad and joined Pakistan Observer as Sub-Editor / Op-ed Writer, in 1993. In 1995 he again moved to The Muslim as Sub-Editor and he left The Muslim in 1997 to join THE Nation as City Editor and Diplomatic Correspondent, where he remained till 2002. His association with the The News spans over three years from 2002 to 2005 as columnist. In 2005 Mr. Bhatti switched over to Khabrain Group as Columnist / Special Correspondent. In 2010 he was made Resident Editor of The Post, a sister publication of daily Khabrain. In 2010, he launched his own publication Centreline. He has authored two books on European Union. He also served in Pakistan Telecommunication Company (PTCL) as Media Advisor/ Director Communication. He launched Diplomatic News Agency (DNA) in 2012. In May 2020 he launched Pakistan's First & only Diplomatic Newspaper Daily Islamabad POST.

# Sovereignty of all states should be respected: Saudi envoy

EXCLUSIVE

## Staff Report

SAYS SAUDI ARABIA STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF A MIDDLE EAST FREE FROM WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND SUPPORTS INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TOWARDS THIS END

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf Saeed Al Maliki has said the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes in preserving international understanding and cooperation on the basis of mutual respect and sovereignty among all countries. The Kingdom firmly believes that the future of security in Asia is linked to respecting the sovereignty of all countries in the region, non-interference in internal affairs of other countries and commitment to international principles and resolutions. He made these remarks while speaking during the Security Dialogue held under the aegis of the Security Division. The ambassador thanked Dr. Moeed Yusuf, National Security of Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for organizing this forum of National Security Advisers of Asian countries to discuss the future of security in the region.

Ambassador Maliki further said the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continues to pursue cooperation with its partner countries and the international community to strengthen peace and security, supporting dialogue and peaceful solutions, and creating the right conditions for achieving development and meeting the aspirations for a better tomorrow in the Middle East and around the world.

He added, the Kingdom reaffirms our support for reviv-

ing the peace process to find a lasting solution to the Palestinian question with the establishment of an independent Palestinian State in a way that ensures the rights of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state in line with international resolutions. The continued escalation of the conflict by the Houthi group and their attacks against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia demonstrate their unwillingness and rejection of peaceful solutions as a way forward for the resolution of the conflict, he added. 'The Kingdom calls for the implementation of UN resolutions to halt the negative fallout of the Houthi group and the supply of arms and ammunitions to the Houthi group from outside Yemen continued Houthi attacks against civilians in the Kingdom, and undermining international navigation and global energy supplies pose a threat to the region. The Kingdom, he said, reserves the legitimate right to defend itself against missile, UAV and other forms of attacks. We call on the international community to apply more pressure on the Houthi group to ensure humanitarian assistance for the people of Yemen and bring a political settlement to the conflict. While concluding his speech the ambassador said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stresses the importance of a Middle East free from Weapons of Mass Destruction and supports international efforts towards this end.





ISLAMABAD: Editor daily Islamabad POST / Centreline / DNA Ansar Mahmood Bhatti and Deputy Editor Abid Raza posing for a picture with Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Saeed Al Maliki and Head of Press Section Mr. Fawaz. – DNA

# IK's exit: what went wrong and where?



## ANALYSIS

Ansar M Bhatti

**A**FTER serving in the office of the Prime Minister of Pakistan for 3 years 7 months and 22 days, Imran Khan was finally voted out on Sunday April 10, 2022 by 174 members of the National Assembly. Since Ayaz Sadiq was asked to preside over the proceedings after the resignation of Asad Qaisar, he could not cast his vote. Thus, the much-talked-about episode of no-trust came to an end. Imran Khan tried to the hilt to delay the vote for a couple of days, but he was not allowed to do so. The contingents of security forces were seen hovering around the important buildings including the President and the Prime Minister House and the Supreme Court was also convened at midnight in order to deal with the situation, which might have surfaced as a result of government delaying tactics. But then the better sense prevailed and Imran Khan willy-nilly allowed the no-trust move to take place. There are many factors that led

to the downfall of the cricketer-turned politician, at the top being his inflexible personality. Politics is the name of compromises and gerrymandering. Sometimes one has to make unwanted decisions as well. Political wheeling-dealing is an art and politicians who have mastery over it, ostensibly do wonders in this field. Imran Khan unfortunately badly lacked in such epithets, hence an unceremonious exit. While one may not doubt his patriotism and serene wish to bring about a socio-economic revolution in Pakistan, this is also a fact that he simply failed to transform his vows into reality. All his election promises and claims of introducing an efficient and clean governance system proved a hoax.

Various internal and external factors played a key role in his ouster. On the external front Imran Khan failed to maintain cordial relations with Pakistan's traditional and extremely close friends. Then, an estranged relationship with the United States was yet another key element that paved the way for his early departure. A few weeks ago a top diplomat of a friendly country told me that he and his country's leadership had advised Imran Khan to maintain good working relations with the establishment but he did not pay any heed. Another senior diplomat told me that a former Chinese senior diplomat came to him and complained about the step-motherly attitude of the PTI government towards the CPEC project. The

Chinese diplomat further said that they had invested billions of dollars in the project and Imran Khan and his government wanted to wrap it up on the flimsy grounds of corruption and malpractices in the project.

Some say, IK's Russia visit was also responsible for his downfall. Yes, but it was one of the factors and not the key factor. The PTI people have a point when they say the trip was planned long ago and it had nothing to do with the Russian invasion of Ukraine but analysts believe if that was the case then the visit could have been delayed for a few weeks. There is no second opinion that Pakistan ought to have close relations with all neighboring countries including Russia and India, however such relations should not be developed at the altar of another friendly country. The much-talked about secret letter issue played an instrumental role in PTI government dismissal. Right or wrong, one has to admit Khan's skills with which he propagated the whole episode and grabbed huge public attention and favour. Mired in allegations of bad governance, corruption; nepotism and misadventures, the PTI government, by dint of the very letter, was able to prop up its sagging popularity and divert public attention from socio-economic woes. It has been my consistent opinion that the PTI and Imran Khan may not be able to cash in on the letter for a long time nevertheless undoubtedly they made huge temporary gains. After the



letter saga, sympathy vote of PTI swelled to huge proportions. So much so, the PTI government did not spare the media also. Introduction of controversial laws including PECA and PMDA sought to damage the party's relations with the fourth pillar of the state. Like it or not, the media in Pakistan has acquired huge importance and power in recent years therefore political parties cannot afford to have bad relations with the media house even if they don't like it. I personally think the PTI govt's attempts to muzzle the press were ill-timed, absolutely wayward and unnecessary and especially at a time when the government had miserably failed in addressing public problems and grappling with the economic downturn. PTI members have resigned from National Assembly which appears to be a disappointing move. There is no doubt that

Imran Khan would have made a formidable opposition leader. His presence in the assembly as the opposition leader would always keep the government on its toes when it comes to good governance and deliverance of promises it has made with the people. Those in favour of resignations in PTI believe by doing so the way for early elections can be paved. Ostensibly, PTI could be more effective and relevant while staying in the assemblies. Right from the start of the PTI government I maintained a consistent view that the Prime Minister may not complete the five year term simply because no prime minister has ever completed a full five-year parliamentary tenure, and Imran Khan looked as though he could well be the first. Anyhow, towards the end of his rule, Imran Khan committed some serious political miscalculations. The idea of rejecting

the no-trust vote by invoking the Article 5 was in fact a suicidal move. And it proved true when the apex court quashed deputy speaker's ruling with a 5-0 unanimous verdict. Punjab being the biggest province holds a key to success of governments at the federal level. Imran Khan when came to power decided to keep control of the Punjab province in his own hands by appointing a 'puppet' chief minister. Usman Buzdar virtually failed to deliver good governance. Law and order and especially corruption touched new heights during his tenure. It was in fact a starting point of differences between Imran Khan and the establishment. Everybody wanted Buzdar to be replaced by some dab hands but Imran Khan turned a deaf ear to all such calls. He announced to replace Buzdar at a time when his own ship was about to sink. His intransigence to continue with



Buzdar cost him his government. PML N President Shehbaz Sharif has been elected as the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He would like to stay in power for the rest of the tenure if things go well. As his close aides would suggest, he wants to call early elections but if his son grabs Chief Minister slot in the Punjab province then the father and son may wish to stay in power for rest of one year and four months period. The PTI MPs have resigned from the National Assembly therefore the PML N and allies government will have no resistance whatsoever while doing legislation. But at the same

time, the PTI would continue to exert pressure on the government to hold early elections. The biggest challenge for Shehbaz Sharif unequivocally would be the economic challenge. If I say that the only one single factor that led to unpopularity of Imran Khan was the dollar factor, won't be wrong. It was not a prudent move when the Imran Khan govt allowed a free movement of the dollar. The idea was to boost Pakistani exports and decrease imports. But ironically the idea backfired. In that situation the govt was required to do some damage control but in-

stead it just saw the dollar playing havoc. The Shehbaz Sharif government will be facing the same threat therefore their damage control measures should be much effective than that of the PTI government if they really would like to deal with this monster. During the previous PML N regime the then Finance Minister Ishaq Dar was able to keep the dollar between Rs 100 to 115. People don't care about any monetary backlash in case the dollar is controlled through artificial arrangements; they simply want to have access to basic amenities at a low price.

On foreign policy matters, the new government is likely to do well since PML N enjoys excellent relations with Saudi Arabia, China, UAE and even European Union. It will also try to mend fences with the USA. Similarly, Pakistan's relations with the Central Asian states and brotherly country Azerbaijan have witnessed new heights. Pakistan accords huge importance to its ties with these neighboring states, which indeed makes sense as we can do together a host of things ranging from diversification of trade activities to greater connectivity. Imran Khan too contributed greatly towards building new linkages with the Central Asia by visiting these countries and inviting heads of these states to Pakistan. Hopefully, the new government will try to preserve and protect these relations. Corruption happens to be Pakistan's number one problem. Rather, it has been a number one problem all along but intriguingly no government ever tried to put an end or at least minimize quantum

of this menace, the reason being obvious that everybody seemed to be involved. The PML N and his allies have vowed to introduce better governance system, which is free from all these ills. If they are able to do so, it will indeed be a great service to this country and the nation as well. Political independence comes with the economic independence. Shehbaz Sharif in his recent speech rightly said that beggars cannot be the choosers. Now he has got an opportunity of taking Pakistan out of the list of beggars. As regards the composition of the government, of course all allies will have their pie. In normal circumstances it would be next to impossible to gather all these parties on a single platform since all of them have diametrically different views on almost all issues. It therefore can rightly be called an 'unnatural' alliance. In the past all these parties have accused one another of being even 'traitors' and 'thugs'. My understanding is that their alliance is for only a short period of time.

They all are likely to contest the general elections with a different game plan and with alliances of their own choosing. The new government intends to make changes in the electoral laws by disallowing the overseas Pakistanis to cast their votes. Similarly it also wants to clip wings of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). The incumbent NAB chief will be replaced for sure since he has already completed his term. The govt may also disallow Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in the next elections. All said and done, I personally don't think the government will be allowed to introduce all such changes. In this case even the govt allies may create hurdles. The Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in his inaugural speech resolved to clear the mess created by the previous government. Let us hope and wish that the new set up brings hope and prosperity for the people of Pakistan.

***First published in  
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# Bangladesh, Pak relations based on shared history, culture: envoy





## Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The High Commissioner of Bangladesh Rahul Alam Siddiqui has said Bangladesh and Pakistan relations are cordial adding our ties are based on shared history, culture and values. The Bangladesh high commissioner made these remarks on the occasion of the Independence and National Day of Bangladesh. He added, the relationship is rooted in the common desire of realizing the goals of

regional peace and stability. "I am pleased to share with you that the trade volume between the two countries has increased despite the Covid pandemic". The bilateral trade has registered a sharp increase. During this period from July to December exports of Pakistan to Bangladesh rose by 25 per cent while Bangladesh exports to Pakistan rose by 38 per cent, which is indeed an encouraging development. The high commissioner further said due to the robust economic growth of his country the foreign exchange reserves

have swelled to USD 45 billion besides substantial increase in the per capita income. He said his country had registered growth rate at 7 per cent adding the average life expectancy was 72 years now. The high commissioner also talked about sustainable development; women empowerment; education and healthcare system of Bangladesh. He also paid glowing tributes to the war heroes and father of the nation. Similarly, he also highlighted the achievements of the incumbent government spearheaded by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wazed.



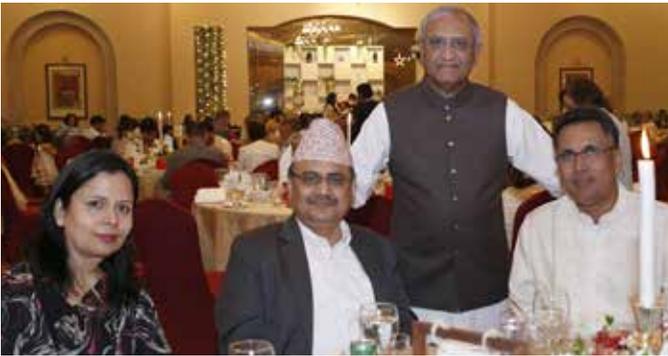
# CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani hosts grand iftar dinner at ISH

The dinner was attended by government officials, ambassadors, bureaucrats, members of the armed forces, heads of international agencies, and corporate executives

**D.N.A**

ISLAMABAD: The CEO of Serena Hotels Mr. Aziz Boolani and his spouse, Wiqar Boolani hosted the Annual Corporate Iftar Dinner at Islamabad Serena Hotel. Held at the grand Sheesh Mahal banquet hall at the Islamabad Serena Hotel, the intricate setup was reminiscent of magnificence and luxury. The traditional architecture of the Hotel was glimmering with lights, bringing a new life to the regal interior. The dinner was attended by government officials, ambassadors, bureaucrats, members of the armed forces, heads of international agencies, and corporate executives. A variety of different cuisines was served, including but not limited to Pakistani, Middle Eastern, East Asian and Continental. An opulent canopy embedded with flowers covered the Aangan area of the Hotel, featuring live stations serving shawarma, sushi and live barbecue, right off the grill. The centre of the ballroom was dedicated to dessert, with a grand display of choices ranging from profiteroles, to tarts, to Pakistani mithai and more. For a healthy diet, there was a display of fresh salads and nutritious options as well. The visitors enjoyed the iftar dinner in a tranquil setting with live folk music, while the evening highlighted memories of Serena's history of impeccable service and excellent standards.

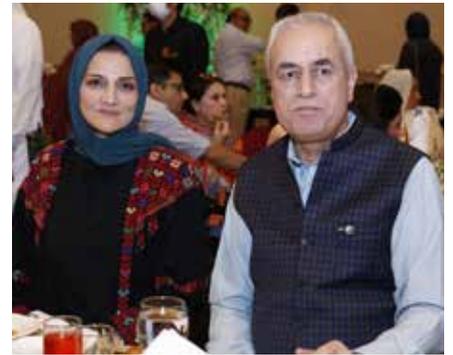
# CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani hosts grand iftar dinner at ISH



# CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani hosts grand iftar dinner at ISH



# CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani hosts grand iftar dinner at ISH



# Nepal Army Day celebrated





# Sarmad Ali and Naz Afreen Saigol elected President and Secy General of APNS

## Centreline magazine again elected as Member of the Executive Committee



### DNA

KARACHI: The Annual Meeting of the APNS General Council held on March 26, 2022 at APNS House, Karachi unanimously elected Sarmad Ali as President, Jamil Ather as Senior Vice President, Shahab Zuberi as Vice President, Ms. Nazafreen Saigol Lakhani as Secretary-General, Mohsin Bilal as Joint Secretary and Muhammad Awais Khushnood as Finance Secretary of the Society. The AGM was held under the chairmanship of Sarmad Ali, President. The Council unanimously approved the report of the Executive Committee for the year 2021-2022 as well as the Annual Accounts of the Society for the year 2021. The General Council attended by 151 members from across the country, formed an Election Commission headed by Dr. Waqar Yousuf Azeemi with Nasir Daad Baloch and Safdar Ali Khan as members. The Election Commission conducted the election of the Executive Committee for the year 2022-23. Following dailies and magazines were elected unopposed to the Executive Committee of the APNS for the next tenure :

Daily Aghaz, Daily Business Recorder, Daily Deynat, Daily Dawn, Daily Jasarat, Daily Jiddat (Khi), Daily Abtak, Daily Dunya, Daily Jang, Daily Khabrain, Daily Pakistan, Daily Tijarat, Nawa-i-Waqt, Daily Ausaf, Daily Sahafat, Daily Awam (Quetta), Daily Mashriq (Quetta), Daily Mashriq (Peshawar), Daily Wahdat, Daily Kawish, Daily Kaleem Daily Aftab (Multan), Daily Paigham, Daily Business Report, Daily City 42, Daily Pakistan Observer, Daily Halchal and Daily Sayadat. Monthly Dastak, Month-

“  
The President, Sarmad Ali announced Ms. Rameeza Majid Nizami MD Nawa-e-Waqt Group as special representative of APNS to handle federal matters. The new Executive Committee elected Mrs. Zahida Abbasi of Daily Nau Sijj, Karachi on a woman publishers seat and co-opted Monthly Naya Rukh on the periodical seat.”

ly Naey Ufaq, Monthly Centerline, Fortnightly Ibrat Magazine and Weekly Nikhar were elected on periodical seats.

The President, Sarmad Ali announced Ms. Rameeza Majid Nizami MD Nawa-e-Waqt Group as special representative of APNS to handle Federal matters. The new Executive Committee elected Mrs. Zahida Abbasi of Daily Nau Sijj, Karachi on a woman – publishers seat and co-opted Monthly Naya Rukh on the periodical seat.

The newly elected Executive Committee appreciated the performance of the Election Commission. The members unanimously appreciated the efforts of Mr. Hameed Haroon for the reconciliation in the ranks of the newspaper industry and expressed their full confidence in his efforts. The General Council strongly condemned the use of Federal government advertisements as a tool to strangle the voice of dissent and urged upon the Federal Government to withdraw the ban imposed on certain newspapers. The General Council also noted that the Federal Government has curtailed the release of advertisements to regional newspapers and periodical publications and demanded that the regional quota be observed in letter and spirit in the release of Federal Government advertisements.

Earlier, the Extra-Ordinary General Council of the Society held a meeting in the morning and adopted a Resolution to amend Article 1 Article 8 of the Articles of Association. The Annual General Council elected Dr. Waqar Yousuf Azeemi and Mr. Riaz Ahmed Mansuri as member emeritus in acknowledgement of their 40 years of services for the newspaper industry.

# Balakot to Mian Chanu: Critical Questions for Pakistan



**Irfan Shahzad Takalvi**

**I**NDIA did it once again, though ‘accidentally’, it is claimed by New Delhi. A supersonic Indian missile landing in Pakistan’s Mian Chanu on March 9 raises serious questions for ‘strategic stability’ in South Asia. India regrets that it was an accident. Yet, as raised by Pakistan’s foreign minister and representatives of relevant institutions, the incident proves it once again that security and safety of Indian strategic weapons and delivery systems is highly compromised and questionable. Rather threatening, it would not be wrong to say so. Just imagine the damage it could cause had it come in contact with a passenger plane. There are plenty of them flying around, all the time. The missile was actually flying at that very altitude where passenger jets usually cruise, in medium to long-haul flights. And it was just a lucky moment that civilians on the ground in Pakistan were spared. Besides, how can one be sure that it would not be repeated again?

International communities must understand that India’s strategic posture, and its technical and procedural weaknesses if its ‘regrets’ are to be believed, pose serious challenges not only to Pakistan but to regional nations as well as international air and maritime

traffic. New Delhi must be held accountable, if potential bilateral, regional and global disasters are to be averted.

But beyond this, the incident also raises some serious questions for relevant institutions in Pakistan. These questions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Does Pakistan not have the capacity to shoot-down an aerial object that remains flying within its territory for almost 4 minutes? (It was three minutes and 44 seconds to be precise.)
- Was it not intended to shoot the missile down, at all, after it was found on our radars? In that case, were we sure that it was not carrying any warhead? And more importantly, how could we be sure that while hitting the ground, it would not damage the civilian population?
- Are we sure that India was not testing our response capability in the name of an accident? Would it not give a confidence to India that Pakistan does not have such a capability? Or at least the confidence that Pakistan needs more response time in such an eventuality?

Let us not forget what happened almost three years ago. Formations of Indian fighter jets violated Pakistan’s airspace and sovereignty in a blatant way, and attacked Balakot. Yes, Pakistan Air Force instantly scram-

bled it jets in response and the Indians ran away, in a matter of seconds. At that time also, the debate revolved around very valid point that any air force in the world needs a minimum time to manage a response in such as a situation – and Pakistan Air Force indeed was very quick. True, and every Pakistan feels proud about its air force. But the question still remains: what happened to Pakistan’s anti-aircraft guns and relevant ground-to-air defense systems at that time? Are those not effective or responsive enough against such challenges? Strategic stability in South Asia is of vital importance for Pakistan’s sovereignty, and the questions above are of pivotal nature in this connection. Pakistani nation needs forthright, reassuring answers. Let me conclude by saying that I remain among the proud citizens who are confident that their armed forces are fully capable of defending the country against any challenge that so arises. That very confidence makes it even more important for me to have the answers to above questions.

**– The author is CEO of Policy Pak and Founding President of the Eurasian Century Institute, Islamabad-Pakistan. He may be accessed at [irfanzad@gmail.com](mailto:irfanzad@gmail.com)**

# KP team win Murree Brewery Polo Cup

Ambassadors various countries witness the final match



## DNA

RAWALPINDI: Chairman Murree Brewery Company Ispahnyar Bhandara has said that sports help in developing the mental and physical abilities of the youth. This builds their character along with improving patience and courage in their personalities, because self-confidence in a person can play an important role in the country's development. He added that the players are assets of the nation and play an important role in promoting sports for the formation of a healthy society. He expressed his views while talking to reporters after distributing prizes in the successful team at the 118th MP Bhandara Memorial Polo Cup Final in Rawalpindi. In the final FC KPK Team scored 9 goals to beat PAF team by 5 goals. Ambassador of Czech Republic was the Chief Guest of this event. He appreciated the efforts of the Murree Brewery team for the promotion sports event went on to say that the inaugural M.P. Bhandara Memorial Polo tournament was held in 1904.

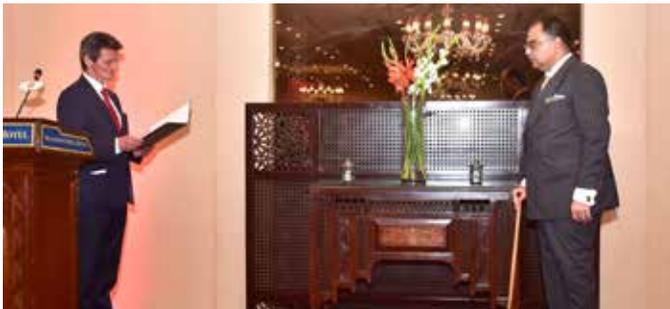


# Teaching Demo by Farhat Zaman at Islamabad Serena Hotel



# Pakistan-Hungary friendship day celebrated in Islamabad

Hungarian govt decorates President of Bank of Punjab Zafar Masood with highest civil award





**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Hungary to Pakistan Bela Fazekas has said relations between Hungary and Pakistan are deep-rooted and historical adding the world famous orientalist, Sandor Koreosi Csoma arrived to this part of the world what we call today Pakistan. The Hungarian ambassador expressed these views on the occasion of celebration of Hungary-Pakistan friendship day. Hungary also decorated President of the Bank of Punjab Zafar Masood with the highest civil award for cementing relations between the two countries. Ambassador Fazekas further said arrival of Sandor Csoma was the first ever encounter between our two peoples. Koreosi came here in his quest to find the descendants of the ancient Hungarian tribes scattering around in Central Asia eleven centuries ago. He never found them, instead he decided to stay on the subcontinent for the rest of his life. He added, some Hungarian have spent years, some even decades but all of them have largely contributed to the intellectual, cultural scientific life of the 19th century Lahore. 'It is enough to mention the Punjab University, which was founded in 1882 by the Hungarian scholar, Vilmos Leitner. In 1887 Aurel Stein came to Lahore where he joined the Punjab University as Registrar and later on he was the Principal of Oriental College', he added. The ambassador said the long list of Hungarians in Pakistan would not be complete without mentioning the name of August Schofft, the famous painter who came to the Punjab in the 1840s where he spent four years in the court of the Sikh ruler. Schofft has painted

pictures one after the other portraying the members of the Sikh ruling family and the everyday life of the court. The paintings went through a very long journey from Lahore to Austro-Hungary from there to London, and then as part of the Princess Bamba Collection back to Lahore. He said, after more than 150 years of exciting journey these extraordinary pieces of art badly needed a complete restoration. The initiative which came from our embassy became the largest ever cultural project in our bilateral history. 'The bottleneck of every project is always the financial background. I have to admit that to initiate the project was much easier than to find sponsors. I cannot emphasize enough the role of the Bank of Punjab in this project because without their generous financial support the Schofft paintings, these emblematic pieces of the Pakistani cultural identity could not have been restored back to their original splendor by the Hungarian restorers'. Ambassador Fazekas said the project became the latest landmark of our cooperation and a permanent topic of the high-level meetings between the leaders of the two countries. He welcomed Zafar Masood the President and CEO of the Bank of Punjab, the man who was behind this generous support with his passion reborn. Zafar Masood survived recent PIA air crash in Karachi. Zafar Masood in his speech thanked the President of Hungary and Hungarian government for bestowing upon him the highest award. He said it was a privilege for him and his institution to support the Hungarian project. He said BoP supported the project as part of its corporate social responsibility. It was the biggest ever project supported by BoP under its CSR initiative.

# CEO and Founder of Monal Group Luqman Ali Afzal hosts grand iftar dinner at Monal







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<p><b>4 bumper crops</b> Extra income of Rs. 1100 billion for farmers</p>	<p><b>Establishment of PANAHGAHs</b> for labourers and daily wagers</p>	<p><b>Impregnable Defense</b> Inclusion of J10C in Pak Air Force</p>	<p><b>Strong voice against Islamophobia</b> and success at UN level</p>	<p><b>Effective handling of Covid-19</b> under NCOC</p>	<p><b>Nation's \$11 billion saved in Reko diq case</b></p>	<p><b>Independent Foreign Policy</b> and 1st ever National Security Policy</p>	<p><b>Kamryah Iqbal Program</b> at a cost of Rs. 100 billion</p>

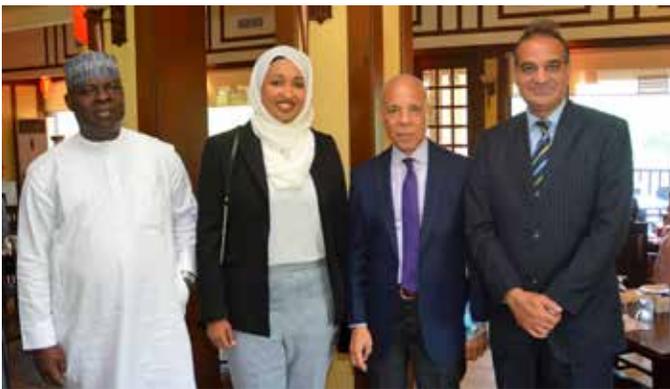


Government of Pakistan

# I will be Pakistan ambassador to Somalia: Khadija M. Almakhzoumi

Ambassador Khadija is leaving Pakistan after six years as she has been elected as Member of Somali parliament. She said she would happily like to serve as Pakistan's ambassador to Somalia





## Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Somalia to Pakistan Khadija Mohamed Almahzoumi has said she was leaving Pakistan on a positive note and when relations between the two countries were on an upward trajectory. She made these remarks while speaking on the occasion of farewell lunch hosted by Zafar Bakhtawari.

Ambassadors of African countries as well as former Senators and businessmen attended the lunch. Besides, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also present on the occasion.

Ambassador Khadija is leaving Pakistan after six years as she has been elected as Member of Somali parliament. She said she would happily like to serve as Paki-

stan's ambassador to Somalia.

'As Somali Ambassador to Pakistan, I considered my role was to facilitate the contacts between the players in the economic field, to get them to know each other better and also to interconnect in a better way' and I am pleased to announce that I was able to bring peoples of both countries even closer'. She further said, in 1969, Pakistan and Somalia were among the founding members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Somalia's relations with Pakistan remained strong in the following years and through the ensuing civil war period, when the Pakistani military contributed to a UN peacekeeping operation in southern Somalia. She hoped that even in future this cooperation will continue adding she would continue to play her role for further strength-

ening and promotion of bilateral relations. The host Zafar Bakhtawari in his speech paid rich tributes to the outgoing ambassador and recognized her services which she rendered for promotion and strengthening of bilateral relations.

He said, during her tenure a number of milestones were achieved. He said Somalia actively participated the both OIC conferences organized by Pakistan.

He said Pakistan accorded huge importance to its relations with the African and Arab countries adding Africa happens to be an emerging market and Pakistani businessmen must benefit from this opportunity. Former Senator Abdul Qayyum also spoke on the occasion and expressed best wishes for Ambassador Khadija for her future role as a parliamentarian.

# French envoy hosts Int'l day of Francophone event

Francophone area is made up of many countries. There are 300 million French speakers in 33 countries across the globe, a number that has increased by 9.6% since the last census in 2014







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## DNA

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ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of France Nicolas Galey hosted a reception to celebrate the International Day Francophone event, at the French residence. Diplomats hailing from the French speaking countries attended the reception. Ambassador Galey delivered a short speech as well in which he welcomed the guests shed light on the importance of the day. It may be mentioned here that the Francophone area is made up of many countries. There are 300 million French speakers in 33 countries across the globe, a number that has increased by 9.6% since the last census in 2014. However, the Francophone area, as a political community, brings together 88 countries and associate, observer and member governments of the International Organisation of La Francophonie. French is the fifth most-spoken language in the world, behind Mandarin Chinese, English, Spanish and Arabic. The largest five Francophone countries population-wise are the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Algeria, Morocco and Côte d'Ivoire French

is the second most-used language in diplomacy. Multilateral Francophonie, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2020, is an institutional structure aiming to bring together Francophone countries in a political community. It organizes its relations between full member or associated States and Governments, which share a language, French, and motivated by the founding principle of cooperation and solidarity, with the help of various actors: The OIF, which has 88 member and observer States and Governments; The four agencies working for La Francophonie: the University Agency for Francophonie (AUF), TV5MONDE, the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF) and Senghor University; The Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF); The 16 institutional networks of La Francophonie; The permanent ministerial conferences (CONFJES, CONFEMEN); The Conference of INGOs of La Francophonie. This multilateral Francophonie contributes to peace, democracy, human rights, the

promotion of the French language and cultural diversity as well as the development of shared and lasting prosperity. In 2018, at the Yerevan Summit, Louise Mushikiwabo was appointed as the new Secretary-General of La Francophonie. In her first speech, she stated her intention to place La Francophonie under the theme of living together, insisting that the OIF's action refocus on the areas "in which its added value is real, where its added value is recognized, where its action is expected", particularly the dissemination of the French language, defence of gender equality, development of digital technology and commitment to young people. For International Francophonie Day, on 20 March 2019, Emmanuel Macron visited OIF headquarters in Paris for the first time and met with Louise Mushikiwabo, reaffirming France's commitment to multilateral Francophonie. France is the leading contributor to the OIF and its agencies, which reflects how important La Francophonie is as a vehicle for our diplomacy.

# Nepal ambassador meets Army Chief



His Excellency Mr Tapas Adhikari, Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ, today. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security situation and measures to improve bilateral relations between the two countries were discussed. COAS said that Pakistan wishes to enhance long term multi-domain relations with Nepal based on common interests. COAS reiterated that all regional countries need to work collectively for enduring peace and stability in the region. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's efforts for regional stability and pledged to play his part for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels. – DNA



ISLAMABAD: Chief Editor Daily Islamabad POST / Centreline in a meeting with Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan Ulanbek Totuiaev, at the Kyrgyz Embassy. – DNA

# Serena Hotels celebrate Nowruz Festival in style



ISLAMABAD: CEO Serena Hotels along with staff members cutting cake on the occasion of Nowruz Festival celebrations. – DNA



## Serena Hotels celebrate Nowruz Festival in style



## Serena Hotels celebrate Nowruz Festival in style



## Serena Hotels celebrate Nowruz Festival in style



### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels celebrated a Nowruz and Spring Festival while marking the 20th Anniversary of Islamabad Serena Hotel. The program included cultural performances from across Pakistan, live music, displays of traditional artefacts, and a number of entertainment activities. Nowruz, which means 'New Day', is an ancient celebration of spring dating back to around 3000 years; and is celebrated by 300 million people belonging to different faiths and ethnicities across the world. The Nowruz celebrating countries particularly Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Uzbekistan participated in the celebrations by displaying their cultural heritage and offered their traditional cuisine.

The festival was attended by the members of Diplomatic Corps, Government, Armed Forces, International Agencies, Corporate Sector, Media, and a large number of guests from all walks of life. The Hotel's lush green lawns were exquisitely decorated with colourful fabrics and reed huts. A large array of lavish Pakistani, Continental, Asian and Middle Eastern cuisines were served, where speciality Chefs showcased their skills while serving the guests. The mouth-watering desserts attracted the guests to experience Serena's delicacies along with a variety of beverages.

An amusement corner was dedicated for kids with exciting

activities including Camel & Horse Riding, Jumping Castles, Trampolines, Puppet Shows and Street Magic. Cotton Candy, Ice-cream, and Juice Stations were an additional treat for the children, making the festival a truly memorable family day under the blue skies.

Michel Galopin, General Manager Islamabad Serena Hotel on the occasion said: "It has been a great pleasure to welcome you for the 20th Anniversary of Islamabad Serena Hotel, and the celebration of Nowruz. I would like to thank all the guests for making this festival a huge success."

Aziz Boolani, the CEO of Serena Hotels, said: "The two-decade journey would not have been possible without the support of our hardworking and dedicated Associates. He offered a big thank you to the valued Guests, Government Functionaries, Local Administration, Law Enforcement Agencies and Media for their support over these past 20 years." Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan H.E Benedict de Cerjat, said: "I am very glad to join for the 20 years celebration of Islamabad Serena Hotel. I am truly fascinated by the culture and history of Pakistan specially the Indus Valley Civilization."

Pakistan Air Force Group Captain Tahir Sultansaid: "Serena Hotels, as usual, has outclassed itself. This event was truly a memorable experience. We were thrilled by the arrangements made for the 20 years celebration."

Westminster Academy Principal Ms. Gulandamasaid: "It is a beautiful day to come out and celebrate the beginning of Spring, my entire family loved the festivities."

# Shahid Saleem and members of the RCCL hosts dinner in honour of Zahid Latif Khan on his election as Lahore Stock Exchange Chairman





# INT'L WOMEN'S DAY

## Serena Hotels host networking breakfast







## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels hosted a Networking Breakfast on the 8th of March 2022, to celebrate International Women's Day and honour, recognise and applaud the talented women. This year the Women's Day celebration was also part of the Islamabad Serena Hotel's 20 year anniversary celebrations. Women from all walks of life including the Guests, Associates, Entrepreneurs, and representatives of the Civil Society along with a large number of Diplomats and their spouses joined the celebrations. Mrs. Samina Alvi, the First Lady was the Chief Guest.

Aziz Boolani, the CEO of Serena Hotels, said, "At Serena, we believe that investing in women is the most effective way to improve the standards of living of communities and most of our CSR initiatives are focused on empowering the women resulting in social and economic upliftment".

The objective of celebrating International Women's Day is to break the bias, stereotypes and discrimination, and to celebrate a world that's diverse, equitable and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated.

On this occasion, various stalls featuring Pakistani handicrafts and traditional items, made by differently abled children, women artisans in underprivileged homes and other arts and crafts were displayed by women organisation represented by Indus Heritage, Andaz, Mashal Association, Air Organics, Behbud Crafts, Care for Special Children Organisation, Pakistan Navy Women Association, Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association, the Aga Khan Economic Planning Board, and Chann Mahi Handicrafts.

The First Lady also visited various stalls and evinced interest in items displayed there. She also praised the work of artisans. The guests thoroughly enjoyed live music and an entertaining trivia session in a well decorated Sheesh Mahal.

**Government of Pakistan**

Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training  
National Vocational and Technical Training Commission



**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

*Prime Minister's Special Package to Implement  
"Skills for All" Strategy for TVET Sector Development in Pakistan  
under Kamyab Jawan Initiative*

**INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL  
ACCREDITATION BODIES**

National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training, Government of Pakistan, invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for pre-qualification from technically qualified and financially sound public/private accreditation awarding bodies of international repute to implement the component-2 "International Accreditation of selected Pakistani TVET Institutes" under NAVTTTC's "Prime Minister's Special Package to Implement Skills for All Strategy for TVET Sector Development in Pakistan" under Kamyab Jawan Initiative.

2. The interested international accreditation awarding bodies are requested to submit their complete organizational profile, encompassing their respective criteria for accreditation, and accreditation experience of TVET Institutes, etc., within 30 days of publication of the advertisement.
3. The Pre-Qualification documents are available on official websites of NAVTTTC website: <http://navttc.gov.pk>, and PPRA website <http://ppra.org.pk>, and can be obtained from the office of NAVTTTC, free of cost.
4. The cover of the envelope should contain the name of Organization/entity and heading International Accreditation of Bodies. The documents should be duly signed and stamped. The queries may be addressed to email address: [dgnavttc21@gmail.com](mailto:dgnavttc21@gmail.com), Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Director General (AC&IC), NAVTTTC, Islamabad Phone No. +92-51-9206324 .
5. The documents in a sealed envelope should reach the office of Director General (AC&IC), NAVTTTC Headquarters, Plot No.38, Kirthar Road, Sector H-9/4, Islamabad. Pakistan, by 28th April 2022, at 1400 hours (PST). They will be opened on the same day at 1430 hours (PST).
6. In case the day of bid submission and opening falls on a public holiday, the next working day shall be considered as the deadline for the same.

**Sajid Baloch**  
**Executive Director,**  
**National Vocational & Technical Training Commission**  
**Pakistan**

# 'Japan, Pakistan ties to be further strengthened'





## The Ambassador of Japan hosts a reception to celebrate the 62nd Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito

### Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan WADA Mitsuhiro has said as this year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan, our relationship will be strengthened together with all the Pakistani friends including “Derena Dost / Long-time Friends”. He added, the Embassy underscores sincere efforts from both sides in order to further strengthen this friendship.

The ambassador said, in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, the Embassy could not host the reception for the last year which is usually an annual feature to mark the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor. The ambassador expressed these views during a reception he hosted to celebrate the 62nd Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito. The reception was attended by the Ministers such as (the chief guest) Syed Fakhar Imam, Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Mr. Farrukh Habib, Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, Parliamentar-

ians, senior government officials, members of the diplomatic community and other dignitaries from the public and private sector. Ambassador WADA together with the distinguished guests cut a cake to mark the His Majesty the Emperor’s Birthday, which is on February 23rd. Since his accession to the throne on 1st May 2019 as the 126th Emperor of Japan, His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito stands as the symbol of Japan and the unity of the people. His Majesty and the Imperial Family also facilitate the good relations with foreign countries including Pakistan.



**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND RESEARCH**

**NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR ENHANCING COMMAND  
AREA IN BARANI AREAS OF PAKISTAN**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
(FOR CONSULTING SERVICES)**

The Ministry of National Food Security & Research (M/o NFS&R), Government of Pakistan is implementing an Umbrella project "National Program for Enhancing the Command Area in Barani Areas of Pakistan (NPECA)" at a total cost of Rs.25.346 billion on special instructions of the Honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan to Conserve & Increase Productivity of Water in Pakistan. The project envisages to construct 2,664 farm ponds, installation of 2664 solar pumping systems on farm ponds, development of 4,106 dug wells, installation of 4,156 solar pumping systems on dug wells (inclusive of 50 hydro ram pumps in GB, improvement of 2,432 watercourses, provision of 1,106 units of laser land levelers (on 50% cost sharing basis) and provision of fruit plants, oilseed/pulses crops & fodder/forage/range crops on 9,957 acres, 24,810 acres & 18,503 acres, respectively in all the provinces including GB, AJ&K and ICT. The project is being implemented through all Provincial Departments of Agriculture (Provincial Directorates of OFWM) and respective departments of AJ&K, GB and ICT.

The National Projects Coordinator (NPsC), Federal Project Management Unit (PMU), M/o NFS&R, Islamabad invites eligible consultancy firms/ lead firm in case of joint venture(s) having at least 10 years' proven experience in respective categories under similar geographic conditions to submit Request for Proposal (RfP) in the English language along with relevant complete details, as envisaged in the RfP document, for the following Consultancy Services:

- A) Project Consultants (PCs) for Implementation Assistance, Execution Supervision and Third-Party Validation of Project Interventions**
- B) Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact Evaluation (ME&IE) Consultants**

Interested consulting firms/joint venture(s) shall provide all the requisite information as envisaged in the RfP document of respective consultancy services. Consulting firm(s) /Joint Venture(s) will be selected on Quality Based Selection (QBS) method as per evaluation criteria given in the RfP in accordance with relevant PPRA Rules, PPRA Regulations and PEC Procurement guidelines and procedures.

A set of respective RfP for aforementioned categories having project brief, evaluation criteria TORs etc shall be available immediately after advertisement. Interested consultants, on written request, may obtain respective RfP documents from the office of the undersigned during the office hours on cash payment of PKR2,500/- (Non-refundable) for each RfP. It is mandatory for the lead firm to purchase documents in its name.

Request for Proposals, complete in all respects in accordance with the requirements, shall reach at the address mentioned below by **25<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 at 1100 hours**. The proposals received late will not be accepted. Initial screening of the received proposals will be carried out in the manner and criteria given in the RfP in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend on proposal opening date. No extension will be allowed in proposal submission date. The competent authority reserved the right to accept or reject any or all proposals without assigning any reasons.

PID NO 6988

**Muhammad Asif Kakar**

**National Projects Coordinator**

**Federal Project Management Unit (FPMU)**

**Ministry of National Food Security & Research**

**First Floor, Plot #4, Block #2, Sitara Market, G-7 Markaz, Islamabad**

**Tel: 051-9252459, 051-9252419**

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