

# CENTRELINE

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine



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# The PML-N-Establishment 'collaboration'; will it work?



**B**Y selecting Barrister Gohar as the interim Chairman of the PTI, Imran Khan has strategically outmaneuvered his opponents, catching them off guard with a shrewd and astute move. The decision reflects Khan's political acumen and ability to make calculated choices that go beyond expectations. The appointment of Barrister Gohar benefits Imran Khan on two accounts; first Gohar would immediately step down whenever asked to do so and Secondly, Imran Khan has strategically chosen to distance himself from the pitfalls of family politics, a move that seeks to set a precedent and foster a culture of meritocracy within the PTI. The inherent issue lies in the absence of genuine democracy within the political parties themselves. Regrettably, these internal elections often amount

to mere theatrical displays, lacking true democratic essence. The process tends to be more of a selective endeavor, raising a pertinent query: If democracy remains elusive within the very foundations of political entities, how can they be entrusted with fostering democratic principles at a national level? The current scenario presents a surprising turn of events, with the Establishment seemingly placing its bets on the PML N, a move that can only be described as a miraculous development given the historical dynamics between the two. Despite a fraught past, both parties are fully cognizant of this reality. The challenge arises from the strategic necessity for PML N and PPP support in the overarching plan to dislodge the PTI government. Consequently, the Establishment found itself compelled to approach the PML N. In parallel, the PML N, led by Nawaz Sharif and his associates, found themselves in a position where Establishment support was not only imperative for the resolution of legal issues but also pivotal for an active re-entry into the political arena, perhaps even eyeing a fourth term as the prime minister. However, this tactical alliance has placed the image and future well-being of both the PML N and the Establishment in precarious territory. The risks associated with this collaboration loom large, as it calls into question the credibility and standing of these entities in the eyes of the public and the broader political landscape. Nawaz Sharif's decision to maintain a low profile since his return to Pakistan seems to stem from his perceived association with the Establishment. His political narrative, at least in recent times, has largely centered around an anti-Establishment stance. This creates a delicate situation for him during public appearances, as the absence of any mention of his established narrative might lead to a political setback. It appears that he is currently treading cautiously, recognizing the potential risks involved. And so is the case with the Establishment. Nawaz Sharif finds himself caught between opposing forces, akin to being "between the devil and the deep sea." Striking a delicate balance between maintaining political relevance and avoiding unnecessary conflicts is a formidable challenge. The evolving dynamics of his relationship with the Establishment will play a pivotal role in shaping the future trajectory of his political career.

On the contrary, the enduring popularity of the PTI remains a source of concern for those in positions of authority. Despite various challenges, the party's appeal shows no signs of waning, posing a potential obstacle to the established powers. The prospect of a genuinely transparent and equitable election raises the likelihood of the PTI reclaiming power. In summary, the persistent reality in Pakistani politics is the undeniable influence of the Establishment, which often intervenes in political affairs due to the consistent underperformance of civilian governments. It is imperative for the political leadership to recognize that such interference will persist unless they address internal issues. The recurrent removal of political administrations is typically justified by allegations of corruption. In the weeks ahead, we can anticipate a series of unexpected developments. Nawaz's persistent and forceful criticism of the Establishment seems to be casting a shadow over his prospects of ascending to the position of the next prime minister. Simultaneously, the ongoing legal support from the courts has propelled the PTI back into a strategically advantageous position. Despite these dynamics, the journey towards the February 8 voting process is fraught with uncertainties, and there is still a considerable gap between the current situation and the eventual outcome. The unfolding events promise to add further twists to this political narrative, making it a period of heightened anticipation and strategic maneuvering.

*Ansar*

**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.

## Mudassar Raja

**INTRODUCTION:** Dr. Shumaila Khan is a well-known & energetic Aesthetic Physician, best Injector and Laser therapist, is running 'Dr Shumaila Khan's Dermalase', in Islamabad. She has done her MBBS from Baqai Medical University, Karachi and started her career in Karachi. She further joined Dermatology department of PIMS Islamabad, wherein she worked under renowned Dermatologists of Pakistan. Later on, she went to Cardiff University Wales (UK) for post-graduation in Dermatology. After successful completion of post-graduation from Cardiff, she joined American Academy of Aesthetic Medicine (USA) to become Diplomate in Aesthetic, Laser and Mesotherapy. Moreover, she has advanced training in Aesthetic Medicines on facial transformation from Derma Medical UK.

She is a member of many prestigious societies/groups of Dermatology & Aesthetic Medicine like; American Academy of Aesthetic Medicine (AAAM) and Pakistan Academy of Aesthetic Dermatologists & Surgeons (PAADS). Besides that, she is an expert in Cosmetology and Laser therapy and has earned many training in Aesthetic Medicines.

She gave an exclusive interview to Daily Islamabad POST and CENTRELINE magazine. Here is the text of her interview.

### 1: What are some of the most common skin conditions Pakistanis are faced with?

Pakistan, like many other countries, has a diverse population with varying skin types and environmental factors that can contribute to a range of skin conditions. Some of the common skin conditions faced by Pakistanis include:

**Acne:** Acne is a widespread skin condition affecting people of all ages. Factors such as hormonal changes, genetics, and environmental conditions can contribute to acne.

**Pigmentation Issues:** Hyperpigmentation (darkening of the skin) and hypopigmentation (lightening of the skin) are common concerns. These can be caused by sun exposure, inflammation, or skin injuries.



**Eczema (Dermatitis):** Eczema is an inflammatory skin condition characterized by red, itchy, and dry skin. Environmental factors, genetics, and allergies can contribute to eczema.

**Psoriasis:** Psoriasis is a chronic autoimmune condition that results in the rapid buildup of skin cells, leading to scaling on the skin's surface. It can be triggered by various factors, including genetics and stress.

**Fungal Infections:** Fungal infections, such as ringworm and tinea versicolor, are common in warm and humid climates. These infections can affect different parts of the body.

**Melasma:** Melasma is a condition characterized by dark patches on the skin, often

on the face. Hormonal changes, sun exposure, and genetics can contribute to melasma.

**Urticaria (Hives):** Urticaria is characterized by raised, itchy welts on the skin. It can be triggered by various factors, including allergies, medications, and stress.

**Scabies:** Scabies is a contagious skin infestation caused by

# DR SHUMAILA KHAN An Aesthetic Physician par excellence



mites. It results in intense itching and a rash, often in the webs of fingers, wrists, elbows, and other body parts. Burns: Accidental burns, whether from hot surfaces, liquids, or other sources, can lead to various skin issues and scarring.

**Skin Cancer:** Exposure to the sun's harmful UV rays increases the risk of skin cancer. Regular use of sunscreen and protective measures are essential in preventing skin cancer.

It's important to note that the prevalence of these conditions can vary among individuals, and seeking advice from healthcare professionals is crucial for accurate diagnosis and effective treatment. Additionally, cultural practices, lifestyle, and environmental factors can influence the prevalence of certain skin conditions in different regions of Pakistan.

### 2: Why did you pursue a career as an Aesthetic medicine?

When I decided to pursue a career in Aesthetic Medicine, there were only a handful of doctors dedicated to this field. It is inherent in every individual to harbor a desire to look and feel good. A pleasing appearance not only enhances one's outer allure but also boosts inner confidence. This natural inclination towards aesthetics led to a widespread interest in Aesthetic Medicine upon its introduction in Pakistan. My profound interest in this field is rooted in a genuine passion for assisting those seeking to enhance their physical appearance, ultimately elevating their confidence levels. My primary goal is to contribute to the well-being of individuals by helping them cultivate presentable and confident personalities. I take immense satisfaction in knowing that my work has brought joy and improved the lives of many.

### 3: What are your strengths as an Aesthetic medicine?

As an Aesthetic medicine physician, cultivating a diverse set of strengths is essential for achieving success in a dynamic and competitive field. Beyond mastering technical skills, your success hinges on a com-



“ The pursuit of enhancing one's aesthetic appeal is a delicate and intricate process, making it one of the most challenging vocations. Achieving perfection in this realm necessitates the expertise of a seasoned and well-trained staff. The commitment to sculpting an individual's appearance requires a blend of artistry, medical knowledge ”



bination of interpersonal finesse and business acumen. Here are some key strengths to elevate your profile as an esthetician:

#### Comprehensive Expertise:

Master a broad spectrum of skincare and beauty treatments, showcasing your versatility. This not only enhances your service offerings but also positions you as a well-rounded professional capable of addressing various client needs.

#### Continuous Learning:

Stay abreast of the latest industry trends and technological advancements. This commitment to ongoing education demonstrates your dedication to providing cutting-edge services, keeping you ahead in the rapidly evolving world of beauty and skincare.

#### Effective Communication:

Possess excellent communication skills to discern and comprehend clients' unique needs and preferences. The ability to convey information clearly and concisely fosters a positive client

experience and ensures that their expectations are met.

#### Rapport Building:

Establish a strong rapport with clients by creating a welcoming and comfortable atmosphere. Building a connection goes beyond just the technical aspects of your job; it involves making clients feel at ease, enhancing their overall satisfaction with your services.

#### Active Listening:

Actively listen to clients to identify their concerns, preferences, and expectations. This not only helps customize treatments to individual needs but also

fosters trust, as clients appreciate being heard and valued.

#### Feedback Responsiveness:

Respond thoughtfully to client feedback during and after treatments. Addressing concerns promptly and professionally not only resolves issues but also showcases your commitment to continuous improvement and client satisfaction. By prioritizing and honing these strengths, one can not only enhance her effectiveness as an esthetician but also position herself for long-term success in the competitive beauty and skincare industry. Embrace a holistic approach that combines technical prowess with excellent interpersonal and business-related qualities to create a fulfilling and prosperous career.

#### 5: People often complain that some of the treatments especially fillers may have side effects also. What is your opinion?

Complaints about fillers are virtually nonexistent when the procedure is carried out by highly skilled and well-trained medical professionals.

Enhancing the perfection of fillers is intricately linked to the choice of products utilized throughout the procedure.

Opting for premium-quality products, particularly those manufactured in Europe and other reputable countries, plays a pivotal role in achieving exceptional results. The efficacy and aesthetic outcomes of the procedure are significantly heightened when employing top-tier products, as they are designed with advanced formulations and adhere to stringent quality standards. Therefore, the selection of high-quality fillers sourced from reputable regions becomes a crucial factor in maximizing the perfection and overall success of the procedure.



#### 6: Anything you would like to add.

Aesthetic medicine stands as a burgeoning and specialized field, uniquely positioned at the intersection of health and beauty. Given its focus on the physical appearances of individuals and the universal desire for self-improvement, this field operates under a zero-tolerance policy for imperfections. The pursuit of enhancing one's aesthetic appeal is a delicate and intricate process, making it one of the most challenging vocations. Achieving perfection in this realm necessitates the expertise of a

seasoned and well-trained staff. The commitment to sculpting an individual's appearance requires a blend of artistry, medical knowledge, and a nuanced understanding of each client's unique needs. In this realm, the margin for error is razor-thin, demanding a level of precision that can only be attained through the hands of professionals with a wealth of experience. As the demand for aesthetic enhancements continues to rise, the importance of a highly skilled and adept workforce in this field becomes increasingly evident.

“As the demand for aesthetic enhancements continues to rise, the importance of a highly skilled and adept workforce in this field becomes increasingly evident”





ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov together with the Rector NUST and other officials inaugurating the Heydar Aliyev auditorium at the National University of Sciences Technology (NUST). – DNA

# Heydar Aliyev Auditorium inaugurated at the NUST



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov briefing the audience about the inauguration of Heydar Aliyev auditorium at the National University of Sciences Technology (NUST). The ambassador also briefed the audience about various pictures displayed in the Auditorium. – DNA

# Pakistan needs a charter against corruption



## Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

*The current scenario, as reflected in the statements and speeches of political leaders during public rallies, is disheartening. Sadly, it appears that none of them is genuinely committed to addressing the menace of corruption once in power. If this trend persists, it is inevitable that our nation will face an uncertain future, plagued by ongoing economic distress that will disproportionately impact the well-being of its citizens*

**T**HE impending elections have come into focus following a decisive move by the Supreme Court, characterized as a 'commando action,' wherein it suspended the Lahore High Court's single-bench verdict concerning the appointment of Returning Officers. And then a three-member bench headed by the Acting Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Tariq Masood turned down the Lahore High Court verdict seeking review of the delimitation process. The three-member bench emphatically made it clear that any move to derail the election process shall be thwarted. Consequently, the other courts too decided not to take up delimitation cases, at least, till the time the entire election process is completed. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) legal team had approached the Lahore High Court, advocating for the appointment of Returning Officers from the Judiciary instead of the district administration. Even to the PTI's surprise, the LHC judge not only suspended the Election Commission's notification but also constituted a larger bench to delve deeper into the case. The CJP Faez Isa was very much within his rights when he questioned the timing and the haste in which the judge had passed the order.

"It is truly remarkable that, initially, the judge issued an order without taking into account the verdict of the apex court regarding the February 8 elections. Subsequently, he recommended the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC) to form a larger bench, and remarkably, assumed the role of the head of the five-member bench himself", as noted by the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP). In response, the apex court promptly suspended the LHC order, allowing the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to announce the election schedule on the very same day. Despite initial reluctance, the ECP complied with the Supreme Court's directives, leading to the announcement of the schedule on the midnight of December 16, 2023."

As the stage is meticulously set for the upcoming elections, political parties are

poised to heighten their election campaigns. The PPP has already launched its extensive mass contact drive, and the PML N is anticipated to follow suit. Notably, political leaders across various parties have echoed their support for a Charter of Economy. While this proposition has been deliberated in the past, tangible progress has remained elusive. The glaring reason behind this stagnation is evident—the pressing need for a singular charter, and that is the Charter against Corruption. Ostensibly, corruption has wrought havoc on the entire system, necessitating urgent and concerted efforts for its eradication.

Amnesty International, in its latest report, has unequivocally labeled corruption as the foremost challenge confronting Pakistan. The comprehensive assessment conducted by the organization scrutinized eight key departments, revealing a distressing reality where the police emerged as the most corrupt entity, closely followed by the judiciary at the second position. This corroborates my steadfast belief that corruption stands as the paramount issue plaguing Pakistan. Notably, this isn't the first time that Amnesty International has brought to light the pervasive issue of corruption within the country. A previous survey conducted by the organization underscored the disconcerting fact that even institutions considered 'prestigious' were not immune to corrupt practices. It is disheartening to observe that despite the consistent release of such damning reports, little to no concrete actions are taken to address the highlighted concerns.

This cycle of revelation without subsequent remedial action raises serious questions about the commitment of authorities to root out corruption from the system. For any meaningful change to transpire, it is imperative that these reports serve as catalysts for genuine reform and stringent measures against corruption, fostering a system where accountability and transparency are non-negotiable principles. The gravity of the situation demands a collective and sustained effort to dismantle the entrenched culture of corruption, ensur-

ing that these reports not only serve as documentation of the problem but as blueprints for a corruption-free future for Pakistan. Intriguingly, no political party has ever endeavored earnestly to tackle this menace head-on. Interestingly, all prime ministers starting from 1988 till date have never completed their five-year term. Every time they were ousted from power on charges of corruption.

The military regimes, too, have faced persistent allegations of corruption. During the 11-year rule of Gen Zia Ul Haq from 1979 to 1988, a pervasive atmosphere of financial gain enveloped those in power amid the Afghan Jihad. This period coincided with a surge in sectarian violence in Pakistan, reaching its zenith. Tragically, the nation witnessed hundreds of thousands of casualties in the brutal clashes between Shia and Sunni factions. The intertwining of political and military interests during this era not only fueled corruption but also exacerbated social tensions, leaving a lasting impact on the fabric of Pakistani society.

Benazir Bhutto assumed power following the demise of General Zia in a plane crash, winning the elections that ensued. However, her government faced a tumultuous tenure, marked by allegations of extensive corruption among high-ranking officials. This led to her removal from office within a relatively short span of two and a half years. The subsequent administrations, represented by both the PML N and PPP, similarly faced premature dismissals due to comparable charges of corruption at the highest echelons of power. This pattern of governance challenges highlighted the persistent issue of corruption within the political landscape, shaping the course of successive governments in Pakistan.

The takeover by General Pervez Mushar-

**“ The PTI, however, presented a unique case. Imran Khan’s removal from power triggered an immediate and impassioned public response, underscoring the widespread dissatisfaction with the manner in which he was ousted, despite his government’s lackluster performance. His political opponents employed a variety of tactics, yet failed to diminish his popularity ”**

raf in 1999 was met with mixed reactions, despite Nawaz Sharif’s two-thirds majority in Parliament. The Nawaz-Military face-off was driven by various factors, and the aftermath of his ouster surprised Nawaz Sharif, who acknowledged the unexpected response from the public. People’s sentiments seemed to shift unexpectedly; while many expressed support for him verbally, the reality was different. Even Nawaz Sharif himself was taken aback by the lack of tangible support when he was removed. Supporters who had initially encouraged him to proceed viz a viz his estranged relations with the military, were nowhere to be found when the time came. The disconnect between the verbal assurances and the actual support on the ground left Nawaz Sharif in a challenging situation. The obvious reason perhaps was his disconnect with his electorates and so is the case with other political parties.

The PTI, however, presented a unique case. Imran Khan’s removal from power triggered an immediate and impassioned public response, underscoring the widespread dissatisfaction with the manner in which he was ousted, despite his government’s lackluster performance. His polit-

ical opponents employed a variety of tactics, yet failed to diminish his popularity. This resilience can be attributed to Imran Khan’s decision to confront the situation head-on rather than fleeing the country after striking deals as other leaders did upon their removal from the office. When it comes to addressing corruption, Imran Khan’s tenure is unfortunately not an exception. Regrettably, corruption witnessed a significant surge during his time in office. Despite harboring a sincere desire to eradicate corruption from Pakistan, Imran Khan faced challenges that hindered effective action in this regard.

The current scenario, as reflected in the statements and speeches of political leaders during public rallies, is disheartening. Sadly, it appears that none of them is genuinely committed to addressing the menace of corruption once in power. If this trend persists, it is inevitable that our nation will face an uncertain future, plagued by ongoing economic distress that will disproportionately impact the well-being of its citizens.

*The writer is the Editor Daily Islamabad POST, Centreline and DNA News Agency.*

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# Italian embassy hosts grand fashion show in Islamabad

## Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese says trade volume between Italy and Pakistan has improved significantly

Abid Raza

ISLAMABAD: The Italian embassy in Islamabad recently organized a grand Fashion Show within the premises of its under-construction new embassy. This event was notable not only for its celebration of fashion but also for the unique setting of being hosted at a location still undergoing construction. The new embassy is expected to be completed in April 2024, showcasing a modern and elegant facility that will serve as Italy's diplomatic hub in Pakistan. However, the current Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese announced during the event that he would not be present for the formal inauguration of the new

embassy. His departure from Pakistan is scheduled for January 15, 2024. The decision to hold a Fashion Show at an embassy construction site could be seen as a creative and unconventional choice, blending the worlds of diplomacy and fashion. Such events often serve as cultural exchanges, promoting cross-cultural understanding and collaboration between nations. It's possible that the embassy aimed to create a memorable and distinctive experience for attendees, highlighting the fusion of Italian style and Pakistani hospitality. The event drew an impressive crowd, with seemingly the entire city of Islamabad converging on the venue to partake in the spectacle of exquisite dresses me-

ticulously crafted by renowned Pakistani designers. The ambassador said that the trade volume between Italy and Pakistan has touched two billion euros mark first time in the history of bilateral relations and hoped this figure shall further be improved in the days to come. There is a significant Pakistani community residing in Italy, estimated to be around 200,000 individuals. This emphasizes the community's active participation in contributing to the development of Italy. This involvement implies that members of the Pakistani community are engaged in various aspects of Italian society, such as the workforce, economy, and potentially other spheres like culture and education.





## Italian ambassador Andreas Ferrarese hosts farewell dinner for the Indonesian Ambassador Adam Tugio





# Italian National Unity Day and Armed Forces Day





ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese leading a cooking class while the Italian chef looks on. – DNA



## Italian ambassador's cooking class draws huge interest

Italian Food Week is a regular feature and we celebrate it regularly, says Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese

### Centreline Report

ISLAMABAD: Food enthusiasts in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi thronged to the Zigolini restaurant, Islamabad Marriott Hotel to enjoy mouth-watering Italian cuisines. The hallmark of the event was a special cooking session spearheaded by Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese and his wife Albana Ferrarese. The Italian Ambassador, addressing the gathering, enthusiastically shared insights into the annual Italian Food Week, a cher-

ished tradition that we joyously celebrate each year. With an air of culinary excitement, the Ambassador highlighted a special addition to this year's festivities – the introduction of a unique and exquisite variety of olive oil. In a culinary feat that delighted the senses, the cooking during the event showcased the exceptional qualities of this newly unveiled olive oil. The Ambassador emphasized the pivotal role of this distinctive oil, infusing each dish with the rich and authentic flavors that characterize Italian cuisine. It was a gastronomic

journey that not only celebrated tradition but also introduced a delightful innovation, symbolizing the ever-evolving nature of Italian culinary excellence. He especially thanked his wife and the embassy staff for helping him organize the event in a befitting manner. In his last cooking session on November 26, 2020, the Italian ambassador had cooked pasta, which the guests enjoyed very much. He told the audience he used to cook this dish when he was a student for it was a cheap dish and easy to cook as well.

## The Italian Job



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# Islamabad *Daily* POST

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**Chief Editor: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti**  
**Deputy Editor: Abid Raza**

# Italian Embassy's digital art exhibition draws huge interest

DNA

ISLAMABAD, The Italian well-known artist Stefano Fake has brought to Pakistan the famous digital art zone. The Italian Embassy in Pakistan, in order to make his work known to Pakistanis, organized an immersive digital art exhibition, bringing an innovative art form to the Pakistani audience. Speaking on the occasion, Italian Ambassador Andreas Ferrarese expressed his pride in presenting the unique showcase of digital art to the public, highlighting its versatility and wide range of possibilities. The ambassador acknowledged the artwork of Stefano Fake, one of Italy's celebrated digital artists. He praised Italy's capacity to blend historical heritage with new and creative arts, dispelling the notion that the country was solely associated with its past.

Stefano Fake, in his address, delved into the journey of digital art, which he began nearly 30 years ago. He described his transition from traditional art to digital tools in 1997, culminating in the establishment of his studio in 2001, dedicated to creating immersive art experiences. Fake underlined that every era had its unique artistic tools, and digital art represented the current period's creative expression. He said, "The purpose of art is, after all, to create original and imaginative forms of aesthetic expression shared with a community through experiences and events." Stefano Fake's early work in this field was initially met with skepticism, often being associated with music or youth-centric events. However, over time, digital art gained recognition and acceptance. His exhibitions now span the globe, from Germa-

ny to Colombia, and even recent showcases in Berlin and Shanghai. This transformation reflects the growing appreciation for new media art worldwide. One of Fake's groundbreaking approaches was to immerse audiences in a digital environment, using video projection to transform spaces and even people. He dispelled early concerns about safety and emphasized the combination of physical reality with digital art, creating immersive experiences that evolve and transcend traditional static forms of art. The term "immersive art experiences" emerged, capturing the essence of their work, as it blends physical spaces, bodies, and digital artworks, making it a unique and ephemeral experience. These art experiences offer a fresh perspective, bridging the gap between contemporary culture and art.



# The Italian Job





# IFWA President lauds artistic work of women entrepreneurs

**Mrs. Albana Ferrarese opens crafts festival; CEO Serena Hotels (Global) Aziz Boolani vows to continue supporting women artisans**

[Abid Raza](#)

ISLAMABAD: Presenting a captivating cultural affair, Serena Hotels partnered with Nomad Art Gallery to host an unforgettable crafts festival. The festival was inaugurated by the president of IFWA Mrs. Albana Ferrarese. During her address, she commended the collaborative initiatives of Serena Hotels and Nomad Art Gallery in establishing a platform for artists to exhibit their creations. She also discussed the event's theme, 'Women Empowerment and Celebrating Human Rights,' expressing appreciation for the united efforts of various partners. The theme resonates deeply with everyone, and the collective commitment to this cause is truly inspiring. Nomad Gallery, with its extensive history of promoting Pakistan's cultural wealth, deserves praise for its ongoing dedication to women's empowerment, particularly focusing on the youth. The innovative approach of fostering art and culture through inclusive craft development has proven to be beneficial for society. The bazar highlighted a thoughtfully chosen array of superb handmade crafts including embroidered and woven shawls, pottery and accessories from Swat, Phulkari's from Hazara, home decor items, printed fabrics, exclusive collection of apparel to highlight indigenous to contemporary textiles, hand crafted toys, honey and jewelry crafted by talented artisans offering a glimpse into the region's rich cultural heritage and traditions.

Nageen Hayat, the director of Nomad Art Gallery, in her address stated that the "Nomad is always dedicated to advancing human rights, peace, crafts development, and the arts and culture. Nomad, which keeps a collection that is consistently represented, has hosted exhibitions by numerous well-known and up-and-coming national and international artists. To display a wide variety of products, they collaborate with home-based artisans and diverse populations from all of Pakistan's provinces. Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels said, "we dedicated our time and effort to ensure that we support local people, local community, talented artisans, and we need partners like Nomad Art Gallery who can bring the artists on our platform so they can excel from here and connect to the right audience. We firmly believe this country is full of talent, the only thing is that we need is to connect the talent with the people who appreciate it, and I am so happy that this institution has been playing its part in a very humble manner to help the community". Serena Hotels is committed to fostering arts and promoting artists as ambassadors of cultural expression. Through a dedicated commitment to showcasing diverse artistic expressions, Serena Hotels plays a pivotal role in developing the voices of creatives and raising cultural exchange. This untiring support reflects Serena Hotels' dedication to bridging cultures and enriching the global dialogue through the universal language of art.





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# **Brig. Gen Masood Salih Zakhoi**

## **Iraqi Military Attaché/Pakistan Visits Mazar-e-Quaid-e-Azam in Karachi**





# Serena Hotel hosts reception for children of three schools

The General Manager of the Islamabad Serena Hotel, Mr. Otto Kurzendorfer expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to make a positive impact on the local community, emphasizing the hotel's ongoing dedication to meaningful effort to promote and support education for children

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: In the true spirit of this Festive Season, Islamabad Serena Hotel demonstrated its commitment to community's wellbeing by hosting a Hi-tea for children from the three charity schools i.e., Holy Help School, Master Ayub School, and Mashal School. The children got an op-

portunity to visit the Festive wonderland, be a part of the season's festivities. They were served a delightful hi-tea filled with delectable treats. Santa Claus made a surprise entry with the gifts for the children, which made the evening magical and unforgettable for them. The General Manager of the Islamabad Serena Hotel, Mr. Otto Kurzendorfer expressed his gratitude for

the opportunity to make a positive impact on the local community, emphasizing the hotel's ongoing dedication to meaningful effort to promote and support education for children. The success of this event highlights Islamabad Serena Hotel's dedication to fostering a sense of giving back to community and creating a joyous experience for those in need.



# Serena Hotels organized Behbud's fund raising event

This initiative seeks to raise funds for Behbud's ambitious project aimed at establishing a Maternal and Children Hospital with a capacity of 100 beds in the heart of Rawalpindi. This endeavor is a seamless extension of Behbud's enduring mission and unwavering commitment to uplift underprivileged women, addressing not only their healthcare needs but also fostering empowerment through initiatives encompassing skills development, education, and overall well-being.



women, addressing not only their healthcare needs but also fostering empowerment through initiatives encompassing skills development, education, and overall well-being. Lt. General (retd.) Nigar Johar Khan was the guest of honor at the event. While addressing the audience she highly appreciated Behbud for their unwavering commitment to empowering underprivileged women in multifaceted dimensions—ranging from skills development to education and health. She also said that the opening of this hospital stands as a testament to their dedication to creating a lasting impact on the community's well-being. CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani said, "Being an integral part of initiatives dedicated to women's empowerment resonates deeply with Serena's core values. Serena Hotels believes in creating opportunities, providing resources, and cultivating an environment where women can thrive, both personally and professionally. To collaborate with and support organizations like Behbud in their pursuit of empowering underprivileged women is not just a privilege but a moral imperative". - DNA

# CEO Serena Hotels (Global) Aziz Boolani hosts Networking Dinner for the members of the Male Champions of Change Pakistan





# Independence Day of Finland celebrated







## Kenya, Pakistan enjoy excellent relations: HC Kamau

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Kenya Ms. M Nyambura Kamau, has said Kenya and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan enjoy warm, cordial, and diplomatic relations dating back to 1964 when the Islamic Republic of Pakistan opened High Commission in Nairobi and the Republic of Kenya reciprocated by opening its High Commission in Islamabad In 1984. She expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of the National Day of Kenya.

Bilateral relations between the two countries are largely dominated by Trade and Investment worth USD 768m of exports and imports traded between the two countries in 1022. The main products traded are Tea exports to Pakistan and Rice exports to Kenya. Kenya and Pakistan share more than just Trade and investment but also collaborate in the multilateral arena, defense, technology, and education. However, there is significant progress in unlocking more trade goods

and investment opportunities in the areas of health, manufacturing, Agriculture, Technology, education. and tourism among others.

She said, Kenya is progressively working with the Government of Pakistan to explore possibilities of expanding the portfolio of traded goods between the two countries. Kenya's top exports, other than tea, include cut flowers, horticultural products, coffee, fruits, and legumes among others. As we celebrate this significant milestone, we realize that the growth we have achieved over the years is owed to the cooperation with our friends globally including the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Kenya is a member of the East African Community which is a customs union of 7 member states including in Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan, and Burundi with a population of about 300 million people.

Kenya is also a member of the the African Union with 54 Member states with a population of on 1.4 billion people. Kenya strives to open its borders to other markets in Africa and beyond.







## National Day of Thailand celebrated



# Ethiopia Embassy-Islamabad Celebrates 18th Nations, Nationalities & Peoples' Day

D N A

ISLAMABAD, 07 DECEMBER: The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) in Islamabad has celebrated its 18th Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Day here on Thursday in esteemed presence of a large number of Ethiopian Diaspora in Pakistan, media, civil society and friends of Ethiopia.

The day was celebrated colorfully at the Embassy of FDRE Ethiopia in Islamabad with a national zeal and fervour. Cultural performances and Ethiopian coffee ceremony were put on the display to promote diverse culture of the FDR Ethiopia.

Speaking on the occasion, H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the FDR Ethiopia to Pakistan, said the people of Ethiopia were celebrating the 18th Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Day of Ethiopia.

To this end, a strong foundation was laid by Nations, nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia that ratified Ethiopia's Constitution on 8 December 1994 that recognized and transformed diversity into strength and wealth while guaranteeing democratic

order, lasting peace, and advancing political, economic and social matters based on equality and justice that ensures fraternity and national unity among Ethiopians, he added. On this auspicious day, the ambassador said a seed of harmony was planted in the diverse soil of Ethiopia that today has been transformed into a majestic tree blossoming with the spirit of unity, tolerance, compassion and above all, Ethiopianism. "Our diversity is our strength and what we all must do is to contribute in this cause, show compassion to each other, live in harmony and promote peace and prosperity to build an ideal and strong nations for the coming generations," he said, while describing the current generation as "Medemer" that is destined to leave a strong legacy for the next generation.

He said understanding each other, strengthening fraternity and living in harmony and fighting the challenges together to achieve strong, resilient and prosperous Ethiopia should be the priority for all the nations. As a matter of fact, H.E. Jemal Beker said both Ethiopia and Pakistan faced the challenge of hybrid warfare. There is a strong need for initiating bilateral cooperation between the two countries to deal with this challenge.

"False narratives are being peddled to mislead the youth to see decay of a society. We all must be wary of this challenge which is not only faced by Ethiopia but Pakistan as well." "We have already initiated a bilateral cooperation in the area of climate change by launching the Green Legacy Initiative of our Prime Minister His Excellency Dr Abiy Ahmed here in Pakistan and we are currently working to fight the challenge of climate change," he stressed. He said the government FDR Ethiopia was committed to defend its sovereignty, diversity and aspiration of its nations. "Today, Ethiopia is a symbol of peace and stability in the Horn of Africa and our Prime Minister is leading the efforts to promote national unity in Ethiopia," he added.

The ambassador said H.E. Dr. PM Abiy Ahmed is a Nobel Peace Prize and brought peace, prosperity and unity to the next level in Ethiopia by preserving and balancing ethnic and national identities while promoting civic culture and deepening democracy. He urged all the people of Ethiopia to learn from their past, harness their current potential and worked towards a strong legacy that would ultimately build robust and vibrant nation for all Ethiopians.



# Floral Art Society of Pak holds workshop

DNA

On 14th Dec, 2023, the Floral Art Society of Pakistan (Magnolia Chapter) arranged a wonderful workshop on the topic of “New Trends and Techniques in Floral Art.” The workshop was conducted by Aisha Zahid, an ace floral arranger and an international judge. The First Lady, Samina Alvi graced the occasion with her presence. It was a great learning experience.





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# ASEAN BBQ day festivities foster sense of shared prosperity; values

In his capacity as the Chairman, High Commissioner Azhar Mazlan expressed his gratitude for the collaborative efforts that made the event a success, underscoring the importance of such gatherings in promoting mutual understanding and friendship among the ASEAN nations

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## MAHNOOR ANSAR

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ISLAMABAD: The ASEAN countries recently came together to celebrate a vibrant BBQ day, fostering camaraderie among the ASEAN communities. The event was graciously hosted by the esteemed High Commissioner of Malaysia, Azhar Mazlan, who also serves as the Chairman of the Islamabad ASEAN Committee. As the event unfolded, High Commissioner Azhar Mazlan extended a warm welcome to the guests, emphasizing the significance of the day in strengthening the bonds between the diverse ASEAN communities present. His opening remarks highlighted the cultural richness and shared values that unite the ASEAN nations. The BBQ day provided a unique platform for cultural exchange, where at-

tendees had the opportunity to engage in lively conversations, savor delicious cuisine, and appreciate the diverse traditions represented within the ASEAN region. The festivities were a testament to the spirit of unity and cooperation that defines the relationship among the ASEAN countries in Islamabad.

In his capacity as the Chairman, High Commissioner Azhar Mazlan expressed his gratitude for the collaborative efforts that made the event a success, underscoring the importance of such gatherings in promoting mutual understanding and friendship among the ASEAN nations. Overall, the BBQ day served as a delightful occasion for the ASEAN communities to come together, fostering a sense of community and shared identity

in the heart of Islamabad.

The ASEAN member countries have collaboratively established vibrant food stalls showcasing a delectable array of culinary delights and cherished traditional delicacies. These stalls were not just about nourishment; they offer a sensory journey through the rich tapestry of flavors, aromas, and textures that define the diverse culinary heritage of the region. From the sizzling street food to the aromatic spices of, each stall beckons visitors with mouth-watering creations that embody the essence of ASEAN's gastronomic diversity. The communal atmosphere surrounding these stalls fostered cultural exchange, inviting people to connect over shared meals and discover the unique stories behind each dish.







# Foreign mission expels Pak staff on corruption charges

The sources, who, for confidentiality reasons, preferred not to disclose the identity of the foreign mission, emphasized that this diplomatic entity has repeatedly garnered attention due to allegations of corruption involving both local officials and members of the host country's staff. Notably, even high-ranking officers within this specific mission have been implicated in amassing substantial wealth through questionable means, for which they had to face serious consequences as well

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a recent development, a foreign mission operating in Islamabad has taken decisive action against corruption within its ranks by expelling two Pakistani staff members implicated in fraudulent activities. Diplomatic insiders, who opted to remain anonymous, shared this information with our correspondent.

The embassy in question received a credible tip-off,

seeking visas for the host country. This move by the embassy underscores its commitment to maintaining the integrity of its operations and upholding ethical standards among its personnel. The diplomatic sources emphasized the importance of accountability and transparency in diplomatic missions, regardless of the nationality of the individuals involved.

The action taken serves as a reminder of the diplomatic community's vigilance in ad-

phasized that this diplomatic entity has repeatedly garnered attention due to allegations of corruption involving both local officials and members of the host country's staff. Notably, even high-ranking officers within this specific mission have been implicated in amassing substantial wealth through questionable means, for which they had to face serious consequences as well. It is important to highlight that this is not an isolated incident; instances of staff from foreign missions engaging in malpractices have unfortunately become a recurring phenomenon. Regrettably, this trend has now become a pervasive issue, affecting a considerable number of missions. It is rare to find a mission that has remained untouched by this menace. Upon a news published in this newspaper few years ago an Ambassador was removed from his post. The diplomat, whose identity is being kept confidential, faced accusations of engaging in the illegal import of cars and unscrupulously selling his liquor quotas to a third party in exchange for substantial bribes. Following a thorough investigation conducted by the host country, the damning evidence against the ambassador proved irrefutable. In response to the conclusive findings of the investigation, the host country took decisive action by terminating the ambassador's services.

**“The embassy in question received a credible tip-off, prompting an internal investigation that revealed the involvement of the two staff members in illicit enterprises. These activities included the unauthorized importation of vehicles and liquor. Furthermore, the expelled individuals were found to be extending unwarranted support to individuals seeking visas for the host country. This move by the embassy underscores its commitment to maintaining the integrity of its operations and upholding ethical standards among its personnel”**

prompting an internal investigation that revealed the involvement of the two staff members in illicit enterprises. These activities included the unauthorized importation of vehicles and liquor. Furthermore, the expelled individuals were found to be extending unwarranted support to individuals

dressing issues of corruption and fraud, even within its own ranks, and reinforces the embassy's dedication to fostering a culture of trust and adherence to legal and ethical standards. The sources, who, for confidentiality reasons, preferred not to disclose the identity of the foreign mission, em-



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