

# Monthly FORESIGHT Monthly Islamabad

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R A M A D A N K A R E E M





# RAMADAN

SEHRI & AFTARI TIMINGS

1444AH/ 2023

## 1ST ASHRAH

No.	Date	Day	Sehri	Aftari	No.	Date	Day	Sehri	Aftari
01	23 MARCH	THURSDAY	4:43	6:22	02	24 MARCH	FRIDAY	4:42	6:23
03	25 MARCH	SATURDAY	4:40	6:23	04	26 MARCH	SUNDAY	4:39	6:24
05	27 MARCH	MONDAY	4:37	6:25	06	28 MARCH	TUESDAY	4:36	6:26
07	29 MARCH	WEDNESDAY	4:35	6:26	08	30 MARCH	THURSDAY	4:33	6:28
09	31 MARCH	FRIDAY	4:32	6:28	10	01 APRIL	SATURDAY	4:30	6:29

## 2ND ASHRAH

11	2 APRIL	SUNDAY	4:29	6:29	12	3 APRIL	MONDAY	4:27	6:30
13	4 APRIL	TUESDAY	4:26	6:31	14	5 APRIL	WEDNESDAY	4:24	6:31
15	6 APRIL	THURSDAY	4:23	6:32	16	7 APRIL	FRIDAY	4:22	6:33
17	8 APRIL	SATURDAY	4:20	6:33	18	9 APRIL	SUNDAY	4:19	6:34
19	10 APRIL	MONDAY	4:27	6:35	20	11 APRIL	TUESDAY	4:16	6:35

## 3RD ASHRAH

21	12 APRIL	WEDNESDAY	4:14	6:36	22	13 APRIL	THURSDAY	4:13	6:37
23	14 APRIL	FRIDAY	4:12	6:38	24	15 APRIL	SATURDAY	4:10	6:38
25	16 APRIL	SUNDAY	4:09	6:39	26	17 APRIL	MONDAY	4:07	6:40
27	18 APRIL	TUESDAY	4:06	6:40	28	19 APRIL	WEDNESDAY	4:06	6:41
29	20 APRIL	THURSDAY	4:03	6:42	30	21 APRIL	FRIDAY	4:02	6:43

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## *Chief Editor Note*

In this time the Islamic Republic of Pakistan finds itself in a critical situation in both domestic and international affairs. With the upcoming general elections only a few months away, political tensions are high, and we can anticipate a flurry of political activity.

On the economic front, the nation is still dealing with a number of issues, including rising inflation and a widening trade deficit. Recent attempts by the government to address these issues through a combination of policy reforms and austerity measures have produced mixed results, and it remains to be seen whether they will be successful in turning the tide.

Meanwhile, the country's relations with its neighbors continue problematic. The recent escalation of tensions with India over the Kashmir problem has once again focused attention on the two countries' long-standing dispute. Similarly, the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan and its potential consequences for Pakistan remain a cause of concern.

We delve deeply into these and other pressing problems confronting Pakistan today in this issue of our magazine. Our expert team analyses the current state of affairs and provides insightful comments on what the nation can expect in the future.

We hope that this issue will be a useful resource for our readers as they negotiate Pakistan's complex and ever-changing political and social landscape.

Sincerely,

*Tanveer Ali*  
*Maken*



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# RAMADAN

## A Month of Reflection and Spiritual Renewal

Tanveer Ali Maken

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Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and one of the holiest months for Muslims worldwide. It is a month of introspection, mental renewal, and worship of Allah. During Ramadan, Muslims around the globe fast from sunrise to sunset for one month. Fasting is one of Islam's Five Pillars, and Ramadan is the month when this tenet is practised.

Ramadan is a month dedicated to spiritual reflection and greater devotion to Allah. During this month, Muslims are urged to devote more time to prayer and meditation. It is thought that the gates of heaven and hell are open during Ramadan, making it an ideal time for self-reflection and spiritual growth. It is a time to repent of one's sins, donate to charity, and strengthen one's connection with Allah.

The fast is an important aspect of Ramadan. Every day, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset, abstaining from food, drink, and other physical requirements. Fasting is intended to teach self-control, self-discipline, and tolerance. It is also a means to demonstrate solidarity with those who are less privileged and to

cultivate empathy for the hungry and needy.

Ramadan is also a time for socialising and building community. Every evening, Muslims break their fast together in a feast known as Iftar. Iftar is often a joyful occasion, with families and friends gathering to share a meal and honour the month's blessings. Many churches and community centres host Iftar meals, allowing people to gather and break their fast in the company of others.

Muslims are encouraged to give to charity and assist those in need during Ramadan. Zakat, one of Islam's

charity. This act of giving is intended to benefit those in need while also strengthening group bonds.

Along with fasting and charitable giving, Muslims are urged to spend more time reading the Quran during Ramadan. The Quran is Islam's holy book, and it is believed that the rewards for reading and comprehending the Quran increase during Ramadan. During the month of Ramadan, many Muslims attempt to read the complete Quran, frequently attending nighttime prayers at the mosque to do so.

Ramadan is also a period for reconciliation and forgiveness. Muslims are urged to seek forgiveness for their transgressions and to make amends with those who have wronged them. It is time to let go of grudges and concentrate on developing good relationships with others.

As Ramadan draws to a close, Muslims enjoy Eid al-Fitr, a holiday commemorating

the end of the month-long fast. Eid al-Fitr is a holiday in which families and friends gather to enjoy a meal and exchange gifts. It is also a time to express gratitude



Five Pillars, is the deed of giving to those in need. During this month, Muslims are supposed to donate a certain percentage of their earnings to

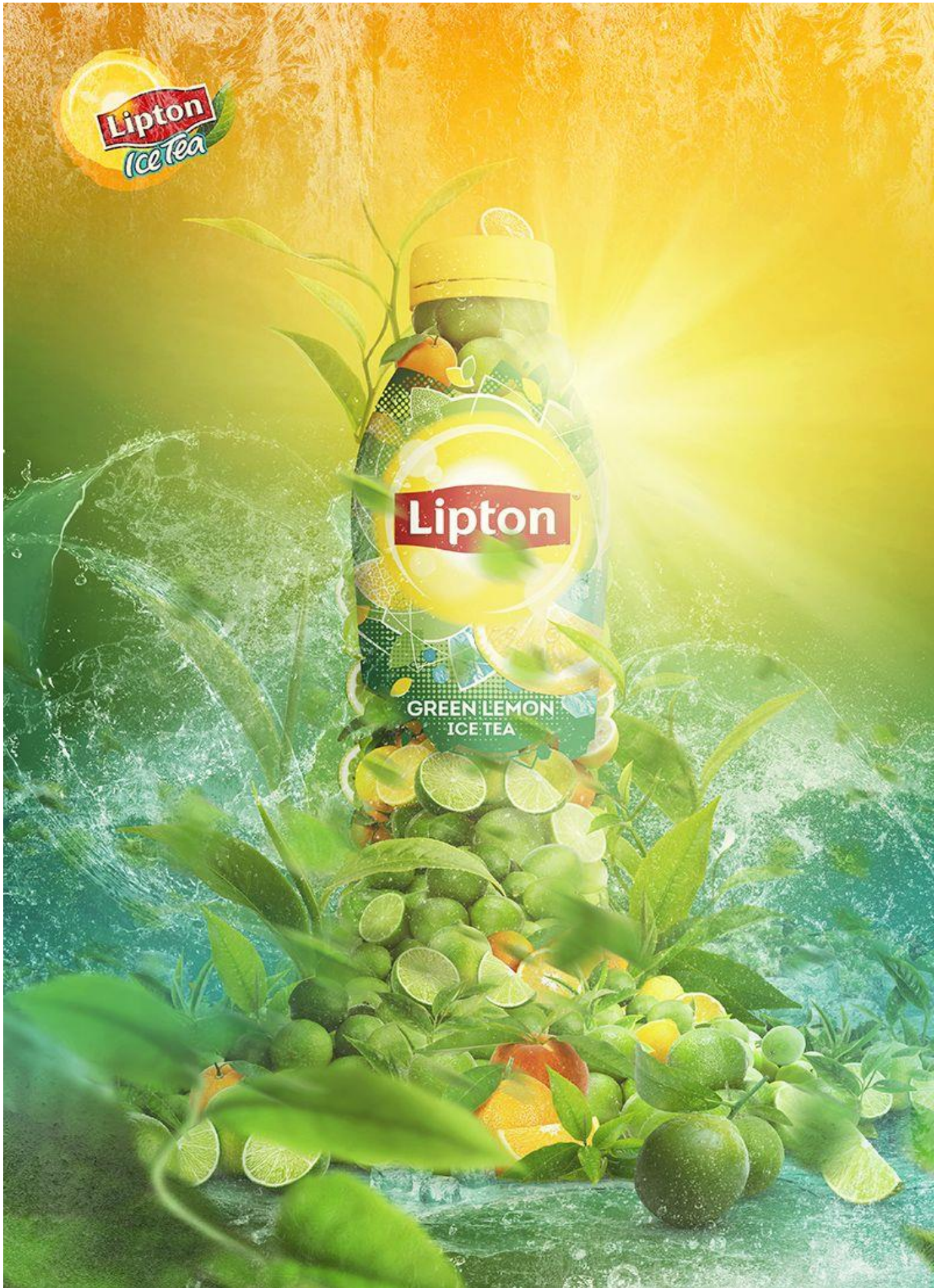


for the month's blessings and to continue the spiritual growth that started during Ramadan.

Finally, Ramadan is a month of contemplation, spiritual renewal, and loyalty to Allah. It is a moment for self-control, self-discipline, and patience. It is also a moment for fellowship and socialising. During this month, Muslims are encouraged to contribute to charity, read the Quran, and seek forgiveness and reconciliation. The fast is an important component of Ramadan because it teaches self-control and empathy for those in need. As the month draws to a close, Muslims observe Eid al-Fitr, a time to offer thanks for the month's blessings and to continue the spiritual growth that began during Ramadan.









Pakistan has always been plagued by political insecurity, which has had a substantial influence on the

country. Khan was elected on an anti-corruption platform and vowed to implement big reforms in the country. However, his

The large level of debt that Pakistan has accrued over the years is one of the most critical difficulties affecting the country's

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## BREAKING THE SHACKLES

### How Politics are Holding Pakistan's Economy Hostage

Azhar Jatoi

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country's economy. Despite having enormous natural resources and a relatively big population, Pakistan has struggled to achieve long-term economic progress. The influence of politics in the country's economic development is one of the key reasons behind this.

Corruption, nepotism, and a lack of accountability have characterised Pakistani politics. For much of its history, the country has been ruled by military dictators, and when it has had civilian governments, they have frequently been tainted by claims of corruption and inefficiency.

Pakistan's current scenario is no different. Imran Khan, a former cricketer who was elected Prime Minister in 2018, currently leads the

government has failed to keep its promises, and the economy has suffered as a result.

economy. The country's external debt now exceeds \$110 billion, and it is anticipated to climb further in the future years. To keep the country solvent, the government has been compelled to take out loans from overseas lenders, but this has simply added to the debt burden.

Pakistan's political turmoil has also had an impact on the country's business environment.

Corruption and a lack of openness have made doing business in the country tough. Investors are hesitant to invest in a country where the rule of law is not upheld and where the government's policies can change at any time.

Another problem holding down Pakistan's economy is the country's weak infrastructure. The country's roads, bridges, and ports





are in poor condition, making it difficult to transfer goods and services across the country. This has also hampered the country's capacity to attract foreign investment, as businesses are hesitant to invest in a country with inadequate infrastructure.

Finally, Pakistan's economy has been held captive by politics for far too long. The government must take decisive action to address the country's difficulties, which include corruption, debt, and bad infrastructure. Only by resolving these difficulties can Pakistan hope to achieve long-term economic progress and improve the lives of its people.





Following a seven-year hiatus, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran recently decided to re-establish diplomatic relations with the help of China. Both countries have expressed their appreciation and gratitude to Iraq, Oman, and China for their good contributions to the discussions' facilitation, hosting, and sponsorship. The restoration of diplomatic ties is a great development, but key differences between the two states, which are polarised by religion, geopolitics, and geostrategic interests, are unlikely to be overcome.

### Introduction

Saudi Arabia and Iran acknowledged China's role in mediating the diplomatic breakthrough in a joint statement issued on March 10th, stating, "The three countries announce that an agreement has been reached between the Kingdom of



## FROM RIVALS TO ALLIES China's Role in the Historic Restoration of Saudi-Iran Relations

**Dr. Azeem Khalid**

Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran, that includes an agreement to resume diplomatic relations between them and re-open their embassies and missions within a period not exceeding two months, and the agreement includes their affirmation of the respect for the sovereignty of states and the non-interference in internal affairs of states.”

Given the depth of Saudi-Iran hostility, as well as the wider

politico-strategic atmosphere of the region and the Muslim world, rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia is a welcome development. Furthermore, China's mediation efforts, given its growing global importance in a world moving towards multipolarity, imply a potential reordering of global diplomatic dynamics.

**A Snapshot of the Saudi-Iranian Rivalry**

For decades, Iran and Saudi Arabia have had a violent rivalry marked by political, religious, and economic difficulties, as well as competing regional influence and geopolitical goals. Although the two nations have been involved in proxy warfare in various parts of the Middle East, Saudi Arabia's murder of Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr in 2016 marked a particularly low moment in Iran and Saudi Arabia's already strained ties.



The Saudi-Iran rivalry has stretched far beyond the Middle East, building a profound and bitter sectarian fault line throughout the Muslim world. For example, Pakistan has suffered greatly as a result of the aforementioned archrivals' protracted battle for religious legitimacy and ideological dominance in the Muslim world.

The proliferation of Saudi-backed madrassahs following the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan can be blamed for the dual problems of puritanical fanaticism and religious persecution of Pakistan's Shia minority. The anti-Shiite rallies by Sunni hardliners and their sympathisers that enveloped Karachi in September 2020 were a particularly painful occurrence that highlighted the degree of this rot in Pakistani society and is still fresh in public memory.

"The Saudi-Iran rivalry went beyond geopolitics, descending into an ever-greater competition for Islamic legitimacy through religious and cultural domination, changing societies from within—not only in Saudi Arabia and Iran, but throughout the region," writes Kim Ghattas in "Black Wave."

### From Conflict to Reconciliation

After the Saudi authorities executed Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr, a prominent Shia cleric and vocal critic of the Saudi government, angry Iranian protestors stormed the Kingdom's embassy in Tehran in 2016. The images of smoke blazing from the Saudi embassy, with fire engines and police in riot gear stationed outside and the diplomatic enclave barred, exemplified the outpouring of rage felt by many Iranians in the aftermath of the execution.

In return, Saudi Arabia declared the termination of diplomatic relations with Iran, effectively ending any possibility of reconciliation. The Saudi foreign minister, Adel al-Jubeir, described the Saudi government's outrage at the storming of its diplomatic mission in Iran, saying, "These ongoing aggressions against diplomatic missions are a violation of all agreements and international conventions."

So, what has changed between then and now? The global politico-strategic climate in 2016 was dramatically different from now. Iran had secured the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) accord the previous year, and with the progressive relaxation of sanctions, the chances for the Iranian economy's regeneration were promising.

Although Washington had reservations about the Kingdom's





involvement in the Yemeni civil war and its human rights record, the bilateral relationship between the two countries remained strong, and it only improved with Donald Trump's election to the White House. Mr. Trump's first foreign trip was to Saudi Arabia.

According to Bruce Riedel, director of Brookings' Intelligence Project, China's growing diplomatic footprint, which follows on the heels of economic investment in other countries and a shared progress narrative, is also a strong sign of China's global aspirations. In the context of Saudi-Iran relations, this means that China stands to benefit more from the formation of robust diplomatic ties between the two Gulf governments.

Previously, China got into a \$400 billion partnership with Iran, and China receives more than 25% of Saudi oil imports. Furthermore, the arrangement has increased the People's Republic of China's diplomatic clout in the troubled Middle Eastern region.

### **Conclusion**

While not a panacea, the recent diplomatic breakthrough between Saudi Arabia and Iran is a significant step towards decreasing tensions and promoting stability in the Middle East. Finally, the Middle East's route to long-term peace and prosperity will necessitate patience, persistence, and a commitment to constructive engagement. To that end, China's growing importance and involvement signal a shift in the ethos of global diplomacy; a welcome departure from the mentality typified by the US's neo-imperialism and adventurism.







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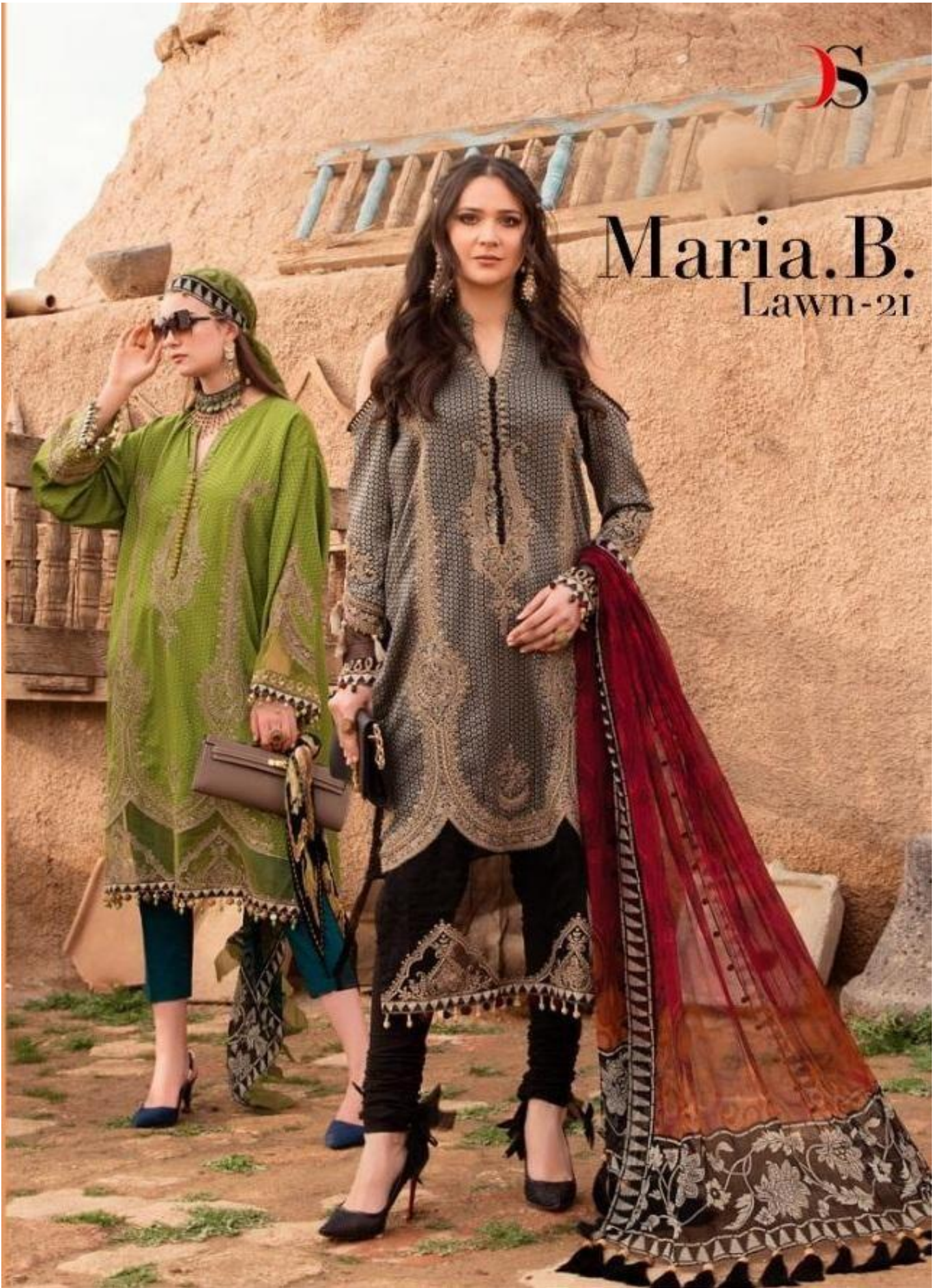
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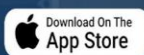
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**S**ports are a powerful tool that can bring people together and promote peace, tolerance, and understanding across boundaries, cultures, and religions. The values of teamwork, fairness,

development requires finding spaces and platforms that bring people together under a common goal. The massive appeal of sports makes it a social phenomenon, where the context in which it's developed determines

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## **SPORT AS A TOOL FOR UNITY AND SOCIAL COHESION Promoting Peace, Tolerance, and Understanding**

**Ahsan Mukhtar**

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discipline, and respect that are inherent in sports are universally understood and can be utilized to advance solidarity and social cohesion. The benefits of sports go beyond just physical activity and recreational space. It is a place where individuals converge to improve their social skills, strengthen cultural values and adapt to rules, promoting a healthy lifestyle through physical and mental development.

Sports promote individual health and wellbeing, both physically and mentally, and teach important values and social skills. However, the power of sports goes beyond the individual level, as it unites and inspires people collectively, building communities. Sustainable

the behaviors and actions of its followers, especially when it involves youth. The values of fairness and respect can serve as examples for an economic system that builds on fair competition and supports an equal sharing of resources.

Sports have been idealized to heal wounds, mend fences, and rise above differences among cultures and nations. Nelson Mandela, after being elected South Africa's first post-Apartheid president, shrewdly turned to the Rugby World Cup to help foster the country's healing process and prevent a civil war that many feared was inevitable. World leaders have used sports as a means to promote peace and unity, such as the Chinese-



American reconciliation through ping-pong in 1971 that ended two decades of unfriendly relations between the two superpowers. In 2008, the presidents of Armenia and Turkey used a World Cup qualifying match between their national teams to reopen diplomatic dialogue.

Sports also promote equality and serve as a platform to promote the value of diversity. Sport-based public awareness campaigns can promote awareness towards climate protection and can stimulate enhanced community response for local environment preservation. The role of sports in promoting gender equality is also critical, helping girls and women build self-esteem and develop skills needed to become equal participants and leaders in their various communities. Gender equality and women's empowerment are essential to the achievement of the SDGs. Sport-based initiatives also have the potential to equip girls and women with knowledge and skills that allow them to progress in society.

At the grassroots or community level, sports can be seen to provide a useful way of creating an environment in which people can come together to work towards the same goal, show respect for others, and share space and equipment. Sports can play a very important role in helping achieve SDG goals of No poverty, Zero Hunger,

good health, and gender equality. When paired with lessons on nutrition and agriculture, sport for development programs can be a suitable complement for food programs tackling hunger and education.

However, sporting initiatives alone cannot stop or resolve conflict, but sport gives us an engaging and cost-effective medium for post-conflict relief work, peacebuilding, and future conflict prevention. No other social activity brings people together in such great numbers, and with so much passion and enjoyment. Regardless of age, gender, or ethnicity, sport is enjoyed by all, and its reach is unrivaled. More importantly, though, sport promotes universal values that transcend language and culture.

In conclusion, sports are a compelling tool that can promote peace, tolerance, and understanding while bringing people together across boundaries, cultures, and religions. The values of teamwork, fairness, discipline, and respect are understood all over the world and can be utilized in the advancement of solidarity and social cohesion. The universal appeal of sports makes it a valuable social phenomenon that has the potential to bridge the gaps that exist between different communities,





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# RAISING VOICES, DEMANDING JUSTICE

## The Aurat March and Women's Rights in Pakistan

Prof. Zulekha

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Each year on March 8th, women from all corners of Pakistan come together to march for their rights and advocate for an end to gender-based violence and discrimination. The Women's Empowerment Movement, formerly known as the Aurat March, has become a significant force for women's rights in Pakistan. Despite progress, the challenges faced by women remain pervasive and deeply rooted in the patriarchal society.

One of the most pressing issues is violence against women, including domestic violence, honor killings, acid attacks, and sexual harassment. Unfortunately, many perpetrators of these crimes evade punishment due to inadequate enforcement and victim-blaming attitudes. The Women's Empowerment Movement aims to hold perpetrators accountable for their actions and end victim-blaming. Women's safety is a fundamental human right, and the movement strives to make this a reality in Pakistan.

Limited access to education and job opportunities is another challenge faced by women in Pakistan. This is due to a patriarchal mindset that restricts women to traditional roles as homemakers and limits their economic independence. The Women's Empowerment Movement demands equal access to education and job opportunities, recognizing that women's success

benefits the country's economic growth and development.

Reproductive rights are a controversial topic in conservative Pakistani society. The Women's Empowerment Movement recognizes that women's reproductive health is essential to their overall well-being and advocates for safe and legal abortion services. Comprehensive sex education in school curriculums is also an important aspect of the movement's agenda.

The Women's Empowerment Movement has faced criticism from conservative groups who view their demands as contrary to

cultural and religious values. However, the movement argues that reproductive rights are a personal choice and should be respected.

The Women's Empowerment Movement is a crucial force for change in Pakistan. It raises awareness of the issues faced by women and demands change from the government and society. It is essential to take these issues seriously and work towards creating a more equitable and just society for women in Pakistan. By doing so, Pakistan can truly move towards progress and development





**A**rtificial intelligence (AI) technology has become an indispensable element of our everyday life. AI has made our lives easier and more convenient, from voice assistants like Siri and Alexa to personalised suggestions on streaming platforms. However, the influence of AI goes beyond simply making our lives easier. It is altering the way we live and interact with our surroundings.

Healthcare is one of the most major sectors where AI technology has made a difference. AI algorithms can analyse vast amounts of medical data and uncover trends that people may miss. This can result in more accurate and timely diagnoses, personalised treatment strategies, and even the development of new treatments and medications. AI-powered medical gadgets are also becoming increasingly common, enabling for remote patient monitoring and more efficient chronic illness management.

Education is another area where AI is impacting human life. AI-powered



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## THE AI REVOLUTION A Game-Changer for Society

AzizHorea

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systems can personalise student learning experiences by adapting information to their specific requirements and learning styles. AI-powered chatbots can also provide students with immediate assistance, answering queries and guiding them through curriculum. This can result in more engaged pupils and higher learning outcomes.

AI is also having a huge impact in the commercial sphere. Chatbots and virtual assistants powered by artificial intelligence can handle customer support enquiries, freeing up human personnel to focus on more difficult tasks. AI systems can also analyse enormous volumes of data and generate insights that can help businesses improve their operations, uncover new possibilities, and forecast future trends.

The growth of AI technology, however, has generated concerns about its possible impact on jobs. Some are

concerned that AI will replace human employees, causing widespread unemployment. While AI has the ability to automate some jobs, it also has the capacity to generate new jobs and businesses. The objective is to ensure that workers have the skills necessary to flourish in an AI-dominated society.

To summarize, the significance of AI technology in human life is substantial and expanding. It has the ability to revolutionise businesses, enhance healthcare, and personalise education. While there are concerns about the influence of AI on jobs, the positives of AI cannot be overlooked. It is critical that we continue to investigate the possibilities of AI while simultaneously preparing for the disruptions it will bring. The future is fascinating, and AI technology will undoubtedly play an important part in shaping it.





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لہذا عید کی چھٹیوں میں وقت کی بچت کیلئے حج درخواستیں پہلی بار وزارت کی ویب سائٹ  
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گھر بیٹھے حج درخواستوں کی آن لائن رجسٹریشن : 01 تا 13 مئی 2022ء  
بینکوں کے ذریعے رجسٹریشن اور ٹوکن رقم کی وصولی : 09 تا 13 مئی 2022ء

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- سرکاری حج سکیم کی قاعدہ اندازی (گروپوں کی بنیاد پر) 15 مئی کو ہوگی۔ کامیاب عازمین حج کو بقایا رقم 3 دن کے اندر اندر جمع کرانا لازمی ہوگا۔
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- سعودی تعلیمات کے مطابق کورونا ویکسین / بوسٹرا ڈوز کا سرٹیفکیٹ لازم ہے۔ روانگی سے 72 گھنٹے قبل PCR ٹیسٹ لازمی ہے۔
- سعودی عرب نے (10) ویکسین منظور کی ہیں: (1) فائزر (2) موڈرنا (3) آکسفورڈ اسٹرازیکا (4) جانسن اینڈ جانسن (5) سائونام (6) سائونیک (7) کوویکس (8) سویٹنک (9) کوویکس (10) نوویکسوویڈ
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# CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

## Honouring Achievements and Service to the Nation

### Jazak Allah

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Established on March 19, 1957, the Pakistan Civil Awards were created in recognition of the country's independence on March 23, 1956. Every year on Independence Day, August 14, the announcement of civil awards is made, and their investiture takes place on Pakistan Day, March 23. According to Article 259 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973, the President of Pakistan confers civil awards on Pakistani citizens for acts of bravery and excellence in various fields, as defined by the Decorations Act, 1975.

The Civil Awards are divided into five orders, each with four descending classes: Nishan, Hilal, Sitara, and Tamgha. On March 23,

2023, the awards were presented during an investiture ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad, attended by cabinet members, diplomats, and the families of the award recipients. The President distributed the civil awards in ten categories, including Nishan-i-Imtiaz, Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Hilal-i-Quaid-Azam, Sitara-i-Shujaat, Sitara-i-Imtiaz, Presidential Award for Pride of Performance, Tamgha-i-Shujaata, and Tamgha-i-Khidmat.

In conclusion, the Pakistan Civil Awards serve as an important means of recognizing the achievements and contributions of individuals in various fields. These awards not only

acknowledge the efforts of these individuals but also serve as a source of inspiration for others to strive towards excellence.

It is crucial for the government and society to continue to value and promote the culture of recognizing and appreciating individuals for their efforts and contributions. The Civil Awards are a symbol of the nation's appreciation and recognition for its citizens who have made a significant impact in their respective fields, and it is essential to continue this tradition to ensure that future generations continue to strive for excellence and progress in various fields.





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## Robin Lynn Raphel Recognized with Second- Highest Civil Award in Pakistan

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**R**obin Lynn Raphel, a well-known American diplomat, ambassador, and expert on Pakistan affairs, has had a distinguished career in the U.S. government. She was appointed Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs by President Bill Clinton in 1993 and later served as U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia from 1997 to 2000. Throughout the 2000s, Raphel held various diplomatic positions related to South Asia and worked as a senior adviser on Pakistan under Richard Holbrooke at the State Department from 2009 to 2014.

During her tenure at the State Department, Raphel worked to reduce tensions between India and Pakistan by engaging both countries in a negotiated solution to their Kashmir dispute. Her efforts were aimed at promoting stability and peace in the region. In recognition of her meritorious contributions to Pakistan's national interests, Raphel was awarded the Hilal-e-Pakistan, Pakistan's second-highest civil award, in 2023.

Overall, Robin Lynn Raphel's career in diplomacy has been marked by a commitment to fostering positive relationships between nations and promoting peace and stability in the world. Her contributions to the U.S. government and to Pakistan have been invaluable, and her legacy as a diplomat will continue to inspire future generations.



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## Pakistani-British politician Dr James Shera honoured with civil award

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**D**r James Shera, a prominent Pakistani politician and educationist who formerly served as Mayor of Rugby in the UK, has been awarded the Hilal-e-Quaid-i-Azam civil award on the occasion of Pakistan's diamond jubilee of independence. Dr Shera has been previously awarded the Sitar-e-Pakistan, MBE, and other honors for his exceptional contributions to politics, interfaith harmony, community cohesion, education, and healthcare. He is the first Pakistani to have been elected as a Mayor in the UK and has served on the boards of Coventry University and Newman University Birmingham, among others. Dr Shera attributes his success to his efforts to build bridges between communities and his commitment to serving the community without discrimination.

In recognition of his eminent services to the people of Rugby, Dr Shera was conferred with the prestigious "Freeman of the Borough of Rugby" honor by the Rugby Borough Council. He has also had a road named after him in Rugby, called "James Shera Way," which makes him the only living person and the first Pakistani to enjoy this honor. Dr Shera has been conferred with an honorary Doctor of Business and Administration degree by the University of Bedfordshire. He cherishes serving the community irrespective of ethnicity and religion and believes in building bridges between communities. His contributions have made Pakistanis in Britain proud of their heritage.





honour after Sana Mir. Bisma, who took on the captaincy in 2013, took a break from cricket in 2020 to have a baby but returned to lead the team in the recently concluded T20 World Cup before stepping down earlier this month. She dedicated the award to her father, who had been a constant support throughout her career.

The awards received by both the cricketers are a recognition of their hard work, dedication, and exceptional performances in the field of cricket. The recognition is not only a personal achievement for them but also an honour for the entire nation.

These awards are a testament to the fact that cricket remains an important part of Pakistan's culture and identity. The game has produced several talented individuals who have not only excelled in their respective fields but also made the country proud on numerous occasions.

The recognition given to Babar and Bisma is an inspiration for young aspiring cricketers who

## BABAR AZAM AND BISMAH MAROOF Receive Prestigious Awards for Services to Cricket

Pakistan's cricket team captains, Babar Azam and Bisma Maroof, have been awarded prestigious civil awards by the Pakistani government. Babar Azam received the Sitara-e-Imtiaz, the third-highest civilian honour in Pakistan, making him the youngest recipient of the award. This honour puts him in the ranks of several legendary cricketers, such as Javed Miandad and Younis Khan. Babar expressed his gratitude and dedicated the award to his parents, fans, and the people of Pakistan. His achievement was celebrated by fellow cricketers, including Kamran Akmal, Ajmal, and Mohammad Haris.

Bisma Maroof, the captain of Pakistan's women's cricket team, was awarded the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz, making her the second female cricketer to receive this



dream of representing their country at the highest level. Their achievements serve as a reminder that with hard work and dedication, one can achieve anything they set their mind to, and that nothing is impossible.

In conclusion, the awards given to Babar Azam and Bisma Maroof are a fitting tribute to their exceptional contributions to cricket and a testament to the passion and talent that Pakistan possesses in the sport. Their achievements will continue to inspire and motivate young athletes to pursue their dreams and strive for excellence in their respective fields.





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<b>8</b> MARLA 30X60	1,915,000	126,000	19,150	127,875
<b>10</b> MARLA 35X70	2,290,000	152,000	22,900	152,750
<b>1</b> KANAL 40X80	4,290,000	280,000	42,900	286,750
<b>2</b> KANAL 50X90	8,300,000	540,000	83,000	555,000
<b>5</b> MARLA 75X120	9,000,000	720,000	90,000	585,000
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Cheese Naan  
BBQ Chicken Wings  
Aloo Samosas  
Assorted Pakoras  
Monal's Special Potato Cutlets  
Chicken / Cheese Sandwiches

#### Main Course

Chicken Reshami Tikka (Boneless)  
Chicken Achari Boti (with Bone)  
Chicken Gola Kebab  
Battered Fried Fish & Chips  
Mutton Karahi (with Bone)  
Chicken Makhni (Boneless)  
Kabuli Pulao  
Thai Chicken with Cashew Nuts  
Pizza  
Chicken Manchurian  
Chicken Chow Mein  
Chicken & Vegetable Fried Rice  
Stir Fried Beef with Vegetables

#### Breads & Salads

Variety of Naan  
Variety of Salads  
Variety of Sauces

#### Desserts

Lahori Kheer  
Plain Custard  
Assorted Mousses  
Assorted Pastries  
Caramel Pudding  
Ice Cream  
Rus Gullay  
Rus Malai

#### Sugar Free Desserts

Cheese Cake  
Assorted Mousses  
Firni  
Plain Custard

#### Beverages

Frosted Lemonade  
Mint Lemonade  
Nestlé Lemon / Orange  
Mix Tea / Green Tea

\*The number of items will remain the same every day, however, the dishes may vary on daily basis.

\*Cold Drinks and Mineral Water are not included in the above package. \*50% will be charged for children under six (6) years of age.

\*Children up to two (2) years of age will not be charged. \*Personal staff, including security guards, drivers and maids will be charged at the same rate if they will eat from the same buffet.

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**G**reece celebrates its Independence Day on March 25th every year, commemorating the start of the War of Greek Independence in 1821. The day coincides with the Greek Orthodox Church's celebration of the Annunciation to the Theotokos, when the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that she would bear the son of God.

For over 400 years, Greece had

became the motto of the revolution. Despite early successes on the battlefield, including the capture of Athens in June 1822, infighting ensued, and by 1827, Athens and most of the Greek isles had been recaptured by the Turks.

Just as the revolution appeared to be on the verge of failure, Great Britain, France, and Russia intervened in the conflict. The Greek struggle had elicited strong

Ottoman-Egyptian fleet. The revolution ended in 1829 when the Treaty of Edirne established an independent Greek state.

Today, in celebration of Greek Independence Day, towns and villages throughout Greece hold a school flag parade. Schoolchildren march in traditional Greek costumes and carry Greek flags. There is also an armed forces parade in Athens.

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## **GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY**

### **A Celebration of History and Culture**

#### **Batool Ali**

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been part of the Ottoman Empire. The Greek revolt was ignited on March 25th, 1821, when Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the flag of revolution over the Monastery of Agia Lavra in the Peloponnese. The cry "Freedom or death"

sympathy in Europe, and many leading intellectuals had promoted the Greek cause, including the English poet Lord Byron. At the naval Battle of Navarino, the combined British, French, and Russian forces destroyed an

As a Parliamentary Republic, Greece's Head of State is the President, elected by Parliament every five years. The Prime Minister is the Head of Government. The Ministerial Council, consisting of the Prime





Minister, Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and Ministers without portfolio, is the collective decision-making body that constitutes the Government of Greece.

Apart from commemorating its historic struggle for independence, Greece also plays a role in supporting a peaceful resolution of disputes between nations. Greece supports a successful outcome of the bilateral Indo-Pakistani dialogue and a peaceful resolution of differences between the two countries, including the dispute over Kashmir.

Overall, Greek Independence Day celebrates not only the country's hard-won independence but also its rich cultural heritage and its commitment to peace and cooperation on the international stage.





**U**S Ambassador Donald Blome (Islamabad) Thursday called on Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

The minister, during the meeting, spoke about the deep-rooted historic and durable bilateral relations with the

## **US Ambassador Donald Blome meets with Finance Minister Ishaq Dar to discuss bilateral economic and trade relations**

United States on economic and trade fronts, said a news release.

Finance Minister Dar briefed the envoy about the country's economic outlook and the challenges being faced by it.

He shared the pragmatic policy decisions being taken by the government in order to arrest the economic decline and to steer the economy towards a positive trajectory leading to economic stability and growth.

The finance minister also informed the envoy on the progress in talks held with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and reiterated the commitment of the government to complete the programme.

Donald Blome on the occasion expressed confidence in the policies and programmes of the government being taken for the economic sustainability of the country and the socio-economic uplift of the masses.

He extended his support to further promote bilateral economic, investment and trade relations between both countries.

The two sides also exchanged views on matters of common interest and showed their interest in enhancing the existing bilateral relations between the countries. They also talked about various economic avenues in which both countries can further strengthen their ties.

Ishaq Dar reiterated the government's desire to further deepen bilateral trade and investment ties with the US.

**P**akistan's efforts towards anti-money laundering and countering financing of terrorism have been recognized by the European Union, as they have removed Pakistan from the list of high-risk countries. This decision follows a similar move by the UK in November 2022.

The move is expected to facilitate financial transactions between Pakistan and the EU, opening up opportunities for mutually beneficial economic cooperation. Pakistan has also expressed its willingness to share its experience in upgrading AML/CFT regimes with partner countries.

## **Pakistan's AML/CFT Efforts Recognized as EU Removes it from High-Risk Countries List**

Pakistan's success in overcoming technical issues related to AML/CFT has been applauded by the EU, and the country looks forward to further strengthening its ties with the EU in the future. This development marks a significant milestone in Pakistan's efforts to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.





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