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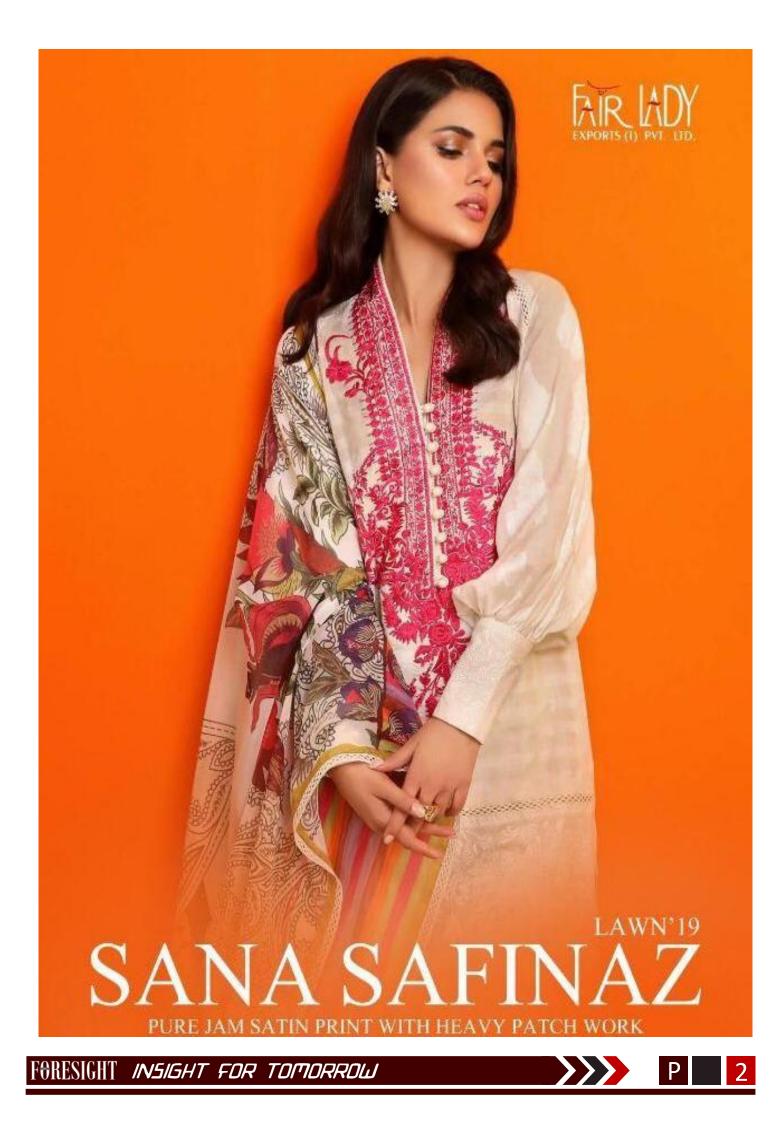
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Chief Editor Note

In the November edition of FORESIGHT, we delve into pressing global issues that demand our attention, reflection, and collective action. Our feature articles shed light on critical topics shaping the geopolitical landscape and challenging the very essence of humanity.

Our investigative piece scrutinizes the deeply troubling situation in Gaza, where Israel's ongoing actions have sparked international concern. We explore the impact of these atrocities on the lives of the people in the region and analyze the complicity of Western powers in perpetuating this crisis. This article aims to foster awareness and ignite conversations on the moral responsibilities of nations in the face of humanitarian crises.

The Afghan refugee crisis takes center stage as we dissect the complex interplay between policy decisions, human rights considerations, and security concerns. Through in-depth analysis and personal narratives, we unravel the challenges faced by Afghan refugees and the moral dilemmas faced by nations grappling with their responsibilities. This feature provides readers with a nuanced understanding of a crisis that demands compassionate and pragmatic responses.

As Pakistan approaches a crucial juncture with its upcoming general elections, we present a comprehensive overview of the political landscape. Our countdown explores the potential shifts, challenges, and opportunities that lie ahead, emphasizing the significance of citizen participation in shaping the nation's future. This piece serves as a guide to readers navigating the intricate dynamics of Pakistan's political evolution.

Amidst the tumultuous global scenarios, we find solace in the celebration of China's National Day. This article highlights the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China, emphasizing shared prosperity and mutual cooperation. We reflect on the remarkable journey of China, its contributions to the global stage, and the collaborative efforts that bind nations together for a brighter future.

In this edition, FORESIGHT remains committed to providing insightful analyses and thought-provoking perspectives on the issues that shape our world. As we navigate through the complexities of geopolitics, human rights, and global celebrations, we invite our readers to engage, reflect, and join the discourse on building a more informed and compassionate world.

With warm regards,





THE GENOCIDAL AGGRESSION Israel's Ongoing Atrocities in Gaza and the Complicity of Western Powers

Tanveer Ali Maken

The Gaza conflict between Israel Palestinian and factions. particularly Hamas, is a long and deep struggle, influenced by a web of complex historical, political, and regional motivations. The region, rooted in Israel's long-standing occupation of the Palestinian territories, has seen multiple tensions, each with disastrous consequences. The motivations behind the conflict range from Israel's security concerns and suppression of militant activity to Palestinian aspirations for selfgroups' determination and an end to the occupation. The recent war in Gaza has resulted in а catastrophic humanitarian crisis. resulting in massive civilian

casualties, destruction of and infrastructure mass displacement. The consequences are dire, including heavy losses on both sides, widespread trauma and a deep cycle of violence and reprisals. Furthermore, the conflict has further exacerbated tensions in the region, leading to increased international divisions.

Israel continues to bomb Gaza and carry out ground attacks. The Ministry of Health of Gaza says that more than 8,000 Palestinians have been martyred so far, including more than 4,000 children. More deaths are occurring as a result of the suffocating siege and blockade of Gaza, which many legal experts have called a war crime under

international law. After October 7, Israel completely blocked the entry of food, fuel, medicine, and other essential goods into Gaza. Although some aid trucks carrying food and medicine have been allowed to pass through the Rafah crossing with Egypt in recent days, Israel still does not allow fuel to enter the enclave, leaving hospitals with life-threatening conditions. Saving machines require electricity to operate. Despite growing calls for a ceasefire, Israel has said it will not stop attacks on Gaza until it destroys Hamas, which is controlled by Hezbollah, other Shiite armed groups in the region and their patron Iran. together form the socalled "axis of resistance". The





growing trend of war crimes by Israel, blatant violations of the international laws of war and the declaration of continuation of the war under the pretext of the complete elimination of Hamas can be well gauged by Israel's dangerous ambitions.

Israeli army hunting women and children in modern times

Gaza has a population of 2.3 million people living in an area of 365 square kilometers (140 sq mi), which equates to а population density of 6,300 people per square kilometer (16,320 people per square mile). According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), children make up 47 percent of the population of Gaza. According to UNICEF, 4,104 children have been killed in Gaza in Israeli attacks during the current war. These deaths are due to violence that has been going on for more than a month. That means more

than 100 children are dying on average every day.

The number of children killed on a daily basis in the Gaza Strip is much higher than in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq and other conflict zones. The international non-profit organization Save the Children has reported that the number of children killed in the three weeks of Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip up to late October is the highest in every year since 2019 in global conflict zones. More than the number of children killed annually. Since then, the number of small bodies wrapped in white shrouds and surrounded by grieving family members has increased as Israel has launched a ground offensive and increased artillery fire alongside its missile devastation. Is. Even a month after the war began, these figures do not fully reflect the extent to which Gaza's children have been killed. How do the killings compare to some other major conflicts in recent years? What is

happening in Gaza is clearly terrifying and devastating for all children.

The targeting of journalists by the Israeli army is a deliberate agenda to hide the truth and promote propaganda

It is said that "war without journalists is just a war of propaganda".

International organizations such as the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and Reporters Without Borders (RSF) estimate that at least 35 journalists and media workers have been killed since the war began. Most of them are local to Gaza. According to CPJ. the first three weeks of the war were the deadliest period for journalists covering the conflict since 1992, when the group first began tracking. А CPJ spokesperson explained in an email that "the deadliest period refers to the highest number of deaths in a given number of days." In this case, the brief 26-day period from the start of the war



on October 7, 2023. It is the longest time.

"We cannot ignore the level of journalistic casualties in Gaza," RSF Secretary General said Christophe Deloire. What happening is incredibly shocking. Israel, which is not one of the 123 member states under the ICC Treaty, says the court has no jurisdiction over the dispute. Israeli Defense the IDF told Reuters and the French news agency AFP that it could not guarantee the safety of journalists working in the Gaza Strip. targeting all military activities. We urge you to take all necessary measures to protect them. These events can give a good idea of the impure intentions of Israel in the days to come. Journalists should targeting know Heavy and international intimidation of media personnel is a deliberate plan to pave the way for propaganda to hide the truth and hide their war crimes from the eves of the world.

The targeting of women and children by the Israeli army is actually a heinous act of genocide

It is now becoming clear that Israel is carrying out a genocidal plan against the Palestinian population in Gaza. indiscriminately bombing more than 2 million Palestinians, half of whom are children, in Gaza during the past three weeks. The number of people who have died due to hunger and lack of medical facilities is countless. Thousands of innocent civilians have been martyred. Now this is a clear fact. Videos and photos documenting the violent killings, their fear and

desperation are readily available and being reported.

It is now becoming clear that Israel is involved in a genocidal campaign against the Palestinian population. Al-Jazeera's claim that Israel has relaxed its military rules and allowed its soldiers to conduct ground operations in the Gaza Strip is a major proof. It has given permission to kill any person. Israeli political figures and military officials openly discuss the idea of turning Gaza into eliminating rubble, the Palestinians, and Israeli settlers living on the land known as Gaza. Palestinians are deliberately deprived of the basic necessities of life such as food, water, shelter and medical care. Aerial bombs are causing massive damage and casualties. Israel is clearly carrying out the nefarious intent of genocide, which would be a unique example of cruelty in this advanced age and the so-called enlightened, human rights-loving, hypocritical Western imperialist world-system of the rest of the world. Will reveal in front.

Role of Western Powers in Israel's Genocidal Plan

The horrifying reality of genocide is that it occurs with widespread support, either in the form of active participation (direct and indirect), or in the form of silent complicity. We have never seen a case of genocide openly and actively supported by so many characters. The majority of institutions in North America, Western Europe and elsewhere are either actively participating in this genocide of the Palestinians or are completely silent and thus indirectly involved. It should be noted that genocide requires two

important elements, one is infrastructure and material capacity to commit genocide and the other is the ability to hide genocide. It should be noted that the West is involved in these two important elements.

In terms of material capabilities, the US empire has sent not one but two aircraft carriers to the region and has made it clear in words and actions that if any state or group tries to help the Palestinians avoid Israeli carnage If it tries, the US will intervene with its full force. Britain has also sent ships to support this Western imperialist threat to the peoples of the region. The US is sending military equipment and weapons to Israel and is refusing calls for a ceasefire or de-escalation. Corporations financial and institutions are providing financial support to Israel in the name of helping Israeli victims, as well as offering financial allegedly incentives to Egypt in an attempt to entice it to host Palestinian refugees. will not be allowed to re-enter the Gaza Strip. Years of American and Western aid and support to Israel have allowed Israel to develop infrastructure capabilities.

In terms of cover-up, the political, media, social and cultural institutions in the West are fully active in covering up and concealing the act of genocide and portraying it as a legitimate violence against oppressed Jews around the world. The Israeli operation is being framed as a mission to "eliminate Hamas", as opposed to what it actually is, the genocide of the Palestinian people and their elimination from the map. The few voices that question these narratives are



being marginalized, silenced, and disempowered. In essence, all the institutions of the West are currently fully and coordinatedly active in enabling the genocide of the Palestinians, all under the guise of protecting "civilization" from "barbarism."

Role of Western Media

Journalists have a responsibility to not only be impartial, factual and fair when covering war, but also to stand up against hatred and speak out against war crimes. They have a responsibility not to contribute to the dehumanization of entire peoples. By allowing a state to impose its PR narrative on its production, many in the Western media are failing the public and paving the way for more atrocities against Palestinians. Dozens of media and communication scholars have spoken out against unfair coverage. In an open letter, condemned the double he standard and the inflammatory used to language treat Palestinians as criminals. We have seen many times before. especially in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, what happens when leading media outlets in the West decide that the truth should not get in the way of the state narrative. Let us not repeat the disastrous mistakes of the past.

Role of the British Broadcasting Corporation

Research over the years has shown that the British media has long failed to present an accurate and unbiased view of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and is clearly dominated by the mainstream Israeli narrative, causing Palestinians to Being ignored. Recent coverage of Israel's invasion of Gaza follows a similar pattern, emphasizing Israeli suffering and geopolitical motivations while ignoring the historical context of Palestinian oppression and occupation, thereby biasing the conflict. Imagery is retained.

British media coverage of the ongoing war has failed to acknowledge the long history of Israeli oppression and land disputes, particularly ignoring the impact of decades of occupation on the Palestinians. This impression given by the media leads to dehumanizing and portraying illogically the Palestinians as deserving of the violence inflicted upon them.

A way to deal with imperialist aggression

The recent conflict in Gaza and the role of global imperialist forces in it is making it clear to the world that we do not live in an international system of nationstates, but in an imperialist world system dominated by the West. In essence, this is how the Euro-American empire asserts itself as

the master of the world, forcefully and violently and in every way.

The current situation clearly underlines the unwavering determination of the Western imperialist powers to maintain their historical through supremacy the use of lethal force. The ongoing crisis in Palestine is a clear example of the relentless pursuit of power and wealth that reflects this

imperial legacy. From the brutal exploitation and destruction of various societies around the world to its oppressive colonial economic structure, the imperialist West continues its influence and control, especially in the conflict-ridden region of Palestine. is increasingly becoming aware of the system and is beginning to understand the systematic white supremacy and dominance of the Euro-American empire.

To pave the way for a more just future, people around the world are urged to withdraw their support from this dominant system, which primarily serves the interests of Western political and economic elites. This call for withdrawal from this system is not only for the benefit of Palestine, but a collective step towards individual dignity, freedom, and humanity in search of a world free from the influence of Euro-American powers, so that the generations to come will not suffer from genocide. Avoid being a victim of heinous crime.





Pakistan's policy of forced refugee return has been widely criticized by United Nations agencies and human rights groups, and by the Taliban administration in Afghanistan, which insists that it is Pakistan was the only option. Yet EU countries resettled only 271 Afghan refugees in 2022. Afghan nationals have had to turn to a third country to apply for resettlement but are left damaged infrastructure. It is sad to deport the people who came here. A senior US official has estimated that there are still 25,000 Afghans who may be eligible for resettlement in the US.

AFGHAN REFUGEE CRISIS The Struggle Between Policy, Human Rights, and Security

practice of repatriating the undocumented Afghans. Given more time, the Taliban have said that the rest of the world must fulfill its promise to help vulnerable Afghans. Shockingly, the number of Afghans entering Pakistan has increased dramatically since the Taliban took over, but indeed many others have been living and working in Pakistan for many years. For millions of Afghans who wanted to flee their country, nearby

RESIGHT

vulnerable as their visas expire during the lengthy process.

UNHCR has expressed particular concern about the forced deportation of minorities, journalists, and women, who are at risk under the Taliban regime. At a time when the Taliban government banned has education for girls beyond the sixth grade, economic sanctions and the 'war on terror', and the recent earthquakes in Herat, have

Dr. Abdul Rauf

"We are actively reaching out and communicating with these individuals. Many of these groups would be at risk if sent back to Afghanistan.

Pakistan's foreign ministry spokeswoman Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said the groups would not be forced to return: "The fear of deportation of journalists, activists and minority groups is on our notice, and we will take appropriate precautions. Some

INSIGHT FOR TOMORROW

3,000 Afghan nationals who have been granted asylum in the UK are stuck in British-funded hotels in Islamabad that have been raided by Pakistani police.

According to United Nations data, about 1.3 lakh Afghan refugees who have Proof of Registration (POR) cards, and 880 thousand Afghan refugees have the legal right to stay in Pakistan, while according to the Interior Minister, 1.7 lakh 30 thousand Afghan refugees are living unregistered and illegally in Pakistan.

Acting Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti said that if the West was so sensitive about Afghan refugees, it should have done more to relocate them in the two years since the fall of Kabul. We have set a deadline for the Afghans who are to be transferred to Western countries like USA, UK and other countries. If they are not taken to the West by the deadline, we must declare them illegal refugees, then detain them and

deport them. Refugee camps have been set up for thousands of people waiting to cross the voluntary border. More than 1,000 refugees are living in makeshift shelters in the Afghan border town of Chaman, anxiously awaiting deportation.

Bugti said: "There will be no compromise against illegal refugees. We have data on who is living illegally in Pakistan. We are going door-to-door, and we have done geo-fencing. "We will detain them and deport them. We have so far arrested dozens of people across the country, including the capital. We will take buses, trucks or whatever is available to take the Afghans to the border," Bugti said. It will be kept, and the authorities will trace them to ensure that they do not return.

On the other hand, refugees living in camps. Gul Mohammad, a 50year-old Afghan national, says he doesn't know what he will do in his home country as he has been living in Pakistan for many years with his family. I will see what I can do to survive in Afghanistan after I arrive.

Also in the camp was 23-year-old Mir Agha, who said: "I was born and brought up in Pakistan. All my siblings were born here. We had proof of refugee cards issued by UNHCR. But the police gave them scissors after arresting us. They said that Pakistan is not Afghanistan anymore, but our home and we will remain refugees there. We cannot belong there. are refugees in both We countries. I am worried. How will I live there and how will I stay there? Chaman District Deputy Commissioner Raja Athar Abbas said that the authorities had deported at least 4,000 people on Wednesday. For the refugees we are providing them housing, accommodation, food, medical and municipal services, and we have registered them with us before deporting them.



Now that due to the intervention of the Supreme Court and the possible pressure of political parties, once again general elections have been announced in the country. The Election Commission earlier gave the date of the last week of January but now February 8 has been fixed as the final date for the election. Perhaps this is the reason why there will be doubts about what will happen in February, even though the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has asked us to have complete confidence and avoid creating doubts. However, there are other factors that are more likely to influence the final date of elections than the Election Commission and the dates given by it.

One of them is the return of former Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif. By showing the popularity of the party leader in Punjab and beyond, PML-N organizing a lavish reception for him makes the election a reality. For this one incident has done more to restore the party's fortunes than any other statement.

The second, of course, is related to the economic situation. Elections may require international assistance. Perhaps it is no coincidence that the election date was announced at a time when the focus was on negotiations with the IMF for the second tranche of the SBA. With the election date now on the calendar, the clock has started ticking. Those setting the agenda for national decision-making these days must realize that they cannot ignore the deep political discontent brewing beneath the surface. Given the widespread mistrust between the state and the people, any attempt to force Pakistan's political future on its people is unlikely to succeed. Behind the cloak of control and management, the deep structural flaws in our politics, society and economy that have brought us to this point remain untouched. The country needs а credible leadership that can tackle this gap of challenges with popular support. On the other hand, our current decision-makers feel at

COUNTDOWN TO CHANGE The Ticking Clock of Pakistan's Upcoming General Elections

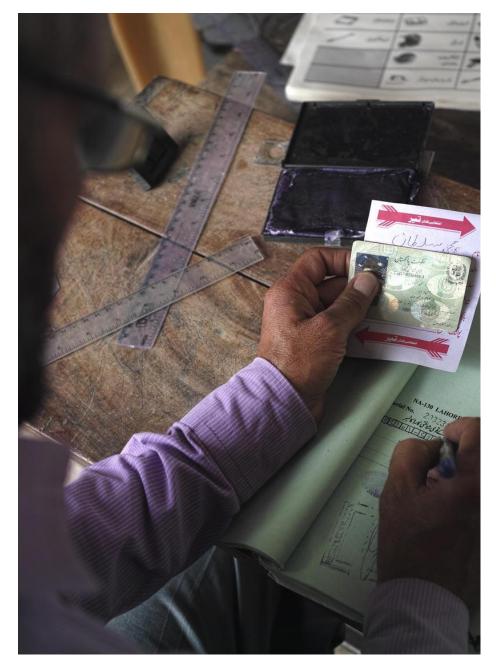
Irshad Ahmad



risk of losing their sense of relevance because of their modest success in stabilizing the economy.

It cannot be denied that a measure of economic stability has been achieved through targeted interventions in sensitive markets in recent months. It also appears the country is in a good position to approve the ongoing IMF review and receive the next tranche under its standby agreement with the lending agency. However, none of this should allow us to lose sight of the bigger picture. Given the current economic situation, Pakistan will have to а long-term financing sign agreement with the IMF within a few months. Any new agreement with the agency would reportedly conditional be on the establishment of a legally elected government in Islamabad, which would have a strong public mandate to implement deep reforms included in any future loan deal.

Given recent political developments, there is speculation that we could see a coalition government similar to the PDM-led setup that resigned in August. However, such an arrangement is unlikely to remain stable and will face obstacles. The only viable way forward is to hold free and fair elections to the satisfaction of the people. Doing so will place the onus on the political parties to develop and implement a transformational plan for the country. It is time for the state to remove itself from the picture altogether and let the politicians do their job. It can be that free, fair hoped and transparent elections will be ensured by avoiding political



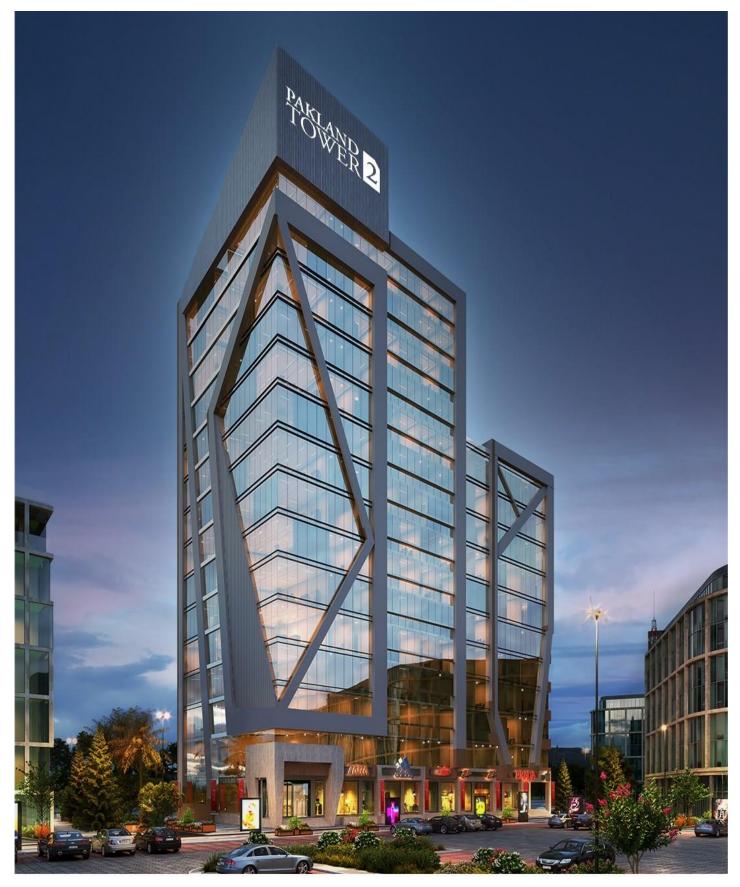
experiments as necessary for national security and stability. And such a people's government can be established which has full confidence of financial institutions, domestic and foreign investors and people. So that the country can go on the path of development.

As the nation gears up for the upcoming elections on February 8, the confluence of factors, from the return of political heavyweights to the economic intricacies, paints a dynamic canvas for Pakistan's political future. The pivotal challenge lies

not just in setting the election date but in fostering an environment that ensures free, fair, and transparent elections. This moment calls for a departure from political experiments and a genuine embrace of the people's will. With the opportunity to elect a government with widespread public support, Pakistan stands at the crossroads of transformation. The hope is that the nation's leadership, once chosen through democratic means, will navigate the challenges with foresight, earning the confidence of both local and global stakeholders for a prosperous future.









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We were the first to acquire land in New Blue Area in July 2020. By the Grace of Almighty, construction work of *Pakland Tower 2* has already started. InshaAllah keeping our tradition of timely delivery, we will handover the possesion to our valued investors in *July 2023*



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AALIYA KHAN IMPACT OF IWCCI

Empowerment Catalyst

CEO	Sew 2 Perfection
CEO	Anaqa Studios
Director	Women of Fortitude
	United Kingdom
Member	IWCCI
Member	PBBC

Ms. Aaliya Khan, a British businesswoman of Pakistani origin born in Bradford, United Kingdom, with an ardent passion for Pakistan, is not only a successful entrepreneur but also a compassionate advocate for women's empowerment. Operating a clothing business in the UK, she showcases the exquisite craftsmanship of skilled Pakistani women, specializing in abayas, formal wear, casual wear, and more. Aaliya goes beyond business by establishing sewing centers exclusively for widows and divorced women, providing economic opportunities and flexibility. Her commitment to quality and innovation has resulted in a surge in demand, leading to plans for expansion to other cities and reaching customers in America. Aaliya's multifaceted efforts extend to fostering economic relations between the UK and Pakistan and active participation in the Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Join us in celebrating Ms. Aaliya's inspiring journey—a woman creating positive change on various fronts.



Embark on a captivating journey with Ms. Aaliya, a trailblazing entrepreneur join us as we delve into her inspiring story, weaving together fashion, empowerment, and global impact.

Can you share the story of how you ventured into the world of business, particularly the hand embroidery clothing industry?

I entered the business world, particularly the hand embroidery clothing industry, inspired by a passion for preserving traditional craftsmanship and empowering skilled women in Pakistan. market demands, and ensuring ethical practices in the supply chain.

How do you ensure that your formal wear, casual wear, and party wear collections cater to a diverse range of styles and occasions?

Our formal wear is meticulously crafted to embody elegance and sophistication, ensuring our customers make a statement at any formal event. The casual wear line focuses on comfort without compromising style, catering to daily fashion needs. For party wear, we blend glamour with cultural influences, offering a

CRAFTING DREAMS The Inspiring Story of Ms. Aaliya's Hand-Embroidered Revolution

Exclusive Interview

What motivated you to initiate your business, and how has it evolved over time?

The motivation behind initiating my business was to provide a platform for Pakistani women to showcase their talents. Over time, it evolved into a bridge between traditional craft and modern fashion, promoting cultural heritage globally.

As a social worker, how do you integrate social impact into your business model?

As a social worker, I integrate social impact by ensuring fair compensation for skilled women. Our business model prioritizes their empowerment, providing not just economic support but also skills training.

Can you elaborate on the training programs you provide to empower women in Pakistan?

We offer comprehensive training programs empowering women with skills to start businesses. It's a step towards financial independence, fostering selfconfidence among women in Pakistan.

Managing a clothing business in the UK sourcing from Pakistan is impressive. How did you establish and manage this international connection?

The international connection was established through building relationships based on trust. Managing it involves effective communication, understanding versatile range suitable for various occasions.

Could you share insights into the meticulous craftsmanship involved in producing abayas, sarees, and lehengas, and how you maintain the cultural authenticity in these pieces?

Crafting abayas, sarees, and lehengas involves a dedicated effort to preserve traditional techniques. We collaborate with skilled artisans, ensuring meticulous craftsmanship to maintain authenticity and cultural richness in these pieces. Our goal is to provide customers with a unique blend of tradition and modern aesthetics.

Given the variety in your collection, how do you approach designing and coordinating pieces like maxi dresses, shirts, skirts, and shirt-trouser suits to offer customers complete and stylish outfit options?

Each piece in our collection, whether it's a maxi dress, shirt, skirt, or shirt-trouser suit, is thoughtfully designed to coordinate seamlessly. We strive to offer our customers complete and stylish outfit options, allowing them to express their individuality effortlessly. The key lies in creating a harmonious collection that suits various preferences and occasions.

How do you ensure the quality and authenticity of the garments, especially when they are crafted by skilled women in Pakistan?





Quality is maintained through stringent measures. Regular communication, workshops, and a commitment to authenticity are key elements, ensuring garments reflect the skill and dedication of Pakistani artisans.

In what ways do you support women to work from their homes, and how have these initiatives impacted their lives?

Initiatives supporting women to work from home involve flexible schedules, skill-building programs, and providing necessary resources. These initiatives have positively impacted their lives by offering economic opportunities.

Your sewing centers in Pakistan play a crucial role. Could you shed light on the impact they've had on local communities?

clothing apart in the market?

Our hand-embroidered clothing stands out for its intricate detailing, a testament to the exceptional skills of the women involved in the craft. We take pride in offering not just garments but wearable pieces of art. Each design is a fusion of cultural richness and contemporary aesthetics, making them unique and captivating.

How do you ensure that the traditional craftwork from skilled women in Pakistan is seamlessly blended with modern fashion trends in the products you offer to international customers?

Balancing tradition with modernity is at the core of our design philosophy. We achieve this by carefully curating designs that honor traditional Pakistani cra ftwork while incorporating modern elements. It's a delicate

Sewing centers in Attock, Pakistan have become hubs of skill development, creating employment opportunities, and contributing to the economic growth of local communities.

You emphasize quality, innovation, and sophistication in your clothing. How do you maintain these standards, and what role do they play in your brand identity?

We maintain standards through constant innovation, attention to detail, and a commitment to sophistication. These elements define our brand identity, resonating with customers seeking quality and unique designs.

Can you highlight some of the unique features or designs that set your hand-embroidered



dance between preserving cultural heritage and offering fashion-forward pieces that resonate with international customers. Your aim is to introduce Pakistani skilled women's work to the international stage. How do you envision achieving this, and what challenges have you faced in the process?

Achieving international recognition for Pakistani skilled women involves strategic collaborations, showcasing at global platforms, and overcoming challenges of market access and stereotypes associated with traditional crafts.

Being a member of the British Business Council of Pakistan, how do you actively contribute to attracting British businesses to invest in Pakistan?

Active contributions involve highlighting investment opportunities, fostering partnerships, and creating awareness about the potential in Pakistan. Collaboration is essential for mutual growth.

Your membership in the Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry is noteworthy. How has this affiliation influenced your career and contributed to the economic development of Pakistan?

Membership in the Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been instrumental in networking, gaining insights, and contributing to the economic development of Pakistan, particularly in empowering women entrepreneurs.

How has your affiliation with the Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry played a pivotal role in both your personal career and contributed to the broader economic development of Pakistan?

Being a member of the Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been instrumental in my career journey. The chamber provides a platform for networking, collaboration, and advocacy for women entrepreneurs. This affiliation has not only empowered me personally but has also allowed me to contribute to initiatives that foster economic growth in Pakistan. By actively engaging with the chamber, we collectively work towards creating an environment that encourages women's participation in business, thereby playing a vital role in the economic development of our nation.

In this insightful interview, Ms. Aaliya shares her journey in the hand-embroidered and stitched clothing export industry, highlighting her dedication to empowering skilled women in Pakistan. From her business ventures to international connections, she seamlessly integrates fashion with social impact. Through training programs and support initiatives, Ms. Aaliya uplifts communities, actively contributing to economic development. As a member of prestigious organizations like the British Business Council of Pakistan and the Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, she envisions introducing Pakistani craftsmanship globally. Ms. Aaliya stands as a visionary entrepreneur, shaping the fashion landscape and championing social change.



In the realm of climate activism, where the rhetoric often leans towards the dire state of our environment, Sage Lenier, a 24year-old climate advocate, is steering the narrative in a different direction. She envisions education not merely as a means of understanding the vast and tools needed to figure out how they can take action in the present. "I'm not going to sit around and wait for sweeping national legislation. So, what can you do at the city, state, or county level to push the needle?" she asks. It's a call to arms for localized action, recognizing that Zero Waste USA. The response was encouraging, prompting Lenier, who recently completed a fellowship with the Op-Ed Project and the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, to take her vision a step further. In January, she played a pivotal role in launching the Sustainable &

EMPOWERING CHANGE Sage Lenier's Vision for Transformative Climate Education

Desk Report

intricate challenges posed by climate change but as a powerful tool for empowerment. Lenier contends that traditional higher education has been somewhat myopic, often focusing solely on problems without adequately exploring comprehensive solutions. This approach, she argues, can leave students feeling overwhelmed and despondent about the future of our planet.

Lenier's journey into redefining climate education began in 2018 when, as a 19-year-old student at the University of California, Berkeley, she felt the need to bridge this educational gap. The result was the creation of the "Solutions for a Sustainable & Just Future" course. This innovative course has since enrolled over 1,800 students, with Lenier personally teaching 600 of them. The emphasis is not just on rethinking how environmental issues are taught but adopting a broader, systemwide perspective.

The overarching goal of Lenier's work is to inspire young people and equip them with the practical

INSIGHT FOR TOMORROW

HESIGHT

meaningful change often starts at the grassroots.

Building on the success of the program at Berkeley, in the spring of 2021, a virtual version of the course was launched online in partnership with the nonprofit Just Future nonprofit with the ambitious goal of bringing the solutions course to universities around the world.

Lenier's passion for democratizing climate education is evident in her assertion, "You shouldn't be able



to get a high school diploma or college degree without having a basic understanding of the ecological systems that keep you alive." Her commitment to this cause stems from a deep-seated belief that education should empower individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate a rapidly changing climate future.

One of the distinctive features of Lenier's approach is the insistence on moving beyond the conventional waiting game for legislation. She national challenges students to consider actionable steps at the local level, encouraging them to explore avenues at the city, state, or county level where they can make contributions. tangible This emphasis on localized action aligns with the urgency of addressing climate change on multiple fronts.

The success stories emerging from Lenier's course underscores its tangible impact. According to surveys conducted by her nonprofit, an impressive 71% of students have expressed either current involvement or future plans to engage with environmental organizations or initiatives, a testament to the transformative potential of the course. Lenier notes that participants often emerge from the program with a newfound sense of purpose, proclaiming, "I'm a different person. I've decided to do XYZ with my life. l've decided to start this community initiative." For her, creating a space for such transformative changes is the most critical aspect of her work.

The broader vision of the Sustainable & Just Future nonprofit aligns seamlessly with Lenier's commitment to making climate education accessible on a global scale. By extending the reach of the solutions course to universities worldwide. the nonprofit aims to create a cadre of informed and empowered individuals who can contribute meaningfully to the fight against

climate change. The emphasis is not just on raising awareness but on fostering a sense of agency in individuals, urging them to be proactive in addressing the urgent issues facing our planet.

Sage Lenier's journey from designing a course at Berkeley to launching a nonprofit reflects a steadfast commitment to redefining climate education. Her vision goes beyond raising awareness about environmental challenges; it seeks to instill a sense of agency in individuals, urging them to be proactive in addressing the urgent issues facing our planet. As the Sustainable & Just Future nonprofit expands its reach, Lenier's impact on the landscape of climate education promises to be both profound and farreaching. It's a testament to the that education, idea when designed with a vision for empowerment, can be a catalyst for transformative change.





BUILDING PAKISTAN'S GLOBAL IDENTITY A Blueprint for Nation Branding and Positive Perception

Ahsan Mukhtar

In the current landscape of global competition, intense Pakistan finds itself compelled to adopt innovative methods to distinguish itself on the international stage. The key to achieving this lies in the development of a robust 'Nation Branding' strategy that not only serves economic objectives but also acts as a governance tool, fostering positive spaces through social, cultural, and environmental policies.

The concept of Nation Branding holds significant importance as it provides a global brand ranking, reflecting a country's standing on the international stage. For instance, the recent Brand Finance Nation Brands 2022 report ranked the U.S. first with a brand value of \$26.5 trillion, followed by China with \$21.5 trillion and Germany with \$4.5 trillion.

Numerous nations are recognizing the strategic importance of Nation Branding in the 21stglobal centurv economy. Α nation's brand image can substantially impact its economic success by attracting foreign investment, fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and collaboration, and promoting long-term economic growth. Additionally, a positive national brand contributes to increased tourism, talent attraction, and enhanced global influence.

Examining successful examples of Nation Branding, the United States and India stand out. The USA, managed as a global brand since its independence in 1776, has marketed its culture and products with shrewd salesmanship, resulting in a staggering brand value. India's success story, transforming its ancient culture into a vibrant, wealthy international tourist destination, provides valuable insights for nations facing similar challenges, including Pakistan.

Pakistan, despite facing challenges such as negative perception, limited resources, internal divisions, and infrastructural issues, can develop a multifaceted strategy involving





government, the private sector, civil society, and individuals to establish a solid brand image.

To create a distinct brand identity, Pakistan must emphasize its strengths, cultural legacy, and aspirations. Capitalizing on cultural heritage, traditions in music, art, and literature, and showcasing these assets internationally through festivals, exhibitions, and cultural collaborations can create a strong emotional connection.

The country's natural landscapes, historical landmarks, and marvels offer architectural tremendous potential for tourism. investing in By tourism infrastructure, enhancing the visitor experience, and aggressive marketing, Pakistan can attract international tourists.

Pakistan's media and entertainment industries can influence significantly the country's brand image. Encouraging high-quality film and television content that highlights Pakistani talent, stories, and cultural diversity will contribute to a positive image.

Promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, particularly in technology, can position Pakistan as an emerging destination for innovation and technology. Business incubators and technology centers can foster an environment conducive to entrepreneurship.

A targeted strategy, consistent messaging, and sincere efforts can assist Pakistan in establishing itself as an attractive and dynamic cultural, commercial, and tourist destination. Strategic marketing



and PR campaigns, engaging global media, social influencers, and key opinion leaders, can promote awareness of Pakistan's positive characteristics.

Leveraging its diaspora as brand ambassadors, participating in cultural exchanges, and engaging diplomacy in sports can contribute to improving Pakistan's brand reputation. Cultural diplomacy through participation in international events like the Olympics and film festivals will enable Pakistan to showcase its values and traditions.

Ensuring political stability and bolstering national security are pivotal in addressing negative perceptions. Engaging with international organizations, governments, and businesses will contribute to collaborations and partnerships that enhance Pakistan's brand image.

Developing an inclusive brand image that celebrates Pakistan's diverse communities, languages, cultures essential. and is Emphasizing inclusivity and diversity through promoting tolerance, respect, and inclusive policies will garner international attention and demonstrate Pakistan's values.

Creating a positive brand image for Pakistan requires a concerted effort from the government, the private sector, cultural institutions, and individuals. A well-defined strategy, consistent messaging, and sincere efforts can position Pakistan as an attractive and dynamic player on the global stage. In doing so, Pakistan can reshape its narrative, attract investments, and foster a positive perception that aligns with its potential and aspirations.





The 9th Islamabad Literature Festival (ILF), hosted by Oxford University Press (OUP) from November 3 to November 5, 2023, was a literary extravaganza that unfolded at the Gandhara Citizen Club in Fatima Jinnah Park, Pakistan, set the stage by expressing gratitude to the attendees. He emphasized the transformative impact of literary festivals, highlighting how literature stands as a testament to human resilience. Throughout the day, diverse sessions explored themes such as Iqbal's poetry, Pakistan's mangroves, and the right to religious freedom. Art exhibitions curated by Qudus Mirza, Ammar Faiz, and Fauzia Minhalla added

CELEBRATING WORDS, WISDOM, AND IDEAS 9th edition of ILF Wraps Up with a Literary Extravaganza

Desk Report

Islamabad. This three-day event aimed to celebrate the rich tapestry of words, wisdom, and ideas, providing a platform for renowned authors, experts, and literary enthusiasts to engage in thought-provoking discussions.

Day 1: A Literary Prelude

The festival's inauguration on November 3 commenced with a poignant theme – "People, Planet, Possibilities." Arshad Saeed Husain, Managing Director of OUP Jane Marriott, the British High Commissioner to Pakistan, acknowledged the global recognition attained by Pakistani authors, especially those writing in English. She emphasized the power of literature as a gateway to a greater understanding of our experiences. Khalid Mahmood, Managing Director of Getz Pharma Pvt. Ltd., underscored the significance of sustainability and inclusivity for a truly sustainable world.

an artistic flair to the festival, showcasing frames and sculptures that celebrated various forms of expression.

Day 2: Literary Momentum Unleashed

November 4 witnessed the continuation of the literary momentum, with engaging panel discussions on Urdu poetry, Pakistan's wars, and the post-Taliban Afghanistan state-building experiment. The festival delved



FORESIGHT *INSIGHT FOR TOMORROW*

into the power of literature to represent diverse voices and perspectives. Sessions on journalism, culture, and the political economy of global media in Pakistan and Afghanistan revealed the intricate dynamics of media in the region.

In the evening, a screening of the feature film "Kamli" and a captivating Mushaira, featuring renowned poets, provided a delightful blend of visual and literary arts.

Day 3: Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony on November 5 featured keynote speeches by Senator Sherry Rehman and poet-critic Anwar Masood. Senator Rehman emphasized collective responsibility for a sustainable "Climate planet, stating, successes are collaborations, and we all need to play our part." Masood praised the Anwar festival's dedication to literature and arts, highlighting the role of poetry in providing solace in unpredictable times.

The closing ceremony included discussions on various topics, such as Pakistan's foreign policy, economic challenges, the sociocultural impact of resilience, human rights, and the power of storytelling in film. The day concluded with a ghazal night by Ustad Hamid Ali Khan, rendering classical pieces by renowned Pakistani poets.

Key Sessions and Discussions

Democracy, Bureaucracy, and Judiciary: Going Beyond the Colonial Entanglement:

 Moderated by Khayyam Mushir, this session delved into aspects of good governance missing in the bureaucracy today.

 Speakers like Hamid Khan, Fauzia M. Sana, and Zahid Hussain shared perspectives on measures to address issues in the bureaucracy.

Al in Education: Empowering Minds:

- Moderated by Saquib Ahmad, Managing Director SAP Pakistan, the discussion emphasized asking the right questions in the fast-paced world of Al in education.
- Shahid Mahmud highlighted the history and pace of AI development, stressing the importance of adopting AI in education.

Fair Assessments: Ensuring Equity and Excellence in Education:

- Moderated by Mina Malik, this session reinforced the importance of fair assessments.
- Andrew Coombe, Managing Director OxfordAQA, highlighted the aim of creating a high-quality syllabus that is valid, reliable, and comparable.

Business and Economy, Shaping the Way Forward:

- Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, Founder & CEO, Nutshell Group, emphasized the need for a long-term sustainable plan to improve the investment climate.
- The discussion focused on the collaboration between government, private and

public sectors, and the military establishment.

Artistic Highlights

Two art exhibitions curated by Qudus Mirza, Ammar Faiz, and Fauzia Minhalla added a visual feast to ILF 2023. These exhibitions showcased frames and sculptures, offering attendees an opportunity to appreciate the value of expression through both print and brush strokes. The power of communication through art was evident, reflecting the festival's dedication to honoring various storytelling forms and cultural legacies.

Cultural Enrichment through Literature

Throughout the three days, ILF 2023 provided a platform for interactions between authors and readers, book launches, author signings, film screenings, panel discussions, and art exhibitions. The festival celebrated the world of literature in all its forms, enriching the cultural fabric of Pakistan. The commitment of OUP Pakistan to promoting education, literature, and local content was evident in the diverse planning and execution of the festival. In his vote of thanks, Arshad Saeed Husain, Managing Director, OUP Pakistan, expressed gratitude for the phenomenal He response. remarked. "Immersed in the compelling narratives and profound discussions of this literary festival, we've unraveled the deep ties binding humanity, the planet, and the realms of potential. In these trying times let us offer hope, fostering a united awareness for a world that thrives on sustainability and empathy."



Muhammad Mikal Soomro, Manager Corporate Communications, Getz Pharma, Pvt. Ltd., lauded the efforts for putting together such an impeccable literary event. The Interim Minister of Information, Murtaza Solangi, also attended all three days of the event.

In Conclusion

2023 concluded ILF as а resounding success, providing with enriching attendees experiences, engaging conversations, and а deep appreciation for the impact of literature on society. The festival's

dedication to celebrating diverse voices, promoting local content, and fostering a culture of bookreading in Pakistan was evident throughout. As the literary curtains fell on ILF 2023, it left an indelible mark on the cultural landscape, echoing the power of words, wisdom, and ideas.











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As we join in the celebration of the National Day of the People's Republic of China, it is with immense pleasure that we extend heartfelt congratulations to the Chinese government and its people. This momentous occasion allows us to reflect on the extraordinary achievements and

cooperation and of mutual support. This bond has grown stronger over time, with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) standing as a testament to our enduring partnership. The CPEC enhance aims to connectivity, promote economic development, and improve the

mutual trust and shared goals that define our bilateral relations.

It is essential to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the late Mr. Zahid Malik, TI, HI, the founding editor of Pakistan Observer. Mr. Malik played a pivotal role in promoting and

CELEBRATING CHINA'S NATIONAL DAY A Testament to Enduring Friendship and **Shared Prosperity**

Tanveer Ali Maken

progress China has made under visionary the leadership of the Communist Party of China.

China's National Day, observed on October 1st, commemorates the founding of People's the Republic of China in 1949. Over the years, China has

undergone remarkable а transformation, evolving into a global economic powerhouse and а significant player in international affairs. Its rapid development, technological advancements, and dedication to poverty alleviation serve as an inspiring example for nations across the globe.

longstanding The friendship between Pakistan and China, often termed an "all-weather friendship," is rooted in a history

October 1 livelihoods of both people in nations.

NAL

The unwavering commitment of the Chinese government to CPEC has not only bolstered Pakistan's economy but has also brought our nations closer together. This collaboration has resulted in the development of infrastructure projects, energy ventures, and industrial zones that pave the way for sustainable growth and prosperity. The economic cooperation between Pakistan and China reflects the spirit of

strengthening China-Pakistan relations. His tireless efforts in fostering goodwill and understanding between our two nations have left an **People's Republic** indelible mark on the history of Pakistan's journalism and of diplomacy. We remember his legacy with deep respect and gratitude as we continue to build upon the strong foundations he laid.

> As we commemorate China's National Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to nurturing this enduring friendship. Together, Pakistan and China can face the challenges of the modern world and work towards a future of shared prosperity, peace, and stability in our region and beyond. This celebration marks not only a milestone in our shared history but also an opportunity to look forward to the many achievements will we undoubtedly celebrate together in the future.



"Dandelion Blooms" is а compelling memoir that intertwines personal narratives with the transformation of Islamabad over the years. The author's motivation to capture the stories narrated by their mother, who witnessed the shift of the capital from Karachi to the largely uninhabited Islamabad in 1964, brings forth a unique perspective. The book not only serves as a repository of family recollections but also as an endeavor to preserve the history of a city undergoing significant changes.

The author's passion for history preservation emerges as a central theme, drawing attention to the charm of a city that has undergone profound cultural shifts.

A significant aspect of the memoir is the exploration of Islamabad's cultural transformation, from a city that seemingly at half-past slept eight to one that remains alive at halfpast eleven. The author delves into the changing dynamics of social gatherings and the evolving lifestyle, the emphasizing



CITY OF MEMORIES Rediscovering Islamabad's Heritage in 'Dandelion Blooms'

Desk Report

lack of efforts in safeguarding the heritage of Pakistani cities. Drawing parallels with global cities with well-documented histories, the book underscores the need for a multi-generational commitment to cherish and protect a city's cultural legacy.

Through the lens of personal experiences, the author vividly describes Islamabad's evolution, highlighting the disappearance of iconic landmarks and cultural practices. The narrative navigates through the author's childhood memories of places like the Sirajcovered market, American Centre, and the Northern side of Rawal Dam, reflecting on the bygone contrast between the past and present.

The book also serves as a personal quest to understand the reasons behind Islamabad's dramatic transformation over its 60-year existence. The author reflects on the city's altered infrastructure, cultural shifts, and the remarkable in nocturnal change the landscape, illustrating the evolving identity of Islamabad.

In weaving together childhood memories, historical observations, and a wish-list for the city's future, the author emphasizes a call to action. The final chapter serves as a wake-up call, urging readers to collectively revive the old glory of Islamabad and contribute to making it a better place to live.

"Dandelion Blooms" successfully captures the essence of Islamabad's past while raising awareness about its changed dynamics. The author's nostalgic recollections and insightful observations create a captivating narrative that resonates with readers who long for the old Islamabad. This memoir not only pays homage to the city's history but also prompts reflection on the collective responsibility to preserve and enhance its cultural richness.



groundbreaking In а towards move urban sustainable mobility, ezBike has launched Pakistan's first-ever Battery Swap Station network, unveiling its environmentally conscious Electron Scooter. This visionary initiative aims to address challenges related to fuel consumption, air pollution, and traffic congestion, while simultaneously enhancing accessibility in urban areas.



significantly reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to cleaner, healthier cities."

At the core of ezBike's innovation is its Battery Swap Station network, a technological marvel designed to eliminate concerns about electric scooter range limitations. The stations facilitate rapid battery exchanges in under 30 seconds, seamlessly managed through the user-friendly ezSwap app. This addresses a key

REVOLUTIONIZING URBAN MOBILITY ezBike's Eco-Friendly Electron Scooter and Innovative Battery Swap Network

News Desk

The launch event, graced by distinguished dignitaries such as Chief Guest Mr. Barrister Zaffar Ullah Khan, witnessed the introduction of a transformative solution to urban transportation. Notable personalities, including politicians Zahra Fatmi and Amina Sheikh, university Vice Chancellors, media representatives, and representatives from USAID and PFAN, attended the event, highlighting the significance of ezBike's ecofriendly mobility initiative.

Mr. Zaffar Ullah Khan commended ezBike for its pioneering efforts in the realm of environmentally responsible transportation. He underscored the vital role such initiatives play in preserving the planet and promoting cleaner modes of commuting. Khan stated, "ezBike's Battery Swap Station network represents a major stride toward a greener future. It's not only economically viable but also a testament to our shared commitment to environmental sustainability. By utilizing clean energy sources, these scooters barrier to widespread adoption of electric scooters and enhances the overall convenience for users.

Co-founders Ali Moeen and Mohammad Hadi highlighted the cost-effectiveness of electric scooters as a viable alternative to conventional vehicles. With rising fuel prices and escalating maintenance costs associated with cars, electric scooters present a budget-friendly and sustainable mode of transportation. The launch includes the establishment of forty Battery Swap Stations in Islamabad, with plans for further expansion.

ezBike's commitment to greener and more costeffective mobility is reshaping the landscape of electric transportation, paving the way for a future where environmental consciousness converges with pioneering innovation. The introduction of the Electron Scooter and Battery Swap Station network signifies a significant step towards a cleaner, healthier, and more accessible urban environment.





THE DEVIL'S JOURNEY Short Story

Shanze Toor

Encounter Shanze Toor, a dedicated MS English student at COMSATS University, whose reservoir of creativity and innovative vision knows no bounds. Immerse yourself in the enchanting world of her artistry as she skillfully weaves a vibrant tapestry of inspiration and innovation. Embark on this journey with Shanze Toor and witness the mesmerizing intersection of passion and skill. Allow her unique perspective to kindle the flames of your own creativity. Join us in celebrating the extraordinary talents of Shanze Toor; a beacon of artistic brilliance in the realm of academia.

Hurt., Distrust., Pain.

These are the things she felt at a young age. At an age, when she first had a situation she could not handle by herself. She sought her family's help but did not take action in the right amount of time. A few days later, she was blamed for everything she did not do. Despite her saying it a million times, her family did not believe her.



This time what she felt was beyond everything. She was not just accused but was provided with false evidence of her being in a relationship with the most bad-ass boy in town.

Destroyed., Hurt.

Extremely heartbroken.

She betrayed again.

Loss of trust.

To sugarcoat it, she was labeled 'CHARACTERLESS'

And to top it off, her parents did not believe a

single word she had to say. Not because it was true, just because "she had a bad past, and it is in her nature to do such a thing. So, it's no surprise she ended up being such a characterless female."

Now that she has become a devil herself, even though she is not the complete devil she needs to be, she is one.

Yet people have the right to complain about what a cruel person she has become when they are the ones to make her the devil she is today.

The journey of the devil. The devil she never wanted to be, but the circumstances were never in her favor.

Please beware of the danger you put yourself into when you mess up with her. Because this time, she will not tolerate anything or anyone.

No wonder, why she felt what she felt.

A few years later, she forgot that incident - as if it n ever happened. But still, it was there at the back of her mind. Now when she was in her early teens, someone accused her of stealing their belongings from their bag. When she was certainly not the one to do so. The principal called her parents. Yet again, despite her denial and truth her family did not believe her.

Betrayed? Again!

Hurt? Again!

Heartbroken? Again!

After this incident, she became slightly distant, cruel, and cold. This not only affected her personality in general but affected her social life as well. Only a few friends remained but lost contact with them due to the constant shifting of places.







ENTERTAINMENT Kabhi Bhi, Kaheen Bhi!



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