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5 MARLA 25X50	1,490,000	99,000	14,900	99,378
8 MARLA 30X60	1,915,000	126,000	19,150	127,875
10 MARLA 35X70	2,290,000	152,000	22,900	152,750
1 KANAL 40X80	4,290,000	280,000	42,900	286,750
2 KANAL 50X90	8,300,000	540,000	83,000	555,000
5 MARLA 75X120	9,000,000	720,000	90,000	585,000
COMMERCIAL				



FORESIGHT

January – 2024 – Vol. XII/01

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Executive Editor

Kanwar Muhammad Sohail

Joint Editor

Musharaf Abbas

Deputy Editor (Overseas)

Dr. Abdul Rauf

Founding Content Head

Prof. A. D. Maken (Late)

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Khawaja Anique ur Rehman

Online / Web Editor

Batool Ali

GM Marketing & Sales

Ahsan Mukhtar

Photojournalist

M. Aziz ur Rehman

Computer Operator

Rana Farukh Javed Khan

Composing & Designing

AzizHorea

.....

Head Office

Office # 03, Plot # 36B, Hussain Plaza,
Amin Town, Koral, Islamabad

Email: foresightislamabad@gmail.com,
info@foresightmags.com

Website: www.foresightmags.com

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Chief Editor Note

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, the January edition of our magazine unfolds like a fresh chapter, bringing with it a blend of insights, revelations, and a compass to navigate the unfolding year. Here's a glimpse of the captivating narratives awaiting you:

The global stage is set for a year of pivotal decisions. Our coverage on the elections of 2024 takes you on a journey across continents, exploring the political landscapes that will shape the course of nations. Witness the choices that will resonate for years to come.

Within our local context, we shine a spotlight on the progress made in fostering political equality. Join us in celebrating the individuals and movements that contribute to a more inclusive political arena, setting the stage for a brighter, more representative future.

In the bustling cities of Asia, a silent threat lingers in the air. Our investigative piece unveils the environmental challenges that often go unnoticed amidst the urban hustle. Dive into the exploration of unseen perils affecting the health and sustainability of our thriving metropolises.

As we traverse the ever-evolving landscape of artificial intelligence, we delve into the subtle battles of code that shape geopolitical dynamics. The "Code War" unfolds, revealing the complexities of the digital realm and its profound impact on the world order.

This edition is a tapestry woven with diverse threads, each representing a facet of the global narrative. We invite you to immerse yourself in the stories, analyses, and perspectives presented here. May they inspire contemplation, spark dialogue, and offer a panoramic view of the multifaceted world we inhabit.

Here's to a year of discovery, discourse, and the unfolding of new chapters.

With warm regards,



Tanveer Ali Maken

2024 AROUND THE GLOBE

World on the Ballot

Elections to Watch in 2024

Dozens of countries will vote this year.

Tanveer Ali Maken

The year 2024 has emerged as a critical juncture for democracies globally, with numerous countries preparing for significant elections. However, the implications extend beyond the routine exercise of casting votes; in many of these nations, the very essence of democracy teeters on the edge of transformation.

As the global political stage readies for a series of elections, attention is drawn to the intricate dynamics at play in diverse corners of the world. From Asia to Europe, Africa to the Americas, citizens will participate in shaping the course of their nations. Yet, beneath this democratic spectacle

lies a narrative of paramount importance.

Democracy, considered the bedrock of governance in numerous nations, finds itself at a tipping point in many places. The outcome of these elections possesses the power to either reinforce democratic values or push nations towards an uncertain future. The fragility of democratic institutions and processes is palpable, and the choices made by voters will resonate far beyond national borders.

In some regions, longstanding democratic principles face severe tests. Threats of authoritarianism

loom large, challenging the very foundations upon which democratic societies have been built. The upcoming elections serve as a litmus test for the resilience of democratic ideals, with results that will reverberate globally.

Asia, known for diverse political landscapes, presents a myriad of scenarios. The presidential election in Taiwan, shadowed by the specter of Chinese interference, could shape not only the island's fate but also influence the dynamics of the entire region. Meanwhile, in Russia, alternatives to Vladimir Putin have been stifled, and the March presidential





election unfolds against a backdrop of political suppression, posing questions about the future of Russian democracy.

Across continents, challenges are manifold. In Europe, the pendulum swings from the center-right to the far-right, leaving the left with limited influence. In Africa, the African National Congress, once synonymous with Nelson Mandela's ideals, grapples with internal issues that may impact its majority status. Latin America anticipates a historic moment with Mexico poised to elect its first female president.

The Americas, particularly the United States, are not immune to the seismic shifts of 2024. As the nation grapples with its own political dynamics, the potential return of former President Donald Trump looms large, causing apprehensions about the future of American democracy.

Within the subcontinent, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Pakistan find themselves at the center of significant political developments in 2024. However, it is Pakistan's electoral landscape that draws particular scrutiny.

Nowhere is this more evident than in Pakistan, a nation where the upcoming elections are set against the backdrop of political intricacies and challenges that underscore the delicate state of democracy. As the February 2024 elections approach, the democratic processes are clouded with controversy, allegations of manipulation, and a tense political atmosphere.

The mass rejection of nomination papers, compromised legitimacy of the polls, and reports of political repression contribute to a complex electoral landscape. The detention of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, a popular political figure, and the suppression of his party have

raised concerns about the fairness and transparency of the electoral process. The role of the security establishment and questions regarding the independence of the Election Commission of Pakistan further accentuate the challenges in ensuring a free and fair electoral environment.

Pakistan's election scenario is a microcosm of the global democratic landscape, reflecting the fragility of democratic institutions in the face of political maneuvering. The choices made by Pakistani citizens in these elections will not only shape the nation's trajectory but will also serve as a reflection of the resilience of democratic values in a region fraught with political complexities.

As the world witnesses the unfolding of elections in 2024, the scenario in Pakistan becomes emblematic of the global challenges facing democracy. The decisions made by citizens carry a

weight that extends beyond national borders, influencing the perception of democratic ideals on the global stage.

In a world where democracy is at a tipping point, Pakistan's elections become not just a national affair but a critical moment in the global narrative of democratic resilience. The responsibility of vigilant citizenship is amplified in these circumstances, urging Pakistani citizens to navigate the complexities of their political landscape with a keen awareness of the impact their choices can have on the future of democracy, both within their borders and beyond.

As we witness this global democratic spectacle, it is imperative to recognize that these elections are not mere exercises in political ritual. They represent critical crossroads, where citizens hold the power to shape the destiny of their nations. The choices made will either fortify the foundations of democracy or steer countries into uncharted waters.

The world watches with bated breath as 2024 unfolds, and the outcomes of these elections will undoubtedly echo in the annals of history. The responsibility lies not only with the candidates but also with the vigilant citizens who must navigate these pivotal moments with a keen awareness of the weight their choices carry. In a world where democracy stands at a tipping point, the decisions made in the polling booths will echo for years to come.





As Bangladesh stands on the precipice of its 2024 elections, there is a palpable sense of uncertainty and apprehension about what lies ahead for the nation. The specter of a flawed election looms large, casting

picture of the political landscape leading up to the elections.

The fear of a flawed election has far-reaching consequences, with many expressing concerns that it could pave the way for a shift

descending into totalitarian rule becomes a prominent narrative, with worries about the erosion of democratic values and institutions that have been painstakingly built over the years.

CASTING SHADOWS

What Lies Ahead for Bangladesh

Electoral Peregrination and the Fight for Democracy

Atiq ur Rehman

shadows of doubt on the prospects of a democratic future and raising fears of a descent into totalitarian rule.

The upcoming elections in Bangladesh are marked by a series of challenges that extend beyond the typical democratic process. The integrity of the electoral system is questioned, and concerns about transparency and fairness have taken center stage. The mass rejection of nomination papers, allegations of political repression, and a crackdown on dissenting voices paint a complex

towards authoritarianism. In a democratic framework, elections are meant to be the cornerstone of citizens' voices, providing a platform for their aspirations and choices. However, when the very foundation of this process is marred by irregularities and doubts, it casts a dark cloud over the democratic ideals that the nation aspires to uphold.

The potential aftermath of a flawed election in Bangladesh raises questions about the country's trajectory in the post-election phase. The fear of

The international community, too, watches with a keen eye as Bangladesh approaches this critical juncture. The global repercussions of a nation veering away from democratic principles are significant, impacting diplomatic relations, trade partnerships, and the overall stability of the region.

It is crucial to recognize that the concerns surrounding the Bangladesh elections in 2024 are not confined to the borders of the nation. The decisions made



during this electoral process hold the power to shape the future not only for the citizens of Bangladesh but also for the broader global community.

As the country grapples with these challenges, it becomes imperative for citizens, political leaders, and the international community to remain vigilant. The resilience of democratic values lies in the collective will to uphold the principles of fairness, transparency, and the right of every citizen to participate in a free and unbiased electoral process.

While the fears of a flawed election casting Bangladesh into a trajectory of totalitarian rule are genuine, there is also room for hope. History has shown that nations can overcome challenges, and the strength of the people in advocating for their democratic rights should not be underestimated.

Bangladesh stands at a pivotal moment, and the choices made in the upcoming elections will reverberate for years to come. The responsibility lies not only with the political leadership but also with the citizens to demand and safeguard the democratic ideals that form the cornerstone of the nation's identity.

In the face of uncertainty, Bangladesh has an opportunity to demonstrate resilience and commitment to democratic values. The world watches as the nation navigates this crucial chapter in its history, hopeful that the democratic aspirations of the people will prevail and pave the way for a future founded on principles of justice, equality, and freedom.



In the tapestry of time, 2023 emerges not merely as a year but as a pivotal chapter etched with alarming records in the narrative of climate change. The global stage witnessed a symphony of unprecedented climate events, painting a vivid portrait of a planet in distress. Yet, despite the urgency imposed by impending critical global warming thresholds, the symphony of global cooperation seems to

reverberate through the corridors of environmental consciousness. It wasn't just another year; it was a record-breaking annum, punctuated by scorching heatwaves, cataclysmic wildfires, and the unsettling rise of sea levels. The Earth's distress signals are impossible to ignore, casting an unyielding spotlight on the urgency of addressing the looming climate catastrophe.

The delicate balance set by the

this threshold extend far beyond rising temperatures, with profound impacts on ecosystems, biodiversity, and the delicate tapestry of human societies.

One might anticipate that such an existential threat would catalyze unparalleled global cooperation. Yet, the reality falls disappointingly short. Despite the plethora of climate conferences, international accords, and impassioned pledges, the actual

2023 CLIMATE CHANGE BREAKS RECORDS But Global Cooperation Stumbles

Dr. Tehmeena Iqbal

falter, playing a discordant note in the face of our shared environmental challenge.

As we bid adieu to 2023, the echoes of its climatic tumult

Paris Agreement, with its aim to curtail global warming to levels well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial benchmarks, appears increasingly precarious. The consequences of surpassing

progress appears dwarfed in comparison to the monumental task at hand. The gap between lofty rhetoric and tangible action persists, as nations grapple with the intricacies of sustainable





transitions amid pressing socioeconomic demands.

The urgency of the climate crisis necessitates transformative action, demanding not mere incremental changes but a radical shift in mindset and policies. The records broken in 2023 serve as a stark reminder that the status quo is no longer tenable; the world requires unprecedented innovation, collaboration, and the courage to chart a new course toward sustainability.

The dichotomy between the immediacy of the climate crisis and the measured pace of global cooperation becomes an emblematic challenge. Political inertia, entrenched interests, and the delicate dance of economic stability continue to impede the necessary paradigm shift. The question looms large: Can the world rise above these challenges

and summon the collective will to confront the climate emergency?

As we reflect on the records shattered in 2023, the imperative for transformative change becomes glaringly evident. This pivotal moment demands a departure from business as usual. Climate change is not a future abstraction; it is an urgent reality requiring immediate and resolute attention.

In the annals of history, 2023 may be etched as the year that forced humanity to confront the consequences of its actions. It is now a clarion call for a global awakening, inspiring the world to transcend barriers, overcome challenges, and forge a path toward a sustainable future.

The challenges posed by climate change are colossal, but so too is the collective potential of humanity. The records of 2023

should resonate as a rallying cry for renewed commitment, collaboration, and accountability. In the face of monumental difficulties, the world has an opportunity to create a sustainable, resilient future. The alternative—ignoring the warning signs—would usher us down a perilous path of irreversible consequences.

As we step into a new year, the daunting challenge of addressing climate change stands before us. The records of 2023 speak loud and clear: the time for decisive action is now. Governments, industries, communities, and individuals must heed this call to arms, rising above the constraints of the status quo to craft a sustainable, resilient future for generations to come. The climate abyss beckons, but so too does the opportunity for redemption. The choice is ours.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXCELLENCE

Dr. Sabina Imran Durrani's Trail as a Healthcare Leader

Batool

As I stepped into Dr. Sabina Imran Durrani's room, expecting to meet a high-ranking professional entrenched in public health complexities, I was pleasantly surprised. She was not just a formidable figure but a person who effortlessly balanced the roles of a dedicated professional and a nurturing homemaker. Dr. Durrani, with her remarkable simplicity, radiated strength cultivated through diverse experiences in the challenging realms of public health services.

Her journey unfolded across prestigious organizations, contributing significantly to Pakistan's public health landscape. From emergency health services to counterterrorism efforts and disaster management, Dr. Durrani's commitment to making a meaningful impact on society remained unwavering.

Behind her unassuming demeanor lies a wealth of experience and a commitment to



continuous learning and growth. Driven by a personal philosophy deeply rooted in service, she consistently sought opportunities that expanded her horizons and enhanced her skill set. Her expertise spans Program Management, Program Development, and Team

Management, showcasing a versatility that navigates the complex terrain of public health with finesse.

What sets Dr. Durrani apart is her exceptional communication skills, a strength that she expertly utilizes to establish effective liaisons with development partners and various stakeholder departments. Her efforts in this realm have been instrumental in avoiding duplications in interventions and ensuring the seamless integration of services and resources.

Throughout her illustrious career, Dr. Durrani held various prominent positions, including Director of National Health

Emergency Preparedness Response (NHEPRN), M/o NHSR&C, and Deputy Director Population Welfare. These roles were marked not only by administrative excellence but also by a tireless commitment to fostering coordination mechanisms among diverse stakeholders.

Contributions extended beyond administrative roles into the realm of capacity building, where Dr. Durrani conducted training programs and developed policy guidelines, protocols, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Her analytical skills proved pivotal in managing health emergencies, disseminating critical information, and creating standardized training materials.

A key aspect of Dr. Durrani's approach has been her emphasis on establishing partnerships with both national and international organizations. This collaborative spirit aimed to access global best practices in emergency health management, positioning Pakistan within the framework of international standards.

One remarkable episode in her journey unfolded when Dr. Durrani decided to join the newly formed National Counterterrorism Authority (NACTA). Moved by the televised plea of the then National Coordinator, Ahsan Ghani, who also served as IG police, she took immediate action. Having seen him in a TV interview expressing the need for dedicated and hardworking officers

Dr. Durrani wasted no time. The very next day, she called him, expressing her desire to meet. In a courageous move, she visited his office and boldly asserted, "I am the best officer in the system, and I believe I have something to contribute to NACTA." Ahsan Ghani, astonished by her audacity, listened as she shared her passion for working in forces, her organizational skills, and her affinity for espionage movies like '24.' Dr. Durrani expressed her

belief that she would excel in the realm of counterterrorism.

This bold step marked a turning point in her career. Ahsan Ghani, recognizing her determination, appointed her to NACTA, setting her on a path where she could channel her passion and skills into countering extremism. This endeavor showcased her not only as a seasoned professional but as a visionary leader willing to step into uncharted territories for the greater good.

Dr. Sabina Imran Durrani emerges not only as a seasoned professional but as a visionary leader in public health. Her journey reflects a commitment to the well-being of communities and the advancement of public health in Pakistan. Through her simple yet profound approach, she continues to shape the narrative of healthcare in the country, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of those she serves.

As a Development Practitioner, Dr. Durrani expresses a wish to contribute her smart and target-oriented experience in Public Health to an organization that values continuous learning and offers a platform for skill-building. Committed, with excellent communication, coordination, and management skills, she thrives in challenging, dynamic, and independent environments. One of her standout strengths lies in exceptional communication skills, instrumental in establishing liaisons with development partners and stakeholder departments, avoiding duplications, and ensuring seamless integration of services.

In addition to her impressive career trajectory, Dr. Durrani has set the stage for medical tourism in Pakistan, meticulously examining different hospitals and identifying four internationally accredited ones, including Aga Khan, Shifa, and Shaukat Khanum. In consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan Tourism Department, and all stakeholders, she has pioneered what could be an exceptional economic and optics benefit for Pakistan.

Despite her accomplishments, Dr. Durrani acknowledges that the system in place needs a transformation. Her visionary leadership, coupled with a determination to effect change, positions her as a driving force in reshaping the healthcare landscape in Pakistan. Dr. Sabina Imran Durrani not only navigates the complexities of public health but also pioneers initiatives that set new standards and contribute to the well-being of the nation.

Now serving as the Director General for National Emergency Health Services (NEHS), Dr. Durrani continues her impactful journey, coordinating efforts to implement the National Action Plan (NAP) with Provincial Governments. Her responsibilities also encompass ensuring contraceptive commodity security, supporting research and advocacy for Family Planning and Reproductive Health (FP/RH), and collaborating with donors and the international community. Dr. Durrani's leadership at NEHS further solidifies her commitment to enhancing healthcare systems and improving the lives of individuals and communities across Pakistan.





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INTERPRETER TO INNOVATOR

Rabia Raheel's Trailblazing Path in Interior Design

Tanveer Ali Maken

Meet Rabia Raheel, known as Bia, a visionary audiologist-turned-CEO and interior designer whose journey reads like an odyssey of empowerment and innovation. A graduate of Kings College London and a pioneer in Neuro Linguistic Programming, Bia's story began at 13 when she became the first interpreter, later becoming the international voice for the disabled in Pakistan.

Specializing in five sign languages and armed with 52 courses in specialized skills, Bia's commitment to inclusivity extends to her role as an interior designer, with innovation at its core. As a frequent traveler with vast experience and exposure, Bia's dual expertise as an audiologist and CEO of Biaa's Interior exemplifies a commitment to global impact. Leading Biaa's Interior, she has crafted not just designs but experiences, with successful projects echoing her creative prowess. As we delve into her remarkable journey, we uncover the story of Rabia Raheel — an innovator shaping a future where creativity knows no limits.

Can you share how your background as an interpreter, influenced your journey to becoming the CEO of Biaa's Interior?

Ans: My journey from an interpreter to the CEO of Biaa's Interior is deeply rooted in my artistic lineage, with art ingrained in my essence. Belonging to a family of artists, I consider myself an artist by birth, driven by an innate love for colors and life. This inherent connection led me to explore interior design.

Starting my career as an interpreter, I carry forward the invaluable traits of communication and empathy into my role as CEO. This foundation, combined with my artistic heritage, guides our team at Biaa's Interior, where we prioritize inclusivity and client satisfaction

in crafting spaces that tell unique stories.

In what ways has your extensive international exposure, spanning the EU, UK, USA, and UAE, proven to be a substantial asset in shaping and enhancing your expertise within the field of interior design?

Ans: My extensive international exposure across the EU, UK, USA, and UAE has been a significant asset in shaping and enhancing my expertise within the field of interior design. In particular, my involvement with UN Pakistan and the UK has played a profound role in broadening my global perspective, emphasizing the importance of sustainable practices and cultural nuances. The transformative impact of travel has been instrumental,



allowing me to meet diverse people and observe trends, which has become the essence of my design philosophy at Biaa's Interior. This commitment is reflected in our designs, transcending boundaries and offering a unique, global perspective in every project. Could you highlight a project at Biaa's Interior that you are particularly proud of and the challenges you overcame?

Ans: One of the proudest achievements at Biaa's Interior is the creation of the 'Miracle and Glow Garden' at Ayub Park, Rawalpindi—a groundbreaking project under the Army Heritage Foundation. This holds a special place as the first-ever Miracle and



Glow Garden in Pakistan. Faced with a challenging completion timeline of just five months, we navigated this tight schedule by incorporating customized, unique, and signature elements, adding to the distinctive allure of the garden.

The 'Zoo' project presented an exciting opportunity to merge creativity with functionality, providing an engaging and comfortable space for both visitors and the animals. Overcoming the unique challenges of this dynamic environment, we successfully crafted an immersive experience.

In the case of 'Aura Grande Marques, Topi Rakh, White Rose Marquee, Data Kabana, and DK Grill, these commercial ventures allowed us to showcase our versatility. From grand marquees

to tech-centric spaces and exquisite dining establishments, each posed its unique challenges, met with innovative solutions.

Our portfolio extends beyond these to various commercial projects, each a testament to our commitment to delivering excellence. These projects not only reflect our design acumen but also highlight our unwavering dedication to creating spaces that leave a lasting impression."

With your expertise in Neuro Linguistic Programming, how does it impact your approach to interior design and set Biao's Interior apart?

Ans: My expertise in Neuro Linguistic Programming has been a guiding force in shaping the approach of Biao's Interior. It allows us to understand and cater to the psychological aspects of design, creating spaces that go beyond aesthetics. The emphasis on effective communication and understanding individual perspectives sets Biao's Interior apart in creating environments that resonate with our clients on a deeper level.

How has your academic background, including studies at Chelsea University Dubai, and short courses, contributed to your success in running an interior design business?

Ans: My academic journey, including studies at Chelsea University, has been a cornerstone of my success in running Biao's Interior. Going beyond the amateur to obtaining a degree has transformed not just my qualifications but also my mindset, work style, and approach to interior design. Completing various courses from prestigious institutions in the UK, USA, and UAE has equipped me with a diverse skill set, enriching my professional acumen. The knowledge gained from these experiences has been instrumental in elevating the standards of our work, ensuring a sophisticated and expert touch in every project at Biao's Interior."

Regarding furniture design innovation at Biao's Interior, could you share insights into your approach?

Ans: At Biao's Interior, our furniture design ethos revolves around innovation, functionality, and adaptability. We prioritize cutting-edge materials and design principles, collaborating with skilled craftsmen to create pieces that marry aesthetic appeal with evolving client needs. The process involves meticulous considerations of space, design, and color, addressing challenges such as optimizing seating in narrow spaces. Beyond mere aesthetics, we recognize that furniture design is intricately tied to space, circulation, and people flow, ensuring each piece is a testament to our commitment to innovation and thoughtful design."

As CEO, how do you ensure effective project management and coordination among different

services provided by Biaa's Interior?

Ans: Effective project management is at the core of Biaa's Interior's success. As CEO, I ensure seamless coordination among different services by fostering a culture of clear communication and teamwork. Regular project assessments, transparent timelines, and a dedicated project management team contribute to the smooth execution of each project, maintaining our reputation for delivering excellence.

How do you integrate inclusivity and accessibility considerations into your interior design projects based on your experience as an interpreter for the disabled?

Ans: My experience as an interpreter for the disabled has been pivotal in integrating inclusivity and accessibility into interior design projects. At Biaa's Interior, we prioritize universal design principles, ensuring that our spaces are not only visually appealing but also accessible to everyone. This commitment extends to collaborations with specialists to guarantee the highest standards of inclusivity.

What is your philosophy on space planning, and how do you ensure alignment with clients' visions?

Ans: Our philosophy on space planning is rooted in the creation of functional and aesthetically pleasing environments that seamlessly align with our clients' visions. Embracing a collaborative approach, we actively involve clients throughout the design process to grasp their unique needs and preferences. This ensures that each space is a

genuine reflection of their vision, fostering a sense of ownership and satisfaction. When it comes to furniture design, we consider factors such as movement proportion, spatial measurements, environmental ambience, and lighting, taking our philosophy into account while understanding client needs. Our commitment lies in valuing style over trends, recognizing that trends may change, but enduring style forms the foundation of every design we bring to life at Biaa's Interior

Can you share your vision for the future of Biaa's Interior and how you plan to stay at the forefront of the industry?

Ans: Looking ahead, the vision for Biaa's Interior is multifaceted, grounded in continued innovation and global expansion. Beyond leading the industry through emerging trends and sustainable practices, our future includes venturing into customized furniture and establishing

showrooms. We're also passionate about supporting small businesses, empowering youth, and fostering collaborations with companies and artisans in Pakistan and abroad for importing and exporting interior design products. A pivotal dream is to launch an institute for interior design, promoting skilled youth and business in the country. Every project at Biaa's Interior is envisioned to be one of a kind, and, as the convener of ICCI, we aim to establish an association of interior designers in Pakistan, dedicated to educating people about the distinct realms of interior design and architecture. As the nominated convener of the Interior Designers Association at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries, I extend a warm invitation to all interior designers to come forward and be part of this association. We are dedicated to encouraging and supporting all companies and individuals in the field.





Maria.B.

Lawn-21





THE SILENT THREAT

Unmasking the Airborne Peril in Asia's Thriving Cities

Aniq ur Rehman

In the bustling metropolises of South and Southeast Asia, where the heartbeat of progress resonates through towering skyscrapers and vibrant streets, an invisible adversary lurks in the very air residents breathe. The alarming rise of air pollution has escalated into a silent killer, claiming an additional 150,000 lives in these rapidly growing urban centers, according to recent research.

Dr. Karn Vohra, a distinguished research fellow at University College London, has unveiled the grim realities of this invisible menace. Armed with a Ph.D. in Environmental Health and Risk Management from the University of Birmingham, Dr. Vohra's work delves deep into the intricate dynamics of air pollution in the context of public health.

As the engines of economic growth rev up in South and Southeast Asian cities, the byproduct is an atmospheric cocktail of pollutants that infiltrates every breath taken by the region's inhabitants. Dr. Vohra's research employs a multifaceted approach, incorporating ground-based and satellite observations, chemical transport models, and health risk assessment models. This comprehensive methodology seeks to unravel the complex tapestry of air pollution and its profound impact on public health.

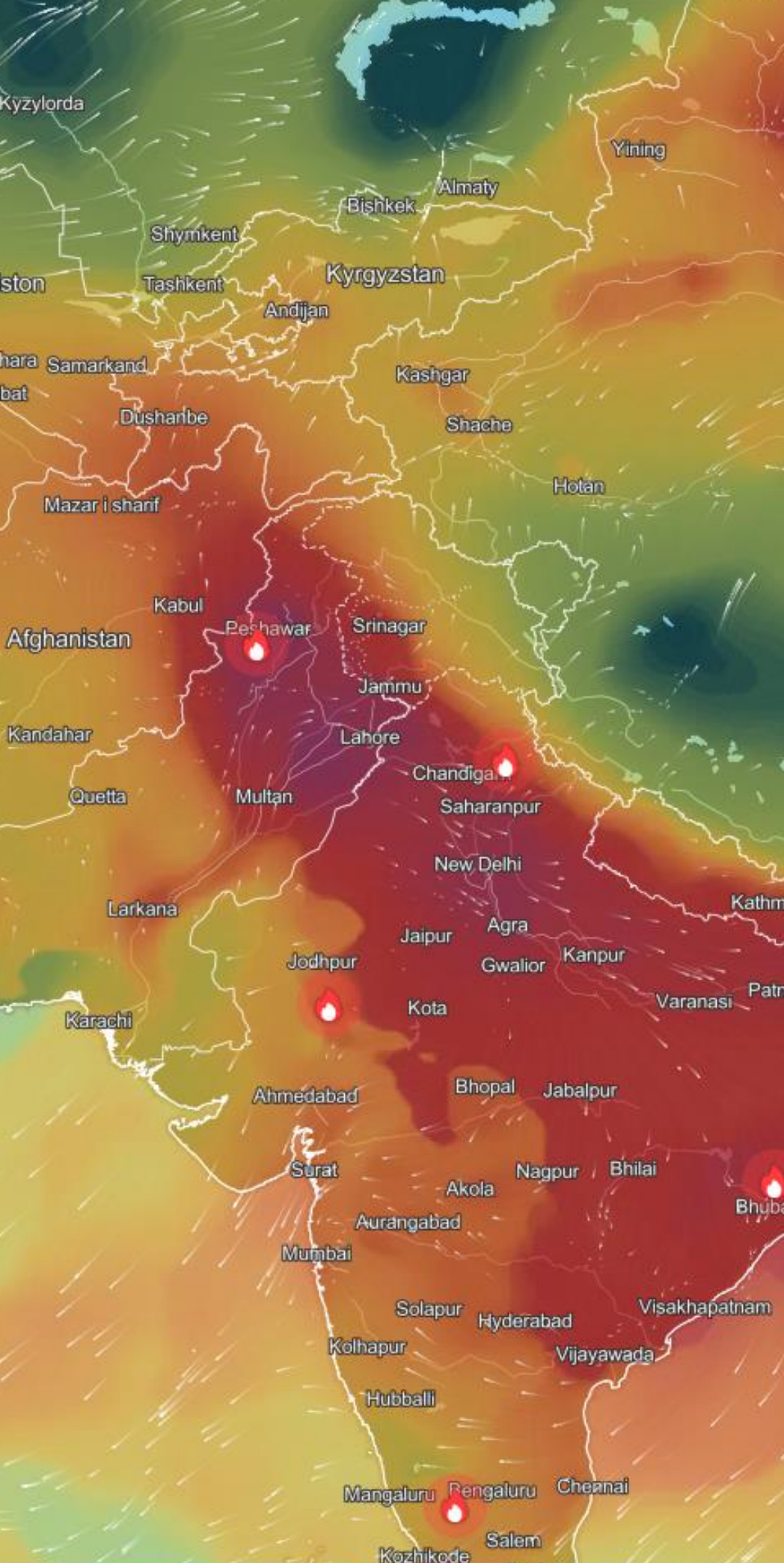
The implications of Dr. Vohra's research reverberate across the region, casting a shadow over the very essence of urban life. Asia's cities, once symbols of dynamism and progress, are grappling with an invisible peril that extends

beyond the immediate visibility of smog-laden skylines. The consequences are stark, with an additional 150,000 lives succumbing to the adverse effects of heightened air pollution.

What makes this research particularly poignant is its focus on rapidly growing urban centers. As these cities burgeon with ambition and opportunity, the unbridled pace of development often neglects the environmental costs incurred. The air, tainted with pollutants from vehicular emissions, industrial activities, and other sources, becomes a silent assailant, infiltrating homes and public spaces alike.

In the intricate dance between progress and environmental stewardship, Dr. Vohra's work serves as a clarion call for urgent





action. It prompts us to confront the hidden toll exacted by air pollution and demands a recalibration of our approach to urban development. The cost of unchecked growth, as borne out by the rise in pollution-related deaths, is a stark reminder that the pursuit of progress must be harmonized with the imperative of safeguarding public health.

The narrative woven by Dr. Vohra's research underscores the interconnectedness of environmental health and urban prosperity. It challenges policymakers, urban planners, and citizens alike to reevaluate priorities and adopt sustainable practices that mitigate the impact of air pollution. The 150,000 lives claimed by this invisible killer are not just statistics; they are a poignant testament to the urgency of embracing a holistic approach to development—one that values human well-being alongside economic progress.

As the findings of Dr. Karn Vohra's research unfurl, the invisible killer hanging in the air of Asia's cities demands our attention. It urges us to acknowledge the profound consequences of unchecked pollution and advocates for a collective commitment to breathe life into urban spaces—spaces that thrive not just in economic vibrancy but in the pristine quality of the air we share. In the pursuit of progress, let us not forget the essence of sustainable development: an equilibrium where the invisible threads of progress are interwoven with the breaths of life in our bustling cities.





LEGENDS DEPART

An In-Depth Exploration of the Most Notable Obituaries of 2023

Desk Report

2023 saw the deaths of several influential figures in world politics, from former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf. As always, Foreign Policy was there to provide in-depth, thoughtful analysis and commentary about their lives and legacies.

In the realm of global politics, where the footprints of influential figures leave lasting imprints on the course of history, the year 2023 bore witness to the departure of notable personalities. Among these luminaries were the esteemed former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and the consequential former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf. Their exit from the world stage marked not only the end of an era but also

a profound shift in the geopolitical narrative. Throughout these transitions, Foreign Policy, as always, stood as a vanguard, providing readers with a nuanced and comprehensive analysis of the lives and legacies of these departed leaders.

Henry Kissinger, often hailed as a diplomatic virtuoso, sculpted an era-defining approach to international relations. His strategic acumen and pivotal role in the historic opening of U.S.-China relations underscored his impact on global diplomacy. In commemorating Kissinger's life, Foreign Policy delved beyond mere eulogies, offering readers a profound exploration of the intricate decisions that defined his tenure and their enduring repercussions on the world stage.

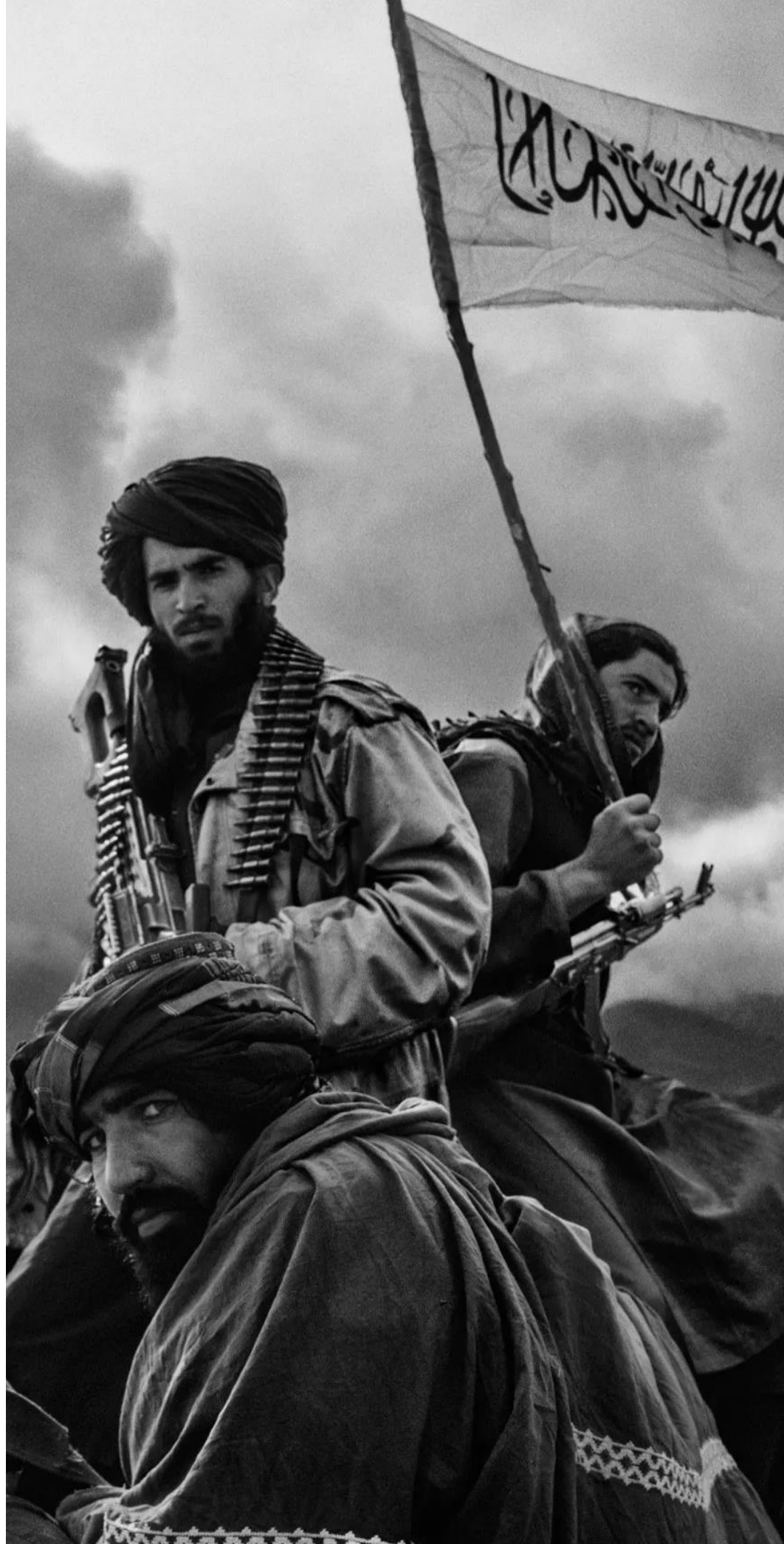
On a parallel but equally impactful stage, the passing of Pervez Musharraf signaled the close of a chapter in Pakistani politics. As a military leader turned president, Musharraf's legacy was characterized by a complex interplay of praise and controversy. Foreign Policy's coverage extended beyond the headlines, unraveling the layers of Musharraf's rule and examining the far-reaching consequences of his leadership on Pakistan's political landscape and the broader dynamics of regional stability.

The magazine's commitment to providing in-depth, thoughtful analysis ensured that readers gained a holistic understanding of the lives and legacies of these departed leaders. Beyond the immediate news cycle, Foreign

Policy navigated the intricate web of Kissinger's realpolitik, dissecting how his diplomatic maneuvers continue to reverberate in contemporary geopolitics. Similarly, the coverage of Musharraf's tenure critically explored the challenges faced by a leader straddling the realms of military and civilian governance.

The departure of these titans was not merely a historical event; it was a seismic shift in the geopolitical landscape. Foreign Policy's coverage served as a compass, guiding readers through the evolving dynamics of global politics. In exploring the notable obituaries of 2023, the magazine contributed not just to the documentation of history but to a deeper comprehension of the forces shaping our shared future.

As we bid farewell to these departed leaders, Foreign Policy remains a stalwart companion for those seeking a more profound understanding of the influences that continue to reverberate in our world. In a rapidly changing global arena, where the echoes of past decisions resonate in the present, the magazine stands as an indispensable source for navigating the complexities of international relations. The most notable obituaries of 2023, as scrutinized by Foreign Policy, are not mere conclusions but integral chapters in an ongoing narrative—one that the magazine is dedicated to unraveling with meticulous analysis and an unwavering commitment to journalistic excellence.



The approaching elections of 2024 have sparked concerns about the intersection of social media and populism, with fears that these platforms, enhanced by artificial intelligence, may undermine democratic processes. However, a closer examination of evidence challenges the prevailing narrative, suggesting that the moral panic around this relationship might be largely misplaced.

Researchers Hunt Allcott and Matthew Gentzkow, in their paper "Social Media and Fake News in the 2016 Election," found that the impact of fake news on platforms



THE MYTH OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND POPULISM

Why the moral panic is misplaced.

Social Media, Populism, and the Elections of 2024

Ahsan Mukhtar

like Facebook was more modest than initially presumed. While acknowledging some influence, the study concluded that misinformation played a less pivotal role than commonly assumed.

Another widely debated notion is the creation of echo chambers on social media, fostering polarization. However, psychologist Gordon Pennycook's research challenges this idea, indicating that misinformation is often spread by users with diverse political views rather than confined within echo chambers.

The role of algorithms in amplifying divisive content is a recurring concern. However, a study led by Professor David Rand from the MIT Sloan School of

Management suggested that algorithmic curation might help reduce the spread of false information by prioritizing fact-checking and authoritative sources.

Context matters in understanding the relationship between social media and populism. A study led by researchers at the Oxford Internet Institute found significant variability in the impact of social media on political engagement and attitudes across different countries.

Social media platforms themselves have taken steps to address concerns. Fact-checking initiatives, algorithmic adjustments, and content moderation measures aim to create a more responsible online

environment. Initiatives like Facebook's partnership with fact-checking organizations and Twitter's efforts to label and limit the reach of misleading content demonstrate industry commitment to mitigating misinformation.

While acknowledging challenges, a nuanced understanding of the relationship between social media and populism is crucial. As we approach the pivotal elections of 2024, a balanced evaluation of evidence fosters a more informed discourse—one that moves beyond generalized panic and navigates the intricate nexus shaping the global political landscape.

The Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability – Free and Fair Election Network (TDEA-FAFEN) recently concluded its four-year program, 'WE'RE

Qadeem, Chairperson of FAFEN, emphasized the role played by these organizations in addressing the challenges faced by women workers. Mr. Muddassir Rizvi, CEO

significantly contributed to promoting the political and electoral participation of women. It empowered women as political workers and leaders, fostered

WE'RE LEADERS

Paving the Path to Political Equality in Pakistan

Desk Report

Leaders,' supported by Global Affairs Canada. Initiated in 2019 and implemented in 20 districts across all provincial capitals, the program aimed to empower women politically and enhance their leadership skills.

Throughout the project, TDEA-FAFEN collaborated with 19 member organizations, as well as various rights-based commissions, the Election Commission of Pakistan, the National Database and Registration Authority, and media outlets. The primary focus was on addressing gender disparities and promoting the political empowerment of women, especially targeting young and marginalized women at risk.

The program achieved notable successes, including the minimization of the gender gap on electoral rolls. Mr. Luke Myers, Head of Cooperation at Global Affairs Canada, commended the increased number of women filing nomination papers for the upcoming general elections, attributing this positive trend to the grassroots impact of the program.

Acknowledging the consistent efforts of FAFEN member organizations, Ms. Mossarat

of TDEA, highlighted that the program marks the beginning of a journey, emphasizing that real change comes with a transformation in behaviors and attitudes.

Additional speeches from Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson of Sindh Commission on the Status of Women, and Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson of Sindh Human Rights Commission, added insightful perspectives to the event.

The 'WE'RE Leaders' project, part of the Women's Political Participation in Pakistan program,

strategic partnerships with local political party chapters, and positively influenced the portrayal of women in media coverage.

In conclusion, the successful closeout of the 'WE'RE Leaders' program signifies a milestone in ongoing efforts to empower women in Pakistani politics. The achievements of the program underscore the potential for transformative change and a more gender-inclusive political landscape in the country. This event stands as a testament to the commitment towards sustained efforts for gender equality in political empowerment.





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Pakistan's desire to join BRICS is officially declared. Pakistan's entry into the bloc will create new opportunities for strategic and

the Global South in international affairs and a multipolar world order. Restructuring Western-dominated financial institutions

Africa in dealings with the bloc, around 40 countries indicated interest in joining the group. Formally, fourteen nations have

BRICS ASPIRATIONS

Pakistan's Diplomatic Endeavors for Inclusion

Courtesy - Diplomatic Insight

commercial partnerships. Pakistan has stepped up its diplomatic attempts to win over the bloc's members, particularly Russia. For Pakistan to become a member of this bloc, all other members must agree. It is still pending if India will back Pakistan's bid. However, the circumstances highlight the importance of positive ties with India. Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa are the five emerging economies that comprise the international organization called BRICS.

BRICS organizes yearly meetings centered on economic, security, and development cooperation. It promotes greater integration of

such as the World Bank and the IMF has been a frequent demand of the group. The BRICS nations later founded the "New Development Bank," a financial organization of their own, in 2014.

Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates were among the six new members welcomed after the 15th BRICS conference in August 2023. With the accession of six more members, the BRICS will account for 30% of the global economy and 40% of the world's population and have a combined GDP of \$30.76 trillion.

Moreover, according to the chief diplomat representing South

expressed their desire to participate in 2023. October 2024 will see Russia serve as the summit's chair. It will be crucial in determining which country submits the proposal for the next meeting.

Pakistan does not anticipate resistance from China, South Africa, or Brazil. Additionally, it has asked Russia to back its bid to join the BRICS. To gain Russia's cooperation, Pakistan must ensure a trade-off. Khalid Jamali, Pakistan's recently appointed envoy to Russia, stated to TASS, the Russian news agency, that his country opposes sanctions against Russia. He said Pakistan's imports from Russia increased by





154% in 2023. He said Pakistan will accept “Mir,” a Russian e-card payment method. Pakistan supports Russia diplomatically and through trade. Russia will back Pakistan in the BRICS in exchange.

It’s still debatable, but many wonder if India will bid on Pakistan. Both nations have tense historical ties, intense mistrust, and even hostility. China invited several non-members to the virtual discussion at the BRICS-Plus summit in 2022, but India allegedly prevented Pakistan from attending. India might not back Pakistan’s proposal because BRICS requires a unanimous choice. Pakistan and India have, nevertheless, previously belonged to the same group as the SCO and SAARC. Since both nations joined the SCO in 2017, they did not need each other’s approval.

With its faltering economy, Pakistan can benefit from new

economic connections and arrangements made by BRICS. Pakistan will be able to broaden its ties and strengthen its collaboration with the other participants. It can be a sizable market for the BRICS countries, resulting in cooperative relationships that benefit all parties. It also promotes a more impartial international structure consistent with the BRICS’s ongoing focus on multipolarity.

Additionally, BRICS may strengthen ties between India and Pakistan. Despite its early reluctance, India is now in favor of BRICS expansion. Its ongoing competition with Pakistan may be the reason behind its resistance to Pakistan’s membership. However, if India responds favorably, this might offer Pakistan and India a platform to strengthen their commerce and collaboration and eventually work through their difficulties.

It would still be an accomplishment to be a partner state even if Pakistan is not granted full membership. The 15th BRICS Summit in 2023 aimed to broaden the scope of BRICS by creating partner state status. Before the 2024 summit, the BRICS intends to decide on a list of applicants for partner-state positions, according to Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov. Unknown at this point is the future course of these diplomatic efforts.

Therefore, to fulfill Pakistan’s desire to join BRICS, we must have cordial ties with India, our immediate neighbor. Our policymakers and bureaucrats must act knowingly to foster mutual trust between India and Pakistan. Many difficulties facing both nations call for cooperation and understanding between them. If relations between Pakistan and India had been positive, joining the BRICS would not have been difficult.

CODE WAR

Navigating Geopolitical Shifts in the Era of Artificial Intelligence

AzizHorea

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force, not only reshaping industries but also poised to redefine the geopolitical landscape. The implications of AI extend beyond daily life, encompassing economic, security, and strategic dimensions that have the potential to upend traditional notions of global power dynamics.

In the economic sphere, a distinct divide is forming between nations at the forefront of AI innovation and those trailing behind. China's significant investments in AI research and development have positioned it as a major player, challenging the historical dominance of the United States. This economic race holds profound consequences, with nations possessing advanced AI capabilities gaining a competitive advantage across various sectors.

The integration of AI into military capabilities introduces a new facet to geopolitical tensions. Autonomous weapons, advanced surveillance systems, and AI-driven cyber capabilities redefine the nature of warfare. The pursuit of AI-powered military superiority raises ethical concerns and necessitates international cooperation to establish guidelines for responsible AI use in defense.

AI's impact on cybersecurity amplifies the potential for geopolitical instability. The constant struggle between nations defending their digital infrastructure and those exploiting

vulnerabilities introduces a dynamic element to the global security landscape. Information manipulation, disinformation campaigns, and cyber attacks become tools of geopolitical influence.

As nations vie for AI dominance, global alliances may undergo significant shifts. Shared values and technological ambitions become the basis for new partnerships, potentially straining traditional alliances. In the European Union, collaborative efforts in AI research, development, and regulation signal a recognition of the need for a unified approach to compete on the global stage.

Economic dependence on countries leading in AI innovation becomes a reality for nations relying on their technological advancements. AI powerhouses can influence global supply chains, trade agreements, and economic policies, establishing significant control over the fortunes of other nations.

Despite the challenges posed by AI in geopolitics, there are opportunities for international collaboration and

innovation. Establishing ethical frameworks for AI use, fostering cooperation on global AI standards, and addressing the socio-economic implications of AI adoption are crucial steps toward creating a more stable and equitable geopolitical landscape.

In conclusion, the rise of AI introduces a new chapter in the narrative of geopolitics. Navigating this landscape requires foresight, ethical considerations, and a commitment to international cooperation. The decisions made today will shape the geopolitical contours of tomorrow, and as nations grapple with the implications of AI, the global community must strive for a balanced and inclusive approach to harness the transformative power of this technology.



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