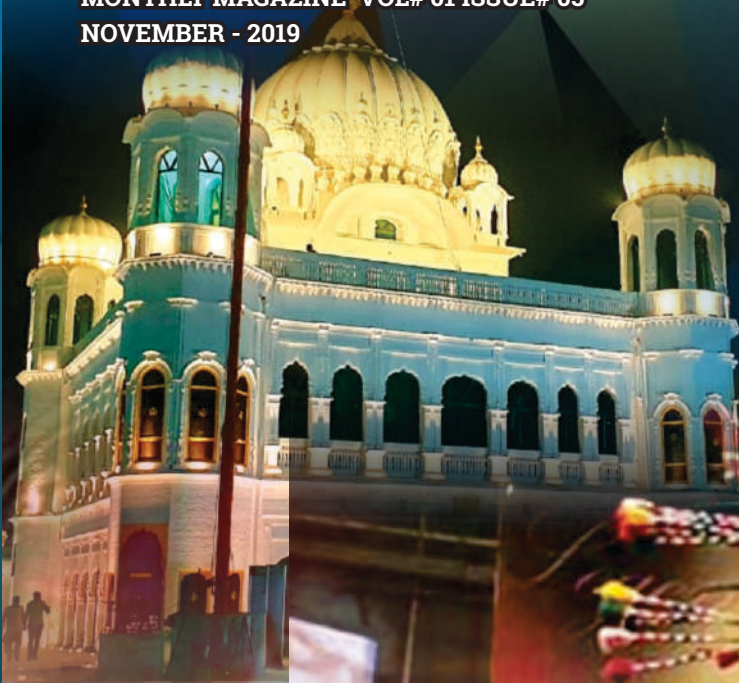




INTERNATIONAL **CULTURE & ART**

MONTHLY MAGAZINE VOL# 01 ISSUE# 05
NOVEMBER - 2019

PEACE, MERCY AND KINDNESS:
WELCOME
TO PAKISTAN



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EDITOR MESSAGE



Tamoor Abbasi

Thank you, The International Art & Culture Magazine October 2019 Issue is in your hand. The Specialty of this issue is to mark the upcoming 550th birth anniversary of the founder of the Sikh religion, Guru Nanak, Pakistan issued commemorative 50 rupees coins on Wednesday.

The Nankana Sahib Gurdwara, a site sacred

to Sikhs, is inscribed on one side of the coins with the words '550th birthday celebrations' and 'Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji' embossed on the edges. The other side illustrates Pakistan's emblem, a crescent and a star, with 'Islamic Republic of Pakistan' etched in Urdu. According to officials, the 50 rupees coin will be available to pilgrims at the Kartarpur Sahib, along with postal stamp worth Rs 8.

The goodwill gesture is part of the initiatives by Pakistan to promote interfaith harmony ahead of the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak and the opening of Kartarpur Corridor. Prime Minister Imran Khan will formally inaugurate the corridor on November 9, which would allow Sikh pilgrims from India visa-free travel to Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib – one of Sikhism's holiest pilgrimage sites. Pakistan and India signed the much-awaited Kartarpur agreement last week in a rare act of cooperation between the two sides in these tense times. The peace corridor will allow around 5,000 Sikh pilgrims to visit the shrine every day.

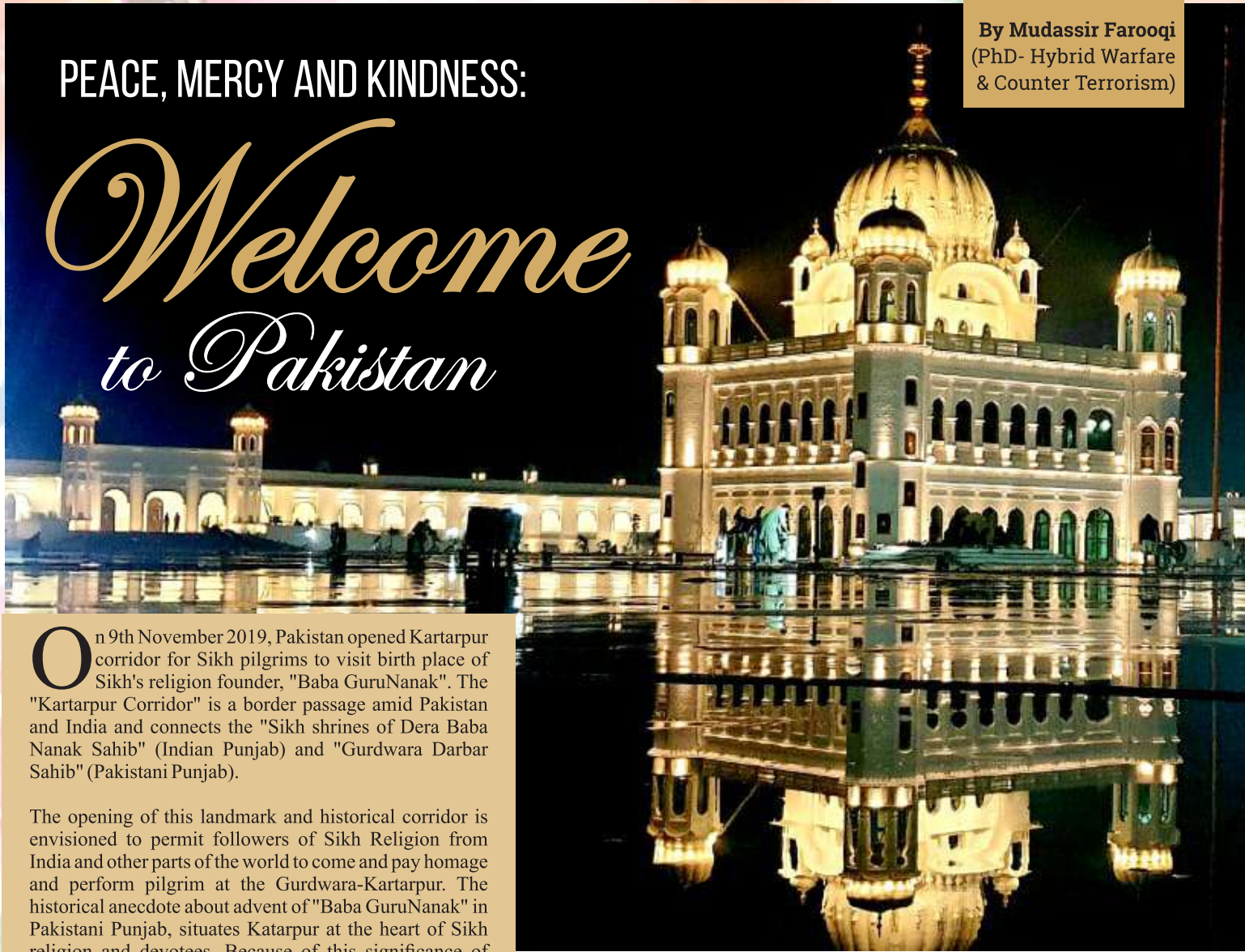
We covered many interesting areas of Art & Culture such as interview of the art and culture legend, the sports passion, national and international activities exhibitions etc.

I hope you will enjoy the Edition and share your views with us.

By Mudassir Farooqi
(PhD- Hybrid Warfare
& Counter Terrorism)

PEACE, MERCY AND KINDNESS:

Welcome to Pakistan



On 9th November 2019, Pakistan opened Kartarpur corridor for Sikh pilgrims to visit birth place of Sikh's religion founder, "Baba GuruNanak". The "Kartarpur Corridor" is a border passage amid Pakistan and India and connects the "Sikh shrines of Dera Baba Nanak Sahib" (Indian Punjab) and "Gurdwara Darbar Sahib" (Pakistani Punjab).

The opening of this landmark and historical corridor is envisioned to permit followers of Sikh Religion from India and other parts of the world to come and pay homage and perform pilgrim at the Gurdwara-Kartarpur. The historical anecdote about advent of "Baba GuruNanak" in Pakistani Punjab, situates Katarpur at the heart of Sikh religion and devotees. Because of this significance of Kartarpur, Sikhs in the past used to view the birth place of "Baba GuruNanak" through a binocular from Indian, Punjab. But this is not the case anymore, a corridor of 4.7 kilometres (2.9 miles) from the Pakistani-Indian border has made it possible for followers of "Baba GuruNanak" to visit this place. At the opening and to facilitate devotees for smooth pilgrims, Pakistani Government also withdrew condition of visa. Imran Khan, the Pakistani Premier at the opening ceremony aired the stance of peace, harmony and interfaith tolerance, he praised the teachings of "Baba GuruNanak" and said that to mark the 550th birth year of "Baba GuruNanak" our Sikh bothers can visit Kartarpur without a visa.

Historical Overview of Kartarpur:

On 28 November 2018, Pakistani Prime Minister laid down the foundation stone of Kartarpur, while in India, foundation stone was laid on 26 November 2018. Pakistan promised to Sikh community that corridor will be completed for the 550th birth anniversary of "Baba GuruNanak". On 9th November, Pakistan opened the corridor and welcomed more than 500 Sikh devotees, among the renowned Sikhs from India ex-Premier, Manmohan Singh, Politician, Cricketer and TV Star Navjot Singh Sidhu and Bollywood star Sunny Deol





crossed Indian border and travelled through Kartarpur corridor for the inauguration ceremony of "Gurdwara Baba GuruNanak Dev". Guru Nanak is the first guru of Sikh religion, in 1504 he founded Kartarpur on the "Right Bank of River Ravi". After his death in 1539, both Hindus and Muslims claimed legacy of Guru Nanak and established mausoleums in his memory on right bank of River Ravi. These mausoleums were divided by a wall and ultimately wiped out by a change in course of River Ravi. However, course of River Ravi didn't wipe out Sikh commune and legacy of Baba GuruNanak and resulted in the formation of a new habitation that is based on current location of Dera Baba Nanak on the left bank of Ravi.

The 1947 partition of imperial India divided the region and legacy of Baba Gur Nanak between Pakistan and India, awarding Shakar Garh inclusive of Kartarpur to Pakistan and Gurdaspur to India. Since the time of partition it is time and gain echoed that Sikhs will be able to cross the boundary and visit birth place of Baba Guru Nanak. From the proposal of land swap between Indian and Pakistan Punjab to visa free entry of Sikhs through Kartarpur corridor. The idea never materialised until 9th November, when Pakistan opened it to give a message of peace, humanity and kindness to Sikh community and world in general.

Kartarpur and Global Peace:

The significance of Kartarpur corridor is associated with global peace and inter faith harmony. Since February 2019 two nuclear states i.e. India and Pakistan are on the brink of full-scale war. On 5 August 2019, Indian government decision of revoking article 370 and special status for the disputed Jammu and Kashmir land is further escalating the tensions among nuclear neighbours. Pakistan's Premier, Imran Khan delivered an unequivocal speech to the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on Sept 27, with his focus on Kashmir dispute and growing Islamophobic tendencies in west, he made it necessary for the world to sit up and think on these issues.

Imran Khan also steadily uncovered the Indian mindset particularly of Indian Premier on Kashmir. He explained to the world leader that "Narendra Modi" is an epoch torch bearer of RSS fascism and equated him with contemporary "Adolf Hitler". He also mentioned 2002 Gujrat's massacre of Muslims at the hands of "Narendra Modi" and warned the world that he is repeating the same in Kashmir. With his resolve and support of armed forces in Pakistan, he promised to Kashmiris that if world will not listen and pay attention to Modi's Fascism, we will fight till the last bullet to safeguard our Kashmiri brothers and sisters.

Despite these facts, Pakistan is showing a resolve of global peace and to avoid a nuclear conflict with India is engaged in religious harmony and peace. In February, after a dog fight with Indian Air force, Pakistan destroyed two Indian aircrafts and captured an Indian pilot. But soon pilot was released to pacify the tensions, similarly despite of Indian aggression of revoking Kashmir's special status, Pakistan is on the track of global and regional peace. Pakistan opened Kartarpur for Indian Sikhs and showed to the world their cultural resolve of kindness, mercy and peace.

Pakistan and Pakistani nation are a peace loving and kind people who welcome not only their guests but go an extra mile by welcoming them as brother. The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, on inauguration asserted that "Pakistan believes that the road to prosperity of region and bright future of our coming generation lies in peace, saying that today (9th November 2019) Pakistan is not only opening the border but also their hearts for the Sikh community".

THE ROYAL VISIT

Britain's Prince William and Kate Tour Pakistan



By: Irfan Akram



The Royal Visit was a gesture of goodwill and warmth. It evoked memories of the past made by Diana, Princess of Wales but more than just a trip down memory lane, this visit was a mark of the change that has taken place within Pakistan. It deepens future diplomatic relations with not just the UK, but the rest of the world as well.

The royal visit was accommodated and properly supported with pictorials and videos which went viral in seconds. The excitement as Kate Middleton (Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge) wore similar patterns of clothing resembling that of her late mother in law, Princess Diana who had worn almost the same at key points, days and locations, certainly



jolted memories and set many reminiscing the grace of the Princess. The entire visit certainly put a memoir like a spin on things. There was no comparison of the personalities but a rather warm touch to it all that appealed to many as they recollected the time spent with Diana; familiarity for an older crowd which recalled the previous visit and looked now towards the younger generation of Royals. The royal couple visit was in a gap of a 13-year period which reflected now a current state of progress.

The hospitality extended by both



Islamabad and Lahore was duly great just as media thrilled the mass audience following it. Among the other key visited areas there was Chitral and the Kalash.

The UK sent back a thank you not only via their own channels of communication but also in the form of the Duchess' remarks; a happy nation looked forward to her words following her verbatim. Thrilled that she called their visit "fantastic", social media started to use this hashtag #FantasticPakistan, a term we are hopeful that will help us improve. The Royal couple also visited the Shaukat Khanum Hospital and shared joys and sorrows with a year old girl who was a victim to cancer. This gesture spoke of goodwill and humanity.

Can we now cordially accommodate the view point that Pakistan is truly extraordinary? Perhaps, now we can. The gateway this visit provides is indeed a step towards changing perceptions and a royal approval from one superpower that Pakistan is indeed a secure, thriving and emerging place to visit.

It is true that that Pakistanis are the most hospitable people in the world. If welcomed to a home or a community, even the ordinary tourist and guest is treated with royalty with dinner tables set with lavish spreads for those visiting. Hospitality and graciousness are an inherent part of the culture of our nation. As we look towards the future, we are hoping to welcome the world with open arms to our beautiful Pakistan.



“Shatter Me”

By: Eemaan Naveed

“

The day was illuminated with the special sunlight only winter's sun could give. But the nine year old Anna could feel discomfort surrounding her and her gut indicated that something bad was about to take place.

”

As Anna was busy in her paper world, she could hear her father, Mr. Collins, shout at her mother. To have a look at the situation, Anna tiptoed downstairs to her parent's room and peeped through the door. Now, she could lay eyes on her mother who had blood dripping from her lower lip and a purplish blue bruise around her eye. Seeing this Anna bursted into tears. Mr. Collins spotted his daughter peeping and dragged her by her arm and made the young girl stand beside her mother who was still lying on the floor.

Mrs. Collins gathered all the strength to stand up and wiped her tears of her face. With his finger pointing towards his wife and only daughter, Mr. Collins stated, “both of you better leave my house because I don't want to live with you two anymore. I'm done with you two!” Both the ladies stood stunned by his words.

Flames of anger were blazing in his eyes as he observed the idol ladies. Now, Mr. Collins unable to control his anger threw the ladies out of the house. The past few hours had passed by quickly and darkness had taken over the sky. The two ladies were alone, wandering in the streets in search of help. The flesh around their ankle had swollen up.

After a continuous walk, they reached the end of the town where they encountered a wooden cottage. Anna was about to knock on the door when she noticed it was already open. Gently giving it a knock anyway, Anna pushes it to reveal the empty cottage. Both the helpless mother and daughter stepped inside the cottage. Mrs. Collins got seated on the bed while Anna heard a knock on the cottage door. As she opened the door, Anna witnessed a stranger who handed her over some pieces of chicken bread and a bowl of soup and introduced himself as her neighbour. The neighbour begins, “actually I saw you and a lady without any belongings, so thought should get you some food to eat”.

Anna passes him a smile and the man returns. The next morning the same person visits Anna and her mother and offers them all sorts of help after listening to their heartbreaking story which they refuse to take. Days passed by. There was no sign of Mr. Collins. One day, Anna questioned her

mother about her school that whether she would be able to attend the same school but it broke her heart when she heard a no from her mother. Mrs. Collins now decided to search for a job so that she could earn bread for her daughter and for herself and so that her daughter could continue her education in a nearby school which was obviously not as good as her previous school.

Luckily, Mrs. Collins got a job and started saving money to pay fee for her daughter's school. Anna had now joined the school and was happy that at least she was able to join the school and continue her education. It was Saturday and Mrs. Collins had to go to her office while Anna was at home. Before leaving, she gave a typical speech to Anna about not opening the door without asking and to complete the household chores.

It was a usual day until Anna heard a knock on the door. She rushed to the door with a wooden spoon from the kitchen as a weapon. When she asked who was there at the door, no one answered. Gathering all the courage she had, Anna opened the door and saw a familiar face standing right in front of her with cryptic blue eyes. It was his neighbour who stepped in the cottage without even seeking her permission.

The man got seated on a small couch placed in the corner. Anna felt uncomfortable having him alone with her. She went to the kitchen to make him a cup of tea and excused him. When Anna returned with the cup of tea, his neighbour grabbed her by her arm rather than picking up the cup from the tray. She could sense that the man was up to something. She got rid of his grip and ran to the kitchen to wash the dishes. The man however comforted her and brought her back to the room.

As soon as Anna stepped near the man to pick up the cup, he pulled her near him and forced her to sit with him on a small couch. He even grabbed her arms tightly. Anna felt suffocated but all she could do was cry and pray for her mother to return as soon as possible. He was staring at the innocent and feeble girl like a hungry animal watching its pray. Tears were rolling down on Anna's cheeks.

“Stop”, Anna screamed. No one was even around to hear her pled. A mischievous smile covered her neighbour's face. After a few hours when he

coursed down her cheeks.

Even after a whole week, Anna was still surrounded by all those horrible thoughts which she wanted to get rid off. Slowly and steadily Anna was returning back to life. And with this she narrated the whole story to her mother who at that time cursed herself for leaving her daughter alone. After staying for more than a week at home, Anna decided to join her school.

This time when Anna joined her school, it was not

the same Anna. She had become more stronger and vigilant. As soon as she stepped into the school she assured herself that she'll not let that incident ruin her life or smash her dreams. Anna pledged herself that when she'll grow up and would be done with her studies, will start an NGO for the raped victims, for those who are abused for no reason.

Anna was seen as a symbol of of motivation and inspiration. People respected her and no one ever dared to throw tantrums on the young girl because of her firmness, boldness and gallant personality.

realised that it was time for Mrs.Collins to return, he left the cottage with the same hostile and ill natured smile.

It was seven in the evening when Anna's mother returned. She was shocked as she noticed the wooden door opened. She ran towards the cottage and started trembling with fear when she noticed no one but a smashed cup of tea on the floor. As she stepped forward, she noticed that the bedsheets were all messed up and the pillows were lying on the floor. Nothing was at its place. Horrifying thoughts kept her mind traumatised.

She then rushed towards the kitchen where she saw her seven year old daughter curled on the floor. Her hair messed up and her dress torn. She stood idol and could feel tears coming in her eyes. She felt as if she lost her thinking ability but could do nothing and stare at the helpless body of her one and only daughter.

“What do I do now? My husband has left me, we're homeless and now my daughter... raped”, she thought to herself and started whimpering. She held Anna's body in her arms and it was burning hot, she rushed to get the doctor. After done with her medication, Mrs.Collins stroked her hair and kissed her forehead, while tears



Water and Moon Festival – Cambodia

THE HISTORY OF THE REGATTA

The history of the regatta has been chronicled by Cambodian people and by foreigners for a long time. In fact, the festival is depicted in the stone inscriptions of the Angkor temple. There are three different histories of the festival, each quite distinctive.

1. According to chronicle of King Jayavarman VII in the ancient Academic Buddhist Institute, it is claimed; in the late 12th century (1177- 1181 AD) of the Angkorean era. Preah Bat Jayvarman VII led the navy to fight a war against the neighboring Chams. In 1181 AD the Khmer navy conquered the Cham navy. Since then, Cambodia had enjoyed peace and prosperity.

2. According to the documentation written by Mr. Thach Pen, the lay teacher of academic Buddhist college in Khleang Province, Kampuchea Kraom, it is mentioned that, In the Longvek era, the fighting style were dependent on four ministers on advice of King of Kampuchea Kraom and all the district kings. During the period of the full moon of November, four ministers mobilized their troops for a campaign for one day and one night. Afterwards, it became a traditional cultural festival, providing the navy with a good opportunity to show their military powers.

3. Some traditionalists claim the history of festival represents a thanksgiving to God of water and God of earth for providing livelihood and welfare for the Cambodian people.

The regatta is held on the full moon of November coinciding with rainy season. The flood of the Mekong River, with its source in Tibet, causes fine silt fertilizing

agricultural crops in Cambodia. The crops produced in low water season can prevent famine and provide all farmers with happiness. For this reason, the procession of illuminated floats, the salutation of the moon, and offering of bananas and Ambok to express their profound thanks to the Mekong River and Sap River.

The festival is usually held for three days, i.e. 14th and 15th of the waxing moon and the 1st of the waning moon. Festivals take place in front of Royal Palace.

THE FESTIVAL OF ILLUMINATED FLOATS

The festival of illuminated floats consecrates Preah Changkaum Keo, meaning in English Canines of



From left Mr. Rith, Sardar Ghulam Mustafa and Mr. Ponna





Buddha, and Buddha footprints. The Cambodian people always organize the festival during the full moon of November, as they believe that it will bring great merit and prosperity to them and the whole country.

In the Pali Teathavong scripture, Preah Changkaum Keo are dedicated in four direction; Traitroeng Paradise, Naga world, Srok Kunthear and Toan Borakling Roath.

In Pali Pheana Veara, the Buddha footprints are located in five directions; Sovann Mealika Baraput, Sovann Baraput, Somankoda Baraput, Yoonka Borei and Stoeng Neamatea.

In the prose and Pali praise of Preah Bat Yasbate, the Buddha footprints are located in five directions as in Pheana Veara.





INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

By Qaisar Abbas

said “Being together, we will be protecting the most vulnerable individuals in society.” Pakistani journalist Ms Siami said “I urge all faith leaders to teach tolerance. We need to promote this core message for peace and harmony in the society.” Principal WIC, Mr Ashraf said “Education can open new horizons as it opens up minds and hearts.”

In her speech Ms Numbers said “I regularly meet



Thurrock Labour Party’s ethnic minorities office Councillor Qaisar Abbas organised “Interfaith Roundtable Dialogue” session in Grays. The event was attended by British Council’s sponsored scholar Mr Hasan al Banna (Director of Modern Islamic School, General Secretary United Muslims Association and Director of Philosophy and Faiths Board of Central Java, Indonesia), Cllr John Kent (Parliamentary Candidate for Thurrock), Grays mosque’s Imam Salim Rahman and Abdul Rashid, Reverend David Peterson (St Clements Church), Reverend Matt Drummond (St Stephens Church), Grays Gurdawara Gayani Mr Richpal Singh, Imam Rasheed, Reverend Nicolas Sakharov (Greek Orthodox Church), Ms Omobolanle Numbers (Theologist), senior journalist Mr Michael Casey, Pakistani TV anchor Ms Urooj Raza Siami, Thurrock Labour Party’s chairman Mr Colin Ricks, Mr Baldev Singh Gill (President Grays Gurdawara), Mr Helal Ali (Secretary TIECA), Mr Joglur Rahman (Assistant Secretary TIECA), Senior Lawyer Mr Muhammad Sohail Khan and Sheikh Rizwan Anjum, Minhaj Welfare’s Mr Adnan Sohail, Mr Hassan Ashraf (Principal WIC), Ms Madeleine Emmerson, Mrs Hussain, Ms Gabriela Netru, Mr Raja Ahmed, Mr Aadil

Warriach, Mr Jamil Hussain, Mr Mudassar Ali and others.

In his opening speech Cllr Qaisar Abbas said “The purpose of this event is to bring different communities together and to have an open dialogue for better understanding of different school of thoughts.” Imam Salim Rahman recited verses from the Holy Quran and said “Let’s come together and treat everyone equal.” Mr Coling Ricks, in his speech said “We need to preach message of hope and to turn away the politics of far right.” Ms Emerson said “It’s important to tolerate each other’s views.” Rev Sakharov, in his speech said “Orthodox Church is most adoptable and most constructive. We celebrate Unity because this is core message of Orthodox Church.” The Imam of Grays Mosque Mr Rashid said “We have to live together in harmony and peace.”

Senior Solicitor Mr Khan in his speech said “My religion teaches me to believe and accept every religion without any discrimination. This concept makes my horizon broad.” Grays Gurdawara Gayani Mr Rachhpal said “All human beings are alike and have same roots. Our doors are always open for all communities.” Speaking at this event, Rev Drummond



with different people and it brings joy and happiness to my life. Preach peace and love people.” Imam Rasheed said “Love others as Islam always promotes peace and harmony.” Senior journalist Mr Casey said “Fairness does not mean you have to report everything what is being said.” St Clements Church’s Vicar Rev Peterson said “Young people need to take lead role in promoting peace and harmony among different communities.”

The guest speaker Mr Bana in his speech said “Our delegation is here to learn the British values and how communities in the UK are coming together to fight racism. We have huge respect for British people.”

The special guest, Cllr John Kent in his closing speech said “People of faith practice unity and respect one another. I urge people

of all faiths to come forward and take part in public life. We need to respect people’s views.” Reverend Drummond made special prayers to formally conclude the session. The participants also observed 39 seconds’ silence to remember 39 lorry container victims.



CHEF KIKI FERRARI IS IN ISLAMABAD TO COOK US AUTHENTIC BRAZILIAN CUISINE



By Bilal Agha

“

“We may have mastered bbq techniques but Pakistan has all the flavours to make you the winner,” said Chef Kiki Ferrari.

”



A giant Copacabana beach panflex skin set the mood of the night for the denizens of the capital when Marriot Hotel's GM Islamabad, Mr. Maurizio Romani invited guests to the three day Brazilian extravaganza titled 'Brazilian Soul food & Music Festival'.

The pool side of the hotel was exquisitely decorated with huge flower pots creating an Amazon theme, black upholstery and copper

gold serving dishes being catered by waiters dressed in gaúcho, a cowboy attire from south of Brazil. The guests were in full attendance to savour the flavors of the South American cuisine.

Brazil is a vast country with a cornucopia of fabulous ingredients and a wealth of ethnic culinary influences.

“We have invited one of the most famous chefs from Brazil who is well-known in all of South

'Brazilian cuisine is basically a set of cooking practices and traditions characterized by European, African, Latin as well as Asian influence.'

America to Pakistan to promote our culture and traditions," informed Claudio Lins, ambassador of Brazil to Pakistan sitting on the head table.

Chef Kiki Ferrari has over 15 years of culinary experience under his belt. He started cooking at an early age of 15 and learnt everything on the job while working in various ethnic parts of Brazil. "The time I started to develop my interest in cooking, there was no culinary school or academy in Brazil so I learnt everything at the restaurants and hotel kitchens by watching my seniors," shared the 30 something chef.

The offering at the Brazilian feast bonanza included an array of salads, BBQ and native Brazilian dishes all prepared by Chef Kiki who has brought a number of spices with him. "I am blown away by the Pakistani BBQ. Believe me I am having seekh kebab and chicken tikka for breakfast for the last few days. I can confess that we mastered bbq techniques but you have all the flavours which makes you the winner," he said laughingly.

At the grill side, two salvers were on display, one with rack of lamb and other roasted beef grilled to perfection. It was interesting to note that both these meaty items looked exactly the same as being served in any Pakistani restaurant. Chef Kiki had marinated the beef as well as lamb for long to settle the spices into the meat before cooking it on slow heat for 6 hours. Once the meat was tender enough to pull away from the bone, it was time to let it simmer. He served each guest with morsels of lamb, roasted garlic cloves with sprinkle of garlic butter, it was divine. The beef roast in the neighborhood also did not fall much behind in both presentation and taste. The ones who are in love with Peshawari karahi were in for a treat as chef KiKi gave his guest a choice to either pick the side with cooked fat topping or lean beef.

Copper Tureen's filled with boiling soup had a bee line. The menu included Tutu corm Picadinho soup with refried beans and chopped beef whereas Rabada com Canjiquinha ingredients included an Oxtail and corn grits soup which was a novelty for the guests. The chunks of Oxtail swimming in the pot of thick gravy were tender and easy to chew whereas there was no flavor of corn grits.

"Brazilian cuisine is basically a set of cooking practices and traditions characterized by European, African, Latin as well as Asian influence. It varies greatly by regions reflecting the country's mix of native so even the national Brazilian cuisine is marked by different preservations" said chef Kiki while explaining the roots of the Brazilian gastronomy. Other dishes included bbq chicken wings, turmeric quail with lime and roasted potatoes, Amazon fish roasted in banana leaf and the 300 years traditional dish, Moqueca de Banana com Camarao (banana and prawn). Moqueca is a Brazilian seafood stew made with tomato, peppers, garlic, cilantro, garlic and bananas. As the chef explained, it is seafood stew infused with chilies in a broth of coconut milk and oil cooked on low heat generally in a terracotta casserole. The dish is mostly made with shrimps but some Brazilians also use boneless fish. There is also a tinge of sweetness in the stew. The orange color texture and well marinated king prawns swimming in the broth made Maqueca fall in love with in nanoseconds.

"It will not be fair if you do not try the Coxinhas," warns the chef. This hearty snack was stuffed with shredded chicken wrapped up in gooey dough before being battered and fried till golden brown. It had a crispy crust, moistly texture ingredients stuffing. The Brazilian Soul food & Music Festival also had Tamara Maravilha, famous Brazilian DJ, entertaining the crowd throughout.



By: Sarosh Haider Rizvi

“

Sir Muhammad Iqbal (November 1877 – 21 April 1938), widely known as Allama Iqbal was a poet, philosopher and politician, as well as an academic, barrister and scholar in British India who is widely regarded as having inspired the Pakistan Movement. He is called the "Spiritual Father of Pakistan." He is considered one of the most important figures in Urdu literature, with literary work in both Urdu and Persian.

”

THE POETIC ART OF ALLAMA IQBAL

Iqbal is admired as a prominent poet by Indians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, Iranians and other international scholars of literature. Though Iqbal is best known as an eminent poet, he is also a highly acclaimed "Muslim philosophical thinker of modern times". His first poetry book, *The Secrets of the Self*, appeared in the Persian language in 1915, and other books of poetry include *The Secrets of Selflessness*, *Message from the East* and *Persian Psalms*. Amongst these, his best known Urdu works are *The Call of the Marching Bell*, *Gabriel's Wing*, *The Rod of Moses* and a part of *Gift from Hijaz*. Along with his Urdu and Persian poetry, his Urdu and English lectures and letters have been very influential in cultural, social, religious and political discourses.

In the 1922 New Years Honours he was made a Knight Bachelor by King George V. While studying law and philosophy in England, Iqbal became a member of the London branch of the All-India Muslim League. Later, during the League's December 1930 session, he delivered his most famous presidential speech known as the Allahabad Address in which he pushed for the creation of a Muslim state in north-west India.

In much of South Asia and the Urdu-speaking world, Iqbal is regarded as the *Shair-e-Mashriq* (Urdu: شاعر مشرق, "Poet of the East"). He is also called *Mufakkir-e-Pakistan* (Urdu: مفکر پاکستان, "The Thinker of Pakistan"), *Musawar-e-Pakistan* (Urdu: مصور پاکستان, "Artist of Pakistan") and *Hakeem-ul-Ummat* (Urdu: حکیم الامت, "The Sage of the Ummah"). The Pakistan government officially named him "National Poet of Pakistan". His birthday *Yōm-e Welādat-e Muḥammad Iqbāl* (Urdu: یوم ولادت محمد اقبال), or *Iqbal Day*, is a public holiday in Pakistan.

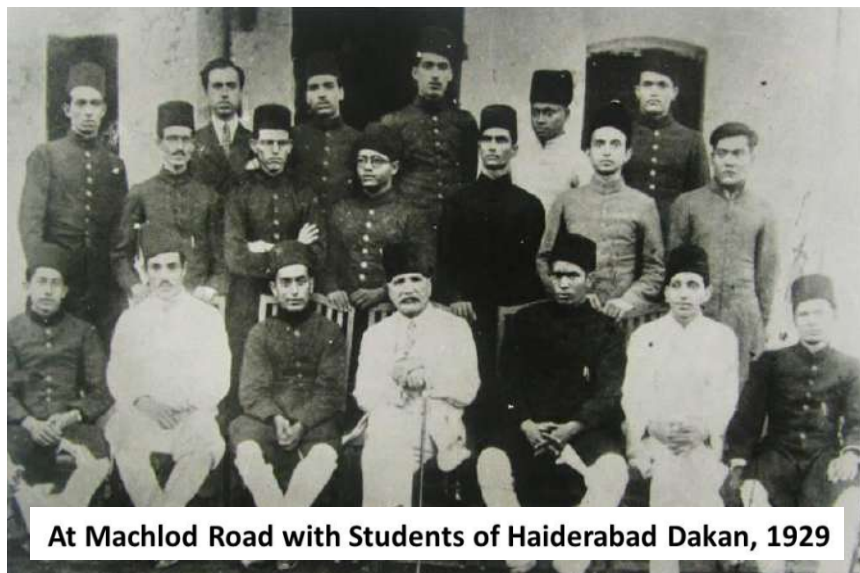
The poetry and philosophy of Mawlana Rumi bore the deepest influence on Iqbal's mind. Deeply grounded in religion since childhood, Iqbal began intensely concentrating on the study of Islam, the culture and history of Islamic civilization and its political future, while embracing Rumi as his guide.

Iqbal had a great role in Muslim political movement. Iqbal had remained active in the Muslim League. He did not support Indian involvement in World War I, as well as the Khilafat movement and remained in close touch with Muslim political leaders such as Maulana Mohammad Ali and Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He was a critic of the mainstream Indian National Congress, which he regarded as dominated by Hindus and was disappointed with the League when during the 1920s, it was absorbed in factional divides between the pro-British group led by Sir Muhammad Shafi and the centrist group led by Jinnah.

Ideologically separated from Congress Muslim leaders, Iqbal had also been disillusioned with the politicians of the Muslim League owing to the factional conflict that plagued the League in the 1920s. Discontent with factional leaders like Sir Muhammad Shafi and Sir Fazl-ur-Rahman, Iqbal



Mufti Azam Falasteen At Bait-ul-Maqdas, 1931



At Machlod Road with Students of Haiderabad Dakan, 1929



Allama Iqbal with Nawab Zulfiqar Ali Khan and Sardar Abdul Qudoos Khan of Afghanistan at Shimla, 1922



Allama Iqbal's Brother
Sheikh Atta Muhammad



Shams-ul-Ulama
Molvi Mir Hassan



Teacher
Dr Thomas Walker

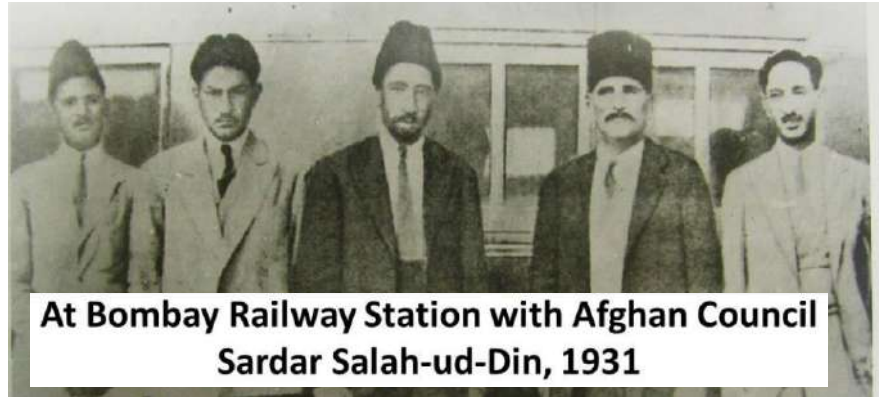
came to believe that only Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a political leader capable of preserving this unity and fulfilling the League's objectives on Muslim political empowerment. Building a strong, personal correspondence with Jinnah, Iqbal was an influential force in convincing Jinnah to end his self-imposed exile in London, return to India and take charge of the League. Iqbal firmly believed that Jinnah was the only leader capable of drawing Indian Muslims to the League and maintaining party unity before the British and the Congress:

In his presidential address on December 29, 1930, Iqbal outlined a vision of an independent state for Muslim-majority provinces in northwestern India, "I would like to see the Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Sind and Baluchistan amalgamated into a single state. Self-government within the British Empire, or without the British Empire, the formation of a consolidated Northwest Indian Muslim state appears to me to be, at least of Northwest India.

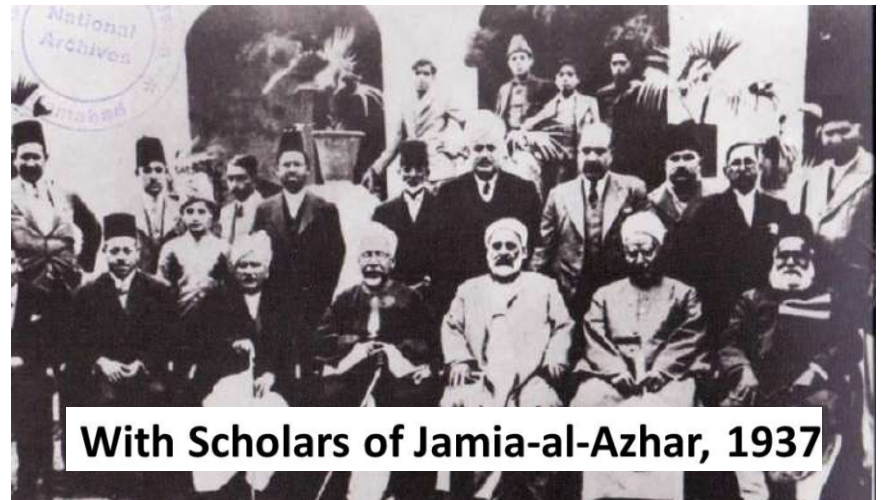
Iqbal was the first patron of the historical, political, religious, cultural journal of Muslims of British India. This journal played an important part in the Pakistan movement. The name of this journal is The Journal Tolu-e-Islam.

Iqbal wrote two books on the topic of The Development of Metaphysics in Persia and The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam and many letters in English language, besides his Urdu and Persian literary works. In which, he revealed his thoughts regarding Persian ideology and Islamic Sufism – in particular, his beliefs that Islamic Sufism activates the searching soul to a superior perception of life. He also discussed philosophy, God and the meaning of prayer, human spirit and Muslim culture, as well as other political, social and religious problems.

Iqbal's views on the Western world were applauded by men including United States Supreme Court Associate Justice William O. Douglas, who said that Iqbal's beliefs had "universal appeal". In his Soviet biography N. P. Anikoy wrote, "(Iqbal is) great for his passionate condemnation of weak will and passiveness, his angry protest against inequality, discrimination and oppression in all forms i.e., economic, social, political, national, racial, religious, etc., his preaching of optimism, an active attitude towards life and man's high purpose in the world, in a word, he is great for his assertion of the noble ideals and principles of humanism, democracy, peace and friendship among peoples.



**At Bombay Railway Station with Afghan Council
Sardar Salah-ud-Din, 1931**



With Scholars of Jamia-al-Azhar, 1937



Allama Iqbal's Mother Imam Bibi



Chaudary Zafar Ullah Khan Qasar-e-Barmingam



Second Round Table Conference. Dr Muhammed Iqbal on right side. Molana Shukat Ali and Syed Amjad Ali also present.

Eid Milad un Nabi



عید میلاد النبی
صلى الله عليه وسلم

12th Rabi ul Awwal 2019 - Eid Milad un Nabi 2019 observed on Sunday 10th of November 2019

The Islamic calendar, also known as the Hijri Calendar, is based on the moon. It started after the Hijrah of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) to Madina. The beginning of each month is contingent on the visibility of the moon at the end of the previous month. Once the moon is sighted, the new month commences. Therefore, each month starts with a new lunar cycle. Hence, the Muslim Calendar gives only a tentative overview of the upcoming Islamic dates as the start of each month is subject to the sighting of the moon. Rabi ul Awwal is the 3rd month in the Islamic Calendar. In Arabic, the word "rabbi" means spring while "al awwal" means the first. Hence Rabi ul Awwal as a whole translates into 'The First Spring'. Since Rabi ul Awwal is a month of the lunar calendar, it can come in any season. Therefore the name, Rabi al Awwal depicts symbolic significance as it symbolizes the advent of happiness (spring) after the dismal winter or more specifically sadness, and not the actual season of spring.

Rabi ul Awwal is named as such because before the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was born (Milad un Nabi), people were living in a state of ignorance and darkness. They worshiped different deities. They were deviating from the path of Allah (SWT). As the Prophet (PBUH) was born, he brought with him the Message of Truth, the Message of Allah (SWT), His Oneness. This message led the people towards the path of enlightenment, helping them distinguish between right and wrong.

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the epitome of perfection. He is the role model chosen for us by Allah (SWT) and we are to follow his Sunnah in order to lead an ideal lifestyle which is not only defined to us by religion but is in fact beneficial for all mankind if we were to follow it.

"There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent pattern for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and [who] remembers Allah often." (Surah Ahzab 33:21)

The month of Rabi ul Awwal holds special significance in Islam as Muslims believe that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) was also born in this month, although there is no consensus on the actual date. Muslims often celebrate it on the 12th of Rabi ul Awwal, often terming the day as Eid Milad un Nabi. Mawlid or the Birth of the Prophet (PBUH) is celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm by Muslims all over the world. A lot of Muslims hold Milad throughout the month in remembrance of the Prophet (PBUH).

Halloween

Traditionally, in European societies, November 1, was observed as All Saints Day, the day when everybody solemnly visited and maintained the graves of their ancestors. And the night before – All Hallows Eve - became the haunted night, a fun make-believe spectacle of wearing scary costumes and giving candy to the children. It is the lighter side of death. So children learn overcome fear. Costumes are important. The

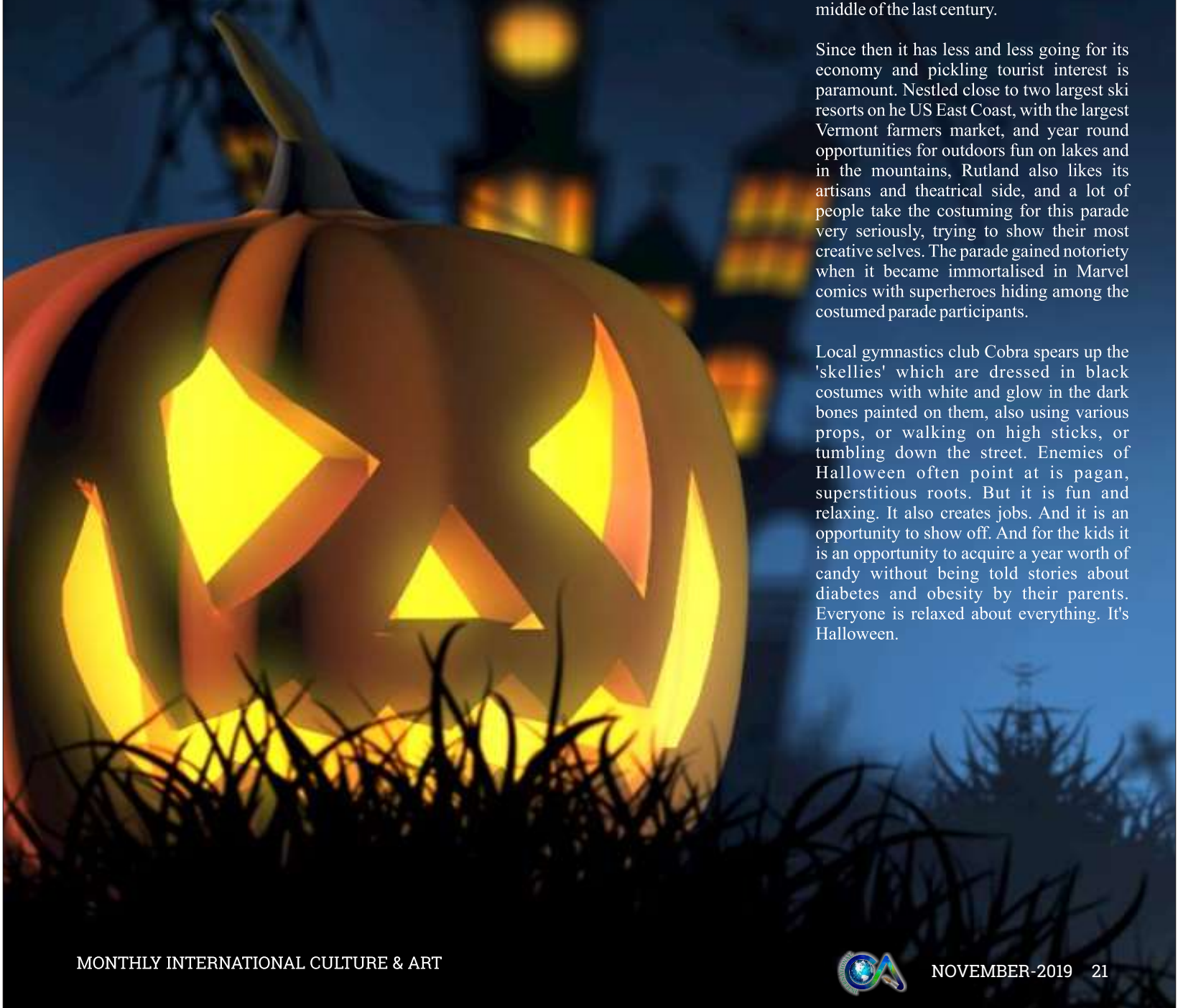
scariest the better. In US there is a whole industry of costumes and decorations that developed just around Halloween. But candy is crucial. The sweet treats are the reasons for hundreds of thousands American kids trick-or-treating every year.

Halloween also predates Pride parades as an extravagant costume parade of its own. New York city has a lavish parade every year. And

many small towns around the country take great pride in their Halloween parades bringing out everybody, fire department, schools, small businesses, police, sports teams. Some towns are almost entirely and curiously devoted to this parade as their biggest annual event, like the town of Rutland in Vermont, that hosted its 60th annual Halloween parade just last Saturday. Rutland used to be a railroad hub and an important marble industry centre in the middle of the last century.

Since then it has less and less going for its economy and pickling tourist interest is paramount. Nestled close to two largest ski resorts on the US East Coast, with the largest Vermont farmers market, and year round opportunities for outdoors fun on lakes and in the mountains, Rutland also likes its artisans and theatrical side, and a lot of people take the costuming for this parade very seriously, trying to show their most creative selves. The parade gained notoriety when it became immortalised in Marvel comics with superheroes hiding among the costumed parade participants.

Local gymnastics club Cobra spears up the 'skellies' which are dressed in black costumes with white and glow in the dark bones painted on them, also using various props, or walking on high sticks, or tumbling down the street. Enemies of Halloween often point at its pagan, superstitious roots. But it is fun and relaxing. It also creates jobs. And it is an opportunity to show off. And for the kids it is an opportunity to acquire a year worth of candy without being told stories about diabetes and obesity by their parents. Everyone is relaxed about everything. It's Halloween.







A ROYAL JOURNEY WALLED CITY TOUR



A number of Pakistani guests from abroad were present and enjoyed the thematic tour.

By Salman A Bugvi

A delegation of family members paid homage and attendance to the royal courtroom, at the Shahi Fort, Lahore. Just after sunset the caravan reached 'Roshnai Gate' where it was greeted by their guide Sajid and placed under the protective guard of the Sipah Salaar. The main gate was well guarded and the security check was carried out by the royal guards. The guards were alert with their spears and swords and nobody with weapons was allowed in the Kings fort.

The Kings staff was gracious enough to give a tour of the premises before leading the delegation to the royal court. The open square in front of us upon entering through Roshnai Gate had six monuments. These were the Tomb of Allama Iqbal, the Badshahi Mosque, the Sikh Gurdwara, Akbari Gate of the Red Fort and Hazoori Bagh in the center.

The night time, tastefully placed lights and the environment gave a different perspective and picture of the location. The image was enhanced by the green and white lights of Independence Day. The caravan paid respect to the poet leader of the east Allama Iqbal. Prayers were said for the leader and a brief history of his contributions for Pakistan were given to the younger members of the caravan. An interesting observation about the historical burial place was made. The question arose about the decision for Allama

Iqbal's burial in so historic a place in 1938 when the British ruled the Subcontinent. The question was placed before the students of history at the courtroom and hopefully they would research the question.

The entrance of the Badshahi Mosque was lit with lights, gleaming red due to its clay walls, adorned with fresco images. Hazoori Bagh with its twelve arched gates was in the center of the square built by Ranjit Singh. The courtiers were extremely kind and enthralled the audience with their skill on the flute. The patriotic tunes with the gleaming lights and silhouettes of the ancient buildings created a serene environment. The Akbari Gate was adorned with a crescent and star, shining bright. The modern royal carriage, the three wheeled rickshaw, adorned with silver carvings and sub continental art were ready for transport towards the inner sections of the Red Fort.

The caravan mounted on the royal carriages observed Asia's largest picture story wall. The wall depicted the way of life of the Mughals through picture stories. It was in the process of being renovated through help and support of the Norwegian Embassy. The white marble and the images upon it were indeed magnificent.

The road developed by the British was

followed to reach the main buildings of the Fort. The first stop was Atthdarah where royal cloaks were provided. The royal guards were present on key positions. A brief wait ensued to announce the arrival of the delegation, heralds were blown along with ringing of bells to announce the entrance. The Khadims were on hand to welcome with their bows and aadaabs.

The courtyard in front of Sheesh Mahal was well lit with candles. The royal carpets were laid out for the guests to rest and wait. The lights reflected from the mirrors of the Sheesh Mahal and it was indeed an extremely grand and royal place. It was commented that Princess Diana, the British Royalty was given a dinner in the reflective lights of Sheesh Mahal during her visit in 1993.

The young members of the delegation in their royal cloaks and gowns explored the premises and seemed at home in the settings. Entertainment as well as refreshments was provided by the royal Khadims. The candle lights, royal theme, garments and characters truly created a bewitching environment. The King and his queen graced the occasion and gave company for a few minutes.

The other parts of the Shahi Fort were visited such as the elephant path, the basement and the ancient air conditioning system in the form of wind tunnels and water falls was



“ **The activities of Walled City Authority are expanding and it is hoped they will do more good work in** ” **Multan and Bhera.**

observed. The attendance to the courtroom now complete, with a tour to all buildings and monuments over, Roshnai Gate was the exit point. The theme, view and culinary expertise at the food street were there to be enjoyed. The breathtaking view on the top floor overlooking the history with fresh food after the tour was indeed a welcome blessing.

A true adventure came to an end, a fairytale visit arranged by Walled City Authority, Lahore to Shahi Fort and Walled City, Lahore. It is an extremely good and well managed activity, especially for family and youngsters on the weekends. A number of Pakistani guests from abroad were present and enjoyed the thematic tour. The activities of Walled City Authority are expanding and it is hoped they will do more good work in Multan and Bhera. The ancient heritage is not only being preserved but being presented to the nation in a truly unique and enjoyable manner.



“ THE 39

For some they were “illegal immigrations” and some called them “Refugees” but for me, they were normal human beings just like us and anyone else in the United Kingdom. Yes, their colour, their language, their religion, their way of living or nationality may be different, but remember, they were someone’s brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, sons or daughters who became victims of such a tragic death.

Just imagine, a mother sitting in another continent still waiting for her son or daughter’s telephone call, email or message which she will never receive now. Yes, she may receive a call or hear news that her son or daughter died in a place totally unknown to her.

Thousands miles away, she may be still praying for safety of her son or daughter. Think for a moment, another deceased’s sister or daughter may have been telling her friends in her native language that her brother or mother is now in a safe country and hunger would never come to their home anymore. And she will be dreaming of a happy life and planning for her further education.

For some, they were 39 dead bodies in a container but beside those bodies, there were thousands of unfulfilled dreams, hopes for bright



future, happiness to escape from authoritarian regimes and prosperity plans for their families. Unfortunately, they tragically died in an unknown land with all their dreams.

When I heard the news about 39 dead bodies found in a lorry container in my area, I could not stop myself from crying for all those unknown humans. The site where the lorry and bodies were found is only few minutes away from my house. I visited the site that evening, laid flowers and prayed for all those who died in this incident. It was raining, the sky was even crying for those victims on their tragic death.

It was an awful incident and majority of local residents were rightly shocked and horrified but some were forwarding messages and commenting on social media, suggesting they were illegal immigrants and deserve to die this way. It shows bigotry and hidden racism in our society. People need to realise the sensitivity of

the situation and at least should show common decency and compassion at such occasions. I believe no one wants to leave their home and loved ones unless there are significantly serious financial, political or stability issues in their home countries.

Do not consider yourself superior to others just because of your colour, religion, race or nationality. All human beings are alike and deserve a better life. Every human has desire and strives to find a better life for himself or his family. Respect others and learn to show kindness and sympathy towards each other. This life is short, do not spread hate, try to bring happiness in people’s lives. The love has so many colours but the hate has just one, the ugliness. Respect all the humans and human values as this is real humanity and superiority



Qaisar Abbas

The writer is an elected Councillor and Shadow Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture of Thurrock Council of England. He is also Vice Chairman of Thurrock Labour Party's Councillors Group and General Secretary of UKPK Councillors Forum, South England. He has received various awards for his social and political work.



VIBRANT LAHORE DECLARED CITY OF LITERATURE BY UNESCO



The inclusion in UNESCO's list will internationalize the city, boost its cultural importance around the world and will attract internationally-acclaimed global literary figures to Pakistan, encouraging the soft image of the country.

Earlier this year, Dr. Andrea Adel, the head of UNESCO City of Literature Heidelberg recognized the cultural significance of Lahore. Adding that, "Lahore should apply to be a UNESCO City of Literature because it is already a part of the network." After her visit to Lahore, City Minister of Heidelberg Germany Waseem Butt and COTHM Pakistan & Dubai Ahmad Shafiq made serious efforts in this regard and got this move materialised.

In a statement from UNESCO Director-General, Audrey Azoulay announced the 66 cities had been placed on UNESCO Creative Cities list in categories as wide as music, literature, design, gastronomy and crafts and folk art.

"All over the world, these cities, each in its way, make culture the pillar, not an accessory, of their strategy," UNESCO's Azoulay said. "This favours political and social innovation and is particularly important for the young generations."

Courtesy: Global Village Space

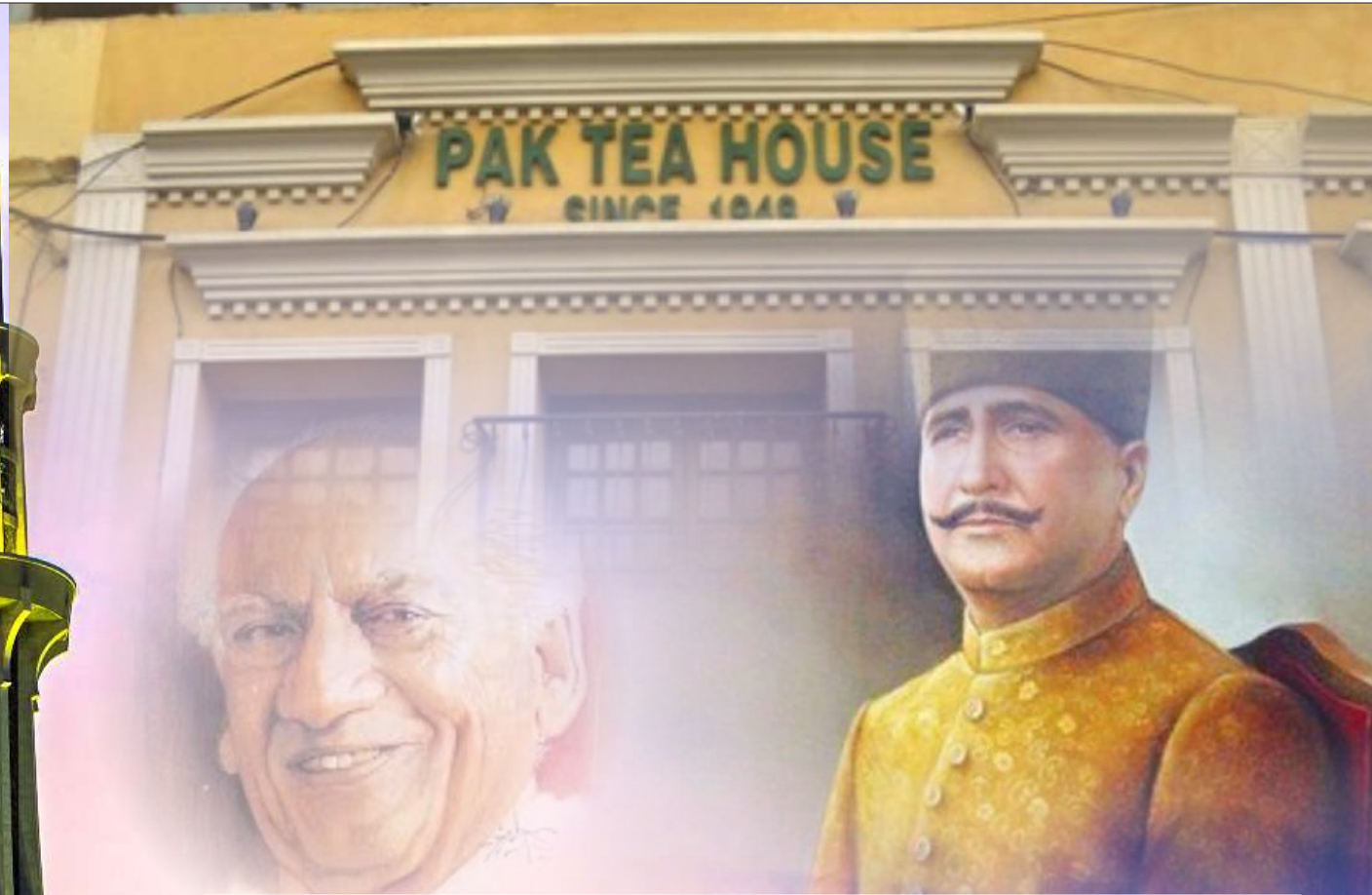


Lahore, the vibrant city, gets a massive recognition as it made to the UNESCO's list of Creative Cities. The city, with a rich history of producing subcontinent's finest poets, has been placed in the category of City of Literature.

The list features 66 countries from different

continents that are working for cultural and political innovation. Lahore has been declared the 'Creative City' less than a year after the head of UNESCO City of Literature highlighted Lahore's suitability for the program at the Lahore Literary Festival.





Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar congratulates City Minister of Heidelberg Germany Waseem Butt, COTHM Pakistan & Dubai CEO Ahmad Shafiq and PTI MPA Ayesha Chaudhry for bringing this honour to Lahore city. He has also issued acknowledgment certificates for them.



THE PAF HEROES OF INDO-PAKISTAN WAR 1965

Squadron Leader Alauddin was commanding the No 18 Squadron during the 1965 Indo-Pak War. Being the Squadron Commander, he led his Squadron in twenty combat missions against the Indian ground and air force, and achieved precise results.

At 1030 hours in the morning of 13 Sept 1965, Squadron Leader Alauddin Ahmed was flying his second operational mission of the day. Earlier in the morning, he had led an army-support mission of four Sabres in Chawinda-Narowal sector where the historic tank battle was still raging with all its blasting fury. Undaunted by heavy artillery fire, his four-ship formation flew at treetop level and blasted the enemy armour and guns with rockets sending huge spirals of smoke and fire all around. It was during this mission that "Napalm" was used by the PAF for the first time and they made a number of napalm and strafing runs on the enemy, until their whole ammunition was exhausted and they headed back home.

His next mission was an armed reconnaissance patrol over Gurdaspur area to locate and destroy any worthy enemy target of opportunity, threatening own troops in the area. It was past 1000 hrs and the heat of



**Squadron Leader Alauddin Ahmed
("Butch Ahmed"), Sitara-e-Jurat**



seconds his finger slowly but deliberately pressed the trigger. A stream of bullets slammed into the target. A terrific explosion followed and a huge column of black smoke and debris went up. He pulled up for the second attack and delivered few more rockets and bursts of API (Armour Piercing Incendiary) bullets and a number of other wagons went up in smoke and fire. Nothing was visible now as the whole place was engulfed in a black pall of smoke. Large pieces of twisted steel and burning wood were flying in all directions. 'Butch' had a narrow escape. Some splinters of broken metal hit his aircraft when he was pulling up. The Sabre lurched for a while.

He checked the instruments; all seemed to be well and he saw the fireworks from above. His formation was delivering lethal blow to the remaining wagons. A few buildings near the marshalling yard had also caught fire. Again, he went roaring down until he was flying dangerously low, a few feet above the burning train. All of a sudden, he picked up the wagons he was looking for and pulled up steeply for yet another attack. His salvo of rockets scored direct hit and there was a gigantic explosion of the munitions in the wagons, which sent up pressure waves that shook the other Sabres flying high up, like flying leaves in an autumn breeze. The debris leapt hundreds of feet into the air engulfing the whole area into darkness. 'Butch' had pulled up but to no avail. His Sabre was hit by flying debris and soon his cockpit was filled with pungent cordite smoke. He headed his aircraft towards Pakistan, a bare 12 miles away-a minute and a half of flying time.

His comrades heard from him these last words, "My cockpit is full of smoke". The formation, at this time, was not in visual contact with one another, and when the deputy leader called again to confirm his safety, there was no response. Realising that Butch must have bailed out; they carried out a vigorous search to locate their leader, but in vain. As the formation was low on fuel, they returned and soon the search was taken over by an Army Aviation L-19 aircraft. The pilot enthusiastically joined in and in spite of his vulnerability to ground fire and interception by enemy aircraft, he combed the area for five hours: all to no effect. A great fighter pilot and a man of unsurpassable courage and a caring father had gone. He sacrificed his life in the line of duty with boots on thus achieving a great honour for himself and for PAF.



summer sun had started swelling when the Sabres again roared out of their base into the blue haze of Sept sky. With Butch Ahmed in the lead, the four fighters - Flight Lieutenant Saleem, Flight Lieutenant Amanullah and Flight Lieutenant Arif in other cockpits, flew in battle formation and soon they were spearing through the enemy territory. They pressed on eastward but nothing was in sight. The steady roar of the engines and the general air of tension combined to bring the nerves to a razor's edge. They checked their guns and gun-sight. Suddenly, the voice of Flight Lieutenant Amanullah appeared on R/T, "A train below at 5 0' clock. Let's us go for it". The four fanned out and went into a steep dive towards the train but this was a passenger train. The Sabres pulled up from the sharp dive and levelled off. Rubbernecking, they again searched the sky, but found no enemy

aircraft. The Indian skies seemed to be conspicuously free from their guardians. With eyes peeled, they roared on when suddenly the R/T again became alive. This time Saleem had seen the runway of the IAF base at Pathankot gleaming in the distant haze. They had come to the end of the area assigned to them for reconnaissance. 'Butch' ordered the formation to return and with flick of hands on the control columns, four were turning sharply to the left.

Now they decided to set course for the city of Gurdaspur. They had reached the outskirts of Gurdaspur when they beheld the silhouette of another train in the marshalling yard of the railway station. While they were flying low, they saw a train, which was an ammo train, carrying loads of ammunition to battle area. It had to be destroyed; he decided and in

INTERVIEW

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Dr Muhammad Najeeb Khan is a former civil servant – who has headed development programs during his service, including the Benazir Income Support Program.



DR. MUHAMMAD NAJEEB KHAN

CEO OF PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION NETWORK

Although Dr. Najeeb is a medical professional with specialization in Community Medicine, he has spent a significant time managing human development projects in civil service.

What was the rationale behind the founding of PEN?

Progressive Education Network was founded by a group of educationists, bankers, professionals and businessmen. Pakistan has the world's worst indices of infant mortality, maternal nutrition, baby stunting, and early childhood education. In Pakistan, there are approximately 30 million children out of school who have a total population of 220 million and rank 6th per population in the world.

With an imminent youth bulge in the population of Pakistan, our failure to act now can have serious consequences: poverty trap, terrorism, and high crime.

PEN has been set up as a non-person centric, transparent organization working to tackle Pakistan's education crisis. We believe it is no longer just the responsibility of the government, given the extent of the problem. In addressing these issues, the private sector will have to play an integral role.

So we're based on a model of public-private partnership. PEN adopts underserved schools in government for at least ten years. This enables PEN to build on the existing infrastructure of government and implement reforms that focus on student enrollment, retention, drop-out, and international academic standards.

In addition to providing vital missing facilities, the PEN model focuses on

providing and training teachers, student learning and assessment, and building character.

By improving the delivery of education in government schools, we are able to reach the underprivileged children, given that the low-income families are covered by government schools.

Can you tell me how you reform Government schools?

Besides operating 255 public schools across the country, PEN is also launching PEN Academy—an online portal for Pakistani children with learning resources in Urdu.

Their goal is to reach 1 million children by

2025 through PEN-adopted schools and through PEN Academy have 5 million children benefiting from their learning resources.

Let me clarify why, after introducing them, we improve underperforming public schools. Before we adopt a school, we carry out the school's baseline survey.

This survey includes evaluating the physical

of internal debates and brainstorming sessions, we have evolved a model for a PEN school. This model lays out the number of classrooms in each school, student-teacher ratio, number of washrooms per student, etc. We compare the surveyed school to this model and devise an intervention plan.

For adopted schools, our instructional

schools usually have deplorable physical facilities. While our focus is on academics, we also want to create an environment that is conducive to learning. Hence, PEN builds classrooms and washrooms where needed, provides clean and cold drinking water, and furniture for all students and teachers. We also appoint a maid in the school who cleans the premises twice daily.

PEN has a rigorous monitoring and evaluation mechanism. Our staff members visit schools daily

and record their observations through a mobile app which relays this geo-tagged data to the Head Office. This information helps us to determine our performance on a regular basis.

We at PEN are passionate about life-skills training to the students and computer education. We have established computer labs in our elementary-level schools and launched a pilot project of digital learning. As part of life-skills training, we have included co-curricular activities in the curriculum. PEN students participate in sports competitions,

debates, creative –writing and summer camps. In fact, we organize Student Week every academic year which is a week-long event featuring inter-school competitions.

What is PEN's core competence?

Teachers' training. We have a very comprehensive teacher training program - which is held throughout the academic year. During the summer and winter holidays, we organize longer training sessions.

Training is delivered by internal and external trainers; external trainers come from LUMS, GCU, University of Education, etc. We have a very high attendance rate at our training programs which focus on classroom management, child psychology and improve teachers' subject competency. We also cover interactive learning, and encourage participatory approach to learning among students.

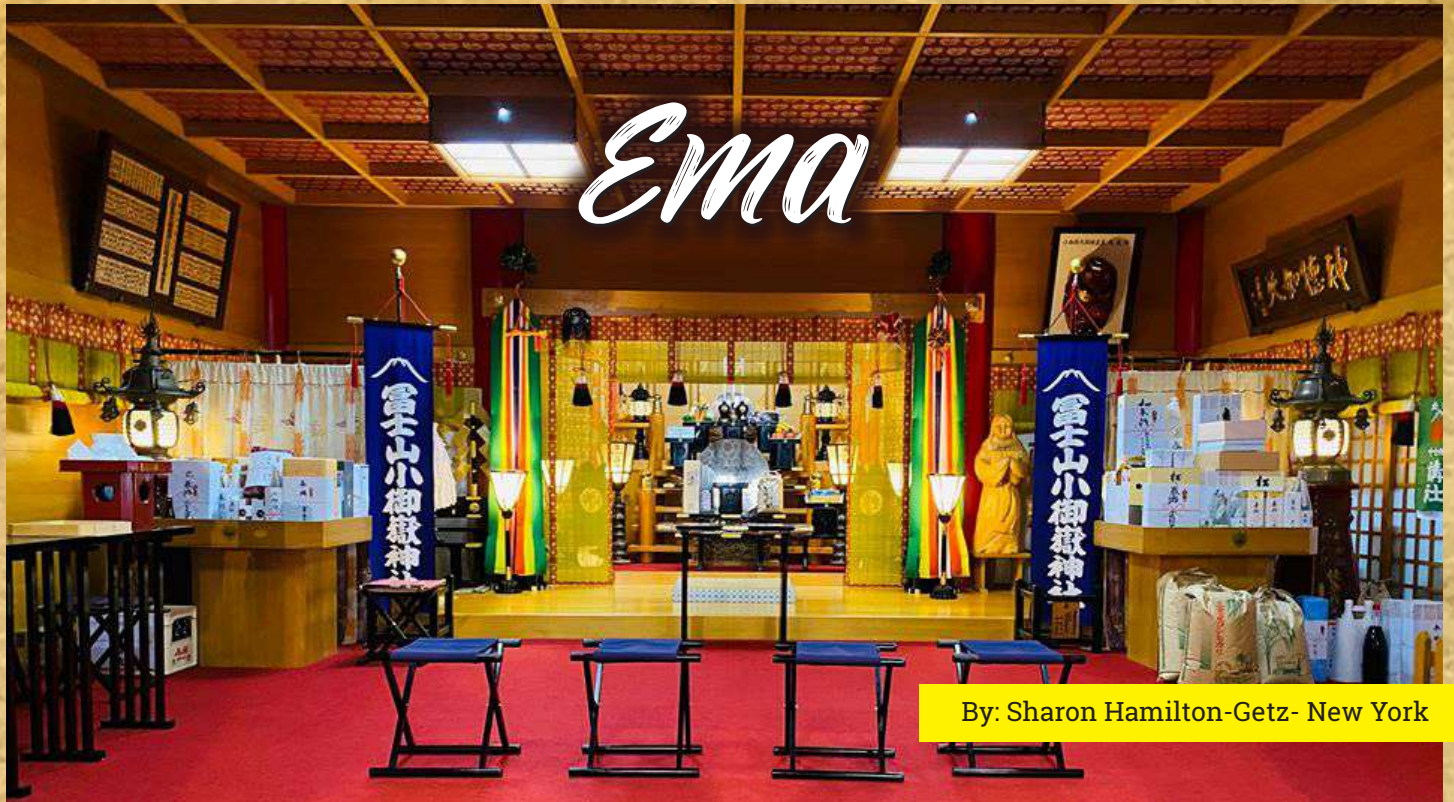
facilities of a school, community engagement, net and gross enrollment, student achievement, and evaluation of teachers. Based on data from this survey, we develop an intervention plan that addresses the shortcomings in each school. After a lot

measures involve teachers to reduce the student-teacher ratio, teacher training, student evaluation, student and educator opportunities, etc.

Under-performing Government



Ema



By: Sharon Hamilton-Getz- New York



Ema (絵馬, lit. "picture-horse") are small wooden plaques, common to Japan, in which Shinto and Buddhist worshippers write prayers or wishes. ... Once inscribed with a wish, Ema are hung at the shrine until they are ritually burned at special events, symbolic of the liberation of the wish from the writer.



Mount Fuji

Mt. Fuji is an active volcano about 100 kilometers southwest of Tokyo. Commonly called "Fuji-san," it's the country's tallest peak, at 3,776 meters. A pilgrimage site for centuries, it's considered one of Japan's 3 sacred mountains, and summit hikes remain a popular activity. Its iconic profile is the subject of numerous works of art, notably Edo Period prints by Hokusai and Hiroshige.



Buddhist Monks

HOPE PAKISTAN CAN BECOME HUB OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM

By: Kiran M. Ali Khan

A very eminent Buddhist monk of Sangha Supreme Council of Thailand, Most Venerable Arayawangso, visited Pakistan between Oct 28th and Nov 1st. He headed a delegation of 15 renowned Thais including Dean Nitinant of Thammasat University, former cabinet member Khunying (Lady) Supatra, retired Thai Ambassador Suchitra, among other notables.

This visit was coordinated by Imran Shauket, in partnership with Ambassador Asim Iftikhar (Pakistan Embassy in Thailand). Mr. Shauket hosted the Most Venerable at his residence during his stay in Pakistan.

During the visit, the Most Venerable met with President Arif Alvi and various ministers including MoRA Qadri, MoT KPK Atif, MoT Punjab Bhatti, and the Foreign Secretary, etc. The most notable events of the trip were the donation and installation of 2 Bells of Peace at the Taxila and Peshawar Museum and also prayed for peace at Takht Bahi and Dharmarajika sites. The Most Venerable also offered to design and fund a meditation center at Dharmarajika site and to fund the renovation of the 48 foot sleeping Buddha at Bhamala site.

“We may have three to five days meditations for Peace at the Buddhist sites in Pakistan so that Buddhists and non-Buddhists from multiple countries can join us,” he said while speaking to

media here at Thakht Bhai. He said that the Minister for Religious Affairs in a meeting had assured Pakistan’s full support in that regard and shared his government’s plan and initiatives to promote the religious tourism.

“This will be a gateway to peace and harmony,” he remarked while appreciating the hospitality offered by the people of Pakistan. He said the Buddhist pilgrims

were accorded warm welcome here which was an encouraging gesture for many countries, individuals and organizations to visit Pakistan in a friendly environment.

The Most Venerable said, “the visiting monks have great spiritual association with the holy sites, meditation touches their hearts and this tenderness and hospitality will surely force them to spread the good words about Pakistan across the globe.” He





also asked the authorities concerned to improve public services at the site as it was an “attractive and forceful” venue for the future meditation which could host a large number of religious tourists from various countries.

He dispelled the impression about Pakistan that it was not a safe place and suggested global tourists to visit the country without fear. “Peace comes from Pakistanis hearts and this is what I will spread to the world.” Most Venerable Arayawangso visit will help to remove gap between religions and to highlight the soft image of Pakistan before the world.





CULTURE AND ART FESTIVAL

LOK VIRSA ISLAMABAD



Culture departments of all provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir have been invited to set up pavilions presenting their indigenous folk culture, artisans, folk artists and traditional cuisine as link nodes of the festival's foundation grid. Special attractions featuring folk singers, folk entertainers and other entertaining shows will be organized throughout the festival period. Display of traditional folk dances from all over Pakistan will be held in open air at intervals. Folk entertainers and rural musicians are invited from all over the country to participate in the festival. The mela entry ticket will be Rs 50 per head. Daily timings will be from 10:00am to 9:00pm.

The National Institute of Folk & Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa), on Thursday announced to hold its annual mega event known as Lok Mela from Friday, November 15, 2019. The festival is scheduled from November 15 to 24 at Lok Virsa Complex, Garden Avenue, Shakarparian, Islamabad.

The main features include provincial cultural pavilions, artisans at work, folk songs and dance performances, exotic craft bazaar, cultural nights, folkloric performances and many other activities.

As per tradition exists for the last four decades, the festival will formally open with a chadarposhi/ dastarbandi ceremony, which is a way of proclaiming Lok Virsa's commitment to the high stature that craftspeople and folk artists have in the cultural mainstream of the nation

As per tradition exists for the last four decades, the festival will formally open with a chadarposhi/ dastarbandi ceremony, which is a way of proclaiming Lok Virsa's commitment to the high stature that craftspeople and folk artists have in the cultural mainstream of the nation. This year, one established master craftswoman and one male folk artist/ musician will be honoured with chadarposhi and dastarbandi by Minister for Federal Education, Professional Training, National History & Literary Heritage Shafqat Mahmood on November 19, 2019.



5 REASONS WHY CRUISES ARE GREAT FOR FAMILIES

With food, activities, accommodation and transportation all for a set price, cruises can be great way to holiday for families.



Have you ever wondered why so many families return home raving about booking their next cruise adventure? Choosing a holiday especially for multi-generational travel can be tough, but cruises are increasingly bridging these differences, thanks to these floating destinations that are decked out with more facilities and fun-packed itineraries than ever before.

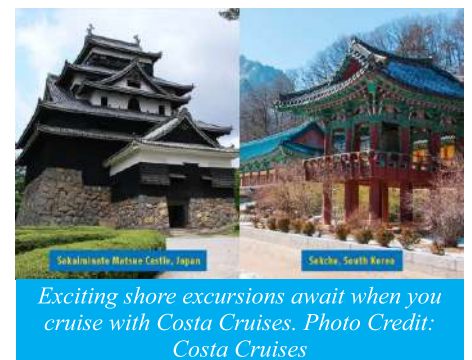
1. Travel Without Worries; Unpack Only Once



Cruises can be a relaxing way to travel, especially for large families.

On a cruise, you unpack just once – or more if there are kids coming along. After that, you are freed from any potential logistical nightmares even as you cruise from city to island. Gone are the days of booking tickets across multiple transport options, having to keep any eye on the train schedules, or lugging cumbersome luggage down cobblestoned streets. Kids might also appreciate the convenience of settling into one room for the duration of a long holiday, while the adults awake to the beauty of a new location each day.

2. See The World – In Your Home Away from Home



Exciting shore excursions await when you cruise with Costa Cruises. Photo Credit: Costa Cruises

A cruise is easily one of the best ways to explore the furthest and most exotic lands, since ships usually call at major cities and

offer tours with English-speaking guides. Cruises also offer the advantage of covering more ground than via land or air, especially with diverse itineraries that match the needs of today's modern families.

Costa Cruises, for instance, offers 700 cruises every year, disembarking from 69 ports around the world to 250 destinations. In addition, guides fluent in various languages are readily available to ease passengers into new environments. Notable itineraries include the recently launched Costa neoRomantica, which is set to cruise around Japan, South Korea and Russia from April to October 2017. The cruise line will also be the first international cruise line to cruise Sokcho, South Korea this year.



Costa Fortuna is also known as 'Museum at Sea'.
Photo Credit: Costa Cruises

Onboard, guests also enjoy Costa Cruises' unmistakable "Italy at Sea" experience, where each ship delivers a unique flavour – think Costa Fortuna's showcase of 4,800 art masterpieces or when ancient Rome comes alive on Costa Serena. As the only Italian cruise homeported in Asia, translations into local languages, as well as native-speaking staff, and special touches such as meals served with chopsticks help Asian passengers feel right at home.

3. Your All-Inclusive Holiday



So much to see, do and eat during a cruise.
Photo Credit: Costa Cruises

Cruises provide a fantastic solution for those with tight budgets, because your vacation dollar guarantees nearly everything you'll need for a fantastic trip: meals, accommodation, full use of facilities, transport, and of course, entertainment. With Costa Cruises, which was awarded 'Best Cruise Line – Entertainment' by Travel Weekly Asia last year, you will be ensured a regular line-up of exciting programmes such

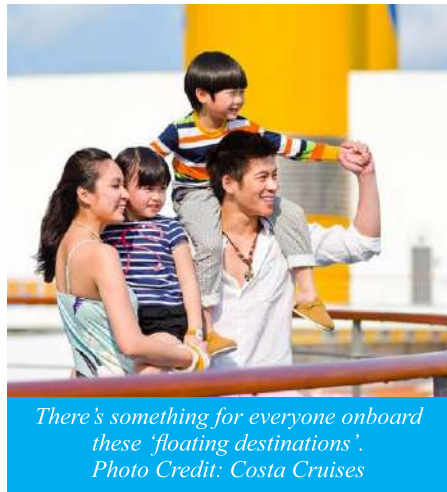
as Parade at Sea, cabaret, Italian opera and dance nights. Best part: You and your family will also get to be a part of **Carnival of Venice**, a famous festival in Venice, which has consistently been well-received by past cruisers.



Your little ones will never feel bored with myriad kid-friendly activities onboard.
Photo Credit: Costa Cruises

Savvy ones might even score promotions with selected cruise operators, and still others who offer discounted or free kids' fares such as Costa Cruises – where children under 13 years old get to cruise for free when sharing cabins with two paying adults. Simply take a quick check on Costa Cruises websites (www.costaasia.com), or reach out to its friendly call centre executives (+86 (21) 5351 9509 / info-pao@costa.it) to discover the offers and accompanying terms and conditions.

4. Fun for the Whole Family



There's something for everyone onboard these 'floating destinations'.
Photo Credit: Costa Cruises

Cruising works particularly well for multi-generational families. Within this safe and contained environment, it is possible for grandparents, parents and kids to entertain themselves with different activities in the day, before convening for a short trapeze off the ship, or for a family dinner in the dining halls. This frees everyone to pursue his or her own pocket of privacy, without sacrificing on bonding time.



No more fretting over how to keep your kids occupied. Photo Credit: Costa Cruises

At Costa Cruises, professionally trained staff will entertain with activities suitable for young guests, ages three and up to 17 years old. Most ships have a Squok Club, which welcomes with the latest video and party games, plus the unique opportunity to turn little girls into a princess for a day, or for young men to step into the shoes of 'Captain In Training' for a nominal fee. Parents may even take advantage of late-night hours in the kids' clubs to sneak in a romantic candlelit dinner for two.

5. Endless Dining Options



Sample the authentic taste of Italy onboard Costa Cruises. Photo Credit: Costa Cruises

Sample the authentic taste of Italy onboard Costa Cruises. Photo Credit: Costa Cruises
Sample the authentic taste of Italy onboard Costa Cruises. Photo Credit: Costa Cruises
No cruise is complete without the luxury of all-day dining, and for Costa Cruises, its signature is definitely in honouring the Italian flavour. Themed dinners such as Carnival of Venice and the Italian Night special menu are a popular hit across the fleet, where the recently restyled **Costa neoRomantica** even offers up Italian wine and cheese pairing sessions, authentic wood-fired pizzas, and ice-cold gelatos. Local menus are readily available should Asian guests yearn for a taste of home.



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