#### A MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC AFFAIRS



### Address by

Lt. Gen. (R) Khalid Ahmed Kidwai, Adviser Development National Command Authority, during the launch event for Dr. Huma Baqai's book "Collected Works on Foreign Affairs and Security Policy"

Pakistan's Full Spectrum Deterrence

Reviving Pakistan: The urgent need for resolve and reform







**PLATFORM** 

990KM/h

900+KM

100%

Conventional or Nuclear

THE STRATEGIC BENEFITS OF PAKISTAN'S J-10 C ACQUISITION



#### A MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC AFFAIRS



# Interaction

October 2023

**CHIEF EDITOR:** Nusrat Mirza

**EXECUTIVE EDITOR:** Bismah Mirza

EDITOR: Mirza Kashif Baig

MANAGING EDITOR: Yusuf Rahi

PRODUCTION MANAGER M. H. Khan

**LAYOUT DESIGN:** Muhammad Zia Malik

- CONTRIBUTORS: Gen. (R) Mirza Aslam Baig Nisar Ul Haq Usmani
- BUREAU CHIEF & DIRECTOR MARKETING: Islamabad: Prof. Dr. M. Attaullah Khan
- REPRESENTATIVES: UK (London) Tahir Shah Bangladesh Abdul Rahim Khan

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**Mailing Address:** 

Plot No.71/C, 1st Floor, 24th Commercial Street, Tauheed Commercial Area, Phase-V, DHA., Karachi, Pakistan. Tel : +92 21 358 619 35 -36 Email : monthlyinteractionpk@gmail.com www.monthlyinteraction.com

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#### EDITORIAL

# **PAKISTAN'S** FULL SPECTRUM DETERRENCE

Pakistan, like many other nations, places great emphasis on maintaining a robust national defense. In this pursuit, the country has developed a comprehensive strategy known as "Full Spectrum Deterrence" to ensure the security and stability of Pakistan and the region. Central to this strategy are Pakistan's indigenous missile systems, including the Babur Hatf VII, Nasr Hatf IX, Shaheen III, Ababeel missiles, and others, together with Fateh-I & II rockets. These missiles and rockets play a critical role in Pakistan's defense posture and deterrence capabilities.

The Babur Hatf VII is a land and sea-based cruise missile developed by Pakistan's scientists and it is considered to be a second-strike capable missile to ensure Pakistan's deterrence. It is designed for precision strikes against a variety of targets, both military and strategic. This missile has a range of approximately 900 kilometers.

The Babur Hatf VII's ability to carry conventional and nuclear warheads adds versatility to Pakistan's deterrence strategy. Its accuracy and range make it an effective tool for deterring potential adversaries and defending Pakistan's territorial integrity.

The Nasr Hatf IX is a short-range, solid-fueled ballistic missile designed for quick response in a tactical battlefield scenario. It can be launched through land and vehicles. With a range of approximately 70 kilometers, it is intended to deter aggressive conventional military actions by potential adversaries, particularly those with so-called superior conventional forces.

Nasr Hatf IX is unique in its ability to carry nuclear warheads with low yield, which are specifically designed to target enemy troop concentrations, armored formations, and military infrastructure. This capability sends a strong signal to adversaries that any aggressive military move will be met with a swift and effective response.

The Shaheen III is a medium-range ballistic missile that significantly enhances Pakistan's strategic deterrence capabilities. With an estimated range of 2,750 kilometers, the Shaheen III can target distant locations within its operational envelope.

Then come Ababeel, Ghaznavi, and Ghori missiles, along with Rockets Fateh I & II, recently tested to ensure Pakistan's defense remains robust and keeps the enemy under pressure.

These missiles not only strengthen Pakistan's deterrence posture against regional threats but also provide the ability to hold distant targets at risk. Its potential to carry both conventional and nuclear warheads underscores its importance in Pakistan's Full Spectrum Deterrence strategy.

Pakistan's Full Spectrum Deterrence strategy, bolstered by the Babur Hatf VII, Nasr Hatf IX, Shabeen III, and other missiles, is aimed at preserving regional stability and deterring aggression. These missiles serve as essential components of Pakistan's defense posture, demonstrating its commitment to ensuring the security and sovereignty of the nation. In an everchanging geopolitical landscape, they play a crucial role in maintaining a delicate balance of power in South Asia.

### **SUMMARIZED NEWS & ARTICLES**



#### CARETAKER PRIME MINISTER ANWAARUL HAQ KAKAR ADDRESSES THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Anwaarul ul Haq Kakar urged the global community on Friday (22.09.2023) to fulfil the commitments they made to Pakistan after last year's devastating floods and help implement its recovery plans. Mr. Kakar, who is the first interim leader to address the UN General Assembly, used his maiden UN speech to highlight the country's efforts to revive its ailing economy but also talked about the threat of terrorism confronting Pakistan and Islamabad's efforts to improve ties with all neighbouring states.

He also touched on issues of peacekeepers facing challenges from terrorist groups, Islamophobia, etc. At an UN-sponsored conference in Geneva in January, dozens of nations and international institutions had pledged more than \$10 billion to help Pakistan recover and rebuild from the last year's floods that the UN called "a climate disaster of monumental scale".

"Pakistan is gratified by the commitments of over \$10.5 billion for its comprehensive plan for recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction," Prime Minister Kakar told the UNGA on Friday. "Specific projects are being submitted to ensure timely funding and execution of the plan," he said. "I hope our development partners will accord priority to allocation (release) of funds."

Mr. Kakar pointed out that recovery efforts had already cost Pakistan \$13bn. The epic floods submerged a third of the country, killed 1,700 and displaced over 8 million people, destroyed vital infrastructure, and caused over \$30bn in damage to Pakistan's economy. But UN Spokesman Stephane Dujarric told a news briefing in March that only 40 per cent of the pledges were fulfilled, as donor-fatigue prevented greater contributions.

Prime Minister Kakar, however, called for a better understanding of Pakistan's problems.

#### **TRIPLE CHALLENGE**

"Pakistan's triple food, fuel and finance challenge, is a prime illustration of the impacts of Covid, conflicts and climate on developing countries," he said. "Pakistan is also one of the worst affected countries from the impacts of climate change." The prime minister recalled that far-reaching commitments were also made at Thursday's UN-sponsored summit on sustainable development goals (SDGs) in New York. But "we must ensure" that those pledges are fulfilled, he stressed.

He highlighted several key pledges that must be fulfilled: implementation of the SDG stimulus; the re-channeling of unused Special Drawing Rights (finances) for development; the expansion of concessional lending by Multilateral Development Banks; and resolution of the debt problems of the 59 countries in debt distress. Mr. Kakar said Pakistan was also looking forward to the fulfillment of the climate change commitments made at COP28 by the developed world: to provide over \$100bn in annual climate finance.

He suggested allocating at least half of such finance for adaptation in developing countries; opera-tionalising the Fund and funding arrang-ements for loss and damage; and accelerating the carbon emission mitigation targets to "keep alive" the goal of restricting global warming to 1.5 degrees centigrade. "Attempts to selectively provide these funds on the basis of geo-political considerations should be resisted," he warned.

#### **ECONOMIC RECOVERY**

The caretaker premier also underlined Pakistan's commitment to rapid economic recovery. "We will stabilise our foreign exchange reserves and our currency; expand domestic revenues and, most importantly, mobilise significant domestic and external investment," he said. Pakistan has established a Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to expedite investment decisions. Twenty-eight projects have been identified in priority sectors agriculture, mining, energy, and IT for implementation in collaboration with Pakistan's partners.

"Pakistan's long-term shift to geoeconomics is well underway. The second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been initiated covering railway, infrastructure, and manufacturing projects," Mr. Kakar said. "Pakistan also looks forward to the early implementation of the connectivity projects with Central Asia." Noting that development depends on peace, he said Pakistan was situated in one of the least economically integrated regions in the world.

#### **'KEY TO PEACE'**

"Pakistan believes that regions develop together. Therefore, Pak-is-tan desires peaceful and produ-ctive relations with all our neighbours, including India. Kashmir is the key to peace between Pakistan and India," he said, The prime minister, however, reminded the UN community that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute was one of the oldest issues on the agenda of the Security Council. Since August 5, 2019, Delhi has deployed 900,000 troops in India-held Jammu and Kashmir to impose the "final solution" for the disputed region.

"The UN Security Council must secure the implementation of its resolutions on Kashmir. The UN Military Observer Group for India and Pakistan should be reinforced. Global powers should convince New Delhi to accept Pakistan's offer of mutual restraint on strategic and conventional weapons," Mr Kakar said. The prime minister assured the international community that peace in Afghanistan was a strategic imperative for Pakistan and Islamabad shared their concerns with respect to Afghanistan, particularly the rights of women and girls.

"Yet, we advocate continued humanitarian assistance to a destitute Afghan population in which Afghan girls and women are the most vulnerable," he said. Mr Kakar also called for the revival of Afghan economy and implementation of the connectivity projects with Central Asia.

#### TERRORISM CONDEMNED

"Pakistan's first priority is to prevent and counter all terrorism from and within Afghanistan. Pakistan condemns the crossborder terrorist attacks against Pakistan by the [banned] TTP, Daesh and other groups operating from Afghanistan," he said, "We have sought Kabul's support and cooperation to prevent these attacks. However, we are also taking necessary measures to end this externally encouraged terrorism."

Courtesy: Daily Dawn.

#### QUAD MINISTERS URGE U.N. MEMBERS NOT TO TRADE WEAPONS WITH NORTH KOREA

The foreign ministers of Japan, the United

States, Australia and India on Friday urged all U.N. members not to trade weapons with North Korea, as Pyongyang has been trying to expand its military collaboration with Russia. At their talks on the sidelines of the annual session of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, the ministers from the four-way grouping, known as the Quad, also agreed to enhance cooperation toward achieving their vision of a "free and open Indo-Pacific."

The ministers shared the view that their countries will oppose any unilateral changes to the status quo by force, apparently with Russia's aggression against Ukraine and China's growing maritime assertiveness in the Asia-Pacific region in mind. Yoko Kamikawa,



Japan's first female foreign minister, confirmed with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar that the Quad ministerial meeting will take place in Japan next year.

"We strongly support the principles of freedom, the rule of law, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and peaceful settlement of disputes" as well as oppose unilateral attempts to change the status quo, the ministers said in a joint readout released after the gathering. "We concur that the use, or threat of use, of nuclear weapons would be unacceptable," the readout said, with fears lingering that Russia may use such arms against Ukraine.

The Quad top diplomats reaffirmed that they will work together to promote reform of the United Nations, whose dysfunction has hampered its responses to international disputes, particularly over Russia's war in Ukraine. The Quad ministers, meanwhile, exchanged views on North Korea's nuclear and missile development. Russian President Vladimir Putin held bilateral talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Russia last week.

Kamikawa spoke to her U.S., Australian and Indian counterparts about the safety of Japan's discharge of treated radioactive water from the crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean, which started on Aug. 24. The Quad foreign ministers gathered for the first time since March, when they met in New Delhi.

Courtesy: Nikkei Asia.

#### IMF CHIEF KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA'S MESSAGE TO PAKISTANIS

IMF to collect taxes from the wealthy shines a light on the country's inequitable tax system, which is the primary source of almost all our economic woes, including an unsustainable fiscal deficit, elevated inflation, a low investment rate and a frail balance-ofpayments position. "I do believe that this is in



line with what people in Pakistan would like to see for the country," she said after meeting caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session.

"We agreed on the vital need for strong policies to ensure stability, foster sustainable and inclusive growth, prioritise revenue collection, and protection for the most vulnerable in Pakistan," she told Pakistani journalists. "What we are asking in our programme is, please collect more taxes from the wealthy and please protect the poor people of Pakistan." Mr. Kakar was less forthcoming on the gist of his brief discussion with Ms. Georgieva, characterising the meeting as "constructive" and "focused on mutual commitments".

This is not the first time the IMF boss has urged Pakistan to tax the wealthy to boost its tax revenues. Back in February, she stated that, in order to function as a country, Pakistan must ensure that its high earners pay taxes and only the poor get subsidies.

Courtesy: Daily Dawn.

#### NEPRA INCREASE ELECTRICITY RATE

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on Friday allowed the federal government to increase electricity rates by Rs3.28 per unit for all consumers across the country for six months October 2023 to March 2024 with additional revenue impact going beyond Rs200bn. The increase



has been allowed under quarterly tariff adjustment (QTA) mechanism to finance the additional impact of capacity charges due to currency devaluation, interest rate hike and other factors.

The power division of energy ministry had originally sought Rs6.20 per unit adjustment for the fourth quarter of 2022-23 fiscal year for ex-Wapda distribution companies (Discos) to fill an Rs146bn financing gap within three months but later sought its staggered recovery at the rate of Rs3.55 per unit in six months amid public protests against skyrocketing tariff hike. Subsequently, the power division also asked Nepra to allow application of similar rates on K-Electric consumers to ensure uniformity and reduce subsidy payable against them.

Courtesy: Daily Dawn.

#### ECP ANNOUNCED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION IN PAKISTAN

More than a month after the dissolution of the National Assembly, the Election Commission of Pakistan on Thursday (21/09/2023) announced that general elections would be held by the last week of January over two months after the constitutionally mandated deadline of 90 days. The statement of the ECP did not mention the exact date of polls, leaving room for some flexibility in its schedule expected to be released after the final notification of the delimitation exercise likely on Nov 30.



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Informed sources told Dawn Jan 28 would most probably be the polling day.

According to the ECP, the preliminary delimitation list will be published on September 27. After hearing the objections and suggestions on the constituencies, it said, the final list would be released on Nov 30, followed by the issuance of a 54-day poll schedule. The announcement ended uncertainty and speculations about an indefinite delay in polls, but it still failed to satisfy several stakeholders who wanted elections within 90 days after the dissolution of the assembly as required under the Constitution.

Courtesy: Daily Dawn.

#### US POURS BILLIONS INTO COLD WAR SUBMARINE PROGRAM AS CHINA BOLSTERS NAVY

By Anders Hagstrom

The U.S. Navy is investing billions of dollars to revamp its Cold War-era submarine detection system in the Pacific Ocean as China bolsters its own navy and becomes more belligerent. The U.S. Integrated Undersea Surveillance System was first built in the 1950s as a top secret program aimed at countering Russia's naval capabilities in the Cold War. Now, however, the fleet of surveillance ships and maze of undersea sensor cables are being modernized, three people with direct knowledge of the effort told Reuters.

The modernization effort aims to make the



surveillance cables smaller while covering a larger area. The U.S. is also selling the same technology to Australia. The plan also includes implementing artificial intelligence to review surveillance data for anomalies and potential foreign craft, something the technology could do far faster than a human analyst.

Courtesy: Fox News.

#### CHINA, RUSSIA SEND NAVAL WARSHIPS NEAR ALASKA, TRIGGERING FORCEFUL US RESPONSE

#### By Thomas Catenacci

China and Russia conducted a joint naval operation near U.S. territory earlier this week, triggering a large response from the U.S. Navy, Fox News Digital has learned. The joint



operation, conducted by two significant American adversaries, consisted of 11 ships and neared Alaska's southwestern coast, according to Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, who was briefed on the matter earlier this week by U.S. defense officials. Sullivan said the U.S. Navy ultimately mobilized four destroyers to guide the Chinese and Russian ships away from American waters.

"This is unprecedented in terms of the size and scope of this joint naval task force between Russia and China, working very closely together," Sullivan told Fox News Digital in a phone interview late Saturday. "Whether you live in Alaska like I do, or on the East Coast of the United States, a very large surface action task force between our two main adversaries, probing very closely to United States shores is concerning." "It just solidifies this idea that we've entered a new era of authoritarian aggression led by the dictators in Beijing and Moscow who are increasingly aggressive," he continued.

Courtesy: Fox News.

#### CHINA DEPLOYS OVER 40 PLANES TO TAIWAN STRAIT, IS MASSING FORCES AT COASTAL MILITARY BASES, TAIWAN WARNS

#### By Anders Hagstrom

In order to get a window into the top secret program, Reuters interviewed more than a dozen people in the Navy or working as



contractors. It also reviewed hundreds of Navy contracts. That examination identified at least 30 deals linked to the surveillance program signed over the last three years with defense giants as well as a string of startups working on unmanned sea drones and AI processing.

"The systems have and will experience growth and recapitalization as subsea technologies are developed and as defense priorities are updated," a spokesperson for the Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet said in a statement when asked about the effort. The ramp-up of capabilities comes as China has grown increasingly aggressive toward Taiwan. China has vowed to reunify the island by force if necessary, and the U.S. has maintained a policy of "strategic ambiguity" as to its position regarding the island.

Courtesy: Fox News.

#### ISRAEL'S NEW MULTIMILLION-DOLLAR AI TANK PROVIDES TOTAL BATTLEFIELD VISION: 'A NEW ERA'

#### By Peter Aitken

Israel unveiled the "Barak" tank as its newest artificial intelligence (AI)-powered military advancement, promising a "new era" in combat capabilities. "The Barak tank is very innovative it takes our maneuvering capabilities to another level, and it is a clear expression of our technological capabilities," Israeli Minister of Defense (IMOD) Yoav Gallant said of the tank, whose name translates to "lightning."

"I would like to express my appreciation to the engineers of the Tank and APC Administration, the Israeli Ground Forces and all those involved in the professional process," he added. The fifth-generation Barak tank introduces a 360-degree awareness capability, giving a total vision of the battlefield. In a video that features animated segments to demonstrate the tank's potential, an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) operator is able to identify targets both in front and behind his tank, thanks to a specially designed helmet that helps him filter battlefield data.

The Barak took five years to develop, and



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mass production started last month. The tank's unveiling occurred some two decades after the Merkava's introduction, which officials believe the Barak will replace by the end of 2025 in the 401st Brigade.

Courtesy: Fox News.

#### CANADA HAS EVIDENCE LINKING INDIAN DIPLOMATS TO KILLING OF SIKH ACTIVIST, MEDIA REPORTS

As pressure mounted on Canada to release evidence of an extraterritorial assassination on its soil, media reports indicated that the government is believed to be in possession of intelligence linking Indian officials and diplomats to the killing. Among



the trove of information gathered in the months-long investigation into the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar were communications involving Indian officials, including Indian diplomats working inside Canada, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported on Thursday (21/09/2023).

In recent weeks, the head of Canada's intelligence agency and the national security and intelligence adviser have travelled to India in a bid to gain Delhi's cooperation in the killing of Nijjar, a prominent Sikh activist fatally shot in a parking lot in June. The revelations from Canada's national broadcaster come amid mounting domestic pressure to release more information into the "credible allegations" first outlined by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in parliament earlier.

"We are not looking to provoke or cause problems, but we are unequivocal about the rule of law and unequivocal about protecting Canadians and standing up for our values," Trudeau said. However, Canada's deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland appeared to reject similar retaliatory measures. "This is not about geopolitics. This is about Canada, the safety of Canadians in Canada. This is about the rule of law," she told reporters.

Courtesy: The Guardian.

#### SAUDI ARABIA SAID HIS COUNTRY MOVING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has said that his country was moving steadily closer to normalizing relations with Israel and also warned that if Iran gets a nuclear weapon, we have to get one. "Every day we get closer," the crown prince told Fox News, according to excerpts of an interview to be shown later on Wednesday, when asked to characterize talks aimed at long-time foes Israel and Saudi Arabia reaching a landmark agreement to open diplomatic relations.

The conservative US network's interview with the crown prince, widely known as MBS, comes as President Joe Bidens administration presses ahead with an effort to broker historic



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# PAKISTAN'S NATIONAL UNITY IN THEORY AND PRACTICE



HAFIZ MUHAMMAD SHERAZ

According to Nelson Mandela, "National integration is the ability to create a sense of belonging and unity among diverse communities within a country." For Pakistan, national integration has been a huge struggle since its inception. Before the British colonial rule, all the Hindus and Muslims were living unitedly for many centuries.

When colonial masters came, they did not only occupy the territories, but also employed the divide and rule strategies. After gaining independence, the contemporary ruling elite is doing the same through their contradictory policies. The elite that was already blessed under the colonial British Raj, became the ruling class of this newborn country.

It created deep polarization and a void among the masses for gaining their selfinterests. The linguistic, ethnic, and religious divisions that were created under the British Rai to divide and rule are still pretty much relevant. What causes more misery is that the ruling elite in Pakistan instead of making efforts toward national integration adopted biased behavior against small provinces; nonpolitical entities got involved in the political affairs of the country; and political parties of Pakistan also remained loyal to their parties, not the nation. This article aims to highlight the various contradictions which are creating deep polarization in the country and recommends a holistic approach for national integration.

When Pakistan gained independence, the ruling elite projected Islam as a source of unity.

In theory, they constructed a narrative of 'La ilaha illalah' meaning "No One, but Allah". In contrast, they pursued the policies of selfinterest and legitimized un-Islamic rules.

For instance, instead of preventing bribery, institutions themselves practiced such horrendous acts. Abu Huraira (May Allah be pleased with him), a close companion of the



Holy Prophet (PBUH) reported, "The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him said, "Allah has cursed the one who offers a bribe and the one who accepts a bribe to receive a favorable judgment." (Source: Musnad Ahmad 9031).

As far as ethnic nationalism is concerned, rulers only in theory have perpetually illustrate it as a source of unity because the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in his civic address in Quetta Municipality addressed nationalism as a base for cohesion. He stated, "We are now all Pakistanis, not Balochs, Pathans, Sindhis, Bengalis, Punjabis, and so on and as Pakistanis we must feel, behave and act, and we should be proud to be known as Pakistanis and nothing else".

In practice, the people in Pakistan have ignored ethnic identities. Ironically, the political leadership has not understood the fact that unity can be adopted with individuality as well. Arguably, the ruling elite interpreted this theory wrongly. To them, all ethnicities are one despite their various histories and cultures.

While unity lies in diversity and not in imposed national integration. This rigid behavior caused not only the separation of Bengal, but also its unresolved grievances took the country on the road to ethnic differences. Furthermore, the process of Islamization in the 1970s and 1980s has fueled religious and sectarian differences as well.

Balochistan is a case study of abovementioned contradictions where the ruling elite has adopted biased behavior. For instance, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was supposed to be a game changer for its people first. In contrast, it has increased grievances among the people of the province. For example, a bill was recently passed for a university in Lahore with the name "Pak-China Gwadar University", and the fishermen in Gwadar have grievances



about losing their jobs on account of Chinese trollers. Consequently, human development is on the decline. According to the World Human Development Report, Pakistan has fallen from 154<sup>th</sup> to 161<sup>st</sup> position in 2022. After the decline in the human development index, it is against common sense to believe that national cohesion can be achieved in Pakistan by following the same patterns.

As far as political contradictions are concerned, the struggle for power within the ruling elite has further exacerbated ethnoreligious and sectarian differences. The dominant ruling class on the one hand argues that they are a- political. Paradoxically, they entrenched a particular political model.

Furthermore, all political parties in general and mainstream political parties in particular run massive campaigns and mobilize people through various narratives in their respective manifestos. In their proclamations, they claim that they will provide relief to the people and will bring prosperity to the country. In contrast, they not only sign deals with the undemocratic forces, but they also compromise their political power as well.

Parliament under them is working like a rubberstamp institution. Most recently, lawmakers have passed 54 bills without studying and discussing them much as the president Arif Alvi has claimed that he has not passed a couple of controversial bills, still, those were passed by the lawmakers bypassing the president. Besides this, the judiciary has also deliberately or undeliberately played a key role in this deep division. For instance, the Dhosso Case of 1958 is one of the examples that legitimized a dictator's rule.

On the one hand, the judiciary reiterates that it will do their constitutional duties. On the other hand, the judiciary has unconstitutionally encroached on the domains

of executive and parliament through Suo Motu notices. To sum it up, it is inevitable to go by the book to stabilize the country.

This can be done through avoiding contradictions, free and fair elections, and implementation of the division of power among the parliament, executive, and judiciary. Each individual and the ruling class, in particular, should realize that Pakistan is left with no other option but to make fair and correct choices now.

It is the time to cultivate a society through education, awareness, merit, and the rule of law for a holistic national integration. This cannot be done by the ruling elite alone, but every individual should equally contribute to

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#### SAUDI ARABIA SAID HIS COUNTRY MOVING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

The normalization talks are the centerpiece of complex negotiations that also include discussions of US security guarantees and civilian nuclear help that Riyadh has sought, as well as possible Israeli concessions to the Palestinians.

"For us, the Palestinian issue is very important. We need to solve that part, MbS said when asked what it would take to get a normalization agreement. And we have a good negotiations continue until now." "We got to see where we go. We hope that will reach a place, that it will ease the life of the Palestinians, get Israel as a player in the Middle East," he said, speaking in English. MBS also voiced concern about the possibility that Iran, a mutual adversary of Saudi Arabia and Israel that the US wants to contain, could obtain a nuclear weapon. Tehran has denied seeking a nuclear bomb.

"That's a bad move," he said. "If you use it, you got to have a big fight with the rest of the steer the country out of this complex time.

The author is a Research Intern at Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN), Quetta.



world." Asked what would happen if Iran did get a nuclear bomb, MBS said: "If they get one, we have to get one."

Courtesy: Daily Dawn.



Chief Editor, Monthly Interaction & Zaviah-e-Nigah and Chairman, Rabita Forum International presents memento of RFI to Mr. Ejaz ul Haq, Secretary General of Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE).

### **REVIVING PAKISTAN** *THE URGENT NEED FOR RESOLVE AND REFORM*



#### NUSRAT MIRZA



Pakistan is grappling with multiple crises, including economic, law and order, political, and administrative issues, which hinder its progress in diplomacy. In contrast, India, despite having its share of challenges, is actively engaged on various diplomatic fronts.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Jakarta for the ASEAN-India Summit in September 2023 is a noteworthy example of India's proactive diplomacy. This visit is significant, especially considering that India had recently hosted the G20 summit in New Delhi. It underscores India's ambitions to strengthening its ties with the ASEAN region, even as global geopolitical dynamics resemble a new cold war, reminiscent of the post-Vietnam War era half a century ago.

India's growing interest in the Indo-Pacific region can be attributed to its alliance with the United States. This alliance was influenced by Hillary Clinton, who, during her tenure as the US Secretary of State, advised India to focus on the East rather than the West. The rationale behind this shift was the USA's strategic interests in Pakistan, which was a source of concern for India due to ongoing tensions and skirmishes. Nonetheless, there are clear signs of ongoing destabilizing elements that appear to be deliberately aimed at ensuring Pakistan's continued involvement with the United States.

In examining Pakistan's current challenges, it's evident that resolving them necessitates astute political leadership. A visionary political scientist can leverage the country's abundant talent, natural resources, and diligent workforce, along with existing infrastructure, to drive progress. Relying solely on foreign aid, like that from the US or the IMF, is not a sustainable solution.

Drawing parallels, Afghanistan, without US support, seeks to develop good governance and vital infrastructure like water canals to bolster its economy. Pakistan, too, has the potential to address its problems, resonant of battle-damaged countries like Germany and Japan, which rebounded and left Pakistan behind in development.

Some countries appear intent on keeping Pakistan in a state of instability to prevent it from emerging as a regional power. However, Pakistan, having achieved nuclear capability, possesses the potential for rapid growth. In 1962, Pakistan ventured into space with the launch of Rahbur I & II rockets and developed a burgeoning industrial sector. Its five-year plan served as a model for ASEAN countries, leading to their prosperity. Unfortunately, Pakistan endured wars and the tragic partition

that divided the nation.

Despite these setbacks, King Faisal of Saudi Arabia's support helped revive Pakistan's economy. However, a recurring issue with Pakistani leadership is their tendency to rely on the United States for political legitimacy and support. This often leads to Western powers interfering in Pakistan's internal affairs, resulting in the removal or punishment of leaders like Z.A. Bhutto, Ayub Khan, Gen. Zia ul Haq and others.

The bureaucracy, once known for its hawkish stance, found itself powerless and as a result became inactive. The bureaucracy operates effectively like a well-oiled machine only under the guidance of experts otherwise its members prioritize self-preservation. Despite a decline in talent levels, it can still perform if it is given appropriate guidance and it feels secure.

In the field of diplomacy, Pakistan must expand its efforts beyond its current scope. While economic constraints limit its options, Pakistan, armed with the negotiation skills inherent in diplomats, could carve out a space for itself even in adverse circumstances. Looking beyond its borders may offer a way out of the pressure. One might suggest that Pakistan can alleviate the pressure it faces by adopting an outward-looking approach.

Another avenue for Pakistan to explore is the domain of information technology, where it can secure a reasonable foothold. This includes digital technologies, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Nanotechnology, Robotics and Automation, Quantum computing, cyber security, and more. Corruption in its all forms, however, remains an inescapable issue in Pakistani society, and it must be eradicated promptly to prevent a brain drain. The country is witnessing an alarming trend where its youth are enticed by the promise of better



opportunities abroad, often through the allure of jobs, relationships, and settlement in countries around Russia and Eastern Europe. It is also crucial to make these young and energetic individuals aware that they are being enticed into a superpower's trap, one designed to exploit their lives and enlist them as pawns in global conflicts.

Moreover, foreign powers have exerted influence in Pakistan by dismantling, weakening, or fostering doubt within key institutions that historically formed the foundation of the country's strength. These include the family structure, bureaucracy, political system, and judiciary, primarily through the manipulation of media outlets. Undoubtedly, the media possesses immense power, capable of altering perceptions and narratives dramatically. To reclaim its determination and self-reliance, Pakistan must implement decisive actions.

In a nutshell, Pakistan's capacity to maintain sovereignty and safeguard its interests depends on combatting corruption, enlightening its younger generation, and bolstering the institutions that have suffered deterioration.

The author is the Chief Editor of Monthly Interaction and Chairman, Rabita Forum International (RFI).

# **BABUR CRUISE MISSILE**

# **ENSURING SECOND STRIKE RESILIENCE**



### **BABUR CRUISE MISSILE** ENSURING SECOND STRIKE RESILIENCE



SYED SAMIULLAH



In the domain of strategic weaponry, the Babur cruise missile, known as Hatf-VII in military terminology, is a testament to Pakistan's unwavering commitment to fortify its national defense capabilities.

This medium-range subsonic cruise missile, powered by a turbojet engine, represents a formidable asset within Pakistan's arsenal, boosting the versatility of being launched from both land-based and underwater seaborne platforms. The journey of the Babur missile, from its inception to its recent advancements, presents a compelling narrative of Pakistan's resolute determination to safeguard its national security interests.

#### **INAUGURAL TEST AND INDUCTION**

The Babur missile made its global debut in 2005 with a successful test launch, marking a

pivotal moment in Pakistan's pursuit of a robust missile program. Developed by Pakistan's National Engineering and Scientific Commission (NESCOM), this endeavor involved extensive research and technological advancements.

Following several successful tests, the Babur missile was officially inducted into the Pakistan Army's arsenal in 2010, signifying its operational readiness. Subsequently, in 2018, it was adopted by the Pakistan Navy, expanding its strategic reach across multiple branches of the armed forces.

#### THE INGENIOUS DESIGN

The Babur cruise missile, measuring 6.2 meters in length and 0.52 meters in diameter, with a wingspan of 2.5 meters, evinces a meticulously crafted design characterized by various elements that collectively render it a formidable strategic asset.

Its airframe features a tubular fuselage housing folded wings in the mid-section, while the rear section accommodates the missile's propulsion system. Powered by a turbojet engine, the Babur achieves impressive speeds,



reaching a maximum of approximately 550 mph.

During launch, the missile receives an additional thrust from a booster, propelling it away from the launch vehicle. Subsequently, the missile's wings unfurl, the booster rocket is jettisoned, and the jet engine is activated, facilitating a seamless transition to the missile's cruising phase.

Significantly, the Babur's design emphasizes high maneuverability, enabling it to closely follow terrain contours and operate with a degree of "near-stealth." This unique capability enables the missile to evade enemy's radar detection, employing a technique known as "terrain masking" to penetrate rival air defense systems undetected.

#### **GUIDANCE SYSTEM MASTERY**

Central to the Babur's precision is its guidance system, which incorporates cuttingedge technologies. It relies on a combination of Inertial Navigation Systems (INS), Terrain Contour Matching (TERCOM), and GPS satellite guidance. This fusion ensures the missile can effectively reach its intended targets. An upgraded variant introduced in 2016 showcased the missile's ability to accurately strike land and sea-based targets without relying on GPS, further enhancing its precision.

#### OPERATIONAL TRIUMPHS AND ADVANCEMENTS

The operational history of the Babur





missile reflects a relentless pursuit of excellence:

- In August 2005, Pakistan publicly announced the successful test of the Babur missile, initially with a range of 500 km.
- In March 2007, an upgraded version extended the Babur's range to 700 km.
- Subsequent test-firings in 2009, 2011, and 2012 highlighted the missile's evolving capabilities, including its capacity to carry both nuclear and conventional warheads.
- The introduction of the Babur II in 2016 marked a significant milestone, featuring improved aerodynamics and avionics, enabling precise targeting without GPS assistance and the ability to engage seabased and land-based objectives.
- In January 2017, the Babur III, launched from an underwater mobile platform, achieved a range of 450 km, enhancing second-strike capability.
- Ongoing developments included the introduction of the Babur-1A in February 2021, with upgraded avionics and navigation systems, capable of targeting ground-based and sea-based surface objectives within a 450 km range.
- In December 2021, Pakistan successfully tested the enhanced-range Babur-1B, with a range exceeding 900 km.



#### **STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE**

On the occasion of successful test launch of Babur-1B in December 2021, the DG of the Strategic Plans Division said that the recent missile test serves to strengthen Pakistan's strategic deterrence. This deterrence strategy, known as "full spectrum deterrence," primarily focuses on India and aims to bring every potential Indian target within the range of Pakistan's nuclear missiles.

Lt. General Khalid Ahmed Kidwai, Advisor Development National Command Authority, emphasizes the need for Pakistan's deterrence capability to offer a range of options against various types of targets, spanning from subconventional to strategic levels.

This approach to missile development is rooted in the goal of deterring both conventional and strategic threats, while maintaining cost-effectiveness relative to Pakistan's nuclear adversary in South Asia (Khan, January 28, 2022).

#### IMPLICATIONS FOR PAKISTAN'S DEFENSE STRATEGY AND REGIONAL SECURITY DYNAMICS

The Babur missile carries profound implications for Pakistan's defense strategy and the broader regional security landscape:

**Deterrence:** Pakistan has traditionally relied on its nuclear arsenal as a deterrent against external threats. The precision and extended range of the Babur missile introduce a new dimension to Pakistan's deterrence capabilities. It can be employed to signal a robust response to any form of aggression, whether conventional or nuclear.

**Strategic Reach:** With its considerable range, the missile enables Pakistan to target vital military installations and infrastructure in the neighboring country. This potential shift in the balance of power within the region is significant.

#### Second-Strike Capability:

The introduction of the Babur-3 variant, designed for submarine launch, enhances Pakistan's second-strike capability. This ensures a credible and survivable response in the event of a nuclear conflict.

#### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Babur cruise missile, marked by its intricate design and continuous evolution, serves as a symbol of Pakistan's unwavering dedication to enhancing its strategic capabilities. Its operational history underscores Pakistan's commitment to technological advancement and self-reliance within the realm of military technologies.

The Babur remains a formidable asset, guaranteeing Pakistan's readiness in an everevolving security landscape and strengthening the nation's determination to safeguard its security interests.

The author is Research Officer at Rabita Forum International (RFI).



#### EVENT

### LAUNCH EVENT FOR THE BOOK "COLLECTED WORKS ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS & SECURITY STUDIES" BY DR. HUMA BAQAI



On September 12, 2023, a book launch event took place at DHA Suffa University to introduce Dr. Huma Baqai's book titled "Collected Works on Foreign Policy & Security Policy." This ceremony was meticulously organized by the Center of International Strategic Studies Sindh (CISSS). The occasion witnessed the participation of distinguished individuals hailing from various fields, including academia, the armed forces, the bureaucracy, and other significant domains. The event was moderated by Qazi M. Khalilullah, the Executive Director of CISSS. Notably, several prominent figures graced the occasion with their presence. Among them were Senator Javed Jabbar, Ikram Sehgal, Prof. Dr. Khalida Ghaus, Eng. Dr. Muhammad Afzal Haq, and the esteemed Chief Guest, Advisor Development National Command Authority, Lt. Gen. (R) Khalid Ahmed Kidwai NI, HI, HI(M) who shared their insights and expertise, shedding light on the various chapters and themes explored within Dr. Huma Baqai's book. The Interaction publishes the thoughtful address by Lt. Gen. (R) Khalid Ahmed Kidwai for the benefit of our readers in the following pages.



(L to R) Lt. Gen. (R) Khalid Ahmed Kidwai NI, HI, HI(M), Mr. Ikram Sehgal, Dr. Huma Baqai, Ambassador (R) Qazi M. Khalilullah, Prof. Dr. Khalida Ghaus & Senator Javed Jabbar

### Address by

Lt. Gen. (R) Khalid Ahmed Kidwai, Adviser Development National Command Authority, during the launch event for Dr. Huma Baqai's book

"Collected Works on Foreign Affairs and Security Policy"



Bismillah Ar Rehman Ar Raheem.

- Professor Dr. Huma Baqai, Senator Javed Jabbar, Mr. Ikram Sehgal, Professor Dr. Khalida Ghaus, Engineer Professor Dr. Muhammad Afzal Haq, Ambassador Qazi Khalilullah, honourable ladies and gentlemen of Pakistan's and Karachi's intellectual galaxy, members from the media, faculty members of DHA Suffa University and of the Center for International Strategic Studies Sindh (CISSS), students of DHA Suffa University. Assalam Alaikum.
- 2. I feel greatly honored to be in the company of this star studded gathering of Pakistan's respected and well known intellectuals, academics and professionals.

These are people who have devoted their lives in the service of Pakistan and brought laurels and pride to Pakistan, and to all of us, by simply excelling in their respective fields of expertise, spreading knowledge far and wide, and making varying contributions to Pakistani society. Between them, there is a huge reservoir of wisdom, intellect, expertise and knowledge that would be the pride of any nation. Let me put it most humbly that Pakistan is immensely proud of all of you.

3. We have gathered here to launch Dr. Huma Baqai's book Collected Works on Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. It is a collection of articles and op-eds written by her during a 4 years period between 2018 and 2022. Dr. Huma Baqai needs no introduction. She is well known, well regarded and held in high esteem not only in Karachi and Pakistan but also internationally.

This large gathering is in itself a recognition of her standing and a tribute. While personally for many years while



serving in Rawalpindi, I had heard much about her outstanding abilities, and had also read some of her incisive articles, I had not had the good fortune of personal interaction with her till a few years ago. It was only when we were in the process of establishing the Center for International Strategic Studies Sindh (CISSS) in Karachi in early 2021, and were looking for potential members for the CISSS Advisory Board that we hit the jackpot. We requested Dr. Baqai to join us on the Advisory Board, and she very promptly and graciously agreed to come on board. CISSS has since been that much richer.

4. As most of you would know Dr. Bagai was Associate Dean Faculty of Business Administration at Karachi's prestigious Institute of Business Administration (IBA) before being appointed as Rector of Millennium Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship (MITE). In her illustrious career besides doing so much else in the academic field, at a fairly hectic pace if I may say, she has now selected 46 articles, probably out of over 100 of her works, to put together as a book that is being launched today. In a 4 years' time window, this comes to a very healthy average of articles per month. Besides indicating what a prolific writer she is, the collection is also a reflection of the depth and mastery that Dr. Bagai enjoys over some





of the most challenging and complex geopolitical issues of our times.

5. Dr. Baqai's canvass of interest, geographically speaking, focuses essentially on the geographical dimensions of the strategic region in which Pakistan is located, and rightly so, because it directly or indirectly bears upon the vital security interests of Pakistan. The subject matter of the book most certainly includes the congenital twins of geopolitics and geo-economics, and the strategic effects that these generate in South Asia specifically on the troubled relationship between Pakistan and India.

This large geographical or strategic expanse forms a fairly neat rectangle on the map from the Middle East in the west to the Asia Pacific region in the east, from Russia and China in the north to the limits of the Arabian Sea in the South and includes for good measure, to our north, the famous Heartland of Mackinder. Add to this the ever looming long distance shadow that is cast on the areas of this strategic mosaic by the United States as a super power of almost a hundred years standing, and you have one of the most critically complex regions of the world where we live.

This is where the current global power games are being played out between a super power the US struggling to retain its so far undisputed status, and a rising China which many believe has already risen, as it subtly and softly challenges the super power in enlarging its influence mostly in areas of geo-economics but also as an extension in geo-politics. Consider the international rush to join the China sponsored BRICS, the SCO and the accompanying de-dollarization wave in trade transactions, and we get the general drift of which way the wind might be blowing; straws in the wind perhaps.

As against this, it appears that the US and 6. the west might just be playing on the back foot in a reactive mode to various Chinese geo-economics and geo-political initiatives. Consider the latest outcomes of the G-20 meeting in New Delhi this last weekend, the Summit Declaration, and most visibly, the announcement of the IMEC, India-Middle East-Europe Corridor in what is clearly a bit of a catch up game to China's Belt and Road Initiative of 2013 (BRI); even the acronym IMEC has a familiar sound bite to CPEC. One wonders though whatever happened to President Biden's earlier initiative of 2021 which was labeled as "Build Back Better World."

As of now however the figures that are being quoted do make an interesting comparison. The BRI mentions 1 Trillion USD plus whereas the IMEC figure has been quoted at 25 Billion USD. Time alone will provide some of the answers.

7. As I talk about this vast strategic cum geographical region that is the focus of Dr. Huma Baqai's works, indirectly, it also indicates the firm grasp that she enjoys over the geo-political and geo-economic issues and developments that continue to emerge in the region from time to time. More often than not these are issues that are inter-linked in a complex web and usually follow a chain of broad continuity in the power play politics and economic policies of the various players in the region.

Yet by the nature of their complexity these remain ever evolving, therefore demanding ever evolving responses from Pakistan's foreign policy and security establishments. As such, from the perspective of the author, and by extension from the perspective of Pakistan, there is never a dull moment for analysts like Dr. Baqai who follow these events and developments closely. In her book she keeps us glued to the strategic subject matters between 2018 and 2022 as these evolved with her incisive views and opinions.



- 8. Pakistan, due to the sheer pulls and pressures of its geo-strategic location and the tough neighbourhood, has invariably and continuously experienced foreign policy challenges throughout the 75 years of its existence. One can go back in our short history and start enumerating, recalling and analyzing each decade since 1947.
- 9. The Fifties and the Sixties, which saw an era of early political instability, belonged subsequently to the relatively stable political and economic period of President Ayub Khan. The period witnessed ironically not only the blossoming of



Pakistan-US romance on the one hand but also included the crucial opening of strategic relations with China on the other hand; the relationship with China has since solidly stood the test of times over several decades, even though the Pakistan-US romance later turned sour. This was also the period when two wars in South Asia, separated in time and space, left deep strategic effects which continue to reverberate till today in one way or another. I refer to the India-China War of 1962 and the India-Pakistan War of 1965.

- 10. The Seventies of Prime Minister Zulfigar Ali Bhutto's era not only consolidated Pakistan's relations with China to a point that these became the cornerstone of Pakistan's security policy, but also brought a breath of fresh air by strengthening Pakistan's relations with the Muslim world especially with the holding of the widely popular Islamic Summit in Lahore in 1974. The Islamic Summit, which was one grand event of its kind, was a truly star studded affair and brought the entire top leadership of the Islamic world to Lahore. It helped in lifting the gloom and doom and the sagaing spirits of Pakistanis after the trauma of the loss of East Pakistan in 1971.
- 11. Most importantly, however, from the

perspective of Pakistan's then weakened security especially after the explosion of a nuclear device by India in 1974 at Pokhran, the Bhutto era marks the birth of Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme and is therefore, in my view, the most critical decade of Pakistan's history from a security point of view. When we reflect on it, you will probably agree that if that decision had not been taken then, Pakistan today, minus the nuclear weapons capability, would have been at the mercy of its ruthless adversaries.

12. The Eighties of General Zig ul Hag's rule saw the continuation of the development of Pakistan's nuclear capability on the one hand, but on the other hand, we also witnessed the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union in 1979 thereby raising the specter of Communism and Communist USSR becoming Pakistan's ominous neighbours if not pushed back. Both developments had profound effects on Pakistan's security. While the nuclear programme continued to be developed to secure Pakistan against external agaression for times to come, the war in Afghanistan against the Soviet occupation, though successful in expelling the USSR from the neighbourhood, left lasting negative and destabilizing effects on Pakistan's internal security with which we continue to grapple



to this day. Also in this decade, we can add the consequences on Pakistan's internal dynamics of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979. It has had debilitating effects on Pakistan's internal security and stability with the rise of sectarianism.

13. The Nineties were a period of layers upon layers of US military and economic sanctions against Pakistan because of Pakistan's continued pursuit of the nuclear programme; this, after Pakistan had served the US interest in organizing the fight against the USSR which eventually led to its disintegration. Pakistan felt used and discarded.

The term "transactional relationship"



came into usage and has left a lasting bitterness in Pakistan-US relationship. The Nineties also saw the birth of the Taliban movement in Afahanistan with its inevitable negative fallout on Pakistan. The one item, however, that remained rock solid in the Nineties too was the national determination and consensus to develop Pakistan's nuclear capability irrespective of the government in power. Pakistan's finest hour also belongs to the Nineties when in May 1998 Pakistan responded to India's five nuclear tests with six of our own. The nuclear programme thus emerged out of the closet and Pakistan became the seventh nuclear

power in the world finding stable security against external aggression.

14. There is no doubt that the two decades of this 21<sup>st</sup> Century have been defined and shaped worldwide by the events of 9/11 while also retaining the influences in many ways of the events and strategic effects generated earlier in the five decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. While Pakistan's robust nuclear deterrence continued to enforce peace of sorts on the eastern border, howsoever fragile, it is the western borders and the state of internal security especially in Baluchistan and the KPK which have become problematic for Pakistan.

The fallout of the post 9/11 US invasion of Afghanistan and Pakistan's participation in the war on terror continues to haunt Pakistan. Some of this can also be attributed to the fallout of the global struggle between the US and China. Pakistan's close strategic relationship with China particularly the unfolding of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been opposed by the US and India in an anti-Pakistan, anti-China nexus and therefore the fillip to the insurgencies in the two critical provinces keeps Pakistan destabilized.

15. As you might conclude from the foregoing seven-decade recap that I have placed before you, Pakistan's decision makers have invariably been confronted by global and regional challenges, which more often than not, were not of our making and were mostly quite beyond Pakistan's control. Pakistan has usually been in a reactive mode and has mostly been responding to the unfolding policies pursued by the US, the USSR of old and Russia of today, China, India and even at times Iran and Afghanistan. These are the dilemmas and dynamics that Pakistan's geo-strategic location shapes and

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# imposes on Pakistan's foreign policy choices and responses.

16. From these 75 years of Pakistan's foreign policy choices and dilemmas, Dr. Huma Baqai has chosen the specific period between 2018 and 2022 during which she has written profusely on a variety of aspects from the perspectives of Pakistan's foreign policy and security policies. In this context, rather than express my views afresh, I will reproduce verbatim and read for the benefit of the audience what I have written in her book as my brief comments, and I quote:

"Dr. Huma Bagai is a very respected academic and prolific writer on Foreign Affairs and Security matters with a deep understanding of the complex web of aeo-strategic challenges that face Pakistan. In my judgement, she belongs to the realistic school of thought with feet firmly placed on the ground with respect to Pakistan's security dilemmas. Collected Works on Foreign Affairs and Security Policy is a collection of 46 brilliantly analysed articles written by her in the critical period from 2018 to 2022, a period which includes major security events like the Pulwama Balakot skirmish with India, the deep freeze in India-Pakistan relations, the inevitable though chaotic US withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Taliban takeover and its ramifications



PAKISTAN

for Pakistan, the rise of the Middle Eastern version of Glasnost and Perestroika, and the Ukraine War. In each of these developments, Dr. Baqai has presented rational and realistic analysis from the Pakistani perspective in the relevant articles. The book is a highly recommended read for any student or practitioner of geo-political policies in Pakistan," unquote. Do I need to say any more?

- 17. Yes, I think. There is one final word that I would like to say. And this is exclusively to my very dear up and coming students of the DHA Suffa University who are studying International Relations, Strategic Studies, or any other subject, and also to the Faculty of the Center for International Strategic Studies Sindh (CISSS), who are also in some ways both researchers and students at the same time. Both are present here in strength.
- 18. This book by Dr. Baqai should be studied by each one of you as a classic edition, a textbook primer perhaps, of how op-eds and articles on strategic issues should be written, how a subject matter or topic should be selected according to its importance, relevance and currency, how the subject matter should be described and elaborated, how the issues should be analysed critically from all aspects particularly for their relevance to the





larger issues of Pakistan's security, and finally, drawing from the arguments evolved, placing possible but realistic options, choices, and recommendations for the reader and for that matter for policy managers to exercise as a response to the issues under discussion.

Between the lines, Dr. Baqai's book provides ample guidelines on the writing methodology on how to organize your op-ed or article. Please use the book as a learning tool. And if there is one word that I would like to emphasise upon when it comes to offering options, choices or recommendations, that word is 'realism'.

Do not lose touch with the cold reality of the real world! Stay within the realms of prevailing ground realities, and understand the strengths as well as limits of Pakistan's national power potential; remain mindful of how the real world operates; remember that the real world is ruthless and seeks to serve respective national interest only. The world rides rough shod with policies and there is no room for compassion or sentiments when it comes to national interests. In the same vein therefore, your business too is to look out for Pakistan's national interest through cold, calculated, dispassionate analysis but with a very clear reality check and understanding of the national power



potential. Remember there are limits to power; even the US has limits to power; recall Vietnam and Afghanistan; recall the USSR in Afghanistan and Russia today in Ukraine. Do not live in a dream world or expect an ideal world. See things from the view point of Pakistan's national interest only. Remember the geo-political practitioner's cardinal principle: friends and enemies are not permanent, only national interests are permanent.

- 19. As I end I would like to offer my sincere felicitations to Dr. Huma Baqai on the publication of this latest book of hers. It's a great effort that she has made and I am sure that it will find due recognition and place in the limited literature that is available on Pakistan's foreign affairs and security policy. I also hope that she will continue to write on some of the critical challenges that continue to confront Pakistan despite her heavy workload as Rector of the University. My good wishes for her.
- 20. I thank you, ladies and gentlemen.



### THE STRATEGIC BENEFITS OF PAKISTAN'S J-10 C ACQUISITION



MIRZA KASHIF BAIG

Pakistan's acquisition of the Chengdu J-10C fighter jet represents a significant development in the country's efforts to bolster its air force capabilities. This article explores the various benefits that the J-10C brings to Pakistan, ranging from enhancing its air combat capabilities to strengthening its defense posture in the region.

#### 1. ENHANCED AIR COMBAT CAPABILITIES

The Chengdu J-10C is a modern, fourthgeneration multirole fighter aircraft equipped with advanced avionics and weaponry. By incorporating this cutting-edge platform into its air force, Pakistan significantly enhances its air combat capabilities. The J-10C's agility, speed, and advanced radar systems make it a formidable asset in both air-to-air and air-toground combat scenarios. Pakistan's air force can now better protect its airspace and respond effectively to potential threats.

#### **2. TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS**

The J-10C's avionics suite includes an AESA (Active Electronically Scanned Array) radar, providing Pakistan with improved situational awareness and target tracking





capabilities. This advanced radar technology allows for better detection and tracking of enemy aircraft, even in challenging electronic warfare environments. Additionally, the J-10C's glass cockpit and modern flight control systems empower Pakistani pilots with state-of-the-art tools, enhancing their operational effectiveness.

#### **3. MULTIROLE CAPABILITIES**

One of the key advantages of the J-10C is its versatility as a multirole fighter. Pakistan can employ this aircraft in various mission profiles, such as air-to-air combat, air-to-ground strikes, and electronic warfare operations. This flexibility is vital in modern warfare, where military forces must adapt to dynamic and diverse threats. The J-10C's ability to switch between roles ensures Pakistan's air force is prepared for a wide range of contingencies.

# 4. AIR SUPERIORITY AND REGIONAL BALANCE

Pakistan's acquisition of the J-10C enhances its air superiority in the region, particularly in the context of its longstanding rivalry with India. The J-10C's advanced capabilities level the playing field and act as a deterrent to potential adversaries. This contributes to regional stability by promoting a balance of power and reducing the likelihood of conflict escalation.

#### 5. EXPORT POTENTIAL

Pakistan's decision to acquire the J-10C also has implications for its defense industry and potential exports. As Pakistan gains experience with the J-10C, it may consider exporting the aircraft to other countries, thereby strengthening its position in the international arms market. This export potential could bolster Pakistan's economy and forge new defense partnerships with other nations.

#### 6. INDIGENOUS DEFENSE INDUSTRY GROWTH

The acquisition of advanced platforms like the J-10C can boost Pakistan's indigenous defense industry. By working closely with China to integrate and maintain the J-10C, Pakistan's defense sector gains valuable experience and expertise in aircraft maintenance, technology transfer, and defense production. Over time, this collaboration can lead to the development of domestic capabilities, reducing dependence on foreign suppliers and fostering selfreliance.

# 7. INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING FLEET

Pakistan already operates various fighter aircraft, including the JF-17 Thunder and F-16 Fighting Falcon. The J-10C's compatibility with existing aircraft and systems streamlines the integration process, enabling Pakistani pilots to transition smoothly to the new platform. This facilitates operational readiness and minimizes training and logistical challenges.

# 8. MODERNIZATION OF THE AIR FORCE

The introduction of the J-10C into Pakistan's air force is part of the country's broader efforts to modernize its military. This modernization includes upgrading equipment, improving training, and enhancing overall readiness. A more capable air force contributes to Pakistan's national security and defense capabilities, ensuring it can respond effectively to emerging threats.

#### **CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS**

While the acquisition of the J-10C offers numerous benefits, it also presents challenges and considerations for Pakistan. These include the need for ongoing maintenance and support, potential geopolitical implications, and financial costs. It is crucial for Pakistan to carefully manage these factors to maximize the benefits of its investment in the J-10C.

#### CONCLUSION

Pakistan's acquisition of the Chengdu J-10C fighter jet represents a significant step forward in enhancing its air combat capabilities and regional defense posture. The advanced technology, multirole capabilities, and export potential of the J-10C offer Pakistan numerous strategic advantages.

As Pakistan continues to integrate and operate the J-10C, it positions itself as a formidable force in the region while contributing to its broader defense and security objectives. The J-10C acquisition underscores Pakistan's commitment to maintaining a strong and capable air force in the face of evolving security challenges.





Lt Gen Khalid Ahmed Kidwai NI, HI, HI(M), (Red) Advisor Development National Command Authority

> 1241/DO/AD NCA/8/23 \_\_\_/(\_ Sep 2023

Mr Nusrat Mirza Chairman Rabita Forum International (RFI) Karachi

Dear Massat Misza Lahib,

السَلّام عَلَيْكُم وَرَحْمَةُ اللهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Thank you very much for sending the book "جوہری نشر تحقیق". Research work undertaken in this book is informative and covers aspects of strategic and security issues of contemporary relevance. The standard is indeed high and praiseworthy.

The most appreciable part is that the book has been written in our national language Urdu, which makes it accessible to the masses for comprehension and general awareness.



With best regards,

### INTRODUCTION TO PAKISTAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION(PAEC)



#### INTERACTION TEAM

This series is dedicated to showcasing the remarkable achievements and vital contributions of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) and its affiliated institutions. It aims to provide readers with insights into Pakistan's nuclear advancements, including nuclear science, energy production, healthcare breakthroughs, agricultural innovations, and environmental conservation, all driven by PAEC's pioneering efforts. The series draws extensively from the insightful book "Johari Nishtar e Tehqeeq," the first-ever Urdu book on the topic, authored by Chief Editor of the monthly Interaction, Nusrat Mirza. It offers a unique perspective on untold stories, significant milestones, and the unwavering commitment of PAEC and its dedicated scientists and researchers.

The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) is a prominent institution at the forefront of science, technology, and national development in Pakistan. Established in 1956, it has evolved into the country's largest scientific and governmental organization, with a diverse mission encompassing nuclear research, energy production, healthcare, agriculture, and environmental conservation.

**Energy Production:** PAEC plays a pivotal role in developing nuclear power plants in Pakistan, such as the Karachi Nuclear Power Complex (K-1, K-2, K-3) and Chashma Nuclear Power Plants (C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4), adding 3600 MW of nuclear power to the national energy grid. It aims to meet ambitious targets of producing 8,800 MW by 2030 and 40,000 MW by 2050.

**Medicine:** PAEC utilizes nuclear technology for healthcare, offering advanced cancer diagnosis and treatment, radiopharmaceuticals, and medical isotopes. Its 19 Atomic Energy Cancer Hospitals (AECH)



provide critical healthcare services to cancer patients across Pakistan.

**Agriculture & Biotechnology:** PAEC enhances agriculture productivity through nuclear technology, introducing new crop varieties, pest control methods, plant nutrition, and water management. Over 130 crop varieties have been developed, and education programs for farmers are organized to disseminate knowledge.

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INTERVIEW

### THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT TOUCHES DOWN AT SKURDU AIRPORT, (GOVERNOR GB)



#### TRANSCRIBED BY: SYED ZAIN UL ABIDEEN

Rabita Forum International (RFI) Digital TV Channel recently conducted an exclusive interview with the Governor of Gilgit Baltistan (GB),

#### Syed Mehdi Shah.

The conversation has been transcribed and featured in the monthly Interaction, ensuring accessibility to a wider audience.

#### **Nusrat Mirza,** Chairman of RFI Digital Channel, hosted the interview.



**Q:** Gilgit-Baltistan stands as the gateway to CPEC, a vital corridor for Pakistan's prosperity. How would you assess CPEC's impact on this region?

A: Indeed, Gilgit-Baltistan serves as the key gateway to CPEC, but unfortunately, its benefits have not been fully realized yet. Neglecting this region could jeopardize the success of CPEC, as it forms the backbone of Pakistan's development. The credit for this project, however, goes to former President Asif Ali Zardari, who visited China eight times during his tenure. I, too, have visited China twice as Chief Minister, and I am hopeful that CPEC will thrive.

**Q:** Do you have any concerns about its success?

**A:** The fact is, this region is the key to CPEC's success. Instead of attempting to obstruct this path, we should strive to open it further. An assortment of smaller projects won't make a significant impact. The Karakoram Highway, an older project, is integral to CPEC's existence.

**Q:** Which projects would you recommend for inclusion in CPEC to enhance Gilgit Baltistan's development?

**A:** If power production plans are incorporated into CPEC, they alone could bring prosperity to the entire region. We can generate 45,000 MW of affordable electricity, following China's example of supplying free power to its industries. This could help alleviate Pakistan's severe power crisis, saving foreign exchange spent on oil-operated power plants when we have abundant, inexpensive natural resources.

**Q:** In your opinion, where should hydroelectric power plants be installed for maximum impact?

**A:** There are numerous locations along the

Skardu to Gilgit route with fast-flowing water suitable for power generation. A substantial plant is under construction in Poonji, albeit with slow progress.

**Q:** What's the status of creating an industrial zone in Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir?"

**A:** Documentation exists, but it has not been finalized yet, which is disappointing. One the other hand, the shortfall in electricity supply is increasing with rising demand. If the transmission line plans were included in CPEC, we could take advantage of the 45,000 MW electricity production potential.

**Q:** How can the transmission line issues be resolved?

A: As I've previously suggested, transmission line projects should be included in CPEC. Investors are eager to start businesses here, but the power crisis deters them. We must seize the opportunity to generate electricity from our abundant natural resources.

**Q:** What alternatives are there for power generation during winter?"

**A:** Plans for a large dam are in progress. If the Diamer Bhasha dam is constructed, we will have a reliable alternative. Additionally, work on smaller projects in various locations is



ongoing. A 35 MW production plant is planned in Wada, addressing the need for 500 MW of electricity in Gilgit Baltistan. However, tenders for the Warey power plant are yet to be released, and it will take several years to complete the dam before constructing the power plant.

**Q:** Have you noticed any increase in the trade with China due to the One Belt, One Road initiative? Can this corridor generate revenue for Gilgit-Baltistan?

**A:** Indeed, there is potential for substantial revenue from the corridor. However, there should be a consensus. Disputes over river water distribution persist between Sindh and Punjab, although the Indus River originates from Gilgit-Baltistan.

The corridor can undoubtedly boost income, and once our projects are operational, we can sell electricity. The regional grid system's tender has been announced, but it's baffling that the areas where hydropower projects are located won't receive electricity.

**Q:** How many gemstone reserves do we have, and what foreign exchange can Pakistan earn from them?

A: Back in 2009, the administrative affairs were managed by the Chief Minister, who was elected by the assembly. Before that, we had a bureaucratic system in place. Unfortunately, during that period, many individuals exploited the system by leasing areas for mining and obtaining substantial bank loans, which were diverted into personal businesses. To address this issue, new laws have been introduced to prevent such practices and promote responsible mineral extraction.

**Q:** That's a necessary step. Now, could you tell us where exactly in Gilgit Baltistan these mineral deposits are located?

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# CULTURAL CORNER INDUS CIVILIZATION (PART-II)



### HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION A GLIMPSE INTO AN ADVANCED ANCIENT SOCIETY



#### INTERACTION TEAM



Harappa is a famous archaeological site located in Punjab, Pakistan, approximately 24 km west of Sahiwal. It's renowned for being the central hub of the Bronze Age Harappan civilization, which is commonly referred to as the Indus Valley Civilization. This civilization spanned a vast region, encompassing areas from Indian Gujarat in the south to Sindh, Rajasthan, Punjab, and Haryana. Remarkably, its influence extended as far east as Uttar Pradesh and as far west as Sutkagendor on the Makran coast of Balochistan, near Iran.

The ancient city of Harappa was once a bustling metropolis, featuring a fortified Bronze Age cityscape. During its peak in the Mature Harappan phase (2600 BC-1900 BC), it boasted a population estimated at around 23,500 residents, covering about 150 hectares of land with clay brick houses. This was considered quite large for its time, and it's the reason why the entire civilization is often named after this site.

Unfortunately, over the years, Harappa suffered significant damage under British and

French rule when bricks from its ruins were repurposed for the construction of the Lahore-Multan Railway. Today, the modern village of Harappa is located less than 1 km from the ancient site, with a relatively small population of around 15,000 people.

In terms of historical development, the Harappan Civilization has its roots in cultures like Mehrgarh, dating back to around 6000 BC. The two major urban centers of Mohenjodaro and Harappa emerged around 2600 BC in the Indus River valley in Punjab and Sindh. This civilization exhibited advanced features, including a possible writing system, wellplanned urban centers, advanced drainage systems, and a diverse social and economic structure. Mohenjo-daro in Sindh and Harappa in west Punjab were pivotal in the rediscovery of this civilization in the 1920s.

According to Kris, H.K. (1995), a renowned archaeologist, The Harappan society relied on surplus agricultural production and extensive trade, conducting



production and extensive trade, conducting commerce with regions like Elam and Sumer in southern Mesopotamia. Both Mohenjodaro and Harappa shared characteristics like differentiated living quarters, flat-roofed brick houses, and fortified administrative or religious centers. However, the urban layouts of these two cities had their unique arrangements.

The Indus Valley Civilization boasted standardized weights and measures and used distinctive seals, possibly for property identification and goods shipment. They utilized copper and bronze, iron was not yet in use. Agriculture thrived with the cultivation of crops like cotton, wheat, rice, and various fruits and vegetables. The civilization also domesticated animals, including the humped bull, and engaged in activities like fowl fighting. Wheel-made pottery adorned with animal and geometric designs was widespread.

Despite their impressive achievements, according to Schug, R. et al. (2013), Harappan society was not entirely peaceful, as evidenced by a high rate of skeletal injuries and signs of battle-related injuries on some skeletons. Leprosy and tuberculosis were present, and the prevalence of disease and trauma increased over time, contributing to the decline of the civilization.

In terms of trade, the Harappans had extensive trade routes along the Indus River, reaching as far as the Persian Gulf, Mesopotamia, and Egypt. Some valuable commodities traded including carnelian and lapis lazuli (precious stones).

Archaeologically, Harappa's occupation can be divided into several phases, starting with the Ravi aspect of the Hakra phase around 3300 2800 BC, followed by the Kot Dijian (Early Harappan) phase from 2800 2600 BC. The Harappan Phase, from around 2600 1900 BC, marked the height of the civilization, covering an area of 150 hectares. This was followed by a Transitional Phase (c. 1900 1800 BC) and the Late Harappan Phase (c. 1800 1300 BC).

One of the most intriguing findings at Harappa is the steatite seals with engravings of human or animal motifs, some bearing pictographic inscriptions that remain undeciphered. These seals have led to debates about their writing system and linguistic origins. There have been claims of connections to Dravidian languages (a family of languages spoken in southern India and Sri Lanka), but these remain uncertain.

Harappa's significance extends to its trade



connections with ancient Mesopotamia, especially Elam, as well as its trading ties with southern India for gold and copper. Archaeological discoveries continue to shed light on this ancient civilization, revealing its complexity and enigma.

In short, Harappa is a remarkable archaeological site that provides valuable insights into the Indus Valley Civilization, an advanced society with a rich cultural and economic legacy, albeit one that faced challenges and eventual decline. Its significance lies not only in its historical importance but also in the mysteries it continues to unravel.
#### Continued from page 32

#### INTERVIEW: SYED MEHDI SHAH, GOVERNOR, GILGIT BALTISTAN

**A:** These mineral deposits can be found in various districts, including Skardu, Sugar, Hunza, and Nagar. In the past, these areas were leased for periods ranging from 70 to 90 years, and any extraction activities can only commence after these leases expire.

**Q:** As per the existing regulations, land ownership by outsiders is prohibited in Gilgit Baltistan. Is there a possibility of reconsidering this law? Could you please provide an update on the status of our tourism industry?

A: While the tourism industry was thriving from 2016-17, certain religious conflicts, particularly in Chilas, have affected Gilgit Baltistan. We achieved a significant milestone by introducing international flights from Skardu, but these developments can be hampered by such issues. For instance, a religious scholar faced an FIR, leading to law and order disruptions. There was an attempt to exploit the situation for promoting regionalism and undermining the flourishing tourism sector.

**Q:** Every country has its own challenges. In a country like US, if provided with an option, more than 20 states would demand their independence. Political differences between



the leaders can't be exploited there but here in Pakistan, we are being imposed with hybrid war. Gilgit Baltistan is not only a tourist attraction but has some strategic importance as well which is the only reason why this area has to face all these challenges. Can it be prevented?

A: While these features were once attractions, the landscape is changing. Ongoing fanaticism disrupts economic activities, and I urge religious scholars and the youth to focus on their future. Many have invested their savinas in hotels and resorts, but for the area and its people to prosper, we need more financial activity. If we ponder over it, Gilgit-Baltistan holds remarkable natural treasures, including six out of the world's eighth largest mountain peaks, including the second-highest mountain globally. However, despite these awe-inspiring wonders, the region faces ongoing disputes over basic rights. It's worth noting that the people of Baltistan willingly joined Pakistan after liberating themselves from Dogra Raj and Indian occupation.

**Q:** During a seminar at Karakarum University, organized by Rabita Forum International, we had the opportunity to learn about the struggle for independence in Gilgit Baltistan. Would you be willing to share more about this with our audience?

A: Certainly, Pakistan gained its independence from Indian occupation in 1947, and remarkably, Gilgit Baltistan achieved its own independence just a year later. An interesting fact about this struggle is related to Thorgo, an area in Skardu. The people of Thorgo fought courageously, and remarkably, not a single casualty was reported, while in other regions, many sacrificed their lives for the cause.

**Q:** In Uzbekistan, freedom fighters' names are engraved on brass plates for safekeeping.

Shouldn't we do the same?

**A:** We owe a debt of gratitude to our freedom fighters and should pay tribute to them for their sacrifices. In fact, we have erected a monument in "Chinar Bagh" where a ceremony is held every year on the 14th of August to commemorate their contributions.

**Q:** Could you tell us which parts of Gilgit Baltistan are still under Indian control?

**A:** We share borders with them in Laddakh and Kargil. Similar to Azad Jammu and Kashmir, there should be a road link to these areas.

**Q:** I have been to Gilgit Baltistan thoroughly and I think it's essential for people around the world to know about this beautiful region and the unmatched hospitality of its natives. Have you formulated any strategies for promoting it?



A: Despite the unmatched beauty and hospitality that Gilgit-Baltistan offers, it's crucial to sustain and enhance economic activities. Through your channel, I kindly urge religious scholars and the younger generation to direct their attention toward the region's future, which holds enormous promise.

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#### INTRODUCTION TO PAKISTAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION(PAEC)

#### Industrial and Environmental Applications:

Nuclear technology is employed for industrial processes, environmental monitoring, and sustainable water resource management, contributing to environmental conservation and development.

**Nuclear Security:** PAEC places a high priority on securing Pakistan's nuclear assets, implementing stringent security measures and



protocols to prevent unauthorized access.

Research and Development: The Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology (PINSTECH) is the epicenter of R&D within PAEC, conducting multidisciplinary research and collaborating with international scientific organizations, including the IAEA.

**Education and Training:** PAEC has established educational and training institutes like the Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS), Karachi Institute of Power Engineering (KINPOE) and CHASHNUPP Centre of Nuclear Training (CHASCENT) to develop skilled professionals in nuclear science and technology. In summary, PAEC is a vital institution dedicated to harnessing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, advancing scientific research, and safeguarding the nation's nuclear assets. It collaborates internationally to ensure nuclear technology's peaceful use and safety standards.

# JOE BIDEN IS BECOMING DANGEROUS REMOVE HIM NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

#### **ALLISTER HEATH**

You are not supposed to say so in polite company, but Joe Biden is no longer fit to be President of the United States. It would be a lot better for America, and for the rest of the free world, were he to step down early for reasons of ill-health, or at the very least not stand again for the presidency.

Such thinking is anathema to the US coastal elites, who are terrified that it could let a Right-wing Republican either Donald Trump or a more competent but equally radical rival into the White House. So, they pretend not to notice Biden's gaffes, blunders and tragic signs of rapidly deteriorating capacity and ignore that he seems to be protecting his wayward son, Hunter, from the full force of the law.

To the Left-wing establishment, denying such deeply uncomfortable realities amounts to a noble lie in the Platonic tradition, a case of the ends justifying the means; to many others, it looks more like a case of misplaced cruelty, a callous decision to keep an 80-year old man in office when he would be far better off enjoying his retirement.

The incidents are accumulating daily. Biden announced he was "going to bed" before being cut off mid-sentence by an aide at a press conference. He walked out of a ceremony, leaving a war hero alone on stage. He appears to speak in riddles, or proffers strange quotations in answer to questions. He seems wedded to reading from notes, and unable to ad lib on any difficult issue.



Watching old videos from the 1970s and 1980s, it is almost impossible to recognise the brilliant Biden of yore in today's shockingly diminished president. Ronald Reagan, whose health was permanently damaged after an assassination attempt and who went on to suffer from Alzheimer's, was never in anything like such a bad state while in office.

Biden's job is that of CEO of the most powerful country in the world, the leader of the free world, not the chairman emeritus: it is a complex and responsible managerial and executive role, and not just because his hands are hovering over the nuclear button. We all have an interest in the role being exercised by a competent president.

The sort of delegated decision-making we are now seeing "works" in the sense that decisions are evidently taken, presumably by conventionally competent technocrats, but many will be rightly sceptical that they are truly Biden's choices. This is undermining the US system of government, and encouraging despots in China or Russia to dismiss Western



claims of moral superiority.

In the meantime, Biden (or his close associates) are busily trashing America's rule of law and allowing critics to depict the entirety of the West as deeply hypocritical. I'm no fan of Donald Trump he was good on tax, regulation and the Abraham accords, but was inflammatory and disorganised, failed repeatedly in many other policy areas and terminally disgraced himself by refusing to concede his obvious defeat.

He probably broke some laws, but the Biden administration looks to be abusing its power by weaponising the Justice Department to destroy him. The presidency should be determined through elections, not court cases. America is turning into the sort of banana republic in which all previous rulers are prosecuted for deeds during their time in office. Perhaps most toxic of all, the American election is thus based on a fundamental untruth: the claim that Biden will be president until 2028 if he is re-elected next year.

Given the apparent speed of his deterioration, there must be very little chance of him lasting more than a couple more years in the White House. By 2025 at the latest, even The New York Times a newspaper which devotes more time to attacking Brexit than to investigating the somewhat more important matter of the health of its president will surely be forced to admit that the game is up. He will eventually resign leaving Kamala Harris to become president for two or three years.

It would be much better to end this charade today. Biden should announce that he isn't standing after all, and either Harris or somebody else would be selected as the Democratic candidate. This would also radically shift the Republican dynamic. Trump might beat Biden, and certainly Harris, but he may not be so well placed against Gavin Newsom, the Governor of California, or another leading Democrat.

America's politics is stuck in a disastrous replay of the 2020 election, with two greatly sub-optimal candidates fighting each other. Removing Biden might allow the Republicans to reconsider whether they really want somebody who might be in prison this time next year to be their candidate.

A more radical possibility would be for Biden to resign before his term is up and hand over to Harris. She would be an even worse president than Biden but at least she would be in full control of the administration. It would be preferable to have her in power for a year than for a lot longer in a second Biden-Harris term. If, as currently seems likely, Biden and his family resist any of this, the Democrats should rebel to force their hand and seek to reopen the Democratic primaries.



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# **URBAN DECAY**



RIDA EJAZ

Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan, has been a strategically significant region. The present-day Quetta City was founded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a British Garrison Town and is considered the main urban center for the province. The British developed the area around the railway line that connects Quetta to Afghanistan and Iran and built a high proportion of robust infrastructure in the form of barracks, forts, and garrison structures, which aided the city's development.

However, after the 1935 earthquake, the city was devastated. This destruction led to the construction of predominantly modern buildings with weak infrastructure policies. This is accompanied by rapid urbanization, making Quetta, Pakistan's 10th most populous city. Today, the city is aiming to accommodate a population that is 30 times larger than its original capacity.

The urban sprawl, resulting from rural migration and an influx of refugees,



contributes to the city's urban decay. The central focus of this article is to analyze the urbanization pattern and address the challenges of urban decay in Quetta, Balochistan. It underscores the necessity for serious development and planning efforts to ensure a decent quality of life for its growing population.

Decay refers to the deteriorating condition of housing and the absence of open spaces. Over the past few decades with over one million urban population rise, Quetta has witnessed a considerable urban sprawl trend, affecting its urban land use management, and organic growth.

From 1998 to 2017, numerous new locations in the city's north and south emerged as real estate options without proper facilitation. The lack of efficient planning and enforcement has notably worsened the condition of the housing infrastructure. This deterioration leads to a decline in the city's livability. It not only gives rise to social issues but also results in economic and environmental problems.

The dry weather pattern poses a further challenge to the city and places it in the seismic zone of Pakistan. According to the findings about house location, 33% of houses are found in the city's inner core and nearly 50% are found in the outer core. In a similar vein, 12% and 6% of homes are situated on the perimeter and outer periphery, respectively.

The city's inner and outer core sections are crowded with homes, and commercial

buildings, and deal with all the issues that an overpopulated place brings. It has been determined that homes, and buildings in central regions are declared as the most vulnerable region to earthquake hazards.

Residential flats are interspersed with commercial spaces, leaving little room for traffic with no communal parks for residents. Major commercial streets such as Masjid Road, and Jinnah Road are presenting a picture of chaos because four out of every five shops have constructed four-story flats above them.

The situation deteriorates further due to the construction of numerous commercial multistory buildings on these streets. One prominent example is Dawood Mall, which is an eight-story structure directly opposite the four-story Tauba Masjid. The critical concern arising from these constructions is the lack of proper permits and adherence to safety standards. In the unfortunate event of an earthquake, the structural integrity of these buildings will be compromised, potentially leading to their collapse. The pressing issue in such a scenario would be the overcrowded streets, which could severely hinder rescue and evacuation efforts, making the situation even more challenging and perilous.

The uncontrolled amalgamation of commercial and residential areas raises another concern that deserves attention. The development of houses in the main markets, such as Liaqat Bazar, Toghi Road, Fakeer Muhammed Road, and Mechonghy Road, leads to poor drainage and sanitation. Every torrential rain badly exposes the poor construction of drainage systems, resulting in the streets becoming inundated.

According to research, around 800,000 residents of Quetta city complained that they live without proper drainage facilities and water resources. The Water and Sanitation Authority (WASA), Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), and Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) also frequently cut roads, creating ditches that no one ever repairs. This situation exposes the people living there to vulnerability.

Under the Quetta Master Plan, several development projects were scheduled, and more than half of them have already been completed. However, there is no significant progress in infrastructure development visible across the city. The lack of governance and adherence to policies creates a gap in the planning and implementation of infrastructure projects.



The management of a vast metropolis is challenging in the absence of a local government system, with only one district administrator responsible for general administration. Therefore, distinguishing between Quetta's urban and rural areas has become increasingly difficult as clear boundaries no longer exist. The boundaries of Quetta should encompass areas like Baleli, Sariab, and Cantonment.

Beyond these areas, another district administration should oversee urban development. New communities are already established beyond these three sites, therefore, they must administer their



government and self-sustaining utilities.

Given the issue of overpopulation, there is an urgent need for the new master and development plans to address the city's growing demands. These plans should regulate the influx of people into already congested areas, with a particular focus on market locations. Local governance bodies must relocate markets from narrow streets to open spaces with the enforcement of strict building codes for the city.

There is also a dire need for civic services in the rural areas. The government must provide

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### JOE BIDEN IS BECOMING DANGEROUS REMOVE HIM NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

There is another, even more extreme scenario that was widely debated during the second half of the Trump presidency, and one which Democratic politicians should now actively consider. Under Section 4 of the US Constitution's 25th Amendment, the vice president and a majority of cabinet can agree that "the president is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office". The president has the right to contest this, and the final decision would require a two-thirds majority vote in Congress. adequate health, education, and employment opportunities to rural communities so that they stop migrating to urban areas. Finally, a sense of ownership must prevail among the people of the city for the benefit of future generations. They should not prioritize their immediate personal gains and should instead adhere to the city's code of conduct.

The author is Research Intern at Balochistan Think Tank Network, Quetta.



One would assume that plenty of Democrats would support removing Biden were such a course of action supported by a majority of his cabinet. At the very least, it could help convince Biden not to stand again in 2024. The reality is that America is likely to flunk it. The Democrats will probably stick with Biden, and the current, half-hearted Republican attempts to impeach him will surely fail. Trump, another gerontocrat, remains on course to be the Republican candidate. The rest of the democratic world needs America to be a beacon among nations, and so we watch on in despair at the slow but inexorable decline of its political culture.

Courtesy: The Telegraph.

#### **Book Review**

## UNDERSTANDING LAND WARFARE CHRISTOPHER TUCK, (ABINGDON, OXON; NEW YORK: ROUTLEDGE, 2022) 322 PAGES

Land Warfare has remained a prominent factor in international politics. States have been developing strategies on operational and tactical levels to strengthen their land defense forces. Christopher Tuck's book, Understanding Land Warfare, is a comprehensive addition to the existing academic literature that focuses on historical and changing contemporary concepts of land warfare.

The book is divided into three parts that





SAFIA MALIK

contain eleven chapters. Part I, The Development of Land Warfare, underlines the fundamental concepts and historical development of modern land warfare since 1900. Part II, What is Victory?, underlines the political and military gains in unconventional, low-intensity asymmetric warfare including counterinsurgency operations, peace operations and hybrid warfare. Part III, The Future, explores possible future developments in land warfare techniques while using Russia and China as case studies.

Part I contains five chapters: (i) Land Warfare in Theory; (ii) The Development of Modern Land Warfare; (iii) Modern Tactics; (iv) Modern Operational Art and the Operational Level of War; and (v) Land Warfare: Context and Variation. These chapters identify land warfare as being different from the air and maritime domains of warfare because of the nature of land itself (p. 41).

The author points out that it is important to understand the political significance of the land including variability, opacity, mutability and pervasive friction to develop strategies on tactical and operational levels. Apart from this, Tuck also examines shift in conducting land warfare from more traditional means such as fire, maneuver, attrition and suppression to multi-domain operations and combined with arms and mission command.

The author also underscores the ways that have changed land warfare by presenting two schools of thought - the evolution and revolution in modern land warfare. Proponents of evolution in modern land warfare give importance to the concept of paradigm shift in land warfare. The concept of paradigm shift was introduced by Thomas Kuhn in his book titled The Structure of Scientific Revolutions (1962).

Kuhn argued that key developments in scientific thinking took place in conditions in which one paradigm gave way to another. Until such a shift occurred, new evidence tended to be subsumed into old patterns of belief (p. 46). Whereas proponents of the idea of revolution in modern land warfare araue that technological developments, economic changes, political developments and organizational innovations have produced sudden fundamental and structural shifts in the character of modern land warfare. Advocates of this view further argue that technological developments and use of emerging tactics would generate a revolution in land warfare techniques.

The author has underlined the varieties of military revolution: (i) Military-Technical Revolution (transformative effect of new technology); (ii) Revolution in Military Affairs (military methods used by armies including the methods through which technology is employed); and (iii) Military-Social Revolution (the result of changes in political, social, economic and military patterns that have shattered the framework of military and economic power at various times).

With respect to modern tactics of land warfare, the author underlines that it emerged during World War I to cope with the growing lethality of firepower. The period 19151918 marked the evolution of the modern tactical system of land warfare including: (i) Tactics based upon combined arms down to the lowest infantry sub-units; (ii) Fire and maneuver; (iii) De-centralization; (iv) Dispersion; (v) Suppression; and (vi) Cover and concealment. The chapter on Modern Operational Art and the Operational Level of War is more focused on the operational art and operational level thinking of modern armies. The operational level of warfare means to plan, conduct and sustain the operations to achieve national strategic objectives. Whereas the cognitive approach of commanders to develop the strategy supported by their skills, knowledge, experience and judgment is called operational art (p. 83).

The author underscores that traditionally, states had struggled to raise and sustain more than one main army at a time. Consequently, the focus of land warfare tended to be tactical: commanders sought to fight a decisive battle that would destroy the enemy's main army (p. 86). The industrial revolution introduced the concept of mass conscription and provided the material resources for states to employ larger armies.

The author points out that the military objective during the nineteenth century was centered around the "strategy of the single point", to concentrate the separate elements of an army against the enemy's forces and to fight a single decisive battle. In 1914, the forces of industrialization, especially in the form of railways, states could spread out and sustain multiple armies across multiple theatres of operation, creating the conditions for what has been termed "linear strategy".

In Land Warfare: Context and Variation, the author points out that theoretically, armies adopt the techniques of successful land forces but in practice, due to the variations and various challenges of military learning including domestic context, organizational influence and cultural factors, armies might sometimes imitate other armies but they also often respond in other ways such as adapting to, compensating for and even ignoring developments elsewhere (p. 129).

Part II consists of three chapters: (i) Counterinsurgency Operations; (ii) Peace and Stability Operations; and (iii) Hybrid Warfare. The author underlines the historical development of the theory and practice of counterinsurgency. The term counterinsurgency is defined as "comprehensive civilian and military efforts designed to simultaneously defeat and contain an insurgency and address its root causes" (p. 141).

Land forces have developed various counterinsurgency techniques to meet new challenges. These techniques include: (i) The primacy of politics; (ii) Long-term planning; (iii) Effective intelligence; (iv) Use of minimum necessary force; and (v) Winning the hearts and minds of local population. The author examines that despite the flourishing tactics of counterinsurgency operations, it remains a difficult task because every operation requires adaptation and innovation. In the chapter on Peace and Stability Operations, the author explores the decisive role of peace and stability operations in land warfare. Peace operations are still conducted in interstate and intra state operations contending with ambitious political mandates, severe humanitarian crises and confounding political dynamics. To play an active role in conflict prevention, conflict management and conflict resolution, the author suggests to revise the traditional concepts of military victory. He emphasizes that victory is now associated with legitimate political solutions and stable longterm peace. The chapter Hybrid Warfare explores the influence of this concept on land In the contemporary world, the warfare. centrality of conventional land warfare is

being challenged by the orchestrated application of the full panoply of military and non-military tools (p. 207).

Part III comprises three chapters: (i) Future Land Warfare; (ii) The Paradigm Army; and (iii) Russia and China. The author initiates the debate on future warfare by exploring the idea of Network-Centric Warfare. It reflects the broader and more fundamental transition from industrial to post-industrial informationbased societies. The upcoming revolutions in military affairs will be shaped by information technologies where the military land warfare tactics will be transformed from traditional tactics to networking, decentralization, disaggregation, multi-service integration and non-linear approaches to warfare.

Tuck argues that land forces concentrate on creating an external and internal environment conducive to rapid adaptation once the nature of the future land warfare challenge becomes clear. The author summarizes that states do not have the luxury of perpetual analysis when it comes to getting ready their land forces for the future choices that have to be made, equipment procured, force structures developed and doctrines created (p. 261).

The remaining two chapters use Russia and China as case studies to identify modern tactics of these states for future land warfare. Tuck identifies that the US land forces are central to the concept of network-centric warfare, based on information-based military revolution since the end of the Cold War. With respect to Russia and China, the author underlines that both countries have followed network-centric approaches in the conventional warfare domain, which aims to strengthen the ongoing information-based military revolution.

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#### **Book Review**

## ESPIONAGE OF THE CENTURY AN UNTOLD STORY AMBASSADOR ZAHID SAEED, (SANG-E-MEEL PUBLICATIONS, 2023) 282 PAGES

The book 'Espionage of the Century: An Untold Story' is a masterpiece written by Ambassador (R) Zahid Said which narrates various notable events of his personal and professional life in a distinct yet frank manner, making readers hooked till the end. The book consists of 282 pages and covers sixteen chapters followed by Reflection in which Ambassador Said covers his experiences while serving as Barrister-at-Law after having graduated from Cambridge University, practicing law in his home country, joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the revert back to law practice at the Supreme Court of Pakistan and other prestigious international courts.

His journey at MOFA where he started as Deputy Legal Advisor opened up for him numerous avenues as a diplomat. All chapters of this book are uniquely written with due diligence, however, the chapter 'The Hague Netherland, Espionage of the Century (1974-1978)' holds center stage, as the title of the book depicts. A brief account of the chapter is given later in the review.

Ambassador Said discusses the geostrategic location of Pakistan and draws parallels to how in history Pakistan had been plunged into unrest and wars due to either troubling neighbors, India and Afghanistan, or as a consequence of the power play of regional countries and the repercussions that followed. Dismemberment of Pakistan in December 1971 is one example and while





discussing the tragic events, the author takes a leap ahead in justifying the use of force by Pakistan army. He made this point while highlighting the uncompromising nature of Sheikh Mujeeb ur Rehman and the atrocities of Awami League, which were then reciprocated by the Pakistan army, something that is known only among the army circle.

The major emphasis of the book is laid on

the author's contribution to making Pakistan a nuclear power. He reflected on the crucial ten days, 20-31 December 1974, when deputed at The Hague, Netherlands as Counselor, he helped transfer the nuclear material from Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, a young Pakistan scientist at that time, to the authorities in Pakistan, using his diplomatic channels. It was no less risky since any slight mishandling of the nuclear material could lead to embarrassment for Pakistan and strained diplomatic relations with the Netherlands.

Having faced the dismemberment of Pakistan in December 1971 and dealing with post-war problems, the Smiling Buddha surfaced as another challenge to Pakistan's security. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the then Prime Minister of Pakistan, responded promptly and reciprocated in the same way by announcing that Pakistan to become a nuclear power at all costs. Dr. Khan at that time was working as a Pakistani scientist in the Netherlands at the production facility of individual parts of the centrifuge process.

It was his idea to use the ultra-centrifuge method to produce enriched uranium for making nuclear weapons. Upon Dr. Khan's insistence and following the request of Dr. Munir Ahmed, Chairman, of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Ambassador Said accepted to help in the transportation of parts of the centrifuge unit and some other documents having instructions, via Pakistan's embassy in Brussels, to be given to authorities in Pakistan, while carrying in diplomatic bags (p.85).

The pressure was huge as even the consent among institutes was not present and Mr. Agha Shahi, the then Foreign Secretary refused Ambassador Zahid to bring the nuclear material to Pakistan, with a clear instruction to dump it (P.79). Here the author makes a point referring to the term espionage, that the entire plan was carried out by an individual in his own capacity to serve his country, hence challenges the western propaganda to consider it an espionage (p.83), state-level spying.

The author further refutes India's claim of stealing the technology from URENCO, where Dr. Khan was working, and maintains that the scope of Pakistan's nuclear program is wider since it enriches Uranium up to 95% as against 5% enrichment in URENCO.

In chapter 8 while serving as DG Afghanistan, Iran, and Turkey, he discusses Pakistan's position as pivotal during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Ambassador Said notes that the Pakistan army's strategy during this time was to keep the pot boiling but not to let it boil over. The army wanted to keep the military assistance to Afghan mujahideen at low-key so that it would not trigger Soviet forces and no clash could be made by the Soviet Union (p. 93).

Other chapters narrate his international postings as Pakistan's representative and are listed as chapters 10, 11, 15, and 16. The Iranian revolution, the Iran-Iraq war, and Iraq's invasion of-Kuwait were other notable regional developments that stirred tensions in the region and Pakistan was no exception who could escape. The manuscript particularly reflects Ambassador Said's contribution towards safeguarding the national interests of Pakistan, especially at his duty stations abroad, and how he had been respected and obeyed among the Pakistani diaspora living in respective countries.

This was particularly evident during Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 when he was serving there as an Ambassador of Pakistan. Another impression the author tries to convey is the importance of negotiation and

bargaining for a representative to preserve his country's national interest. Firstly in African countries, where the author tries to maximize imports of Pakistan's rice; in Kuwait, whereupon his meeting with the then Prime Minister Sheikh Saad and requesting Kuwait's investment in Pakistan for setting up an oil refinery, increase imports of Pakistan's rice and to show solidarity over Kashmir issue; rehabilitation of Pakistani community in Kuwait after Iraq's withdrawal, restoring Pakistani expats to their positions, in spite of the Kuwaiti authorities efforts for new recruits of local people; and to avert the pressure for maximizing imports of Spanish products in Pakistan and refused to purchase Spain's rusted aged rail wagons. Even at homeland, while serving as acting Foreign Secretary in 1994, the author indicates the US' last demarche for rolling back Pakistan's nuclear program was refuted with his diplomatic dealings when the US Ambassador quoted

India's offer to negotiate with Pakistan for a nuclear weapon free zone in South Asia, perhaps, similar offers with Pakistan's name to India were presented as well, who knows!

All these narrations give readers a true picture of success of his success as a diplomat, and above all, the role he played in making Pakistan a nuclear power today. Becoming a nuclear power was the resolve of Pakistani nation and there are many unsung heroes who played an important role and are still not revealed. The matter of fact is that Pakistan is a nuclear power today with the full spectrum of deterrence and people like Ambassador Zahid Said is one of them who helped in one way or another in achieving this goal. Having served to represent Pakistan internationally in such critical times was a profound experience for him, and dealing with the situation with the utmost wit endorses his professional vigor and dedication.

The author is Research Officer of RFI.

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### UNDERSTANDING LAND WARFARE

Both Russia and China have been engaged in the military modernization process despite numerous geopolitical and strategic challenges. The author also emphasizes that both Russia and China now have modernized land forces that are much more capable as compared to past. Both states' processes of reform have featured a drive to produce smaller, more professional, high-technology and networked militaries (p. 285).

Apart from this, the author has also suggested to invest in human resource to produce more professionally competent, educated and creative soldiers to be equipped with the current tactics of land warfare.

The book is an interesting reading that critically examines both conceptual and practical aspects of land warfare. The author brings out traditional as well as contemporary land warfare techniques on a tactical and operational level. He has explored the significance of network-centric warfare techniques as a possible future of land warfare.

According to the author, technological advancement is also important but effective strategy, generalship and psychological dominance over the enemy are decisive factors to gain victory in land warfare.

Safia Malik is Research Officer at Center for International Strategic Studies Sindh (CISSS).



## **RFI DIGITAL TELEVISION** (RABITA FORUM INTERNATIONAL)

Inaugurated by Advisor Development National Command Authority (AD NCA), Lt. Gen. (R) Khalid Ahmed Kidwai NI, HI, HI (M) on May 16, 2023



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RFI Digital TV broadcasts News on a daily basis in Urdu, Sindhi, Pashto, Balochi & Brahvi languages

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3	Beenish Bakhsh	Balochi	
4	Farmanullah Zaheer	Pashto	
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6	Shoeb Thaem	Sindhi	

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6	Beenish Bakhsh	RFI Facts	Balochi
7	Farmanullah Zaheer	Pashto Time	Pashto

### AD NCA's DISCOURSES

RFI Digital TV unlocked the wisdom of AD NCA's following speeches by translating and analyzing them in Urdu, Sindhi, Pashto, Balochi, Brahvi, and English:

- 1. At BTTN on May 8, 2023.
- 2. At ISSI on May 24, 2023.
- 3. At CASS on June 9, 2023.
- 4. At DHA Suffa University on September 12, 2023.

### **INTERVIEWS**

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# **RABITA FORUM INTERNATIONAL**

😯 Plot No.D-123/B, Block-5, Clifton, Karachi, Pakistan.

🖀 +92 21 358 619 35 - 36 🔗 rabitaforum-int@hotmail.com

f www.facebook.com/rfipakistan 🌐 www.rfipakistan.com

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