

SECOND to NONE

QUARTERLY

“ We will not compromise on sovereignty or territorial integrity of Pakistan. Remember, professionally we are Second to None: Air Chief ”

EXCLUSIVE

'Nation Celebrates Surprise Day'

Thunder 'Bravo' Joins the Club

JF-17 Thunder Dual Seater Rolls Out

Passion, Pride & Legacy

A Tale of Zenith & Nadir of Squash in Pakistan

A Man With Midas Touch

A Tribute to Legendary AM Nur Khan



Fearless WARRIORS

PAF SSW - Beyond the Call of Duty

Battle For SHER AFGAN

A Saga of Marksmanship, Pride & Professionalism





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from the Editor-in-Chief

With the first issue of Second to None, a small yet unwavering team set out to achieve an enormous task. Several late nights and endless efforts later, we finally produced an edition of the magazine that we were content with. As we waited with baited breath, it was read by enthusiasts from all spheres of life.

Then, the praise started rolling in. It was beyond what we had hoped for and all our hard work got recognition. We thank you, our readers from all across the world, for the appreciation, for your kind words and the overwhelming response for making the inaugural magazine, a huge success.

Now, we present to you the second edition. We have touched upon variety of topics and the magazine has been curated with even more meticulous care. With the first anniversary of Operation Swift Retort (OSR), we celebrate the resilience of the nation and analyze the events which made headlines during last one year. It further delves into the history and dynamics of auspicious Inter Squadron Armament Competitions (ISAC) and its skillful Sher Afgans. We also pay tribute to Wg Cdr Nauman Akram (Shaheed), the man who left many a hearts forlorn but much more filled with pride. Speaking of men who make PAF proud, we shall step into the boots of SSW Commandos, dauntless men who are trained to overcome all and any. It goes without saying that remarkable men are molded by great leaders, and PAF has had the fortune of having the finest: one of whom is Air Marshal Malik Nur Khan. The strategic and commercial gains of JF-17B Dual Seater, which has been recently acquired, are also pondered upon. Moving on from Aviation and PAF,

we chronicle the incomparable legacy of Squash in country and the efforts being made by PAF to reclaim the lost glory. Another sport in which the nation is rapidly becoming a significant player on global scale is skiing, with skiers and enthusiasts coming in droves from all over the world. We also shed light on the deeply perturbing political and social scenario in our neighbor, India, where a single party has gripped the nation in xenophobic hate and fear. Finally, we talk about COVID 19, delving deep into what makes the virus so deadly and what measures are being taken by PAF alongside Govt of Pakistan/ other sister services to prevent its spread. We hope and pray that by the time the magazine is published, the humanity has recovered from the menace of this deadly pandemic.

The cover picture has been selected to emphasize on the success of the JF-17 Thunder project. OSR was the perfect arena for PAF's indigenous, single-engine, super-maneuverable JF-17 Thunder to be battle tested and it more than proved its mettle.

So, strap-up, because you are in for a thrilling ride!



Muhammad Ali

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Over Sea of Clouds : Flying the F-16, air superiority fighter, Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, closes-in at supersonic speed (Photo: PAF Archive)

03 Nation Celebrates Surprise Day

by Air Cdre (R) Muhammad Ali, SI(M)

One year on, the resilient Pakistani nation celebrates the triumph of its air force in the form of 'Surprise Day' to commemorate Operation Swift Retort in which the enemy was dealt a humiliating blow.

11 Battle For SherAfgan Continues...

by Air Cdre (R) Muhammad Ali, SI(M)

When it comes to professionalism of PAF fighter pilots, nothing can parallel the grandeur of the Inter-Squadron Armament Competition and its intrepid Sher Afgans.

23 Fearless Warriors

by Muhammad Khan

The author chronicles the legend of the uncanny SSW Commandos and what makes them the inexorable force that they are.

35 Passion, Pride & Legacy

by S. Khalil

The history of Zenith and Nadir of Squash in Pakistan; a plunge into the glorious past and a gleam of hope for a sport revered by the entire nation.

47 A Man with Midas Touch

by Muhammad Khan

Tribute to AM Nur Khan: The man who single-handedly steered the success of not just PAF but every organization that had the fortune of having him at the helm.

55 A Griffin Personified

by S. Khalil

Gone but Never Forgotten- A tribute to the revered Sher Afgan and one of the most skilled fighter pilots of PAF, Wg Cdr Nauman Akram (Shaheed), who would stay alive in the hearts of nation for the times to come.

59 Thunder Bravo Joins the Club

by Alan Warnes

The author spins the tale of how PAF acquired the Dual Seat JF-17B Thunder and what makes the warplane so relevant.

65 Hindutva Shows Its True Colours

by Ghanwa Ijaz & Dr. Usman Chohan

After 73 years of independence, Quaid's Two Nations Theory stands vindicated as BJP's hatemongering leaves Indian Muslims bleeding and marginalized.

71 Future of Pakistan: Economy, Opportunities and Challenges

by Aneeqa Saifdar & Dr. Usman Chohan

The author analyzes Pakistan's economy, trade potential and what the future holds for the valiant nation.

75 COVID 19: Humanity under Lock Down

Dr Tahir Naeem

The author elaborates on the novel 'Corona Virus' that has caused global mayhem, its symptoms and ramifications. The article also elaborates the measures taken by PAF to control its spread.

79 The Afghan Settlement: Peace at Last?

by Falak Sher Khan

Being caught between the invading US forces and the Taliban regime, the Afghani people live uncertain and hard lives. With peace agreement finally sealed between both sides, what does the future hold for the resilient nation?

83 A Tribute to Paint & Brush Maestro

by S. Khalil

The inspiring story of a maestro who immortalized PAF's glorious history through paint and brush.

89 A View From the Slopes of Malam Jabba

Talha Ul Huda

The author encapsulates the emerging sport of skiing in Pakistan, with an exponential growth of foreign athletes and enthusiasts, every year.

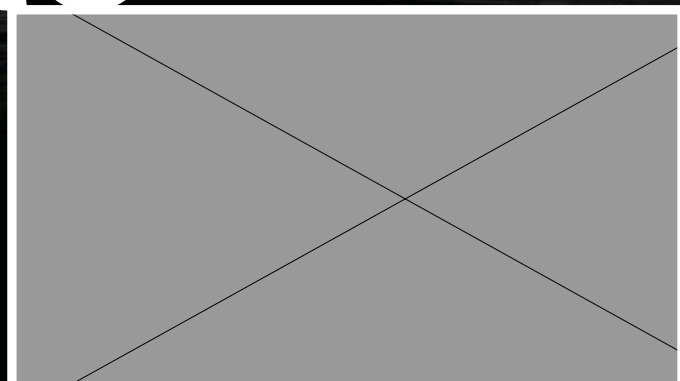
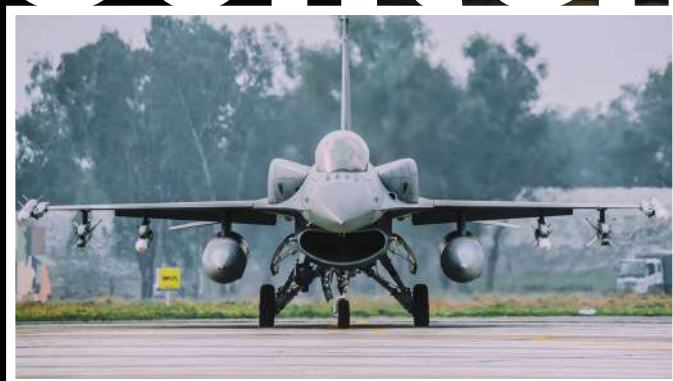
93 'Au Revoir' Azam Khan: You will be Remembered...

by S. Khalil

The editorial team bids farewell to one of the greatest squash players of all time, who succumbed to Corona Virus, but his smashes will echo in the Squash world eternally.



Contents



SUBSCRIBE FOR THE YEAR AND SAVE! 25%

Nation Celebrates SURPRISE DAY

'First Anniversary of Operation Swift Retort'



“Air Domination at Stake : Once again, a better cause and planning, better leadership and equipment and beyond everything else, the know how valour of men in blue, gave Pakistan victory during Operation Swift Retort (OSR) ”

Above: The terrifying triad that triumphed in OSR: A F-16, a Mirage and a JF-17 fly together in the 'Surprise Day' Ceremony held in Islamabad (Photo: Awais Lali)

Right Page: Aiming for the skies - A JF-17 pulls up in a gravity-defying maneuver during a ceremony held on 27th February to commemorate Operation Swift Retort. (Photo: Awais Lali)

It was a bright and clear morning, with excellent visibility to assault the Indian Air Force with an onslaught of haunting memories of the last time it violated Pakistan air space. It soon became apparent to the intruders that trespassers will be shot at. Wg Cdr Noman Ali fired an air to air missile, he promptly announced 'Fox Three', the brevity code for an active radar-guided missile hit. He returned to base, signed

the jet back to a ground crew that was made up of questions when they noticed a payload missing from under the wing. He went in for debriefing and prepared for the next mission. There was no time to be puffed up, no time to celebrate. Orders from Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan to his men were clear - to cloak themselves in humility, for God gives grace to the humble. For the next five months

Pakistan Air Force was on constant alert, no time to relax. Fast forward a year, Pakistan Air Force allowed a brief period of rejoicing. On the morning of 27th February, 2020, PAF marked the first anniversary of 'Operation Swift Retort' (OSR), which resulted in the downing of two Indian planes that had violated Pakistani airspace, last year. At a solemn





ceremony, Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, made his words count again, "While I assure Pakistani nation of the preparedness of the air force to counter threats, we will not compromise on sovereignty or territorial integrity of Pakistan. Remember, **professionally we are Second to None.**" The Air Chief further added, "Pakistan Air Force, living up to its legacy, yet again

made its mark through professional excellence and valor during Operation Swift Retort last year. Indeed, PAF's prompt, measured and surprising response busted the aggressor's arrogance". He further said, "Today, I reiterate that commitment and caution; to respond to the aggressor was our compulsion, but measured and calibrated response was entirely our choice".

• Above: A trio of JF-17 Thunders on the verge of executing a perfect break on the first anniversary of OSR on 27th February 2020. (Photo: Snr Tech Qadeer)

• Right: Words that echoed through the nation: Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan delivers an arousing speech on the first anniversary of OSR on 27th February 2020. (Photo: Snr Tech Iftikhar)



A Triumph preserved in Marble: The sleek monument erected at PAF Base Mushaf reminds us of the success of OSR. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Earlier, a formation of fighter aircraft comprising F-16, Mirage and JF-17 Thunder aircraft which actively participated in 'Operation Swift Retort' appeared in the clear blue skies of Islamabad to commence the proceedings of the day. The lead, an F-16, was flown by Wg Cdr Ghaffar Buzdar in front seat and Sqn Ldr Hassan Siddiqui (officer who shot down an IAF SU-30 during OSR) in the rear. Flying in a tight formation, the Mirage on the left wing was flown by Sqn Ldr Abdul Rehman and JF-17 on the right by Sqn Ldr Abdullah. Seconds later, a JF-17 Thunder formation followed, same platform that played a significant role in the success of Operation Swift Retort.

The sky was blue and the air was filled with the spirit of commemoration. In the federal capital, as indeed in towns and cities throughout the country, it was the same story, rejoicing was off the ration. Families all across PAF bases and crowds who had turned up at Sea View, Karachi for the spectacular air show had waited for this moment. All the pent up joy of last year was unleashed. Jets flew in formations over cheering crowds. Prime Minister Imran Khan declared 27 February to be celebrated across the country as the Surprise Day

From the capital to any other city in the country, Tuesday 26th February was another

• Above: Flares over Sea View - Spectators look on in awe as Sherdils fly in an arrowhead formation during 'Wings of Freedom' air show held on 27th February in Karachi. (Photo: Dawn.com)

• Bottom: Suspended in Glory - A F-16 caught spectacularly while performing alpha pass maneuver during 'Wings of Freedom' air show held on 27th February in Karachi. (Photo: Dawn.com)



“ The eager spectators arrived in droves to behold the Wings of Freedom Air show, setting Karachi's Sea View alight with exhilaration. ”

typical working day. There was nothing to indicate that this was going to be anything but just another Tuesday, when six Indian jets sneaked into Pakistan's air space during night. They dropped their payload in panic under threat from incoming PAF interceptors and retreated as fast as jets can travel. Only the Indian military could find humor in this pointless, incomprehensible, and disgusting act. It was hard to believe it really ever happened. It generated loathing for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and everything he stands for.

Drums of War Beat

It was time to push Modi off his couch. PAF, under the able command of uncompromising air chief, planned the

“ PAF's prompt, measured and surprising response busted the aggressor's arrogance: Air Chief ”



Above: Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, CAS along with Wg Cdr Noman Ali & Sqn Ldr Hasan Siddiqui (Photo: Snr Tech Asad)

befitting response for the enemy. Swiftly, the air chief took control of the conflict, planned it and directed it, himself, in the tiniest detail - let Modi have it in the chin.

In a scenario right out of a spy novel, a special mission was about to become part of history. As they had done many times before in deadly wars against India, mission officers and architects at

the helm of affairs gather for a briefing that will detail targets the next day. Once the targets were decided, they were passed to the squadrons. Carefully chosen sons trained to fighting edge, were poured into cockpits. They didn't hug their children, there were no final goodbyes, just another day in the office. Such devotion must never be forgotten.

Bottom: Given its rightful place - The newly inaugurated section devoted to OSR in PAF Museum Karachi. (Photo: Snr Tech Asif)



Wings of Freedom Air Show

To commemorate the success of 'Operation Swift Retort', a PAF air display event with the title 'Wings of the Freedom Air Show' was held at Sea View Karachi. The air show opened with the fly past of PAF fighter formations. In lead was a four ship formation of F-16 aircraft. It was followed by the JF-17 Thunder formation, call sign 'The Minhasians'. Next to enter the arena was the 'Bandits' formation, comprising four Mirage aircraft in a tightly-knit box formation. After the fly past, Augusta-139 helicopters along with veteran MI-17 helis of PAF entered the venue in three ship formation. Much awaited solo aerobatics performance by the Pride of the Nation JF-17 Thunder aircraft was the next item on the list. Flown by Wing Commander Mudassir Riaz, Thunder enthralled the audience with its thundery performance. Minutes after the exit of Thunder, Wing Commander Zeeshan Ali Munawar dashed in to the venue, flying the F-16 Falcon. Like always, the finale of the show ended with the breath taking performance by the 'Sherdiils'. The spectacular air display concluded with their trademark bomb burst maneuver, leaving behind an awe stricken audience.

The climb to this peak of confrontation started after the Pulwama incident, in Indian Occupied Kashmir, where Kashmiris have paid a heavy toll for the rest of the world's ignorance and blind prejudice. After an attack on an Indian convoy that killed 40 soldiers, a

barrage of accusations were hurled against Pakistan. Having achieved peace and stability after 15 long years of war against terror, Prime Minister Imran Khan, offered complete cooperation in the investigation of the incident. Chief of General

Above: Lead by the crescent 3-ship JF-17 formation fly majestically against a beautiful backdrop of a sunny February sky during air show held on 27th February in Karachi. (Photo: Wg Cdr Mudassir)



Bottom Left: All four of the missiles under the Bison's wings were still in position when the aircraft crashed. (Photo: Alan Warnes)



Staff UK Army, General Sir Patrick Carter, admired the way Pakistan accomplished peace and was holding on to it. The Royal Couple praised Pakistan's efforts when they acknowledged the huge undertaking of security in the country. But threats against Pakistan grew. Prime Minister Imran Khan was forced to caution his counterpart that he would take the fight to the enemy and it was going to be the hard way.

Few weeks after the daring daylight raid and downing two Indian Air Force jets, and despite tense regional environment, Pakistan went on to display its military might on March 23rd, 2019. Pakistan Day parade was conducted in full strength. Participation by major

defence partners of Pakistan such as the Saudi, Chinese and Azerbaijan contingents, the Malaysian Prime Minister himself, stunning performances by Chinese and Turkish air forces, steered the resolve of the nation.

Even as the situation started to de-escalate, humiliated BJP government of India, backed by RSS radicals and fanatic media, continued to churn out false claims. The repatriated Indian pilot Wg Cdr Abhinandan Varthaman, was credited with an F-16 kill, turning an embarrassing defeat into a victory for an Indian public that was looking for answers from its military that boasts the highest defence spending in the world.

On 7th September, 2019, PAF countered false claims when PAF fighter pilots Wg Cdr Noman Ali and Sqn Ldr Hassan Siddiqui told their side of the story to the nation, in a widely watched TV program 'Mujahideen Aflak Ko Salam'. In the same program, Air Marshal Haseeb Paracha, Deputy Chief of Air Staff

ROLL OF HONOUR

Sitara-e-Jurat
Wg Cdr Noman Ali Khan

Tamgha-e-Jurat
Wg Cdr Faheem Ahmed
Sqn Ldr Hasan Siddiqui



Above: Flying with the finest-A 4-ship formation of Mirages make their grandiose entrance over the venue during air show held on 27th February in Karachi. (Photo: Dawn.com)

Left: An Agusta helicopter glides above the spectators during air show held on 27th February in Karachi. (Photo: Wg Cdr Mudasir)



Above: Wing tip to wing tip - Sherdils performs during air show held on 27th February at Karachi. (Photo: Zohaib Zaidi)

Bottom: One for All - A 3-jet formation of F-16s breaking with perfect synchronization. (Photo: Wg Cdr Mudasir)

Operations, also turned down false claims made by IAF.

Earlier this year before the PAF commemorated Operation Swift Retort, it held a press briefing and showed the world remains of R-73 (Archer) and R-77 (Adder) missiles. They were retrieved after Abhinandan's Russian built Mig was shot down by Wg Cdr Noman Ali and crashed - the same rocket India claimed to have downed a Pakistani F-16.

Home to some of PAF's most prized trophies such as the IAF Gnatt



fighter jet from the 1965 war and an Afghan Mig captured during the Soviet-Afghan War, none are as exciting as the PAF Museum's latest attraction.

An entire section has been dedicated to Operation Swift Retort, where the tail section and debris of the IAF Mig-21 shot by PAF fighter



OSR Immortalized

An aviation art competition was organized by PAF, calling in submissions from all over the nation. The chosen theme was 'PAF Air Battles' and 'Operation Swift Retort'. The artists, finally able to contribute in their own way to the recuperation of the nation, sent in an overwhelming number of remarkable submissions. The short-listed submissions were curated in an exhibition held in February at PNCA, Islamabad. The well-illuminated hall was filled with exclamations of awestruck connoisseurs as they wandered from one piece to the next. Awais Lali's remarkable capture of a F-7PG landing in Samungli Base, won the hearts of the judges, one of whom was the world-renowned aviation artist Masood Akhtar Hussaini. The exhibition was also adorned with masterpieces and aero models of both civilians and PAF men of art, to the delight of the visitors.

(Photo: Cpl Tech Irfan)

pilot, a flying suit of Wg Cdr Abhinandan Varthaman, has been put on display.

A memorial at Mushaf Air Force Base, fighter town Sargodha, is an enduring tribute to the airmen who made history, and served their nation. It is not a typical 'Remembrance Day' memorial. The black archival wall depicts the names and the story of Surprise Day. The message is distinct - like in the past, Pakistan would change the ending and the enemy would glow with envy. The message is clear in the words of Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, "Make No Mistake..."

BATTLE FOR SHER AFGAN *Continues...*



“ It is an exercise that takes adroitness, killer instincts, nerves of steel and panache. Pilots are taxed to their mental and physical limits during the Inter Squadron Armament Competition (ISAC) that culminates into the live fire power demo. For four consecutive days, squadrons are thrust into front-line combat exercise where pilots are required to think clearly and process at three times the speed of sound, and the ground crew are expected to facilitate the complex running of the airborne. At the heart of the sorties, judges look at the height and position for every move. “We are not allowed to be average,” said Top Gun Wg Cdr Nauman Akram. The squadron that wins ISAC earns bragging rights to be Second to None. In the PAF, excellence is a standard, not an achievement.

”

Future air-crafted with absolutely new capabilities: A PAF pilot rises to the faith that the nation has in him (Photo: Flt Lt Ikrash)





F-16: Munitions fall from the sky like rain (Photo: PAF Archive)



Like a shark circling a wounded prey, Wg Cdr Nauman Akram comes out of a 3G turn as he makes his final course change and locks in on a straight path to the target. The squadron commander has rehearsed the next moves over and over again in his head. In a brilliant display of aerial dexterity, F-16's Gatling machine gun dispatches a short burst at the ten-by-ten feet target on the ground; it's a direct hit (DH). The 85 out of 100 rounds impact with deadly accuracy, and the pilot pulls up before breaking the hard deck. All in less than ten seconds.

Nauman Akram gets the highest number of DH. The top gun wins the Sher Afghan Trophy for superb marksmanship in the Inter Squadron Armament Competition (ISAC) 2019, one of the most realistic combat training exercises. He does the No 9 Sqn proud - the same Sqn that won the Perry-Keene trophy in the very first inter-squadron armament competition in 1949.

From its inception, Pakistan Air Force has had to contend with an enemy that enjoys a clear advantage in numbers even today - 4:1. In order to meet the challenge of numerical superiority, the PAF has striven to maintain a qualitative edge over its adversary. And to sustain it, the air staff has placed the greatest emphasis upon the quality of combat training inculcated into all elements of this fighting force.



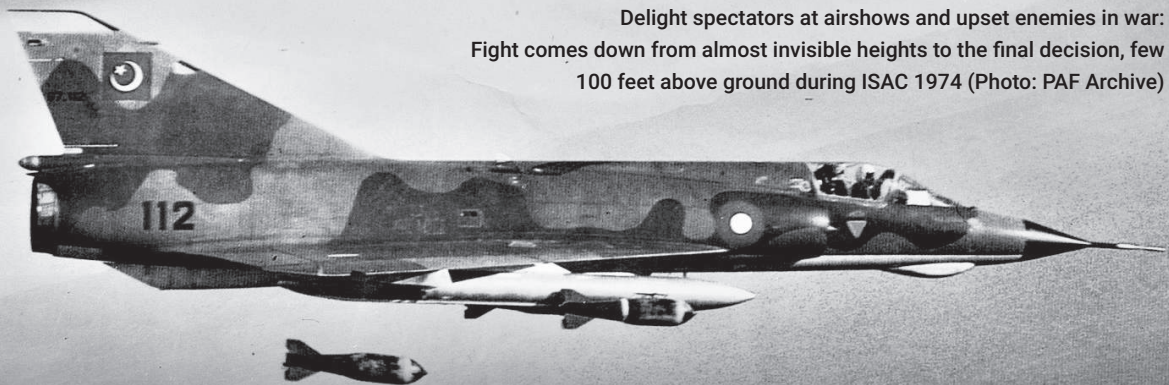
Top: No way inferior in terms of maneuverability, Chinese built A-5 banks left.

Center: US built Starfighter F-104 opens power for a supersonic run.

Bottom: A PAF F-6, punches a hole through the sky as it fires a rocket. (All Photos: PAF Archive)



Delight spectators at airshows and upset enemies in war: Fight comes down from almost invisible heights to the final decision, few 100 feet above ground during ISAC 1974 (Photo: PAF Archive)



ON 9th March, 1967 President of Pakistan and guest of honour Shah of Iran, were among 100,000 plus guests in attendance at Jamrud range for PAF's biggest yet fire power demonstrations. Low over the dark-hued background of the Khyber Pass and Hindu Kush mountains, two wisps of smoke rapidly enlarged into two dots. PAF's F-104s, opened the display with supersonic runs, with double sonic booms. Munitions fell from the sky like rain in the following acts. It was a frightening display of firepower that could break the will of any adversary. It is four days celebration of brilliant flying and air-to-ground target shooting. The FPD that followed the four-day ISAC, 2019, may not have been the biggest, but the guest of honours, and those observing from outside, witnessed the extent and horror of destruction caused by air to ground attacks by PAF pilots. Scenes of guided missiles, tank killing weapons that not even the strongest armour could survive, falling with pinpoint precision, drove home the reality of war and deadly potential of PAF jet planes. Impressed with the strength and capabilities during the live fire, President of Pakistan Arif Alvi, witnessed pilots rise to the faith that the nation has in them.



In its earliest days, PAF discovered the immense importance of holding regular operational exercises. In 1960, the Fighter Leader's School introduced the Sher Afgan trophy, for the individual fighter pilot who emerged as the best overall marksman during inter-squadron armament competitions.

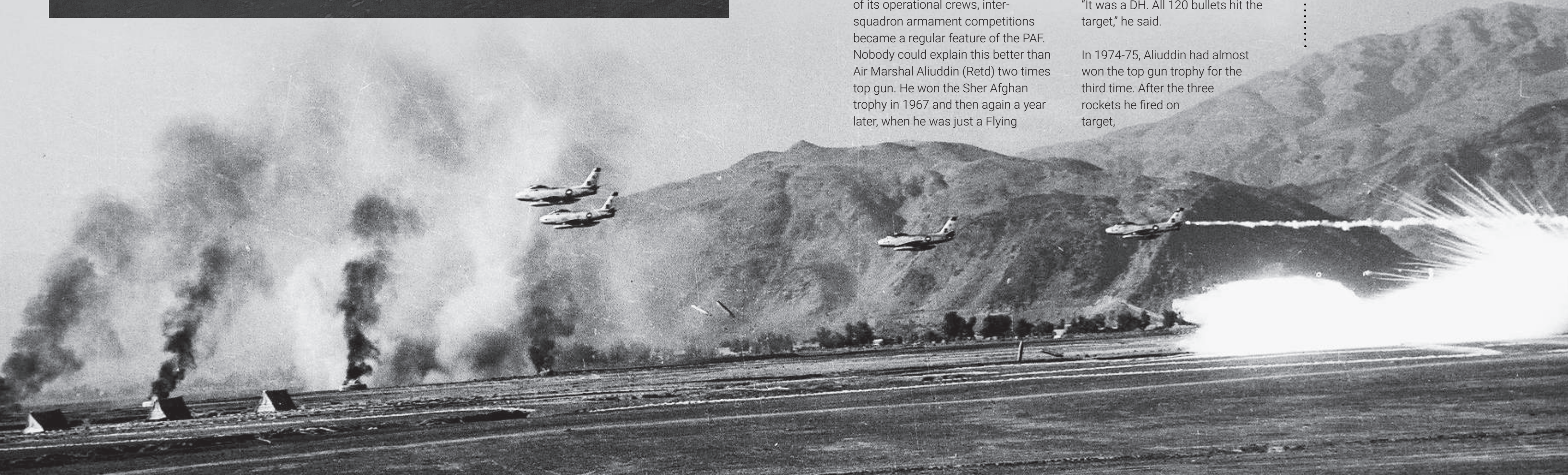
Designed to hone and test the skills of its operational crews, inter-squadron armament competitions became a regular feature of the PAF. Nobody could explain this better than Air Marshal Aliuddin (Retd) two times top gun. He won the Sher Afghan trophy in 1967 and then again a year later, when he was just a Flying

Officer and without the advantage of technology, glass cockpit, and computer displays that have replaced gauges.

Expectations were higher the second time in 1968. Aliuddin swept down on his target, punched out 120 rounds in little over a second from the six Browning machine guns of his F-86, admired his handiwork and pulled up. "It was a DH. All 120 bullets hit the target," he said.

In 1974-75, Aliuddin had almost won the top gun trophy for the third time. After the three rockets he fired on target,

Top Left: Two SherAfgans in one Frame - Sqn Ldr Alauddin Ahmed (Shaheed & SJ of 1965 war) and Sqn Ldr Sadruddin (3rd from Right) (Photo: PAF Archive)
 Top Right: Flg Off Aliuddin, two time winner of SherAfgan title, receiving coveted trophy from AM Nur Khan in ISAC 1967. (Photo: PAF Archive)
 Bottom: Poster Perfect - Explosive and thunderous force of F-86 jets sweep down the skies (Photo: (Photo: PAF Archive))



the fourth washed out. "I immediately shouted 'twirler'. When fired, it took off for kingdom come," he laughed illustrating what happened by breaking down the engagement.

ISAC competitions were driving tests of our lives. "The focus was on keeping pilots sharp. Competitions required precision flying and experience, which came from training in conditions as real as possible. Inter-squadron armament competitions were the finest methods of inculcating Spirit-de-Corp," Aliuddin said explaining why it used to be such a huge thing for the squadron that won.

It was a privilege for then Flying Officer Aliuddin that Air Marshal Nur Khan would prefer to fly with him. It was an honour when Shah of Iran, during his visit to the biggest fire power demonstration ever held in Pakistan, asked to meet the young

“ SherAfgan Trophy was introduced for the first time in 1960 ”



SHER AFGANS

Year	Name
1960	Sqn Ldr M Sadruddin
1961	Sqn Ldr M Hayat Khan
1963	Sqn Ldr A U Ahmad
1964	Flg Off Zaigham Azad
1967	Flg Off Ali Ud Din
1968	Flg Off Ali Ud Din
1985	Wg Cdr Wali Niaz Mughani
1989	Sqn Ldr Gul Abbas Mela
1996	Sqn Ldr Aasim Zaheer
2007	Wg Cdr Tariq Zia
2015	Sqn Ldr Tariq Wahid Malik
2019	Wg Cdr Nauman Akram



pilot personally. There is no doubt that officers like FS Hussain, Sikander Masood, Jamal A Khan, MM Alam, Lucky Hayat, Arshad Chaudhry, Wiqar Azim and Aliuddin fought different kinds of wars, their bravery was a strain of bravery that still commands respect. But that is what the PAF wants, for the young pilots today to see what they did and then raise the bar.

Formation and presentations of the inter-squadron armament may be pre-set; the outcome

is anything but certain. With different platforms, such as the JF17, F-7 and Mirage, the aircraft may not be equally matched, it is the pilot that makes the difference, at least that's how many officers see it.

"In a simple comparison, plane vs plane, the F-16 comes out on top. In the end it is the quality and expertise of the pilot that matters most," said Air Cdre Sajjad Noori, Commandant ACE.

Perry-Keene Inter Squadron Armament Trophy	
1949	No 9 Squadron
1952	No 5 Squadron
1954	No 14 Squadron
1955	No 5 Squadron
1959	No 14 Squadron
1960	No 11 Squadron
1961	No 5 Squadron
1962	No 19 Squadron
1963	No 19 Squadron
1964	No 14 Squadron
1967	No 19 Squadron
*Inter Squadron Armament Trophy	
1968	No 25 Squadron
1974	No 23 Squadron
1976	No 23 Squadron
1978	No 19 Squadron
1985	No 18 Squadron
1989	No 11 Squadron
1996	No 9 Squadron
2007	No 9 Squadron
2015	No 11 Squadron
2019	No 11 Squadron

*Perry-Keene trophy title changed in 1968 to Inter Squadron Armament Trophy

THE BACK BONE

ON the surface, the airforce may seem like solo acts performed by pilots, but it's a concerto accompanied by an orchestra. Without technicians and weapons loaders air force cannot fight and win. One of the major reasons Air Marshal Aliuddin would get DH was that he used to harmonize the guns himself. "And I could not have done it without my handpicked weapons loaders," the retired Air Marshal said. On land they are the real masters behind military aircraft.

ISAC is more than just training for pilots. Entire squadrons go to Masroor. Ground crew, maintenance teams and support personnel perform assistance in real world conditions. And in recognition of the hard work and dedication of weapons loaders, without whom fighter wings cannot maintain their positions as best in PAF, the Best Armament Competition (BAT) was introduced to ISAC 2019. Regardless of types of aircraft to be loaded or size of bombs to be handled, the job of equipping the aircraft is exacting in nature. It requires strict observance of all safety precautions. As soon as they get their queue, weapons loaders go to work, equipping advanced sensors, munitions and bombs. Signing the aircraft back over to the pilot is a big responsibility on their shoulders. It is their job to ensure that the pilot and plane return home safely.

In 2019, the Best Armament Trophy was won and shared by No 2 and No 8 squadrons, while No 14 Squadron won the Maintenance Trophy.



Ground crew: It is their aircraft. They only lend it to pilots to do the job (Photo: PAF Archive)



Left Page Above: Air Chief Marshal Mohammad Abbas Khattak presenting Sher Afghan trophy to Sqn Ldr Aasim Zaheer during ISAC 1996. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Left Page Center: Air Chief Marshal Tanveer Mehmood Ahmad presenting Sher Afghan trophy to Wg Cdr Tariq Zia during ISAC 2007. (Photo: PAF Archive)



F-86 Drop Napalm (Photo: PAF Archive)

Walking with Comrades

Last year, like in the past, the four-day ISAC 2019, was announced roughly two months prior to the competition. It is a rare gathering of gladiators, for an exercise that tests a combat aviator's physical, emotional and mental capabilities to their limits. Best of all is their comradeship, fellows who trust each other with their lives. Tales that are only shared among fellow aircrews are the highlight of the gathering, only outside, "The now banished institution of the 'Bar'," to safely put it in the words of former Air Chief Marshal Mohammad Abbas Khattak from the book titled 'Flight of the Falcon'. Although, today life may not be around the bar, as many officers lament, constant are the stories that involve war and all the atrocities that it brings, many stories of mischief, camaraderie and various stories of young men being young men. Come competition day, chivalrous heroes engaged in honest and impressive squadron-against-squadron and one-to-one fighting. The reward - a celebrity status.

During ISAC in 1960, victory clearly belonged to No 16 Sqn. Even if the four pilots from No 14 had placed seven bombs out of the eight through the target, No 16 Sqn would still win. "The only, but nearly impossible, danger was that they might come back with 100 percent bombing results, which would give them a very thin margin over No 16 Sqn, But that seemed improbable," wrote Air Cdre Sajjad Haider in his book 'Flight of the Falcon'. As the entire lot of pilots waited for the final results, Sajjad Haider vividly remembers Zaheer Massey (affectionately known as Jumbo), switch-off his aircraft and shouting from the cockpit, "All eight bombs in, we got 100 percent hits."

"I could have slaughtered Jumbo with my bare hands that day, for taking away our victory. The silver lining was that our Squadron Commander, top gun Sqn Ldr Sadruddin had won the Sher Afghan trophy," he writes.



“ For the first time, in 2019, ISAC was held under the Supervision of ACE ”



There are remembered names in Base history room, Mushaf Air Force Base, Sargodha - a score of victory on the records of them all, who in the decisive moment gave us freedom of the air. Among them is the recently added name of Wg Cdr Nauman Akram, whose professionalism rises above the job description of a pilot. This editorial team had the honour and privilege of shaking his hand. The high scoring aviator told us about his recently won title of Top Gun. Two weeks later, during a rehearsal for Parade Day, the life of this ACE was cut short that fueled his status as nation's heroic martyr.

Last year, like in the past, the four-day ISAC 2019, was announced roughly two months prior to the competition. All fighter Sqns of PAF arrived at Masroor Air Force Base in Karachi. Four handpicked pilots in each squadron got a shot at joining the exclusive club of top guns.

Pilots flew the jets on stem power, brain stem - flying F-16s, Mirage, JF-17 and F-7Ps the same way they breathed or walked, without having to think about it - doing science inverted, 500 knots, pulling Gs. Teamwork was key. Pilots flew a tightrope between stalking and over shooting their ground targets, balancing off with stick and delicate taps of the rudder at 900 kph. While

executing fighter maneuvers, pilots communicated with each other and ground controllers using phrases few civilians have ever heard; such as bank and open power, secret codes for certain offensive flying, tactical calls. As pilots delivered payload on target, thousands of pounds of heavy thrust shriek in angry protest against the pull of the desert floor.

Until the last day, only the "Griffins" could have beaten the "Griffins" But the "Arrows" in the No 11 Sqn who won ISAC eventually, had visualized lifting the trophy for years.

Lessons learnt in ISAC are too valuable to be left in debriefing

No 11 Sqn has won the ISAC trophy for fourth time in 2019



Bottom: Fire Power at PAF Sonmiani Range, 2019 - Time lapse captures war winning weapons screaming down on to a target brought into focus by time and velocity, moments before impact that was the last instant of things as they were, and then the visible objects exploding. (Photo: Wg Cdr Mudasir)

Right Page: That moment of pride and honour, when element leaders from different PAF squadrons come together at PAF Base Masroor to compete for the highest award in combat exercise, with discipline, sense of duty to comrades and ability to demonstrate courage. (Photo: Snr Tech Asad)

rooms. Back at their home bases, pilots swap their interesting stories with a mix of adrenaline and relief, reenacting their successes and failures.

"ISAC challenges PAF pilots with first hand experiences - hitting target in close and long range ground attacks. It's like being thrown into the deep. We study the capabilities of the aircraft, check if the weapon systems perform as designed and validate our tactics," said Wg Cdr Nauman Akram.

Their exchanges may be part bravado but there is no mistaking those clear looks in their eyes of self-awareness and gravitas.



Fearless WARRIORS

“There are men who can steer the destiny of a nation with their bare hands. Men who acknowledge no dead ends, only obstacles to be defeated. Such is the nature of PAF’s best, the men of the SSW.”

Deep in the woods, a Special Services Wing (SSW) trainee waits in the dead of the night, broken with fatigue. He feels the bands of his 20 kg backpack that he has been carrying for hours, dug painfully deep into his flesh. Being a part of ‘Survival, Escape and Evasion’ exercise, he knows the trainers that he’s supposed to evade are nearby. He can’t afford to be detected, not when he’s so close to completing the exercise. Now

that the adrenaline has diminished long ago, he is tempted to give up or be disqualified, just like dozens of trainees have done before him. But he grips his F2000 assault rifle tightly, the sharp, functional shape giving him comfort and chants the commando mantra under his breath, ‘Man Jaan Bazam...!’ He just needs to read his map and compass one last time. That means turning on his tactical cam light. But doing that, in this pitch-black jungle, is like lighting a locating flare for the trainers and a certain



Ready to Pounce: ▲ Commandos advance rapidly to engage hostiles after being dropped by a MI-17 Helicopter (Photo: PAF Archive)

Soaked to the Skin: The Dinghy is the vehicle of choice for SSW men when it comes to waterborne operations. (Photo: AWO Bilal) ►

SSW Commandos assume synchronized combat positions to eliminate any threats that may arise. ◀ (Photo: AWO Iftikhar)





capture. But he has no choice. He listens to the rustle of the leaves, anything that would suggest troops nearby. On hearing nothing, he readies his map and compass in the dark and turns his light on for a few seconds. "Light!" He hears a vengeful yell from a trainer not far from his location. But the few seconds that he had to read the map would suffice. He hastily stuffs the map in his backpack and disappears into the night, leaving no trace for the trainers to follow.

The Special Services Wing, is a highly specialized and exclusive unit of Pakistan Air Force. Since its inception in 2000, the unit has to its name several high-profile and

extreme-risk operations, some of which the public would never know. The origin of the SSW can be traced back to the original No 312 Air Warfare Wing in the late 60s. The training was conducted at Cherat Base, along with the other Special

“Jungle warfare, Mountain warfare, Snow warfare, Sniper course, Anti-terrorist course, Unarmed course are some of the courses which are part of SSW training”



Forces. The objective of the Special Air Warfare wing was to conduct intelligence-based operations, within the country and on enemy territory. The wing was also deployed at PAF Base Dhaka in 71 for defense of air assets. After 71, it was ascertained that the air

Left Above: Hardened SSW men advance with their trusty FN Herstal F2000 Assault Rifles (Photo: PAF Archive)

Right Above: From the belly of the beast! The MaxxPro MRAP vehicle allows commandos to advance even in the face of heavy fire. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Center: The enemy knows it's breaths are numbered when the SSW come out of their camouflage (Photo: PAF Archive)

Bottom Left: Fear Factor: Special Service Wing men pose for a photo-op, formidable and awe-inspiring (Photo: PAF Archive)



bases lacked defensive capabilities. This led to the creation of the 312 Ground Combat Wing, which specialized in defence of air assets. In the decades that followed, officers and airmen of the PAF got training in various commando and advanced courses with the Army SSG on a voluntary basis.

Following the Kargil war, Air Chief Marshal Pervaiz Mehdi Qureshi realized that the PAF lacks the capability when it comes to the domain of special operations. That is when the Ground Combat Wing was converted to a Commando/Special Services Wing in late 90's. Men who had been taking part in commando courses were gathered and out of hundreds, 89 airmen and 6 officers were selected.

As you enter the home of SSW, you are greeted by a layout that is judicious in its hardihood. The humble office/hosting area

could be termed comfortable but that is as far as the indulgence goes. As soon as you venture farther into the Base, you can feel an aura of functional primitiveness. One shouldn't make any mistakes, though, the Base is more than well-equipped to serve its purpose. The reason for this coarse aura is the fact that the purpose for the Base demands ruggedness.

The SSW has three major objectives: the protection of the Chief of the Air Staff, the defense of PAF air bases & assets and third, the most perilous one, conducting operations to target enemy air bases, assets and forward radars. It goes without saying that the offensive role rarely stays constrained to bases or radars. SSW Commandos operate under conditions unfathomable to the common man. "The name 'Al-Swaiq' (thunderstorm) was chosen for SSW from the Quran for its aptness in

Left Above: A camouflaged SSW Sniper waits with baited breath alongwith his spotter to make one lethal shot that might matter more than a hundred rounds fired. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Right Above: These men in black with their FN Herstal P90s can hold their own against the best of the best. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Bottom: No matter who you are, a fully-armed man emerging from the water with a dagger clutched between his teeth will make your knees crumble. (Photo: AWO Bilal)



describing what the force stood for. The wing is further divided into three special ops squadrons, which specialize in different terrains and tenacities; 'Al-Raad' (clap of thunder), 'Al-Burq' (lightning) and newly raised ATT (Anti-Terrorist Training) Sqn. The members of the Al Raad specialize in operations conducted in mountainous and jungle terrain, the Al Burq squadron is adept in operations in deserts and plains, while the ATT Sqn specializes in hostage rescue operations during anti-terrorist role" explains Wg Cdr Muhammad Shakeel Mughal, officer commanding SSW.

"In the air force, everybody is aware that tenure at the Base is a life style unlike

any other. Every officer that spends time here comes out a different man," says Wg Cdr Muhammad Noor Babar as he drives us around. "The boys that come here have some ideas in their mind about how tough they are and how the course would be a breeze for them. We beat out that cockiness in the first few days," he adds with a chuckle.

The officers and airmen that want to join the SSW are put through an initial training course on the Base. The purpose of this training is to weed out the weak. It includes strenuous route marches with each trainee laden with full combat load. The run has to be completed under 12 hours. Another exercise that sees a

Right: A commando fires into the night with a FN Minimi which can pummel hostiles with a fire rate of a 1000 rounds/min. (Photo: AWO Bilal)

Center Left: Out of the sky, into enemy fire - Skydivers dive into the abyss from the ramp of a C130. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Center Right: Men of all terrains-Commandos don the white camouflage of snow operations while firing at 9500 ft at Naltar. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Bottom: It takes a rare breed of men to be so joyous just before jumping out of a plane at 10,000 ft. (Photo: PAF Archive)



considerable rate of dropouts is the infamous 4-mile run with full equipment, which has to be completed in under 35 minutes. The attrition rate is understandably very high, as is the rate of injuries.

The Base is vigor personified. Almost every man you see is engaged in one strenuous activity or the other. We pass several groups of fully-equipped men marching to synchronized slogans

of 'Allah Hoo!' the ground seemingly quivering with the accumulated force of their knee-high boots. These include all levels of trainees. The ones who are a part of the initial training course and the more advanced ones who have returned after passing the basic commando course with the SSG in Cherat to train in advanced SSW courses. The ground is all slopes, making even walking in the

Above: Under the veil of the night-Trainees fire tracer bullets at targets hidden in the gloom. (Photo: AWO Bilal)

Center Right: A fully-equipped commando looks into the darkness with his night vision goggles. (Photo: AWO Bilal)

Bottom Left: A roar of triumph- Instructors are aware that the tasks required of the SSW require perpetual morale boosting. (Photo: AWO Bilal)

Bottom Right: SSW men siege a train during an exercise. (Photo: PAF Archive)





exercise. This design is cunningly deliberate, the purpose obvious. The Base has a considerably large training area which has a concrete foundation. This is where most of the exercises are conducted, target practice and loaded arms handling. On one patch, trainees wielding 7.62 caliber Kalashnikovs move with well-oiled precision, assuming complex combat postures without missing a beat. Another group falls in for their sixth physical training exercises of the day. For a major portion of the day, the only respite for these trainees is the transition from one exercise to another.

"You'll notice that all these men have their allocated numbers written in chalk on their vests, on their front and back. The purpose of these numbers is more than just convenience in addressing them," explains senior instructor Ishaq, a young commando with a voice that echoes

over the vast training area. "Trainees are intentionally put through a regime where they are stripped of all individual sense of self. All ranks are stripped away."

This rationale is visible in other aspects of life at the Base, as well. The trainees live in rudimentary conditions. The living arrangements, if they can be called that, are rugged camouflaged tents lined with rough beds. These quarters are shared by 8 to 10 trainees, who are also responsible for their upkeep. The trainees get 3 meals a day, which is just as basic as the shelter they are provided with. It's a tough life, to say the least. That is one of the reasons the attrition for the course is so high. This is an unfortunate yet vital requisite, as the SSW men are usually selected to go up against ludicrously unfavorable odds. The manifestation of this fact can be seen in the skydiving and Para trooping courses of the SSW.

Left: Blood Bond - The SSW, standing tall in the dark, morales higher than the mountains that surround them (Photo: PAF Archive)

Bottom Left: RPGs are a commando's one-stop solution to most unmoving obstacles that present themselves in battle. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Bottom Right: The SSW men are capable of explosions and havoc that would put an action movie to shame. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Right Page Top: Snipers are considered odd even within SSW men; its not possible for every man to remain motionless for hours on end (Photo: PAF Archive)

“SSW Snipers wait with baited breath, in the strenuous prone position, for hours. After an eternity of waiting, a tiny target will appear for a few minutes and then disappear, that they need to hit.”

A man leaping from a plane thousands of feet in the air takes guts that a very few can boast. The para trooping courses include Static Line jumps and Advanced Static Line jumps, in which there is fixed wire in the plane to which all jumpers' chutes are attached, which pulls open the chute. Then comes skydiving from higher altitudes, which includes High Altitude High Opening (HAHO) and High Altitude Low Opening (HALO) jumps.

"The progression is static line jump, then advanced static line jump, rigger course, jumpmaster course, military skydiving, equipment training, skydiving with equipment, night skydiving and finally, night skydiving with equipment. There is no room for error. We have the Jumpmasters, who calculate and plan the jump, the Riggers who are experts in preparing chutes."

Explains Base Cdr Air Cdre Muhammad Yousaf, who has the unique honor of commanding all the three components of Special Forces of PAF during his career.

In 2007, when the Swat district was taken over by an unforeseen enemy, the entire nation was gripped by fear. Fortunately, the forces were well-prepared and jumped into the fray immediately. In Rah-e-Haq II and III, the PAF SSW along with Pak Army carried out successful operations in mountainous terrain. In the second battle of Swat, termed Rah-e-Rast, PAF's fighter assets also took part alongside ground forces. The SSW played their part, as well. From lazing targets, unconventional

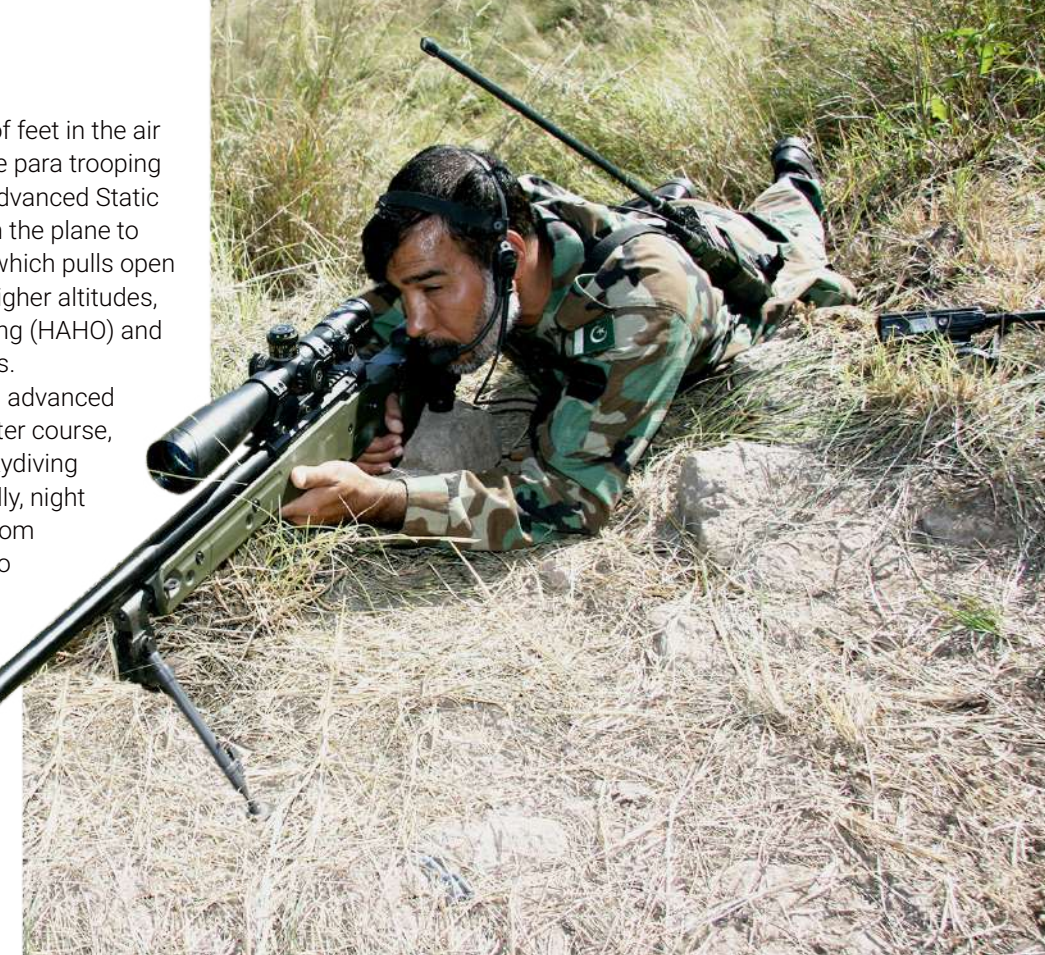
warfare, special reconnaissance ops, direct action by sabotage and offensive raiding to combat search and rescue missions (CSAR), the SSW made major contributions to eliminating one of the gravest threats the nation has ever faced.

"It was a short-lived victory. Insurgents had realized that crippling the air force would grant them an

undeniable advantage. The PAF became their primary target." reminisces Wg Cdr Shakeel, holding a sandwich as we are served tea on the open hatch of a Vigo. "The threat level was sky-high. Buses full of our children were being targeted, Bases were being attacked. The Badaber and Minhas attacks are prime examples. The PAF lost several good men...men who we knew personally,

Bottom Left: Eye of the Tiger - A special service airman awaits his enemy with a mounted machine gun and enough rounds to annihilate a battalion (Photo: PAF Archive)

Bottom Right: Lethal abseiling-SSW men rappel down a building to ambush hostiles during a hostage rescue exercise. (Photo: PAF Archive)





as well." he confides, his voice low. He sighs and puts down the sandwich, untouched.

Another area where the SSW undergo strenuous training is Close Quarters Combat (CQC) operations. Such operations require trained personnel who storm into a room full of armed hostiles, without a moment of hesitation. The SSW are these rarest of men. "Close Quarter Combat is a very complex endeavor. It is crucial that flooding the room is carried out swiftly. There needs to be very little delay in the first man entering the room and the last man. Each man has their cone of targets that he is to engage efficiently and exclusively. The primary factors that come into play are the element of surprise, which means eliminating the target before he gets over the shock. This needs to be complimented by maximum and constant speed." Elaborates Air Cdre Muhammad Yousaf, making

Above: A skydiver gazes up introspectively at the metal bird that he jumped from in this picture taken from a GoPro camera. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Bottom Left: Armed to the teeth: An SSW commando stands ready for mission as a Helicopter hovers above (Photo: PAF Archive)

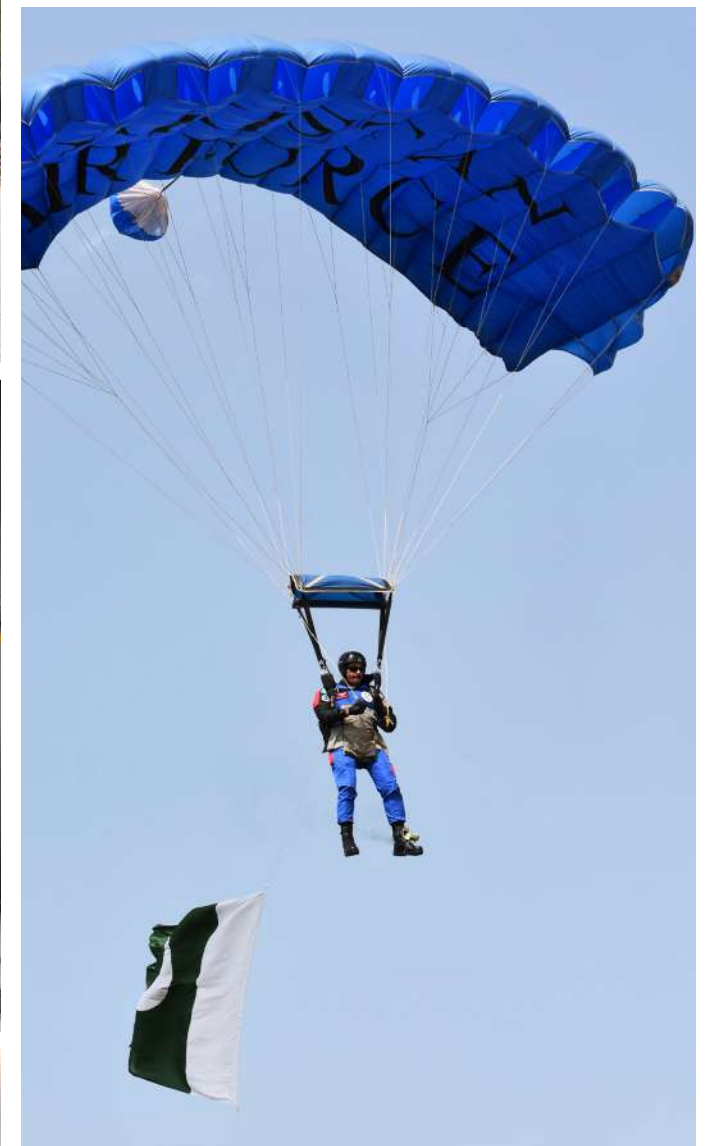
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Above Left: The Top Berets - Senior SSW Officers accompany the Base Cdr on an exercise. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Above Right: Leading from the Top - Air Cdre Yousaf, drops out of the sky in a graceful jump, PAF emblazoned on the chute and the green flag erect. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Center Left: Two SSW commandos enter a simulated close quarter combat arena. The Maroon Berets are recognised for their battle readiness and proficiency (Photo: PAF Archive)

Bottom: Right: A prone Commando wearing a 'Snow Borne' badge poses with his deadly Minimi. (Photo: PAF Archive)



a rough drawing to elucidate the process. "Next is what we call violence of action. You need to keep the firepower on to ensure constant pressure. Fearful enemies make mistakes, which will give you openings."

"Every time you move into a room, you own it but only as long as you're in it. If you need to enter it again, there's a huge chance that you'll have to clear it again," adds Wg Cdr Shakeel.

The training of the personnel is carried out by the highly professional instructors, who are considered to be the back bone of training regime. The SSW instructors are all commandos themselves because only real-life experience can enable you to train the best. From lectures, to handling weapons, to lazing, everything is taught by a veteran that had done it in real-life scenarios.

To cater for ever-rising challenges in the security warfare scenario, SSW conducts specialized training of its troops encompassing airborne, waterborne and land warfare operations.

It includes training commandos in counter-terrorist operations, hostage situations, room and compound clearance, urban combat and skills of such nature. "The teams of SSW are also participating in national and international level exercises", elaborates Air Cdre Muhammad Yousuf. 'The joint national and international exercises provide commandos with the exposure which is a key factor in their overall grooming. This experience helps them learn new tactics and methods in the ever-changing 5th generation warfare. Their training has made them more potent and formidable, a force not to mess-up with", he assures.

The SSW is a force that is bred and reared to take on insurmountable odds. The mission is their singular obsession. They will obliterate any and all that stands between them and the mission. This is what makes the SSW men the most feared and capable warriors in the nation's arsenal.

Wg Cdr Noor Baber falls out of the sky, the green flag blazing in his wake, it's carrier ready to hoist it into the qualms of the earth. (Photo: Wg Cdr Mudasir)

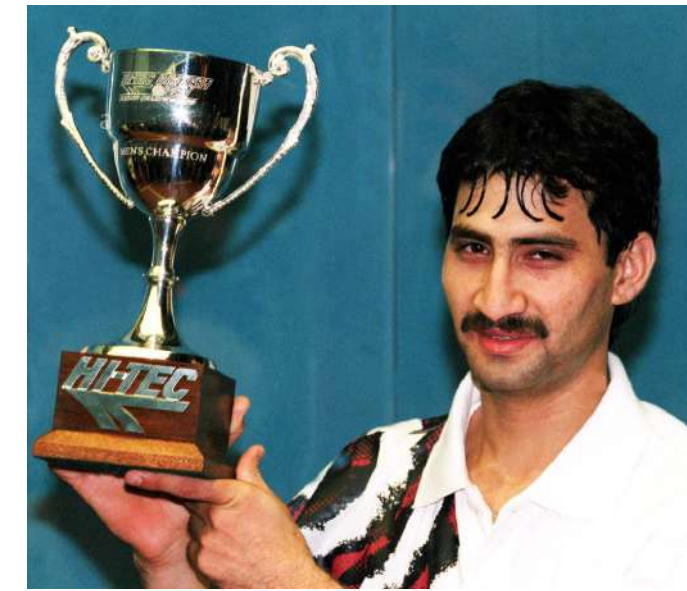
PASSION PRIDE & LEGACY



“Squash was once one of the most entertaining alternative sports in the Pakistani culture. Today there are efforts to return to dominance and at the heart of this movement is the Pakistan Squash Federation. Fighting for a brighter future, PSF is offering aspiring athletes to dream afar. But as they say, squash is chess with speed and players have to be very smart to compete. While PSF is challenging young athletes to redefine dimensions of the sport with sheer athleticism, it is willing to lay it all out on the line for them, to be world number one again.”



Left: Jehangir Khan, widely regarded as the greatest squash player of all time, went five and a half years without losing a single game, lifts the coveted British Open Trophy. (Photo: PAF Archive)



Left: Jansher Khan, who ruled the world for a decade and remained unbeaten in 99 international matches, holds his well-earned trophy. (Photo: PAF Archive)

PAKISTAN: HOME OF CHAMPIONS MONTHS AT NUMBER 1 (BY PLA)

Country	No. of Players	Total	Players
	3	215	Qamar Zaman, Jansher Khan, Jahangir Khan
	3	72	Amr Shabana, Ramy Ashour, Karim Darwish, Mohammed Al Shorbagy
	3	66	Peter Nicol, Nick Mathew, James Wilstrop, Lee Beachill
	3	66	Geoff Hunt, David Palmer, Chris Dittmar
	3	32	Peter Nicol, John White
	3	23	Thierry Lincou, Gregory Gaultier
	3	14	Johnathan Power



Professional sports athletes are always under immense pressure, trying to balance personal as well as external expectations. Add exhausting workouts, meets, and constant physical and mental stress to the mix, being a pro is a lifestyle choice that needs single mindedness, dedication, and perseverance. It is especially hard to deal with all this when you are just a kid. But the incredible talent of this little giant of squash, is impossible to ignore. Meet Huzaifa Ibrahim, a 14 year old athlete from Karachi, who loves his family and pets, and looks no different - an ordinary teenager. But look a little closer and there is nothing ordinary about this kid who has numerous titles to his credit.

In 2015, Huzaifa Ibrahim, had won Malaysian Juniors International Squash Championship, and went on to win Doha International Junior Squash Championship the same year. He won the Qatar International Junior Squash Championship in 2015 and 2016, and the gold under 13 in Japan Junior International Squash Championship. At present, he is the undisputed Asian Junior Squash Champion since 2015, and the only Pakistani player in all formats Senior and Junior, holding No 1 position - the list is long and distinguished. His fame keeps growing from competition to competition.

Squash was not simply a passion but a real calling for Huzaifa Ibrahim, who is becoming more skillful than older contenders. This prodigy has already put their skills to the test. His competition, who are in no way mediocre themselves, know his capabilities. Often, in the resignation of defeat standing in front of their eyes, older, taller players, with better reach, throw in intimidation during matches.

Farhan Mehboob gives a tough time to Yousef Ibrahim from Egypt during the final match of 13th CNS International Squash Championship held at Roshan Khan Jahangir Khan Squash Complex, Karachi in 2018. (Photo: Snr Tech Naveed)

“If you do not put in the hours you can forget about winning 99 professional titles like Jansher Khan, the highest by any player in squash and World No 1 for more than ten consecutive years.”

“They play rough, try to block me, and push to dominate the T-zone. It is a pressure tactic that often works,” said the young crusher.

Huzaifa has got perfect timing on the shots with tremendous power and is aiming for bigger competitions right away. His childhood had groomed him for this eventuality.

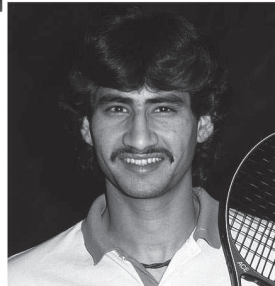
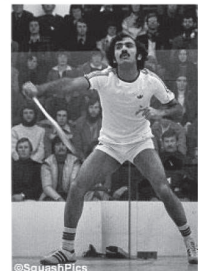
It all began with his father, a Pakistan Navy personnel, a sportsman and a squash player. Huzaifa apparently inherited his father, Subhan Ullah's love for sports.

Huzaifa was trained to run almost as soon as he learnt how to walk. By the age of four, his father had already discussed the career of a professional squash player





with him. Subhan Ullah decided to pass on his skills and trained his form from a young age. The child adapted to a daily regimen. "I knew from the get-go that my son would be a professional sportsman," Subhan Ullah said with pride in his voice.



Professionals claim his style reminds them of trademark features of Pakistani squash legends such as Hashim Khan, Mohibullah Khan Senior and Roshan Khan - strong hits, quick reaction, and a creative approach to attacks.

That's what it takes to be a champion, ruler of the game for two decades during the 1970s and 1980s, Qamar Zaman said. "He is pretty much created out of the same mold as some

of the Pakistani squash champions in our history, and they were all about discipline, training, and fitness." If you do not put in the hours you can forget about winning 99 professional titles like Jansher Khan, the highest by any player in squash and World No 1 for more than ten consecutive years. "Jansher Khan was late when he started out but went on to win the world junior championship for the first time ever in 1986, and won world open title in 1987, before winning the world

“ With continuous patronage from Pakistan Air Force, which adopted the sport of squash in the 1970s, Jansher Khan won the British Open six times in a row - 1992 to 1997, and won World Open a record eight times. His retirement brought to end nearly 50 years of domination by Pakistan in squash tournaments. ”

Above: Men who made a nation famous - Portraits of Pakistan's best in squash. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Right Page Above: AVM Amer Masood, SVP PSF addressing sports journalists during a meeting in Islamabad (Photo: PAF Archive)

Right Page Bottom: Air Vice Marshal Amer Masood along with winners of International Junior Squash tournament at Mushaf Squash Complex, Islamabad (Photo: AWO Iftikhar)

BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP WINNING STREAK BY PAKISTANI CHAMPIONS

Unbroken Streak	No. of Players	Names
1951-1963 (12 Years)	3	Hashim Khan, Roshan Khan, Azam Khan, Mo Khan
1962-1997 (35 Years)	2	Jahangir Khan, Jansher Khan

Passion and hard work necessary to revive lost glory:

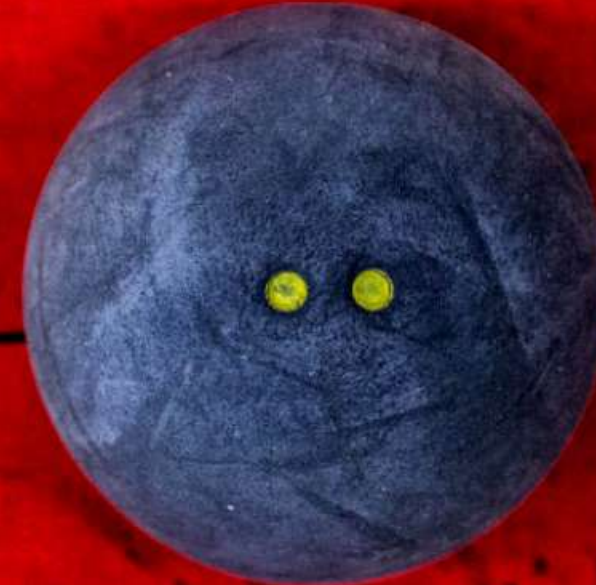
AVM Amer Masood, SVP PSF

As we all know, it is not going to be easy to break into the current top 10. It can take some years to catch up with some of the strongest nations such as Egypt and Malaysia to mention a few. But Senior Vice President Pakistan Squash Federation Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Amer Masood has a plan that focuses on Pakistan's junior players and their smooth transition to professional level. "With continuous support to the junior players, best training regime and with international exposure, they will certainly become world-class players," said AVM Amer Masood. In his mind, one key component to future success is rehabilitation and improving standards of academies and squash courts. He believes that by offering young players, as young as 8 to 10 years old, incentives such as support in education and by offering scholarships, the better results can be achieved.



He also intends to send a few players to be based overseas for training and participate in competitions to help raise their playing level.

He laments that only cricket enjoyed massive commercialization and media attention. Squash, he believes is as grand if one considers and reassesses the essentials of sport. "I strongly believe that squash deserves as much importance and patronage based on the fact that squash is played at a larger scale and most important that we were champions for decades. We are now hosting more international squash tournaments", he argued. "This will help the host country enormously. There is much to be done within the next few years and one strategy would be to hold more and more events in this attractive country", Amer Masood said.



Amer Masood is particularly turning to squash legends for assistance in training and motivation of youngsters as well as to strengthen squash academies. He encourages girls as much as boys to take up sports and for this he is offering equal opportunities. "Our focus will remain on improving the game of aspiring squash players and support a balanced development of our sport from grass roots to the top level. Our players should be competing professionally by the time they are 16 and 19 years old," the senior official said underlying plans for the future.



junior championship title again in 1988," said Squash legend Qamar Zaman. By the time Jansher Khan was 18, he had beaten, arguably the fittest man on the planet and World No 1 Jahangir Khan in the Hong Kong Open. With continuous patronage from Pakistan Air Force, which adopted the sport of squash in the 1970s, Jansher Khan won the British Open six times in a row - 1992 to 1997, and won World Open a record eight times. His retirement brought to end nearly 50 years of domination by Pakistan in squash tournaments.

Today, the Egyptians are killing it in the world of squash. The top 20 players of the world are made up of ten Egyptians, including World No 1. The sheer numbers of their young players dwarfs every other country. A whole new generation of 40, 000

to 50, 000 young squash players, men and women bring their own flair to the sport. Following closely at their heels are Malaysia, which prepares 30, 000 players every year. Compare all that with Pakistan that has less than 1, 000 young squash enthusiasts and even lesser active players - 300 or so. Pakistan has not been able to reclaim its glory days since 1995-96.

But that is now changing. After March 2018, under the patronage of Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, young squash players have participated in 20 international junior tournaments and won 81 medals - 36 gold medals in junior championships. In a recent event for juniors, a batch of nine Pakistani players brought back one gold and two bronze medals compared with 112 players from Egypt who could

Unsung HEROES

There isn't a track record of too many elite-level coaches taking the helm of professional squash in the last two decades. The two national coaches Asif Khan and Fazal Shah and their wealth of knowledge in squash seem right for the positions. If anything, the Pakistan Airforce has been known to choose the best from every discipline - a proof of their keen observation and foresight. Even though Rehman Gul has been recently added, nothing short of a performance of the finest of coaches is expected of him once his players participate in international events.

Coach.. this term is borrowed heavily by other professions.. like life coaching. Not only is it a highly trained and learned response, it's a visceral experience where you put so much of yourself in the person you are coaching, you experience their highs as well as their lows personally. The level of commitment and mindfulness that must go in it is not easy to grasp. "It's almost like parenting someone. You are aware of the dreams and aspirations of your athlete, yet you have to keep things in perspective so the pupil doesn't lose sight

of the steps taken to reach said goal," said Coach Asif Khan. "Our emphasis is on execution," says Fazal Shah who is always on the sidelines, yet being



attuned enough to be able to navigate and charter the athlete's every move, his trajectory, both physical as well as emotional.

only win seven medals in total. "When we took over in March 2017, we wanted to understand the reasons for our demise in squash. For three months we studied the American model, the British and Australian, and how the Malaysians became better. They all led to the Egyptian model. And the Egyptians were following the Pakistan model," said Secretary Pakistan Squash Federation Gp Capt Tahir Sultan. The Egyptians studied Pakistani players - their wrist movements, their swing from the point of grip, and drop shots, said Tahir Sultan. "But the most important factor the Egyptians learnt from us and incorporated into their system was the importance of fitness of our player," he emphasized.

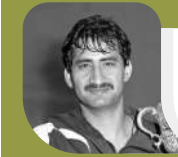
As the war on terror started to take shape there was an angry and violent mood lurking over the country. This mood landed on the sport of squash and knocked it flat on its back. The country had a ringside seat to human tragedy, described Secretary PSF Tahir Sultan. "It took us more than a decade to deny oxygen to the perpetual flame of terror. Because of all the violence, the International Squash

BALL OF FAME



Jahangir Khan
(Born Dec 1963)

World Open Titles: 6
British Open Titles: 10



Jansher Khan
(Born June 1969)

World Open Titles: 8
British Open Titles: 6



Hashim Khan
(Jan 1914-Aug 2014)

British Open Titles: 7

Federation banned events in Pakistan. Youngsters had nothing to follow," Tahir Sultan lamented.

In February 2017, it took five months to convince world bodies that Pakistan was a safe venue to host international tournaments. The previous ban took five years to remove. "We invited top Egyptian players for competitions against our best. This sent a strong message that Pakistan is serious about reclaiming its position in the world of squash," the senior official said.

The PAF management has rolled out a plan that offers the best facilities, best equipment and the perfect environment to aspiring squash players.



Left: A thrust worth a thousand punches - Huzaifa Ibrahim caught just before his racquet hits during final of Junior Squash Championship held at Mushaf Squash Complex, Islamabad. (Photo: PAF Archive)

THE UNCONQUERABLE RACQUETS: UNBROKEN GLOBAL STREAKS BY PAKISTANIS

Player	Total Global Titles	Unbroken Streak
Hashim Khan	7	1951-1957 (6 Years)
Azam Khan	4	1959-1962 (4 Years)
Jahangir Khan	16	1981-1987 (6 Years)

Right: A leap towards victory - Farhan Zaman stretches to catch the during the final of CAS Squash Open held at Mushaf Squash Complex, Islamabad. (Photo: PAF Archive)



A Star is REBORN...

Muhammad Humza Khan, is one of the youngest champions, is also one of the grittest. He does not believe winning is a one time thing. "It is an all time thing," he told the editorial team of Second to None. Looking in extremely good form, 14-year-old Hamza Khan tamed England's Yusuf Sheikh, in just 16 minutes, registering a 11-4, 11-3, 11-7 victory in the final at Birmingham. His victory at the Under 15 British Junior Open Championship, has given a new life to Pakistan squash as the country regained the title after eight long years. He is considered one of the leading players of his time. "I knew I was going to win," he said.

Humza's attitude is contagious and worth catching. He believes in extreme work ethic. "I am more excited about practice. It is my classroom," Humza Khan said, who trains for

two hours before school starts and hits the courts again for another five hours after it finishes. "It is a tough game and competition is even harder. If you are not going all the way, why go at all. That's how my father explained it to me," the young champion said - winner of 9 gold and 3 silver medals since he started playing professionally four years ago. His confidence grows when he plays against older, stronger, and experienced players. "I believe I can achieve anything when I beat tougher opponents," he said.

Secretary Pakistan Squash Federation Tahir Sultan describes Humza Khan as one of the core players, and is one of the game's most consistently

solid names. In Humza Khan, former squash players and enthusiasts see a lot of success stories and the sport of squash truly ascending towards greatness. "Athletes do brilliantly and earn a name for themselves. But it is the stories of sportsmen turning failures into successes. Something like that has real flavour and something one can all take inspiration from," said former Squash Champion Qamar Zaman. As for Humza Khan, he has every intention of making winning a habit. "You don't do things right once in a while, you do them right all the time.



It is working towards providing jobs in the air force as well as creating work opportunities in departments such as WAPDA, Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) etc. Moving forward, the PSF wants to continue these efforts in tandem with scholarships for aspiring players who are trained by coaches to produce pro athletes. With significant support from the Serena Hotels that sponsor international squash competitions in the country, Pakistan Squash Federation will cover every cost incurred in supporting

these players.

"Above all we have complete support from President of PSF, Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, who ensures participation of Pakistani players in maximum international events at home and abroad. That kind of exposure is vital to instill confidence in young players," Tahir Sultan said, optimistic about Pakistan's return to its former glory in this arena.

Above: A Flying Start - Young Hamza is not ready to concede anything to his opponent, a picture of commitment and class of its own (Photo: Online website)

Right page bottom: Huzaifa Ibrahim after winning the U-15 Japan Junior Open International Squash tournament-2019 (Photo: Online website)



At the HELM

All athletes need motivation and constant reminders to be at their best during both practice as well as competition. Building a winning team, Chief of Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, an inspirational war planner and master motivator in sports, encourages young squash players to go beyond all previous limits.

In a country where people's hearts are captured by cricket, and its national team, Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, steps up, to give his time and energy to develop and manage the sport of squash and regain its hold again. His words of encouragement sends aspiring young players into a new territory to achieve the highest levels of performance.

Mujahid Anwar Khan has established a strong tour calendar that reflects his passion and commitment towards the sport. At PSF, everyone is so appreciative of the support he is extending.



With these efforts, the PSF intends to restore the trust of parents in squash as a promising career choice worthy of their time and effort.

"Once set on a course of action, we can be an unstoppable force and make it back into the top ten world ranking in the next four to five years," he adds.

Former squash champion Qamar Zaman says that Pakistan is lacking in youth that aspire to be champions in squash. "We need squash players that can be sporting equivalents of Jahangir Khan, who by age 17, became the youngest player to ever win the World Championship title. He was unbeaten for six years between 1992 to 1997. During this time he won 555 consecutive matches, the highest winning streak by any player in any game ever."



Hamza Khan Bows: overwhelmed with gratitude and relief after a win. (Photo: PAF Archive)



All Smiles – Winners of Under-15 British Junior Open Championship receiving a hero's welcome at Islamabad International Airport. (AWO Bilal)

Since Jahangir Khan's scoring records remain unmatched, Qamar Zaman rallies around young players to develop exemplary work ethics, stringing consistency together, and putting in their 110 percent.

"It means training five to six hours and ripping off that plaster. That is how magic works. Anything less and you'll be breaking my heart," his reverence for the game is evident.

Suddenly the country has a hero and the nation is entranced. At 14, he is already a role model to a new generation of Pakistanis. Growing up idolizing Jahangir Khan and Jansher Khan, Hamza Khan has the same message that the two champions had for aspiring athletes, "If you have a burning ambition and desire, absolutely anything is possible."...



Aamir Atlas and Azlan Iskandar from Malaysia locked in a deadly battle during an international match (Photo: PAF Archive)

AIR MARSHAL NUR KHAN

A Man With MIDAS TOUCH

A C-130 Hercules stands battle ready, in a pitch dark night of late August 1965, its engines roaring and rumbling, its ramp and door wide open as the final preparations went underway. The tarmac of PAF Station Chaklala echoed with the deafening noise produced by the four turbo-prop engines of the mighty Hercules. However, there was pin drop silence in the cockpit-the atmosphere inside the flight deck was tense; the grave faces of crew indicated that they were about to launch on a special mission - a mission which could prove to be their last. Wing Commander Salahuddin Zahid Butt, the Captain of aircraft

(also the Officer Commanding of No 35 CAT wing), and his crew had never flown a sortie like this before. Rations, supplies and ammo were badly needed by our own ground troops across the border in IHK. And there was only way of achieving this prime objective - an aerial delivery sortie by a PAF Hercules in the dead of pitch dark night. The outcome of ground operations heavily depended on the success of this sortie, putting the stakes high for the PAF. The challenge faced by the crew was two-fold. On one hand, Hercules being a heavy bird with its slow speed becomes a sitting duck when it comes under the susceptibility of enemy ground fire. On the other, the intended mission, through the treacherous valleys lying between

the world's highest mountains, itself offered unsurmountable dangers.

As the chocks are about to be removed, a staff car appears on the tarmac, a three-star flag flapping on the bonnet. The OC Flying gets off the aircraft, perplexed, to greet none other than the Commander-in-Chief of the PAF, Air Marshal Nur Khan. The air chief inquired if the plane was ready, and informs him in a firm manner that he was going to lead the mission himself. Wing Commander Zahid was shocked; as the clouds of war loomed over the horizon, the Commander-in-Chief of the Air Force wished to board a plane which had a one-way flight plan. The thoughts

Bottom: The Air Chief posing in the cockpit of 'Star Fighter' geared up and ready to go (Photo: PAF Archive)

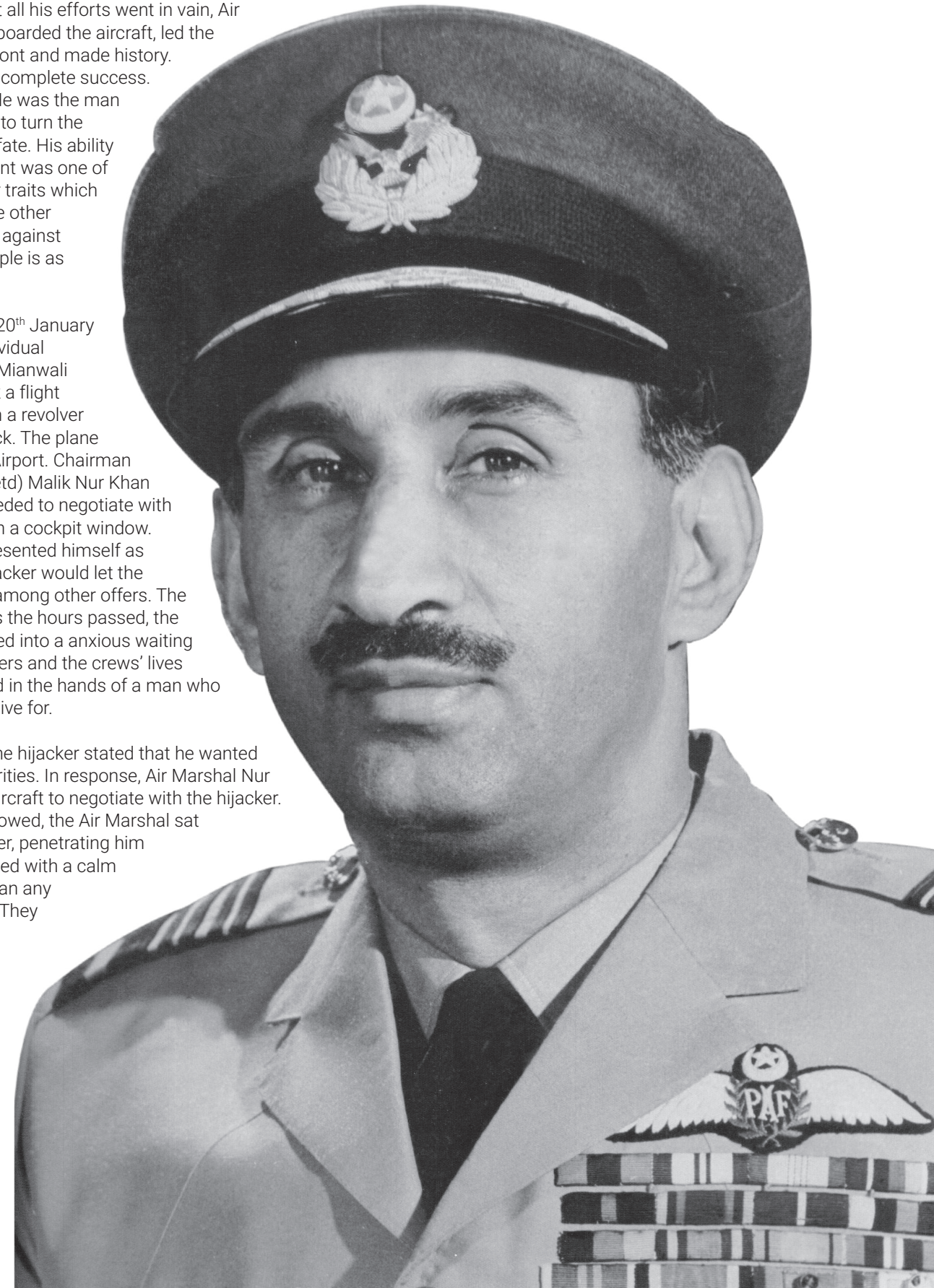
Right: Air Chief Nur Khan stares into the camera with a gaze that could tell a million words. (Photo: PAF Archive)



of Hercules being shot down with C-in-C onboard, makes him uncomfortable. He pleads the air chief to re consider his decision as the consequences could be fatal. God forbid, if the aircraft was hit or goes down due to any reason, the news would shock the nation taking the morale of the forces to a rock bottom - simply put, Pakistan would lose the war before it began. But all his efforts went in vain, Air Marshal Nur Khan boarded the aircraft, led the mission from the front and made history. The mission was a complete success. Why wouldn't he? He was the man who had the ability to turn the tables of apparent fate. His ability to lead from the front was one of his prime character traits which symbolizes him, the other was sheer courage against all odds...the example is as follows.

On the morning of 20th January 1978, a fanatic individual named Nazir from Mianwali attempted to hijack a flight PK-543, armed with a revolver and a dynamite stick. The plane landed at Karachi Airport. Chairman PIA Air Marshal (Retd) Malik Nur Khan immediately proceeded to negotiate with the hijacker through a cockpit window. The Air Marshal presented himself as a hostage if the hijacker would let the passengers leave, among other offers. The hijacker refused. As the hours passed, the entire episode turned into a anxious waiting game, the passengers and the crews' lives hanging by a thread in the hands of a man who had nothing left to live for.

Around midnight, the hijacker stated that he wanted to talk to the authorities. In response, Air Marshal Nur Khan entered the aircraft to negotiate with the hijacker. In the hour that followed, the Air Marshal sat opposite the hijacker, penetrating him with eyes that glowed with a calm more dangerous than any fathomable storm. They talked in the closed confines of the F27 cabin. When the Air Marshal found the opening he was waiting for, he pounced and struggled to snatch away the revolver from the hijacker's hands. In the



ensuing fight, the hijacker shot Nur Khan point blank. However, the unconquerable Air Marshal, despite being shot, managed to overcome the hijacker and rescue the hostages. Later, he recovered quickly from the gunshot wound and was awarded the Hilal-e-Shujaat, a worthy addition to the Hilal-e-Jurat he already possessed for his formidable role as Air Chief in the 1965 war. This incident personifies the Air Marshal in his entirety, a man who overcame all to achieve what he had set sights on. And like the Greek God Midas, turned everything he touched, into gold. This is the story of a legend who is truly remembered in our history as 'A Man with Midas touch'.

Malik Nur Khan was born to a military household in 1923 in Taman. His maternal grandfather was the Nawab of Kalabagh. After a promising youth in which he showed ample promise, he graduated from Royal

Indian Military College at Dehra Dun. Consequently, he learned flying at the Lahore Flying Club Walton, getting his pilot's A-license on Tiger Moth biplane.

He was commissioned as a fighter pilot in the Royal Indian Air Force at the ripe age of seventeen years. He was made part of the auspicious 6th Pilot Course (PC) of RIAF. The course included Plt Off Asghar Khan, Plt Off M Akhtar and Plt Off M M A Cheema; all of whom have become renowned names in PAF's history. The course was the first union of a small group of Muslim officers who later went on to form the backbone of the then infant Pakistani Air Force.

His first posting was to No 3 Squadron at Kohat, where he quickly mastered the Hawker Audax. Over the years he was involved in numerous successful sorties in Miranshah which granted him a promotion to the rank of Flg Off in 1942.

He was made a part of the No 7 Squadron in 1944, where he was under the



“ Nur Khan's plane would appear on the horizon as a silhouette, giving the impression of normalcy. As he would approach a discernible range, spectators would realize that he was, in fact, flying his Hurricane in an inverted position! ”

Top Right: Nur Khan, in his early days (Photo: PAF Archive)

Left: A family man through and through: A prolific picture of Nur Khan with his wife, Farhat Nur Khan and their first child (Photo: PAF Archive)

Bottom: The Air Chief receives a guard of honour at a USAF base (Photo: PAF Archive)



command of Flt Lt Erlic Pinto. Interestingly - the other Flt Cdr of the Sqn was none other than PC Lal, who later went on to command the IAF in 1971.

This is where he undertook his first dive-bombing sorties. He also served the role of the Squadron Sports Officer, a role which would be the first stepping stone towards his great contribution to sports on a national level. The squadron later acquired the Hawker Hurricane fighter-bomber, on which Nur Khan also gained mastery.

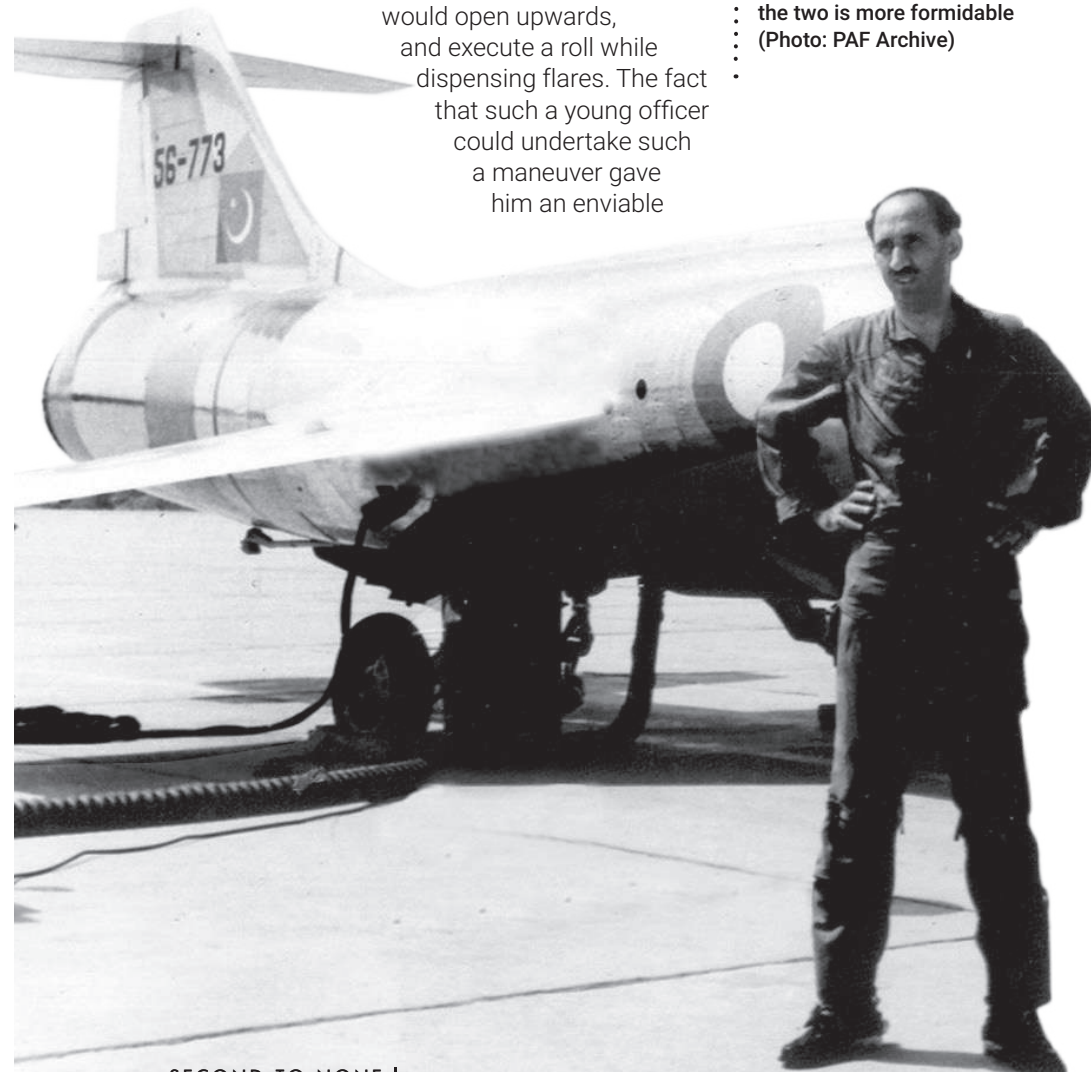
His skills were put to the test when he became part of the No 9 Squadron and fought the Japanese army in Burma, still flying the Hurricane. His comrades tell of a time where seeing him land his aircraft was a spectacle in itself. Nur Khan's plane would appear on the horizon as a silhouette, giving the impression of normalcy. As he would approach a discernible range, spectators would realize that he was, in fact, flying his Hurricane in an inverted position! Amid gasps of awe and admiration, he would approach the runway for landing. With immaculate timing, he would lower the undercarriage, which owing to his orientation would open upwards,

and execute a roll while dispensing flares. The fact that such a young officer could undertake such a maneuver gave him an enviable



Top Right: Sqn Ldr Nur Khan along with Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan at RPAF Station Mauripur. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Bottom: Malik Nur Khan stands tall on the tarmac with his 'Star Fighter' making it hard to distinguish which of the two is more formidable (Photo: PAF Archive)



reputation. His love of flying led him to test and master every plane inducted into the PAF till the last days of his career, flying the likes of F-104, F-6 and the Mirage III aircraft to their full potential.

As Pakistan was about to gain its independence, officers were asked to opt for either India or Pakistan. Fortunately yet unsurprisingly, Nur Khan along with Asghar Khan opted for PAF.

Malik Nur Khan was eventually made the Commander in Chief of PAF. However even before he held the reins of the entirety of PAF, his tenure was filled to the brim with achievements. PAF College Risalpur is the prestigious institute it is today owing largely to the fact that Nur Khan was its commandant in its early years. He commanded PAF Station Mauripur and spearheaded the procurement of F-86s. He also accomplished the task of converting the air force from piston to jet-engine aircraft which proved to be a game-changer for PAF.

PIA: He was appointed the Managing Director PIA and Chief Administrator of Civil Aviation and Tourism in March 1959. PIA acquired its first Jetliner, Boeing 707-321, under his command. He remained the MD of PIA from 1959-6 and again in 1973.

This is remembered as the Golden Era of PIA. Nations from all over the world followed PIA's model to erect leading airlines. PIA became the first Asian Airline to operate jet engine aircraft. The green and golden colors became the symbol of elegance and luxury. PIA Investment Limited was Nur Khan's brainchild and it moved into the hospitality sector, as well. The body managed hotels already owned by PIA and bought new ones. These hotels included the likes of Roosevelt in New York, Serena Swat, Serena Gilgit, Madison Avenue in Manhattan, Minhal in Riyadh and Scribe in Paris. Omar Kureishi, writer-broadcaster who worked with him at PIA, deemed him to be of "clear-cut views on most matters, a closed mind but one who leaves a window open. That was his management style, an impatient man who was result-oriented, a competitive man because he sought the best, brooked no nonsense."

C-in-C and 1965 war:

He came to his true calling when he was appointed the sixth Commander in Chief of PAF on 23rd July 1965, replacing the legendary Air Marshal Asghar Khan. The Air Marshal had his work cut out for him as he assumed control, with 1965 war with India looming over the horizon. Where many other men of



mettle might have faltered, Air Marshal Nur Khan stood immovable against an airforce bigger in size and much better equipped. It was his adroit war tactics that laid waste to the conceited dream of having a cocktail party in Gymkhana Lahore which was being shamelessly touted by General Chaudhry of the Indian Army.

The start of the war marked with Sqd Ldr Aftab Alam destroying an IAF Mystere and damaging another. It was the first missile kill for the PAF. On 4th September, Air Marshal Nur Khan said in a press conference "Superiority in numbers does not decide air

battles; better training, morale and above all fighting spirit in fact are the deciding factors." The events that followed proved him right. He ordered a 'Red Alert' on 1st September, an action which gave PAF sufficient time to prepare for the war. As the conflicts began, Nur Khan implemented an offensive strategy plan for the devastation of enemy assets on the ground using effective and well-timed air strikes. Simultaneously, preparations were made to defend air bases if needed.

Just two days into the war, the diary of Pakistan Army's

Top: Straight out of Hollywood - Like a world-war era movie star, Air Marshal Nur Khan gazes out at the horizon, a fierce yet determined face beneath a classic aviator helmet. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Bottom Left: PIA Soars-The national airline under Nur Khan's leadership launched the first Boeing 707 Jet, the first nation to do so in the region (Photo: PAF Archive)

Bottom Right: The Air Chief receives the Shah of Iran during a visit (Photo: PAF Archive)



No 10 Div records "At this crucial juncture, appeared 06 PAF Sabres led by Squadron Leader Sajjad "Nosey" Haider and wrought havoc with the enemy armor and infantry trying to cross the BRB Canal". By September 7th, the PAF had annihilated 50 IAF aircraft on ground and in the air and damaged 8. This does not take into account the damage incurred by the enemy in PAF's night bombing. The engagement of assets by Air Marshal Nur Khan played an instrumental role in achieving victory over a bigger adversary. PAF's F-104 Star Fighters, B-57s and Sabres inflicted dire damage to IAF's Gnats, Hunters and Mysteres. The successful and swift deployment of C-130 fleet for night bombing, a first at the time, is another example Nur Khan's innovative strategy.

Even under the overwhelming weight of war, Nur Khan never lost his sense of right and wrong. Wing Commander Aman ullah (SJ) was a F86 pilot who remembers an interesting episode of the war in an interview. "I was part of a sortie which was to target the Amritsar Radar," he says. "The radar was very close to the revered Golden Temple of the Sikhs. When being briefed about the mission, Malik Nur Khan told the pilots that under no circumstances was the Golden Temple to be damaged and if anybody did commit the folly of hitting it, the Air Chief would personally shoot him on the runaway when he lands! We all roared with laughter at



the time... but we were wary that the chief wouldn't have to carry out his threat,"he says with a smirk.

After the ceasefire of the 1965, Pakistan was put under sanctions and arms embargo from the US. Nur Khan rallied the nation's allies and asked China for assistance. He personally made 2 visits to China to procure F-6s. The second procurement that the Air Marshal has to his credit is the French Mirage. The task was not an easy one as the French was reluctant to give Pakistan Military assistance. However, owing to Nur Khan's persistence and charisma, the first of the Mirages III Es landed in Sargodha in 1968.

Nur Khan in Sports:

Air Marshal Nur Khan had always taken a keen interest in sports. This interest was transformed into the practical when he was handed the reins of the Pakistan Hockey Federation. During his tenure, Pakistan made a name for itself on the global arena. In his time, Pakistan won 2 Olympic Gold Medals, 2 Hockey World Cups and 2 Hockey Champions Trophies.

Even before he became the president of the Hockey Federation, Nur Khan nurtured young

“ Even before he became the President of the Hockey Federation, Nur Khan nurtured young talent through unconventional yet effective methods. There would be six to seven Pakistanis among the global top 10 ”



Top: All SJ's in one frame-AM Nur Khan With PAF officer's who were awarded with SJ's during 1965 war. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Bottom Left: Men who wrote history- Air Marshal Nur Khan shakes hands with his predecessor Asghar Khan during change of command ceremony (Photo: PAF Archive)

Bottom Right: MD PIA Malik Nur Khan flying a commercial aircraft himself is the perfect manifestation of his habit of steering progress with his own hands. (Photo: PAF Archive)

talent through unconventional yet effective methods. One of the ingenious way he promoted Squash in the nation was during his second term in PIA in 1973. He laid the foundation of the PIA Colts scheme. Young squash players who displayed promise were scouted and given monthly stipends. They were taken to participate in international tournaments on the expense of PIA. Whoever performed well in international events was promised employment in the PIA. This lucrative incentive plan bore fruit and Pakistan was blessed with world class squash

“As president of the Pakistan Hockey Federation he gave the Junior World Cup and Champions Trophy to the world of hockey. Under him Pakistan Hockey scaled the greatest of heights in its history; possessing all the top titles from the Olympics, World Cup, Champions Trophy and to the Asia Cup at the same time.”

players like Azam Khan, Jahangir Khan, Qamar Zaman, Gogi Allauddin, Jansher Khan, Mo Khan Junior and others. There used to be six to seven Pakistanis among the top 10 in the world rankings at any given time.

Nur Khan made major contributions to the arena of Cricket, as well. He was appointed the President Board of Control for Cricket (Now Pakistan Cricket Board) in 1980. He earned the hosting rights for the 1987 Cricket World Cup. He introduced the idea of neutral umpires and match referee. Legends like Miandad and Imran Khan remember him as a firm yet considerate administrator, keeping the team content while elevating the sport through his farsighted policies and steps.

Legacy:

In 1969, Nur Khan retired from the military. However, his retirement was overturned by President Yahya who appointed him as the Chief Martial Law Administrator. He was given the post of Cabinet Minister of communication, health, labor and science on August 1969. He was subsequently appointed as the Governor of West Pakistan and made



several radical reforms in the region. In an interview with Javaid Chaudry, Nur Khan reminisces "Once President Ayub Khan called me for a meeting, he was 4 minutes late. I returned without meeting him even though I was a subordinate. He came to my office the next day by himself."

His illustrious career has caused some to call him the Man with the Midas touch, drawing parallels to the legendary king Midas, who turned everything he touched into solid gold. On a national scale, he was awarded

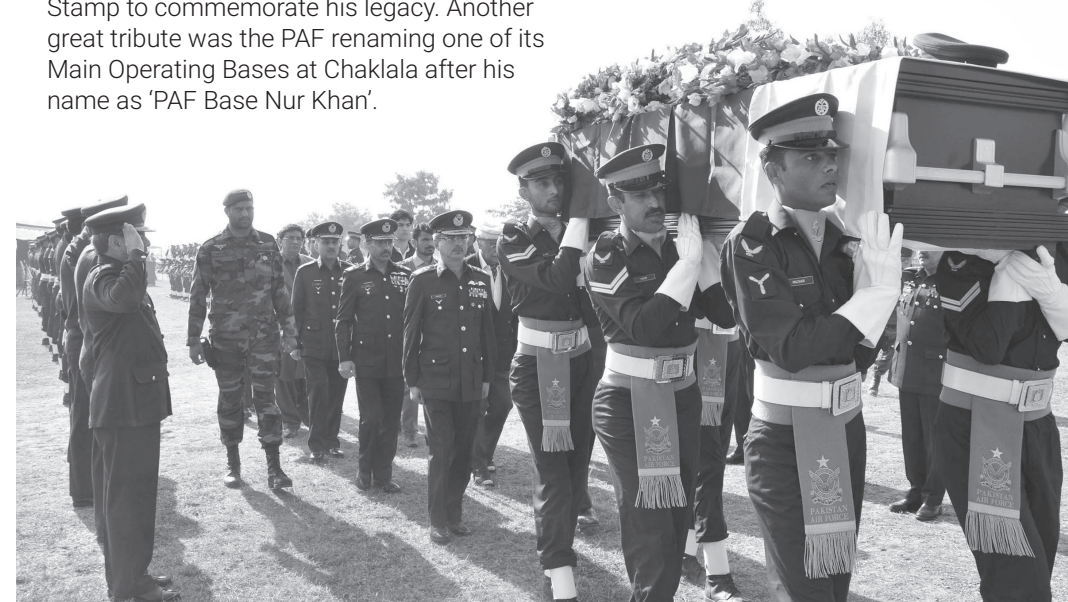
Top Right : The commemorative postal stamp issued by Pakistan Post in the memory of the Air Marshal (Photo: PAF Archive)

Bottom: Forever vigilant - Malik Nur Khan inspects the preparedness of Cadets during a Passing out parade (Photo: PAF Archive)



several laurels including HJ, HS, SPK and SQA. Internationally, he was endowed with the Order of Istiqlal (2nd Class) by the King of Jordan and the Commander of the National Order by the President of Lebanon. He was also honored with the award of Grand Officer in the order of Range Nassau with Swords by the Dutch Government. He also garnered praise from the Israeli President, who also was the Commander of the Israeli Air Force and Minister of Defense who wrote in his autobiography "Nur Khan was a formidable fellow and I was glad that he was Pakistani and not Egyptian". His long distinguished life came to a dignified

end on the 15th of December, 2011, leaving behind an incomparable legacy. He was survived by his wife, Begum Farhat and four children, a son and 3 daughters. He was given a farewell in the PAF Complex E-9 Islamabad, the proceeding attended by Air Chiefs, Generals, politicians and the common man. He was later laid to rest with full military honors in his native town of Taman. The government of Pakistan issued a Postal Stamp to commemorate his legacy. Another great tribute was the PAF renaming one of its Main Operating Bases at Chaklala after his name as 'PAF Base Nur Khan'.



Top Left: Air Chief during his second tenure as MD PIA, during which he arranged the first passenger flight to China from a non-communist nation, in 1964 (Photo: PAF Archive)

Center Left: Forever an advocate of peace: Air Marshal Nur Khan welcomes his counter part, IAF Air Chief Arjan Singh on his visit to Pakistan after the 1965 war. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Top Right: Not just an Air Force man: The former Air Chief takes his oath as Governor of West Pakistan in 1969. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Bottom: A legend's last flight to heaven - The funeral procession of the great Air Marshal with full military honors (Photo: PAF Archive)

A GRIFFIN PERSONIFIED

Gone... But Never Forgotten

Fellow fighter pilots, seniors and his colleagues will remember Wg Cdr Nauman Akram (Shaheed) for the wonderful and brave pilot that he was. He had a passion for flying and the honour to serve his country. His is a story of guts and glory. His records were enviable, which grew systematically, and soared into PAF's history after winning the coveted Top Gun title 'Sher Afgan'. He embodied the spirit of a PAF officer through the principled life he led and unselfishly, time and again, gave himself to this nation. For protecting their liberty and freedom till the very last, his countrymen will always remain in debt to him.



The roaring turbo-prop engines of the mighty Hercules winds down and there is complete silence. The aircraft presents a solemn, soaked figure in the heavy rain, parked morosely on the tarmac of PAF Base Mushaf. Its crew had to undertake a task which can bring the strongest of men to their knees; they had to fly in the remains of their fallen comrade. The Hercules lowers its ramp. The crew gets down and salutes in honor of the martyr. Amidst roaring thunder claps and incessant rain, the casket of the fallen warrior emerges from behind the C-130. The coffin is wrapped in green and white, colors for which he lived his entire life, and colors for which he breathed his last.

Arranged in two flanks, comrades from all rank and files present to Shaheed, an arms salute. The sky shakes with another clap of thunder but the gathered remain unmoved. The funeral prayers are offered sombrely and the Shaheed starts the journey which would be his last. Leading the congregation is none other than Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, himself, who salutes as the casket is lifted. The men in blue pay homage to their fallen brother, the one and only Wg Cdr Nauman Akram (Shaheed).

To the family of Wg Cdr Nauman Akram, there is nothing that can be said that will take away or lessen the pain they are feeling. What they can be told is that they are not alone in their grief. In Mushaf Air Force Base Sargodha, officers are having a hard time envisioning a life without their fallen comrade. "He was an integral part of our team and our hearts are heavy with his loss," said Base Commander, Air Cdre Ali Naeem.

Wg Cdr Nauman Akram took off for Islamabad on a hazy day with heavy clouds lurking towards east. He passed above the parade ground close to the speed of sound. With the roar of his F-16, louder than the boom of splitting atoms, he pulled up into a high pitched climb. It was a beautiful manoeuvre, people gathered below were enthralled. What happened next has now become part of the history. We will never truly know his final thoughts or the split second decisions he may have taken. But the trajectory of the crash was such that nearby civilians lives on the ground were saved.

The din of disbelief at Mushaf was palpable. Eyes searched for the fallen comrade. "We kept expecting him to walk through those doors any minute. It took us the whole day, and then some, to come to terms with the altered reality. SqN Ldr Ammar Shoaib, one of his under command officers said.

Born into a military family, Nauman Akram joined PAF after his FSc, living and loving the role that would shape his future. He was proud of being a fighter pilot in the Pakistan Air Force and deemed it his highest achievement. He had completed various training programmes ranging from conversion courses from one jet fighter to another as well as Senior Command and Staff Courses. After finishing a four-year tenure in Qatar, Nauman Akram was appointed as Flight Commander Operations till May 2019. From then on the Wg Cdr was appointed as OC No 9 Squadron, which was also his last held position.

Besides being awarded Chief of Air Staff Commendation Certificates as well as Excellence Badge, in 2019, Nauman Akram was bestowed Tamgha-e-Basalat for his service during Operation Zarb-e-Azb. In October, 2019, Nauman Akram won the Sher Afghan trophy during the Inter-Squadron





Armament Competition (ISAC). His No 9 Squadron came in second place.

"To win the Sher Afghan trophy is one of the highest honours. But he was such a strong team player that his preference of a team win would outweigh that of an individual win. He always put his squadron before himself. Nauman used to say that he would swap his Sher Afghan trophy for the ISAC title any day," said, Sqn Ldr Ammar Shoab, who was Nauman Akram's wingman during the competition last year.

Fellow fighter pilots, seniors and his colleagues will remember Wg Cdr Nauman Akram Shaheed for the wonderful and brave pilot that he was. As they reminisced about their fallen comrade, their memories and anecdotes were a testament of the fearless late fighter pilot, who touched the lives of many.

"He was a loving husband to his wife, an amazing father to his two children, and our fellow warrior and friend - a friend who could be trusted in the toughest of times. Always courteous and polite, his presence would make you want to be on that next level of mannerisms and respect. The world needs more people like him, with a big heart," said one of his under command pilots who knew Nauman Akram as a professional that was not only proficient at his job, but also passionate about it.

So much so that the Wg Cdr was selected to fly Chief of Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, in his F-16, during his visit to the Base, recently.

The Air Force is a close-knit family, and the loss of one of our own affects all of us, said OC Flying, Gp Capt Muhammad Jahanzeb Khan.



COAS: "Laying one's life is the ultimate sacrifice one can make for defence of the motherland. May his soul rest in peace. My thoughts and sincere prayers for the bereaved family."

Above Left: PAF's Top Gun-Wg Cdr Nauman Akram (Shaheed) receiving the Sher Afghan trophy from the Chief of Air Staff, after a stellar performance in the Inter Squadron Armament Competition. (Photo: Snr Tech Asad)

Above Right: PAF's top gun Wg Cdr Nauman Akram poses in front of his F16, calm and glorious. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Bottom: Wg Cdr Nauman Akram flew the COAS General Qamar Javed Bajwa during the Army Chief's visit to Mushaf Air Base. Proud Sqn Cdr stands alongside two services Chiefs' and other senior officers (Photo: Snr Tech Qaiser)

"To be the OC of one of the elite squadrons is to be the best of the best. That says it all about Nauman Akram," Jahanzeb Khan said.

Those who served with Wg Cdr Nauman Akram believe that their passion and commitment would not burn so brightly if it were not for the example and guidance of their dear friend.

Base Commander, Air Cdre Ali Naem, was one of Nauman's instructors and described the Shaheed as the one whose mind was rarer than radium. "He was the sharpest officer. His mind absorbed lessons like a sponge absorbs water. He executed a task with grease lightening ease," Air Cdre Ali Naem reminisced. "We are proud of the training system we have, our men are trained for challenges. His loss is a solemn reminder of the dangerous work that airmen do every day." Despite the inherent risks, flying is also the reward for pilots. For them the show must go on. His colleagues,

CAS: "The martyred pilot laid down his life for the sacred motherland. His martyrdom would always be remembered"



Above: The Griffin Squad: Wg Cdr Nauman Akram (Shaheed), OC No 9 Squadron, along with his Unit officers, a picture of class and intimidation. (Photo: PAF Archive)

friends and family members, take comfort in their faith, and the knowledge that Wg Cdr Nauman Akram sacrificed his life doing what he loved best: serving his country and pursuing his lifelong dream to be a fighter pilot in the Pakistan Air Force.

"We will never forget his smile that started with his eyes," said Sqn Ldr Ammar Shoab.

Bottom: A Griffin's Last Flight - PAF personnel lift Wg Cdr Nauman's (Shaheed) casket while others presents arms salute during funeral parade at PAF Base Mushaf (Photo: PAF Archive)



'Bravo' THUNDER JOINS THE CLUB



Right: Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, inspects the cockpit of a JF-17 Thunder B-Model during the roll-out ceremony held at PAC Kamra. (Photo: AWO Iftikhar)

Left: A JF-17 Thunder B-Model aircraft stands gleaming at the tarmac, the green of the Pakistani flag standing out on its tail. (Photo: Alan Warnes)



Pakistan Air Force established that it knows no bounds when it rolled out a better and mightier version of the JF-17 Thunder (B-Model) with dual seats. The aircraft, already an aviation hot-topic owing to its battle-proven agility, has now become more commercially viable for Air Forces around the world. Built in record time in collaboration with China, the JF-17 Thunder B model is a new milestone for the PAF.

For years the PAF had always maintained that it had no need for a dual-seat Thunder. Whenever I spoke to key players in the JF-17 programme, about such a variant I was always told there was no need. "We never had a two-seat A-5 and never needed dual seat F-6s, F-7s or F-7PGs until later. With a good simulator system in place it isn't a priority."

Then things changed. Unlike the above types, the Pakistan Air Force was responsible for designing the JF-17 from the outset, and with China National Aero-Technology Import & Export Corporation (CATIC) wanted to export it. Most air forces require a mission simulator system as well as a dual seater before pilots fly a single-seater version. The Egyptian Air Force Commander told me so much at Dubai Airshow in 2013, and others have expressed the same sentiment.

The synthetic training simulators, supplied by Spanish technology giant Indra have been operational with the PAF for over five years now. Indra has played a key role in the development of the Eurofighter simulation and was an ideal fit for the JF-17 full mission simulator. Today, there are three mission systems in operation at Minhas, Masroor and



Peshawar, although it is likely that one will move to MM Alam when the base stands up the JF-17 OCU there. They have helped massively with the training of new JF-17 pilots, but according to the Pakistan Air Force Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, the JF-17B will streamline the JF-17 training process even further. "Current JF-17 pilots are being posted to Lockheed Martin F-16, Chengdu F-7PG or ROSE Dassault Mirage III/Es before converting to JF-17. But soon they will start going straight to a JF-17 OCU, after completing their advanced jet training. It will ensure pilots transitioning to the Sino-Pak jet, are a lot younger than they are now." Pilots previously could not move to the JF-17 from the No 1 Fighter Conversion Unit, where they learnt the

art of tactical fighter flying. Instead they needed to spend a couple of years gaining experience before they could move on to next stage.

The first flight of a dual-seat JF-17B, took place at Chengdu on April 27, 2017 which revealed several modifications to the aircraft's airframe not seen in the single-seater. There is a dorsal spine, to house more fuel, to compensate for the space taken by the additional Martin Baker Mk 16 seat. While the swept tail houses a new three-axis fly-by-wire flight control system and the nose has been enlarged to

Above: A JF-17 Thunder B-model aircraft comes in for a landing after its maiden flight at Chengdu, China, bearing both the Chinese and Pakistani flags as a symbol of mutual collaboration. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Bottom: A JF-17 Thunder-B model aircraft undergoing rigorous trials and tests before it is rolled out to the PAF. (Photo: Alan Warnes)



Above: Two JF-17 Thunder Dual Seat aircraft stand nose to nose, a picture of finesse, grandeur and might. (Photo: AWO Iftikhar)

Bottom Right: Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, H.E Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing among other dignitaries representing Pakistan and China pose for a photo-op in front of a JF-17 Thunder B-Model aircraft at the roll-out ceremony (Photo: AWO Iftikhar)

accommodate the new KLJ-7A AESA radar when the time comes. Three aircraft were initially built at Chengdu Aircraft Corporation (CAC), two for the PAF and one for CATIC. While the PLAAF has not ordered the JF-17, several countries have shown a key interest in a dual seat and single seater version. It means potential customers will have the chance to fly the aircraft and have a

feel for it, rather than fly a simulator. CATIC is also helping with the test and development programme, including integration of weapons. The dual-seater will also have the same operational capabilities as the single-seat JF-17A. By early 2019, one JF-17B had been delivered to the PAF, joined later in the year by a second then another two. While all this was going on, PAC

Kamra was building eight JF-17Bs that rolled out in a ceremony held in the morning of 27th December, 2019. Chief of Air Staff of Pakistan Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan was the chief guest at the historic occasion. Ambassador of People's Republic of China, Yao Jing. Executive Vice President, Aviation Industries of China (AVIC), Hao Zhaoping, were also in attendance

“ PAC Kamra Produced all 08 JF-17 Dual Seat aircraft in a Short span of 05 months ”



as guests of honour. The most commendable aspect was that all aircraft were assembled inside five months! Later in the day, the Air Chief also inaugurated JF-17 Dual-Seat Integration facility at Avionics Production Factory, Kamra. The facility will enable PAF to integrate avionics and weapon systems of choice with JF-17 aircraft, ultimately providing much needed self-reliance and operational flexibility.

PAC Kamra builds a little bit less of the dual-seater than the single-seater because the new improvements and the cockpit section are designed in China. During the first few months

“Serial production of dual-seat variant is a landmark development for JF-17 program and a true manifestation of everlasting friendship between both the friendly countries. JF-17 Thunder is the backbone of PAF, and it has proven itself a force to reckon with during the Operation Swift Retort in February 2019: Air Chief”



of 2020, most of them were going through functional flight checks by the test pilots at AMF's flight test shed. The CAS said, "Serial production of dual-seat variant is a landmark development for JF-17 program and a true manifestation of everlasting friendship between both the friendly countries. JF-17 Thunder is the backbone of PAF, and it has proven itself a force to reckon with during the Operation Swift Retort in February 2019".

Above: PAF Engineers and Technicians toil over a JF-17 Thunder Dual Seat aircraft at the assembly line (Photo: Alan Warnes)

Bottom: The Pakistani flag flutters behind a freshly rolled out JF-17 Thunder B-Model aircraft. (Photo: AWO Iftikhar)

While it is very important to have dual seater JF-17s to help with the export drive and training, the PAF will undoubtedly turn the dual seater into a tactical aircraft too. There are 26 JF-17Bs on order, the former PAC Chairman, Air Marshal Ahmer Shahzad, told the author in April 2019 "We will assemble eight dual-seaters this year, followed by 14 in 2020 and the remaining four in 2021."

The PAF Chief, Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan told the author in January 2020: "The JF-17B will fill the LIFT (Lead In Fighter Training) role in PAF but the JF-17 will fulfil both operational and training requirements, its performance and capability with the AESA radar means it can cover both. We are completely focussed and taking a professional approach with the new jets," He continued: "All the front line squadrons will also have at least one to help with the operational training." With the PAF know-how and the Chinese technological



wizardry helping to shape the Thunder, the Sino-Pak fighter is heading into tactical capabilities that pioneers of the jet could only have dreamt of. Undoubtedly, the two-seater will one day fly with a laser designator pod too. It will be an attractive proposition for many third world or middle-east nations, and finally start to pick up some sizeable export orders. The export market is likely to play a bigger part in the JF-17's success but to get there, it will need the continued drive and vision of both Pakistan and China.

Above: A JF-17 Dual Seat (B-Model) lands at the runway after a successful test flight at Chengdu, China. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Right: The Air Chief stands in front of the lined up B-model JF17 Thunders, along-with the-then Chairman PAC Kamra, Air Marshal Ahmer Shehzad Leghari, before the latter went on to become Vice Chief of the Pakistan Air Force. (Photo: AWO Iftikhar)



Bottom: All lined up - Eight JF-17 Thunders (dual seat) stand tall on the tarmac in a picturesque symmetry, ready to serve. (Photo: AWO Iftikhar)



'HINDUTVA'

SHOWS ITS TRUE COLOURS!

India's New Citizenship Amendment Law and its Impact on the Muslims of India



narrative that was built by the Indian establishment after 1947 depended on a supposedly "secular" character, which trumpeted slogans of supposed "tolerance" and "harmony." The so-called "largest democracy" in the world was supposed to set an example for developing countries, and at the outset, it was thought remarkable that the country remained a self-styled democracy except for a brief period between 1975 and 1977. But the specter of ultra-nationalism and fascism has always loomed large over the Indian polity, and it has recently come

to the fore with vicious force. It is evident both to external observers and internal pundits that India is in the midst of a transition in its narrative from supposedly secular to a full-fledged ultra-nationalist state. The transition being observed in India is not without staunch resistance, not least from citizen groups and from minority blocs. Their resistance and incessant protests hark to a set of slogans including 'Saving the Constitution.' India has seen many high and low points in its post-independence history, but the ongoing turmoil represents a particularly low ebb, gravely damaging India's global standing as a "functional democracy," "rising economic dynamo" and a "country for all faiths." This article discusses the reason for these protests, the underlying fears raised by the Citizenship Amendment Act, and the larger tide of socio-political change in India as an ultranationalist Hindu polity which has left its talk of secularism and pluralism as nothing but a mere husk.

The repulsive face of CAA and NRC: The Citizen Amendment Act (hereinafter CAA) has amended the

Citizenship Act of 1955 and the Citizen Rule of 2004 by providing a path to Indian citizenship for Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, and Christian religious minorities fleeing persecution from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan and having entered India on or before 31 December 2014. This bill, now Act, had been one of the poll promises of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government. The act in its simplest description provides citizenship to the victims of religious persecution of the aforementioned religious communities except for Muslims from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. The Act also grants fast track Indian citizenship in six years, as opposed to the twelve years of residence that had been the standard eligibility requirement for naturalization. The CAA is not an isolated act; it is connected with the National Register of Citizens (NRC), which is a Supreme Court-monitored bureaucratic

Left Page: Demonstrators burn copies of the Citizenship Amendment Bill, a bill that seeks to give citizenship to religious minorities persecuted in neighbouring Muslim countries, during a protest in New Delhi, India, December 10, 2019. Photo by REUTERS
Bottom: Protesters at the Jama Masjid, a mosque in New Delhi, on Friday in a demonstration against India's new citizenship law. Credit...Money Sharma/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

citizenship exercise (beginning with the state of Assam). The NRC and CAA are both elements of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's larger fascist designs for Indian society. For the NRC, the process to update the register began following a Supreme Court order in 2013, with the state's nearly 33 million people having to prove that they were Indian nationals before March 24, 1971. The updated final NRC was released on August 31, 2019, and more than 1.9 million applicants failed to make it to the list. The link between the CAA and NRC is evident in that they together form an exercise whereby every Indian citizen has their citizenship held suspect, guilty until proven innocent, which forces them to actively prove his/her citizenship. Now if Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Parsis or Jains are not able to prove citizenship, for want of documents, they will be granted citizenship automatically as per the law passed by the parliament. But if a Muslim is not able to prove, he or she will be declared an infiltrator. Such Muslims will lose their voting rights and will not be eligible for employment, declared as a second-class citizen.



RSS ON THE LOOSE

This law threatens to make Muslims stateless in their own country. In the meantime, concentration camps ("detention centres") are being constructed all over the country to corral such people who will be declared non-citizens through the process.

How CAA violates the constitution of India:

The CAA ring-fences Muslim identity by declaring India a welcome refuge to all other religious communities except for Muslims. It seeks to legally establish Muslims as stateless persons in India by providing preferential treatment to other groups. According to the 42nd amendment in the Indian constitution, India is a secular state and every other religion has equal status. Despite the constitutional guarantees, the Hindu extremists continue to target minorities, especially Muslims and lower-caste Hindus (Dalits). According to local opponents of the Act, the CAA has marred the credibility of the very "idea of India".

The opposition parties and critics say the CAA violates India's secular constitution by making religion a marker of citizenship, and have challenged the law in the Supreme Court. The argument is that the act violates Article 14 (Equality before law) and Article 21 (Right to life and liberty) of the Indian constitution. Article 14 permits the reasonable and non-arbitrary classification of persons, however, the CAA discriminates against Muslims by extending citizenship only to the non-Muslims of three foreign countries, and it extends the right to live with dignity to a class of refugees while excluding its application to others including Muslim immigrants (discrimination based on religion) which violates Article 21 of the Indian constitution.

BJP's divisive strategy and revenge on the Muslims:

The 2019 BJP electoral victory compelled Modi and the company



to move towards "Hard Hindutva". Subsequently, they tampered Muslim personal law, the controversial three talaq act, abrogation of Article 370 and 35 (A), and then the Supreme Court's verdict on Babri Masjid (Ram Mandir). All these actions, when added with the CAA(2019) is a part of a deeper divisive political strategy to polarise India. The BJP has taken six communities on board except for Muslims, which means that the Muslims are actively singled out. One must take into consideration that the code of any divisive policy is to single out and hunt at ease. In the Act, all major divisive aspects, be it religion, linguistic or regional are present in ample quantity.

Modi has ultimately played the politics of historical revenge on Muslims, which feeds off a fear of Muslim domination over the Hindu populace. The Saffronisation of public places and educational curriculum are also part of that movement to eliminate the presence of the unwanted minorities.

“The updated final NRC was released on August 31, 2019, and more than 1.9 million applicants failed to make it to the list.”

This new piece of the new legislation, by all means, is against the spirit of the Indian Constitution. It stands as unconstitutional as well as discriminatory as it singles out Muslims in a supposedly (and constitutionally-mandated) secular nation of 1.3 billion people, where Muslims form nearly 15 percent of the population. BJP has tried to justify the move using various racist and xenophobic rationales. All of which hold zero merit when held up to logic.

BJP from Soft to Hard Hindutva

The in-depth analysis of CAA would be incomplete without following the alternative discourse of Hindu Nationalism, which is endorsed by the RSS (parent organization of BJP), in denouncing inclusivity and secularism as 'Minority Appeasement' and pseudo-secularism that robbed Hindus of their rightful place in Hindu India and left it 'soft'. The mindset of a Hindu nationalist agenda dwells on the need to restructure the existing Indian patterns for the good of Hindus only, to create a socially hierarchical state, where Hindus must dominate and 'others' shall be subordinate. Hindu ethos shall be given primacy and the 'other' ethos and history shall stand at the secondary position. The Sangh Parivaar has, with the assistance of the political wing of BJP, laboured to

present the path to a Hindu Rastra. The first steps in that path seemed benign, a "soft Hindutva" during the periods of 1998-2004 and then 2014-2018. Gradually creating a Hindu vote bank and a conducive environment for its survival, they proceeded with tougher actions of "Hard Hindutva."

The Gau-Raksha (Cow protection) movement, love jihad propaganda, 'ghar-wapsi' scheme and the entire discourse of Shuddhi movement all exemplify this. It should be noted, however, that wanting to reconvert the Muslims and Christians of Hindu origin back to Hinduism is neologism because there is no theological concept of reconversion in Hinduism.

Contribution of Indian Muslims

There is no need to look back at the immense civilizational contribution of the Muslims of Hindustan over the eight past centuries. Even in the post-1947 period, the Muslim minority of India has, despite immense discrimination and hostility, sought to find a place in society and make due contributions to society. Difficult as it may be for the hard-line Hindutva to accept, the Muslims of modern India have played a large role in science, politics, bureaucracy, film, music, entrepreneurship, theatre, business, academics, and sports. However, the hardliners in India, and increasingly a larger polity that voted the BJP into power, considers these Muslims to be a hangover legacy of 1947 that failed to find its proper place: somewhere else. Oftentimes, the suspect loyalty of Indian Muslims forced them into a position that they had to bend over backwards to demonstrate their allegiance in cartoonish ways, most notably by denouncing Pakistan with which they might otherwise have no quarrel – the mere pressure to conform in a hostile environment would put them at odds with their brethren on the other side of the border simply to survive. That earlier seemingly comical kowtowing to their Hindu overseers shall, it now seems, serve them nought. A vicious slogan has been making the rounds on social media and in the streets of India: Musalman ke do hi Stan, Qabaristan ya Pakistan. In effect, the

fears that the All-India Muslims League expressed pre-1947 about the place of the Mussalman in post-colonial India have come largely true. With visionary perspective and tireless zeal, the leader of the Muslim League, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, struggled through a democratic process to found a separate homeland where the Muslims would not be subjugated to the nightmares that would unfold in India, as indeed they are now in the era of Hard Hindutva. Meanwhile, the face of secularism in India has begun to tear at the seams.

Three underestimated factors

How far can the wrath of the irredentist Hindu nationalists go? Modi and his cabal have successfully generated the false fear of Muslim domination over the Hindu populace in a manner that might be compared with McCarthyism and its paranoia. Yet there are three factors which might lead to Modi's failure, and the survival of the Indian republic, pertaining to the social, economic, and political. The social element is that massive protests have broken out across India in retaliation against the hostilities of the BJP. The Jamia and Shaheen Bagh protests depict a site of popular

“Despite the constitutional guarantees, the Hindu extremists continue to target minorities, especially Muslims and lower-caste Hindus (Dalits).”

Left Page: An impossible choice. Photographer: Manjunath Kiran/ AFP

Bottom: Protesters burn an effigy of Indian Home Minister Amit Shah during a protest demanding his resignation in New Delhi, India, on March GETTY IMAGES/ AFP





so large as to prove irreparable. Conflicts in democratic societies are resolved in the parliament; the BJP is not for conflict resolution but the imposition of its fanatical agenda. The core philosophy of BJP and RSS is knitted on the pathological hatred for Muslims but there is one thing that needs to be taken under consideration by Modi and his clan, that the memory of oppressed is one thing that cannot be taken away and with such memories, revolt is always an inch below the surface. Ultimately, the vision of the Two Nation Theory, which created a separate homeland for the Muslims, stands as a living theory, liberating those who opted for Pakistan, at great personal and collective sacrifice, from the clutches of subjugation and humiliation that are tearing the Muslims of India asunder. The CAA and NRC are simply instruments of a larger Hindu

ultra-nationalist fantasy, one which the forefathers of Pakistan warned against in prescience. The degree to which the Indian Muslims are further subjugated and forced to kowtow, and yet face hardship and exclusion, is yet to be seen.

“The manipulative strategies of BJP may add a few more years to its political power, but the potential of division and chaos it could create within the society will have devastating longer-term effects.”

Bottom: Activists of Students' Federation of India (SFI) burn the effigies of India's Prime Minister and Chief Minister of Assam in Guwahati on January 8, 2019 after India's lower house passed legislation that will grant citizenship to members of certain religious minorities but not Muslims. Photo by Getty Images.

resistance, and several millions of Indians have hit the streets demanding the withdrawal of CAA, chanting the slogans of 'Save the Constitution' and 'People unity, long live'. As with the Indian brutality in the disputed territory of Kashmir, the state's response has been iron-fisted, but unlike in Kashmir, the problem hasn't been militarized (yet). On political grounds, the BJP is losing state elections, signaling that many people are turning to the ballot to stop the unfolding of the Hindu Rashtra. As an example, in Delhi the the Aam Aadmi Party (hereinafter AAP) has won elections in the Capital (Delhi) against BJP. AAP's Arvind Kejriwal had worked on service delivery including Mohalla Clinics and School Reforms since 2018 but BJP had relied largely on hollow Anti-Pakistan and Anti-Congress rhetoric. On the economic front, India's economy is now in shambles,

with a flight of foreign capital, slumping local demand, credit crises and monetary crunch, low consumer confidence, and even runs on the banks. Perhaps most frightening of all, unofficial estimates of the joblessness crisis in India suggest that more than one-third of all young

“The suspect loyalty of Indian Muslims forced them into a position that they had to bend over backwards to demonstrate their allegiance in cartoonish ways, most notably by denouncing Pakistan with which they might otherwise have no quarrel”

workers in India cannot find any employment. With such a dismal economic performance, the BJP might well be sending India's youth to the Qabaristan, and for all its problems, leaving the youth jealous of the structural reforms being undertaken in a more upbeat Pakistan.

Conclusion

On one hand, due to this bizarre and outrageous legal act, the sense of hopelessness and dispossession among India's Muslims is growing. On the other, the CAA and NRC pose a serious threat to India's peace and social stability. The manipulative strategies of BJP may add a few more years to the BJP's political power, but the potential of division and chaos it could create within the society will have devastating longer-term effects. There is even talk of a second partition in India, as the communal rifts grow

Above: People mourn next to the body of Muddasir Khan, who was wounded on Tuesday in a clash between people demonstrating for and against a new citizenship law, after he succumbed to his injuries, in a riot affected area in New Delhi, India, February 27, 2020. Photo by REUTERS



FUTURE OF PAKISTAN: ECONOMY, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES



Pakistan, a country that is home to fertile lands as well as mighty mountain ranges, blessed with abundant natural resources and human capital, not to mention its central geostrategic importance, nevertheless continues to struggle with a cash-starved economy. The country generally underperforms in almost all economic indicators and habitually finds itself in macroeconomic crises. With a nominal GDP per capita ranking of 157 in the world, the economic challenges encountered by the country are all too obvious. Despite the country's immense economic potential, it continues to struggle, and one is inclined to link it to a lack of

coherent economic policies and poor governance.

The instability of growth patterns can primarily be linked to myriad structural constraints that have become associated with the country's economy over the course of history and are becoming worse over time. A brief overview of these challenges is presented below.

The fundamental problem associated with the country's economy is its weak financial position/ fiscal management. The economy of Pakistan has historically been run on three major deficits or gaps; the current account deficit or the trade gap, the budget deficit or the fiscal

gap and the saving-investment gap. These high deficits pose monumental challenges to every incumbent government which continues to exacerbate with each passing tenure. Hence when the PTI government complained of inheriting historic high debts and deficits, it was justified in its claims.

Pakistan's economy can be characterized as import- and consumption-oriented. Because of the weak industrial base of the country and low-value addition in its products, the share of exports in the balance of payments has over time dwindled, while that of imports has mounted. This increased reliance on foreign resources has



led to a recurring negative balance of payments and has brought the country to the danger of default. It was under such circumstances that the current government resorted to harsh economic stabilization measures as evident from the federal budget. Although the government has managed to bring down the current account deficit, it mainly happened due to strict import policy instead of growth in exports.

With the rapidly growing population and ever-increasing expenditure demands, successive governments have struggled to finance the country's expenses mainly because of low revenue generation. The tax-revenue generating bodies struggles with formulating a substantive tax policy that would appropriately widen the tax net and hence draw upon an indigenous capacity to fund national expenditure requirements. The difference, nonetheless, had almost always been financed by the governments through sources such as external borrowing or printing of money which ultimately entangled the country in the debt conundrum and the related challenges of high inflation and decreased investment.

National savings and investment, which are key macroeconomic variables that influence the stability and growth of an economy, are also lagging in Pakistan. Although high inflation rates make it difficult for people to save due to reduced purchasing power, Pakistan's savings and investment statistics are still much lower as compared to other Asian economies like China and India. Hence in Pakistan, enough money is not available domestically to drive the investments that would funnel effective growth.

Another formidable challenge that the Pakistani economy has faced is the suboptimal public spending that has been carried out by the successive governments. The structure of spending is mismanaged and flawed in the sense that lower yield, but politically visible projects are given priority over the ones that would generate maximal value for the public. Let us take the example of water infrastructure as a case of neglect. Despite acute water and power shortages, the usage of our

national hydroelectric endowment has been a moot point for the past 50 years.

Pakistan ranks 152 out of 189 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI) ranking, and its HDI score is lower even than the South Asian average. After multiple experiments undertaken in the ambit of laissez-faire and capitalism, economic experts have finally come to a consensus that growth without development is not sustainable. As discussed earlier, public spending in Pakistan gravitates towards short-term measures and callously ignores the ingredients of long-term success. Human capital formation, as indicated by the educational spending nationally, remains one of the lowest in the world with approximately 2% of GDP. While in the future, the race is towards a knowledge economy, in Pakistan one does not see any comprehensive strategy and scarcely the political will to generate one.

Similarly, another daunting issue that has negatively impacted the economic development is the size of the public sector. Although there exists a negative correlation between government size and its efficiency, Pakistan maintains a large bureaucracy that is in many ways a vestige of its colonial past and not suitable for grappling with either macroeconomic trends or local-level issues. This bulky government puts the pressure of salary bills and pensions on the revenue and further restricts fiscal space for development projects in the country. Although this is not to suggest that the government needs to be irrationally shrunk, there is much room for the public sector to be reformed along the lines of public value creation.

Another significant governance challenge that has negatively impacted the economy is the flawed justice system. Although



the nonexistence of quality control regulations and consumer protection remained key hindrances to welfare of consumers in the country, the lack of effective business dispute resolution mechanism poses a great challenge to the safety and stability of small businesses. Business investment in Pakistan is significantly reduced because of the lengthy resolution mechanism as cases are dragged on for years. Ultimately, the money gets parked in non-productive sectors like real estate with no output to the economy. The government seriously needs to reconsider its approach towards the commercial courts if it wants to bring the stagnated money in circulation.

Looking at the wider horizon, Pakistan's geostrategic position has proven to be both a curse and a blessing for it. Its geostrategic and political alignments, on one hand, made it the recipient of multilateral grants, on the other, also it made it an easy target of the hybrid warfare of the great powers. By use of international financial institutions such as the World Bank and IMF, not to mention thuggish bodies such as the FATF where nefarious foreign

political interests run rampant, the country is recurrently made a subject of economic warfare. Such international bodies play an important role in international finance, wielding particular influence on foreign investors' (mis) perceptions about countries. In the case of FATF, the grey-listing costs Pakistan economy an estimated \$10 billion annually.

The international bodies are, however, sometimes justified in their apprehensions regarding Pakistan's economy. For example, the FATF's concerns about Pakistan's large informal economic base is corroborated by the fact that (at the very least) 35% of country's GDP wallows in informality. The Hawala or Hundi system are indicative in this regard, and they have thrived in the country since very long because of both negligence of the vested-interest authorities and the direct resistance of a greedy and unruly private sector. This unregulated system on one hand may be easing money laundering and terrorist financing, but on the other it forestalls the much-needed formal economic growth.

“Pakistan's geostrategic position has proven to be both a curse and a blessing for it. Its geostrategic and political alignments, on one hand, made it the recipient of multilateral grants, on the other, also it made it an easy target of the hybrid warfare of the great powers.”

There was a time when Pakistan was considered amongst the most attractive countries for the investment, an emerging market par excellence. However, the sad unfolding of endogenous and exogenous events, including a spell of terrorism and poor law and order situation, had shattered the country's image. Although Pakistan has been extremely successful in vanquishing the obscurantist forces of extremism/ terrorism, the scars have yet to fully heal. That preceding political instability still looms over the investment climate, particularly with regards to long-term investment. For instance, most of the foreign

investment that has flown in since the second half of 2019 is “hot money” that can whimsically leave at a moment's notice.

A recent yet most consequential challenge that has dawned upon Pakistan more generally and its economy in particular is the specter of global climate change. Pakistan has been placed on the fifth spot in the list of countries most vulnerable to climate change. Pakistan is most vulnerable to the effects of climate change because of its overreliance on the climate-sensitive sector of agriculture. Extreme weather events like droughts and floods along with changing crop patterns are damaging the agriculture sector extensively. In the last decade alone, the already fragile economy of Pakistan suffered economic losses worth \$3.8 billion due to climate change.

Yet there is a stronger recognition today of the problems that confront the nation. The incumbent government has declared meaningful economic reforms to be its top agenda and is currently making several “hardcore” adjustments and undertaking stabilization measures. The efforts towards austerity, fiscal adjustment, monetary tightening, and documentation of economy are all difficult pills to swallow. Yet these are the sorts of remedial measures that might just correct the course given how wayward our development trajectory was become. In the past, such steps were avoided in favor of short-term interventions.

If the current government succeeds in implementing these policies effectively, they would ultimately end the circle of uncertainty that ever so often returns to haunt the economy and curtails its long-term development orientation.

In terms of opportunities, the examples abound, but one of keen interest is tourism. Pakistan, blessed with scenic landscapes, rich culture and history, and hospitable people has every potential to become a tourist attraction. Unfortunately, due to poor law and order situation in the country, the tourism industry could not flourish in the past. However, now as the security situation has changed, the industry can pay its fair share in boosting the economy. To bank upon tourism potential, substantive tourism policy needs to be formulated that improves tourism infrastructure, creates an enabling environment for the tourists as well as advertise the tourism opportunities of the country.

As but another example, whereas many industrialized and developed world countries are suffering from an aging population, Pakistan has the largest youth population in its history with 64% of its population is below the age of 30. This youth bulge in Pakistan, although a real-time challenge because of the high rate of illiteracy and unemployment, can be a blessing in disguise. It can serve as a demographic dividend if trained and empowered in due course of time. Young people are fast

learners and hence with appropriate skill-based training, they can be made an asset for the future not just for Pakistan but for the world too.

Women's engagement in economic activity has proven to stimulate growth

and development worldwide. The example of Japan two generations ago and Bangladesh today demonstrate this. On the contrary, Pakistani women's entrepreneurship rates are counted among the lowest in the world and their labor market participation is also disconcertingly low. An IMF study estimated that Pakistan's GDP would increase by 30% if women's labor force participation rates become equivalent to male participation rates. The women in Pakistan are hence another opportunity for the country.

CPEC, the \$62 billion investment project is not just a strategic game-changer but an economic fate-changer for Pakistan. As the first phase of the project has been concluded with the successful completion of major infrastructure and energy projects, which have effectively mitigated the country's power and infrastructure woes, CPEC's Phase 2 brings about much higher hopes with it. The country which is currently struggling with low investment and high unemployment, CPEC Phase 2 would turn out to be an economic lifesaver, so long as private sector involvement is proactive and value-creating opportunities are keenly seized.

As such, the verdict on Pakistan's future economic outlook should remain bright keeping in view the country's potential to still put itself back on the track of sustainability and growth, with the caveat that reforms and bitter pills must be taken now despite the temptations to kick the can down the road and seek political expediency. It is also a collective responsibility of ours to galvanize the public towards meaningful economic lives and financial inclusion, so as to do justice to the aspirations of the large youth cohort. The greatest opportunity for Pakistan, then, lies in addressing the aforementioned challenges systematically, collectively, and in a timely fashion.



COVID 19: Humanity under Lock Down

Dr Tahir Naeem, Associate Professor of Microbiology, presently working in Department of Pathology Shalamar Medical and Dental College Lahore, gives an expert opinion regarding the menace COVID-19 that has gripped the entire humanity with fear.

With a bulging population of over seven billion and flights that cross continents within a matter of mere hours- the world has become a global village but since the last month this village is in a self-imposed curfew. Cities that usually never sleep look like scenes out of a post-apocalyptic novel. Empty roads, restaurants abandoned, hospitals over-loaded. Every human in a mask, avoiding contact, hoarding supplies, bloodshot eyes constantly set on screens announcing more deaths.

This is 2020 and life as we know it has changed drastically. Every cough appears to be suspect and every human is at risk; from world leaders to the common man. But is this unexpected? No. Scientists and

infectious disease specialists have been warning the world about such a widespread contagion for years. **The only question is - are we prepared enough?**

What is Corona virus exactly?

The Coronaviruses (CoVs) are a large group of viruses infecting mammals and birds and producing a wide variety of diseases. The CoV nucleic acid is the largest known viral RNA, approximately 30 kb in length, of positive sense, single stranded, polyadenylated, and infectious. All human coronaviruses (HCoVs) are primarily respiratory pathogens. In animals, they cause a wide variety of diseases through multiple pathogenic mechanisms, and they have been noted to mutate frequently and infect new species. During the winter of 2002-2003, an alarming new disease appeared that was labeled as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The disease was quickly attributed to a new CoV. This outbreak originated in People's Republic of China, with evidence that the virus was first derived from bats. The SARS epidemic was controlled through a massive effort at case identification and

containment, and the last known case occurred in mid-2004. In retrospect, the emergence of SARS was consistent with what is known about CoVs as a group. Mortality of SARS-CoV was estimated to be around 10%. More recently, a related but different CoV producing severe respiratory disease had emerged.

It was named as the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV). The virus was quickly identified as a new CoV most closely related to bat CoVs. Human-to-human transmission was documented but appeared to be inefficient except in hospital settings. The animal reservoir of MERS-CoV is believed to be camels, although evidence suggests that bats may be infected with related viruses. The mortality in these cases was in the range of > 30%.

COVID 19:

A novel coronavirus, currently designated as COVID 19, was reported to be the cause of an outbreak of respiratory disease in Wuhan, China in December, 2019. The authorities in China reported that the etiologic agent was a novel coronavirus, as detected by electron microscopy and

by genomic sequencing. The majority of the initial cluster of 45 cases from the Wuhan area has been associated with visitation of a seafood/live exotic animal market or by close contact with an ill family member. The virus has now been isolated from infected patients. Full genomic sequences have been published, which suggest that COVID 19 has approximately 70% amino acid homology to SARS-CoV and 96% to a known bat CoV.

China was the worst affected country in the beginning but with governmental resolve and with the cooperation of the people, it has overcome the epidemic in record time and is now ready to extend its help to those who need it. Italy was slow to respond and is now paying the price. The number of cases and deaths have already surpassed the Chinese figures and is likely to rise further. Almost every country has reported cases and the response is swifter in many developed countries to close down all the activities before it is too late.

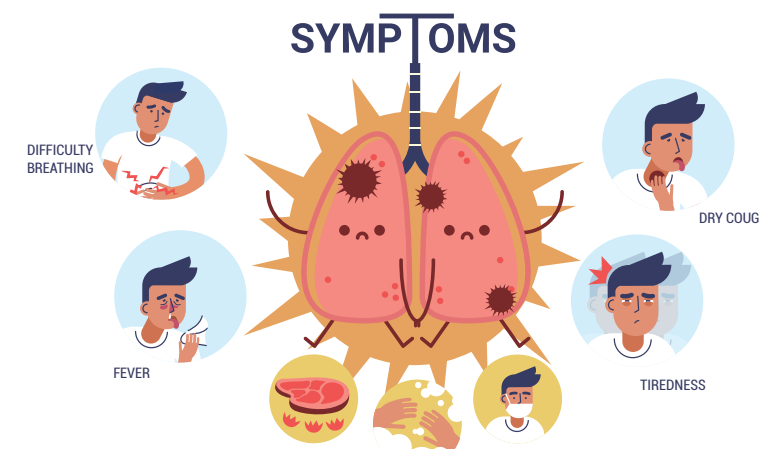
Pakistan was able to avoid the introduction of the virus from China because firstly China did not allow residents of epidemic struck area to move out and secondly our government did not bow to the pressure of evacuating the Pakistani nationals out of the affected territory. But on the western border, entry of the pilgrims from Iran could not be stopped for long. Adding to the challenge was the inadequate arrangements for keeping those returning citizens in effective quarantine for the desired length of time. In this way, the individuals in the incubation phase and even those with symptoms were allowed to not only re-enter but also, to travel to their homes almost unhindered, thus spreading the virus very effectively throughout the land. The situation was the worst in Sindh, where the provincial government has ultimately decided to impose lockdown, thus restricting movement of the general public to a minimum. Other provinces and federal government are in the



decision-making phase and leaving it to the people to practice self-restraints rather than imposing restrictions. Now that we have to tackle the problem, following are the suggestions for the way forward. I thank Dr Naveed Rashid Consultant Infectious Diseases at Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute Lahore for devising these guidelines which suit to our social and cultural norms and also are cost effective. More importantly, he has allowed anyone who wishes to use them, to do so without any restrictions. The theme of the guidelines says "How to fight COVID 19. Help your doctor from your home". It is important to understand the routes of spread of this virus. The first route is when after touching your hands to someone else's hands or after touching a surface that is frequently touched by someone else's hands, you touch your nose, eyes or mouth. The other possibility of getting the virus is when you are not wearing face mask and get close (less than 1 meter/3 feet) to a sick patient and

the patient is also not wearing a mask while talking to you or coughing or sneezing. There are chances that the virus will find its way into your respiratory system (throat, larynx, trachea and lower respiratory tract). You can easily prevent the entry of virus into your respiratory system by washing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, sanitizing your hands with a skin sanitizer and/or by cleaning the surfaces with a detergent solution. Removing the virus from your hands or from surfaces is very easy because the virus is rendered ineffective by the use of soap and other detergents as it has a covering that is dissolved by lipid solvents and inactivated. By staying at home and keeping these simple instructions in mind, you can help yourself and your country.

Unless it is an emergency or the call of duty (essential services), one should attempt to stay home. This is more important for those with chronic medical problems



PAF... In Service of the Nation during COVID-19

Pakistan Air Force has proven its mettle countless times. In the face of adversary and seemingly unconquerable odds, the men of PAF have stood firm and emerged victorious. Although, the most glorious of its accomplishments have been in war-time and in the battlefield, PAF has also risen to the occasion whenever the nation has been faced with natural calamities and disasters. Be it delivering relief goods to remote areas struck by earthquakes & floods or transporting the injured to hospitals through its air transport fleet, PAF has done it all. PAF has always remained in the forefront of nation building activities and is always amongst the first to respond, whenever the nation has called upon for help.

Presently, Pakistan and the entire world is facing a threat unlike any it has ever seen, the Covid 19. A deadly virus which has made the world come to a standstill, bringing economies to their knees in its wake. The death toll is mounting, with thousands of deaths being recorded every single day. Pakistan is no exception. Ever since the outbreak, the number of cases is growing exponentially. Every governmental and non-governmental organisation in the country is fiercely fighting against the outbreak and PAF is also contributing in all possible ways.

The Air Chief's response was prompt and several measures to fight the pandemic were taken quickly under his direct supervision.

This includes the formation of a Disaster Management Centre at Air HQ Islamabad, which is monitoring the situation and conduct briefings on a daily basis. The centre is working under the direct command of VCAS. Similar set-ups have also been established at Regional Command and air base levels. PAF personnel have been issued with advisories which contain vital information pertaining to the virus and its origin. It also includes instructions on observing quarantine, isolation and social distancing methodologies. These advisories are complemented by a mass media awareness campaigns which has been launched all across PAF bases.

As for external efforts in serving the nation, PAF is at the forefront of the relief efforts alongside NDMA and sister services. PAF's transport aircraft are making constant trips to China to bring in the much needed medical supplies. As pilot of one of the PAF's inbound aircraft puts it, "We have trained for this. We stand with our nation." The last trip brought in 14 tons worth of medical supplies, masks and ventilators and other allied equipment.



All hospitals and secondary medical facilities administered by the PAF have been put on high alert to deal with any crisis. Efforts have also been made to enhance the capacity of the hospitals and field medical units throughout the country.

The personnel of Pakistan Air Force have decided to contribute a portion of their salary in the Corona relief fund, an earnest gesture during these testing times. It has been announced that the contribution would be made by all ranks of PAF. The Air Chief set an example by donating an entire month's salary. Officers of the rank of Air Cdre and above will donate their three-day salary and Gp Capt's and under will donate two-day salary towards fighting the pandemic. Not to be left behind, airmen and civilians working in PAF would also chip in their one-day salary in the Corona Relief Fund. The message from PAF is clear. 'We stand with you, whatever that may entail.'



(Heart Diseases, High Blood Pressure, Diabetes mellitus, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases, Cancer patients and those who are immunocompromised for any cause). Remember that it is also risky for the very young and for the elderly (> 60 years old) and they should choose to go out only when they must. In case one has to go out, following general and specific guidelines can help minimize the risk:

- If required, only one person should go out. Always spare those with increased risk.
- One should wear a face mask.
- Maintain the social distance of at least 1 meter/3 feet.
- Avoid rush hours at public places such as markets and banks.
- Use personal transport (car, motor bike, others) if available. Disinfect the car steering or bike handle before starting the journey.
- If public transport has to be used, it should be with minimum chance of getting close to others (cab service, etc) and sit as far from the driver as possible. Avoid a shared ride and avoid physical contact with driver (hand shake) and surfaces. Don't touch your eyes, nose and mouth during traveling or later unless you have washed or sanitized your hands.
- In case of larger public transport (bus, coaster, etc), prefer a single seat. Avoid physical contact with driver (hand shake), other passengers and surfaces. Don't touch your eyes, nose and mouth during traveling or later unless you have washed or sanitized your hands.

Wash your hands with soap and water or use sanitizer immediately on leaving the vehicle.

When returning home after completing the tasks at hand, do the following after entering. This applies to all family members, guests and servants:

1. No hand shake and/or hugging without washing hands and (preferably) face with soap and water.

2. If one feels sick, immediately inform other members of the family and isolate in a separate room. If a separate room is not available, maintain social distance (> 1 meter/3 feet). Avoid coming close to vulnerable family members (very young, very old, with chronic ailments, immunocompromised).
3. Call helpline 1166 or local medical service for further management

Corvid-19 has already shown its impact on economy, as well. Economy forecast is changing rapidly and the future is excessively uncertain. In the worst-case scenario, we will be facing an extreme recession lasting more than a year, with only vital public services and food supply remaining active. Most of us will depend on savings or work from home. On the optimistic side, we would be able to find the right type of medical combination, be it via testing or delaying threats, to somewhat reduce the corvid impact and returning to the normal routine in a few months.

The epidemic will disturb economy in several ways. First, it will interrupt the supply lines, the second effect will be the effects of quarantines, store closures, travel restrictions and other kinds of lock down. Then finally, it will have a huge effect on the regular income of the masses in terms of job loss and business closures. However, it is safe to assume that experts and world leaders will be fast to innovate and come up with better ways to tackle these challenges as they emerge.

Things to be done while at home:

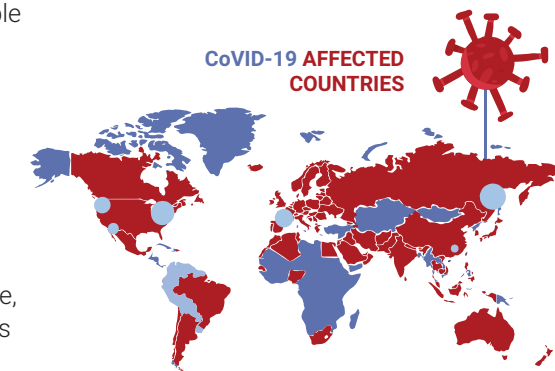
I am sure that with these simple "To-do" steps, you can make a difference:

- Perform twice daily cleaning and disinfection of the high touch surfaces. These surfaces include main entrance door handle, other room handles, chairs arm supports, table tops,

drawers, refrigerator surfaces and their handles, water taps and stairs railings.

- Stay safe and stay at home as far as possible.
- Keep the more vulnerable members of your family away from outdoor exposure.
- Maintain social distance from others to keep distance from possible virus attack.
- Follow the travel advisory and any other advice by the relevant authorities.
- Help yourself and your country by staying at home and not exposing yourself to unwanted risks.
- Seek medical help for you and your family members if need be.

Finally, the only true way we can fight COVID-19 is by being kind and logical. Nature will be unforgiving to all of us, if any of us are foolish enough to not take the prescribed precautions. Similarly, we need to ensure that our actions don't have a negative effect on others. For example, hoarding has become a major issue. It is extremely important for us to comprehend that the only way we can fight such a virus is if we can flatten the contagion curve - which means that if we can stop or delay the spread of the virus. This cannot be done if everybody doesn't have access to the supplies needed to counter the virus or survive. Such infectious diseases do not differentiate between rich, poor, young or old so social distancing and precaution is the name of the game till a vaccine is developed. Till then, stay indoors, wash your hands, isolate yourself and be considerate of others.





THE AFGHAN SETTLEMENT: PEACE AT LAST?..

After extensive rounds of negotiations that started in 2018, the Taliban envoy and US officials met to sign a peace agreement in Qatar's capital, Doha. To summarize, the peace agreement has four key constituents. First, the Taliban will guarantee that Afghanistan's land will not be used by any foreign armed forces to initiate any attack against the US or Allied forces. Second, all US-led forces shall be withdrawn from the region. Third, there shall be an immediate ceasefire between the two opposing forces. Last of all, a series of intra-afghan dialogue to ensure a smooth transition of power shall be initiated. If both parties keep to their assurances, US-led foreign forces could be retracted from Afghanistan by the year 2021. Other notable elements of the agreement include the release of 5000 Taliban prisoners

by US and in return Taliban will free 1000 government officials. The US has about 14000 troops on the ground currently in Afghanistan. This force is joined by 17000 troops from 39 NATO Allies and Allied partners, serving in combatant and non-combatant roles in Afghanistan. The treaty has gathered immense support from the British Military, which has agreed to withdraw 200 troops out of the 1100 that are left in the region.

The international combat mission "Operation Enduring Freedom OEF" was initiated by the US in Afghanistan in 2001 following the tragic 9/11 attacks. The widespread vengeance frenzy allowed the military complex to rapidly gather public support and silence all voices advocating a less brutal approach. The operation waged on for 14 years and finally concluded in 2014. Despite the glaring failure

of the operation, the subsequent endeavor was launched the very next year. "Operation Freedom's Sentinel" began in 2015 and continues to this day. According to US Department of Defense, a whopping \$1521.6 Billion has been incurred in war-related costs from September, 2011 till Mid of 2018. If this expenditure is dissected, 60 percent of the funding goes to affairs like fuel, armored vehicles, training and other facilities including transportation such as sea and air lifts. To this day, OFS teams continues to train, advise and assist Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) at the corps level, as well as with the Ministry of the Interior and Defense. According to a book published in 2013 titled 'Investment in Blood' by Frank Ledwidge, conflict in Afghanistan cost Britain approximately £37 Billion. Furthermore, the author calculates that by 2020, Britain would have spent an

amount that could be utilized instead to pay for the entire careers of 5000 police officers or the same amount could be used to pay off the tuition fee for all current students in British higher education for the next decade. On the other hand, to finance war expenditure, the US is under overwhelming debt which it will be returning till 2023, with more than \$600 billion in interest. One would assume that after such a staggering amount of resources exhausted, the Allied forces would have something to show for it. Sadly, that is not the case. Taliban forces now dominate and control more territorial area than they did in 2001 when the US siege began. Recently, they have escalated their war efforts and initiated more vigorous attacks on a daily basis against ground troops and military outposts throughout the war-torn country.

Despite Western media trying to form an elusive narrative, Afghanistan's economy has not seen any signs of progress from 2001. War-related expenditure has unevenly doubled the size of Afghanistan's economy since 2007 but these numbers don't translate into real change. More than half of the Afghan population is still



jobless and the economic growth has been crippled since 2015. This has led to major consequences, including a mass exodus of the population to neighboring countries. The brunt of this massive migration has been carried by Pakistan. According to the UNHCR, there are approximately 2.6 million registered refugees in 70 countries around the world, with the majority (95 per cent) being hosted by two countries, Pakistan and Iran. Currently, Pakistan hosts more than 1.4 million registered Afghans who have been forced to flee their homes because of these wars. Foreign investors still hesitate to invest in Afghanistan due to the high rate of corruption practices prevalent in the country, according to Transparency

International corruption practice is among the worst in the world along with very weak security capabilities to protect foreign investments. The minerals sector is one of the promising sectors of Afghanistan. Even after Pentagon claimed that it could be turned into a \$1 Trillion industry, Afghanistan was not able to grab any potential investors except China. After a huge investment, even China was unable to procure satisfactory results owing to lack of security and interest from the government. The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction documented \$15.5 billion in waste, fraudulent practices and misuse in reconstruction efforts from 2008 through 2017. Most of the funds, the IG found, funds were wasted on plans that were rife with corruption and poorly managed. US investments that were meant to establish hospitals treated no patients, the educational institutes that were being funded were ghost schools and military bases for the Afghans were, for the most part, useless and later closed.

Conferring to the information given by the US Central Command Combined Air Operations Center, US air force dropped the highest number of missiles in a decade, crossing 7500 bombs. UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan began documenting casualties in 2009, and it quickly came to light that about a 100,000 Afghans have been killed or wounded. In April, UN issued a report showing very alarming figures, showing that Afghan and US forces had killed more civilians in Afghanistan than the country's armed groups had. Around 717 civilians were killed by Afghan and US forces, compared to the 531 by rebel fighters. By the end of 2019, around 2,400 American soldiers and more than 38,000 Afghan civilians have died due to conflicts. In 2019 only, there were more than 8,200 civilian casualties according to the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). Estimated cost of medical and disability care will cross \$350 billion in amount for veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq wars. Experts also project another trillion dollars in expenses, over a span of 40 years, for wounded and disabled war veterans.



Left: Turning a page in history: US troops prepare for withdrawal from Afghan territories (Photo: Online)

Bottom Left: Zalmay Khalilzad, special representative by the US government for Afghan reconciliation. Khalilzad has been the key mediator between the United States and the Afghan Taliban. (Photo: Online)

Another concern is the sophisticated military equipment abandoned by US and allied forces in Afghanistan. The US military has lost about 100,000 metric tons of military apparatus which includes mine resistant vehicles, military vehicles and several other types of sophisticated equipment. This equipment was abandoned because it was too expensive to ship back after being used, adding wastage of millions of dollars. A report published in a US newspaper cited US military officials who revealed that more than \$7 billion worth of military equipment is no longer needed and is being shredded and sold locally as scrap metal. Steps like these shows that the US military would rather waste its equipment rather than giving it away to its partners who have been their close allies. According to US officials, donating the gear to Afghan government is difficult because of complicated bureaucratic rules and they believe that Afghans could not maintain the gear. However, selling the same gear seemingly violates no rules and somehow all complicated bureaucratic channels are also bypassed.

According to UN, prior to US occupation, opium production in Afghanistan was all but eliminated. Presently, however, opium harvest is the major source of revenue for Afghans and military organizations. 2019's World Drug Report published by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) states that although

opium is produced in over 50 nations, it is highly concentrated in Afghanistan, accounting for 82 percent of all global illicit opium production. Opium prices and trade declined in 2018, due to droughts that hit the other agricultural sectors and indebtedness of Afghan farmers increased as a consequence. Income for basic needs such as food, medical expenses and debt clearance are the most common usages of opium income. In a report last year, Special IG for Reconstruction mentioned that in spite of spending billions of dollars to control poppy cultivation, numbers showed that the efforts were apparently a 'failure'. Afghanistan has seen developments in health and education with help from US Aid programs, but again, they are inadequate when compared to international standards. Mortality rate remains one of the highest in the world, while life expectancy is among the poorest. Education system is in chaos with girls still receiving very little schooling to no schooling at all, while education for boys is also meager.

Pakistan played a significant role in bringing Taliban and US to the table and finalizing the peace deal between them. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo applauded Pakistan for its consistent efforts in Doha,



Qatar. Talking to the press, Pompeo appreciated Islamabad's efforts for facilitating negotiations in Afghanistan and asked Islamabad to help make Afghanistan a peaceful and prosperous place. It is imperative to keep in mind that after the US President called off talks, the first meeting between Taliban and Zalmay Khalilzad, U.S peace envoy for Afghanistan resumed in Islamabad, instead of Kabul or Qatar. Meanwhile, for India, the emerging state of affairs in Afghanistan are not only upsetting but also mandates that it has to rethink its \$3 billion worth of investments in war torn nation. It is becoming exceedingly clear that India's proxy plans are coming to a standstill and it will have to face grim circumstances in Afghanistan. It is becoming clearer that India entered Afghanistan more out of antagonism for Pakistan than for the love of Afghans. Its only underlying interest was in establishing a puppet government which could be used against Pakistan on diplomatic fronts, whenever required. However, being left out of Afghan talks and the peace deal, India will now focus on saving its geopolitical and financial interests in Afghanistan.

Achieving peace in Afghanistan will certainly be a difficult task and success is not guaranteed. All peace talks depend on the seriousness of the two sides which clearly don't trust each other. Then again what option do they have? After more than 19 years of war, neither US nor the Taliban have been able to overcome the other. The current peace deal is only way forward but with one intriguing question....Will it bring long lasting peace in the region?



Right Above:
Foreign Minister
Shah Mehmood
Qureshi receives
Taliban leadership
during a round of
peace-process
parlays held in
Islamabad in 2019.
(Photo: Online)

Bottom
Left: Afghan
Taliban's Doha
Spokesperson
Suhail Shaheen
at the flanks of
Taliban leaders
during the peace
summit.
(Photo: Online)



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3 EASY WAYS TO ORDER

A Tribute to Paint & BRUSH MAESTRO

His love for aeroplanes and passion to draw them, inspired Gp Capt Syed Masood Akhtar Hussaini from an early age. The pursuit of his skills as a painter led him to where he stands today - the premier aviation artist for Pakistan Air Force. His impressions interpret the meaning of PAF traditions and customs with impressive understanding.

The accuracy with which his paintings depict the most intricate details of jet planes, flybys and dog fights cover all phases of Pakistan Air Force. Publications of his works include pictures of pilots, airmen and virtually all PAF planes, parked on the tarmac and engaged in air combat, describing on canvas the actions they saw.

Hussaini's drawings, sketches and paintings grew out of research and chronicle the spirit of PAF in the air. Hussaini has had the honour of attending events as guest speaker at the National Museum for Naval Aviation, Florida, Miramar Airbase, NASA Space Center, Boeing Airline Museum in Seattle, and American Airline Museum, Dallas.

Group Captain Syed Masood Akhtar Hussaini has spent his entire life documenting and preserving PAF history on canvases with his paint and brush. FS Hussaini's low level inverted aerobatics in Peshawar, 1949, the PAF 'Falcons' setting world record in 16 F-86 tight formation in 1958, Flt Lt Hameed Anwar performing to the delight of Jordanian King Hussein 1 looking on from the control tower in 1965, to a more adventurous version of Flt Lt Aliuddin napalming and strafing Indian army in Thar desert, 1971, the violent confrontation over narrow valleys in Parachinar, 1986, where Sqn Ldr Hameed Qadri's AIM-9L missile turns an SU-22 into a fireball, 16,000 ft high while Sqn Ldr Yousaf Chaudhry chases the other intruder during Afghan War.

He was found painting history again after Pakistan Air Force pilots inspired him to pick up his brush and paint palette and depict Wing Commander Abhinandan eject, after a PAF aircraft shot him down on 27th February, 2019.

"Metal consists of many different colours. An artist has to create that effect by often using all the colours in the rainbow. It looks grey but is a reflection of its environment, blues,



browns, earthy colours, pretty much everything to give that metal effect," Masood Akhtar Hussaini said as he painted the light source above the grey fuselage of aircraft.

His latest illustration depicts a missile launched from a slightly ascending PAF aircraft into a dark blue sky more than 30,000 feet high. The other half of the impression shows the Indian MIG around 16,000 feet below that starts to trail black smoke, and Abhinandan's ejection seat rocketing out of his aircraft. That is how the pilots described it to me, PAF's premier aviation artist said, bending over the work in his studio where he has been painting since last 40 years.

Having a talent is a great start. That is all it is - a great start. The rest of the path to excellence is through

“A newspaper 'The Daily Progress' of Virginia (USA) paid rich tributes to Hussaini and termed him as "The oil and canvas chronicler of Pakistan's military victories". On the 40th anniversary of the PAF, the Government of Pakistan issued ten commemorative postage stamps all bearing the miniaturized prints of Hussaini's aviation paintings.”

chiselling the talent throughout ones' life. Masood Akhtar Hussaini started painting when he was five years old. In those days, it was mandatory for every school to have an art teacher and drawing used to be a compulsory subject. When Hussaini joined the PAF College Sargodha, adjacent to the runway, he was right in the center of aviation activity. "Every morning afforded a fine view across the landscape of jets taking off and landing - arrival of Starfighter 104, aerobatics, I witnessed them all in my five years of student life there," Hussaini reminisced. It was there that the metamorphosis of his creative process began with the nucleus of an idea to paint aeroplanes, followed by numerous painful trial and error sketching and sometimes the completed painting. After joining the Air Force in 1963, he used to draw and paint for his own pleasure.



Air Force artist and the author of a fine series of books on PAF. The American Society of Aviation Artists has been proud to include Hussaini as a Foreign Associate Artist Fellow and Life Member for the past 25 years," Ferris said. Former Air Chief Marshal Jamal A Khan saw Hussaini as an artist who painted a dynamic air force life and events that are as enjoyable and inspiring as they were at the time of their occurrence. Art historian and author FS Aijazuddin, described his paintings as homage to a service and a tribute by a grateful nation to Pakistan Air Force.

"It was in the 1980s during my posting in Saudi Arabia as Flt Lt, when I painted the experience of a Vietnam vet who flew the Phantom. Before I knew, I was painting encounters of American pilots who served in the Vietnam war," Hussaini said with a grin.



Air Chief Marshal Anwar Shamim, the then-CAS was in search of an aviation illustrator. ACM Anwar Shamim gave him his studio, a rectangular room, tucked away in a corner inside Chaklala Airbase. He was permitted to go through documents, archived pictures and given unlimited access to places to impart the feelings of power, motion, and the intensity required to breathe life on his canvass. Hussaini wanted a better understanding of places and purposes of his subjects. As an artist, he appreciated natural beauty of landscape and atmosphere.



The camouflage of the aircraft, tail number, armament it is carrying, altitude, position of the sun at that time of a particular event, pilots' log books and experiences, pulling up, the position of the target, finding people who saw it all happen, all these factors and a lot more figure into his paintings of high speed

low level formation flights, high action dog fights and PAF jets engaging in air-to-ground attacks.

Hussaini is a realist in the tradition of the leading aviation artist of the United States Keith Ferris, Frank Wootton of the UK and Paul Langeley of France. Ferris was the first professional artist to recognize Hussaini's talent and became his friend and mentor. Hussaini shares with these aviation artists the ability to use aerial points of view that are both unusual and dramatic, perspectives that instill a sense of G-force and excitement on the canvass. Keith Ferris has enjoyed knowing Hussaini for more than 30 years. "It has been a pleasure to watch Hussaini's progress in the aviation art world as he became the official Pakistan



Acrylics are his choice of medium that has fast-drying qualities, which enables him to attain a high level of detail and intricacy. With dozens of books, aircraft models, magazines and photographs in his studio, Hussaini has created accurate and authentic works, relying on his references to ensure that each artwork is in line with his high quality standards.

Hussaini gives us a dramatic pilots'-eye view over Umarkot, 1971, after Gp Capt Waqar Azim delivered a coup-de-grace during the desert strikes, nail-biting drama during the 1965 Pathankot attack, a bitter air battle over Gurdaspur, when debris pierced the right wing of Alauddin

"Butch" Ahmad's low flying F-86, and the struggle for air supremacy when a PAF F-16 pilot downing a Russian SU-25.

The artist has held several exhibitions at home and abroad, most recently at the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) show, where the inside of a PAF C-130 was turned into an art gallery.

Masood Akhtar Hussaini has built up his reputation as an aviation artist in his ability to paint a wide range of aviation subjects, capturing mood and atmospheric of a phenomenal moment or event in PAF aviation history.

It's not easy to paint these days though, he said. "Aerial combat has changed so much and is fought from a distance. Today pilots cannot describe the chaos of aerial battles, whether the enemy was raked across the fuselage with gunfire or where he crashed. Now you have to go through computer recordings to get a picture of what happened and how it must have looked," Hussaini said. Hussaini loves painting the F-86. It's an aircraft, he says, that is beautiful from all angles. While all his 300 plus paintings are his best works, in the moment when he painted them, Hussaini has yet to finish his most important painting ever. He has been working on it for decades.

“ In 1987, the President of Pakistan conferred on him the Tamgha-i Basalat in recognition of his contributions as the Aviation Artist of the PAF. This was followed in 1998 by the President's Pride of Performance Award to Hussaini. The American Society of Aviation Artists has honoured him with their fellowship after his work was displayed at an American exhibition. ”



This work is bigger than images of planes flying through a cloudy night or against a brilliant sunset – mist blowing off wings or sunlight reflecting from the fuselage. That painting, which commemorates the service of the late pilot officer Rashid Minhas.

Hussaini was not just in the same 51st GDP course as Rashid Minhas, they were roommates. "Mattiur Rehman made the worst choice when he chose

Top - Two Friends: Plt Off Hussaini (2nd from right sitting) and Plt Off Rashid Minhas (4th from right last row) on their graduation ceremony at PAF Academy Risalpur. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Bottom: Gp Capt Hussaini (Retd) explaining the historical perspective of a painting to aviation enthusiasts during RIAT-2019 at Fair Ford, UK. (Photo: AWO Iftikhar)

Rashid Minhas for his mission. I knew Matti would never make it," Hussaini said in his tribute to Rashid Minhas.

Hussaini paints him on and off but it is never enough. He has painted officers with admiration such as Wing Commander M Zafar Masud, the leader of 'Falcons', 1958, 'prince of pilots' Sqn Ldr FS Hussaini, and Sqn Ldr Sarfaraz Rafiqi, giving them an air of movie star glamour, youthful handsomeness or a steely gaze, and other knights of the air in dashing PAF uniforms. But he often asks himself, how does one pay homage to the mammoth act of gallantry of Rashid Minhas?

Until the day that the PAF's resident magician completes his greatest work till date, that space on the wall of his studio will miss a painting that captures the spirit of the men and women who serve in Pakistan Air Force – the men and women that spend their lives in the strive to keep the Pakistan Air Force, Second to None.



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A View from the Slopes of MALAM JABBA

The Malam Jabba Ski resort is a breathtaking sight. Standing tall amidst the snow-laden Swat valley, the international ski-resort tells a tale of resilience and courage of the Pakistani nation in the face of tyranny. Standing at 8,496 feet above sea level, the once-deserted ski resort now entertains hundreds of enthralled skiers from around the world. Home to international Ski slaloms, Malam Jabba is South Asia's winter-sport centrifuge. With Pakistan gradually evolving into a tourist highlight, international sporting events are an essential.



On 9th February, 2020, Pakistan held a thrilling skiing event at Malam Jabba Ski Resort. The resort witnessed three major titles which included 3rd Malam Jabba International Alpine Ski Cup, 4th CAS Karakoram International Alpine Ski Cup and 27th National Ski Championship. The honorable President of Pakistan Arif Alvi visited Malam Jabba to distribute prizes among the winners of the 3rd Malam Jabba International Alpine Ski Cup, 4th CAS Karakoram International Alpine Ski Cup and 27th National Ski Championship. The Premier hailed the vigorous efforts of the Pakistan Air Force and the Pakistan Winter sports Federation to promote winter sports in Pakistan for the past several decades. In a highlight, His Excellency, the British High Commissioner Dr Christian Turner participated in the Karakoram International Alpine Ski Cup 2020. He was leading a team of international skiers belonging to different countries, including Canada, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Greece, Azerbaijan, Timor Leste, Azerbaijan and Turkey. In a heart-warming video, posted on his social media accounts, Mr. Turner referred to Pakistan as a 'wonderful country,' appreciating how 'Pakistan is changing for the better.'

Top: Olympian Muhamamd Abbas leans to his left as he glides smoothly over the powder. (Photo: PAF Archive)

Left: Slopes fit for Royalty-HRH Princess Beatrice poses candidly. (Photo: Online)

In the rundown of the event, the women's Giant Slalom category at the 4th CAS Karakoram International Alpine Ski Cup's Gold medal was bagged by a young Pakistani skier, Khus-him Sahiba. She also went ahead to grab the gold medal in the same category at the 3rd Malam Jabba International Alpine Ski Cup, making it a double national victory. The runner up at the 4th CAS Cup was a skier from Azerbaijan, Elvira Zakarayeva, while Umama Wali, (of the infamous Wali sisters of Pakistan) got the bronze medal. Ukrainian skiers broke the finish ribbon in the men's giant slalom category at the 4th CAS Karakoram International Alpine Ski Cup. Nazariy Petruk bagged the gold medal in a close shave with Ivan Kravchuk,



Top: Untainted Heaven: The valleys of Naltar seem lost in fantasy. (Photo: Snr Tech Naveed)

A total of 36 international skiers from across the globe arrived in the picturesque valley of Malam Jabba. Participating countries include Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Canada, Greece, Tajikistan, Timor Leste, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. More than 60 national skiers from different regions and belonging to various ski associations of the country competed with the international skiers at the Alpine Ski Cup 2020.

Bottom: An international skier clenches his teeth as he leans in to keep his balance in the third Malam Jabba International Alpine Ski Cup. (Photo: Snr Tech Qadeer)





Top: Skiers and organizers smile joyously on the Prize Distribution ceremony of 4th CAS Karakoram International Alpine Ski Cup. (Photo: Cpl Tech Irfan)

Left: Treacherous Tilts - Traversing the slopes of Malam Jabba at breathtaking speeds is not for amateurs. (Photo: Cpl Tech Rashid)

Bottom Left: Shaving off the edge - A skier skillfully grinds to a halt in the fresh snow. (Photo: Snr Tech Qadeer)

Bottom Right Above: A Female skier leisurely enjoys the maiden snow after descending the slope. (Photo: Snr Tech Qadeer)

Bottom Right below: Pushing the limits - A competitive skier lowers his center of gravity as he steers for maximum speed. (Photo: Snr Tech Qadeer)



The first-ever International Alpine Ski Cup at Malam Jabba was organized in January, 2017, where 32 international participants belonging to 9 countries had participated in the event.

Another joyous benchmark in the revival of snow sports was registered when "HRH Princess Beatrice of York, Jose Maria Aznar (Former Prime Minister of Spain), Matteo Renzi (Former Prime Minister of Italy), Zia Chishti and Frederico Rigoni visited Pakistan for a ski trip. United Kingdom's High Commissioner to Pakistan, H.E Christian Turner led the high-level expedition, setting off on their trip after calling on Prime Minister Imran Khan.



For adventure-aficionados, the winter season brings a cluster of celebratory and fun opportunities. Snow-covered peaks that present a heavenly visage and plateaus offer a range of options to indulge in various winter sports. Pakistan offers one of the most serene and visually divine landscapes that provide a fantastic opportunity for winter sports.

The Government of Pakistan by extension of the Tourism Development Corporation of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa has worked fervently to rejuvenate Pakistan's international image and to reestablish Pakistan as a popular tourist destination around the world. Pakistan has jumped several places on global safety indices ever since the law and order situation has improved and peace has been restored across the country. In 2020, various international publications have declared Pakistan as one of the top tourist destinations in the world.

“ A total of 36 international skiers from across the globe arrived in the picturesque valley of Malam Jabba in 2020. ”



Top Right : All smiles - Foreign Skiers land at Saidu Sharif (Swat) to participate in 27th National Ski Championship 2020 held at Malam Jabba Ski Resort. (Photo: Snr Tech Qadeer)

Left: Something for everyone - Athletes from various parts of Pakistan assemble for taking part in inter-university competitions. (Photo: Snr Tech Qadeer)

An Revoir AZAM KHAN You will be Remembered...

“He knew the x’s and o’s, the mental part of the game. He made you excited about squash, the way he played, served and volleyed, stepping in the court faster than the ball. Azam Khan had the champions mentality and went out there to win. This write up honours the late squash champion, who thrilled and entertained time and again, and helped turn squash into the phenomenon it is today.”



Azam Khan, who joined the likes of Hashim Khan and Roshan Khan, after winning the British Open Championship for four consecutive years, passed on in London, 29 March, 2020. The cause was corona virus, his family said. He was 95.

In a tribute to the late squash legend, Ijaz Chaudhry described Azam Khan as the least-acclaimed of all the great squash Khans, but a player who might have been the greatest of them all. “Winning the British Open four times in succession is no mean feat, yet Azam Khan achieved just that between 1959 and 1962,” he said. He goes on to describe Azam Khan, as a tenacious performer, who secured his position as one of the most successful squash players of all time.

One of the best shot makers, Azam Khan, was Hashim Khan’s younger brother. Initially Azam’s game was tennis. “I was a tennis coach at the officers’ club of the Pakistan Air Force. My elder (and only) brother, Hashim, who had won the last two British Opens, asked me to switch to squash. I was 26 at the time and had never played the game.” In 1952, Azam Khan joined his brother in the world of squash. He would play the reigning champion in almost all the subsequent British Opens and other major finals. Hashim Khan, the winner of seven consecutive British Open Squash championships, was all of a sudden, faced with an opponent, who moved as well as he did and was as strong mentally. Within two years of Hashim’s bidding, Azam was ready to take on the best in the world.

The Air Force raised the funds for his trip to Britain through exhibition matches at various bases. His first competition there was the British Professional Championship, where he defeated the British no. 1 in the semis and lost to his elder brother in the final.

It is said that as a child, Azam was very active and energetic and to channel this unbridled verve, he was encouraged to indulge in sports. From there on grew his passion for sports so much so he devoted his time to maximizing his potential in the field.

For him, the prize was the British Open, the Wimbledon of Squash, and the opportunity to match world class athletes. To reach his goal, he had to defeat Hashim Khan, his elder brother and his mentor. Azam Khan, demonstrated why he could also be one of the greatest squash players of all time. The Azam vs Hashim meets were the high points in squash amidst game enthusiasts. A fit and determined Azam Khan, strode into top positions, and ignited interests in the sports anew. Given that his arrival in this sport was late at 26 years of age, statistics were just meaningless distractions to an ambitious Azam Khan. His performance was indicative of his natural aptitude and flare to go on to become a champion, and he began dreaming afar.

Azam relied greatly on the basic virtues of the game but nobody hit the volley drop nick better. Jonah Barrington called him ‘Azam the accountant’ in his book Murder in the Squash Court. “If Hashim was the most devastating savage of the great Khans, and Roshan the most beautiful stroke player, Azam would have been the little accountant, methodically arranging all the bits and pieces of the game, having everything under close analysis, nothing out of place. He was meticulous, organised, ruthlessly clinical and very deft, efficient, and he constantly sucked you into situations from which it was impossible to extricate yourself. He was totally silent on court, like a little bird. There was none of this stamping and pounding that one hears so

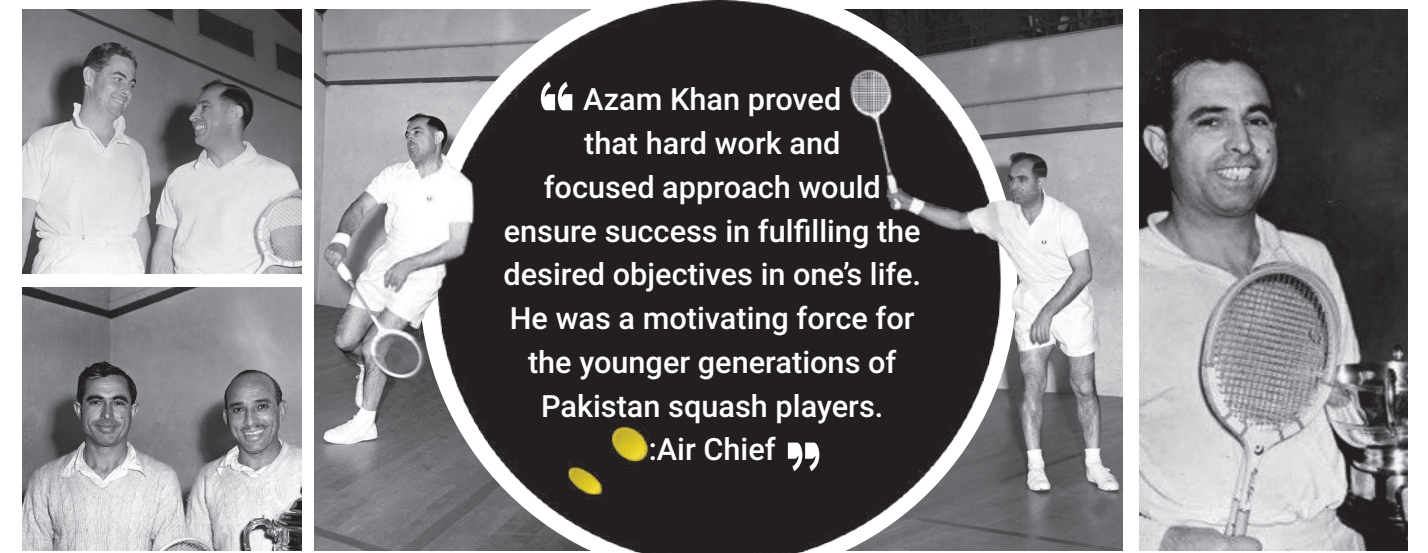
“The owner wasn’t in good health and in 1957 he asked me to take over the club. I didn’t have the financial resources to buy the facility, so he asked me to pay in installments over a period of five years. That’s how I came to own the club,” Azam Khan had responded in an interview to a question as to why he decided to settle in the UK. Hence Azam’s association with the club was more than half a century old. During this period it has been associated with the emergence of several outstanding players.

In 1973, Air Marshal Nur Khan, as chairman of Pakistan International Airlines in 1973, made earnest efforts to revive Pakistan’s squash fortunes. He invited Azam Khan to return to

Azam hails from a Pashtun clan, where the young rule the roost not necessarily when they are better, but when the elders decide that it is time for them to step up and shine. He once said, “Respect for an elder is very much ingrained in our Pushtun culture,” and Azam took pride in his roots.

His career in squash met its untimely demise when he ruptured a tendon soon after his fourth victory in early 1960s. Even though he recovered from the injury two years later, he was unable to recover from the tragic loss of his 14 years old son.

He may not have been able to dominate the world of squash for a long time, but he defined squash. It will not be easy to



“Azam Khan proved that hard work and focused approach would ensure success in fulfilling the desired objectives in one’s life. He was a motivating force for the younger generations of Pakistan squash players.”

:Air Chief

frequently these days; he moved like a ghost, silently hither and thither. Yet wherever you hit the ball, he was there.” Such was his proficiency that Jonah Barrington was taken to play him, in the first year that Jonah won the British Open (1966), at the West London club which Azam owns, the New Grampians in Shepherds Bush. Jonah lost to Azam 9-0,9-1,9-0. He requested another match, which Jonah also lost in a similar manner.

After an exhibition match against his brother in 1956, at the New Grampians Club in Shepherds Bush, the owner of the club approached Azam Khan and offered him the job as a coach. The offer included a salary as well as accommodation.

Pakistan to help. “But I couldn’t leave London. I had to look after my club as well as my family. Nur Khan persisted and suggested that some Pakistani players be sent to England to be trained by me. I agreed to train Qamar Zaman and Mohibullah Khan Jr. For six weeks, they prepared for the 1975 British Open under my supervision. And Qamar Zaman ended the long drought by bringing back the title to Pakistan.”

The only times Azam lost in the British Open finals was the three times he played against his older brother, for whom he had tremendous respect and admiration, saying that, “He was my coach and my mentor.”

beat his records. His dedication for the game helped him slide into the history books. Whenever people talk about the greatest players of all times, Azam Khan is right up there.

President of PSF, Chief of Air Staff, PAF, Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, described the legend as an inspiration for the young squash players in the country. “He proved that hard work and focused approach would ensure success in fulfilling the desired objectives in one’s life. His name is a motivating force for the younger generations of Pakistan squash players to achieve greater heights,” Mujahid Anwar Khan said in his tribute to the champion.

AIR CHIEF MEETS WINNING TEAM

09 JANUARY, 2020:- Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force met the Pakistan Junior Squash Team, which participated in the recently concluded British Junior Open Squash Championship at Birmingham. Air Chief, who is also President Pakistan Squash Federation lauded their performance in this prestigious event and also awarded cash prizes among the players. Hamza Khan, who won the Under 15 title was awarded cash prize of Rs 500,000 (Five Lac).

Interacting with players, the Air Chief said that nation is proud of our young Squash player Hamza Khan, who brought laurels to the country by winning the championship after 8 years. He appreciated the hard work put in by the coaching staff for providing international standard training and coaching facilities to the young players. He also lauded the efforts of Pakistan Squash Federation in making concerted efforts for bringing back the lost glory in the game of Squash.



AIR MARSHAL AHMER SHEHZAD LEGHARI APPOINTED AS VICE CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF

17 January, 2020:- The Government of Pakistan has appointed Air Marshal Ahmer Shehzad Leghari as Vice Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force. Air Marshal Leghari was commissioned in GD (P) Branch of Pakistan Air Force in November, 1984. During his illustrious career, he commanded a fighter squadron and operational airbase. In his staff appointments, the Air Marshal served at Air Headquarters as Chief Project Director Falcon and Director General Projects and also rendered services as Air Attaché at Pakistan Embassy, USA. Other significant appointments of the Air Officer include Director General Logistics at Joint Staff Headquarters Chaklala and Chairman Pakistan Aeronautical Complex Board, Kamra. Air Marshal Leghari is a graduate of Combat Commanders' School, National Defence University Islamabad and Command & Staff College, UK. In recognition of his meritorious services and valuable contributions to PAF, he has been awarded Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Military), Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military), Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military).



CJCSC ARRIVES AT AIR HEADQUARTERS ON HIS MAIDEN VISIT

21 January, 2020: General Nadeem Raza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee arrived at Air Headquarters, Islamabad on his maiden visit after assuming the charge of office at Joint Staff Headquarters. General Nadeem Raza called on Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office. Both the dignitaries discussed matters of professional interest. The Air Chief highlighted various ongoing projects being carried out by PAF. CJCSC lauded the valiant response by brave air warriors during Operation Swift Retort, in line with the glorious traditions of Pakistan Air Force.



AIR CHIEF CALLS ON THE KING OF BAHRAIN

14 January, 2020: Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force called on His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa at Defence Forces Headquarters. The Air Chief conveyed the best wishes and greetings from the government and people of Pakistan. King Hamad expressed his satisfaction on the level of brotherly relations and bilateral cooperation between the two countries. He also expressed Bahrain's keenness to further boost cooperation with Pakistan in the field of defence in general and Air Force in particular.



Earlier, the Air Chief also met General Shaikh Mohammed Bin Isa Bin Slaman Al Khalifa, Commander of the National Guard and Lieutenant General Dhiyab bin Saqr Al-Nuaimi, Chief-of-Staff, Bahrian Defense Force. Various matters of bilateral cooperation and professional interest were discussed during the meetings.

The Air Chief also called on Major General Shaikh Hammad bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Commander of Bahrain Royal Air Force. Commander of Bahrain Royal Air Force appreciated high standards of professionalism being set by Pakistan Air Force over the years. The Air Chief offered support to the Bahrain Air Force in the fields of military training and aviation.

"SINCERITY OF PURPOSE AND DEVOTION ARE THE AVENUES, WHICH LEAD TO SUCCESS": AIR CHIEF

26 January, 2020: "The education you are receiving here, will open up new vistas of knowledge for you. Remember, that sincerity of purpose and devotion are the avenues, which lead to success", said the Air Chief, while addressing the students during the 15th Founders' Day of Sargodhian Spirit Trust Public School at Rashidabad. Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force was the Chief Guest at the occasion.

Addressing at the occasion, the Chief Guest lauded the efforts of Old Sargodhians, who very aptly utilized their potential, skills and knowledge to pay back to the nation what they had received

years back from PAF College, Sargodha, their Alma Mater. The Air Chief congratulated the school administration for wholesome personality development of the young boys, which is a testament to the care, affection and guidance that they received from their teachers". He also appreciated the initiative taken by school administration for providing the need-based scholarships to deserving students. Highlighting the great role of teachers in nation building, he said that the teachers have been entrusted to prepare young



PRESIDENT INAUGURATES FAZAIA

04 February, 2020: President Dr Arif Alvi inaugurated the newly constructed Fazaia Ruth Pfau Medical College in Karachi. On his arrival, he was received by Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force. Addressing at the occasion, the chief guest appreciated the relentless efforts of the team members in carrying out this remarkable project in record time, as per the standards of Pakistan Medical Council. He further said that Pakistan Air Force is significantly contributing towards

nation-building, particularly in the fields of healthcare and education. He hoped that this college would be a valuable addition in the long list of public service endeavours carried out by PAF in recent years. Later on, the chief guest unveiled the plaque and offered Dua for the success of the project. He also visited various facilities of the college and interacted with the faculty and paramedic staff. Principal Staff Officers and high ranking civil and military officials also attended the ceremony.

PAF Hospital Faisal and PAF Hospital Masroor would serve as teaching hospitals for college along with a state of the art Diagnostic Center equipped with most modern facilities including MRI, CT scan, Digital X Ray, Mammography, and Fluoroscopy. The college also has a well-equipped Laboratory, with facilities of Hematology, Serology, Chemical Pathology, Blood Bank, Micro Biology, Clinical Pathology and Histopathology.

RUTH PFAU MEDICAL COLLEGE



AIR CHIEF CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER OF SRI LANKA



07 February, 2020: Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force arrived in Sri Lanka on an official visit. The Air Chief called on the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, in his Office. The Sri Lankan Prime Minister acknowledged Pakistan's unwavering support to Sri Lanka in any hour of need. He also underscored the need of learning from each other's experience. The Air Chief assured of sustained support and cooperation in the fields of technical training and professional expertise. He also reiterated to further enhance the existing friendly relations between both the countries in general and the air forces in particular.

Earlier in the day, the Air Chief visited Sri Lanka Air Force Headquarters. A smartly turned out contingent of Sri Lanka Air Force presented him the Guard of Honour. He called on Air Marshal Sumangala Dias, Commander Sri Lanka Air Force. Bilateral matters pertaining to mutual professional interest came under discussion during the meeting. The Air Chief offered to provide training assistance and cooperation in various aviation related fields to his counterpart. The Sri Lankan Air Chief thanked Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan for such sincere offer of cooperation and agreed to explore new avenues to enhance bilateral professional cooperation.

AIR CHIEF CALLS ON SRI LANKAN DEFENCE MINISTER & NAVAL CHIEF

08 February, 2020: Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force called on Mr Chamal Rajapaksa, State Minister of Defence. The Air Chief reiterated to offer all-out support and cooperation to Sri Lanka in defence related fields. Both the dignitaries agreed to further enhance the existing bilateral cooperation between both the countries.

Later in the day, the Air Chief had a meeting with Vice Admiral Piyal De Silva, Commander Sri Lanka Navy in his office. Matters related to bilateral defence collaboration and mutual interest were discussed at length during the meeting. Earlier on his arrival at Naval Headquarters, he was presented guard of honour by a smartly turned out contingent of Sri Lanka Navy.



PRIZE DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY OF TWO INTERNATIONAL SKI EVENTS HELD



12 February, 2020: Prize distribution ceremony of 4th CAS Karakoram International Alpine Ski Cup, 3rd Malam Jabba International Alpine Ski Cup and 27th National Ski Championship was held at Serena Hotel Islamabad. President of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi was the chief guest at the occasion. Air Marshal Ahmer Shehzad, Vice Chief of the Air Staff, who is also President Winter Sports Federation of Pakistan was also present at the occasion. Mr Aziz Bolani, CEO Serena Hotels, ambassadors, high ranking defence & civil officials also attended the ceremony.

PAF COMMEMORATES THE VICTORY IN OPERATION SWIFT RETORT IN A BEFITTING MANNER

27 February, 2020: Pakistan Air Force, living up to its legacy, yet again made its mark through professional excellence and valour during Operation Swift Retort last year. Indeed, PAF prompt, measured and surprising response busted the aggressor's arrogance" said the Air Chief while addressing a ceremony held at Air Headquarters, Islamabad to commemorate the PAF's resounding victory in "Operation Swift Retort". Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force was the chief guest at the occasion.



Addressing the audience, the Air Chief further said, "While I assure Pakistani nation, on the preparedness of PAF to counter threats, we will not compromise on sovereignty or territorial integrity of Pakistan. Let there be no doubt that, PAF is, and would remain, reassuring fundamental of national defence." He added that prior to aggression last year, our national leadership had made it amply clear that no misadventure against Pakistan would ever go un-responded. Former Air Chiefs and a large number of PAF officials witnessed the ceremony. Earlier, a smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented the Guard of Honour. Another important event of the ceremony was a spectacular fly past by two formations of PAF fighter aircraft including F-16, JF-17 and Mirage aircraft.

To commemorate the success of 'Operation Swift Retort', a PAF air display event with the title 'Wings of the Freedom Air Show' was held at Sea View Karachi. The air show opened with the fly past of PAF fighter formations. In lead was a four ship formation of F-16 aircraft. It was followed by the JF-17 Thunder formation of No 2 Sqn, call sign 'The Minhasians'. Next to enter the arena was the 'Bandits' formation of No 7 Sqn, comprising four Mirage aircraft in a tightly-knit box formation. After the fly past, Augusta-139 helicopters along with veteran MI-17 helis of PAF entered the venue in three ship formation. Much awaited solo aerobatics performance by the Pride of the Nation JF-17 Thunder aircraft was the next item on the list. Flown by Wing Commander Mudassir Riaz, Thunder enthralled the audience with its thundery performance. Minutes after the exit of Thunder, Wing Commander Zeeshan Ali Munawar dashed in to the venue, flying the F-16 Falcon. Like always, the finale of the show ended with the breath taking performance by the 'Sherdils'.



Later in the day, an Aviation Art Competition and Exhibition under the theme of "PAF Air Battles – Particularly Operation Swift Retort" was also held at Pakistan National Council of Arts, Islamabad. Speaker National Assembly, Mr. Asad Qaiser and Federal Minister for Planning, Development,



Reforms and Special Initiatives Mr Asad Umar attended the ceremony as the guests of honour. Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force was also present at the occasion.

The budding artists from all over the country participated in various categories including painting, sketching, digital painting and photography. The first prize in the categories of Aviation Photography and Aviation Sketching was clinched by Awais Ahmed Lali. Amber Munir won the first prize in Aviation Painting, while Hamid Ali got first position in Digital Aviation Painting Category.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON "GLOBAL STRATEGIC THREAT & RESPONSE" CONCLUDES

05 MARCH, 2020: International seminar on "Global Strategic Threat & Response" held under the auspices of Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) concluded at Islamabad. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs was the chief guest of the closing session. Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force was also present at the occasion.



In the first session of the day, Air Vice Marshal Faaiz Amir (Retd) talked about The Role of Aerospace Power in South Asia, while Lieutenant General Aamir Riaz (Retd), former President National Defence University gave a comprehensive presentation on Hybrid Warfare. Jorge Sebastiao, Chief Technology Officer Huawei Middle East & European Union, covered various aspects of Cyber Warfare. In the second session of the day, Lieutenant General Nasser Khan Janjua (Retd), former National Security Advisor talked about Force Posturing for the Future, while General Philippe Steininger (Retd), Military Adviser to the President of CNES (French space agency) spoke on the topic of Force Posturing for Industrially Independent and Dependent Countries. Air Commodore Simon Edwards, Assistant Chief of Staff Capability Delivery, Royal Air Force encompassed the various aspects of Next Generation Training, whereas, Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd), VC Air University highlighted the Role of PAF in Sustaining Deterrence.

Fifteen renowned scholars including nine international experts from diverse backgrounds delivered lectures on different topics such as emerging new world order, regional security, technology development, air power, hybrid warfare and cyber warfare etc in the two day seminar. The main objective of the seminar was to create a comprehensive global forum seeking experts' inputs and providing perspectives on changing balance of power, emerging technologies, aerospace employment and new modes of warfare.

GONE... BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN

Fellow fighter pilots and his colleagues on ground will remember Wg Cdr Nauman Akram for the wonderful and brave pilot that he was. The Top Gun lost his life during rehearsals for the Parade Day on 11th March 2020. In October, 2019, the F-16 pilot, Nauman Akram won the Sher Afghan trophy during the Inter-Squadron Armament Competition (ISAC). His No 9 Squadron came in second place.



Born into a military family, Nauman Akram was a first division holder in Matric and FSC and joined Pakistan Air Force in 1997. From then on it had been a steep climb to a successful career. Nauman Akram had completed various courses including conversion courses from one jet aircraft to another including two Senior Command and Staff Courses. After finishing a four-year tenure in Qatar, Nauman Akram was appointed as Flight Commander Operations till May 2019. From May onward, the Wg Cdr was appointed as OC No 9 Squadron, which was also his last position before his life was cut short in the accident.

Besides being awarded Chief of Air Staff Commendation Certificates and Excellence Badge, in 2019, Nauman Akram was bestowed Tamgha-e-Basalat.

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