AKISTAN’s bilateral relations with its traditional friend Qatar continued with the same impetus in 2017-18. The relations between Pakistan and Qatar are rooted in common faith, heritage and values. The two countries have also cooperated with each other in pursuing common goals at international organizations. In recent times, bilateral relations between the two countries have become very strong and multifaceted.

During the period from August 2017 to August 2018, there have been multiple bilateral political visits between the two countries. These high-level exchanges in various spheres have provided immense opportunities for forward movement in the bilateral relations between the State of Qatar and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Visit of the Minister for Defence Production of Pakistan to Qatar from March 12-14, 2018
Pakistan’s Minister of Defence Production, HE Rana Tanveer Hussain visited Doha on March 12-14, 2018 on the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs HE Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al Attiyah for participation in the Doha International Maritime Exhibition & Conference (DIMDEX-2018). During his visit, the minister called on the Deputy Emir of Qatar on the sidelines of DIMDEX. He also held official meetings with Prime Minister and Minister of Interior HE Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al Thani.

Visit by the Interior Minister of Pakistan to Doha from 7-8 November 2017
The Interior Minister of Pakistan HE Ahsan Iqbal and his accompanying delegation visited Doha on 7-8 November 2017 for participation in the First Conference on the Safety and Security of Major Events, on the invitation of Prime Minister and Minister of Interior HE Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al Thani.

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Participation of Pakistan’s naval ships in DIMDEX 2018
Pakistan Navy ship HIMMAT and Pakistan maritime security ship BASOL, headed by Mission Commander Commodore M Faisal Alam, arrived at Hamad Port from 11-18 March to participate in Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition (DIMDEX-2018) and Asad Al Bahr-I, the maiden bilateral exercise between Pakistan and Qatar Emiri Naval Forces (QENF).

Pakistan Navy and Qatar Navy officials review the progress of joint exercises during the bilateral exercise Asad Al Bahr-I, which was conducted in Qatar.

Pakistan Navy and Qatar Emiri Naval Forces personnel during the bilateral exercise Asad Al Bahr-I, which was conducted in Qatar.
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Pakistan has a rich history and a vibrant tradition in sports goods manufacturing. As a cottage industry, sports goods manufacturing began in Sialkot in the 1920s and has since evolved into a become the world’s largest single industry of sports goods. Today, Sialkot and its adjacent areas are known globally as “The Capital of Sports.”

Pakistan has a rich tradition in sports goods manufacturing. The industry began as a cottage industry in Sialkot in the 1920s and has since evolved into a sizable and well-established industry. Today, Sialkot and its adjacent areas are known globally as “The Capital of Sports.”

The industry has been historically significant in producing high-quality sports goods, especially footballs. The Pakistan Football Federation is responsible for selecting the best quality footballs for all matches and competitions. The country has been a major producer of sports goods for several decades, with distinctive features such as a high-quality material, price, design, and functionality.

Pakistan is the world’s largest exporter of sports goods, with Sialkot becoming the hub of sports good exports. The industry’s growth has been facilitated by factors such as high-quality craftsmanship, low-cost labor, and favorable trade policies. The government has also played a role in promoting the industry by providing infrastructural support and marketing initiatives.

Pakistan’s position as a global supplier of sports goods is further enhanced by its competitive pricing and quality standards. The country has diversified into various sports goods categories, including sports equipment, clothing, and accessories.

The industry has a significant impact on the national economy, providing employment opportunities to a large workforce and generating valuable foreign exchange earnings. Pakistan’s sports goods industry has established a strong track record of producing high-quality products that meet international standards.

Pakistan’s sports goods industry is not only limited to local markets but has expanded its reach globally, reaching almost 70% of the global demand for sports goods. In terms of number, some 50 million pairs of sports gloves and 38 million inflatable balls are exported from Pakistan each year. Millions of other articles are exported from Pakistan annually.

Qatar’s ministerial visit to Pakistan

Qatar’s Minister of Economy and Commerce HE Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim Al Thani visited Islamabad from 4-5 July 2018 along with a business delegation. During the visit, Qatar-Pakistan Business Conference was held on 5 July. The visit was a manifestation of Qatar’s keen interest to boost its bilateral trade with Pakistan.

The purpose of the visit was to enhance economic and trade cooperation, bolster bilateral trade and facilitate the flow of goods and mutual investments between the two brotherly countries.


Minister of Economy and Commerce of Qatar HE Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim Al Thani greets Pakistani dignitaries.

Minister of Economy and Commerce of Qatar HE Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim Al Thani addresses the Pakistan-Qatar Business Conference in Islamabad.

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Pakistani expatriates can renew national identity cards and passports online

The Government of Pakistan has recently started an online facility for preparing Machine Readable Passports (MRPs) and computerised National Identity Cards for Overseas Pakistanis (NICOPs). The Pakistani mission in Qatar is processing the renewal of NICOPs and MRPs on walk-in basis since September 2017. The consular services are provided five days a week (Sunday to Thursday).

In this online facility through legal establishment of Private Facilitation Centers (PFCs) for online preparation of MRPs and NICOPs, Manzoor said. Those who are approaching these PFCs for these services are being charged over and above the fixed online fees for making NICOPs and MRPs. It may kindly be noted that these facilitation centres do not enjoy any kind of patronage of Pakistan Embassy and such centres are involved in illegal use of online facility for preparation of NICOPs and MRPs. All expatriates living in Qatar are being requested that they should come to the embassy for preparation of their MRPs and NICOPs in case they face difficulty in utilizing online facility on their own,” said Manzoor.

The Pakistani mission in Qatar is processing the renewal of NICOPs and MRPs on walk-in basis since September 2017. The consular services are provided five days a week (Sunday to Thursday). Expatriates are not required to get appointment date for renewal of their MRPs and NICOPs,” added Manzoor.

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Big jump in bilateral trade as new avenues open up

Pakistan is Qatar’s 21st largest trade partner. Pakistan’s geo-strategic proximity to Qatar provides the potential for increasing Pakistani exports, especially in the aftermath of the blockade imposed on Qatar by some neighboring countries. The Commercial Section of the Pakistan Embassy has been playing an active role by facilitating and hosting business meetings for trade delegations from Pakistan. Similarly, numerous Chambers have visited Qatar. The Rawalpindi Chambers arranged a conference in February 2018 to showcase Pakistan’s trade potential with Qatar. Many Pakistani firms have held B2B meetings and participated in exhibitions last year and this year.

**Export and Imports**

Trade and commerce is the pivot in Pakistan-Qatar bilateral relations. Pakistan’s export figures have gradually improved since the blockade of Qatar. According to the latest figures, Pakistan’s exports have increased to $89.9 million during the period of July 2017 to June 2018. During the same period in the previous year (July 2016 to June 2017) the amount was $55.7 million. There has been an increase of 60.3% in Pakistan’s exports to the State of Qatar. The significant increase in exports from Pakistan is attributed to the opening of the Qatar food market as Qatar strives to become self-sufficient and seeks proactively alternative sources of imports.

Pakistan companies have a lot of opportunities in the Qatar market. There are numerous opportunities in sectors like food, pharmaceuticals, construction, shipping, maritime cooperation etc. Pakistan has the distinct advantage of geographical proximity to Qatar and can easily cater to Qatar’s market for fresh fruits and vegetables along with frozen and ready-made food items. Pakistan’s imports from Qatar have crossed the billion dollar mark in the July 2017 to June 2018 period. Qatar exports to Pakistan currently stand at $1.5 billion – an increase of 37.70% as compared to $1.1 billion during the same period the previous year (July 2016 to June 2017.)

The balance of trade between the two countries has been in favour of Qatar due to Pakistan’s imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and petroleum products. The Qatar-Pakistan LNG agreement in February 2016 has widened the trade balance.

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**Karachi–Hamad Port direct service reduces transit time to four days**

On 5th September 2017, the Amir of Qatar inaugurated the Hamad Port, a multibillion dollar project. The largest port in the region, Hamad Port has the capacity to store food products enough to cater to 3 million people for up to two years. Hamad Port connects directly to the outside world without dependence on any of Qatar’s neighbors in the region.

A new shipping route between Hamad Port and the Port of Karachi was launched in September 2017. Two shipping lines by Milaha (Qatar Navigation) and Wen Hui (Chinese Shipping Line) inaugurated the direct service to link Karachi Port with Hamad Port. These shipping lines have provided a tremendous boost to the trade between Qatar and Pakistan and bringing fast and secure solutions for importers and exporters from both countries, with a transit time of only four days from Hamad Port to Karachi.

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Al Khayarin Group: Setting new standards in construction and allied services

By Mohammad Idrees Anwar

The ongoing blockade of Qatar, largely seeing several neighboring countries including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the UAE imposing a diplomatic and economic embargo, has played a significant role in transforming the Qatari market. The blockade has accelerated the growth of infrastructure projects taking place in the country, which now stand as a testament to the nation’s ability to carry out state-of-the-art civil engineering and construction projects. This has been another feather in our cap as we look forward to the future, in view of the breath-taking changes taking place in the region.

The blockade has accelerated the country’s diversifying economy. Qatar has adopted its economic diversification strategy to sustain and excel in this competitive environment. Since the crisis began, Qatar has been focusing on the diversification of the economy and the manufacturing sector has become a major focal point for the country.

Al Khayarin Group is committed to this strategy. The Group, one of Qatar’s leading contractors, has built its strong reputation through its role in some of the country’s key projects. They have managed to offer clients and contractors a one stop-shop for their needs through the construction of buildings ranging from engineering to manufacturing, thereby offering a glimpse into the organization’s past, present and future. An interview with the Group’s CEO, Engineer Mohammed Idrees Anwar, offers an insight into the organization’s past, present and future. Excerpts:

What differentiates Al Khayarin Group from the competitors in Qatar?

Our track record has encouraged us to meet the most stringent standards set by government entities such as Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SCD&L). As Grade-A rated contractors, we have successfully completed some of the most remarkable projects of the last decade.

What attributes have supported the massive growth that the KG-Group has achieved?

At KG-Group, we have established a culture of integrity, mutual respect and team-based decision making. This clarity of values has earned us the reputation of a company that is driven by a desire to excel tremendously thus strengthening and stabilizing the local economy.

What are the salient features of the Qatari market?

Qatar is a business-friendly country with a dynamic and innovative economy. The country is transitioning from a reliance on oil and gas to a diversified economy that includes the construction, manufacturing, and other sectors.

Our professional team has developed a culture of integrity, mutual respect, and team-based decision making. This clarity of values has earned us the reputation of a company that is driven by a desire to excel tremendously thus strengthening and stabilizing the local economy.

Would you like to give a message to your prospective customers and the people in Qatar?

KG-Group supports Qatar National Vision 2030 to ensure a stable and prosperous economy which benefits Qatar people now and in the future. We are using our decades of knowledge and international experience to help advance Qatar in human, social, economic and environmental development.

One must appreciate the way the Qatari government is working towards becoming self-reliant and sustainable. The blockade has accelerated the process of self-reliance and diversification. More investors have done necessary spade work for setting up SMEs in Qatar. It is clear that Qatar has all the tools and capabilities to launch many developmental projects in the coming years that will reflect positively on the performance of all sectors of the economy in Qatar in general and Al Khayarin Group in particular as we aim to significantly expand this year and in coming years.

Al Khayarin Group’s strong performance is a testament to the country’s ability to stand and excel in this great country.
Remarkable story of Pakistani banknotes and stamps

Eight different one rupee notes were issued by the Government of Pakistan from 1949 to 1970. The hallmark of this series was the portrait of the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, on the obverse side of the note. This series consisted of five notes with the face values of one, ten, twenty, fifty and one hundred rupees.

The first three notes of second series were replaced in 1952 with the exact design but with the addition of one more series banknotes. The first series’ banknotes were also issued with a different design at the same time. These four notes were part of the third series of SBP.

The fourth series of SBP was issued between 1968 and 1971. This series had seven notes in the denominations of two, five, ten, twenty, fifty, one-hundred and two-thousand rupees.

In 1977, on the occasion of Golden Jubilee of the country, a five rupee commemorative banknote was issued with the similar design as that of the fourth series.

With the advent of the 21st century, it was decided to replace the fourth series notes with more secure notes. The SBP started issuing these notes, the fifth series, from 2005. These are relatively smaller sized notes as compared to the earlier issues and contain more security features than any other note previously issued in Pakistan.

The previous series banknotes were printed in the UK. Provisional Series banknotes were printed by the British Security Printing Corporation (BSPC) and the Emergency Series notes were printed by the British printing company BWC, for the name of the Government of Pakistan. The RBI had its printing facility in India, so the supply of fresh banknotes was not possible from India now. Furthermore, the British era notes had to be returned to the RBI in 1948. No printing facility was established during the British era in the land which later on comprised of Pakistan, so the new notes which were also supposed from a source abroad. In order to print new notes for the country, an agreement was signed between the Government of Pakistan and a UK based printing company Thomas De La Rue (TDLR). This series of banknotes with the face values of five, ten, twenty and one hundred rupees were also called the Emergency Series banknotes. The RBI was also authorized to print the emergency series notes in the denominations of one rupee and one hundred rupees in cash. These notes were exchanged in the denominations of two, five, twenty, fifty, one-hundred and five-thousand rupees. Like the previous notes, these series’ banknotes were also issued twice in the same series with different color schemes. These notes are issued in the denominations of two, five, twenty, fifty, one-hundred, five-hundred and one-thousand rupees. Three of these notes have been issued so far in this series.
A part of a slew of events organized by the Pakistan Embassy in association with its local partners to celebrate the 70 years of Independence of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, three Pakistani movies were screened at Katara Cultural Village.

The events were aimed to promote Pakistan’s rich culture, art and traditions among the local audiences.

The movies included Three Bahadur, Chupan Chupai and Azad. The one-day event was jointly hosted by the Pakistan Embassy and Katara Cultural Village.

“It’s a great pleasure that Pakistani movies will be screened for local Qataris, Pakistani community and expatriate audiences at Katara Cultural Village for the first time. I am glad that Pakistan Embassy in Doha has partnered with Katara Cultural Village to jointly hold the unprecedented event. Pakistan’s former ambassador to Qatar Shahzad Ahmad said at a press meet held at Katara before the screening.

“After the popularity of Pakistani (television) dramas, now the Pakistani film industry has started to make its mark not just domestically but also internationally. I would like to thank Assad Khan who approached us with a brilliant plan of screening Pakistani movies and providing alternative entertainment to local Qatari audiences about the emerging Pakistani film industry,” said Ahmad.

CEO of Katara Cultural Village Dr Khalid Bin Ibrahim Al Sulaiti said he was happy that Pakistani movies would be screened at Katara, which would further strengthen the bonds of friendship and brotherhood between the people of Qatar and Pakistan.

Faizan Rashid Khawaja, who acted in the movie Chupan Chupai and Rehan Sheikh, the director-cum-writer of Azad who also acted in the comedy melodrama film, attended the screening.

Released in December 2017, Chupan Chupai is Mohsin Ali’s directorial debut. The lead roles of the movie have been performed by Ahsan Khan and Neelam Munir while the other cast includes Ali Rizvi, Rehan Sheikh, Talat Hussain, Adnan Jaffar, Faizan Khawaja, Sakina Samo and Javed Sheikh.

The comedy-thriller, made under the banner of Hum Productions, was distributed by Hum Films.

Azad is a comedy-melodrama directed and written by Rehan Sheikh, who co-produced it with Hasan Naaim under the production banner of Binge Studios and Rommi Films. The film features Sanam Saeed, Salman Shahid, Rehan Sheikh, Nimra Bucha and Sohreen Shahzadi Zebra Ahmad and Inqalab Kishwar. The cast also includes debutants Ajmal Shah and Jawad Rana. A special appearance is made by Angeline Malik, Imran Abbas and Schumaila Hussain.

Three Bahadur, a children’s animated movie, is directed by two-time Oscar winner Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy.
During the last one year, the Embassy of Pakistan in Doha has arranged several visits by Pakistani businessmen to Qatar for promoting bilateral economic relations. Three delegations from FPCCI, Pakistan visited Qatar including a delegation led by Zubair Tufail, President FPCCI on 12-14 August 2017; a delegation led by Mehmood Arshad visited Qatar on 16-18 September 2017; and a delegation led by Mehmood Arshad visited to participate in the Food & Consumer Industries Exhibition (FCIE) on 26-29 October 2017. These delegations held several meetings with Qatari businesses and firms with the coordination of the Embassy. The visits helped enhance trade and economic relations between two countries.

The Embassy of Pakistan set up Pakistan Pavilion at the 'Made in Qatar' Exhibition held on 14-17 December 2017 at Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre. Pakistani companies which participated at the exhibition included M/s Siddiqsons (Pvt.) Ltd; M/s Lucky Textile Mills (Pvt.) Ltd; M/s Seasons Food (Pvt.) Ltd; M/s Jazaa Food Pvt. Ltd; M/s United King; Pakistan Sports Goods Manufacturers Association/Raseo Sports.

A 62-member delegation led by President Rawalpindi Chambers of Commerce & Industry (RCCI), Chairman SECP and other prominent businesspersons visited Qatar from 27 February to 1 March 2018 to participate in the Pak-Qatar Business & Investment Opportunities Conference, which was held on 28 February 2018 at Hotel InterContinental Doha the City. During the conference, presentations and speeches were made by President RCCI, Chairman SECP, the Ambassador of Pakistan, Vice Chairman of Qatar Chamber, Director Manateq, Head of Taxation Deloitte, and the Commercial Secretary.

A delegation of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by Zahid Latif, President RCCI, visited Doha on 6 December 2017. The delegation held meetings with Vice Chairman, Qatar Chamber.

Pakistani firms M/s. H.K.M Industries (Rice), M/s. The Organ- ic Meat Co Pvt. Ltd (Vacuum Pack Meat, Frozen Meat) and M/s. Aisha Enterprises (Potatoes, Mix Fruits, and Mangoes) participated in the Hospitality Qatar Exhibition, which was held at Doha Exhibition & Convention Centre on 6-8 November 2017.

Representatives of following prominent Qatari companies visited Karachi, Pakistan for participation in the 10th Expo Pakistan held on 11 November 2017.

- Lari Group of companies
- Al-Mutaali Trading
- Maraya Public Relations
- Al-Jabber Construction
- NAAAS Group
- Noor Farms for Meat & Trading
- Noor Milk & Juice
- Royal Leaf Trading
- Saba Trading Group
- Al-Sharq

Pakistan’s former ambassador Shahzad Ahmad inaugurated the Pakistan Pavilion on the first day of the exhibition of the 15th Edition of Project Qatar, held at the Doha Exhibition & Convention Center from 7th to 10th May 2018. Several Pakistani companies supported by TDAP attended the event. Some self-funded companies also participated in the event.

The Secretary of Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan, Younus Dagha visited Doha from 2 December 2017. During the visit, he also visited the Doha Exhibition & Convention Centre to study its suitability for holding Pakistan Single Country Exhibition.
NAVTTC focuses on engaging youth for country’s development

National Vocational and Technical Training Commission is spearheading the implementation of reforms in collaboration with Technical Education and Vocational Training Authorities in the provinces and regions of Pakistan as well as other national and international organizations from the public and private sectors.

NAVTTC’s primary focus is to engage youth in all-important economic development of the country by imparting them with the most demanded marketable skills within Pakistan and abroad. NAVTTC is currently executing Prime Minister Youth Skills Development Programme in Pakistan under which over 100,000 youth are trained annually in more than 100 demand driven trades. It has defined a modern, demand-driven and responsive TVET sector in Pakistan is fast becoming an engine for youth employment. Skilled workforce produced by Pakistan becomes the collective voice for skills excellence in the international market for laying a strong basis for producing skilled manpower in the country.

Pakistan TVET sector is motorized with high-end Technology courses such as Mechatronics, Robotics, Industrial Automation, Restaurant Management and Heavy Machinery Operations. These conferences offered a platform to promote exchange of best practices, experiences and knowledge for developing a strong TVET system in Pakistan. It will help in enhancing vocational skills of Pakistan youth and will be a step forward to learn from the best practices of the developed world for laying a strong basis for producing skilled manpower in the country. NAVTTC in collaboration with Lahore Plan Staff College (LPCG), organized International TVET conference titled “Regional Program of Youth Empowerability through Training-Industry Linkage”. The four day-long conference focused on laying out a plan to enhance institutes and industry linkage to foster employability. Representatives from Malawi, Philippines, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bangladesh, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan participated in the conference.

Moreover, MoI’s with various international TVET bodies have been signed to boost cooperation in the field of technical and vocational education.

Job Placement Center

In line skilled workforce with prospective employers in the national and international job markets, NAVTTC has established Job Placement Centers at Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad. A dedicated website, http://nsis.navttc.org enables members to register for job opportunities. NAVTTC also organizes visits to factories and industries to obtain details of skills required in the job market. The details of the interested employers from other provinces and regions of Pakistan as well as from other country in the international market are available on the website, from which employers can benefit free of cost.

Institute-Industry Linkage

NAVTTC organizes skill competitions in all vocational fields in collaboration with industries in Pakistan and abroad which have proved to be a great change and have increased the interest of youth, improved their skills, enhanced the overall quality of training and have added to the prestige and respect towards TVET sector.

These competitions take place at national, provincial and national levels where the trainees exhibit their skills in different trades including plumbing, welding, cooking, hospitality, general electrician, automotive, heavy machinery operators, driving, dress making/fashion designing etc. Winners of provincial skill competitions receive awards from governors, chief ministers, ministers, industrialists and foreign dignitaries. Along with hefty cash awards, certificates and tool kits are also distributed amongst the winners which help them to kick-start their own businesses.

The winners of provincial skill competitions participate in National Skill Competitions and receive handsome cash awards and certificates from the President of Pakistan at Awami-Nau.
Ammico carves a niche for speed and quality of work

Ammico is a leading specialist geotechnical contracting company originating from Pakistan with forty-eight years of international experience. The GCC region has been the focus of its activities since Year 2000. During the period, Ammico has established a reputation for speed and timely execution of major foundation engineering projects to world class quality and safety standards.

Ammico owns a major state-of-the-art plant which includes over 300 units of heavy equipment comprising diaphragm wall cutters, hydraulic rotary rigs, mini-piling and anchoring rigs, crawler and mobile cranes of up to 250 tons capacity, excavators, dump trucks, grading plants and pumps, piling vibratory hammers, apron hammers, large diameter HDD drilling rigs and a host of support plant and equipment. Each year it invests heavily in maintaining this plant in prime working order and in procuring additional plant as per upcoming requirements.

Since the year 2000, Ammico has also executed a number of important marine projects including construction of piers, marine piling, sheet piling, dredging, shore protection and construction of breakwaters. It owns significant marine plant including jackup and spud barges and tugs.

Company’s Vision

Ammico places great importance on honouring commitments and establishing harmonious working relationships with its clients. It is a source of great pride for Ammico that the projects it has undertaken to date have been completed to the satisfaction of each and every client.

During the past four and a half decades, Ammico has established a reputation for speed and quality of work, technical skills and knowledge of its staff and the ability to deliver under demanding site conditions and to tight schedules while maintaining world-class safety and quality standards. Ammico cherishes this reputation and strives tirelessly to improve in all present and future endeavours.

Jamal Nasir
CEO, Ammico
AKISTAN’S internationally-acclaimed Sachal jazz band mesmerised the audience with their soulful melodies, at a concert held at Katara Cultural Village.

Sachal Studios, set up by Izzat Majeed 12 years ago, is an example of creative genius that reflects Pakistan’s rich culture and heritage locally and internationally. Majeed also accompanied the group during their maiden tour to Doha.

Members of the diplomatic community, dignitaries and a large number of people from different walks of life watched the one-hour live concert and thoroughly enjoyed the fusion of popular eastern classical music and western jazz. The event was organised to promote the cultural ties of Pakistan and Qatar. CEO of Katara Cultural Village Dr Khalid Al Sulaiti, Director of Public Health Sheikh Dr Mohamed Bin Hamad Al Thani and Sheikh Ali Bin Abdullah Al Thani were among the prominent dignitaries who graced the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Pakistan’s former ambassador HE Shahzad Ahmad thanked the guests for attending the event. He noted that Doha is establishing itself as a center for cultural activity that is matchless in the region. Prasing Katara’s dynamic team led by Dr Khalid Al Sulaiti, the envoy said they were doing a tremendous job of promoting cultural activities.

“We should consider ourselves extremely fortunate that we have an internationally acclaimed jazz ensemble with us. Some of you would think they have come from Pakistan. But Pakistan is a country of great culture and history. And if you follow jazz, you’ll know that their (Sachal ensemble) very first album stormed to the top of the iTunes jazz charts,” said the envoy.

He added that the group has given improvised performances with great legends such as Wynton Marsalis at the Lincoln Centre in New York. They have played at the Barbican in London, the Marciac Jazz Festival in France, the Tokyo Jazz Festival and they were recently honored to perform at the United Nations. They are currently on a US tour and completing a very extensive tour of the United States. “I would like to thank the Sachal jazz band for adding us to its list of tour destinations,” said Ahmad.

He paid special thanks to Katara, Qatar Airways and McNair Chambers for their support and sponsorship. “I would particularly thank Prof Khawar Qureshi, without whom this event wouldn’t have happened,” added the former envoy.

CEO of Sachal Studios Noor Fatiema introduced members of her band. “We are honoured by the warm welcome extended to us by Katara. All our musicians are masters of their art and have been playing instruments from the age of four and five,” said Fatiema.

The musicians included Ijaz Hussain (tabla), Nafees Ahmad (sitar), Najaf Ali (dholak), Danish Ali (keyboard), Nadeem Abbas (bass guitar), Ali Shaiba (percussion instruments) and 16-year-old Haider (flute). Nejat Ali was conductor of the concert.
Shazia and Shehzad: A couple extraordinaire

Happy Pakistan Independence Day

Shazia has a deep inclination towards music. Narrated by critics as “an extraordinary instrumental guitarist who can make his instrument sing with unparalleled purity”, Shehzad has taken the melodic instruments to new levels of production.

Based in Qatar, Shazah’s unusual melodic and fusion approach to his instrumentals and songs expand its harmonic limits and improvisational possibilities.

Shehzad has released two albums so far. He is currently engaged in a number of experimental projects. He has been featured in a number of leading magazines such as Rocking Stone, Jamsphere, Planet Rock, along with a host of music blogs and podcasts from around the world. He also endorses four brands. Shehzad’s perspective of producing instrumentals is simple i.e. it should take listeners on a journey, expressing the feeling of that moment. Furthermore, it should equally be supported by powerful melodies, soulful guitar playing, and beautiful textures coming together and completing the whole story. Apart from producing music, he is a senior financial marketing professional with over 15 years of experience in global marketing, brand and communications across Asia, Europe, Middle East and Africa. He has also been awarded GCC’s Best Marketer by Chief Marketing Council Asia. Shehzad is an active member of a local NGO which focuses on providing a platform for young musicians to showcase their talent.

Shehzad was also an integral part of a project which organised the country’s first national-level music competition.
As part of the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of Pakistan’s Independence, the Pakistan embassy in Doha hosted a mango Suhoor at Ritz Carlton Hotel. Besides sumptuous Pakistani cuisine, the guests enjoyed a wide variety of delicious, juicy and sweet Pakistani mangoes like sindhri, chaunsa and anwar retol. The idea of the suhoor dinner was to introduce Pakistani mangoes to the local Qataris and residents.

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Except mangoes to the local Qataris and residents. The event was attended by a large number of businessmen, members of diplomatic corps, dignitaries, representatives of print and electronic media and prominent Pakistani community members.

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King of fruits, mango is one of the most popular and best-loved fruits worldwide. More than 450 known varieties of mangoes are grown in Pakistan, each having its distinct flavour and taste. The fruit is mostly eaten fresh as a dessert. It is also processed into preserves, juices, jams, jellies, nectars as well as crispy mango chips, which are eaten as snacks. Mango is an excellent source of vitamins, A, B and C.
Qatar Tribune wishes the Pakistani community in Qatar

71st Anniversary of Pakistan Independence
Located in the mountainous valley of Gilgit-Baltistan, Hunza is home to several picturesque riverbanks and hills. With vibrant colors surrounding the exotic scenery, it definitely makes it to our holiday wish list. Snow leopards, markhors, ibexes and red-striped foxes can also be found in the region.

1. Hunza Valley

Located in the mountainous valley of Gilgit-Baltistan, Hunza is home to several picturesque riverbanks and hills. With vibrant colors surrounding the exotic scenery, it definitely makes it to our holiday wish list. Snow leopards, markhors, ibexes and red-striped foxes can also be found in the region.

2. Saiful Muluk Lake

This is a classic. Lake Saiful Muluk or Saiful Muluk Jheel is situated in the northern end of the Kaghan Valley, near the town of Naran in the Saiful Muluk National Park. With crystal clear water, surrounded by sky high mountains, travelers from Pakistan and other parts of the world make sure not to miss out on this extraordinary sight.

3. Attabad Lake

Known for its turquoise waters which cut the dramatic terrain, Attabad Lake has a rather interesting story behind its formation. It is a lake in the Gojal Valley, Hunza, that was formed in January 2010 by a landslide dam, displacing thousands of residents. The lake has since become a tourist attraction itself for its phenomenal scenery.

4. Babusar Pass

Babusar Pass is situated in the north of the Kaghan Valley. Babusar Pass is based in between mountains and grasslands. The road from Gilgit to the scenic gorge that separates Gilgit and the Altit Fort is known as Babusar Pass. It has a high-altitude national park, located in northern Pakistan in the Himalayas. The Karakoram Highway travels from Skardu to the Chinese border.

5. Deosai National Park

Also referred to as the ‘Land of the Giants’, Deosai is a high-altitude national park, located in northern Pakistan in the Himalayas. The park offers ample opportunity for trout fishing, boating and rowing. It provides fresh water to the neighboring population of Skardu. Driving to this beautiful location from Skardu will not take you more than a few minutes.

6. Setopara Lake

It is one of the largest fresh water lakes located in the northern area of the country. The lake offers ample opportunity for trout fishing, boating and rowing. It provides fresh water to the neighboring population of Skardu. Driving to this beautiful location from Skardu will not take you more than a few minutes.

From pleasing landscapes to stunning sceneries, Pakistan is home to many mesmerising locations. While its diverse cultural heritage, breathtaking Karokoram views and enchanting ruins of ancient archaeological cities continue to excite travellers, a much lesser known part of the country sits in all its glory waiting to be tapped by adventurous voyagers. Forget Switzerland or Greece, here we have handpicked our six favourite spots in Pakistan that should be on your bucket list in case you need to unwind.
were part of a high-level Qatari delegation that visited Pakistan in the recent past. We took the opportunity to up with a number of top Pakistani companies, he said.

“We signed contract with one of the major companies in Pakistan called Halal Foods that deals in dairy products. We are buying milk, ghee and fresh cream from the company in Pakistan. We are also dealing with one of the top Pakistani companies Fanvis Coral, a breakfast cereals manufacturing company. We are importing the cereals from the company,” he said.

Haider Holding has emerged as one of the top Pakistani companies from across nationalities. In an exclusive interview with Qatar Tribune, Haider Holding Branch Operations Manager Syed Sameer Hussain said the company is actively looking to establish international partnerships. He said on extensive experience and expertise. While Haider Holding has business ties-ups with companies from across the globe, the Pakistan has emerged as one of the prime destinations for the group to import various kinds of raw materials.

Currently, Haider Holding is dealing with some top companies of Pakistan, Hussain said, adding that “the group has a policy to give the market in the Qatar government.”

“Qatar and Pakistan as a country were part of a high-level Qatari delegation that visited Pakistan in the recent past. We took the opportunity to up with a number of top Pakistani companies,” he said.

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Haider Holding is also the exclusive importer of extensive range ofLU Continental Biscuits produced in Pakistan, he said, adding the Group is the main distributor of famous Pakistani brand Kohen Patti as well.

“We have a company called Magnetos for General Contracting (MGC) that develops our projects and also provide facility management. Then we have a factory named Manzil Al Hilm that manufactures and designs state-of-the-art furniture, which we opened al- most two years ago in the Industrial Area,” he said.

“Furniture produced at our factory is sold in the local market,” he added.

“We have a company called Al Rashed that deals in food products. We are the sole agent for a number of famous brands from abroad and also have agency of a number of branded products from across the globe,” he said. While Haider Holding has made its mark in various areas, it stays, services, is one “where the group is planning to launch some exciting projects in the near future.”

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Zara Rahim

Mehak Rahim

Haider Holding

Syed Semer Hussain

Haider Holding Branch Operations Manager

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The weather wasn’t that great for the youngest person to complete a full marathon (42.1km) on each continent for the youngest person to reach Punta Arenas — the finish after Europe. Two days after leaving the South Pole, the runners were flown to a 16-hour flight (including transits) to Johannesburg. This time it was just a weekend trip for an ultra-marathon in Pretoria. The event took place at an altitude of 1,200m above sea-level in a state park. The runners from the marathon in Antarctica and South America, the siblings completed their race to record their 3rd marathon finish on three continents in 41 days. Los Angeles, USA was chosen as their fifth continent for a marathon which was planned during the school mid-term break. It was again a 26.2-hour flight from Delhi to Los Angeles but this time it was a one-week trip that included plenty of sightseeing and relaxation with family. Zara and Mehak, along with their parents, travelled to the US and then spent five days at Universal Studios, Hollywood and its theme parks. They visited movie studios, Universal Studios, Hollywood and had a lovely time visiting Universal Studios, Hollywood and its theme parks.

Throughout the fall season, both children continued their training for the next big challenge in Qatar during the Qatar National Sports Day. The family took a 28-hour flight from Doha to Los Angeles. The trip took an extra 16-hour flight from Los Angeles to Johannesburg via London. It was a 16-hour flight from Johannesburg to Pretoria. The family took a 28-hour flight from Doha to Los Angeles. The trip took an extra 16-hour flight from Los Angeles to Johannesburg via London.
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