With peace and stability returning to Pakistan, the country is all set for economic growth and prosperity.
Heartiest felicitations to the Pakistani community in Qatar on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan Day.

Unique Trading Co is the sole distributors of Brighto Paints in Qatar. Pakistan ambassador HE Syed Ahsan Raza Shah accompanied by Chairman Unique Trading Co Abdul Rahman Mohammad al-Mutfah, General Manager Imran Rafique and Managing Director Brighto Paints Khawaja Khurram Sikka inaugurate Brighto Paints’ exclusive showroom in Al Aziziya.

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Cricket Kay Rang Brighto Kay Sang
On the auspicious occasion of the National Day of Pakistan, I wish to extend my heartfelt felicitations to our Pakistani brothers and sisters and the friends of Pakistan residing in the state of Qatar.

Seventy-nine years ago on this auspicious day in 1940, the Muslims of the subcontinent under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah passed a resolution in the historic city of Lahore which ultimately led to the establishment of Pakistan, enabling the Muslims of the subcontinent to live with freedom in accordance with their religious ethos, cultural norms and aspirations. It is in that spirit that all Pakistanis celebrate the day with zeal and fervour and the national spirit.

The path to independence was not easy. It was a difficult struggle with countless sacrifices under the visionary and inspiring leadership of the father of the nation who brought Pakistanis under one flag. This day is a reminder of innumerable sacrifices for the independence by our forefathers. While celebrating the National Day today, we should not forget those who sacrificed their lives for independence. On this occasion, I would also like to make a special mention of the officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Armed Forces who have laid down their lives in the defence of the homeland.

Pakistan has made enormous strides in all sectors. Pakistan today has a free media, independent judiciary, strong parliament and robust civil society which play a vital and constructive role under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Pakistan is witnessing rapid development through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The CPEC will prove to be a game changer for Pakistan and the entire region by connecting China, Pakistan and other Central Asian and South Asian countries with the Middle East and Africa. It is a project based on shared goals and aspirations consisting of a unique model of economic development and international cooperation. It involves several infrastructure and power generation schemes to link north-western China with Gwadar sea port.

On this occasion I would also like to pay tribute to Pakistani expatriates in Qatar who are contributing and doing their bit for their country. Apart from proudly contributing to the development of Qatar, they have been playing a positive role in strengthening the economy of Pakistan.

Ever since my arrival in Doha in January this year, I have been privileged to witness unprecedented development and success of our brotherly country under the sagacious leadership of the Amir of Qatar His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani. We are indeed grateful to HH the Amir and the government of Qatar for looking after our community and providing them with excellent employment opportunities. It is our hope that Inshaallah greater numbers of Pakistanis would partake in the further progress and prosperity of Qatar in the coming years.

Finally, I would once again like to sincerely thank the Amir of Qatar His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani, the Father Amir His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani, Prime Minister & Minister of Interior His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of State for Defence Affairs His Excellency Dr Khalid bin Mohammed al Attiyah and Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al Thani and the government and people of Qatar for their guidance, cooperation and support that we at the Embassy of Pakistan have received from them.

Long live Pakistan-Qatar friendship!

Message from the Ambassador of Pakistan

Dr Arif Alvi
President

Imran Khan
Prime Minister

Syed Ahsan Raza Shah
Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the State of Qatar

Qatar Tribune thanks the Embassy of Pakistan, Doha, for the support extended in preparing this supplement.
The relations between Pakistan and Qatar have roots in common faith, heritage and values. The two countries share a common worldview and have mutual understanding on regional and international issues. However, the biggest influence has been the presence of a 140,000-strong Pakistani community living in Qatar. Pakistan’s bilateral relations with its traditional friend Qatar have been on an upward trajectory during 2018 and 2019. There have been multiple visits by leaders of the two countries including the visit of Qatar’s Amir His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani to Pakistan and Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan’s visit to Qatar. These high-level exchanges strengthened bilateral relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister Imran Khan visits Qatar

Prime Minister Imran Khan was on an official visit to Qatar from January 21 to 22 at the invitation of the Amir of Qatar HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani. Khan held separate delegation-level talks with HH the Amir and Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of Qatar HE Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al Thani. They discussed investment, energy, food security, military cooperation and exchanged views on regional and international issues of common concern.

Apart from high-level meetings, Khan also held meetings with top Qatari businessmen and investors and invited Qatari business leaders to invest in all sectors of Pakistan’s economy, including energy, petroleum and petrochemicals, agricultural research, food processing, infrastructure development, tourism and culture, and education. Qatari business leaders showed great interest in investing in Pakistan.

The prime minister addressed thousands of Pakistanis at Al Wakrah Stadium where he lauded the visionary leadership of Qatar for developing the infrastructure and human capital of the country.
World's top adventure tourist destination

Pakistan International School Qatar

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Government and People of Pakistan on the Occasion of 23rd March.

Happy Pakistan Day 2019

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High-level visits by leaders of two countries

The Amir of Qatar His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani with Pakistan’s Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa in Doha during the Qatar National Day celebrations. Bajwa also called on Prime Minister and Minister of Interior HE Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al Thani.

Pakistan’s Finance Minister Asad Umar attended the 18th Doha Forum held in Doha. He met with his Qatari counterpart HE Ali Shareef al Emadi and the Prime Minister of Qatar on sidelines of the Doha Forum. Umar attended a meeting of Pakistani professionals based in Qatar.

Shehryar Afridi, Minister of State for Interior of Pakistan, visited Qatar from October 27 to 29 last year to attend the Milipol expo held in Doha. He called on the Prime Minister & Minister of Interior of Qatar HE Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al Thani. Afridi also held a meeting with the chief of police in Qatar and discussed issues related to Pakistani community. The meeting also focused on matters pertaining to mutual interests and cooperation between the Ministries of Interior of the two countries.

Foreign Minister of Pakistan Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi visited Qatar on December 30, 2018. He held meetings with the Deputy Amir HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al Thani and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman al Thani and expressed deep appreciation for the efforts of Qatar for peace in Afghanistan.

Qatar’s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister HE Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman al Thani visited Pakistan in October 2018. He called on the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Pakistan.

The then Qatari Minister of Economy and Commerce HE Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim al Thani visited Islamabad from July 4 to 5 in 2018 along with a business delegation. During the visit, Pakistan-Qatar Business Conference was held on July 5. The visit provided an opportunity to further enhance trade and investment relations between the two countries.

Pakistan’s Finance Minister Asad Umar attended the 18th Doha Forum held in Doha. He met with his Qatari counterpart HE Ali Shareef al Emadi and the Prime Minister of Qatar on sidelines of the Doha Forum. Umar attended a meeting of Pakistani professionals based in Qatar.
Heartiest felicitations to the Pakistani community and the government of Pakistan on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan Day

Sama Global Investment is a global investment management and development firm that provides a range of financing strategies to serve a broad spectrum of client needs with headquarters in Doha, Qatar. The cornerstone of Sama Global’s investment framework is its ability to seize opportunities all over the world and introduce future initiatives for its portfolio companies with the end in view of improving overall value of these companies.

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PAKISTAN Prime Minister Imran Khan has showed great respect for other religions by opening the Kartarpur border for Sikh pilgrims from India.

A corridor is being constructed which will connect the Sikh shrines of Dera Baba Nanak Sahib (located in Punjab province of India) and Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur (located in Punjab province of Pakistan). The corridor is intended to allow Sikh devotees from India to visit the Gurdwara in Kartarpur without a visa.

Kartarpur is some 4.7 kilometers (2.9 miles) from the Pakistan-India border. Currently, pilgrims from India have to take a bus to Lahore to reach Kartarpur, which is a 125 km journey.

The first guru of Sikhism, Guru Nanak, founded Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in 1504 CE on the bank of the river Ravi and established the first Sikh commune there. Following his death in 1539, a mausoleum was built in his memory however the changing course of the river eventually washed away the mausoleum. A new habitation came into existence on the left bank of the river, which came to be known as Dera Baba Nanak.

The area was divided between India and Pakistan during the Partition of India in 1947. The Radcliffe Line awarded Shakargarh tehsil between Pakistan and India from 1947 to 1957. The two countries agreed to start the Khokhrapar-Munabao railway line and Amritsar-Lahore-Kartarpur road link.

However, the final decision on opening the Kartarpur corridor for Sikh pilgrims was taken after Imran Khan’s Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) won general elections held in July last year.

During PM Imran Khan’s swearing-in ceremony in August, Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa told visiting former Indian cricketer and minister in Punjab government Navjot Singh Sidhu that he was in favour of construction of a bridge on river Ravi. And Pakistan has accepted the proposal.

(Saeedullah Jan is a teacher at Pakistan International School Qatar)
We are a well reputed importer, distributor and retailer of fresh fruits, vegetables, all types of animal feeds and multiple commodities from different countries of the world. We are leading importers of all kinds of vegetables and fruits.

Haji Said Badshah (Chairman)

Umar Farooq (Vice Chairman)

Pakistan Engineers Forum - Doha Qatar extends felicitations to the Pakistani community and the Government of Pakistan on the occasion of

23rd March
Pakistan Day

The Pakistan Engineers Forum was formed in 1997 to represent Pakistani engineers working in Qatar. The idea was to gather all Pakistani engineers on one platform. The founders of the organization worked out a number of by-laws for its working. Due to their efforts, there are now a large number of Pakistani engineers who are the members of the PEF. It represents the largest group of Pakistani professionals working in Qatar.
The Qatar Visa Centres will enable people to complete their resident permit formalities in Pakistan.
Qatar's govt implements migrant workers' reforms

- **ABOLISHING KAFALA /EXIT PERMIT SYSTEM**
  Amendment in Article 7 of Labour Law No. 21 of 2015 enables an expatriate worker covered under Labour Law No. 14 of 2014 to temporarily exit the country for good at any time throughout the duration of his/her employment contract without obtaining an exit permit from his employer.

- **EASY CHANGE OF JOBS/SPONSORSHIP**
  Expatriate workers with fixed jobs contracts can change their work and sign new contracts with other employers if they wish so at the end of their contract period with current employer.

- **REMOVAL OF TWO-YEAR BAN**
  The two-year ban period has been removed for an expatriate worker to return to Qatar to take up a new job after his/her departure from Qatar on the completion of his/her contract.

- **FORMULATION OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITtees TO SETTLE DISPUTES**
  Labour courts have been abolished and a new system for settling workers disputes in the form of dispute resolution committees has been introduced. The new system ensures speedy trial of labour cases.

- **COMPLAINT CENTRES FOR WORKERS IN MAJOR CITIES**
  New complaint centres in major cities have been established for easy access by workers to register their complaints.

- **EXIT PERMIT GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE**
  The committee is entitled to take decisions related to grievances on the exit of expatriates and exit permit request by the expatriates in the case of emergency situations as mentioned in Article 7 of Law No. 21 of 2015.

- **WAGE PROTECTION SYSTEM (WPS)**
  The Wage Protection System (WPS) ensures workers in Qatar receive their salaries through an electronic salary transfer system that allows companies and institutions to pay employees via banks which have been approved and authorised to provide the service. The system has been developed by Qatar Central Bank. It allows Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs to maintain a database that records wage payments in the private sector and guarantees that the payments are made in full and on time. The wage protection system includes all companies registered with the ministry across all sectors and industries.

- **ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION OFFICE IN QATAR**
  The International Labour Organization (ILO) office in Qatar will support implementation of a comprehensive technical cooperation programme on working conditions and labour rights in Qatar. The cooperation of ILO with major stakeholders will ensure a decent working and living conditions for workers across Qatar through:  
  - Improvement in employment condition  
  - Recruitment practices of migrant workers  
  - Ensuring timely payment of wages  
  - Strengthening labour inspection  
  - Improving occupational safety and health (OSH) standard  
  - Enhanced protection from forced labour  
  - Giving workers a voice in labour related matters

- **ESTABLISHMENT OF QATAR VISA CENTRES**
  For improving the current recruitment mechanism and completing the residence permit formalities in the home countries, Qatar in the first phase is all set to establish visa centres in eight countries. The Qatar Visa Centers will provide one window operation for workers to complete their resident permit formalities in their home countries so that once they arrive in Qatar they can immediately start their work. Qatar Visa Centers will provide the following facilities:
  - Biometrics
  - Medical
  - Fingerprint
  - Document scrutiny
  - Contract signing
  - Visa issuance

- **ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT WORKERS FUND**
  The International Labour Organisation and the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs are working for the establishment of a joint workers' fund for those stranded workers whose dues are not being cleared by the companies due to bankruptcy. In order to get their due financial rights, help will be taken from the joint fund established for the said purpose. Once the stranded workers get their financial rights, they can leave the country easily.

- **OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (OSH) STANDARDS**
  The Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs and Building and Wood Workers International (BWI) have joined hands to improve occupational safety and health standards of migrant workers living in Qatar.

- **WORKERS GET INTERNET ACCESS**
  A joint initiative has been taken by the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Transport and Communication for providing free access to computers, online services and training of workers at their accommodation.

- **DOMESTIC WORKERS’ LAW**
  The law No.15 of 2017 regulates domestic workers, including drivers, governesses, cooks, gardeners and workers in similar occupation. The new law will provide legal protection for domestic workers, giving them more rights and control over their contracts.

- **REVIEW OF MINIMUM WAGE OF WORKERS**
  In 2017, Qatar set minimum wage at QR750 which was among a package of major changes announced by Qatar after signing a three-year technical cooperation programme with the ILO. However, the minimum wage is again to be reset at a reasonable level after technical review by the ILO.

- **ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT COMMISSION**
  The ILO is working for the establishment of a joint commission for raising workers’ voice. The joint commission will constitute equal representation of workers and employers to listen to their queries.
TNG introduces Student Leadership Project

The Next Generation (TNG) School strives to bring out the leader in every student through quality education and empowerment. Staying true to the spirit of its mission and vision, TNG has introduced Student Leadership Project (SLP).

While talking about why leadership is an important quality at TNG, Riyaz Bakali, TNG Director, said, “Academics are truly important. In today’s competitive environment students cannot move forward without certain skills. Employers no longer ask how you performed in school. They are looking for candidates who can lead change through innovation and effective problem-solving.”

Implemented at the Al Wakrah campus, the project engages students to identify and evaluate elements of their school that they would like to change or redefine. The project aims to hone leadership skills through initiative, empowerment, and ownership. Speaking about the idea behind the project, Ailie Rizvi, TNG Principal, said, “It is our priority to develop grit, resourcefulness and resilience in our students. The student-led projects created rich opportunities for our children to engage in activities, research and conversations that allowed them to experience the challenges of bringing about constructive change. Hopefully, it will teach them to use the education they receive and the skills they possess to shape the world around them. We are proud of the hard work and thought put into the projects.”

To participate in the project, each class was assigned the task to design and implement a project that either redefined an element of their school culture or improved upon a feature of their campus. The aim was to design projects that are relevant to the global context. The project also provided the students with an opportunity to give back to their school while building their extra-curricular portfolio.

Furthermore, a system of student mentors was put in place to minimise the role of a teacher, making it a completely student-led effort. Over the course of three months since the project’s inauguration, starting from proposal submission to implementation phase, some notable project designs came to light.

The graduating class, XI-B took it upon themselves to curb the menace that is bullying with their project, HOPE (Hold on, pain ends!). By highlighting the negative effects that bullying can have on a student’s academic and social life, they urged the students to think carefully about the consequences of their hurtful actions.

Their counterpart, class XI-A dedicated their time to a larger-than-life issue, the conservation of environment. They launched a campus-wide campaign to reduce paper waste and consumption of plastic. In addition, they organised a recycling competition in commemoration of the Global Recycling Day, which takes place on March 18 every year. A collection drive was organised earlier which invited the student body to bring recyclable materials from their homes. The donated material was then used in the competition to help the students see recyclables as resource – and not just waste.
PAKISTAN Association Qatar (PAQ) is a socio-cultural, literary, educational and multi-dimensional organisation having relations with Pakistani expatriates and various international communities around the world.

The PAQ is also a platform for experienced artists to share knowledge with other artists and train Pakistani youth and students.

The PAQ has no religious affiliations or sectarian interests. The forum is striving to create an environment of peace and harmony among all communities, provinces and social stakeholders of the Pakistani community.

The PAQ’s objectives include youth development, education and learning, women’s empowerment, gender equality, art, culture and heritage, ethical and value-driven society, sport events, among others.

The forum aims to cover all aspects of art and cultural like tilawat-o-tajweed, hamd-o-naat, poetry (mushaira skills), bait bazi, novel, drawing and paintings, photography, calligraphy, digital art, computer skills for women and children, among others.

The PAQ’s office-bearers include Tajamul Aftab Cheema (Chief Patron), Syed Faheem Ud Din (Chairman), Shahid Rafique Arain (Vice Chairman), Usama Muhammad (President), Atiq Ur Rasheed (Senior Vice President), Farooq Jadoon (Vice President), Murad Ali Shahid (General Secretary), Rehan Qayyum Khan (Joint Secretary), Shahtida Aliq (President Women’ Wing) and Areeba Tajamul (President Youth Wing).
Established in 1958, Pak Shamaa is the oldest community school in Qatar. The school is recognised by Ministry of Education, State of Qatar and affiliated to Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Islamabad, Pakistan and IGCSE Cambridge Curriculum.

The present school management committee is headed by M A Shahid who took the charge in 1989. Since then the school has been imparting quality education within prescribed rules and regulations. Under the dynamic leadership of Principal Nabila Kakkab, the institution has covered many milestones.

Besides Pakistanis, a large number of students from other nationalities are also studying in both the international stream and the Cambridge branch.

Highlights of the institution
- Highly qualified and trained faculty committed to serve at the main campus as well as Al Wakrah branches.
- Spacious classrooms, playground and well-equipped laboratories
- New scheme of studies to meet the challenges of modern trends in education
- Focus on character-building of students through co-curricular activities
- Special education in Quran
- Intra-houses and inter-houses competitions.
- Emphasis on spoken English
- Basic computer education facilities
- Well-maintained sports facilities
- Individual attention
- Well-stocked and organised library
- Specified internal monitoring of the classes

Pak Shamaa School
imparts quality education

LONG-TIME Qatar resident and Chairman of Souvenir Group of Companies Haji Said Badshah has a number of plans to increase his investments in Pakistan and help support his motherland’s economy.

Badshah revealed his expansion plans to Prime Minister Imran Khan during his official visit to Qatar.

“We had a very fruitful meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan and other members of his accompanying delegation. We assured the Prime Minister of our cooperation in supporting our motherland’s economy. Imran Khan’s visit will further boost the bilateral and brotherly relations between Qatar and Pakistan. We are indebted to Qatari government for providing us excellent working environment,” said Badshah.

He recently called on Pakistan’s Minister of State and Chairman Board of Investments Haroon Sharif in Doha and discussed his plans to set up a power generation plant in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

“We discussed in our meeting about our proposed thermo-electric power project having a capacity to produce 174 megawatt electricity. We are very thankful to him for taking time of his busy schedule and listening to our plans. He assured of cooperation in the project,” Badshah added.

Badshah, who hails from Naryab village in Hangu district of Pakistan, arrived in Doha in 1975. He worked hard to flourish his business and he is now counted among the successful Pakistani businessmen in Qatar. His elder son Umar Parooq is General Manager of the group while his other sons help him in running the business.

“I want to invest $10 crore ($100 million) in different projects in Pakistan. In 2018, we imported different items worth $15 million from Pakistan. Around 80 percent of the imports were for Qatar, while the remaining were for other Gulf countries,” Badshah said.

The Group inaugurated Cold Storage division on February 23 in 2018 at Depalpur (Okara), Pakistan, for the processing and packaging of potatoes. The division has two washing plants with a storage capacity of 400,000 bags. “We owe a lot to our country and now we want to pay back to our motherland. Currently, we have employed 2,000 workers and have plans to give jobs to 10,000 workers,” said Badshah.

The group recently inaugurated a 27-room Souvenir Group Hospital in Peshawar where all the services in the emergency department are free while deserving patients are given 50 percent discount.

The group owns a commercial plaza in Rawalpindi’s posh Bahria town, a commercial market, and a huge warehouse spread over an area of nine acres in the port city of Karachi.
Pakistan Day

Pak Pakwan Restaurant:
The taste of Pakistan

The Pak Pakwan Restaurant opened its doors as a fine dining service in April 2018 with the aim of offering authentic Pakistani cuisine. “Our aim was to introduce unique flavours from different parts of Pakistan in an economical way as well as maintaining high standards of hospitality and customer care,” said Managing Partner Khaqan Haider.

The restaurant’s most special dish is Sajji (chicken/lamb) which is fired, grilled and spiced up meat served with special rice, a dish which originated in the Balochistan region of Pakistan.

They have a large variety of distinctive curries, barbecue and rice items. The curries include a large selection of boneless chicken and lamb items, spicy as well non-spicy, exclusive in the town.

“In addition to our regular menu, we keep on introducing new dishes on popular demand. Since inauguration, we got good reputation for value for money experience. Within a short span of time, we are among the top-rated restaurants on the social media and all online platforms,” said Haider.

“We continue to work relentlessly to meet the expectations of our customers and provide them the best taste and a memorable experience,” added Haider.

Opening Soon...

After serving foodies for four decades, we proudly announce the opening of a new branch at Suhaim Bin Hamad Street, Al- Mirqab, with the name Royal Shezan

Besides serving our signature Lahori cuisine, we will also be adding Arabic, Turkish, Indian and continental dishes to our menu to suit every palate.

Heartiest greetings to the Pakistani community on the auspicious occasion of Pakistan Day, 23rd March.

Tel : 44865225/44444469 Mob: 55269368 Email: shezahnihl@qatar.net.qa
Why Pakistan is an investment destination of choice

Today Pakistan is moving in the right economic direction and confident of securing up to $50 billion foreign investment in the next three to five years.

MERGING from Pakistan’s long war against terrorism, Pakistan of today is a much-transformed society. Since mid-2000s, successive governments have made efforts to bring Pakistan back on track. Today Pakistan is moving in the right economic direction and confident of securing up to $50 billion foreign investment in the next three to five years. Despite the weak macroeconomic indicators, the predicted returns on investment are very promising for both domestic and international investors. The GDP of Pakistan has reached $312.6 billion. China is the biggest investor with $19 billion investment as part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects. The total estimated cost on the CPEC and related projects is $62 billion which includes the construction of Special Economic Zones (SEZ).

According to economic analysts the time is ripe for investors to come to Pakistan and explore opportunities in various sectors. This is not only because of the new Special Economic Zones under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor with complete tax exemptions to the investors but also because Pakistan’s own domestic market has emerged as an attractive market with a population of more than 210 million. These factors serve as a great incentive for international investors seeking to invest in sectors like manufacturing, tourism, information technology, food processing, agro-based products, dairy development, hotel industry and resorts development.

Pakistan’s emergence as an attractive investment destination is indicated by several private sector acquisitions in recent years such as purchase of a majority 51 percent stake of Engro Foods Ltd by Dutch company FrieslandCampina Pakistan BV (FC Pakistan) at an estimated price of $446.81 million, KS SulemanjiJamalijik Sons (Pvt) Ltd (KOLSON) was taken over by the South Korean industrial conglomerate Lotte Group and a strategic stake of 24.3 percent shares was acquired by Shanghai Challenge Textile Company in Masood Textile Mills (MTM).

Inner Mongolia Yili Industrial Group Co, one of China’s largest dairy businesses, is in the process of acquiring 51 percent shares with management control through public offer in Fauji Foods which markets a range of dairy and juice products under the brand name Nurpur. Moreover, Shanghai Electric Power (SEP) is keen to acquire K-Electric (a power generation, transmission and distribution company) in an estimated $1.77 billion deal.

Several countries keenly look at the rapid developments under the CPEC, especially the development of SEZs. Whether they formally become part of CPEC or not is yet to be seen, but the aim is to bring investments in the CPEC. Besides, a number of countries from the Middle East have started investing in Pakistan. There is a feeling that Pakistan is a safe investment destination with expectations of good returns. An estimated $10 billion will be invested for a refinery and petrochemicals complex in Gwadar. It is expected that this refinery will be functional within two years and in the next three to five years this facility will have the capacity to produce 250,000 barrels of refined oil products. This in turn entails huge savings for Pakistan. Currently, Pakistan annually spends $2 billion on the import of these products. Companies are also interested to invest in Pakistan’s renewable energy sector. ACWA Power from Saudi Arabia is keen to bring in around $4 billion investment and recognises huge opportunities for production of cheap energy to fulfil the growing local demand. Simultaneously, Pakistan has offered tax incentive packages.

Pakistan’s Information Technology industry has demonstrated positive growth trends in the last four years. During 2016-17, Pakistan’s IT exports were worth $5.23 billion which have climbed to $5 billion and are expected to grow to $6 billion in the coming years. Enterprise software has grown by 17 percent, marketing tech 15 percent, financial services 13 percent, consumer goods 9 percent, retail/e-commerce 8 percent, professional services 8 percent, internet of things/hardware 7 percent, health care 4 percent, media 4 percent and non-profit 3 percent. Amazon and large IT companies are expecting huge developments in the start-up world of Pakistan as evidenced by the large number of sponsors. The Government of Pakistan has started promoting start-ups. It has given three-year exemption from taxes to the start-ups and set up national incubation centres in Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar, Karachi and Quetta. With about 10,000 IT graduates entering Pakistan’s job market each year and already around 150,000 professionals and a similar number of freelancers, Pakistan’s IT industry is able to offer cheap high quality service alternatives to other regional countries.

During the recent visits of Prime Minister Imran Khan to countries like Malaysia, Turkey and Qatar, Pakistan’s tourism potential attracted a lot of attention. Pakistan has sought to learn from the tourism infrastructure and facilities available in these countries. Moreover, Pakistan has tried to engage with leading hospitality chains from these countries and has sought investment in developing hotels and resorts in Pakistan. Pakistan with its unique blend of geography and history is able to offer full-spectrum tourism to potential tourists, including spectacular mountain tourism, desert tourism, marine tourism, historical tourism and religious tourism. Due to its two-decade-long war on terrorism and unstable law and order situation, much of Pakistan has remained unexplored in terms of both tourism and economic potential.

With peace and stability returning to Pakistan, the real inheritor of the Indus Valley Civilization is all set to grow economically and the time is ripe for investors to come to Pakistan in greater numbers. Those who come early will definitely benefit from the advantages and will be able to establish themselves in the new emerging Pakistan.
Pakistan International School-Qatar:
A student-centred approach

PAKISTAN International School-Qatar (PISQ) is one of the best performing schools in Qatar. It has been greatly transformed over the years and has become a symbol of pride for Pakistan in Qatar. The school focuses on helping students reach their full potential academically, socially and emotionally. The school has committed and proactive teachers and dedicated support staff and adopted a wide range of innovative teaching practices.

The school is making progress towards a more student-centred approach in order to empower more and more students to excel and thrive in a wide range of fields. Through meaningful student engagement, the school seeks to develop interpersonal, intrapersonal, physical and cognitive capabilities of youngsters so that they can lead meaningful and fulfilling lives.

The progress of the school is apparent in many ways. This report aims to highlight the achievements over the past years. The enrolment in the academic year 2018-19 is 3,607.

Academic achievements
● Regular upgradation and streamlining of the syllabus
● Introduction of an upgraded edition of Oxford syllabus from Kindergarten to Grade VIII
● Project-based learning from grade V onwards
● Induction of overhead projectors in all the board classes to make teaching more effective and efficient
● Introduction of English skill learning (ESL) classes in KG and the Primary Wing
● The exam paper outline has been changed from KG to Grade XII according to the latest evaluation techniques
● Teacher training workshops by Oxford trainers to improve teaching methodologies
● Introduction of ERP digital system which enables the school, students and parents to connect digitally with each other. Parents can track the homework, progress and latest updates through the school app from anywhere
● The school strives to induct trained staff through NTS Pakistan. It has employed seven MPhil and one PhD teacher

Extracurricular activities
The school is committed to providing extracurricular learning opportunities for children. The school offers a range of extra activities to students at the school.
● Interschool football tournament
● Graduation ceremony for college and school graduates
● Educational field trips from KG to grade XII
● Seminars for students by international and Pakistani scholars and researchers from Qatar University

Co-curricular achievements
● This year Pakistan International School bagged first position in all the four categories of the Annual Inter-School Literary Competition: Dramatic Declamation, Essay Writing Junior, Story Telling and Humorous Speech. They competed against 70 contestants from 21 international schools.
● First position in iEARN Qatar for two consecutive years. And as a reward two teachers of the school were fully sponsored and sent to Morocco to attend iEARN Conference and display their projects in 2017, and one teacher was sent to the USA in 2018 for the same.
● It is the only Pakistani school which runs the Model United Nation (MUN) club in the school and participates in MUN conferences organised by different international schools and has the won best delegate award. This year the students of this school are going to Barcelona to attend the conference.
● The administration of PISQ in collaboration with Oxford University Press (OUP) organised workshops for the teachers in January 2019 as part of teachers’ training programme
● The school received a trophy from the Doha Bank after the successful completion of the project ‘Green House’
● Students of PISQ notched second position in 27th Inter-School Elocution Competition and 24th Holy Quran Recitation Competition held in MES Indian School, Doha. A total of 36 candidates from nine expatriate schools of the Indian subcontinent showcased their talent in the contest
● Students of PISQ bagged second position at Inter-School Science Project Competition held in Bright Future International School

IGCSE campus
The Pakistan International School signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Jassim & Hamad bin Jassim Charitable Foundation on August 31, 2016 for the construction of International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) block. This is a major milestone for the school. The construction of the IGCSE block is expected to be complete by May this year.

Evening school
In April 2015, with the approval of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Pakistan International School started the evening school. The evening school was started with only 17 students and within three years the enrollment has reached 311.
Gemstones are the precious and beautiful variety of minerals

Rarest and Precious Earth Gems and Minerals of Pakistan

1) Munirite and meta-munirite

Munirite is a monoclinic-prismatic pearl white mineral containing hydrogen, oxygen, sodium, iron, magnesium, white and rare earth. It was first discovered by two Pakistani scientists (KA Butt and K Mahmood) and was given the name of ‘Munirite’ in honour of Dr Munir Ahmed Khan, Chairman, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commision. Its reservoirs are also found in Chibmir, Pakistan, which is the rarest earth discovery as the mineral is not commonly found in the earth due to its chemical properties.

2) K2nite, K2-Granite or K2 Jasper

K2 granite, also known as K2 jasper and raindrop azurite, is an extremely interesting rock and lapidary material from the Skardu area of northern Pakistan. It is like an eye magnet for anyone who sees it for the first time. It is a bright white granite that contains sharply in colluvium near the base of the mountain. It is in a very remote area visited by very few people.

3) Prasinite (rare korneurine class of gems)

Classified as the most rare, prasinite is an orthorhombic-dipyramidal mineral containing aluminum, boron, fluoride, hydrogen, iron, magnesium, oxygen, silicon. It forms a solid solution series with korneurine. The known third piece of gem grade on earth of Prasinite was identified in a lot of gemstones from Baluchistan. Pakistani origin prasinite was the first gemstone grade quality and world is waiting for its more quantity, possibly only from the mine of Balochistan.

4) Sanan Sakran

The most recent discovery of gemstone class of fine green marble from Balochistan was given name of ‘Sanan’ by its Pakistani mine owner. This is very fine stone also included in gemstone class due to its sharp green colour. This is a rare stone and no other reservoir of such mineral is yet found on the earth.

Sanan stone was recently used in world renowned jeweller brand Cartier as the main stone with diamond.

Following rare earth minerals are hard to find in the international gem market are available in Pakistan in various mining zones.

5) Triplite

Triplite is a rare phosphate mineral with formula: (Mn,Fe2)PO4(F,OH). The finest gem grade pieces so far have been discovered from Shigar Valley mine of Baltistan in Pakistan.

About 90 percent of triplite in gemstone market come from Pakistan and the count is less than 100 small crystals discovered so far.

6) Xenotime

Xenotime is a rare earth phosphate mineral, the major component of which is yttrium orthophosphate (YPO4). Xenotime has been found in Pakistan.

7) Vânyenite

The manganese-beryllium-phosphate vânyenite was first recognised in 1958 as a possible new mineral by Oleg von Knorring (1915-1994). However, it was first described as a new mineral by Volborth (1954). Only a few specimens of this mineral stone have been discovered so far and the best of the gem quality grade is found in Pakistan. Only gem grade anatase was found in mine of Kaharan, Balochistan. It’s considered as black diamond of collectors. Only few mines on earth have anatase.

8) Anatase

Anatase is a gem that is very rare because crystals are usually dark, seldom transparent and tiny. Only gem grade anatase was found in mine of Kaharan, Balochistan. It’s considered as black diamond of collectors. Only few mines on earth have anatase.

9) Bastnasite

The mineral bastnasite (or bastnaesite) belongs to the family of carbonate-fluoride, rare earth minerals considered as stone with high healing effect.

Balochistan has the best quality, gem grade bastnasite.

10) Green garnet (demantoid)

The chemical formula of green garnet is Cr2Fe2SiO4(Al) with chromium substitution as the cause of the demantoid green colour Garnet Variety of Green colour and specially the Pakistani Demantoid is high in demand now a day. It’s rare due to its composition, colour and gem grade quality.

11) Brookite

Brookite is the orthorhombic variant of titanium dioxide, TiO2. Brookite is rare and the quality found in Pakistan is rarest and of high grade. Its specimens are sold at high price and there is demand in international gem market.

Following gemstones, minerals and rocks are not so rare but unique and high quality of cut grade is available in Pakistan: Biotite, clinohumite, chrome stone, topazlote, wernite-scapolite, blue beryl, scheelite, beryllinite, dravite tourmaline, actinolite, haune, green herderite, ilmenite, microite, sphalerite, monazite, parsite, azurite, tautomite, vanadinite, pink allite, hamergite, antigorite, hedenbergite, kornstamite, chondrodite, pargasite, sanoide, hackmanite, parsite, siderite.
Wishing all our readers from Pakistan a very happy Pakistan Day