# And Poverty Defeated

A biography of a poor boy who refused to give up

Abdul Samad Sirohey

Digitized by M. H. Panhwar Institute of Sindh Studies, Jamshoro.

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# Acknowledgments

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*And I would like to give a special thanks to my younger brother for providing the artwork for the book cover.*

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# Foreword

In past three decades, I have seen andinteracted with many amazing characters of an unforgettable nature, but Ahmed Ali Sirohey(the father in this book) is one of the few such brightest individuals whose life is full of multiple experiences, fatal challenges and glorious achievements. I met him during my one of the earliest visits to Shah Abdul Latif University when he introduced me to M.A English program- out lines over a cup of tea in the cafeteria in 1990. We planned to study together in M.A English but he left the university due to his economical conditions as mentioned in the book whose title itself speaks volumes of the struggle he underwent to defeat poverty.

"And poetry defeated" seems to me a very significant contribution of the author to record the hard, bitter and the pleasant aspects of the life of his father. The book comprising nine parts presents all the details from every day activities to schooling, from tribal disputes to class discrimination, from so called feudal to an educated young boy, who is struggling for his own identity,self-respect, and living with dreams of his own.

One most striking theme is commonly pervasive in the book which is that Ahmed Ali has been a person who largely believed extensive socialization, love for learning, care for others and strong faith in national rebuilding. Taking part in small social, politicaland academic gatherings has been his main characteristic

despite all the odds of traditional village life. In his all formal role, ie a young school going boy, active college/university student, an employee, and then a civil service of Pakistan as a diplomate, he has made unprecedented success and achieved laurels for his person family and the nation. His role asa son, a brother, a husband and a father are examples of unwavering morally dignified member of the society. Nevertheless as having a friend like him, is just a matter of honor and pride.

I am sure the readers will enjoy reading this biography as there are numerous lessons to be learned for patience, meeting challenges, and means to achieving the dignified goals of life. *Life is not the bed of roses,* best fits his journey. Coming from a very poor background and becoming the ambassador of his country with the distinctions to his credit, he proved that everything is possible if there is sincerity of purpose, strong level of motivation and commitment to change your life.

I congratulate the author for producing such a comprehensive book and wish good luck to the readers who I am sure will enjoy reading this invincible biography.

**Prof. Dr. Ghulam Mustafa Mashori**
**Dean**
**Faculty of Arts and Languages**
**Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, Pakistan.**

## A biography that makes for compelling reading

The characters are different; some characters are as soft as clouds and become shadows in the intense heat of the sun.In fact, such characters are like mountains because of their motivation and courage in their existence.

While reading the autobiographies/biographies of such characters, many secrets of their lives are revealed to the reader. While reading them, on the one hand, the reader is surprised, on the other hand, his own character, who was depressed inside, suddenly feels empowered because of the courage of the character under study.Suddenly, the reader's feelings are awakened, the desire and the search begin to turn inside him, the reader thinks "life is not the name of disappointment, but the goal of life is to constantly strive and reach the goal."

"And defeated poverty". Biography of a poor young man is under study on my reading table, this biography is the first effort and fruit by the young Abdul Samad Sarohi.

The author, while writing this biography, has paid full attention to the fact that no matter how bitter the truth is, it should not be hidden at all, then he explains the truth about his father's childhood ;"His condition in the school was pitiable, no books, no uniform and no shoes but still top student in the class. He borrowed books from his classmates and memorized them. Uncles never looked after them; they even didn't like to

be in touch with them. Ancestral land was also under their control".

By studying the biographies of the great conquerors of the world, Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, it is known that no attempt has been made to hide their sufferings and sufferings behind the scenes.

Even in this biography, the writer has not done anything wrong. The author writes about his father that he also faced difficulties in Shah Abdul Latif University; "His chairman in the English department became his enemy and the situation worsened to that level; he recommended rustication of father three times but father defended himself and survived. Father was punished in grades; he was awarded C grade; whereas he was the only first class student. He has the honor to teach his classmates. He pleaded to authorities but to no avail then he challenged the chairman for competition; it's a record till dated. He qualified CSS for the second time and got Foreign Service. Thus his success was defeat of grinding poverty that made them outcast among the relatives and fellows ".

Writing about the current position of his father, the author does not hesitate to highlight the difference of Sindh's domicile with the Federation, he writes that; "He was promoted to the ambassador level in 2020 and posted to Niger. He was promised to be given a better posting after two years. But even after three years; he was denied it on the pretext that he completed two tenures. The person who told him i.e. Foreign Secretary Asad Majeed; who himself enjoyed three A postings from japan, USA and Belgium. He wrote hard hitting letters and even to FM Bilawal Zardari Bhutto but no response. The postings re-

mained completely on the single merit of Punjab domicile. He wrote a book on economic diplomacy. It was launched in the Shah Abdul latif University khairpur with personal interest of Dr. Khalil ibupoto the vice Chancellor. Another launch was done in Islamabad at Comstech under the supervision of Dr. Iqbal Chaudhry the coordinator general. The ministry has never even appreciated father on anything. He achieved a lot of laurels in Niger including tasks given by the ministry. He was awarded the best ambassador in Niger but MOFA remained silent".

In the conclusion, I would like to say that biographies are read with great interest in our country and few biographies are of great importance here, I hope this biography will also get a prominent place in history and this work written by Abdul Samad Sarohi will be liked by both general and special sections of the society.

**Wishal Ameer**
**In charge, RegionalOffice**
**Press Information Department**
**Government of Pakistan @ Larkana/Sukkur**

# Part I: History, Childhood & Family

# Chapter 1: Family History

"Sirohi is the one domain in Rajputana which maintained its independence, not acknowledging the suzerainty of Mughals, Rathores, and Maratha."
— Colonel Mellson

The Sirohi family belonged to Rajasthan, and the story of the Sirohi family name goes back to the Deoras, the rulers of the Sirohi State, who were known for their bravery and famous swords. And the origin of its name is derived from the word "sword."
The word "Sirohi," which comes from Sir + Uhi, means "self-respect is much more important than one's head being cut off," in other words, "a Rajput of Sirohi may die for his self-respect."
The princely house at Sirohi was an offshoot of the same branch to which belonged the last Hindu Emperor of India, The Chauhans. And this historic pride clings to masses as much as to individuals (just individuals?), conducing to honorable pride when rightly felt, and to none can it, therefore, cling more firmly than to "The Magnificently Stubborn Deora," the particular seat at the Chauhans, who have ruled over Sirohi during the past six centuries.
A scion at the younger branch of the Chauhans of Jalor seized the Kingdom at Abu Lumba from the Parmar king in the year 1311 A.D. and thus became the first king of the territory now known as the Kingdom of Sirohi. The famous town of Chandravati, situated

at the bank of river Banas, was the capital of the kingdom, and Lumba took his residence there and ruled till 1320 A.D.

Rao Shiv Bhan, the Sixth descent from Lumba, popularly known as Sobha (Rao Sobha Ji), finally abandoned Chandravati and founded a town, on the eastern slope, below the Siranwa hill and built a fort on the top in the year 1405 A.D. The newly founded town was called Shivpuri. But the town founded by Rao Shiv Bhan was not suitable for him, so his son Rao Sahasmal abandoned it in 1425 A.D and founded the present city Sirohi, on the western slope of the Siranwa hill, and made it the capital of The Sirohi Kingdom. On the second day (Dvitiya) of Vaishakh in 1482 V.S. (1425 A.D.), he laid the foundation stone of the Sirohi Fort. Later on, the entire area under Deora's was known as Sirohi.

In puranic tradition, this area had been referred to as "Arbudh Pradesh" and Arbundachal (Arbud + Anchal).

During the reign of Rao Sahasmal, the famous Rana Kumbha of Mewar attacked and conquered Abu, Vasanthgarh, and an area adjoining Pindwara. Rana Kumbha renovated a castle in Vasanthgarh and also a temple at Kumbhaswami near the shrine of Achaleshwar in the year 1452 A.D. Rao Lakha succeeded Sahashmal and tried to liberate the region at Abu with the help of Qutubuddin, the king of Gujarat who was also unfriendly with Kumbha. But, Lakha failed to get his territory back.

According to traditions and assumptions, the eldest son of Rao Sahasmal converted to Islam in 1430, and the Maharaja warned him of dire consequences if he would not return back to Hindu Dharma. The son very humbly replied that he had already prepared for the consequences. The Maharaja repudiated his son, and he left for Sindh. The initial stay was at Umarkot, where he got married to a Muslim woman. He then moved towards the northern part of Sindh. He had three sons, one of them migrated further north to Punjab, and two remained in Sindh at Khairpur and Sukkur districts. They had estates, and even H.T. Lambrick, in his history, reported Sirohi estate. It proved that Sirohi progeny was granted land by the then rulers of Arghuns on the basis of royal connection. However, the above assertions were not verifiable. But, in the British raj, Sirohi estates remained, and the feudal setup continued. Moreover, in Khairpur state Sirohi canal was dug, which meant there were enough lands owned by the Sirohi sub-tribe or its head.

## Chapter 2: Grandpa and Grandma

My father's family was involved in agriculture and was considered one of the most successful farmers of their time. At any time, hundreds of mounds of wheat and rice were stored in their houses, and they never sold it to people; rather, they granted grain loans without interest. If someone failed to return at the next harvest, he would not be compelled but given more grain to stay comfortable. My grandpa was the third among his four brothers; the eldest was Ghulam Muhammad, the next was Bakhshan, and then the youngest was Taj Muhammad. My grandpa had two sisters, Janat Khatoon and Begum Khatoon. Great-grandma was Izzat Khatoon, great-grandpa was Tagyal Khan, and great-great-grandpa was Mubarak, who was known for his honesty and truthfulness. Once, when my great-great-grandpa was still young, there was an incident during the Talpur times where the rulers took half of the crop from the farmers, and the harvest was sealed till their administrator came to measure and give the divides. My great-great-great-grandpa, Mubarak's father, took away some grains from the sealed wheat harvest, but when the agent of the state came, he noticed that the seal was broken and the wheat was stolen. The agent inquired about the theft of the wheat, but no one answered, as there were no witnesses. The young boy, Mubarak, raised his hand and told the agent that it was his father who stole the grain. The Mirs normally punished people

by sending them to Kotdiji fort's dungeon, but my father was pardoned due to his son's honesty.

Later on, my grandpa repeated the story. His older brother, Ghulam Muhammad, was a bandit who stole people's cattle and put them in the backyard of his house. When the people inquired about the cattle, grandpa asked them a few questions about the color and number of animals. They replied correctly, and he informed them that they were in the backyard of his brother's house. The people brought the police and recovered their animals, and grandpa's brother was sent to jail.

When grandpa was still young, his family was struggling with agriculture and gaining a foothold through their hard work. One day, he left his village in 1940 and was recruited by the British army at Larkana. Grandpa's whole family looked for him for months but had no clue, so they considered him dead. But after two years, he came back from Calcutta, where he was posted. He served in the British Indian army for seven years and fought at the fronts of Burma. He served in Dhaka, Chittagong, Kumafulli, Sylhet, Calcutta, Bombay, and Delhi. In 1947 he opted for Pakistan and traveled to Lahore and then posted to Sindh. He was relieved of his duties in Larkana. He joined the prison police and served for a few months at Sukkur central jail but resigned because of the wrongdoings committed by the police where officers were involved in selling drugs.

He was witness to the reception of Muhajirs (immigrants) in Sindh. He told the tales of pains and

pathos of the poor refugees in ragtag. They were offered food and clothes by the Sindhi brothers at all stations. The Mirs of Khairpur constructed special colonies for the settlement of refugees. It was the first planned colony in Khairpur. They were given lands, shops, and houses on humanitarian grounds. He also told the tale of the subsequent highhandedness of the very refugees against the host community. Grandpa told my father how their ancestral land was allotted in the claim to refugees. But, they remained quiet in sympathy. He also informed my father that Liaqat Ali Khan forced Sindhi Hindus to leave Sindh so that their properties were grabbed for refugees. He stoically remembered when Liaqat Ali Khan claimed that Sindhis were uncivilized and refugees taught them how to wear clothes. He informed my father that Muhajirs occupied all important positions in the federal, provincial, and even district governments and disenfranchised the Sindhis. They systematically took away the economy of the province, expelled Sindhis from Karachi, and built institutions in Karachi and Hyderabad to deprive Sindhis of the dividend of independence.

He painfully narrated that Karachi was confiscated, and old Sindhi villages like Lalu Kheet (Liaqat Abad) were established without compensation or even settling the old citizens on that same land. He also shared the stories of British times. The justice in British times and the injustice after the making of Pakistan were compared. The most important thing grandpa noted was that British officers were directed

to learn Sindhi within three months while serving in Sindh. But, after Pakistan, Sindhi language learning was considered a sin. Urdu was imposed all the over the country. The lands of Muslims mortgaged with Hindus were given in claims to Refugees, whereas as per law, those were to be returned to Muslim owners. It was applied in all provinces except Sindh. He saw the erosion of the social and educational progress of Sindhis in the early years of Pakistan. He also observed the ill behavior of bureaucrats, who were mostly Mohajirs or Punjabi, towards Sindhi, Balochi, and Bengali Muslims. He narrated the stories of his war day in Burma and his posting in Bengal. He praised Bengali Muslims for their love and dedication to Islam and Muslims but regretted their treatment in Pakistan. He was very much critical of Pakistan's bureaucracy and military and considered them responsible for the splitting of Pakistan.

Grandpa once told my father that the misconception about Sindhi people was that they avoid traveling abroad and serving in the army. He gave detailed descriptions of Sindhi travelers across the world for trade and business since Mohan Jo Daro. The traces of Indus traders were found in east Africa, South East Asia, and even in Europe. He said that there were Sindhis in Jordan and Saudi Arabia even before Pakistan. Moreover, he said that in the army, the British didn't trust Sindhi soldiers because of their nationalist views and freedom-loving tendency, so they propagated that the Sindhis were not joining the army. He shared his own story that the British would not allow

the majority of Sindhis in any unit, so they were dispersed. On the contrary, they trusted Punjabi, who served without question and helped the British to conquer Muslim lands. The Sindhi naval officers rebelled thrice and the Sindhi army twice for freedom. Moreover, Hur Movement started twice, in 1900 and 1941, which shook the foundations of the British colonization in Sindh. They killed hundreds of freedom fighters, and interestingly the British used Punjabi soldiers against their Muslim brothers, who were killed with impunity.

He told a very surprising story that Hurs, who were jailed and punished by the British masters, were not relieved even after the completion of their terms. They were released in the time of Ayoub Khan.

When grandpa returned from the army and prison police, he bought a horse cart and started earning for the family. He was considered to be the most well-dressed person in the area. He used to have gold, buttons and best suits. He contributed to the joint family income by buying groceries and contributing his income. However, after his marriage, the wives of his brothers started creating fissures among the brothers. The brothers, who were so closely attached to each other, gradually started moving away. The older brothers started questioning grandpa's contribution to the total income, and later the division materialized in 1975 when torrential rains devastated the houses and crops.

## 1.1. Grandma

My grandma was the daughter of Haji Faqir Muhammad, who was one of the well-off people in their village. The children were born to his second wife. His second wife, Muradan, was a widow who married Haji Faqir Muhammad. He was the single son of his father and had two children; a son and a daughter. His son, Khan Muhammad, studied in school till the ninth grade and couldn't continue after the death of his father. His father wanted to send him to Aligarh, but his life couldn't allow him to do it. Grandma never went to school and got married to my grandpa after the death of her father. Grandma's brother got the ancestral property after grandma signed her portion away to him on the condition that she could visit his house when she wanted. She used to stay at her brother's house for a long time.

She served her husband and children with utmost dedication. When grandpa's brothers left him and hard days started, my grandma remained steadfast with grandpa and worked in the fields and collected cotton for a price. It is pertinent to note that she was nurtured with love by her parents, yet she faced hardships without complaints alongside her husband. She had a stepbrother and a sister in the other village, Ali Bakhsh Sirohi, and her aunts also married there. Grandma's stepbrother and step-sister loved her. And in 1978, her stepbrother, Muhammad Siddique, was killed, and her step-sister was very poor and could

only provide emotional support. The cousins of her younger aunt occasionally visited her. She also took my father to her relatives.

My father also visited his maternal uncles, Hussain Bakhsh, Himat Ali, and Ghulam Ullah. Except for Ghulam Ullah, the richest one among the uncles, the first two uncles used to visit grandma, though they were poor, and similarly, the rich uncle's children never bothered to visit either.

The sons and daughters of her other aunt, who was married to Muharam Ali, never contacted her or looked after her during tough times. It is reported that one of them, Abdul Sattar, always despised and made fun of their poverty. However, the oldest cousin, Ghulam Akbar, respected her whenever they met but didn't ask if they needed any assistance. He was very close to the bandit Sobu (the pig), even during a dispute with grandpa.

## Chapter 3: Childhood

My father was born in a farming family in the village of Sarohi, Khairpur district, Sindh. My father's family was well off when he was born; however, after a few years, when he was a child of four years, there were heavy torrential rains and flooding in 1975, which destroyed their houses, crops, and properties and so his uncles decided to migrate from the village to Kotdiji Taluka near Kumb town with all the moveable property. They took away their share and left grandpa's share as he was not willing to move from the village. But with this separation, things started getting worse, and soon they were starving. Their fight with hunger started in 1975.

My grandpa, who lived a very comfortable life, started afresh. He had served in the British army and later in the Pakistan army. He took up labor and farming work because ancestral land was also under the control of his uncles, so it was very difficult to handle this hardship. His journey with grinding poverty started in 1975. It was the year of torrential rains and super floods. He was a man with a harsh tongue and stubborn nature, which led to weak connections with other people in the village and even fights.

My father, in his childhood, was a very naughty kid and used to climb trees, put his hand into the holes of the trees to catch parrots, and always used to run away from taking a bath. In the winter season, grandma would warm the water and bathe him, but



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my father still felt cold, so he wanted to run away. One such day, he was running away from her when she threw a washing rod at his back. He fell to the ground, and she dragged him to the washing place near the well.

## The Year 1982

In 1982, his maternal uncle tasked him to care of his date's orchid. He did everything from the beginning to the harvest, yet at the end of the harvest, he didn't get anything, not even dates. It broke his heart because everyone got something from him except my father and his mother, who used to be a shareholder in the property.

In secondary school, he used to memorize English words and phrases in a loud voice. So his relatives, especially his senior cousin from the paternal side, used to say, "he is speaking English with dogs." He always discouraged my father by saying, "go and help your father in tilling the land or doing labor," and announced sarcastically, "he will become subedar, and his father will eat from his income." Subedar means SHO; for them, it was the highest position that someone could have achieved. Grandpa always prodded my father and said, "My son study and get knowledge. My father will send you to London". At that time, he never understood what he was saying. But, after qualifying for CSS and getting into the Foreign Service, my father realized his words. But Alas! grandpa was not alive to see him traveling the world.

He was in class seven when one of the neighbors got his son married, who was younger than my father. The neighbor asked him to write "Pahat," meaning the money given by people against the valima. But true to his salt, he didn't offer him rice. My father went back home for lunch, and when he came back, the neighbor inquired about his absence. He told him, but there was no regret or remorse. Although he came to know that my father didn't eat and his family was not sent food either, he neither pondered sending food to the house nor offered an apology without money.

Another incident took place in class eight when a relative got his sons married. My father went to participate on behalf of his family and pay money, as well as collect rice for the family. While they were eating, they offered boiled meat to eat with the rice to everyone except my father. When he insisted that it should be given because he was an equal participant, they said that my father's family was bankrupt, so what could they have given. They said that if he wanted to eat, eat; otherwise, he could leave. He left mid-meal and without collecting the rice for his family, and no one stopped him.

## The Year 1983

In 1983, Zia announced local bodies' elections. Pakistan People's Party (PPP) boycotted the election. However, people still participated in it. My father was a supporter of the party, so he opposed the election. The senior leadership was in hiding, so his relative,

Ali Akbar, asked him to help with writing a pamphlet to boycott the elections. They went to attend the secret party meeting at Kamal Dero and decided to get pamphlets printed from Mazloum Press Gambat and distributed them in the early morning/evening time at important locations. They were fixed at various spots. People, on the day of the election, stayed away from polling stations. However, the candidates and their relatives went to polling stations. In our village, the contestants were Gul Hassan Sarohi and Shah Nawaz Panhwer. The Sarohi community voted for their candidate, but not all of them because their candidate was not better than the opponent. Gul Hassan enjoyed a very bad reputation. There was a scuffle between the candidates in voting because Sarohi was losing. The Panhwer took away ballot boxes and ran away. The Sarohi candidates' notorious sons took hold of a Panhwer who was coming from his job in the evening. He was kept a hostage for some time. The poor sections of Sarohi, on behalf of their candidate, chased Panhwer but failed to wrest back the boxes.

Later, the army came in and arrested all the Sarohis on the charges of disrupting the election due to people's party affiliation. They were sent to the central jail and flogged several times. They stayed there for many months without being heard. My father thought that the army didn't listen to the other party and punished people just on the accusation that they were members of the people's party. It was a time when they were directly touched by army highhandedness.

## August 1983

In august 1983, the MRD movement started, and they took part in it. Many of our relatives participated in the processions taken by Syed Ali Taqi Shah, the largest at that time, as reported by BBC Urdu. Gul Shah also took a procession from Gambat to Khairpur. While they were moving towards Khairpur from Ranipur, the army initially threw tear gas shells at the peaceful demonstration. It injured a few people, but they used wet clothes and saved their eyes, and continued the procession. However, on their return journey, the youth resorted to ransacking offices of Zia support tehreek at Kot Diji. The army again shelled and fired at the procession near Ranipur and Kandiaro, and a few people were killed in the firing. It completed my father's hatred towards the army even though my grandpa was a retired army man, and he wanted my father to join the army as an officer too. But this incident caused grandpa/my father to dislike the army evermore.

But again, die-hard workers of the party took procession under the command of Syed Gul Shah of Gambat and went to Khairpur and courted arrest. However, there was some disorderliness among the participants. They attacked banks and the Sindh artifacts center to steal money and items. The army fired at the crowd, and it started running in all directions. The police shelled on the dispersing crowd; many people jumped into the Mirwah canal, and a couple of them died in

that incident. My father resented the unruly behavior of the participants, which caused a lot of pain to ordinary citizens and damage to public property. He observed that the people who looted public property were not party workers but rather hooligans/thugs in the guise of workers. He found that a dacoit from our area also took part in the agitation and stole some items. It served the purpose of Martial law administration to propagate against the movement for the restoration of democracy.

It was also observed that Syed Qaim Ali Shah safely got himself lodged in the prison. His brother-in-law, A.K Birohi, was the legal brain behind Zia. None of his sons or daughters ever participated in the agitation; it was only Parvez Ali Shah, his nephew. But when PPP came into power, he got chief Ministry. It was believed by the people that Qaim Ali Shah had an agreement with Ghous Ali Shah, who saved him from severe military punishments.

In 1983, there was a provincial speech contest in Khuhra town, and my father was selected by the school to participate. His speech won him a special prize. The teachers of the host school and the people of the town, who were new to my father, appreciated his speech and style. It was a great achievement because many city schools participated, and they got a fourth place among dozens of big schools. His teachers were very happy because of this achievement. Ghous Ali Shah, the minister of education of Sindh, was the chief guest at the contest, and he distributed prizes among them. They were given cash prizes, and my father, who usually

buys books whenever he receives any money, bought books this time too.

During vacations (or after school), they went fishing at the canal or lake. Sometimes they got a good catch and then enjoyed a curry at home, but some days, nothing was caught at all, so they slept without a full stomach. The vegetables they enjoyed were wild leaves in the cotton crop or in the winter at the catchment area of the river Indus. They tried to bring home some leaves so that grandma could prepare the curry. However, people even despised them for plucking those wild plants from their crop even though those plants were cleared off the crop by the owners; sometimes used as fodder and other times just thrown. And if my father was alone, they would have confiscated them, but they allowed it because of grandpa's presence. They showed resentment at their action and warned my father not to venture again.

It was an interesting time; grandpa's friends avoided him and never welcomed him. One day they went to Baharo (a village), where the Mallah family was very close to our family. Grandpa requested some fodder or wheat grain, but they flatly refused in a rude manner. However, there were some people who were always helpful despite their poor condition. Soof Khan Mallah, known as Mama (uncle) Soof by the villagers, used to sell fish in the villages on his donkey. He always lent fish on credit to my grandpa and never pressured them to pay back the debt. Sometimes he would even eat with them and would give the fish to cook for free. He was a

gem of a person. Another such person was Sono Mallah. He also brought fish from the Indus river and always offered it to grandpa on credit. But unlike Soof Khan, he demanded his dues. In those difficult days eating fish curry once or even twice a month by fishing or buying on credit was a luxury.

Slaughter was done by a villager, Mahboob, who at times gave 250 grams or 500 grams of meat on credit to grandpa's family, but he always refused during Eid, so he deprived them of the luxury of eating bread with meat curry. In those days, my father felt lonely and, on Eid, went outside the village to sit in the field and make verses of poetry. It was melancholy and melody mixed with depressive thoughts. During Eid days, he went to the village of Ali Bakhsh Sarohi; there, at least my father of Mushtaq Sarohi and Janan Khan Sarohi always respected him and offered food during lunch. During cricket series times, they always visited Wadera Ali Bakhsh Khan's guest house, where they kept TV to watch cricket. At those times, they were crazy about cricket, so they kept sitting to watch cricket and admired Javed Miandad and Imran Khan. During their stay, they were also offered tea and lunch, like all guests who watched cricket, with the sons of the chief of the tribe. Taj Muhammad, son of the chief, was the captain of his team, and on the other hand, my father was the captain of his village's team. My father was a fast bowler and always devastated the batsman with his fastballs/balling?. However, the opponents always complained of wrong bowling or balling? And restrained him from using all overs.

## The Year 1985

In 1985, the military government announced elections on a party basis. Before the general elections, Zia Ul Haq held a referendum for his presidency. My father was in Kot Diji and used to visit his uncles on Fridays. It was a weekend when he received an invitation from his neighbors, the Soomras, that Sain Miran Sain was visiting them. It was for the first time that he was to see Miran Sain. When he entered the guest house and inquired from the host about Syed. He pointed to a man with a long mustache. He spontaneously remarked that he was looking like an animal and not a pious man because his face was not sporting Sunnah. He was preaching for Zia and his favors to Islam and Muslims of Pakistan. The referendum asked people whether they liked Islam or not; if they liked Islam, then Zia would be president for the next five years. The polling stations were empty, but at the end of voting, he got 99% votes, and one percent went against him. It was sheer cheating and stealing of mandate and nothing else.

In the general elections, the sons of Pir Pagara, Sadar Uddin Shah and Ali Gohar Shah contested the provincial and national assembly seats, respectively, from our area. They were opposed by a lady supposedly having the tacit support of PPP leadership. Ms. Gulzar Unar was challenging Pir Pagara and his family on his turf. My father supported Gulzar Unar. All the powerful feudal powers supported Pir, but the masses

sided with Gulzar. The military was a silent spectator, and they were using high-handedness to rig the elections. My father was the chief agent of Gulzar Unar at Baharo and resisted all overtures of the feudal, including threats. He called the army to intervene because they were rigging the election. The army visibly stopped them from doing any unlawful activity. But then they objected to my father being an agent because of his age which was just 14 years at that time. The presiding officer asked him to send an adult having voting right. My father requested an Arejo, who agreed, but during almost two hours of his absence, they played.

At the end of polling, they won by 63 votes. It was a setback for all the Waderas and Pirs of the area. Ironically, the people who opposed and were sworn enemies of PPP were rewarded by Zardari later on, like Naeem Kharal. Gulzar was announced as the winner by the national assembly on the radio, but in the evening, Ali Gohar Shah was announced as the winner. They were agitated, but Gulzar didn't show any interest in it. Later on, it dawned upon them that she cut a deal with the Pagara family and got nominated reserved seat against a general seat to the son of Pagara. That was the story of our leaders, who always sold their souls to the establishment — either to the British or, after the partition, the Pakistani.

It was an irony of fate that Bhutto served the establishment and participated in the dismemberment of united Pakistan. He served to get 93000 POWs released from India. Rather than decreasing the role of

the army, he strengthened it by increasing the number of personnel and budget. He also initiated the nuclear program and built a heavy mechanical complex. He was the pioneer of the aeronautical complex, which now produced the JF 17 thunder. However, after he served them efficiently, they rewarded him by hanging him in ... (year). The accusation on Bhutto was the rigging of elections in 1977.

My father was a six years old child when they went to vote in the village of Ali Bakhsh Sarohi. When they reached there, the polling officer informed their women and men that their votes were already cast. It was obvious that all of them were voting for the people's party, but zealous party leaders showed their acumen in managing the election. But in 1985, the same man who toppled Bhutto on account of rigging not only rigged but completely stole the mandate of the people, first in his own farce referendum and then in the general elections. But there was neither PNA nor religious parties to challenge the fake leader of believers. While he was using his rhetoric about Jihad in Afghanistan against infidels, the people in Sindh termed him a crony of America and fighting for American hegemony. His jihad was called American jihad by the people.

My father was studying at the village of Ali Bakhsh Sarohi in primary school, but on the day of the examination, the headmaster asked him to leave. So, he ran to the village and took grandpa to the village of Khatyan. The teacher there, Sir Qutub Uddin Ghumro, admitted him. The supervisor came to take the examina-

tion. In dictation and maths tests, he got the first position and made no mistakes. He told the examiner that he could read class two books. The examiner told him to give dictation to class two students, and he successfully did it. The examiner rewarded him by offering food after the completion of the examination.

Due to poverty, my grandparents couldn't afford to buy books, a bag, a uniform, and shoes. My father used to walk to school for two kilometers barefoot. On his return, grandma used to take out thorns from his feet. He didn't have good clothing, enough books, or money to eat during breaks. However, his love for learning was strong; he used to read during his free time by borrowing books from his classmates. During that period, Bhutto was toppled and hanged; he loved Bhutto so much that he didn't eat for three days. When he came back to school, the teacher asked him to say "Bheej Pagara," but he replied with "Jeavy Bhutto." The teacher started beating him with a stick mercilessly, but he didn't budge from his stand. The teacher left him after a while, but it was difficult for him to move, and he arrived home very late that day.

However, nothing happened to the teacher because my grandpa was poor, and any action against the teachers at that time was considered against norms. In class IV, the teacher asked him to bring a beri (local tobacco cigarette). He went to the shopkeeper and asked him to give a beri, wrap it in paper, put it in plastic, and then throw it in his lap. When he brought it to the teacher, he said that he asked for a beri that was not eatable. My father replied that it was the

same thing, so the teacher asked him why it was covered. My father told him that he hated to even touch the dirty thing. The teacher appreciated it and exempted him from bringing a beri ever again.

In class V, they were sent to Ripri circle school for a grant of teacher's leave. While they were coming back, it was already late, and there was a Muharam procession and rice distribution. The companion, Sikandar asked him to eat from there and then go home, "Tomorrow, we shall give it to the teacher."

The teacher was waiting at the school, and when he didn't see them coming, he sent a few students who caught my father from the village of Bakhsh Sarohi. However, Sikandar couldn't be caught. When my father was brought to school, the teacher again beat him with a date palm branch stick and laundered him like a launderer. The next day Sikandar was also beaten but with a lighter hand because the full anger was ventilated already.

During their schooling at primary school, initially, they used to sit on the floor without anything, but after class III, they sat on benches. The teachers used to utilize their help to harvest crops and cut cotton plants after harvest. They used to go for Quran learning in the morning and then go to school. The Quran teacher collected roti (bread) from the village and then sent them to deliver to his village. It was interesting to note that the school and the Quran teacher's village were on opposite sides. The teacher used to punish them for coming late, almost two to three times every fifteen days. They informed the teacher about their

compulsion. He asked the Quran teacher to arrange some other ways and not to assign students to deliver it. The students also played their role in compelling the Quran teacher. One day Moor and my father went to deliver it; while on the way, they opened it. They ate the butter and mangoes while the rest of it was delivered. When the teacher went home, he was asked about butter and mangoes. He told his wife that it was there. He inquired the students, and they replied that they had been hungry, so they ate it. He tried to punish them, but they ran away. In primary school, teacher Hussain Bakhsh and Panhwer also taught them. My father qualified for fifth class with flying colors and went to high school.

## Chapter 4: My father's Siblings

My father has one brother and two sisters. He was the eldest in the family. The sister next to him was two years younger than him. He used to play with her. He went to school, and she remained at home because there were no girls' schools in the nearby village, and walking many miles to school was not considered feasible for girls. She remained illiterate. The next was his brother, who was ten years younger and eight years junior to the sister. The last sister was two years younger than the second brother. My father and aunt loved their younger brother too much. He was not put on the floor but always on the shoulders of one or the other. He was pampered because he was born after many years. He was very cute in childhood, so everyone liked him. My father's brother was very naughty and strange in behavior since childhood. He used to wake up in the middle of the night and go into the sorghum crops to take mud and make Gorhas. In normal cases, even adults were afraid of those areas because of the fear of Jinns. However, he went and came without fear at a tender age. He used to wear warm clothes even in the hot season. He would take the blanket in summer and hide in the wheat storage cellar. He was admitted to the nearby village Ali Bakhsh Sarohi School. He always wanted to accompany my father and didn't want to go to his school. One day he refused to go to school, so my father repeated the same treatment which he meted at the

hands of grandpa and beat him till he agreed to continue schooling; since then, he was never absent from school.

He was a very intelligent student at school. In 1987, a Masjid school in our village was opened, and he was transferred to it. He was very good at remembering dates, so he got a position in a quiz competition. He was also good at science. While he was in primary, one day, he went with his friends to the local fair at Shah Hussain and stayed the night there. My father, as a teacher and a patron, had beaten him severely on that lapse and indiscipline. He was actually guarding him against evil persons who preyed on the young children for sodomy. But him being the child, didn't understand it, so he got enough beating. Grandpa never opposed the beating, but grandma always sided with the younger son. He started to have a psychological distaste for my father. In 1989, my father went to Karachi and took my brother there. My father wanted to provide the best education to his brother. He worked hard in Karachi to earn for his family. He got him admitted to a primary school.

However, in 1990, he got ill due to sleep deprivation and long hours of work. He had a fever and cough. He used to work as a teacher in the morning, again second shift as a teacher, and in the evening till midnight, he worked at Ajrak magazine. However, he helped his brother to get appropriate education and dreamed of admitting him to Cadet College. But unfortunately, he was bedridden for some months, and his brother was brought back from Karachi. During

his job in Karachi, his sister Shahida expired in pregnanc. because of wrong things fed by her illiterate caretakers. She was married to a person named Rahab Sarohi, who owned land and took care of the family. Aunt Shahida used to move back and forth from her parent's house to Rahab's house, so the man shifted in with them. Life went without much issue, but then Aunt Shahida had complications during pregnancy and was given local things by her older relatives. To make it worse, the birth was being given without a hospital, and she, unfortunately, passed away painfully.

During the illness, she kept remembering her elder brother, but he was not informed because there was no telephone facility. When he came to the village, he was informed of her demise at Khuhra town. He was in total loss and shock. He prayed that it might be untrue. He loved his sister so much that he didn't think of her departure. But it was not untrue, and she had already died and been buried. He mourned her death for months. He kept remembering her in prayers and still prays for her.

In 1990, he was treated for TB and his brother. Ali Ahmed got an education at High School Ripri. My father got a job at Sukkur in Upjohn pharmaceuticals and married in December 1992. He rented a house in Sukkur and shifted the whole family to the city. My father's brother was admitted to a government High school in Sukkur, the premier secondary school in the city. He performed there very well. However, he got a taste for wandering. One day he disappeared, and

when he asked grandma, she told him that he had gone to Quetta. On the other hand, a signed cheque for RS 3000 was missing. When my father inquired from grandma, she blamed my father for accusing his brother because of his wife. However, when my uncle returned, he was questioned by my father. He used a psychological technique telling him that the bank officer said that he would recognize the person who got the cheque cashed, so my uncle confessed to getting money. It was pertinent to note that his salary at that time was just 5000 rupees. The salary of an officer was 3000, so it was a handsome amount. My father controlled himself because he didn't want his parents to be angry. Before that, when they came to Sukkur, my father was just recently wed, and the currency note garlands went missing, but nobody suspected my uncle. But actually, he was the person who took them away.

My mother started keeping money in Quran but found that it also disappeared. But keeping in view the atmosphere of the family, my father kept quiet. In 1993, my father won an incentive from the company of 35,000 rupees, and he also saved some money from his salary that year. He established a medical store in the village of Baharo. My parents occasionally lived in the village. The store was opened with medicines from the saved money and credit from the wholesale market. It worked very well as my father visited it from Sukkur each Friday. But in December 1994, my father was transferred to Larkana. He took his family there and admitted his brother to a Munici-

pal school. My uncle got B Grades in the matriculation examination. However, during his stay at Larkana, he was addicted to movie-watching at VCR houses. He used to come back late in the evening to the house. My father checked and warned him to amend his habits. One day he took hold of him and inquired harshly as to why he was late in coming home. My uncle then challenged the authority of his brother and put his hands on his neck, and also used filthy language. It's important to note that my uncle used to abuse my mother and my father often and was rude to his own parents as well. My uncle was kicked out, so he stayed at a railway station for one night. My mother pressed my father to forgive him once and allow him to come home. He was allowed to come back into the house on the promise that he would not stay away the night. However, after some time, he continued with his late-coming habit. He didn't listen to my father, and hard work to get distinction was not seen.

In the meantime, grandparents shuttled between the village and Larkana. He also joined them at the village and took control of the medical store, which was actually handed over to grandpa. But my uncle took interest and bought medicines from the wholesale in the name of my father on credit and seldom paid. The store was going down gradually, and the debt burden was rising steadily. When my father went there after six months, the store almost dwindled to the lowest, and it was empty; major items were not available. He inquired him why it happened, and my uncle blamed

my father for negligence. The loss was because of expenses of village house from the store. It was pertinent to note that in December 1994, the daily sale of the medical store was 2500/ daily; it meant 250 profits on average daily. The store profit should have been 15,000 or at least 10,000 and expenses just 3,000 monthly. However, not only was the credit not paid, but the profit never appeared in the register. All the medicine went without record, and the store became bankrupt. Finally, it was sold for Rs. 20,000, which was just the price of the furniture and fixture. The store owed 50,000 to the market. To avoid the displeasure of his grandparents, my father didn't take my uncle to account, and he went scotch free again. It was later informed by grandpa that my uncle used to visit various cities and bought nonessential items irrelevant to the medical business. He wasted money wandering from city to city. In that process, he lost money, his business, and his education. My father suffered heat and walked miles on foot to save money for that side business to bring financial stability to the family, but the first enterprise failed.

The full family again shifted to Larkana. My uncle studied at the government degree college in Larkana, where he went from time to time. At that time, a cousin, Nisar Ahmed, was also hosted by my father at his house in Larkana and got him admitted to college. He informed my father that his brother, Ali Ahmed, was not regular in college. Grandpa used to buy groceries from the market, and my uncle just ordered everyone to serve him. In the meantime, my father

was dismissed from service in late 1996, and he established a newspaper. He issued a journalist card to my uncle and asked him to write news in English. My father thought that writing would benefit my uncle in learning how to express and explain. However, he didn't work hard and failed to learn how to write professionally. In the annual examination of intermediate, he got a C grade. He cried that it was an injustice. He didn't indulge in unfair means, and he was outsmarted by the cheating students. My father went to the Board and asked them to explain the sale of results to wealthy students. He spoke with them in English, and they were uncomfortable and couldn't speak fluently in English.

The controller wanted my father to go to the assistant controller in secret. It was important to note that top secret was not open to the public. However, the controller directed the assistant controller to handle my father. He went there and talked to Imdad Ali Maher and questioned him on the controversial results. He showed him the top secret registers, where my father observed some overwriting. It is pertinent to note that overwriting is not acceptable. My father objected, and they came under pressure. They asked my father to order them anything, and he asked them to award an A grade to his brother and a B grade to his cousin Nisar who failed in one subject. They readily obliged and issued new marks certificates. My uncle was very happy, but my father told him that he had to work hard in the next academic years. He tried to get admission to medical college but failed to get good

marks on the entry test. My uncle again blamed the examiners and my father for disinterest in his education.

In Larkana, aunt Zahida was also admitted to a girls' school, but none took her to school. My father was struggling to keep his job and earn for livelihood. He used to visit various cities in northern Sindh as area manager of a pharmaceutical company. He asked grandma, grandpa, and his brother to help his sister so that she would also get an education. But they replied it was his duty. This way, she suffered and didn't continue her education beyond class six.

In 1997, my uncle misbehaved with my father. He was so annoyed that he cursed him. In July 1997, grandpa died after a few days of illness at Larkana hospital. There was the negligence of doctors in providing oxygen in time. In the early morning, my father went door-to-door to certain doctors who were friends with him, like Dr. Abdullah Sheikh, but they refused to help. The oxygen was arranged, but it was too late, and grandpa told my father to remember Allah because his time was up. But the uncle declared that it was premeditated murder. The family suffered heavily on the financial front after leaving the pharmaceutical company and publishing of newspaper. The newspaper proved to be a white elephant.

In January 1998, my father's family shifted to Khairpur. My uncle was admitted to the Superior Science College for B.Sc., but he couldn't get the degree and again was admitted to a university in economics. He got normal grades. He wanted to continue with a mas-

ter's in English. However, he appeared in MA economics and passed in the third class. He then wanted to study English but not at Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur. In 1999, my father passed the CSS examination and also Masters in English from Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur. However, he didn't get an allocation despite the vacant seat. He went to court after getting a noninterest loan from ABL bank. In 2000, he again qualified for CSS and got allocated to the Foreign Service of Pakistan.

The family shifted to Khairpur in a rented house, while my uncle stayed with my father and never assisted in any way for the family. He also didn't put wholehearted efforts into his education nor supported his family in household chores. In 1999, the financial situation became worse. My uncle took grandma and his sister to the village, saying that they could not live in hunger. He left both women at the village and went to Karachi to fish at sea. He earned some thousand and went directly to the village. He opened his shop and didn't offer his brother any help in those difficult days. But despite that betrayal, he came to my father one day and told him that he had opened a shop, but buying grocery items from a nearby village was difficult on foot. He needed a cycle. My father gave him money to buy a cycle. He went back home and ran his shop without ever offering any assistance to his brother in trying times. In 2000, my father got a job at an army public college in Pano Akil. At the village, my uncle picked up a fight with villagers. My father again took him to a Pano Akil government-owned

house. The family was united, but he continued troubling my father. He blamed my father for his destroyed business.

In December 2001, my father shifted to Khairpur, and in January, he joined the civil services academy. My uncle continued his studies but unsuccessfully because his city-wandering desire was unstoppable. When my father left him at his house to look after his family in his absence, he failed to look after the children or family and wasted money on wandering.

In August of 2001, my father's family was shifted to Islamabad, where my father was undergoing training. His salary at that time was 4250/ month. It was very difficult to maintain his family with a meager income. However, my father worked hard and maintained the family respectfully. My uncle neither helped my father in buying nor carrying groceries from Sunday markets, which he carried on foot. My uncle incited grandma and aunt to complain against my father to his seniors. They thought that my father had a higher salary, but he was not telling the truth. They went to Khanzada, a senior of my father, and told him that my father was not giving them any amount for personal expenses, so he called my father and inquired. My father asked him about his salary, and the senior replied it would be less than 5000. My father inquired how much he could spare from it for pocket money. The senior inquired about income from family farms, and my father replied that there were no family farms. The man was surprised at his handling and maintaining of joint family. It was pertinent to note that my

uncle was given five hundred monthly, and he was studying. My father sacrificed and admitted his own children to a government school, but my uncle remained ungrateful.

In October 2002, my father was posted as the third secretary in the Pakistan Embassy Baghdad. It was primarily for language training. He was there for job training. He took the family back to Khairpur, rented a house, and again appointed my uncle as guardian of the family despite his previous record. He introduced him to the grocery shop owner and requested to offer on credit if money was delayed. He assured my father that there would be no problem. The rent was being paid through a friend Ghulam Mustafa Panhwer. However, all money, including the fees of the children and their lunch expenses, was sent to my uncle by my father. He starved us of good food and milk. He refused to pay Rickshaw fare and never ever visited our school to know our problems or performances.

In January 2003, my father came back home on vacation. He brought lots of gifts for everyone. There was traditional Baghdad glass art. He gave some to my uncle and aunt, but he took away almost all of the suitcases without permission. The interesting thing was their departure the next day to Larkana to visit relatives, and even more interesting than that was how my uncle locked down the bigger room and allowed only the smaller room to my father, mother, and four children. It was ironic that the man who was

earning was cornered in a small place. The family showed no keenness on his arrival from Iraq after three months, even grandma. They returned just two or three days before his departure back to Baghdad. In return, my uncle prodded grandma to insist on buying a house. My father told grandma that there was a debt to friends who were promised repayment once income was generated. But grandma insisted, and my father never wanted to annoy his mother. He gave in and used his saving to buy a house at Mills Colony Khairpur.

Our mother informed my father that my uncle was not giving money to the milk supplier, and the children were small, so they needed milk. Moreover, they were deprived of meat, fish and good fruits, etc. Worse, it came to the knowledge of my father that my uncle never paid the grocery bill to the mini-mart owner. My father paid for it and then decided to keep our family separate. He shifted my uncle to a newly bought house and kept his family in a rented house with Cousin Nisar and his family. He was affording the expenses of two families. Nisar was living with us till my father came back from Iraq at the end of March 2003.

In April 2003, my father took us again to Islamabad. My uncle, grandma, and aunt remained in Khairpur. My father served in Islamabad till June 30th and transferred to Karachi. In Karachi, he got an apartment on rent and again shifted his whole family there. While we were staying in Karachi, water was being taken from the ground floor. My uncle never helped,

and it was either my mother or my father himself who had to fetch water for drinking. Regardless, my father got my uncle admitted to Preston University for an MBA course. My uncle used to get 50 rupees daily from my father. One day in the evening, Nazeer Ahmed came to our house. He paid 500 to my uncle, which he owed him. In the morning, my father told my uncle that he didn't have money, so he may manage for one day. My father rode on a bike and was apprehensive of breakdown or puncture. When he left for the office, my uncle incited grandma on the pretext that my father was not wishing him to study, so he denied him a daily allowance and asked why he should study for him. He left Karachi with my grandma and aunt to Khairpur in early 2004. When my father came back to the house, he was informed about it, and he tried to get them back from the station, but they had already left.

In July 2004, my father was posted to Jeddah. My uncle brought Mushtaq Sarohi and Ghulam Mustafa Panhwer to my father to divide the assets. My father told them that all the property belonging to my ancestors was given to my uncle and aunt. They requested my father to give them some money so that he could start his business. He demanded 50,000, but my father agreed to offer him 100,000 as one time grant. Moreover, he gave him all the furniture, fixture, and his motorbike. He gave his Khairpur house to his brother and sister in writing. It was agreed in the presence of witnesses that my uncle would never demand anything after that deal.

We left Karachi in July, my father paid 20,000 to my uncle, and the next installment was due in October 2004. He joined service there, and after three months, he sent 80,000 to my uncle. In December 2004, my uncle called my father and requested money. My father refused him any money. Grandma was living with us in Jeddah. She directed my father to get my uncle a job. My father requested the commercial consular for a job as a trade development officer. He agreed, and my father sent a ticket and visa to my uncle. My uncle came to Jeddah and did Umrah visit Madina, but he refused to take up the job. He requested my father to help him for two years because he was admitted to Sindh University in the English department. Grandma also supported my uncle, so my father agreed and told him that he would be given fees and 5,000 monthly, as requested by my uncle. He returned back to Pakistan and joined his studies. While studying there, he demanded a mobile with a camera. My father bought a mobile for my mother, but she hadn't used it. He asked her to give it so that he could send it to my uncle. It was sent to him; after some time, he lost it and demanded another one.

He got my aunt engaged with an unknown unemployed person without the knowledge of my father. Grandma only informed my father during hajj time. In early 2005 grandma went back and, from there, intimated that the marriage of aunt was fixed in March, so a dowry may be arranged. My father gave money to his friend Mustafa for it and went to in March himself to attend it. When he saw the groom of his sister,

he remarked what criteria have you selected this boy? My uncle and grandma gave explanations and praised the boy. But my father was not satisfied with him because he was neither practicing Muslim nor employed. Anyway, my aunt was sent with due honor and appropriate dowry. However, that marriage broke down after a few years, and they started criticizing the person whom they appreciated before marriage. Aunt has had a few children. My father tried to help her monetarily so that they lived a comfortable life. He offered her money to buy domestic animals so that the children have milk and future assets for the family. She kept advancing money to my uncle, and he never showed any profit. However, in 2012, my aunt came back to my brother's house and stayed there. My father started giving permanent stipend. However, she always grudged my father. My uncle and aunt have never appreciated my father for his love and assistance.

In 2006, my father took my uncle to the chief minister of Sindh and requested he offers him a suitable job. The CM asked him to find the department and vacancy and come back so that directives were issued for the job. He never did it; he neither told my father nor approached the CM house. My uncle always lamented that my father didn't support him in getting a job. In 2007, we returned from Saudi Arabia and lived in Islamabad. In 2007, my father got ill, but my uncle never ever asked about his well-being. If he called ever, it was understood that it would be either

for money or some dispute. My father braved the illness and never told my uncle about it.

In 2008, my father took leave and went to Khairpur in August. He opened his school with the name "The Academy of Excellence" on 11th August 2008. My uncle didn't tell him anything about his marriage proposal. On 16th August, he returned back to Islamabad, and my uncle sent him an invitation to his marriage on 18th august. It meant he didn't want my father to attend because, before his marriage, my father tried to get him an educated girl. But he was in opposition or wanted to prove to him that he was resourceful without him. The relatives of the village girl contacted my father and sought his permission. He allowed them to marry their daughter. The girl was illiterate and uncouth. She was at least 14 years junior to my uncle. However, he married and lived in the village despite the fact that my father bought him a house in Khairpur He was a qualified lawyer but never registered himself with the Bar association. In 2009, my father was posted to Yemen. We left in May 2009 and asked grandma to accompany us. She was ready, and the ticket was confirmed. On the night of departure, my uncle pressed grandma not to go with the elder son. My uncle picked up a fight with my father and didn't even say goodbye at Khairpur railway station. However, after some time, he had an accident and broke his leg. He was without money and contacted my father for help. My father was so restless for him that he called scores of people to get him the immediate and best treatment. Moreover,

asked the police to register a case against the culprit. My uncle was treated at the private Hira hospital Sukkur where my father paid the bills, and his leg was repaired. When he came out, he got the help of mediation and agreed with the car owner, who broke his leg at the behest of Syed Mahboob Ali Shah. Syed Mahboob reportedly fined the person just Rs.20 000 at the place of mediation; my uncle agreed but later on blamed my father for selling him. My father told him to pursue it in a court of law. But he was not feeling stronger on that front and gave up the struggle. During his treatment, the staff of the academy of excellence was with him. However, his motorbike was used for buying medicines or bringing food. In that process, an accountant of the school, who happened to be my father's brother-in-law, parked his bike outside, and it was lifted. He blamed him for stealing the bike. It was the same bike that was given by my father while departing for Saudi Arabia. Before that accident, he was robbed by dacoits, and the bike was snatched. My father asked his batch mate, who was SSP Khairpur, to help in recovering the bike. It was recovered, and my uncle kept abusing SSP of his ineptness against culprits. Because SSP only recovered the motorcycle, not his mobile phone.

In September 2009, my father got grandma to Yemen. She came and directed my father to get a job from my uncle. He got the post of trade development officer in the Pakistan embassy in Yemen. The ministry of commerce agreed to appoint him to the said post. However, before his arrival, the new ambassador

came to Yemen. But, my father impressed upon the ambassador for the appointment of my uncle. It was done in January 2010. My uncle was lodged with teachers at the teachers' hostel. He kept crying about his poverty and hunger with the locals. He was shifted to our house, where he used to abuse our family from time to time. He was given a room in the basement, and his freedom to operate within the house was curtailed. He again kept criticizing or backbiting my father for not providing food. He propagated against my father so badly that every second or third businessman asked about his brother's poverty and hunger. They were told that he was living with family and provided with free food. He was such a loudmouth that everyone could hear him the night, speaking on the phone with his wife. My father cut wifi connection after 10 pm at night. He again showed contempt. However, my father supported him in learning the work. But he was not willing to adapt to the situation.

In October 2010, my father was transferred to Nigeria. My uncle was working in the embassy, but after a month, he called my father and told him that the ambassador wanted him to prepare an annual report. He requested my father to prepare, which he sent him. But in the meantime, he applied for leave/ vacation. The ambassador told him to conduct the visit of the minister of commerce, and after that, he could avail of the leave. He refused and planned to flee the country. He then disappeared in December 2010. The embassy was looking for him, but he safely landed in

Karachi. During his one-year stay at the embassy, he picked a fight with staff and went to the extent of a physical fight. He tarnished the image of my father through constant propaganda of injustice. The matter was simple, the money was not released from the TDAP, and till then, he was asked to work. He was offered office and eating etc., but he spread the internal matter into the market. Finally, he deserted his lucrative job of $1200/ month and started enjoying the savings.

My father had fixed the monthly allowance for grandma since her return from Yemen. She was staying with my uncle. My uncle, time and again, kept asking for money on one or another pretext, and my father readily fulfilled his demands while lamenting his ill behavior. It is pertinent to note that my uncle had declared my father the number one enemy, and he vowed to kill him. Since that statement, probably in 2010, my father never stayed overnight with grandma.

In November 2011, my father had a solemnization with a woman from Gambat. He again brought in his brother, sister, and mother for the ceremony. He gave all his garlands to my uncle. It is important to note that since grandma was living with my uncle, my father always bought sacrificial animals for them. But my uncle never sent any meat to my father's in-laws. In 2011, he sought a loan of 100,000 from my father to buy wheat. My father wanted to help my uncle but thought that giving him directly was making him a parasite, so he sent money to his friend Asif Gul. Un-

cle Asif Gul extended a loan to him on the promise that it would be returned after the season was over in June. However, he never returned it and instead complained that because of delayed payment, he lost the business.

Earlier, my uncle told my father that he wanted to appear in CSS' so he needed money. My father arranged it and even extended money for books. But on the date of the examination, my uncle was wandering in the streets of Khairpur. When inquired by my father, he said that he was not informed by my father on the dates of the CSS examination. He went there on next day, but it was too late. The blame for the lapse goes to my father.

In 2013, my father again tried to settle my uncle and offered an established print mall; it was the center of all solutions for printing. The print Mall was a joint venture between our family and Dr. Azmat Shah; it was equally shared. My father offered him his entire share free of cost but put one condition that it would be shared between my aunt and my uncle while the rest would remain with Dr. Azmat Shah. He also offered training, three months of running expenses, and a salary to get hold of the business. It was projected that if run properly, it would make him rich. He remained in the print mall for three months till he was paid a salary. He locked the print mall and left for the village. It was very painful because the pieces of equipment were depreciated, and the partner was pressing to either run it or dispose of it. My uncle had either not mustered the courage to run it successfully,

or he was not happy with the profit sharing with the aunt. He had earlier deprived aunt of the house at mills colony. He sold his half, and the rest of the house was occupied. It was finally closed, and he lost his chance to progress.

In 2014, we returned from Nigeria and rented a house in Margalla town, Islamabad. In early 2014, my uncle quarreled with my father and called him names. He also called names to the whole family. However, in September 2014, he came with his wife because my grandma was brought to Islamabad by my father. My uncle thought if grandma were living with my father, the money would be stopped, so he came with a purpose. He stayed with us and kept his loud mouth despite the fact that he was always dependent on my father. This time again, my father asked him; what he wanted to do; he replied he wanted to practice law, but he had no money to pay for registration. My father requested one of the leading lawyers of Larkana to keep my uncle as an apprentice and committed to paying fees and 10,000 monthly for one year. He went with money and got registered.

He started complaining about the senior lawyer. My father told him to be patient till he gets the experience to open his own office. His association with his trainer remained for six to seven months, and then he started his own practice. My father asked him to relocate to Karachi. In 2016, he sent him to Karachi to meet with some senior lawyers; but he returned unsatisfied. He was looking for a fixed amount. He asked him to stay there; the rent and house expenses for an-

other year would be paid by my father. But he asked Mr. Zulfiqar directly about the cash handout given to him for doing practice in Karachi. Mr. Zulfiqar Sarohi, whom my father had tasked to find a house and advance monthly 30,000, was perturbed by his queries. He then returned back to Khairpur.

In 2017, my father wanted to build a welfare clinic in the village. He asked my uncle to find a contractor; my uncle offered to do the job. My father approved his contract at the market rate. The donors from Brunei traveled to the village and inspected the work. He got their numbers and email. Later on, he started sending those negative reports about the corruption in the project by the brother-in-law of my father. It is pertinent to note that he was solely in charge of all material purchasing, and the release of money was done by the accountant of the academy. But he was so effective in propaganda that donors left the project in progress and never donated again. They had earlier committed to building Masjid, but after this episode, they withdrew.

His monthly stipend of 10,000 continued till July 2017, whereas it was agreed till September 2015. But, he kept receiving and never stabilized economically. In 2018, he again asked for assistance to get registration and books for preparations. It was important to note that he was provided with a USB internet facility, but appropriate use was not done. My father again helped him in getting registration at the High Court of Sindh. My father again insisted on him relocating either to Khairpur or Karachi. My father went to the

village and convinced him that all assistance would be provided. He agreed but next day, refused to relocate to Karachi. However, he didn't even call for a day to my father; while he was undergoing training at NIM Karachi from August 2018 to December 2018. But whenever money was required, he not only called but also visited him.

In the meantime, my father wanted to patch up with his brother-in-law and sent my aunt to his house. But my uncle remained stubborn about not sending it. They not only refused to come to an agreement but propagated that my father had made that marital proposal and he was not supporting them in getting a divorce. They uncle pushed grandma to ask my father to get my aunt to divorce. My father suggested that my uncle being an advocate, was better placed to do it. But he kept evading on one or other pretext.

In 2018, he proposed to my father that the plantation may be done at Trust land at Gambat. My father agreed, and my uncle demanded 150,000 for landscaping and plants. The money was released, and plants are yet to be grown. He was supposed to submit monthly reports on the progress of forestry, but he hadn't submitted a single report. If asked about the progress, he would always wriggle out with one or another reason.

The interesting part of my uncle's relationship with my father was his long letters, where my father was addressed derogatorily. My uncle used very innovative filthy language and blamed him for all his failures. He accused him of hatching conspiracy against

his success in various sectors. He was of the opinion that my father was a very cruel, ruthless, greedy, and spineless person.

My uncle Ali Ahmad married in 2008 but is still without children. My father started to help him find a suitable match to marry so that he could have children. He floated the idea to my uncle. My uncle was happy and, for the first time, confessed his failures in life. He told my father that he was living as an unsuccessful small advocate and farmer; would there be any girl or woman to marry him? my father told him that he would find a widow or mature girl for him; the working girl having a job and house in Karachi so that he could have footing there to practice law easily and earn name and money. He initially agreed but later on backed out and demanded that that woman must live in Khairpur. My father told him that no woman from Karachi would live in Khairpur with a farmer cum part-time advocate. The idea died down, and my uncle lives unhappily in the village. From these life experiences, it was clear to my father that my uncle turned the wrong path because he was babied throughout his life and never allowed to struggle on his own. It also came from the fact that he was put into the family leader position at a very young age. He was allowed to make decisions for adults, and even my father allowed such an illogical action. He was allowed to fight against my father without consequence which fed into his ego. Furthermore, the continuous financial support completely transformed him into a dependent and fed his negative habits.

## Chapter 5: Mother's Siblings

My mother has seven brothers and two sisters; she was the eldest. When she married my father, her age was approximately 18 years. Her eldest brother was just two years junior to her. When they shifted to Sukkur, her brother Siraj went with her. But he left when he was sent to school. My father was very considerate of my mother's family. It was pertinent to note that my maternal grandfather was a trader of grains and wood. He provided for and supported his family. He helped his extended family and his sister's family, who was widowed. When my mother married my father, her dowry was not taken by her family, as my father had just been employed at Upjohn Pharmaceuticals and had little money. My father used to come to his mother's home before marriage, and his maternal grandpa even helped him with his studies. My mother's brothers even helped my uncle when he was caught by the Waderas and beaten for using foul language. My father, at that time, didn't go to their house and save my uncle, but my mother's brothers got him out and even beat up the Waderas in retaliation.

My mother brought her sisters and brothers, kept them for some time, and even helped with my father's permission. The families of my father and mother were at daggers drawn because my father's family had promised my aunt's hand in marriage multiple times and backed away and even had FIR against

them because of it. My father always remembered that my father-in-law bought him a suit and shoes. The In-Laws supported the family for three months while my father was in Larkana.

When my father was transferred to Larkana after one year, he resigned from Upjohn and joined KPM Pharma. At my mother's request, my father adjusted her brother Aijaz as a sales representative in Sukkur. He didn't work hard, and my father made up on his behalf to save his job. When the company terminated my father's services, my uncle Aijaz was also sacked. He returned to the village and started propagating against my father that he was doing well, but his job was terminated because of my father. He also accused my father of getting his salaries from the company, whereas the fact was that he sold company samples, and performance went down because of my father's departure. He couldn't achieve targets in time. However, after some time, again, my mother impressed upon my father, and he requested a friend to appoint him as a sales representative. He was appointed, but he repeated the practice of selling samples and evading work; consequently, the manager lost his job. He repeated his accusations about his salary being taken by my father. It was explained but created a lot of bad taste. Anyway, my father pardoned him. Before that, my maternal grandfather was brought to Larkana for a proper check-up and treatment because he was feeling a lot of pain in his head and a loss of vision. The eye surgeon checked him, and he prescribed optical medicines, which my father bought.

In 1997, grandpa died just a month after the birth of my second brother Abdul Ahad at Larkana hospital. My maternal grandma was already there to assist my mother during postpartum days. She accompanied my uncle to reach the village. My father was hard-pressed with expenses and couldn't meet the rental expenses of the newspaper. He decided to shift to the village in early 1998. When they settled in the village, he called his brother-in-law Aijaz and discussed mutually beneficial engagement to support family expenses.

He agreed to undertake the project; my father advanced him Rs.4000 and medicines to sell and invest in the Kiryana shop. They agreed that the profit would be used for household expenses. He took all medicines and, after six months, when inquired about the establishment of the shop, replied that all medicines had expired. My father asked him to bring expired medicines; he evaded. He neither ran a shop nor provided a single-day grocery to our house and ate away the money given.

In 1999, my father qualified for CSS, while my uncle Zahid registered an FIR against his family because of the land dispute. But, someone from the village had informed him that it was my uncle Aijaz because of his CSS qualification; my uncle Aijaz was in Iran then. My uncle and grandmother had also gotten an FIR against my maternal grandpa for theft. But he was sick, so the police took away my maternal grandma.

At similar times another incident took place. My uncle went to the village and wanted to go to the grave-

yard to read fateha on grandpa's grave. The street was closed by the Waderas of the village, so he used harsh language against the blockers. They responded with unfair, disproportionate force and injured him. They went to the village and filed a complaint with the police, but the police didn't respond well. Uncle Taj and others from my mother's side got hold of a person from their side and thrashed him in response. They registered FIR against my father and the people. They took them away and, after a while, came to an agreement where they were let go. My father was arrested once again, and after intervention by local press clubs, Gambat police released him. My uncle, Ali Ahmad, remained harsh and disrespectful to his parents, elder brother, and seniors, which created immense problems in the relationship. It soured the relationships within the village, and people responded with force to teach him a lesson.

In 2001, my father joined the civil services academy, and we stayed at Khairpur. We were admitted to Ever Shine Public School near our house. The village evils and mischief-mongers tried their best to stop my father from doing CSS. However, he did it with his determination and blessings from Almighty Allah and the prayers of his parents.

In 2007, my father again helped my uncle Aijaz open an electric motorcycle showroom. He got him half a dozen bikes initially and shopped for furniture/ fixtures. He sold the bikes but paid no money to the company. He even got a bike from an agent from Gambat with my father's reference that was also paid

for by my father. The showroom was closed after his mismanagement.

In 2008, another uncle, Siraj, came to Islamabad. My father put him at the print Mall owned by his friend Zahid Hashmat for training. He couldn't complete it and ran away, but he came again after a few months and completed his training while staying with us. My father looked after him like his sons. In 2009, my father opened a secondary school in Khairpur and appointed him as an accountant cum computer designer for the school. He was assigned to report any mismanagement on the part of management. My father was posted to Yemen and kept sending total savings to school. The administration was involved in misusing funds for lavish food and activities at the cost of my father. Siraj reported most things to my father, but the people in the management were friends, so my father gave them too many chances. There were also claims against Siraj, but the truthfulness of those claims was hard to verify because the accusers were the corrupt management.

In June 2009, my father found a job at Pakistan International School as a computer designer. My mother recommended Siraj. He was sent a job letter, ticket, and visa. He came and lived with us. My mother again requested my father get him married from Yemen. He agreed and went for his engagement. He got his loan from school and even gave it from his own pocket. He lived with his wife with us, but after some time, my father was transferred to Nigeria. My

uncle Siraj was given computers, a printer, and other household items to dispose of and send money to us, which he never sent. In 2010, again, he was in trouble at school, and my father requested the embassy to spare him. He wanted some money, and my father sent it to him. In 2011, again, he was in a fix. He was again spared by my father's intervention. In 2012, he was fired by the then ambassador Shami who was jaundiced against Sindhi. Shami believed that Sindhi people were, by birth, ineffective and that Punjabis were competent and patriotic. In that zeal, he fired all non-Punjabi staff and appointed all competent and efficient staff in Pakistan schools to make it a real yellow school.

My uncle Siraj was unemployed, but with his skills and support from his in-laws, he managed to start a print shop. He made money through the design of cards and such, living comfortably for a time that was much better than before. But, things were desperate in Yemen because of the war, so he decided to go back to Pakistan. At that time, my father offered him to work at his Print Mall in Khairpur. He convinced his friend Dr. Azmat Shah to partner in it. It was established with Siraj as its manager at the cost of Rs. 2.5 million. Uncle Siraj decorated his office and printed Mall even better than the office of the deputy commissioner. In March 2012, it was inaugurated, and very first month, it earned 60,000 because of a big order. The next month uncle Siraj informed my father and mother that they should not rely on him to earn

profit for them for a time because it was a new business and needed time to establish itself.

There was an error in communication, and there were evil-minded individuals that portrayed themselves as friends of my father, which caused friction between my uncle and my father. Uncle Siraj's words about not earning money for them struck a nerve. It was not really an appropriate way of explaining the situation, and things became worse over the few months.

My father dismissed him; he refused to accept it because he didn't believe there was any fault with him and that my father had brought him from abroad for the job. My father forced him to leave, but the business didn't do better as the next person in charge was truly incompetent, and items were damaged and even stolen by people that my father might have considered close. Uncle Siraj also threatened to write a letter to the foreign secretary about the corruption of my father. When my father was informed of this, he told the messenger to tell him to draft in Sindhi and send it to him to translate into English. Moreover, my father sent him the correct address of the foreign secretary, email, and phone numbers. It is important to note that my father established the school in 2008 from his saving in Saudi Arabia, the sale of land, and a house loan from the ministry. Moreover, he sold his car and invested in the school. The school has a very interesting welfare system; there is a 30% quota for poor but talented students. My father always supported the quality education of the downtrodden, so the issue of cor-

ruption was out of the blue. Seeing that my father wasn't intimidated, my uncle backed down.

However, after some time again, my uncle needed help from my father to go to Yemen for family issues. He was given assistance. While returning from Yemen, he needed money that was also advanced. He again approached my father in 2018 for assistance in getting his family to Pakistan. My father got him help, and when he was arrested in Yemen, he was released from prison. But now he needed money, and it was sent to him. The money he got was all loans which he never returned.

In 2011, we wanted to buy a plot for our school campus in Khairpur. My mother was on a visit to Khairpur; her brother Aijaz told her that there was a good plot. She told my father, and my father warned her of the traitorous nature of Aijaz. But she assured him of the right deal this time. He was asked in clear terms that plot with open access to the canal was needed. He assured it, but when it was written, the canal side was mentioned as the plot of Gaddar Abro. When challenged, he denied any knowledge of that fact. Gaddar Abro tried to construct a building on occupied land. When we stopped, Aijaz sided with the seller instead of us. However, my father used legal force to get it registered. But the plot was blocked by the construction from the canal side, and it deprived the school of open access. He availed himself of free schooling for his children but never supported school in any way.

The younger sister of my mother was married to a cousin who was addicted to gambling. He was also engaged in interest business. He used to beat her and inflict pain on his children. He was a pathetic figure who never cared about his wife or children. My father supported her whenever needed, but her life remained painful. Finally, her husband expelled her from his house after marrying another woman. He sold all his agricultural land, stopped earning from selling food, and lost all wealth in gambling. He neither supported his children in schooling nor provided anything for food. My father and mother fixed some monthly amounts for their livelihood and offered free education at our school.

The youngest sister was married to another bugger, who was the laziest and a liar with the added demerit of gambling. Whatever he earned, he lost in gambling. He pushed his wife to get money from his brothers or eldest sister. At the time of marriage, we bought her some useful dowry items. But her husband compelled her to ask for free funds to feed his lust for gambling. He was offered a job by my father at Pakistan High Commission Abuja as a driver. But he didn't survive; he caused an accident with the car and resigned from his job. He returned back with a loan from a staffer of High commission and bought a taxi on a profit share basis but returned nothing to the financier, so he separated from him. He was again given an opportunity by my father in Islamabad as a driver, shopkeeper, and, finally, a fruit vendor. My father bought him a fruit cart and financed him to sell fruit

in the city. The proper license was issued, but he sold the cart and ran away from working, citing the reason as the weather being too hot. He is still a parasite on his wife and parents, and the life of our aunt is drudgery. The children are malnourished.

Two of the brothers of my mother, Nisar Ahmed, and Ghulam Muhammad, are employed at our school; one has been an accountant for the last eight years, and the other one, who never learned, is engaged as a guard. Despite all these actions for their welfare and economic freedom, some of them have not recognized it.

My father's cousins are also in financially precarious conditions. It was pertinent to note that their father took away all of their moveable property from the village to Kotdiji Taluka in a super flood. Our grandpa was patient and respectful to his elder brothers, so he never raised the issue of the division of property. At that time, they had two to three kilograms of gold, five to six kilograms of silver, and 50-70 kg of metallic crockery. However, nothing came in the share of our grandpa. Moreover, the cash and grains were also taken away. Interestingly, they advanced all money to their landlords there, who, after using the funds, denied getting any loan from them. When claimed in mediation, the landlord put one simple question, how can a farmer lend to a landlord? The mediators accepted his assertions, and they lost almost all the money which was attained through unfair means. However, they still got lots of cattle and precious items, including gold. But gradually, all things were

sold, and now their sons are living a life of poor people. One of them, Taj Muhammad, is employed as a peon cum guard by my father at a welfare clinic in the village. It was the same man that in their heyday, his suit clothes were given to my father, which his mother didn't allow him to wear. Taj was very much loved by my father, but his parents never allowed him to have company with a less privileged cousin. Today the situation has changed, but my father never took revenge on anyone. He always loved his relatives and helped those in distress.

# Part II: School Days

## Chapter 1: Education

My father was admitted to high school Ripri after passing class fifth from primary school Jara Khoh (twin wells). The school was 3 km away from home. He used to go on foot because grandpa couldn't afford a bicycle. During class six, he didn't perform well and just passed with 363 marks out of 850. It was due to three reasons, 1- unavailability of books and copies; 2- the attitude of the math teacher who used a guide and so they didn't understand; and thirdly, they were addicted to Luddo and bunked classes. However, after this setback in the examination, he decided to work hard and overcame handicaps by borrowing books from class fellows during free time and breaks. He used to memorize lessons and chapters of books because of the non-availability of books and copies. A few of the teachers punished him because of his inability to maintain fair copies.
During this time, he bounced back, and his class fellows came to him for learning. It gave him much-needed books to learn from. He took the first position in the midterm and surprised everyone. In the annual exams again, he got a position. In the eighth class, the situation remained even better because he established himself as the leading student in the class. However, the class teacher was the same math teacher who discouraged them in class six. However, he tried to excel in all subjects, excluding math, because of the same teacher. He led the school in scouting, debating, and essay competitions. He also took part in sports, espe-

cially 200-meter running and cricket. He was one of the most sought-after students during class eighth. But, in class eight midterm exams, he failed math. It disheartened him, and he decided to leave school. But teachers convinced him to continue.

A teacher, the late Muhbullah Soomro, gave his time to improve his math. In the annual examination, he stood third with 623 marks out of 850. During class seven, another teacher Sir Muharam Ali Panhwer, helped him to learn English and prodded him to speak on the occasion of Independence Day, which made him the speaker of the school. In class ninth, he had a problem with the headmaster because he was involved in the Sindh Peoples students' federation and opposed martial law. He participated in MRD in 1983, and he was the youngest person who courted arrest in MRD. But the then SSP released him due to his tender age.

The headmaster got a complaint from a class fellow against him about threatening him, and he had my father without listening to his side. The headmaster always asked him to leave class when he came in period three to teach Sindhi. It was pertinent to note that he had agreement from the headmaster that he could have only afforded one uniform, either school or scout. He was allowed to get a scout uniform as my father was the scout leader. Moreover, he was unable to get a haircut in time due to the currency crunch.

During school time, teacher Muharram Ali Panhwer encouraged and appreciated my father, which enhanced his confidence level. He taught them English and English conversation. He encouraged everyone to

speak the language to learn it better. During that time in class seven, my father started remembering lessons because he had no books. The teacher admired my father's talent. In august 1980, he directed him to get ready for a speech on the eve of the Independence Day function. My father showed his unwillingness, but the teacher told him that if he would not speak on occasion, then he would be expelled from school. It was a serious threat, so he agreed. In the first speech of his life, he was shivering, and his whole body was shaking on the rostrum. However, after two to three minutes of speech, students started applauding. At the end of the speech, he didn't remember how he spoke but got awarded by the administration. It made him second best speaker after his senior, Zahoor Ahmed Panhwer, who was the son of their deputy headmaster.

Muharram Ali Panhwer was an honest, dedicated, and proactive teacher. The teachers like Amanullah Soomro, Illahi Bakhsh Soomro, Ali Mamy's father Mangnejo, and Ghulam Rasool Rind also taught with utmost sincerity. Teacher Muhbullah Soomro was very helpful in learning math. In class eighth, my father got the highest marks in the midterm examination but failed to qualify math paper. He offered him free coaching. He used to go to his village in the evening; he had buffalos, so he needed to offer fodder on time. My father supported him in cutting the fodder for his animals, and he taught math. In the annual examination, he improved the results. Moreover, after matriculation and intermediate, he helped his brother

Ghulam Sarwar understand teacher training books and provided coaching.

Due to pressing financial conditions, my father had not been able to eat well or eat a balanced diet. In the morning, he used to take bread with lassi. The lassi was normally fetched from neighbors. However, sometimes they used to reprimand us for going to get it. They used to eat meat on Eid days, but there were some Eids; they could not eat meat. Because of money matters, the meat seller refused to give without payment. On one Eid, they went hungry, and none came to share anything with them. They used to wear the same clothes on Eid and no new shoes. It was a tough time because the relatives disliked their presence amidst them. One to four close relatives told his son to keep away from my father because, in his opinion, he would become a thief. His son used to go with my father to school. Once he separated himself from my father, he never went to school and became a driver.

They always looked at people eating fruits and better food. During date season, they went to collect fallen dates, but the owners caught and beat them. The mangoes and berries were also tasted rarely. One day, they dared to pluck some mangoes from the orchid of a relative, and he caught them. Qurban Ali Sarohi had beaten them ruthlessly so that they were almost unconscious, and they never returned to his orchid. When my father came back to the house after school, he helped his parents by plucking cotton on payment and collecting leftover wheat for some money to buy

a few things. Grandpa cut and cleaned the sugarcane of a landlord, so my father went from school directly there and helped him. Moreover, he offered free lunch. It would always be long grain thick rice with some brown sugar. It was a delicacy for them. He worked with him till dusk and returned home, then prepared homework.

In class seven, teachers like Muharam Ali Panhwer directed my class fellows to seek help from my father, so they came to him in the morning. He extended his help and taught them. However, interestingly none of them ever thought of him on Eid. They had no entertainment facilities in the village, but one person opened a tea shop where he put on the television. My father used to go there, but he asked my father to buy a cup of tea in one rupee or leave the premises. He used to say nothing was free. My father didn't have one rupee to drink tea and left it. Before that shop, he used to go to the village of Ali Bakhsh Sarohi to watch television. He went in the evening and came back at 11 pm. It was the house of his mother's maternal uncle. He watched TV, and he was always offered dinner. But his wife resented it. She never liked my father's presence and more so eating dinner. One day his son Ghulam Asghar stole my father's knife, which he kept for security. My father tried to get it back, but he concealed it. My father took away his cassettes and thrown on the roof of other houses and never went to their house again.

The relatives in Ali Bakhsh Sarohi, especially maternal uncle Muhammad Siddique and aunt Tajul, loved him very much, and he used to visit them. In 1979, he

was killed while cutting grass on his land in the morning. It was a shock for him. He had small children and no sources of income, just a few acres of land. However, the land was grabbed on one or another pretext by influential relatives, and his family suffered a huge setback. It was a second blow to my father's mind after the hanging of Bhutto because both of them were loved by him. My father's uncle was a shopkeeper and a tailor as well. He was polite and handsome, and everyone liked him. However, he was killed on the accusation of illicit relations with a woman in the neighboring village. The accused were released after some time because of the lack of eyewitnesses and proof. They started boasting that they had killed a man from the Sarohi tribe, and they couldn't do anything. It provoked the tribe, and they decided to avenge the killing.

Three people went to the nearby town where the accused ran a passenger vehicle and killed him in broad daylight in the bazaar. They went to the police and confessed to the crime. However, after the case progressed, they refused to attest to the first statement, and one of them was released, but two of them got a lifetime. One of them, after release, lived just a few months and died. The other two, Ali Gohar and Ghous Bakhsh, are still alive. This enmity also caused a lot of apprehension in their minds because the high school was in the village of the opponents. My father was permanently on foot, and the nearest relative of murdered one in whose revenge their man was killed was the most vulnerable person.

## 1.1. Problems at Ripri high school

In that scenario, he decided to leave school. When he applied for a transfer certificate, then HM asked him to stay. He insisted and left for Kotdiji Faiz High School in class nine. In class nine, the headmaster got a complaint from one of the class fellows Ali Nawaz Gaad (late), that he didn't come to school because he had a life threat from my father. He called four of them, one of them was not present, and three, namely my father, Moor, and Maqsood, were called and beaten. Two of them wept immediately after the beating started, but my father didn't weep. The headmaster, who used to take opium, was exhausted. He asked my father to weep, but my father told him that they didn't weep before enemies. He reprimanded my father that he was his teacher. My father told him that once he started beating him without listening to his side of the story, he seized to be a teacher. Moreover, he had never taught my father as he was from the class period. The headmaster left after giving him a thorough beating, and my father reached the house after three hours because it was difficult to walk. When he reached home, a boy called him to a community meeting place because the headmaster was caught by the relatives of one of the students that were beaten.

They were waiting for my father to punish the headmaster. When he went there, they asked him about beating. My father told them it was between students and teachers; why had they stopped the headmaster? They said that because he had beaten the students

without reason. My father told them that he must be released without further delay. They agreed and freed him. When he was leaving, he told my father not to come to school anymore. My father replied to him that school was theirs and that he would come. The next day, he went to school, but the headmaster didn't speak to him. The incident which took the headmaster to take such drastic action was because of the boy throwing my father's turban during the Quran period and putting it under his feet. They fought on that issue. When he left school, my father tried to catch him, but he fled away on his cycle, so nothing happened to him. But he was terrified because he was crossing my father's village. When he came after many days, the headmaster was punishing him, so he accused my father of death threats.

During schooling time, as stated earlier, because of grinding poverty, they were looked down upon by everyone. The village ruffians used to target tender boys to sodomize. There were three such persons in our village who were thugs and brutes. They targeted a few young boys and sodomized them. It was a shock for all of them because they used to walk to school. All small boys were afraid of villains. An incident happened in my father's life also when a dacoit named Sobu (the pig because of his ruthlessness and shamelessness against his near ones) asked him in 1983 to be his boy or else he would kidnap him. My father refused him and informed his father. Grandpa being poor, wanted him to register FIR against the culprit. But my father told him that the police would never arrest him, so he must go to the army. He agreed, and my father went to

Gambat and met the major (probably Zia Ur Rahman) at the irrigation circuit house. He was surprised to know that my father could speak Urdu. He asked him to write an application, which he did, and he sent a military vehicle with him to catch the hooligan. Interestingly, he was at the Ottaq (Guest house) of one of my father's nearest relatives. The army caught him by his hair and dragged him into the vehicle. He was brought to police station Gambat and put behind the bar. His mother, who always supported him in all wrongdoings, came to grandpa and requested in the name of Allah to get him out on the assurances that he would never bother my father. Grandpa, a retired army man, was not agreeing to it; the village elders (as always pressurized on behalf of a thug and made him agree). When he was released, he called the panchayat meeting and claimed defamation charges on account of his disrespect at the police station. My father's family refused to pay and threatened to approach the army again. It scared them, and my father was never ever bothered by anyone again.

In class nine, they had one class fellow who was the son of the deputy headmaster. Zahid Ali Panhwer and Shabir Shah sat with him on the front batch. Zahid was an average student and always got reprimanded by teachers, including his own father. One day his father asked him to read from a Pakistan studies book. He read about Titu Mir, a great freedom fighter of Bengal; he pronounced incorrectly, which meant something bad in Sindhi; the teacher abused him publicly.

During vacation, they went to the village of Zahid Ali. He was so puzzled to see them in front of him because

he was afraid of them staying there and asking for lunch. They then proceeded to the village of Shabir Shah and stayed in the guest room of Mustafa Hussain Kalhoro. He served them lunch and felt happy on their visit.

It was interesting to note that his father used to appreciate my father when he went with them during primary school because my father was able to read the newspaper at that time. He was impressed and told grandpa to support him, "He will make you proud one day."

In 1981, my father went to Khairpur for scouts' camp. It was his first time in Khairpur. They disembarked from the bus at Neem Morr and inquired from the Horse buggy man about Colonel Shah Hostel. He said that he would drop them off for five rupees. They agreed and sat behind in the buggy. He took them to radio Pakistan and came back from the red bridge, saint Theresa School and dropped them at colonel shah. When they were coming from the opposite direction, they saw Neem Morr in front of the place. They asked him why he cheated them. He could have guided them. He replied that if he started guiding people, then who would pay him? At scouts' camp, they learned lots of tricks and techniques. They competed with each other and proved their talent. It was an interesting time and activity. They made many friends, especially Adman, whom my father never found when he finally came to Khairpur. He bought some items from him on credit and wanted to return them, but when he got a

chance to visit Khairpur, his father had wound up the shop.

Then the same year scouts' camporee was held at the Exhibition ground near the central jail. The scouts from all over the province of Sindh and special groups from other provinces also participated. My father was made group leader of his school. They participated and worked very hard to get recognition at the Sindh level. In some areas, they got the third position, and my father was also asked to speak while Governor S.M Abbasi was visiting the camporee. My father made the speech, and it was appreciated by everyone, including the governor. He got a gold medal in the camporee for all-round performance. He remembers a few students who were with them in scouts, like Ayaz Sheikh of Khuhra and Muzamal of Karachi. Ayaz, later on, became his class fellow at college in pre-medical class, and Muzamal never met him again. The time spent at the camp was memorable, and teachers who stayed with them and guided them, like Ustad Ghulam Muhammad, were still remembered. They enjoyed every second of their stay at the camporee. The reasons were getting good food, the company of friends, creative work, a competitive atmosphere, the struggle to win, and the joy of being important. They worked in the freezing nights for decorative and creative art to make their camp distinct. They collected stones from far away and carried them to camp on their heads without complaint. For the rest of their schooling time, he remained attached to the scouts association. However, the school was not helpful.

## Chapter 2: Faiz High school

When he went there, the headmaster welcomed him and asked which section he wanted to be admitted to. He replied to section A; he said that it would be difficult because the class teacher would need a test. My father replied that he would undertake the test. He sent him to the class. The teacher told him that he would be asked questions to qualify. My father agreed, and he asked questions; he was satisfied and allowed to sit in the classroom.

Due to poverty, he was not able to afford to live there, so he applied for free boarding. The headmaster very graciously approved. During his studies at Faiz High School, he had access to a very good library. There were books of his interest, so he read many books on history, Islam, English, science, and Pakistani history. Moreover, in ninth class, he got prominence because there happened to be competition between three sections each Thursday subject-wise, and he was the key person to get the flag of honor for his class. In the exam, he stood first in the whole subdivision. He then decided to appear in the matriculation examination in English medium. The teachers advised against it, but he went with the decision. He attempted in English and stood second in the sub-division with 623 marks out of 850 marks. The teachers like sir Gul Muhammad Jumani and Sir Hasil Muhammad taught them English and math, respectively. They were brilliant teachers and human beings. They were both Shiite by faith but never discriminated against him on that ac-

count. However, there was a teacher who taught them Urdu. He was Maoulvi Sagheer Hussain; he one day gave them a test and gave them an oath on mother for not cheating. My father told him the oath was only on Allah. He started beating him to accept others besides Allah. My father refused, and after beating, he went to the headmaster again, a Shiite but neutral administrator, sir Lal Dino. He accepted his request and shifted him to the Urdu period from his class.

There was another incident during Faiz High School time; they went to Kotdiji fort and raised the people's party's flag in place of the Pakistani flag there. It incensed the army officers camped at the foot of the fort. They came to town in search of them. They asked the headmaster about the incident and requested to hand over the students responsible. He insisted that his student could not do that action. The army went away. In another incident, they had a fight with the conductor of the government bus service; he was charging full fare, whereas they offered half; they fought, and he was injured. They blocked the road. Police came and assured them of the arrest. The police wanted to arrest a few of their friends, and they took out a procession. The administration came into it and resolved the issue by asking the conductor to apologize.

In Kotdiji, the food at the mess boarding house was substandard. The breakfast was with parathas and tea. But tea was nothing but sweet water and parathas, only roti. But at least they ate on a full stomach. At lunchtime, normally, rice with lentils was regular food. In the evening vegetables/ fish or sometimes

meat curry with bread was served to them. Compared to my previous life at Amir Bakhsh Sarohi, it was an improvement in food. But to improve parathas, he bought some ghee and brought wheat flour and sugar to boarding. He used to give to cook to add some more flour and offer two parathas after frying in ghee. When that material was consumed, he took it from the store of boarding and refilled the stock. It was pertinent to note that my father's room was with a store room, and the wall was not up to the roof. The room in which he was living was famous as a haunted one, and the teacher resisted giving him, but my father insisted. He stayed in it alone and studied at will.

One day one student stood up and started abusing Sunnis, especially Therhi Habibabad Sunnis. My father stood up on the bench and replied to him with the same coin. They didn't say anything to him. It was important to note that Kot Diji was a Shiite-majority town in the Khairpur district. They hatched a conspiracy and complained to the boarding superintendent. He claimed that my father asked him to get one junior boy for him as a keep. The teacher decided to expel him without even listening to my father. My father requested him to listen and convinced him that it was nothing but a fabricated story. He asked him to allow cross-questioning of the witnesses. He allowed my father, and when they came before him, one of them claimed that my father offered him RS.50 to assist in the crime. He asked him when it was; when my father was not affording 10 rupees to travel to the village. How could he afford 50 rupees, and how much actually was given to him? He replied that it was only an

offer. Then on timing, he told them the date when my father was not in the boarding. The next witness contradicted the first witness. My father explained to the teacher about abusive language against Sunnis and his response. Moreover, his financial position; was when he did not have shoes or clothes. He used to wear one suit and in the night time washed it and used a bed sheet. He verified and was allowed to continue. That was a serious accusation against him, but it failed, and they never dared again.

However, one evening Mahboob Ali Shah, along with other Shiite students, challenged him and threatened to fire at him. My father used to carry a knife, but there was a pistol involved. My father faced him and went straight to him and took the pistol in his hands. He couldn't fire, and the situation calmed down after a few other students came in. There was also jealousy among old students who saw an outsider getting their position. They used many tricks to discredit my father, but Allah saved him.

But there was some silver lining that teachers were not partisans. He was pampered by the teachers and students. There was a tradition that teachers used to ask questions, and if students didn't reply, the student who replied would slap them on the back. The students, to avoid harsh slapping, would offer him channa chaat, haleem, and sweets during the break. Despite not having money, he was enjoying free refreshments.

Class nine C were art students and mainly disinterested in their studies. They kept harassing his class fellow. They broke the glass of the dividing door and

kept winking at him. One day my father blocked it, but they opened and threatened them. My father challenged them and complained to the headmaster. The master warned them of severe action. However, they asked their friends again for loafers; the Lunds asked my father to stay away from Hameer Hussain and otherwise face the music. He asked them to come wherever they wanted to fight. They asked to come to Kumb. He went there, and they met for a deciding encounter. But my father was accompanied by Sarang Shmbani. They told him to allow them to fix my father. He said that he was with him. It was interesting that my father was fighting for his friend, who was a resident of Kumb. He even didn't come forward to side with him. It was when he was angry with my father that he wrote him a letter with blood. Seeing their resolve, the loafers gave up.

During Faiz High School days, he read a lot of books from the school library and also read about the spell and spiritual powers. He did an experiment first time at the Amir Bakhsh Sarohi village for wazifa to control invisible forces. However, it failed, and he dreamed about terrible creatures following him while he was having wazifa at night at a graveyard in the village. However, in Faiz, he was not doing such dangerous practices. He got into the practice of writing amulets for people. One day one of his cousins disappeared, so their family asked him to check. He wrote an amulet and told them to put it in the well. If the bucket was pulled, then he was alive. It happened, and luckily he was found soon. It shot him into fame.

People started coming to him. However, Allah gave him thought against it, and he stopped doing it.

He got admission to a superior science college in Khairpur. However, he was hard-pressed to live and sustain hunger because my father couldn't afford expenses. His relative, Ghulam Akbar (late), allowed him to live with him at his house, but the food was the issue. He suffered from starvation, and it compelled him to take a transfer certificate from college and go to Science College Gambat. Despite the change of place, he was not able to afford fare from village to college, which was rupees ten return fare daily. His class eleven was not very well attended. He was not even able to buy practical books and maintain them. During exams, he was absent in practical exams of two subjects. He just passed. But in class 12, the man who later became his father-in-law took him to one Syed Haider Ali Shah for a stay. He offered him to live there in one of the buffalo pans of his neighbors. It was a place where one bulb and no fan and table chair were available. But Syed Sahib took care of the food. He always got fresh and hot food during his stay there. He was a very caring and helpful person.

## Chapter 3: College Period

When Benazir Bhutto returned to Pakistan in 1986, she visited Daraza, Sachal Sarmast; the government shut down the transport. My father went on foot to Daraza. He stood with Pir Gul Shah when she came. When she left for Khairpur, they didn't have transportation to reach Khairpur, so they walked on foot for 35 km. There she spoke to the crowd at Mumtaz Ground. She rekindled hope among the masses. They cheered her and expected that she would bring happiness; once given a chance. Again after the speech, they returned by taking some timely lift from participants and, most of the time, on foot to Gambat.

After passing matriculation from Faiz high school Kot Diji, he applied for admission to Superior science college Khairpur. It was the premier college of the district. He applied for pre-engineering, but on the day of the results, he couldn't find his name on the list. It was disgusting because he was an A grade holder, and even some B graders were on the list. He went to the principal and told him the problem. He called the superintendent to bring the forms. It was changed; someone had amended the application and put him in Pre-medical. He said that his name should be there. He went and saw his name as number three in the merit list of pre-medical. He wondered about the change, then his class fellow Nadir Shah approached and congratulated him. He informed my father that he had changed the form because he wanted my father to be with him. My father argued with him that he was better in math, not in biol-

ogy. He said that my father could adjust to any subject. He was the son of the then-civil Surgeon of the district hospital and his class fellow from Faiz high school Kotdiji.

When my father was in Superior Science College, he was made organizer of the Sindh Peoples Students federation. The classes just began, and they started attending the classes. One day senior leaders of the federation visited classes, and my father heard that they were picking handsome boys among the new students and taking them to the hostel for fooling. The fooling meant sodomy. It was a very confusing time for my father either to confront the monsters of his party or side with them. When they came into his class, a few students stood, and the rest were sitting because he told them not to offer any protocol for visiting bad boys. They were furious and required an explanation for the stubborn behavior of the students. My father stood and explained that it was reserved for teachers and they were only senior students. They pointed at certain fair-colored students and asked them to go with them. My father stood again and stopped them, telling students to keep sitting. They told him to avoid their affairs; otherwise, stern action would be taken. He replied that he was ready to face any action. They left without kidnapping any student from the class.

However, they picked boys from other classes. The affected students cried, and their supporters/ relatives requested the Jeavy Sindh students' federation to save them from the clutches of wolves and vultures. They tried to intercept them but faced resistance from SPSF loafers. They fired at each other, and in that skirmish, a

JSSF leader Imam Phulpoto was seriously injured. But students were released. It caused a lot of tension in the college; on one hand, hunger and, on the other hand, double danger, i.e., SPSF considered him a traitor and JSSF considered him an organizer of SPSF, so he decided to leave the college and got admission at Gambat College.

While struggling to be regular at Gambat College and get an education, he went with grandpa to the nearby village chief Ali Bakhsh Sarohi. He asked grandpa to launch my father in farming or labor because studies were useless. He further explained that he couldn't afford the education of his sons and withdrew after intermediate; how come, grandpa, as a laborer, would be affording it? Grandpa asked him if he supported educating my father, and he replied no. So, grandpa told him never to ever give that advice again. He reiterated his resolve to send my father for studies to college and then university. The villagers also advised grandpa to use him for work; otherwise, he would be rusted. He resisted and encouraged my father to work hard. My father tried his best to achieve optimum results within the given resources.

In 1987, when he was waiting for university admissions because, during those days, universities accepted fresh candidates after one year of waiting. My father passed intermediate in 1987 but got admission in 1988 and began university on 1st January 1989. He struggled to get into a primary school in the village. He went to Senator Syed Muhammad Shah for a recommendation and approached DEO. But they advised my father to try for a Masjid school as primary schools were banned. He

went to the District Coordination officer, his former headmaster of Kotdiji High School, Sir Lal Dino Khaskheli. He was very welcoming and promised to get it approved, and he did it. But to his surprise, the school's name was not with the village as written in the application. The man of Pagara, Naeem Kharal, got it for his cronies in the village, so instead of Amir Bakhsh Sarohi, it was Gul Hassan Sarohi. People provoked him, but my father thought fighting for a name change was useless. Rather, he started working on getting Nai Roshni School for adult literacy.

He went to Syed Muhammad Shah in June 1987 for a recommendation from his quota as the area senator. While they were sitting in his Darbar, the electricity went off. The disciples were supposed to offer him a breeze with hand fan turn by turn. When it was my father's turn, the disciple asked him to come and take turns; he refused, then he told him loudly to come and give air to Pir sahib. My father refused by telling him that he was suffering from the heat. Pir sahib judging the damage to his authority, scolded him to sit if he could not do; what he was bothering the guest. He then ordered his servants to respectfully offer my father lunch in his room. It was done, and he was successfully separated from other Mureeds fearing the contagious effect of rebellion on them. However, he obliged my father with a due note on his application. He took it to district officer Khairpur, and he approved the school. He got all furniture and fixture for both schools.

Allah dino Sarohi was kind to hand over his guest house for schools. He volunteered to teach in the school for a year. Muhammad Aslam Panhwer was appointed

the first teacher in the Masjid school and Taj Muhammad Janwri of Kandhra in Nai Roshni School. He was one of the regular teachers at the morning school. In the evening, he used to offer free tutoring services to the village students. Aslam told him frankly that he was not able to teach math to class three onward, so he taught them math and science.

Moreover, my father prepared students with general knowledge and speaking. It created a lot of goodwill and competition among the schools. They arranged the first annual program where a quiz competition and speech contest was arranged in the schools of subdivision Gambat. However, few neighboring schools participated. They invited high school ripe to contest in the quiz. The students beat all schools in both quiz and speech contests. The DCO, Sir Memon Sahib, appreciated my father and committed to offering him a job as a teacher once his age turned eighteen. However, it never materialized due to political pressures and quotas assigned to Pirs and Wadera.

There were a few interesting incidents during teaching time. As he was the dominant teacher, so he was very tough with students in teaching and getting them to do homework, so sometimes students were punished or scolded. He always kept one date branch stick on the table, which was called a ponchwali stick or tail stick. But seldom beat the students. He just kept it for psychological reasons while lazy and underperformers complained about my father's strictness towards their parents. One of them, Mahboob Ali, went to one advocate who was the father of teacher Muhammad Aslam Panhwer and asked him to file a complaint against my

father. He inquired why he wanted to lodge it; he replied that Ahmed was teaching the students without a job. He asked; was it free? The complainant replied no, he charged students two rupees monthly. At least he was honest in replying to it. They used to buy school materials from the collection because the school didn't have the budget for chalk, pens, etc. The advocate, Taj Muhammad Panhwer, told him to bring that person to teach his children about payment. He said that he would pay my father a few hundred monthly. He shamed him for his cheap action of being ungrateful to the person who was teaching their children free of cost. Two of his sons failed to achieve anything in life. During that period, another person, Bachal, came to school and quarreled with my father and teacher Muhammad Aslam as to why he was teaching. The teacher told him that my father was allowed by the district coordination officer. He told him that my father must not be allowed to teach his sons. His one son went to the army, and the other never completed his studies.

During that period, my father made his sitting place at the guest house of the man who later became his father-in-law. His future father-in-law supported his family and my father from time to time.

One day he returned from Gambat, he saw a person sitting in the room smoking substandard cigarettes. My father was allergic to smoke. He asked who he was. He told in Punjabi that he was Pir from Jhang. Nawab invited him to dig out the ancient treasures beneath some houses. My father challenged him, and he threatened him with dire consequences. They took the challenge of

each other. He said that he would fly the tree log with his powers tomorrow. My father said that if he succeeded, he would be his Mureed. The next day they had a cricket match with the Baharo team, who were coming to avenge their defeat at their hands earlier. But they were not in the match. They played first, did just ten runs, and completed in two or three overs. They ran to the village where the Pir of Jhang was reading some mantras on wheat and throwing them on a log covered with a white sheet of cloth. My father went from within his circle. He mumbled words and issued a threat that my father's neck would be broken by his clients. However, my father kept reciting Quls, and finally, the Pir was unsuccessful, saying that someone was reading. My father told him that it meant he was better than him, so he must pack and leave the village. He packed and left after robbing some people.

Before that period, my father was also preaching to people to come for prayer in the Mosque. It was pertinent to note that only Friday few people attended Masjid. On normal days Muhammad Umar the Mullah and two or three others would pray regularly. But in Isha and Fajr, only Mullah or sometimes even no Azan was given. In those conditions, my father started work, and almost the entire Masjid inside and outside was full of congregants each prayer time. In Fajr times, the inside was full of people. He went from house to house and invited people to attend the prayer. He would give them lectures and teach them to pray. In this connection, he devised a plan where each student was asked to contribute one Kg of rice, 100-gram ghee, 250-gram potato, and 250 grams of onions for collective lunch at the

Masjid daily. They used to cook more on Juma because many people attended Juma's prayer. It also gave my father provision to eat well. However, people started complaining against that arrangement, arguing that it was designed to feed himself. It was true that my father was eating from it, but how petty was the reason? They didn't want him to eat, although he also contributed to all participants in that arrangement. When he got a place to live at Gambat and went to join college, he handed over a Masjid full of people to Ustad Muhammad Umar to continue preaching and teaching. He saw very few people when he came after one week and joined him at Fajr. He inquired what happened; Umar replied people were not coming and he couldn't bring them with force. In that way, he lost all the people bit by bit, and the same situation came again.

During intermediate class, my father's fellow Shafi Muhammad Bango was very close to my father. He used to stay with him for 12 hours a day from dawn to dusk. They used to walk in the streets of Gambat and sit in the Rose garden of the Municipal Committee. One day a class fellow Syed Ashiq Ali Shah of Jahaniyaan, invited them to his Maikhana, where he was lodged during college. They went there; he sat in the solitary chair, and they had one choice: sit on the floor. My father decided to leave on the pretext of urgent work and promised to visit again. He understood my father's move and next time invited them with insistence and brought them there. There were few chairs for all the invited class fellows.

They used to sit at Phool Bagh and speak in English with like-minded class fellows. They also discussed

subjects there and prepared for examinations. One day Syed Ashiq. Shafi Bango, and my father went on a mischief mission. They gave a bell to peoples' houses and left. In this movie, they did a few houses and ran away. However, the last house they gave a bell was near a Hindu temple; as they ran to avoid being caught, they were about to fall down from the upper street to the lower one. But they just stopped at the nook of the street.

One day they made another mischief, saying Salam to unknown people and asking about their well-being. As they showed amazement, they enjoyed their confusion; when asked, they didn't recognize them.

Bango fell in love with a class fellow; she was Urdu-speaking from Ranipur. He couldn't tell her that he loved her. He sought my father's help to accompany him to the pick-up to follow her and express his heart. He requested him to write it on paper. My father wrote a very poetic confessional statement that he was in love whether she accepted or rejected. If she accepted, he would be honored; if rejected, the heart would die of sorrow. They went there and followed the girl accompanied by another class fellow. My father asked him to move forward and talk to her. He couldn't muster courage and asked my father to request her to stop. He asked the girl, and she stopped. He told her that Shafi wanted to talk to her. He pushed him to her but was shivering. He couldn't speak a word. My father told him to give her the letter. He could not even hand over the letter. She inquired what the matter was. My father told her he was in love with her and wanted to tell them in person.

She said to him that she considered him a good person but proved to be an ordinary one.

Politically my father shunned SPSF and joined the Sindh Sagar students Federation, A religious but nationalist party. It was a smaller player and had few members in the college. When he joined and worked hard, he recruited fifty members to make it a considerable entity. However, it was a peaceful organization and never resorted to agitative politics. During that period, they were invited by the Watan dost party of Dr. Arbab Khuhawar to attend a political rally at Talhar. They went by bus and reached in the evening. While speeches were to start a little later in the evening, they were very hungry and looked for food. However, the organizers kept telling them to wait for a few minutes. Finally, they served food after speeches, and till then, they were at the lowest energy level. They listened to speakers who were loud and very descriptive. But none of them impressed my father because none offered any solution. The problems and criticizing the system were the easiest way to make hours-long speeches, but providing practical solutions to society's ills was the most difficult part. They spoke for hours, painted a pathetic picture of Sindh's affairs, and blamed the establishment for all problems in the province. They said that since the inception of Pakistan Sindhi nation was deprived of its resources, cities, coasts, ports, and industries.

Moreover, educational institutions and infrastructure was not provided to the masses. My father understood that the refugees from India occupied Karachi, Hyderabad, and Sukkur because the government of Liaqat Ali Khan facilitated them with proper planning. But my fa-

ther failed to understand why Sindhi students and parties were not allowing colleges and universities to run smoothly and acquire quality education to compete in the market. Who stopped them from studying when vice-chancellors, teachers, and administrators were all Sindhi? StillSindhi manned the colleges and schools; they were crying but not offering a remedy.

My father was fed up with the rhetoric of politicians trapping innocent students in a vicious cycle of banditry. They were running nationalistic songs, invoking Shah Bhittai to wake up because Sindh was calling him for help. My father told them why they were bothering dead people and not doing something for the betterment of Sindh themselves. They quarreled with him and told him that Bhittai alone could take Sindh out of the dilemma. My father asked them then why they were blaming Punjabis and Mohajirs. They were speechless but kept claiming miracles from Bhittai. He concluded and reminded them that their prime duty was obtaining education/ knowledge, not protests and disruption of classes. They must concentrate on their work and leave other issues to political parties. However, most of them termed him a pawn of the establishment in the guise of a nationalist.

One day they wanted to raise the flag at the college building. A member of JSSF went to raise the flag and was caught by an army contingent in the college. After some time, they decided to raise their flag on the building. They went in the nighttime and climbed from the backyard. While trying to fix the flag, the army men heard the noise because some stones fell on the ground. They scrambled their party to catch the culprits. The

students of other organizations climbed back and fled the scene. My father went from the staircase in the college. When the army people returned, they were surprised to see him. They asked him; how he was there. My father told them he came from that way and wanted to discuss the 1971 war because the seniors were war veterans. They offered him a chair and sat there to discuss Martial Law and Sindhi nationalism. They told him that Bengalis were far from west Pakistan and India helped, so they seceded, but Sindh was contagious to mainland Pakistan, i.e., Punjab. They would crush any rebellion. My father told them that people couldn't be cowed down with force. History witnessed many empires which used force but withered away with the people's determination. He told them that only respect for the culture, tradition, justice, equality, and love would strengthen Pakistan. The gun might silence people temporarily, but a permanent solution to the problem was a continuation of democracy and offering rights to people. They agreed and informed him that the prime minister was Sindhi, i.e., Junejo, and democracy was restored. He replied that Sindhis didn't accept Junejo as democrat and that the Sindhis leader was a dummy of the establishment. They kept discussing until their team members caught some students who fled the scene and took them to the police.

In 1987, Fazal Rahoo of Sindhi Awami tehreek was murdered. They showed solidarity with Sindhi Shagrid tehreek and took part in the funeral prayer in absentia. However, the first class magistrate warned them of any procession because of 144 in the town. But they persisted and continued. He threatened police action. They

challenged him to unleash the police. He didn't dare to use force while they were in procession mode. However, after prayer, when the crowd dispersed, he ordered the police to catch the leaders. Many of their students were arrested. My father escaped through Small Street. The next day they went to meet arrested colleagues at lock up. The police constable there asked my father if they were looking for a student leader named Daman, but he was not found. He inquired about his whereabouts. My father replied that Daman was right before them but not seen by them. He thought it was just a joke; it was my father's poetic nickname. They negotiated with the administration and got them released after a few days.

In March 1987, they passed intermediate and started searching for jobs due to pressing economic conditions at home. Grandpa wanted him to get a commission in the Pakistan army. On his insistence, he applied to the Pakistan army for second lieutenant. The written test was taken at the Army recruitment center in Sukkur, which he passed with flying colors. The in-charge then interviewed them for recommendations for further examination at Nowshehra. He called my father and appreciated his test and knowledge. He advised my father to continue his studies and try civil service. My father was surprised by his advice and inquired him about the reasons. He informed my father informally that the big sahib (Zia) despised the Sindhis. He further added that Zia considered Sindhis as disloyal to Pakistan, albeit not a country but to Zia ul Haq. However, he explained that he was not of the same opinion. He consoled my father by saying that it was not a permanent policy. However,

he said that he was authorized to recruit as a soldier. My father was disappointed and disgusted by his reply. He told him that they were pushing Sindhi youth towards rebellion. It was they who wished and helped the Sindhu Desh movement. If they were not trusted in Pakistan, then the only option would be separation. My father spoke in fury with the major. He tried to dissuade my father but failed. They returned with more hatred for the military government and their helplessness within Pakistan.

He then tried luck in the air force as a GD pilot. He qualified initial test and was about to be recommended; they called him again and asked him to reappear for medical. It all happened after they inquired him about his origin; the straight question was whether he was Punjabi Sarohi or Sindhi. He replied that he was Sindhi Sarohi. They then reexamined him and declared him temporarily color-blind. He argued with the air commodore and told him that they were compelling them to join the secessionist movement. When they were denied their rightful place within the federation of Pakistan, then they would be attracted toward Sindhu Desh. The Air commodore was perturbed and puzzled by my father's head-on confrontation. A soldier who was Sindhi tried to caution my father of dire consequences, but he was not stopping. The air commodore told him, gentle boy try again. It was not the correct time for him to be taken as an officer. This way, they were rejected from both services in one month's time. It educated them on the biased approach of the establishment towards Sindhi.

In 1987, Muhammad Khan Junejo visited Khairpur. The district administration and military Muslim League arranged a public rally.

The administration sent buses with an offer of Rs. 100 per person to attend the rally. However, they had seen empty buses. People refused to board the buses, and his public rally in Mumtaz ground was just one-fifth of Benazir's jalsa. It failed, but PTV showed a very big crowd that rejected the politics of agitation by the people's party.

On 29th May 1988, Prime Minister Junejo was dismissed by President Zia, who leveled charges of incompetency and economic stagflation and called for new general elections. He was his handpicked prime minister, and General didn't digest a meek man of principles. But before he could manage another election and handpick Junejo ii with impunity, Allah had him destroyed in a plane crash. President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan and the United States Ambassador to his country were killed along with many high officials when a Pakistani Air Force plane exploded in midair and crashed in the eastern city of Bahawalpur.

There was no official explanation for the crash of the American-made, four-engine C-130, which carried 30 people. There were no survivors, Pakistan television announced.

Almost eight hours after the disaster, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the chairman of the Senate, who under the Pakistani Constitution had assumed power, said that "sabotage cannot be ruled out" in the explosion.

Ishaq Khan said in a televised address at midnight that he had declared a state of emergency and established a

13-member special council, including the chiefs of the three armed services.

The announcement was welcomed with celebrations and instant joy across Sindh province. Ghulam Ishaq Khan announced elections in October 1988. The elections were held, and PPP won the majority of seats. But its absolute majority was denied. Nawaz Sharif was supported by the establishment, and he sensitized Punjab with the slogan of Jaag Punjabi Jaag Teri Pag nu Lagi Aag. He won major seats in Punjab provincial assembly. The PPP won Sindh, KPK, and Baluchistan. However, the federal government was given to Benazir after compromising on the principles. She accepted Foreign Ministers, Defense, and finance ministry heads recommended by the establishment. They supported their candidate, Pervez shah, who was the nephew of Qaim Ali shah. The Pagara tried his best to win the seat; the senior Pagara was launched in their constituency, but he lost with 55000 margins from an ordinary PPP worker. The people's party promised a lot of welfare to its workers, especially the people of Sindh who were oppressed during army times. But the Sindh government was full of inefficient and incompetent rather illiterate people. When Benazir appointed an illiterate Sindh minister of education, they understood her sincerity.

In the 1988 elections, Pir Pagara was canvassing for the first time. He came to the village where people raised slogans in his favor. He asked people if they would vote for him. Almost in the course, they replied yes, sir. My father raised their hand and told Pagara that they were lying. None of them would vote for him. He was surprised and asked him for a reason. He told him that his people tortured masses and humiliated them during

martial law times, so it was payback time. He reprimanded his manager Nabi Bakhsh shah and thanked my father for being honest and straightforward. He scolded people for their hypocrisy. He told them to be on one side; otherwise, none would own them.

In 1989 when my father was in Karachi and working at school and newspapers, he was always called by Manzoor Wassan at his P.ECHS apartment. He was interviewed by him and advised him for better press. Wassan promised that he would get him a good job once he was given a ministry. In 1990 he was given transport department, and he offered the job of transport officer to my father. The minister went to Khairpur, and my father boarded the bus to his house; he listened on the radio that PPP's governments at the federal and provincial levels were dismissed by President Ghulam Ishaq khan. One of the reasons was an extension to the chairman joints chiefs of staff admiral Iftikhar Ahmed Sirohey.

In the 1990 elections, my father interviewed many candidates and wrote against Syed Ghous Ali Shah. Once, a friend asked him to meet Ghous Ali shah, Shah, after knowing that he was the person who wrote against him, inquired about his reasons for opposition. My father replied that his role in the creation of MQM and collaboration with the dictator against Sindhi. He denied any role in the creation of MQM. Rather he informed that it was established on the directives of Zia ul Haq without consulting the Sindh government.

Moreover, he opposed and safeguarded the rights of Sindhis in the face of a military juggernaut and lost his chief ministry opposing the Kala Bagh dam. But it didn't convince my father. He went to meet JUI candidate

Molana Mir Muhammad Mirak and interviewed him. One day before the election, he arrived from the election and wanted to travel to the village but couldn't find any vehicle on the road because the police commandeered all vehicles for the election. He went to Molana for drop; the flatterers at his madrassah gave him good tides of sure win. My father told him to be careful of these people as he was not winning but could create his place with social work. At present, moulvis consider others, not even Muslims; how would they vote for them? He agreed to his assessment. Workers tried to impress voters on the day of polling at Baharo Pagara. But Pagara lost to PPP candidate Parvez Shah. In provincial elections, the son of Pagara didn't behave like my father and took the election into his hands with the tacit support of law enforcement agencies. He won from the people's party candidate.

In the 1993 elections, Manzoor Wassan was awarded a ticket from the constituency of my father's village. My father was serving in Upjohn pharmaceutical. The villagers observed the PPP government in 1990 and its corruption and nepotism, so they refused to vote. Wassan called my father for help. He took leave without pay for a month and campaigned for him in his area at his own expense. He arranged his corner meeting at the village and assured people of the solution to problems if he won. People voted for him, and he won the seat in our constituency. But his brother lost the seat. They went to congratulate Wassan, but he was not there. His brother was holding Darbar with people and asked my father for his introduction. He was disappointed that they had forgotten him just in a few days. How could

they oblige people to his recommendations? He informed him that he was the same fool who worked tirelessly for the success of the man's brother and hosted him at the village. He walked out by telling him he would never be seen there again. Wassan was given the post of junior minister of energy and distributed hundreds of jobs but never remembered his poor friend.

My father got admission to B.sc Microbiology. He got a very good atmosphere, but poverty made my continuous studies difficult. He was not able to eat three times. He used to eat just one time at lunch but studied hard to get a distinction. In the first semester, he stood first with the highest numbers in microbiology, English, PAK-Studies, and Islamiat, so overall number one. It had pushed his popularity in the department. He used to study the latest studies on his subject, including biochemistry and human physiology. Teachers appreciated, and students sought his help, and he taught class fellows regularly. However, this couldn't be continued in the second semester because of financial problems. He went to Karachi and sought help fron. former colleagues of the Pakistan people's party, like Manzoor Wassan. He wanted to transfer to Karachi University. My father thought it would allow him to study in the morning and work in the evening. However, these people were not of help.

He took jobs there. He joined a school in the morning, another in the evening, and a magazine at night. During that time worked as a journalist. It gave him enough money to survive and support his family. But overwork took a toll on his health. He became ill and finally left his job in February 1990. It is important that during

their jobs in Karachi, he kept studying at Shah Latif University Khairpur, where he went for one week a month. But Allah gavemy fatherthe strength to attain A grades within one week. In 1990 he was diagnosed with TB and became bedridden. People were hopeless about his health, but he was confident of his recovery because he prayed to Allah.

One day a woman came to see him. She was very sympathetic and worried after looking at his body. When she went to his parents sitting next to the room at the fireside, she regretted his youth and possible early departure. He yelled at her, and she came to him. He asked her who told her that he was dying. When one goes to a patient, he/she always consoles the parents, but she terrifies them. She denied it and wished him well. But the moment she left home, she spread the news that it was his departure time, so whoever wanted to say goodbye must do it now because people normally say that when they die. People came in droves to see him that day. In the night, he prayed to Allah and wept before him. He said O Allah, you listened to people one Dua, but here he was praying for many years about his death as a martyr, but he was dying in bed praying "O Allah, save my father and bless my father with health". He got healthy after nine months of treatment. He had not informed class fellows of his illness, but a few of them found out and visited him at the village, i.e., Sultan Maher and Khalid Malik. Probably Abdul Jabbar Memon, Muhammad Khan Suprio, and Parvez Pathan also visited.

The most important thing of this period was his attempt to write exams during that period. He couldn't get "A"

grades in all subjects except English. When he became healthy, he rejoined the university and studied again; however, grandpa sold his ancestral land during his treatment. It was another setback for the family. He got good marks and grades in B.sc honors fifth semester and improved previous papers. In 1990, he got information that the university grants commission had allocated a budget to the university for a goodwill visit to other universities in Pakistan. However, the university administration kept it secret. He pursued and got it approved. They went to Punjab University, Quaid-e-Azam University, and Peshawar University. A few students from departments like chemistry and economics, Akram Shah, microbiology, Mir Muhammad Ali, and Zameer Memon (late). While at Punjab University, a professor questioned; why all Sindhi's were dacoits. Instead of getting angry, he, as the group leader replied rather counter questioned him; how many jails were in Punjab; he informed 29 jails; which jail was empty; he replied none; he asked him which jail had Sindhi inmates; he replied none. My father replied to him that in Sindh, there were 13 jails, and each jail had Punjabi inmates; now, should we presume that all Punjabis were robbers? He apologized and explained that it was because of the Urdu media that painted such a picture in the country.

They were amazed at the development of Lahore. The museums, parks, roads, and institutions were all very developed. One night they were out for dinner, and suddenly stormy rain started. They couldn't find a taxi, so a person offered them a lift to the new campus hostel; he was the leader of Jamiat students, the student wing of

Jamaat Islami. When they reached Islamabad, it was very attractive to the eyes that he wished to live there. It was a jungle city with lush green roads, mountains, and lakes with beautiful parks.

Moreover, they stayed at Quaid e Azam university hostel. They held meetings with various departments and exchanged views. When they were introducing themselves in a meeting, their teacher introduced himself as the professor (the host exclaimed very young professor Ma Sha Allah). When he introduced himself, he was very humble. When their lecturer asked him how many PhDs he had done, he replied that he had not many, just two, and he was working on a third. It was really a matter of shame that their teacher was not telling the truth. They scolded their teacher after the meeting. When they returned to the hostel, they had a lot of disputes over expenses. The teacher Agha Asad of his department, and Qasid Mallah of Archeology, informed them that expenses were not allowing them to get to SWAT and other places, so if anyone wanted to continue must contribute. People like my father, who was penniless, couldn't imagine affording such a thing, so they disputed. Anyway, they departed for Peshawar and stayed at the Iqbal hostel. There they had meetings and visits to the university of Peshawar, the engineering university, and Khyber Medical College; incidentally, all were at the same place.

An interesting thing happened in front of the hostel. They wanted to buy fruit from the fruit vendor on the cart. He judged that they were from Sindh. He inquired, and they replied in affirmation; he refused to take money for fruit. They insisted, but he pursued them

with touching words. He told them that he lived in Sindh, worked there, sold clothes to people, and stayed with a Sindhi host who neither charged rent for residents nor payment of food for years; how could he get money from the people of Sindh? It was the impact of hospitality witnessed by them. They returned at late hours.

In 1990, he published the story of bunging in the funds by their teacher. It was posted on the notice board of the department. It infuriated the teacher. However, when encountered, he justified the stand. During that time, initially, he was living with a relative due to the unavailability of a room in the hostel. Later, he got the room but was given to another student having no place to live. He used to sit at the vice chancellor's office in the evening and read English newspapers which reached in the evening. One day they were sitting. The vice chancellor appeared from his house, and everyone stood up when he was far away. When he was neare., my father also stood up. He inquired why he was not standing when he had seen him coming. My father told him that he was not his subordinate. He said that he was my father's teacher, so he must be respected. He replied to him that he was not a teacher but an administrator. He disputed with him and directed his staff not to allow him to read newspapers. The next move was to put pressure on his relative, a prayer caller (Muezzin) at the university Masjid. He couldn't tell my father but was visibly disturbed. He inquired, but the man kept quiet; then, another staff member living nearby informed him that VC had instructed him to throw my father out of the room. My father told him not to worry as he would be leaving.

He left the place in the evening and went to his room, where he adjusted by sleeping on the floor. However, an ugly incident took place there. The peaceful DSF students occupied the room and ejected him. He tried to pursue them, but they showed attitude and power. He mustered support and then forced them to leave the room. Later on, they remained friends for the rest of the time. He was living in professor Hami's hostel at Shah Latif University.

In 1991, there was the election of the students' action committee. The main organizations like Jeavy Sindh, Sindh people's students' federation, Tarqi Pasand party, and Sindhi Shagrid tehreek were not accepting each other for the post of chairman/ organizer; then came the unimagined decision; they all agreed on my father's name. He accepted but with a certain condition. He asked them if they would accept his conditions. They asked for the conditions, and he elaborated a sunder;

1. The classes would not be boycotted
2. General bodies of parties may take place after 12 noon
3. The allotment of hostels would be done by the administration, not the parties
4. All students, including parry heads, would pay hostel and other university charges
5. The negotiation on matters of concern for students would be led by the chairman
6. No teacher would be harassed
7. No money would be demanded from the administration

The students of almost all parties agreed to his points grudgingly. However, they got an exemption on donations for functions. He communicated with the administration that from now onward, hostels would be allotted by the university. The first victim of that decision was my father. Later on, he was unable to pay the examination fees for the semester, and his result for semester five was not tabulated. In semester six, he was almost hard-pressed to quit because of financial issues. He established the Sachal speakers' forums during that period. He was the secretary general of the society/ forum. It provided a platform for the students to speak and compete with each other on various issues. They arranged a couple of programs. One such program was arranged at a higher level, and the vice-chancellor was invited to be the chief guest. He asked my father to make him preside over the function. My father replied that function was always presided over by the head of the organization, but they were making him chief guest. He said that then no contribution and facilitation would be given. My father accepted the challenge and told him that the function would be organized on time and within the university premises. He directed the administration to withhold buses from carrying the material and lock down the auditorium. But they finally forced the administration to provide all facilities, including the auditorium. The function was still considered one of the most successful programs. My father arranged a photographer, video maker, sound system, refreshments, cards, and all other arrangements on credit because the date was already announced. Later on, he got funds from various quarters, including Rs. 6000 from the uni-

versity. These 6000 were saved by him, and he built a room in the village.

It is important to note here that when his uncles left the village, their house was gutted by the torrential rains. They found shelter for some time with their maternal uncle, but he ejected them after some months. During that period, they kept a cow for milk. The cow was very healthy. One day he wanted to take it out for grazing. It ran with full force, and he fell on the ground; the cow rope was wrapped around his right leg. It dragged him for some distance till the rope was unwrapped. It broke his leg, and he went to bed for six months. Jhando Khan Kumbher treated him. It was a very painful period. He used to cry, but the artisan kept massaging the leg. It took six months to walk again. He used to eat and excrete on the bed, and his sweet mother used to clean him. During that period, they didn't have money to get medicines, so grandma gave her gold to be sold. The gold was kept in mortgage by his uncle, and Rs.3000 was advanced on the promise that once money would be returned, the gold would be returned back. Before that incident, he fell from a date palm tree while plucking dates and remained bedridden for five months. At that time also, his parents sold their precious items. But after the incident with the cow, his mind was not in studies; grandpa had to wake it up by beating it out.

When he worked at the newspaper and Ajrak magazine from 1989 to 1990, he used to write about the high-handedness of feudal and their role in the patronization of dacoits. He wrote against Naeem Kharal during the Nawaz government crackdown on dacoits and their facilitators; he was caught and sent to jail. He sent my fa-

ther a message to count the days. In 1992, during Ramadan, the dacoits kidnapped 11 people from a neighboring village. Among them were teachers, so students blocked roads and protested. They came from university and supported. The administration was helpless to find the kidnapped, and relatives were getting messages for ransom. One day the then SSP Khairpur major (retd) Imtiaz visited their home and asked the audience to pinpoint or indicate somewhere to find the persons. My father found none to volunteer the information. He showed disappointment and addressed the people that they were not Jins to know everything. People had to cooperate with the police. He reprimanded the family members and villagers. My father spoke to the police officer and told him that his question was wrong, so they didn't reply. He was surprised to know it. My father told him that there was no doubt about the culprit who got it done and the whereabouts of the kidnapped, but still, you were asking about doubt. He asked my father to inform him so that the action would be swiftly taken. My father told him that the police officers sitting with him were paid servants of that influential criminal. If the information is delved, then it would be passed on to him before any action. He shamed them and asked my father to disclose the action would be decisive and swift. When my father informed him that it was Naeem Kharal and kidnappers were hiding in his house in the Katcha area. He told my father that if the information was incorrect, then he would be arrested. My father stood with the first statement. There was a doctor who was closer to Kharal. He told the SSP that Mushtaq Sarohi had enmity with Kharal that was why my father

was naming him. Naeem had kept criminals just to protect himself from the Narejo tribe. SSP looked at my father, and my father told him that he was not Mushtaq and he had no enmity with Kharal. SSP ordered the rangers to raid Kharal's house; they had had an encounter with dacoits, killed two dacoits, arrested others, found a huge cache of arms, police/army uniforms, and bombs, and kidnapped persons. Naeem Kharal was arrested and made to clean utensils at the ranger's camp office. He was again furious at my father and sent threats. He told the emissary that told him that he used to go to the village at 8 pm from university; now he would be going till 12 midnight, and Kharal was allowed to do whatever he could. He was released after six months because witnesses who were family members of the kidnapped deviated from their first statement. They went to Kharal and tendered an apology and also informed him that it was Ahmed Ali Sirohey who gave his name, not them. The Soomro clan people showed their weakness and bowed to a tyrant.

In those days, dacoity was common in our areas. One such night people were guarding the village they saw dacoits taking someone on the road crossing our village. Our villagers opened fire on them; they returned it and told them in a loud voice that it was not Sarohi. By that time, every man was out on the road and encircled them. They told them to surrender the man or be ready to fight. They used live fire to keep them away, but they persisted and got the man released. Later police reached and took control of the released man; the next day, a police officer claimed to have encountered and successful release the kidnapped man.

During his studies in science college Gambat, he had had skin rashes; it was so serious that he was unable to sit in the chair easily. He used to sit on one thigh; the government hospital medicines couldn't provide relief. One day a teacher was teaching physics; he used to write from the book and expected students to copy from the board. My father had the habit of understanding but not copying; moreover, they didn't have copies to write. The teacher Jungle khan was early perturbed because of not copying, so he noticed his posture and left the class in a rage. He complained to the principal about his rude behavior. The principal called my father and asked him to explain his behavior to the teacher. They asked why he was sitting on one leg. He informed him that he was not feeling well. He had severe rashes on the skin and bleeding. They asked for proof. When he showed them the skin, they observed the whole back dotted with a bleeding carb uncle full of pus and blood; they almost wept. He asked my father why he was not receiving proper treatment. My father replied to the principal, Zaheer Uddin Jarchivi, that he did not have enough money to get medicine. The medicine from the government hospital was a sub-standard or low spectrum. He called the Medical superintendent and requested to provide him with good medicines. My father went, and he got medicine that cured him after almost a month of treatment. The principal was surprised to see his commitment to studies despite his serious illness.

When they were studying at college, the students elected him the organizer of the action committee. There were many thefts of students; it was a problem for the majority of girls and boys. When he was se-

lected as an organizer, then he announced that from today onward if someone lost any item, he/ she must report it to him, and if not found, it would be paid back to the claimant. They took a lot of action against culprits, including those who harassed female students. They caught one boy who harassed a girl. They punished him. He brought some outsiders, including the son of influential Pir Gul Shah. They tried to beat their colleagues. They took them and beat them; they ran away after getting peace of mind. He went and complained to his father, who was their comrade at the people's party. My father had participated in his procession against martial law in 1983, so he used to respect my father. My father visited him occasionally, and he encouraged him. When my father visited him after beating his son, he didn't say anything.

During that period, they demanded that the administration provide facilities. The principal, Khan Muhammad Memon of Halani, didn't accept their demands. They threatened to go on a hunger strike. The principal didn't budge. But there were behind the scene manipulations. He sent his vice principal to my father for compromise and offered a handsome amount and assured selection (through unfair means) in Medical. He refused all offers. The demands were the provision of books in the library and opening it every day. Provision of chemicals and equipment in science laboratories, sports materials, arranging the country tour, arranging extracurricular activities including debates/ skits, bus for transportation, the building of hostel, lighting in classrooms, and merit-based scholarship for talented students. It was pertinent to note that my father was one of the few students need-

ing the library more than others. However, he was successful in buying a few of their fellow leaders, one of them Basher Memon. He thought he broke their back by buying some leaders. But they went ahead and held a meeting with deputy commissioner Khairpur Saleem Memon. While they were meeting with him, he asked them to shun the politics of agitation; otherwise, he would put them behind the bar right away for three months. It shook his friends, and they were terrified. But my father regained strength and told him to arrest them because they would go on hunger strike if issues were not resolved. My father threatened him of the consequences after their arrest because they had told their friends to block the roads if they didn't return till 5 pm. My father told him that following their arrests, it would be difficult for him to run the district. He was impressed and took it seriously and immediately changed his attitude and said to my father; he was just joking. He called the principal and asked him to solve the issues. They came out unscathed. However, neither issues nor talks continued. After buying the leaders, the principal was satisfied that there would not be any hunger strikes. But my father went on a hunger strike alone on the specified date. His friend Refigure Sheikh covered the event because, in the daytime, many students were sitting with him. The news perturbed the administration, and the minister of education took notice of it. The principal again tried but failed to convince him. However, the Sindh government removed him and assured my father that actions would be taken to resolve some issues immediately, including library, lighting, and laboratory issues. Those issues were solved when a new principal

took over. The former principal was inquired upon on corruption charges and demoted.

When they were finishing college, they arranged a farewell function for themselves. He was at the forefront. He went to arrange decorations, chairs, tents, and sound systems for the programs. When he returned back to college, the peon of principal told him that the principal wanted to see him. He went to him and saw the principal sitting with VP Ali Raza Shah. He told him that he was not expecting anything bad from a brilliant student like my father. My father asked what that behavior was. He extended a chit and asked to read; the chit carried one sentence, a fact, "I love you." He said that is why he wrote it. My father replied it was writing. To whom you wrote it. He replied to the person who gave it to him. Was it harassment or what? my father replied that it was the truth. He loved her and wanted to marry her after the completion of his studies. He said there would be severe punishment for that action. He told him that if she experienced any harassment, then my father would leave college without any resistance. He called the girl, but she didn't come and give the statement against my father. However, at the end of that session, the principal advised him. He said never to engage in one-way love. First of all, achieve some status; then there will be a line of girls; select one and marry her. If you continued with one-way traffic, then you would be perished and achieve nothing in your life. My father promised him that in the future, no love affairs would take place in his life, and he religiously followed.

## Chapter 4: University

He got admission to the department of microbiology and waited for many months to join university classes. He was on a visit to Kandhra village Janwri with his friend Taj Muhammad Janwri when the university was to open. He informed his friend that he would travel and join the university on the very first day at any cost. In the morning, he stood on the road to get the vehicle, but no vehicle was available at that time. He saw a car coming towards him; he indicated it for a lift; the kind car driver stopped and inquired about his destination; he informed him that he was going to university. The car owner replied that he was also going to university. He took him and went to his house in Baberloi, where he changed clothes and hit the road again to university. The kind-hearted car owner dropped him at university. This way, my father reached the university and joined the class on the first day.

The classes of microbiology were fine and interesting for him. The teachers were also enthusiastic. However, in minor subjects, they went to botany. The teacher Abdul Razaq Mahar, in his inaugural speech, reminded them that they were leftover students with minimum talent because the talented ones were selected in medicine. All the students were new, so they kept mum at his provocative statement. My father stood up and disputed his assertions. He asked the teacher, who told him that they were useless underperformers. He told the teacher that it was the system

that got them here and dull but wealthy students there in medical colleges. He said that the teachers sold their souls and got grades to contracted students without merit. The merit was not what he was explaining, but it was ruined somewhere in the institutions. Moreover, he reprimanded him for being cautious while addressing students who were fresh in his class. He announced then and there on behalf of the whole class that they would not study botany and opt for human physiology. It was strange for everyone that on the first day, a student rebelled and took away the whole class. They demanded that the administration provide human physiology teachers. They were told that the university didn't have a department. However, they continued pressure, and finally, the teacher was imported from Sindh University. The teacher Mahesar was very good at teaching.

The new physiology teacher was excellent at explaining the concept but worst at comprehending student psychology. He started to flirt with the girls in the department. He took girls in his chamber and had long chats with them. My father was the undisputed leader of his class and, somehow, department, so he requested the teacher to avoid having meetings with girls. The teacher brushed aside his entreaties. One day he was informed that Hidayatullah Mahesar was having a special meeting with the girl at his chamber. The girl was smart and fashionable but very bad at studies, so she wanted good grades and teacher favor in return. When my father with his friends reached his chamber, it was locked; he knocked on the door; the teacher replied that he was busy. My father asked him

to open the door. The teacher warned him to desist from disturbing him, but he continued and compelled him to open the door. The girl was freed from the paws of the teacher cum vulture. They exchanged hot words with each other. The teacher threatened him that he would ensure his failure; my father challenged him to dare it. My father, along with his associates, went direct to the chairman Mian Zardari and explained the story. He was requested to replace the teacher as he was not acceptable to the students. The chairman promised to recommend his replacement to the registrar. However, the semester was around the corner, so it was conducted by Mahesar. He tried to evaluate my father but was compelled to award an "A" grade. However, he tried his luck in the practical examination. He tried to ask as many questions as possible from my father in the oral test of practice. But he replied to him correctly; still, he graded him a "B" in the practical examination. He was replaced by a new teacher Tariq Zubair. He was a very friendly and considerate teacher. However, he was not as competent as the previous professor.

My father used to study new books and research journals about diseases, causes, and remedies and tried to discuss them with his teachers. But later on, he found that teachers were not studying the latest articles on the subject. One day, Tariq Zubair was teaching cancer its causes and symptoms. My father felt that the professor was teaching old theories and there were new studies. He raised his hand and inquired from the teacher if allowed he might add something new on the subject. The teacher happily allowed him to address

the class and sat in his chair. My father completed the class time and lectured for about thirty minutes. It was appreciated by both students and the teacher himself. But immediately after class, Tariq Zubair went to the chairman and complained about the behavior of my father. The chairman called him and reprimanded why he was insulting the teachers. Initially, he didn't grasp the situation and asked the chairman to explain. The chairman told him that Tariq Zubair wept and regretted his attitude of taking over class and insulting teachers. He was informed that it was the teacher himself who allowed and appreciated it. The chairman advised him to avoid adding or sharing his knowledge with teachers. The teachers were narrow-minded and could harm him in marking, the chairman advised.

He was correct because it happened with other teachers also, who were publicly appreciative. A lecturer Nisar Ahmed Kanhar awarded an "A" grade to my father in industrial microbiology but 76 marks; my father was sure of 96 marks; he went to the teacher and tried to explain, but the teacher didn't listen. He challenged the result in the committee as per university law. The meeting of the committee was fixed, and he was asked to appear and prove his claim. He was shown an objective-type paper where almost half MCQs were crossed. He opened the latest books on microbiology and showed them that his replies were correct. He proved almost 17 correct. He was assured that the lecturer would revise the result, and his new mark would be 93. He was satisfied that the lecturer might have misunderstood, so it was removed, and

now marks would be corrected. But after six months, he was shocked to see the same result; the teacher hadn't rectified the results. He approached the chairman and informed him of the anomaly; the chairman told him to avoid challenging teachers or losing his position. He also informedmy fatherthat it was too late to correct it now.

Dr. Mian himself was teaching mycology to the class. He was asked many questions by my father. He made it a point that he got confirmation from my father after each lecture and evaded possible questions. Irshad Soomro was one of the teachers who supported my father in his studies. He discussed the latest discoveries and inventions after class time and almost daily meets in the evening. He and Saleem Rahepoto used to have company in the evening and had tea together at Panjgola or Highway. My father joined Ajrak magazine and published teacher's articles in it. He was so fond of my father that he asked him to come directly to his house whenever returning from Karachi. It was invariably done, and after having breakfast at the teacher's house, they would leave for university. He printed many articles about the teacher in Ajrak. However, when my father left university and joined Upjohn, the teacher, Irshad, and Saleem Rahepoto, pretended as if they never knew him. He tried to meet them at the university whenever they visited, but they turned their eyes to the other side. One day even Sir Irshad insulted my father by asking him to vacate the chair for Rahepoto. However, the embarrassment was saved by another teacher, sir Agha Asad, who had a dispute with my father during the goodwill tour.

My father initially lived with Hafiz Shamsuddin Sarohi, who was a prayer caller at the university Masjid and the maternal uncle of my father. However, after the vice chancellor's wrath fell on my father due to protocol, he was asked to get it vacated. My father has already joined the Jeavy Sindh Mir Alam Mari group, so he got a seat in the Hami hostel. But he gave it to someone more deserving knowing that he was having a comfortable stay at Masjid. He was praying and eating well with uncle Shams. But he was forced to leave. He not only lost shelter but good food because, in a mess, he was not able to pay bills. He used to eat just once a day at lunchtime and remained hungry for the rest of the day. The vice chancellor also canceled his local scholarship. He was deprived of two sources of survival in the university. However, he continued with steadfastness. The vice chancellor was a corrupt person, so students launched agitation and press moments against him. The man behind writing the pamphlets was my father. The intelligence of VC informed him that most of the leaders were illiterate, so stories were composed by Sirohey. He called him and offered incentives. He told him that he was a brilliant student, so he must study at a world-class university. If he agrees, the university might send him to Edinburgh University, UK. He would be provided with a full scholarship. If he didn't want to go to the UK, then a full scholarship to Quaid E Azam University would be offered. The last was continuing at the Shah Latif University with a monthly income to sustain comfortable life, including some funds to support my family back home and as-

sured job after MSC. My father turned down his offer by saying that each person was not for sale. The VC threatened him with dire consequences. Before that incident, the vice chancellor hosted Iftaar for students on the university's lawns. My father tried to stay away from him. But he found him and directed his staff to bring some items for him and also rooh afza. He was trying to mitigate the wounds he inflicted upon my father due to the cancellation of the local scholarship and the vacation of Hujra. But my father refused to be enticed by the charmer. He was hounded by students, and finally, the government terminated his contract.

The new vice chancellor Abdul Hameed Memon tried to rectify the problems of students at the outset. However, with each passing day, it was revealed that he was also of the same genre. The students held a lot of meetings with him to address the problems of classes, teachers, laboratories, and hostel matters, but he evaded practical solutions. In one of the meetings, he started talking in English; he thought the leaders were incompetent, so he would be puzzled and could be easily exploited. However, to his bad luck, my father was a member of the delegation, and he was asked to face him. My father argued with him and told him to solve the genuine problems or face the agitation like the previous vice-chancellor. The meeting was postponed by him on the commitment that matters would be solved sooner. The vice chancellor, after a meeting, held a consultation with his advisors and conveyed the message to my father about reconciliation. My father thought it was for the betterment of depart-

ments, so he went to him and met one on one. The VC was very shrew and started praising him, his talent for writing, reading research papers, and helping teachers in research matters, etc. he then discussed the ills of poverty and its impact on persons growth, progress, and education. He then asked my father about his objective in life. My father told him that he wanted to be a useful and productive citizen of the country. The VC caught it and offered a scholarship to him for further restudies in England and monthly pocket money. He emphasized that he would be an asset to the country; it would be a greater contribution than wasting his time with lousy people. My father informed him that a similar offer was given by the former vice-chancellor. The VC told him to be practical and wise and grab the opportunity. He further informedmy fatherthat none would wait for anyone when given the opportunity. But my father stood up and refused to consider his offer. He said that his friends had trusted him, and he would not betray them at any cost. The VC doled out funds to dummy NGOs for organizing social programs where he would be chairing the sessions. He managed programs for his self-projection from university funds. It is pertinent to note that all the VCs appointed in the universities of Sindh were on very good terms with ISI and the army. They were allegedly appointed on their recommendations to ruin the young generation of the Sindhi nation. It was believed by students that VCs were appointed on two merits; firstly, his record of corruption, and secondly, he must be anti-education. The assumption proved true in the case of Shah Abdul

Latif University because my father had seen four vice chancellors during his two tenures at the university. Almost all were corrupt and anti-education but invariably supported by the army and law enforcement agencies. My father helped the administration to bring discipline and order to be restored. However, his bursary and local scholarship was again canceled by the new vice-chancellor.

In 1991, the vice-chancellor asked the army to conduct an operation against students who stored arms at hostels. The army swooped into action in the wee hours and broke doors to enter the rooms. My father was in room 11 of Hami hostel when they knocked, and he said that he was opening the door, but they forced their entry. They asked him to open the cupboards by pointing a gun at him. He told them that they were law-abiding students, so they must be respected. The army officer used derogatory language and ordered them to open the cupboard. He told him that he could open his own, as the keys for others were with them; they were on leave. They broke the cupboard locks and found an abundance of books in my father's room. The major asked," who read those books" my father replied books belonged to him. The major apologized to him and directed his soldiers to help in putting the books in their place.

The students protested against the raid. The VC called in the army and got protesters arrested. Dozens of students were arrested and put behind the bar at the local police station. In the evening, they went to meet them there; they were all in high spirits but hard-pressed due to overcrowding. They pressurized the VC to get

them released or else face continuous agitation. The VC wanted to disrupt the classes, which were not being done due to commitment by all parties. The VC provoked students to distract them from his corruption. However, student leaders held a secret meeting at some point in the city and decided to accelerate the pressure on his removal or accountability. The Vice-chancellor was troubled that his tricks were not working. He requested army officers that the man behind all agitation and disruption was Ahmed Ali Sirohey: if he was arrested, things would be calmed down. The army demanded a written complaint based on proof; that he failed to submit, so my father was spared imminent arrest.

In 1991, students tried to loot the buses and trucks passing by the hostel. They set fire to the tanker on the resistance of the driver. The driver was burned alive in that unfortunate incident. The people's students federation students involved in the incident ran away. But finally, VC bargained with them and got them off the hook. In the same year, probably in November, the students at the hostel decided to do dacoity and get some quick bucks. They brought pistols and revolvers for the purpose and invited my father to participate in that adventure. My father not only refused to be part of banditry but warned them of imminent complaints from him. He reminded them that they were students and the future of the nation; if they became thugs, who else would salvage the country? They lamented his action and abandoned the move.

In microbiology, strange things happen. One day my father, along with his friends, went to Sukkur and en-

joyed the Indus bank and round of bazaar and bought certain items. The next day, he was called by the chairman and asked if that have seen the person who was sitting in the room; he said probably yes; he inquired that he was the chairman of the statistics department and asked why he failed to salute him. My father replied that it was not mandatory. He was not known to him, that's why he didn't salute him. Abdul Ghani Memon complained against my father.

Merry-making in those troubling times was the norm of the day. One day girls in the class took hold of my father and asked him to have tea with them. He tried to wriggle out, but they almost caught him. He went with them, and they complained that he was not having any chat with them. He replied to them that whenever they arranged a group, he always lectured and helped them. But for individual and extended discussions, he didn't have time. A girl in his class inquired from him whether he had any love affair; he replied to her that he couldn't afford love. It became a hot sentence in the university "I can't afford love." In fact, he wanted to tell her that it was a waste of time and he was too busy studying, so he had no spare time to engage in it.

It was my father's habit that he would slip from class once the lecture would be over. He would be sitting in the library and studying books on the subjects, including preparing for CSS. He had befriended the librarian and would sit in the teachers' cabin, and staff would lock him in. the librarian issued him 63 books at one time, so he heavy reading on various subjects. The girls would search for him but never found him

till he left university. One of his class fellows was considered to have affection for him. He was invited by her family to lunch. He was interviewed about his future plans. He was also asked about his preparation for CSS. He briefed them that he was the eldest son in the family. His father was a laborer, and his mother was a housewife; his sisters and brothers needed his attention and support to live a respectful life. The family indirectly advised him that he must think about his future. Moreover, the parents could be supported after getting a job and keeping them in the village. My father replied to them plainly that he was not in need of any support for CSS and would think about marriage after the completion of studies and qualifying for CSS or getting any job. They tried to dissuade his apprehensions, but he left with no concrete commitment, rather advising that if they found a good match, then she might consider it.

In March 1991, Tanzeem decided to celebrate the day of the martyrs of 4th march 1967.

Thousands of Sindhi student activists outraged against the Unitary Provincial setup, i.e., one unit, imposed by the Martial law regime, challenged the dictatorship of Field Marshal Ayoub Khan and launched a struggle against the One unit in 1967. On the 4th of March 1967, a massive procession taken out by the students marched from the University of Sindh, Jamshoro campus to Hyderabad. While the procession was on its way to Hyderabad from Jamshoro, the police, under the instructions of the Martial law administration, unleashed brutal force against the protesters, leaving 17 of them injured and 200 arrested at the

place of the incident. This incident proved to be the day of the emergence of Sindhi nationalist politics and led to the foundation of JSSF. Various factions of JSSF mark this day as the "day of the student struggle of Sindh" across Sindh.

The party decided to construct a tower in memory of the heroic struggle of students. My father went from Shah Abdul Latif to participate in it. The party met at the international hostel hall and discussed matters of immediate concern to Sindhi students and institutions. My father spoke against deifying G.M Syed. He informed the meeting that the primary issue of Sindhi students was the opening of colleges and universities and the provision of quality education. The agitation would damage the future of students. Moreover, knowledge was power, and without it, no country could survive respectfully. He was booed, and even one or two persons, including Attallaullah Memon, came to blows with him on the issue of G.M Syed. That was the end of his serious attachment to the party. The next day they took a procession, and police used baton charges and tear gas to disperse students. They were cashed to arrest.

My father and his associates also fled the scene and were saved by police. He returned visibly shattered because of insincere and superficial leadership.

The party decided to arrange a shield-giving ceremony at the university. It was one of the most attended events of any party. The office bearer in the new party was almost all position holders, so girls in large numbers participated and accepted shield from the party. The master of the ceremony of the function

was my father. He was given a green and blue striped shirt by Sultan Mahar for the program. It was for the first time he had worn a paint shirt in his entire life. The comparison in the program was appreciated by all participants, and after those, almost all departmental programs he was invited. In 1992, my father was sitting at the central canteen when one new face came asking for the English department. He was invited for tea by my father and briefed on the subjects of English literature. The student was Ghulam Mustafa Mashori, who later on became a lecturer in the department and taught my father. In 1992, my father was preparing for the final semester of BSC honors but facing tremendous problems due to the insolvency of the family. Grandpa was not able to procure even flour for his family and fund his education. He was going hungry for days without proper food. Wherever he went in search of support, they neither offered food nor money. He prayed to Allah for the solution, and the next day, he was virtually called for the job.

In 1988-89 it was a peak law and order problem in our area, so our villagers applied for an arms license. They were asked to get a police report; they applied, and the police asked for a bribe. My father persisted that no money would be paid. However, others wanted to pay and get it done. They paid money, but my father refused to pay for his license. When they returned back to collect the report, the police officers demanded more money, or the case would be referred to police post-Baharo. My father went to SHO, who used filthy, abusive language. He went to DSP Birohi; he was a thoroughly corrupt man who threat-

ened to put my father behind the bar. My father told his fellow villagers that they had to lodge a complaint against them with SSP. They refused to accept the proposal because of reprisals from the police. My father told them that he would be pursuing it. They said that you would be at your own risk. He went to SSP the next day, who called him in; to my father's surprise, his university registrar Nia Shaikh was sitting with him. Shaikh told him that my father was a student at the university. He listened to my father and then called the DSP, shamed him, and used abusive language against him; he ordered him to suspend the head clerk and two junior clerks of Gambat and apologize to the boy, issue a police report, and return the money to him. My father went back by the Government bus, and it was a very slow service. He reached Khuhra town at about 5 pm and decided to go to the village instead of going to Gambat. The next morning he went by the early morning bus. He thought DSP would come late, so he should take some tea. His peon saw him and told my father that his boss waited for him till late in the evening last night. When he reached the DSP, he was very sweet and asked my father why did he bother the SSP; he should have come to him; my father told him that it was done but was threatened with dire consequences. He apologized and asked about the solution. My father said that SSP had already ordered. He requested to pardon the police officials and get the report and money back. My father refused. But then they brought relatives to intervene. My father saw them and told them not to approach because they would not

be listened to. Then they brought a man, not a closer relative, but he helped my father with examination fees. My father told him to come so that his favor was returned.

In University, he remained affiliated with the Sindh Sagar students' federation and arranged a huge function at the superior science college Khairpur. It was a big boost for a small organization. During that program, they collected donations from many people. However, at the end of the function, comrades in the party who were ineffective and participated in lip service started questioning his honesty. They hurled accusations at him that he got more funds than projected and eaten up some of it. They were not even aware of how he collected those funds when he was hungry. They were talking about liberating the masses of hunger but were not concerned about the hunger of their own worker. He gave them all the accounts and explained that during that very period, he remained hungry many times. It was very hard to walk on foot and go door to door without eating in time. When they were satisfied that nothing was taken from the funds, he resigned from the party. Later on, he joined Jeavy Sindh Mir Alam's group. The reason for joining that small organization was his friend Sultan Mahar who was president at the university and a supporter of my father. He insisted that my father join him. My father was reluctant because he was not satisfied with the action of the political boys. However, his form was filled in by his friend Sultan, and he became a rather forced member of the organization. But one thing he liked about the organization was better education, a

stronger nation, slogan given by the party. Moreover, the idea of not boycotting classes was another attractive slogan for my father.

When my father was establishing a company in Larkana, he sent my grandpa to sell their land in the village. He went there, and Tapedar/ patwari charged him Rs. 8000 against the title certificate. When grandpa returned and informed my father of the incident, he approached the officer and asked him to return the money. He promised but later on evaded. He informed my father that money was distributed to the commissioner, so he couldn't pay it. My father called the Assistant commissioner, and he instructed the official to pay. But he refused and told my father that Saeed Mangnejo himself was part of the commission system; how could he order him to return? My father published the news in his newspaper, the Crusader, and sent a copy to Deputy Commissioner, commissioner, and assistant commissioner. The official was compelled to return the money and get a pardon from my father.

In 1992, it was the end of the semester, and exams were just a few days away; my father was so distressed that he went to Masjid, prayed salat al hajat and prayed to Allah to help in getting a job because starvation of the family was unbearable. The next day a friend came to him and asked would you join Upjohn Pharmaceuticals. He replied in the affirmative. He took him for an interview, and after three detailed interviews, my father was selected. The company asked him to join the next day; he requested to allow a few days for exams. But they didn't allow it, and he

gave up his honors degree. He got B.sc pass and worked for Upjohn.

Power of English

English with a doctor in Karachi- He was teaching in Karachi and doing a job n the newspapers; one day, he fell sick and went for treatment to a neighborhood doctor. There was a huge queue of patients, and he was feeling a high fever. He went to the dispenser and told him in English about his woes. The dispenser went to the doctor and told him that one Englishman in local dress wanted medicine. He directed him to bring him. Doctors were briefed about his illness. The doctor hurriedly examined him and prescribed medicines. He gave him medicines without fees. It was the power of English that he preferred him over dozens of waiting patients.

English with controller Larkana board of intermediate and secondary education- He went to meet and inquire about the wholesale of grades by the board in 1997. The controller was so confused that he was unable to speak. He wriggled out by sending him to the deputy controller's secret section and ran away. The deputy controller not only felt under immense pressure but offered to change the results of his relatives. My father asked him to upgrade his brother from a grade C to an A grade. He did it without question that, proved their corruption in the selling of grades.

Sukkur board- my father wanted to appear in the CSS examination. The FPSC required submitting a copy of the matriculation Pacca certificate with the form. There were just three days to submit the form. He went to the board and asked them to issue an urgent certificate. He paid urgent fees, but they asked him if it would be is-

sued after one week. He went to the chairman Ali Shah who was meeting some publishers from Karachi. He started asking my father the reason for the visit. He explained in English that he had applied for a certificate and paid urgent fees. However, his people are asking him if it would be issued after seven days, whereas he needed the same day to submit the CSS form. The chairman called the assistant controller and directed him to prepare his certificate immediately. He requested my father to go with him and get it done. The assistant controller wrote it in his own handwriting and got it signed by the chairman. My father was given the certificate at fast track, whereas others speaking in the local language were brushed aside and expelled from the offices.

DC Khairpur Secretary Education Sindh- my father applied for a domicile certificate a third time because he lost two times during shifting from Sukkur, Larkana, and Karachi. He applied for it, and six months passed. He went to meet the Dc Khairpur when FPSC directed him to submit it before the interview. He was already declared successful in the written examination. He visited the Dc office and wanted to meet him, but the gatekeeper stopped him. My father pushed his side and entered the office. The dc was having a chat with a landlord cum MPA. He yelled at him and asked why he entered without permission. My father told him that he should mind his language because he was a public servant and he himself public; so his duty was to serve him. He started admonishing him on his attitude. He was cowed by the power of English, and he immediately offered him a chair. He inquired about the purpose of his visit. My father told him that he applied for a trip-

licate domicile certificate, but in the last six months not been issued. He called the concerned clerk and reprimanded him for the inordinate delay in the issuance of the domicile. The clerk explained that he was issued once, and he lost it, and the second time, he issued and lost; he was here to get it the third time. The dc asked why he lost twice. My father told him that it was none of his business to question; there was a fine/ penalty, and it was paid. He again scolded the clerk and directed him to issue He directed him to bring it and get it signed. He went and brought it; DC signed it and issued it to my father. In the meantime, a lecturer, Abdul Waheed, entered his office. He asked him what the problem was. He requested signatures on his commission form. He rudely asked him to wait in line and come after some time. My father intervened and told Dc that he was a teacher and a nation builder; you must respect him. The DC immediately changed the tone and signed his forms.

Secretary Education Sindh- my father went to the Sindh education head. He visited his office to get teachers for his school. But there was no one at the gate, so he entered. The secretary looked at him and asked about the purpose. He replied in Sindhi, and the secretary called him names and termed him uncouth. My father changed his language and spoke English. He asked him if he should speak with the public politely, being a public servant. He was so confused that he not only offered a chair but approved three teachers instead of the two requested.

# Part III: After University

## Chapter 1: Marriage

When my father got a job in Upjohn, his parents wanted to get him married at the earliest. There was one proposal from a relative; they wanted to give their daughter. But the proposal couldn't materialize because of the family's poverty. My father's family approached my mother's family for her hand, and my maternal grandpa allowed it as he believed that my father would take care of my mother. My mother supported my father like an ideal wife and endured all the hardships with him when he had yet to achieve stability and lived in poverty. She endured hardships from the family side, took care of the children, and managed the household. At times she supported my father financially when he earned less because of taking a break from studying. She would sell homemade ice cream and food items. She would also make clothes and handmade items for sale to support the family. Over the course of time, she would sacrifice luxury, even in stable times to save money and invest in the business for the sake of the family. Through thick skin, she stuck with my father and helped him build the family to the current point when any normal person might have stepped away because of the hardship that came into being because of my father's powerful personality that bowed to none.

My father married my mother on 15th December 1992, but due to job compulsions, he couldn't arrange the wedding dinner. It was arranged in February, the

closest 60 people were invited, and 65 people attended the valima; because five friends whom he missed came to attend without an invitation. Here also, two important things happened; one, he advanced some amount to a relative; when he needed for marriage arrangements, the person gave an interesting reply," always plan events on the basis of your own money; the money which is not in your pocket, it is not yours," so he refused to pay the loan. Another that he gave cards to the dearest friend Parvez Pathan for friends in Khairpur; neither he distributed nor attended himself. When my father asked him about it, he said that he was not sure of the ceremony, so he kept cards at home. Parvez Pathan was the same person who always took my father to his house and offered hot food when he needed the most. His mother considered my father as her son. He accompanied my father during university times, so my father always respected him. However, during that crucial function, he failed to perform as a trusted friend.

Later on, when my father returned from Larkana, he gave some money to his brother-in-law Aijaz and some medicines from his company to sell and establish a mini-mart to earn something for his family and our family. He very kindly ate up all the money. There was also the case of a villager who was notorious for his mischief (named small Dajjal) who fabricated a case against my father. He went for the Eid holidays, and the next day off, Eid, the police caught my father. He remained in the lock-up for one night. The next day he sent chit to the press club Gambat

and told his ordeal. When the police post in charge, Saifullah Phulpoto, took him to Gambat for challan, reporters were already there in the office of SHO. They told him about my father; he denied his presence, but in a few minutes, my father was there. He called my father and the assistant sub-inspector. He reprimanded the ASI and released my father. These were all tactics and tricks by the enemies to keep my father away from the CSS examination. They were sure that if he appeared that he would be successful. When my father finally qualified for the CSS examination, a friend Dr. Aslam Mari who qualified in 26th CTP, and my father in 27th, was posted in our village. He told our relatives about my father's success; one of them said that now we have to migrate because he would be very hard-hitting. He was told by another how he could qualify. My father was not congratulated by anyone except one person Yar Muhammad Sarohi. Later on, after the second attempt few others also joined Yar Muhammad in congratulations. However, during the same time, a dacoit Sobu (the pig), was released from jail; the community arranged a welcome in a befitting manner and garlanded him. It was the level of our society where an intelligent and hardworking person was not recognized, but a dacoit was respected. It happened many times when my father went to some relative's Ottaq/ house, he was welcomed with a cold shoulder, but an assistant sub-inspector came they welcomed him at the main gate.

My father remembers an incident; where he was sitting at the Ottaq of Wadera Ali Bakhsh Sarohi;

Naeem Kharal came; everyone went to receive him at the gate; my father stayed in place; when he came near, and my father shook hands with him. When he left, all went with him except my father; he returned back and shook hands with my father and inquired if he was not living there. The host clarified that he was living in Larkana, so he didn't know. But my father informed him that he knew him very well. After CSS, he was sitting with a relative, Mushtaq Sarohi, at his Ottaq; an assistant sub-inspector police came; they received him at the gate and inquired what he wanted to eat. When he came to know that my father was CSS qualified person, he asked them to ask sir; they still insisted that he should tell them.

My father worked at Upjohn for three years and got three promotions and incentives for his higher-than-target achievements.

He joined two local companies successively in less than one year, from June 1995 to February 2006. One Venture Pharma hired him on a better package to sell their antibiotics in competition with the multinational companies. My father started his job and gave a tough time to the former company to the point that its drug Dalacin C injection, was rolled back from hospitals. Venture Pharma's main medicine was Hanpizone, a third-generation cephalosporin. My father sold all their stock and demanded more stock from Karachi. When he broke the record, the Regional manager who failed to sell in Karachi accused him of infiltration. The company sent him to visit my father's area and get a sense of their work. He went back and reported

that there was no market in the Sukkur region for hanpizone, but medicines were sold in the Karachi region. My father was called to headquarters and asked to explain. He told them to compare the last six months' sales in Karachi and Sukkur region. When the statement was seen after reluctance, it proved that they were selling just 32 injections monthly on average. However, after my father's joining, their sales increased to 90 on average. But the man had a very good influence on higher management, so they made him a zonal manager and made him mad under him, so my father was forced to leave.

The next company was Akhai Pharma; they appointed my father as manager, but it also didn't behave like a company. Their behavior was like shopkeeper Seth, not a corporate-style company working on principles. He was given just one product to be launched; the medicine was very costly; it was an antacid; he tried his best, but in one-month breakthrough was not achieved. However, the owner was not satisfied, so he asked him to improve or resign, so he resigned from the company. Next, he opened his own company with the name of Pakistan pharmaceuticals limited, but the bank refused to finance him. It dawned on him that project finance was only available in Karachi, Hyderabad, and Sukkur, not in other cities of Sindh. Moreover, due to the dominance of Urdu and Punjabi -speaking people in the banking industry, the loan was only advanced to their communities; the Sindhi were discouraged in trade and business.

He did an MA in journalism in 1996 and established the weekly English newspaper, the Crusader. - He published the Crusader; it was a weekly newspaper from Larkana. He wrote against corruption and unearthed scandals by digging deep into the stories. He went after the properties and got true copies from revenue and registration authorities. When he published those stories, he got offers and threats, but it didn't deter him from printing stories. However, the newspaper was not getting any advertisements due to writing the truth. He didn't publish appreciative stories of politicians or officers, so no advert. It made the newspaper unsustainable, and it had eaten away from his savings and compelled him to stop publishing. It was important to note that people used to wait for the Crusader

# Chapter 2: Politics

## 2.1.Joining Pakistan Tehreek E Insaf (PTI)

Imran khan established a new political party on 26th April 1996 in Lahore. My father joined the party in May and was given the task of running a membership campaign in Larkana city. He, with his friends, especially Karim Bakhsh Gaad, worked relentlessly to enlist people for a new party. They joined in the hope that Imran was being supported by the multibillionaire wife so he would at least support them in the establishment of the office. Moreover, they expected that the party would break the back of traditional parties and reward hard-working and honest workers on merit. If the party came into power, then it would dispense justice, and discrimination on the basis of caste and creed would be finished. The following assertions attracted him to join the party.

The creation of Pakistan was a result of the relentless struggle of Muslims in India under the inspiring leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah to establish a homeland where people of all religious persuasions could freely practice their beliefs and ideals and where the rights of minorities were expressly guaranteed and determined;

1.Pakistan was envisaged as a country and society wherein people shall live in harmony and peace - free from discrimination, exploitation, corruption and prejudices of any kind - under a democratic system ensuring justice, equality and prosperity for all citizens;

Joining Pakistan Tehreek E Insaf 2.The concentration of power at the center and frequent and long military takeovers have negated the spirit of federalism, causing a sense of deprivation among the federating units, which resulted in narrow parochialism, ethnicity and division among the people that tragically led to the separation of East Pakistan and continues to threaten the integrity and solidarity of Pakistan;

3.Pakistan fell into the hands of a ruling elite consisting of inept, corrupt and selfish politicians, feudal, civil and military bureaucrats, and a host of vested interests that have plundered Pakistan and have brought it to the brink of disaster;

4. A colonial system of government and the feudal stranglehold on society has afflicted a dependency syndrome, which has created a chronic debt-dependent economy that thwarts initiative and self-reliance;

5.Justice and the rule of law have disappeared from all walks of life, due to which the state institutions have lost credibility;

6.The common citizen is deprived of access to basic necessities of life such as food, education, employment, health care, clothing, housing and transportation and has been made a victim of violence in society, breakdown of law and order, institutionalized corruption, the tyranny of police and other government departments;

7. The liberation of Jammu and Kashmir remains an unrealized goal of the Pakistan Movement and;

8. Pakistan stands at the threshold of an economic disaster, the breakdown of institutions, the collapse of

governance, social disorder, desperation and disillusionment.

Imran promised that hold of a few families on the polity of Pakistan would be broken. He had established a political party to mobilize people to lift Pakistan from its state of despair and to set it on the path of unity, solidarity, social justice and prosperity. It was to make Pakistan a truly modern democratic, egalitarian, tolerant Islamic welfare state (Ryasat-e-Madina), where every citizen was equal in the eyes of the law with guaranteed full fundamental rights, regardless of gender, caste, creed and religion; or any economic, physical and social condition; so as to enjoy equal opportunity, peace, harmony and happiness. The slogans were so tempting that youth in the city of Bhutto joined his party. My father and his friends enrolled approximately 500 persons within six months.

It was the PPP regime under Benazir Bhutto, but people were disgruntled due to corruption. It is pertinent to note that my father was offered the post of mukhtiarkar on a bribe of Rs. 400,000/. It was said to him that the price was discounted because he was a party supporter. He turned down the offer telling them that he sends curses on bribe takers and could attempt CSS and achieve the grade 17 post of assistant commissioner. He traveled to Karachi and met Dr. Arif Alvi and other office bearers at the Shaheen Complex office in Karachi and discussed issues of accelerated membership and election to the district-level offices. They assured that once membership was completed, elections would be held. But things took a turn in a negative direction when central leadership started imposing

leaders from there by nomination without seeking comments from local leadership. My father and his friends took notice of it and complained about the appointment of former PPP leaders and bureaucrats enjoying notoriety. They traveled to Lahore in October 1996 and covered an opposition rally against the Benazir Bhutto government led by Nawaz Sharif. The rally was supposed to begin from Anarkali at 3 pm; however, only a few persons gathered at that time. It was pushed to 5 pm, and again few hundred workers, so began at 7 pm, and approximately 50,000 people attended the rally, joined by several dozen parties. The newspapers the next day ran a banner line that a sea of people emerged at mall road Lahore. However, few meek voices were reported correctly. At that time, PPP was under immense pressure due to the killing of Murtaza Bhutto on 21st September in Karachi mysteriously. It was blamed on the spouse of Benazir Bhutto, but some figures in PPP blamed the intelligence agency.

my father and his friend Karim Bakhsh Gaad went to meet Imran Khan at the Scotch corner PTI office. They held a detailed discussion about the appointment of corrupt and incompetent people. They informed the PTI chairman of their resentment and suggested sacking them, stopping inducting corrupt people and keeping the party decisions democratic and transparent. Imran Khan asked them who they were referring to; he hadn't appointed any corrupt person; unfortunately, at that time, PTI joint secretary was sitting with him; he served as DIG Sukkur and was known for his sweeping corruption. He indicated towards him. The chair-

man told him to be cautious when telling people to face. He said that he was now retired and committed to justice. My father was not satisfied. He demanded that the Mangi family in Sukkur, Abbasi in Larkana, Unars, and DIG retired might be removed. The Khan explained the need for the party at that time to accept stable people to bring strength to the party. My father replied that if, in the beginning, the party was compromising on the reputation and character of its members, then what would happen if flood gates of people opened? They left his office by quitting the party on the pretext that it would be the same party as the statuesque parties of the country. Imran Khan tried to convince them to reconsider their decisions, but they left his office and party.

Besides it, he established Pakistan pharmaceutical limited. However, due to financial problems company failed to establish itself. It is pertinent to note that he was refused project financing by the banks. He came to know that project financing was not available in any other city of Sindh except Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur, where refugees were in the majority. Entrepreneurship among Sindhi youth was systematically discouraged. Habib Bank initially asked him to register a company, start initial work and bring the concept paper of the company with feasibility. Then, they would advance the loan. However, when he completed all his formalities, they declined for flimsy reasons.

Then in 1997, he decided to appear for the CSS exam. In 1998 he got admission to MA English evening classes and prepared for CSS. In 1998, when he applied for admission to MA English, it was refused on

the pretext that he was an old graduate. He wrote representation to the vice-chancellor. He called him to plead the case. The VC told him that admission was given to fresh graduates, and he graduated in 1991, so his application couldn't be entertained. Did my father ask the VC how much was the literacy of the UK? The VC replied almost 100%; my father retorted that if he wished, he could be admitted there in masters. He further illustrated his point that the countries that opened doors for learning without age were leading, and countries that closed doors for bonafide students were considered backward. The VC was impressed with his logic and arguments and wrote on his application, "admit him as an anomalous case." On the first day of his joining the class, it was already 45 days late. The chairman department of English, Farzand Ali Shah, introduced him to the students. The students who were considering him as late comer was bemused by that special treatment of a new student.

The students were mostly from Sindhi medium backgrounds and wanted to learn English for a better job. But they found out that it was not the English language but literature. The literary language was very difficult, and the teachers were inconsiderate. Initially, students made fun of my father because of his late entry and coming pressure. However, it proved to be wrong. In the first week of studies, it was observed that he stayed away from either asking questions or replying to questions. But the chairman brought him in one day and asked him to explain the character of hamlet. He explained it, but the teacher rejected it. He stood by his interpretation. The chairman hushed him up, but he

insisted that he was right. Things went from friendly to unfriendly with the chairman. Another teacher came and lectured from his prepared notes without breaking like a newscaster. He was very boring. However, Mashori was a good teacher and encouraging to students. When my father replied to his questions and explained the comprehension according to his own views, he always appreciated it. The situation aggravated, and Farzand Ali Shah got him removed from the post of class representative, which was earlier imposed upon him by the students. He directed him to stop coaching MA students at his center. He informedmy fatherthat he was earning a livelihood and couldn't stop. However, he told many students to leave or face retribution. A few students left his center. It created enmity between two former friends.

During overtures to run the company, he lost all savings, so when he came back from Larkana to Khairpur and started a language and literature academy to earn for the family. It was important to note that he married in 1992, so by 1998, he had two sons and the responsibility of mother, brother and sister. My grandpa died in 1997 in Larkana. These were, again, very difficult times, but he faced them with the blessings of Allah and appeared in CSS and qualified. He taught class fellows of MA English at the center, so he got this distinction. However, this made the departmental head jealous and he ordered him to expel students of MA from the center. My father told him that it was his source of income, but he didn't listen. When my father qualified for CSS, he wrote a letter to FPSC against him telling them that he was a member of Jeavy Sindh,

which was against the country. It probably damaged my father's chances, and he got the lowest numbers in Viva voce. But it didn't prevent him from striving to get his chosen position in Foreign Service, so he appeared next year again. He got a good score and got Foreign Service in 2000 i.e. 1999 batch. The very same year qualified for MA English, but the chairman failed him in viva voce. It is important to note that he was a topper in written exams. The same chairman tried thrice to get him rusticated, but he defended himself before the committee and got him discredited, but it didn't stop the scheming. He gave up due to the pressure of class fellows after being allocated. During their studies, he represented the university at the Pakistani level in debating competitions. He also challenged the chairman to open duel in any subject he was comfortable with. It was for the first time by any student in history.

In 1983, my father struggled for democracy side by side with senior leaders. They were severely beaten by police and risked life when soldiers opened fire on unarmed protesters. But when parties came into power, those people were rewarded who never took part in the struggle. A junior of his my father, Nawab Wassan, who was not even a member of the Students Federation, got a ticket for the national assembly.

my father stayed at a rented house in Khairpur and opened the Stars academy of language and literature in the servant quarter of a bungalow owned by a relative. But later on, it was not possible to adjust all students there. He got a flat at the civic center for Academy. It was owned by Nawab Wassan. It was a very difficult

time. He used to teach in the morning; at 3 pm went to university to attend MA(English) classes. At 7 pm immediately returned to the center and took the last class; my father used to finish the center at 9 pm. After finishing classes, he prayed, did dinner and then started preparing for the next day's classes and MA classes and CSS as well; he slept at around 2 a.m. and awoke at 5 or 6 am. It means an average of 4 hours of sleep. However, the English coaching profession was seasonal, so during vacations, we were hand to mouth. It happened many times that we slept on empty stomachs. In June 1999, we were living in the upper story, and there was scorching heat, so mother informed my father that the child had skin boils. He said that In Sha Allah tomorrow, he would be bringing an air cooler. He prayed to Allah and sought help. The next day he was having tea with students of CSS class at a tea shop when a person came and offered him 5000 rupees which he owed.

During that time army started checking meters and cutting electricity in the center. My father went to major and explained to him that bill pertains to the previous time, so it may be restored, and the owner is asked to pay the previous bill. He allowed and directed Nawab Wassan to pay the bills. One evening when he was about to leave for viva voce in Karachi, a few persons entered the center and asked my father to go with them to Nawab Wassan. Did he ask why? They said that he had some work with him. My father replied if he had work, then he should come. He would not go there. They tried to force him, but my father told them he wouldn't go with them unless they wanted to carry

him there. They returned, and then he left for Karachi by Karachi express.

He appeared in the interview and later qualified for it. When he returned to Khairpur, he went to Nawab Wassan. He was very cynical and used derogatory language, and threatened my father to pay bills or face the music. My father told him that it was a previous bill, so he was not supposed to pay. Nawab told my father to pay half and the rest he would pay. My father tried to convince him that it was not his favorite. Then finally, Nawab used the threat of thrashing. My father challenged him to do it in his own house now because out of the house, it would be difficult for him. My father reminded him that he was not even a member of the group while he was one of the leaders of SPSF. He couldn't harm my father with the blessings of Almighty Allah. My father had to leave his flat and then started teaching as a partner teacher at another center; however, there were not many students, so their financial condition deteriorated.

Interestingly he was doing excellently well in university. However, disputes with the chairman and other teachers started sooner before semester one. My father asked the chairman to give some relief in the semester timetable, but the man did the opposite and made the exams very close to the CSS examinations. My father used to travel to Karachi and appear in the CSS exam and the next night returned to appear in semester papers. It is pertinent to note that he was attempting the first semester of English, whereas he took English optional in CSS. In the final result, he topped in English and topped English optional in CSS. But the chairman

awarded him a C grade on his paper which was just 10% of the CSS syllabus. My father challenged him, and the man recommended his rustication. My father defended himself, and the committee found fault with the chairman and asked him to revise the results. He agreed but didn't do it.

**2.2.Irritating teachers**

There were also various problems with the teachers, which led to conflicts and irritation. The primary reason was running classes regularly. The teachers were coming to the university but not teaching, so my father took the stand and wrote to the dean, saying he couldn't do anything. My father referred to the vice chancellor, but he was also helpless. My father wrote to the chancellor, and he ordered the VC to run classes six days a week. It was a tradition before it that teachers taught for three days only; after that order dean used to take weekly attendance on Saturdays, so teachers went against my father.

The chairman tried to rally all teachers against him and directed them to give lower marks; however, they were aware of his attitude, so they never dared to do so. But he himself and a few of his contract teachers tried to give my father a few numbers less than another class fellow. When he failed to cow my father down, he used a girl whom he called daughter; she was a senior student. She blamed her my father and another teacher for harassment. However, the police investigated and found it false. He dragged the teacher into court because of his fir assessment. Later on, the teacher married the girl whom he called his daughter. He tried two

more times to get my father rusticated but failed. He withstood all pressures with the blessings of Allah.

Most people were laughing at my father as they thought a person preparing for CSS must be doing it in complete seclusion. They said that it was an insult to CSS that he was doing all three works, facing financial problems and looking after his family. One day they were having tea at a restaurant when a candidate saw him and asked to join them. My father joined them, and he asked about papers. My father told him Alhamdulillah, good, and he started laughing uncontrolled with his fellows. He told my father that the result was being announced tomorrow, and you were not hiding; he would be failing and not able to show his face to anyone. My father replied my father trust in Allah, and the exam is a sport, some people would win, and others would lose' so no problem. My father never asked anyone about his assignment, but he told people about becoming SDM, So my father advised him to hide. It was by luck that he failed and went into hid ıg for three months.

The interesting story is about asking Allah the Foreign Service, and He granted it. When my father came out of viva voce, his fellow candidates asked about the interview; hè told them it went very well, and In Sha Allah, he would be getting Foreign Service. The reason behind it was a firm belief in Allah. Moreover, the last question by the chairman was, if you are the judge, whom do you consider the best service, police or foreign service, he replied foreign service. From this, my father deduced that Foreign Service would be allocated to him In Sha Allah.

# Part IV: Service

## Chapter 1: Joining Service

Before joining there, he joined the army public college Pano Akil for a few months. Even before joining college, then the family had very tough times. One night mother told my father that there wasn't anything available for breakfast. He told her to sleep because the one who feeds us now would arrange for us in the morning. At about 5 am, someone knocked at the door and handed over 500.

When he joined civil service, my father's salary was 3880/month. The expenses without rent were more than 6000, so he requested a friend to advance the loan. He used to extend 6000/month; the rent was waived off by the landlord Syed Nasrullah Shah Rashdi. Actually, he didn't tell my father of the waiver, and he thought he had deferred the payment. But after his posting to Iraq, he got some money and went to him; he returned it to him. May Allah reward him by giving him Hidaya.

# Chapter 2: Civil Service Academy

## 2.1.His experiences at Civil Service Academy

In the very first session, the DG CSA addressed and delivered the sermon on good governance and service to the nation. At the end of the sermon, the participants/ probationers were allowed to ask questions; my father asked a question-sir- if trainers are corrupt, then what would be the impact on trainees? People went silent, and the session prorogued. The directors were furious that he termed them corrupt. The DG said that he called him corrupt, not them. My father stood again and explained that it was just a question; none was referred to in particular. But they persisted that he referred the DG and faculty. After the session, the director program, who happened to be from the Foreign Service, took him to a hall where DG was already waiting. The DG asked him to identify the person to whom he referred in the question. There were photos of former DGs. My father said sir, and it was just a question. When pressed hard, he said that a former director of CSA, Rasheed Ahmed Shah, who was VC Sindh University, was booked by NAB. He said that he would check with his brother, who was the secretary establishment ( Javed Masood). The rest of the probationers avoided my father, thinking that his company may end their job. It was thought by fellow officers that he would be termin.. · d. They commented, "He ended his service before it started." He was a suicide bomber, another quipped. The next day

DG called him from class. When he entered his office, he said that no such person existed in civil service. My father explained to him that he was retired and appointed vice chancellor after retirement. He said that he would check again. The next morning his peon came to call again. He informedmy fatherthat, yes, he was part of the service and served in the CSA. However, he advised that the faculty had been hurt, so my father should apologize to them, including DG, in writing. He replied that he didn't do anything wrong, so why should he submit an apology to anyone? The DG advised that in the spirit of goodwill, at least tell them sorry. My father agreed and did accordingly. But the image of an accountability or anti-corruption man was built in the eyes of directing staff. They thought that DG was against him, so they took the liberty to punish him in their marking. One fine morning DG called him again and inquired whether there was enmity between them. My father replied no, and DG then asked why there was a story against him published in din daily Nawai WAQAT. My father told him that he had nothing to do with the story. DG didn't believe and asked my father to help him so that the next part was not published. My father told him that he would try, but DG insisted on stopping it. My father prayed to Allah for help in the situation, and fortunately, it was never published. It made DG believe that he was very influential in the press, so he always listened to him.

In March 2001, CSA allocated probationers various garrisons for compulsory military attachment. My fa-

ther, along with Girdhari Mal of Income tax, Birj Lal Dosani Information, Abdul Hameed accounts and Mushtaq Bhutto of police service, were assigned to the Multan garrison. They boarded the Daewoo bus and reached Multan in the evening. It was pertinent to note that Abdul Hameed taught at Bahauddin Zakaria University, and Mushtaq Bhutto studied there. His sister was married in Multan. However, upon arrival, they were told by garrison officials that they would be provided with accommodation the next day. My father asked the locals to arrange some residence. Both of them informed them that none knew them. My father took out his diary and found some numbers. He knew one colonel posted there. Colonel Imtiaz was in air defense. My father called him, and the good colonel asked about his location. He informed my father about his problem. He immediately invited them to stay at his unit mess. They went there, and everything was lined up by Colonel Imtiaz. In the morning, Bhutto asked the army soldier, "May my father request you to kindly get my shirt pressed" the soldier refused, citing a lot of work. My father heard it and called the soldier, ordering him to get his shirts pressed and ready breakfast on the table by 7:30 am. He obeyed and went.

In the morning, they were taken to garrison headquarters, and the brigadier concerned met the group. They were interviewed, and views were exchanged. At the meeting, Brigadier found Bhutto is not fit for police service. Bhutto requested one week's leave due to his family. He beseeched the brigadier; he was annoyed

and asked him; who appointed you? He said that he was writing to FPSC to cancel his allocation. Bhutto was terrified and started shivering. My father intervened and asked the Brigadier that it was not their responsibility to decide the allocation. The Brigadier divided the group among various units. My father was sent to 20FF. In the unit, colonel Inam Ul Haq welcomed my father warmly but asked him if he would have to obey army discipline. He asked the officer to issue him long boots. He was ordered to attend morning physical training. He was allocated a room in the main mess. In the morning, my father went to PT ground but found none of the officers of the unit. He stayed and participated in the training. He attended the office and inquired from officers why they were not at PT ground. They asked about his presence; he informed them about his attendance. They requested he not share with the commanding officer; on the 23rd of March, CO assigned my father to take a salute and raise the flag. It was an honor, and my father discharged his duties. One day CO asked my father if they would go for a flag march for ten kilometers. He was asked by CO whether he could walk or not; my father informed him that he could walk for twenty kilometers. The commanding officer was impressed with his reply.

The tea break had been the platform for heated discussion; at one such break, a captain asked a pinpointed question from my father, "Why are Sindhis disloyal to Pakistan?" my father was dumbfounded; he inquired from the captain was joking? Captain re-

plied no; he was serious, and his question was based on facts. Sindhis always supported India and Hindus against Pakistan. My father asked him about the history of Pakistan. He replied that he knew. He told him to inform which assembly passed a resolution in Pakistan. He replied Punjab. He was asked which province had a Muslim League government in 1946. The captain was blank. He was informed that it was the Sindh assembly and it was only Sindh where the Muslim league got government. In Punjab unionist party was in power, and it didn't want Pakistan. In KPK, Congress was in power till June 1947, and it was only Sindh that elected Muslim League. The captain said that it was because of Mohajreen that Sindh remained with Pakistan, the people who made Pakistan. My father replied to him that it was not Mohajreen who sacrificed but Sindhis who sacrificed before and after Pakistan. He was surprised before Pakistan claimed. My father explained that Muslims got a separate electorate system from the British viceroy in 1909 under the British Raj. In India's pre-independence era, when the Muslims in India demanded fair representation in power-sharing with the British government along with the Hindus in 1906, the British government provided for a separate electorate system for the Muslims in Indian Council Act 1909. The Muslims got weightage in Hindu-majority provinces and gave the same facility in Muslim-majority provinces. Sindh had an overwhelming Muslim majority, so weightage was given to Hindus in lieu of an advantage to Muslims in UP and CP. Post

partition Mohajreen got all those posts vacated by Hindus who were forced to leave Sindh by the refugee prime minister. But it was not the end of the story, as they got a 7% quota when their percentage was just 3%. The so-called makers of Pakistan expelled Sindhis from the port city and larger cities of economic importance. They got land, shops and houses on fake claims and got hold of the economy of Sindh. The capital of Sindh was forcibly seized, and alter the whole of Sindh was merged into West Pakistan. It meant greater Punjab province. However, Sindhis, who made Pakistan, never rose against Pakistan. The Punjabi-dominated army always served the British and never worked for the creation of Pakistan. The captain was given peace of mind. But it showed the mentality of people in the army. The propaganda against Sindhis that they didn't want to join the army was fabricated. It was the perception created by the British after the repeated rebellion by Sindhi officers in the navy and army. The freedom movements by HURs of Pagara compelled the British government to outright ban the Sindhi unit and enhanced propaganda against Sindhis.

The overall result of the common training program was not encouraging as faculty assessment on the basis of hostility towards the director general; the interesting thing is DG's own assessment; he put among the top five probationers overall.

## Chapter 3: Foreign Service Academy Islamabad

### 3.1.Foreign Service Academy Islamabad

My father reported to his specialized training institute, the Foreign Service Academy, in Islamabad. He joined there in July 2001 and remained there till March 2002. However, during training, they were allotted rooms in the hostel. He requested the D.G. (FSA) Ambassador ® Mansour Ali Khan to help him get another room so that he could bring his family. He helped, and my father got two rooms during training. It gave him a lot of relief, and he focused on his studies. It was a very good time, and he improved his position in the merit list and stood third or fourth among the batch mates. When the final passing out exam was held, seven passed, and seven failed. The merit level before it in the group was 12 out of 14, but after these, all exams, especially STP and Final passing out merit, became 6th in the group of 14. He reported to the ministry on 11th March 2002.

In 2001 when we lodged in the foreign office hostel, the transport system was nonexistent. My parents, especially my father, would buy grocery items from Sunday Bazaars and carry them on foot in his hands from the Marriott hotel to the hostel. It was about two kilometers distance. Occasionally some motorcyclist staffer picked them; otherwise, he did for more than a year.

The T.V. lounge was always occupied by senior officers, and we were not allowed to sit there. Mushtaq Mahar was a grade 22 officer and kept scolding junior officers.

On the very first day, the additional secretary (Admin) received us in the library and welcomed us to the ministry. During the question and answer session, he asked an innocent question about why the Foreign Service didn't take care of its newcomers where, as all other services arranged, welcome parties for their junior colleagues in CSA. He gave a suggestion to the additional secretary administration that probationers at CSA or civil service academy might be welcomed officially. The welcome dinner and briefing might be arranged to give them confidence and reassurance of support from the FSP family. The ASA lost his temper and retorted that now a probationer would teach them.

He was furious at this question and shouted at him. He said to the D.G. personnel that he was the person who termed each one of us corrupt. He must be sent to NAB rather than serving in the ministry of foreign affairs. He directed the D.G. (Personnel) to note him down and make his report negative. He was the same guy who considered everyone corrupt. My father responded that kindly don't shout and cross the red line because, in our society, we don't tolerate abusive language. It again worked as petrol on the fire. He threatened dire consequences. My father replied that he would face it but not abuse it. It was a very disgusting day. However, when AS (A) left, the D.G. patted my father's back and appreciated bold questions and responses. He assured my father that there would be no action against him.

The first month in the ministry revealed another mystery that no Sindhi could attain the highest position of foreign secretary. It was the unwritten law of the land that Sindhi being inherently incompetent and untrust-

worthy, couldn't be entrusted with sensitive positions of secretary of defense, foreign affairs, natural resources, attorney general, and chiefs of armed forces. He wanted to compete for the number one diplomatic position, but his dreams were shattered one by one. The second discovery was posted to the most important Missions like Washington, London, Paris, Berlin, Canberra, Saudi Arabia, Beijing, and India and couldn't be handed over to shaky Sindhi diplomats. There must be core Punjabi or their eternal allies' Mohajir diplomats to maximize the dividends for Pakistan.

The most disturbing thing was the manipulation of performance evaluation reports. He came to know that if some Punjabi officer gets a good PER, it could be changed after destroying the previous one; he even got signed by an unconcerned reporting officer because custodians of records invariably would be Punjabi. He found that a Punjabi officer dismissed from service on the charges of car lifting was reportedly red-handedly arrested and managed his PERs. All his PERs were either outstanding or very good. His record was enviable. He got himself reinstated on the basis of performance evaluation reports.

We used to cross from Jinnah Avenue and asked my father about the imposing building. He informed my father that it was a presidential palace. We inquired about the occupants of the palace. He said that Parvez Musharaf was living there. We desired to join the army and eventually become president. My father tried to put in our mind that firstly it was a hated position; Sindhis being democratic people, abhorred dictators; secondly, the establishment would never allow a Sindhi to be

General. At that time, we were still at primary school and couldn't understand the issues. However, with time, things started revealing to us. We observed how Benazir Bhutto was murdered, and the crime site was washed. The puzzling fact was PPP's defeat in Rawalpindi after her murder. Despite the popularity of the people's party in the aftermath of her murder, it was not allowed to get a simple majority in the party, and Punjab was denied it. We understood the argument of my father that after the 1986 coming home of Benazir Bhutto in the elections of 1988, she was not given a simple majority. It is pertinent that Benazir Bhutto was Sindhi in name only and always favored Punjab over Sindh. Nawaz Sharif, who signed an agreement with the dictator and saved his life, got an absolute majority in parliament. He betrayed his associates and workers but got a two-thirds majority in the 2013 elections. The dust on the mysteries of Pakistani politics and the role of establishment settled gradually, and we learned with our age. Initially, we also wanted to be CSS officers but found it very tense and unrewarding for a Sindhi. A Sindhi could be an innovative and creative officer, but he must be psychologically tortured.

They were posted to various directorates as section officers. He was posted as a section officer of economic cooperation. The director was a mentally unstable person Kazmi. He received my father and tested the old section officer along with my father in his own way. He took a paper cutter and pretended to attack him; the man moved, and the director shouted with joy by terming him timid. He used the same trick on my father after a few minutes, but he didn't move, so again, he yelled,

this is my man, this is my man; he is brave. However, the D.G. asked the director personnel to change my father on the pretext that he was Sindhi, so he was mandatorily incompetent. He posted him to the Central Asian republics section; again, there was a lady director from the larger province as the earlier one, and she returned him on the same pretext of presumed inefficiency. The director told him that the gentleman none was ready to accept him, so the only option was to send him to some director from Sindh. He replied in affirmation and was sent to the finance directorate, where the director was from Khairpur.

Mushtaq Ali Shah was very difficult for him. He directed my father to speak in Urdu, not in Sindhi, with him. Moreover, when he worked hard and got everything under control, the senior used to call him directly. My father informed the director and went to them. He was annoyed that why even the foreign secretary and Additional secretary were calling him. He also resented his socializing traits and warned him of the negative impact on his career. However, he was transferred and replaced by another Punjabi director. The director was one of the most incompetent persons my father had ever seen. He asked him to sit in his office and use his P.A. for dictation. He used to play cards on the computer, and my father ran the office of the director and his own. He got the outstanding report, and he awarded my father with just a good report.

The first boss was Mushtaq Ali Shah, who was very cautious and careful in dealing with Punjabi officers. He was succeeded by a Punjabi officer Khalid Durrani who was a thoroughly incompetent and inefficient person.

The boss was an expert in selling and buying cars or repairing electronic devices. Interestingly he did mechanical work when he was made Ambassador in Nigeria. He was disinterested in doing anything but luckily got outstanding and very good reports.

The director of training was Amjad Sial from Nowshehra Feroz, Sindh; however, he reportedly claimed with Punjabi bosses that he was a Punjabi settler, and Sindhis victimized him during his studies. He didn't support officers from Sindh. It was he who refused to change my father's posting cum training from Riyadh to Baghdad.

At the Foreign office hostel, we lived in one room as the other was given to grandma, my uncle, and my aunt. We studied at a nearby primary school, and my father remember going with the children of waiter Said. My father worked at the office from morning to evening and came back at 4 pm. He taught at ICS institute to CSS candidates and earned a few thousand to complement his meager salary and sustain a family of 9 persons. Zahid Hashmat, the owner of ICS, inquired about our education and offered us free education at his school to us. My father shifted us to ICS in April or May 2002.

During his posting in the foreign office, he was very active in social activities. Also, he used to arrange mango parties and date parties in respective seasons. The Foreign Secretary, Inam ul Haq, and other senior officials thanked him for the gift of fresh Khairpur dates. He has become popular in the ministry, and none of his colleagues ever know our financial status. He used to invite his batchmates to work lunch every first Tuesday of the month. However, none of them ever re-

ciprocated except SHOIB SARWAR. His friends like Arshad Jan and Ibrar khan used to live like princes. The khan from swat always sought a loan from my father in the last week of the month. It is pertinent to note that he was unmarried and got monthly pocket money from my father, and we survived within the means as a family. Still, my father has some money till the last day of the month.

One night our youngest sister, who was barely six months old, got a high fever and fits. The foreign office hostel was a deserted place, and my father didn't have a car; he sent a waiter to almost all batchmates having a vehicle, including Arshad Jan, but none came. When the waiter went the second time, Shafqat Cheema asked about the problem. He told him about the illness my sister had. He told him to convey to Ahmed the message that he was going there, so get ready. My father went with him and, after treatment, asked him to get his items from the supermarket; he evaded by saying that he would buy them after dropping them off. But he actually went to help my father in distress and had no work outside. It is pertinent to note that he was fighting his termination case and was considered a bad guy. But all good boys, including senior officers, visited and benefited from his free booze. My father always advised him to mend his ways. He was restored in 2002 and got a posting as section officer rent. He was working under Nadeem Riaz.

At a hostel in the early days, my father was made mess secretary. He tried his best to control expenses and bring quality. The mess havaldar Saleem was an old hand and tried his best to fail him. My father disciplined

workers and deputed absent waiters to serve efficiently. In that process, his director at the foreign services academy Ms. Kehkashan got furious because her servant Nadeem was redeployed to mess. She shouted at him and directed him to transfer immediately back to her room. My father told her that her orders could be obeyed in the academy, not outside, so he would serve at the proper place. The president of the Mess committee was Marwat, who was considered to be semi mad man. He was a batch mate of madam. But he was a very principled man. One day she picked a fight with his children and abused Marwat; he was so carried away by the anger that he used filthy language against the fat lady.

One day we were playing with boys at the hostel; my brother Abdul Ahad had a fight with the son of Ali Ahmad again, who was an emotionally unstable person; he slapped him in the face. But my father digested it and advised us to be careful.

## Chapter 4: Language Training in Baghdad, Iraq

Q: What happened after your first posting as a section officer?

Answer- we were asked to select any foreign language to be learned abroad. I opted for Arabic. They posted me for job training in Riyadh, but I wanted to go to Baghdad. The reason was higher foreign allowance in Baghdad and Iraq being the cradle of civilizations. The director, again a Sindhi (who claimed to be a settler sial in Sindh), refused to change my posting. I told him that you would sign the change order, and then he would be invited for lunch. I prayed to Allah that I challenged the officer on His support, so, O Allah, grant my request. I prepared for Riyadh, but the order was changed, and I invited Sial. He said that was why lunch was arranged. I reminded him of the challenge; he was surprised at how it happened when none forced him. I told him Allah could mold the hearts.

Q: When did you go to Baghdad?

Answer-Iwent in early October 2002. It was my first time traveling abroad. I went through Dubai. The agent gave a very long connection; stayed more than eight hours. I flew to Amman, Jordan, where the embassy sent a protocol officer to receive me. He arranged a hotel and taxi to take me to Baghdad by road. I was totally unaware of the modernity of Amman and surprised to see women working in a coffee

shop in tights. I took GMC to Baghdad early morning. It was a 915 km distance, and the driver was ruthless. He was in a hurry despite my repeated warnings to slow down. Whenever I slept, he took a speed beyond 200. While driving to Baghdad, our tire busted, but Allah saved us. The driver controlled the vehicle. We reached Baghdad father at around 11 night, and he dropped me at the Pakistan embassy. The head of the Chancery, Yaqub sahib, was waiting for me. He was a very kind-hearted person. He took me to his house for a late dinner and then sent me to the Alhamra hotel in the posh Baghdad area of karada.

It was a very nice four-star hotel by Pakistan standards. After long-distance traveling arrived at the hotel at around 1 am and slept. In the morning embassy man, Iqbal, the guru of Arabic, came to take me to Arabic Language College for foreigners. We reached there and were greeted by the director with warmth. He introduced me to his team, especially Professor Ali. There were a few other professors who were nice in teaching, especially the professor OF LITERATURE. He was a very cheerful, funny guy; he always found something to laugh about and let others laugh. On the first day, waiting for the principal, who came late, but his secretary, the healthy Hasina, entertained me. The classes were not begun because other international students had not come. We went to the embassy and called on the Ambassador, Manzar Shafiq, HOC, Yaqub sahib, and the third secretary of Iran. The Ambassador was very kind. His secretary, li-

brary, was also a gentle person. The secretary of HOC, Gondal, was also the nice fellow who used to take me to prayers. There were a few other fellows, including operator cum guard Basher.

Q: How were your days in Baghdad?

Answer. The experience was interesting and wonderful. The Ambassador was caring and kind-hearted. The third secretary was a bit disturbing, but it made no difference to my life. The counselor and Ambassador looked after me. I stayed at the Alhambra hotel for six days, then shifted to the Alfanas hotel on Abu Nawas street n the river Tigris. They gave me an excellent room, and it overlooks both the river bank and the opposite road where a bustling bazaar was established. Two five-star hotels, Palestine and Sheraton, were also in the vicinity of my hotel. The Dinar was 2000 to 2500 in one dollar. The food and petrol were very cheap. A liter of petrol was just two rupees, and food for one person in a three-star restaurant was just 30 rupees in 2002.

Those were tumultuous times. Iraq was under sanctions, so no flight was flying to Iraq. The sanctions have made people poor. I left Pakistan after the referendum of Parvez Musharraf and saw Saddam's referendum in October. The difference was eye-opening. In Pakistan, empty polling stations declared 99% results, but in Baghdad, there were long queues, and almost a hundred percent voted for Saddam, including dead ones.

Q: How were Pakistan-Iraq relations in those days?

Answer- Iraq under Saddam was not friendly to Pakistan. Pakistani diplomats were required to seek NOC from intelligence to hire any house. I lived in the hotel for about three months. Iraq was having closer relations with India and Russia.

Q: How were the peopie of Iraq with Pakistanis?

Answer- people of Iraq consider Pakistanis as better Muslims who help Muslims in distress around the world. They think of Pakistanis as Mujahids. However, they considered the president of Pakistan as a stooge of Bush. I remember an incident. I took a taxi while traveling, and the driver asked me about my country; when I replied Pakistan, he welcomed me warmly and praised Pakistanis as strong Muslims and Mujahids, but the last phrase he said, " bal raees bakistan kalb bush," but the president of Pakistan is ---- Bush.

Q: Any important remembrance of those days?

Answer- at that time, Iraq was very peaceful, and despite poverty, theft, and burglary were nonexistent. The bribe was severely punished. The government was providing food, health, and education to people for free. The child, from birth to 2 and a half years, was given food by the government, including my mother. Ministers and officers were accessible to the public. In front of the governor of Baghdad, the cobblers used to work. The governor was supposed to meet citizens every day except when he was out of town. The education system was the same for all. The children of ministers and the elite studied side by side with the children of the laborer. There was only one

private school, "Baghdad, International School," where diplomats and expatriates sent their children. The archaeological sites were well maintained. I visited babul, Minerva, Nimrod, Karbala, Najaf, Mosul, and samra and found all sites very well maintained. It looked as if the kings had just left. The place of Alexander near Babylon was so impressively maintained. The sulemaniya, the burial place of Hazrat Suleiman Farsi (R.A."), and the nearby ancient palace of Kisra, the Persian kings, was also in very good shape. The rebuilding of ancient places of Iraq was done in Saddam's time; he signed the bricks used in construction. The shrine of prophet Yunas in Mosul and Abbasid forts, palaces, and a university in Baghdad was worth visiting. The alrasheed market and Abu Nawas Street all were historical sites.

Q: How were religious problems?

Answer- I haven't seen any religious or sectarian strife in Iraq. All prayed together irrespective of their sect. In my first Juma at Alkilani Masjid in Baghdad, it surprised me that Sunnis prayed with Shiite side by side. I was mistaken by me for the Masjid of Shaikh Abdul Qadir Gilani. Next Friday, I prayed at Shaikh Gilani Masjid and again found a large number of Shiites praying side by side with Sunnis. The striking feature was a Shiite presence at imam Abu hanfaia Masjid and a Sunni presence at Masjid imam Ali in Najaf. There was complete harmony. As propagated by western countries, Saddam was not a Sunni extremist but a socialist; so it was just fake propaganda.

Q: Have you seen a hundred palaces of Saddam?

Answer- I have seen presidential palaces in some governorates like Mosul, Kufa, Karbala, Tikrit, Samara, and the two palaces in Baghdad. There were presidential camp offices or palaces in each province, so maybe a total of 20 odd palaces. But the propaganda of 100 palaces with gold, diamond work, etc., was just a rumor spread by Americans to justify their illegal war.

Q: How were Saddam's personal wealth and properties?

Answer- Saddam Hussain had his ancestral home in Tikrit; it was a modest two-bedroom house with no known wealth in the country. However, his sons and daughters have villas in Baghdad. These villas were also termed palaces.

Q: When America imposed war on Iraq, what happened? There might be a shortage of goods and a price hike.

Answer- till 20th march 2003 no shortage and hoarding of goods and food items. The prices remained constant, and no panic in society. People and the government were calm and resilient.

Q: Anything regarding Saddam's relations with Molana Noorani and Tahir Alqadri?

Answer- yes- he has given a lot of respect and importance to the abovementioned Pakistani. He offered them scholarships at Saddam International Islamic University and a stipend. Moreover, special grants were given to their institutions. It was done to repay them for their protests against the coalition war on Iraq to liberate Kuwait. The government of Iraq was

hostile to Pakistan but friendly with them. The grants and scholarships were given to them directly.

Q: What these students did for the Iraqi government or Saddam Hussain during wartime?

ANSWER- Before the war, they were automatically registered as human shields by the Iraqis. It is pertinent to note that hundreds of western rightists registered as human shields to protect educational, health, utility, and historical sites from American bombardment. However, these students of two Pakistani entities came to the embassy and complained that IRAQIS put them on the list of volunteers for human shield without their consent. They requested the Ambassador to get them free from the Iraqis. The Ambassador directed me to accompany them and talk to their Dean or director of international affairs. I met Dean, but he showed his helplessness and advised me to meet the president of the university. I went to the president of the university and requested to allow them to go home. He told me that the Iraqi government considers them mujahids ( Islamic warriors); as Pakistanis are strong Muslims and always help Muslims in distress so they will also fight side by side with the Iraqis with unbeliever Americans. I was impressed by him that, actually, these are not fighters but students who learn and let others learn. Moreover, they didn't believe in the philosophy of jihad, so in the time of war, these would become a liability for you. He understood the logic and allowed them to travel. They left Baghdad the next day, even before us.

Q: How was the spirit of Iraqis, especially Kurds, Shiites, and minorities?

Answer. Kurdish people have had an autonomous region since 1991, so they were not expecting any more; the Shiites were excited to get freedom from Saddam, but Christians were not happy because they had freedom in Iraq from Saddam. However, some sane elements among Shiites and Kurds were apprehensive of Americans. They felt that Americans had no love lost for Shiites or Kurds, but they wanted to destroy any strong enemy of Israel. They wanted to neutralize Iraq. They thought that war would ruin Iraq and civil war would be the result. The Americans would face tough resistance from Iraqis.

Q: When do you return from Iraq?

Answer. We traveled from Iraq on 11 March, and the war started on 20th march. But I traveled to Pakistan 19th of march, and the next day war began.

## Chapter 5: Back to Pakistan 1

My father was assigned to the finance and accounts section, where he worked from March to July 2003.One day a captain came to his office and asked to issue a sanction for a certain amount. My father explained to him that money was not transferred from the Ministry of defense. He insisted that it should be done. Otherwise, the consequences would be severe as it belonged to the powerful organ. My father ordered him to leave the office and do whatever he deemed fit. His work would not be done. He went out threatening. My father reported the incident to my seniors', i.e., the director and D.G., and both of them told my father that he had done wrong and there would be very serious repercussions. However, after some hours, a colonel of the army, Col. Satti, came to my father's office and brought the captain to apologize.

Another incident is a phone call from Lahore. The caller introduced himself as a general and asked my father to send his goods through the diplomatic bag. My father informed him that the diplomatic bag was for diplomatic correspondence, not gifts and goods. He insisted that it should be done or else dire consequences would be faced. My father told him that it would not be done. When my father inquired, he found that he was a retired General who used to exploit the weakness of civilian officers and used to send material to his family in France.

At that time, my father was looking after three sections, including the rent section. My father received a request from Pakistan high commission Canada for rent enhancement. The letter was written by High commissioner Shahid Malik. My fatherdidn't take any action after repeated reminders; he contacted the then Foreign Secretary. My father was called and asked why action was not taken on the request. My father replied that there was no written request and action couldn't be taken without it. The high commissioner was asked to send the request again when it came, and my father tore it down. The H.C. himself called my father and asked why my father was not taking action. My father told him about his behaviors during his tenure as Additional secretary of administration. My father plainly told him that till my father was holding the charge, there would be no action. He said that he was sorry for his attitude. My father committed to sending him the sanction the same day, and that was done.

He was transferred to the Karachi camp office as a protocol officer. The then Additional secretary called my father and told my father that there were a lot of complaints from Karachi about a bribe. He expected that my father would be tackling the issue head-on.

Karachi's posting was very interesting and full of adventure.

On the very first day, the driver who picked my father up from the airport offered my father a free furnished apartment in Clifton, a dedicated car, and 70 rupees monthly; if my father worked according to his advice.

It shocked me. How bold the staff has become in Karachi that they didn't fear any action from anyone. When he dropped my father at the rest house and asked what time in the morning he should come to pick my father up, he was told to come at 8 am, and he was surprised. He told my father that even peons come at 10 am. My father insisted he comes at 8 am. When he took my father to the office around 820 am, it was locked, and peon came at around 10 am.

He informed the boss. He said that these people are very connected with MQM, so just handle it carefully. During my six days of joining time, my father used to come by bus and walk to the office from the stop. The agents approached my father on the second day, offered their services, and demanded charges according to service; the fastest the service, the highest the fees. My father told them that he was trying his luck directly. If they failed to get documents attested, then they would come to them. They assured my father that he would have to get their services because everyone inside was corrupt and a shareholder in the affair. My father concluded that agents were earning and exploiting time issues.

He decided to finish the system of submission and introduced a direct attestation system. My father took office outside and asked people to come in the queue and get their documents attested then and there. My father sat in an outside room and put my assistant beside peon and my father on the other side. The assistant collected and checked the documents, and my father signed them. The peon stamped and embossed

the document, so the whole process took hardly five to ten minutes.

Initially, even my staff was not happy because previously, they used to get one or two documents attested and earned some amount. When direct attestation started, the person himself/ herself or an authorized relative could have gotten attested documents. It finished their income. They collaborated with agents. There was news against my father in the newspapers. The agents wrote many letters against my father to the ministry. They brought a T.V. channel like Geo to my office. They told my father that they had reports of heavy corruption, so they would make a special report. My father allowed them to do it. When they saw my work, they made a special report in my favor. They showed the fake degrees confiscated by my father during attestation. Then came the bribe offers. They sent their chief, Juma khan, the seasoned agent, with an offer of 500,000/month. My father rejected them and told him not to venture into my office again. The third step was threats. They sent a message that it was easier for them to eliminate my father by accident while he was riding my motorcycle home. My father asked them to try. My father started going to pray at their center, and none of them dared to challenge me.

Yes, the almighty gave my father strength, and within one month, no agent was on the scene. However, they kept pressuring my father through different quarters. They used police, FIA, and MQM officeholders to get documents attested. But my father took stern action

against all of them. One day A lady complained to my father that your people had taken the money and even the attestation was not done. My father inquired where she submitted the documents. She indicated a shop opposite our office across the road. My father told her that it was an agent, not our staffer. However, my father sent rangers to raid their shop and get documents and money back. When they raided, they got documents and money, which were given to the loud-mouthed lady. Who was very assertive and uncompromising? When she got her documents and money, she thanked my father and spoke very highly of them in her circles.

Yes- my father remember that a police inspector brought documents of the son of his DIG for attestation. My father attested a few and left a few. He insisted on attesting all. My father told him that unattested documents are faked, so they could not be attested. He started threatening that my father was crossing PIB colony Karachi so the police (which means he is from SHO PIB Colony) could catch and charge my father by putting drugs in my pocket. My father called the rangers officer guarding the office to detain him till FIA people came to arrest him on the charges of pressurizing to attest fake degrees. In the next thirty minutes, he broke down. The rangers officer requested my father release him. His DIG also called and requested to release him. He never showed his face again.

I received a retired federal secretary for the attestation of his son's degrees; unfortunately, his son's master's was faked, so he couldn't be obliged.

He got threats throughout my tenure but held his ground without wavering. My father was given temptations, and even my boss went against me. He told my father that a few documents by his staff might be attested. My father replied that if documents belonged to their relatives, it would be done; otherwise, none would be obliged. He didn't digest it and changed my father on the pretext that the other officer was not performing well and he was dealing with foreign missions.

Q: What happened to the gifts offered by the applicants? A Saudi student brought his documents for attestation and got them in five minutes. The very next day, he brought some gifts, and my father refused to accept them. My father asked him why he brought gifts after his work was done. He informed my father that he was asked to pay a bribe at all stages, but here it was not only done for free but speedy, so he wanted to appreciate it. My father told him that he was doing my job and getting paid by the Government, so verbal appreciation was enough.

In another incident, a chieftain of the Awan community was having his power of attorney attested for a graveyard. It was to be confirmed from Canada. My father took a personal interest and helped them to get it at the earliest. When my father did it, the person came after a few days with precious gifts; again, my father returned. He then brought a set of Hadeeth

books which my father accepted and donated to a madrassah.

I remember the visit of the former owner of the Sheraton hotel for the attestation of his power of attorney sent by his daughter from Canada. He was given respect due to his age. My father got his documents attested, but after attestation, he wanted to stay and watch my work. My father allowed him to sit and offered him a cup of tea at his request. When he went home, he sent a letter where he mentioned that he had seen a human in the office first time in his lifetime. He explained that since 1947, he has never got any work done without a bribe at any office. He illustrated that all officers have their rates, and none ever offered service without asking about the status. He was surprised and optimistic that if such officers remained in the service, the fate of Pakistan would be positively changed. One day he called and got an appointment. He came and invited my father to dine with him at Sheraton. My father informed him that he was without a car. He offered his own car to pick up and drop off for dinner. My father informed him that it was against our tradition to visit on the host conveyance. He then suggested taking a taxi. My father told him that taxi charges would be equal to my weekly vegetable/ meat bill, so eating one dinner at the cost of weekly food was not viable, so my father refused with thanks.

Yes. There were many incidents. But another important way is an attestation of the owner of Preston university documents. He got it in a few minutes. He in-

vited my father for tea. My father went to meet him for the purpose of getting admission for my brother. When my father went there, he started appreciating his services and informed his own incident.

He dealt with missions evenhandedly and did their work without delay. The missions used to gift officers including vodka and Champagne. My father received Italian, Korean, French, and German consuls with the above gifts, which my father returned with thanks. They suggested keeping and gifting to friends if my father was not drinking. My father told them that even gifting is not allowed in my religion. It has created a lot of respect in their hearts. There were many incidents during that period. My father received delegates for the SAARC summit in 2004. My father has had a long discussion with former Bangladeshi foreign minister ambassador Shamsher M. Chowdhury. My father received the daughter of the founder of Pakistan late, Dina Wadia. My father also received Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, who were in Karachi, to watch Pakistan India match in 2004. Rahul and Priyanka have hosted at a state guest house in Karachi. The daughter of Qaid was also hosted at the state guest house. She was happy to be in the city of her father. However, she regretted that she didn't meet him in his life after marrying Wadia.

My father had the honor of receiving the former Turkish president in transit. The king of Bahrain and the Amir of Qatar also transited. The princes from Saudi, Kuwait, and UAE were also received. HOWEVER, an Interesting incident was of receiving

Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan along with his wife, Sarwath. Madam Sarwath is the daughter of former Pakistani Ambassador Ikramullah. He came on his special flight. However, he left her in Karachi and went to Islamabad to meet Parvez Musharaf and flew back to Jordan. She was traveling by commercial royal Jordanian flight after a few weeks stay in Karachi. She had armed guards. She wanted guards to carry arms in the plane. The ASF told her that according to International aviation law, the rams could be placed on hold while boarding a commercial flight. She resisted, and the decision came to the foreign office. My boss was nowhere to decide, so my father decided not to allow her to carry his arms on board. She threatened to write against my father to Parvez Musharaf by name. My father told her to write whatever she wanted. When she returned to Jordan, she wrote a letter to the president, and he ordered an inquiry. The ministry called for an explanation from my father and the deputy chief of protocol. My father wrote in my response that the laws of the land would be upheld whenever an opportunity was given. My father have implemented the laws and would repeat them if a situation arises. The inquiry was filed.

He was posted to Jordan, but my father wanted to go to Saudi Arabia, Jeddah. Despite orders in writing, my father was claiming to go to Jeddah in sha Allah. People were wondering about that claim. My father undertook training for Jordan. However, my father kept praying to Allah for a change of station from Jordan to Jeddah. One fine morning the director per-

sonnel sent my father a message to meet her. When my father went there along with my batch mate Aamir khan, she inquired whether my father would be ready to go to Jeddah urgently, as the officer had requested early recall due to his father's health conditions. My father replied in affirmation, and orders were changed. It was a big surprise for everyone. People asked my father how it changed: who recommended or pressured them. My father told them that it was Allah whom my father asked for help. My father joined the Jeddah mission in July 2004.

It was interesting to note that normal people forget officers once they leave their seats. However, in my case, things were different. People whom my father refused to dine or accept gifts while in his seat: came and offered invitations and gifts. My father again resisted, but they reminded my father that now my father was not in the seat and they had no work whatsoever with me. My father was surprised that many people brought cakes, sweats, and even fruits to the office to celebrate my posting. One of them gifted my father a citizen watch which my father couldn't have afforded at that time. Another brought Quran with English and Urdu interpretations and Hadeeth books. Another person took my father for lunch. A person who was refused dinner after his work was done persisted in accepting his dinner. There were many farewell parties from all walks of life. It was really pleasing to see that people recognized the good work.

Some of the staff members whose money-making was stopped were very happy. However, my own staff

was not happy with my departure. They wanted my father to work there because of the principles and clean work. The agents were very happy because the other officer had already started getting their documents on give and take basis. But it was not in full swing because the administration was with me, and my father cracked down on agents time and again, so they were celebrating my departure. While my father was there, they used to pray that o, Allah send him to Makkah. Allah heard their prayers.

No- he gave a very good report. When he wrote the report, he called my father and informed my father about it. My father asked him, what about the other officer? He said that he gave him very good as well. My father said that he and my father were not the same; either he was very good or me. My father told him that his work was performed by me, and you equated us. He said what to do.

# Part V: Jeddah

## Chapter 1: Jeddah Times

Q: 38- How was the atmosphere in Jeddah on your joining?
Answer: On joining found out that the Head of mission, the Consul general, and the Head of Chancery were at daggers drawn. My father reported to the consul general, who was known to me. In 2003 he was being pressed, and there was serious consideration to axe him. He used to sit in my office and vent his anger. However, when my father reported to him, he failed to recognize me; rather, he said that we had probably seen each other. My father replied yes at the ministry. The encounter with Hassan Raza, the Head of the Chancery, was unpleasant. My father took his law books from Karachi, but he was ungrateful. The first impression was that the working condition would be very difficult. Next, my father met the vice consuls, Seljuk Mustansar Tarar and Zahid Hussain. Both of them cautioned my father to be careful while dealing with the consul consular and Consul general, who favored Burmese and Afghans on humanitarian grounds.

At the time of his assumption of office, the ordinary passport was given after six weeks and urgent after two weeks. The pending cases were in the hundreds, and people used to fight to get passports the same day on the recommendation of seniors. It has created a lot of room for maneuvering by agents. The agents used their connections and got passports renewed or ex-

tended; the rest of the people were not given the same facility. It pained me.

The consul general and the Head of the chancery were noncooperative because the CG told Hoc to grill the new vice consul. My father was left to find a house and car for myself and admit my children to school, and also work from the next day at the consulate because the then premier Chaudhry Shujaat was on a visit there in mid-July 2004. My father got a call from a person after a week. He informed my father that he was a friend of my colleague (whom my father replaced), and he requested him to help my father in finding a house and a used car. My father appreciated him for his time, and we fixed a time in the evening. He took my father to the restaurant and had Chinese lunch. While we were having lunch, my father tried to dig deep into his personality and his motive to help me. My father found out that he was actually an agent. He told my father that my father must select a good car. My father told him that he could only affordToyota in cash. However, if the car is in installments, then it could be a better one. He told my father to just select and the rest would be taken care of by him. My father asked why he would be so generous. What would be wanted in return by him? He replied nothing; the car would be a gift from him; but if my father worked with him; he could offer my father a deal, i.e., A Burmese passport changed into a normal Pakistani passport SR.5000 and an Afghani passport extension of SR. 2000. My father told him that individually no one could do it, so let m know who else works with him. He informed my father that from the

consul general to clerical staff in the passport office were his partners. He disclosed the team. My father told him that he would be discussing the car selection with the family and then would be buying. He was happy that my father was an easy person to work with. The next day my father replaced all his friends from key positions. They informed him, and he complained to my father that he thought my father would be working with him; now action was contrary to his expectations. My father reassured him that it was just to create the impression that my father was an honest person. We shall later on work together for mutual benefit.

When he took over and both vice consuls left, he started pursuing the immigration department to send passports so that the shortage might be ended. He started reducing the time period of renewal of a passport. Initially, we made it one month ordinary and one week urgent. Later on, two weeks are ordinary and three days urgent, and in the third phase, one week is ordinary and urgent the same day. In this regard, my team worked overtime to clear the backlog. However, during this period, my boss kept bothering my father on one or another pretext because my father choked the lines of agents. He pressed my father to oblige agents as they were social workers serving humanity. My father refused on the pretext that they were charging money from people. Moreover, my father told him that when one foreigner was issued a Pakistani passport, it burned my body. He tried his best to screw my father by assigning multiple tasks when my father was alone in the passport office. He assigned

my father tasks of administration, protocol, NADRA, OIC, and passport. He also kept checking on my father that my passport should have been delivered before 4 pm. It taxed me, but my father persisted and performed.

He initiated a program to regularize the Burmese citizens through a note process initiated by the vice-consul. However, before me, the vice consuls just put up the file by enumerating the documents and submitting the file for kind orders. My father changed it by mentioning that the process was illegal and none could overrule the decision of the cabinet. He was still overruling it and writing" please issue" a normal passport. My father refused to sign the passports and asked him to delegate power to the Consul to sign these dubious passports. But he pressured my father to sign. When it became unbearable, my father requested the then-director general to recall my father back. He told my father to stay put and that he would be talking to the consul general. He talked to him, but it made him furious, and he started to squeeze me. He even refused to approve my car request many times on one or another pretext. He refused to approve my house request. He didn't cooperate with the admission of my children to a Pakistani school. The principal didn't give a due response when approached. He tried to create multiple problems in my working life. But it didn't weaken my father but hardened my stand.

He stopped his TA/DA bills whenever my father visited outstations for consular visits. Later he allowed others to undertake consular visits to deprive my fa-

ther of additional income. He prodded agents to write applications against me. Then he referred those to ministry. He gave my father explanation calls almost every week. He shouted at my father in front of people. He created scenes to involve my father in fights to make a report. He sent hooligans to attack my father in the office. There were fights, and the glass of windows was broken. He asked the officer from the inner circle to create a report on the basis of my ethnicity. The officer threatened my father that he would create a report making my father an Indian agent as it was easier for him, as my father was Sindhi. My father told him that those weaker Sindhis had died, and now no more threats would be digested. My father challenged him to fabricate whatever he wished, but his report would be sent by me. He sent a report claiming that my father was attending nationalist Sindhi functions and Indians. The letter was referred to the Consul general, and he asked my father to reply. My father replied that the consul general deputed my father to attend the Seriaki waseeb program and inauguration of the hospital, which the Indian Consul also attended. It was dismissed. However, next, there was the visit of DG(P). He called my father and asked to be a witness against the consul general's womanizing. My father told him that it was not in my knowledge. My father have never seen him doing fornication. He then encouraged my father to write about his corruption and pressed my father to co-opt him. My father told him that my father would be ready to write that if allowed to mention the story of the big culprit who sold passports to foreigners openly. He said that

he was from a powerful institution, so he just wrote about the consul general. My father refused to oblige. The additional secretary Administration visited the consulate General in June 2005. He was approached by one of my fellow officers and lodged a complaint against CG on the prodding of the then HOC, Hassan Raza. The AS (A) told him that his application was accepted. However, you have to bring the vice consul. in charge of the passport. Otherwise, action may be taken against you. He came to my father and sought help. My father told him that he was trapped because Hoc wanted to settle scores with the consul general. But there was no other option but to support my friend. My father also wrote a letter to the additional secretary. He called my father and listened to the whole story. My father informed him that there was huge corruption in the passport section, where Burmese and Afghans were sold passports against thousands of Riyals. My father informed him that my father have a record of 470 cases of foreign nationals getting Pakistani passports against gratification. He was briefed that previously hundreds of thousands of people were naturalized. People minted millions from this corruption spree. He asked my father to write a letter to the foreign secretary requesting to appoint an inquiry committee to inquire into that corruption. Moreover, the request is made that our performance evaluation report must not be rendered by the consul general. The letter was personally taken by the Additional secretary, Ambassador Shafqat Saeed, and the foreign secretary Ambassador Riaz Muhammad khan, who approved the committee. In the committee, two

officers from the foreign office and one from the powerful agency because one accused belonged to them.

In fact, before this, all happened, the consul general was going on vacation. He called my father before departure and asked my father to cooperate with the audit team, which was shortly after arriving. My father told him that his illegal approvals to regularize the Burmese passports would be difficult to defend. He was also informed that Afghan passports and their extension were a problem. He asked my father if my father was with him or against him. My father told him in plain words that my father was against all that suspicious decisions. He left, and the audit team arrived. The audit team was guided to point out that flagrant violation to the auditor general. The team was very appreciative of my cooperation. They made more than five dozen audit objections and pointed out millions of riyals loss to the treasury. They reported to the AG, and he extended their time to dig out more irregularities and ordered a special audit of Burmese passports.

When the consul general returned back; he was taken aback after knowing that the audit had found a lot of irregularities. Interestingly the consul accounts were playing on both sides. He briefed the consul general about my connivance with the audit team after he suspected him of assisting them. The consul General called my father for an explanation. My father told him that now there would be a straight fight with him because there would be no more silence on corruption. He threatened dire consequences, but my father

told him that we would try to get you terminated; he should also try to get us out. He was furious at that reply. However, when he was informed of the inquiry committee, the consul passport and he huddled together and tried to hide the record. But the record was already kept in safe custody.

The committee started its work with our statements and scrutiny of records. They were astonished to note the blatant violations of rules by the consul and consul general. However, the consul general and Consul tried to sell the idea that my father was minting money and giving tough time to them. The idea was not bought by the team as a whole. The consul passport brought a passport issued by my father to a person who reportedly (as the team informed) was caught in terrorism in Karachi. They grilled my father on that issue. My father informed them that scrutinizing the credentials of an applicant was not our duty. We issued a passport on the basis of a previous passport and national identity card. However, his case was also referred to agencies for verification. Moreover, my father told them that when this passport was there, it meant the suspect traveled on some passport, so it was a fabricated story. They then grilled my father on the charges by the accused that it was my father who pressed them and minted money also. My father replied to them that it meant that they confessed their incompetency. Moreover, if my father were doing anything wrong, then they should have reported it to the ministry. Their counteraccusations were not proven. Now a member of a powerful institution tried to pressure my father to withdraw the application, and

my father would not be touched. My father reiterated my decision to continue with it at all costs. The foreign office team consisting of Ambassador Qureshi and Ghulam Farid was weaker and easily influenced by the uniformed member. However, my persistence perturbed them, and finally, they submitted the recommendations to the foreign secretary and for Consul to his agency. They were punished with demotion, and we were proven right in our accusation. However, before the decision was announced, the consul general was removed from the passport section, and a charge was given to my colleague, library Hussain. He was the one who was the cause of that all issue. He was directed not to allow my father in the passport section. He and other officers were also asked to stay away from me. My father was made officer on special duty. The consul general expected that it would break my father down. But the contrary happened; my father read a lot of books during that time, and many community members called on me.

In 2005, he convinced a Saudi company Zultech to invest in Pakistan. They showed interest in the data processing industry at Khairpur. At that time, Khairpur Nazima was Ms. Nafeesa shah, who was portrayed as people friendly politician. He contacted her and informed her of the requirement of Zultech. The Company wanted a 1000-acre captive date farm for the Company, which they were ready to buy, and land for the establishment of the Company. The Company was supposed to process 4000 tonnes daily, and capacity could be enhanced. She was properly briefed, and later, all documents were sent for her perusal. She

showed keenness for the project that would have one thousand direct jobs and 10,000 allied jobs. It would have saved dates from perishing due to rain and improper processing. The dry date would have been made within four hours and the normal date three hours instead of one week drying on mats in sunlight. It could have saved 40% wastage of crops and added value to the quality. However, Ms. Shah kept delaying the response and finally stopped taking calls. The Company shifted its investment to some other country.

During that period, in October 2005, Pakistan was hit by an earthquake. My father volunteered to collect the relief goods for the affected. The Consul general initially agreed to allow my father to do it. But seeing the success of efforts and appreciation in English, Arabic, and Urdu newspapers, he became jealous. He removed my father as relief commissioner and made consul commercial Hijab Gul relief in charge and my father his deputy. He thought it would demoralize me. But my father worked with him in the same spirit. He was very supportive, and we visited many cities and met people. People donated goods and money wholeheart dly. The consul general then removed my father by order from working as deputy relief commissioner. He ordered my father not to assist with Hijab Gul. My father told him that after office hours, my father would be volunteering for my brothers and sisters. My father went with him to Makkah, Madina, and Taif in the evening and returned in the morning because the consul general was not to spare my absence. One day we went to Madina on the weekend and re-

turned in the early morning of Saturday. We both were tired of continuous work. At around 1 am, we left Madina. My father asked Hijab Gul to drive initially, but after 100 km, my father would take a turn. He agreed, but after a few kilometers, he told my father that he was sleepy and that my father should drive, so my father took over the car and tried to drive fast to reach Jeddah early so that the sleep would not overpower him too. My father was driving at above 200. It was an American car, and the road was empty. But almost 150 km before Jeddah, my father was taken over by sleep, and the car was about to dive into a ditch. But Allah

Ours was the largest collecting Mission among all missions. We collected millions of riyals and thousands of tons of goods. We were short of space in the consulate general and Pakistan schools. We requested Government to allocate cargo planes and ships to carry the goods, but they were insufficient. The Pakistani community donated in large numbers. But the huge donations of goods have come from Saudis. Let my father share a few stories of the local donation. A Saudi called my father and inquired about the total need for blankets. My father got time and checked with the earthquake relief authority, but they were blank and just told my father to ask him to provide 100,000 blankets. He told my father to buy, and he would be paying the vendor. We went into the market, but in the whole of Saudi Arabia just found 10,000 blankets, which he bought. Another called and asked about the requirement of tents; we were informed that 50,000 tents would be required. He said

that kindly help him to procure and ship to Pakistan. We hardly found two thousand in the entire Saudi market to buy. He sourced from India and sent it to Islamabad. A Saudi donated food supplies, so there was a lot of sympathy for brothers and sisters in need. The imam of Kaaba prayed in Juma and advised people to donate generously.

When we were collecting goods and money, the consul general said to us what was a benefit to him for that struggle. Moreover, the then Head of Chancery, Hassan Raza, was so full of compassion for affected people that he got leave from the Consul general to assist the international teams. He left Jeddah, but after a few days, we received a call from Islamabad, and the ministry inquired about Hassan Raza. We told him that he was there. They said that he hadn't reported to the ministry. When we called him, he was relaxing in Lahore.

No- because none recommended us for the presidential awards. It all happened on connections and likes or dislikes, not performance. The consul general was unhappy with me, so he didn't recommend us.

In December, HASSAN Raza got deputation in OIC, so the Consul general grudgingly made my father Vice consul OIC and Head of Chancery.

They received the president, prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, Zardari, Chief Ministers, Governors, and Chief justice time and again.

It was very difficult to satisfy the political people. They were demanding and threatening. My father would mention one such person Shaikh Rasheed. He came with Parvez Musharaf to OIC special summit in

Makkah. He used abusive language against his officer in Makkah and demanded everything from Ihram to Zam Zam from him. Many federal ministers required not only Ihram, chappals, and Zam zam but also some shopping from us. They wanted us to carry their briefcases and anything having little weight. We were at the airport almost regularly for protocol.

It was easier when the PM or President visited because every expense was debited during the visit. However, when they came to umrah on a private visit, it was a difficult time for us.

- When Hassan Raza was HOC, he sued to come at 12 0r 1230 pm to the office, so most of the discipline and attendance were already checked by my father as vice consul administration. In 2003 consulate General purchased walk through gate for security checks. The erstwhile officer didn't get it installed for three years. My father got it fixed in two days. My father proposed a total overhaul of the chancery building, especially the consular hall, including the replacement of air conditioners. It is important to note that the consular hall was in pathetic condition; due to heat and poor air-conditioning, it was suffocating and created a bad odor. There was no system to streamline the applicants, so there was always a fight between applicants and many injuries. My father got approval and involved a local community contractor; he did it at 50% of the market rate and the rest from his own side. We made the consular hall better with new air-con, water coolers, benches, and a lighting system. We also made another cafeteria and petition writers facility in separate buildings. It provided a lot of re-

lief to people. The next was the installation of an automatic token-generating system to avoid human involvement. It has given the applicant the option to wait or go for refreshments, lunch or get his work done till his turn comes. Moreover, the MRP system was launched in the first half of 2005; my father was the strongest supporter of the system and helped them to stay and install/ run the system. It made peoples' life easy.

The main building where the Consul general was sitting was renovated with greener touch, and all was done on weekends. It all surprised the Consul general. It made him happier because people who visited him appreciated his outlook. He started realizing that he had made a mistake by alienating me. He also realized that former Hoc dodged and let him down at all levels.

The former deputy permanent representative who became an advisor to the secretary general has created the myth that none could perform better than him at the OIC forum. However, when my father represented Pakistan, it was shocking to note that almost all black African members were alienated by him because of his superiority complex. My father started making them friends, including Afghan and Bangladesh representatives. In 2006, on 5th February, my father brought the secretary general Oic AS CHIEF GUEST AT Kashmir solidarity functions. It was the first time in the history of OIC that any secretary-general attended the Kashmir solidarity program. My father proposed and pursued the creation of a separate post for the OIC. The ministry created the post but given

to some other officer. The reward was not forthcoming.

In 2006, Arab members like Qatar and UAE proposed Indian inclusion as an observer of OIC. It was surprising and stunned us. My father called the ministry and got their help, but no response came on the same day. My father decided to avert the situation at any cost. In the afternoon session, my father spoke on the point of order and supported the idea of according observer status to those countries shaving considerable Muslim minorities. The Arabs were very happy. The next was my counter-proposal. My father informed the chair that as it was argued that observer status would be given on the percentage of the population, my father propose including Israeli as it has more Muslim population than India. It was a bombshell for them. The Saudi who was presiding the session prorogued it. All came after my father and asked to drop it. My father told them that it could be done if the Indian proposal was withdrawn. The next day madam Tahmina Janjua joined us in the session. She was asked by the ministry to help me. She inquired about the status. My father told her the story. She appreciated it, and the next day she took the same stand. The Arabs dropped it and never came into discussion again for many years.

I also invited almost the entire cabinet for dinner. My father used to have lobbied with poorer and neglected members, who then supported us at all sessions. My father have seen two members' very tricky, one Egypt and the other Iran. Whenever we wanted their support on Kashmir or a resolution against India, they evaded.

Retired admiral Shahid Karim Ullah was the Ambassador and PR at OIC. When he came on his introductory visit to Jeddah, he was briefed against me. In his very first meeting, he hurled threats at my father and told my father that there were certain officers who deal with chief ministers and governors directly; he would be setting them right. He was also asked to inaugurate an automatic token system. The new Head of chancery, Zaighamuddin, took credit for it. However, he was exposed when the Ambassador inquired about the cost and procedures. The next was his meeting with the OIC secretary general. The day of the meeting, my father wanted to brief him; he snubbed my father on the pretext that he knew everything. While in the meeting, he spoke about the Kashmir issue and told Secretary-General that Pakistan was ready to negotiate even Northern Areas. The Pakistan stand was contrary to his assertions. It was Wednesday. We left for Jezzan on a consular visit in the evening after the meeting. My father was in the hotel when the Ambassador called me. He was perplexed and disturbed. He told my father that he got a call from the presidency on northern areas because OIC put in their press release. He sought my help to get it rectified. My father told him that my father would try and get it corrected. My father called the secretariat and requested them to take the objectionable para out of the press release. It was done and reported t him. He appreciated the swift and effective handling of the issue.

The next was his presentation in the ministry. The consul general considering my father hostile gave it

to the Consul accounts. The presentation and write-up were rejected by the Ambassador. Now the consul general has just two days to submit, so he referred to me. My father prepared it, and the Ambassador approved and presented it before the president at the envoy's conference. He got an appreciation for it. He sent appreciation to me. One day he called my father in a furious mood and told my father why my father was propagating such and such thing. My father informed him that my father was not doing it. But he told my father that my father was a small fly in the frying pan, so my father must stay away. Finally, when he found out the truth, he started respecting my father more than others. He also appreciated my collective lunch program. Because most of the officers were not on talking terms. My father got them nearer to each other and created a forum of daily collective lunch to discuss any grievances. The staff was streamlined. The issues and problems of staff were resolved on priority because the previous Hoc was not meeting and listening to them. It has improved the working conditions and atmosphere.

Irfan Shami was posted on deputation at OIC. He was very critical of former DPR Hassan Raza. He told my father that Raza was a pretender and damaged Pakistani cause at OIC. He was very appreciative of my father's work and credited him for his great diplomatic work. It is pertinent to note that among all officers, only my father kept in contact with Shami. He visited him at times of need and obliged him whenever requested. Shami was very helpful to my father at OIC, and it gave a lot of

strength to his overtures. Shami was religiously very attached to the tombs of saints, and he searched for the traces. He always traveled to Madina and believed in the spiritual power of saints, whereas my father believed in the message of the Quran and Sunnah and considered all power belonged to Allah. On return to Islamabad, Shami took my father to his spiritual guide and wanted to convert him to his belief. However, my father discussed this with his Pir, and the guide himself validated his assertions of my father. The officer shunned my father because he was firm on his straight belief in the guidelines of the Quran and Sunnah.

When my father was posted at the Karachi camp office, my father got relations with Arbab Rahim and then governor Ishrat Al ibaad. When my father was posted to Jeddah, they used to call my father for protocol and arrangements there. I, on my personal level, facilitated them. Arbab Ghulam Rahim came to my house. My father used to offer him candid opinions about his governance.

He was very open and straightforward. He said that Parvez Musharaf is part of MQM, and he was patronizing their corruption. He said that they were laundering money sack fulls to London and other countries, but he was helpless. When he told my father that he won all local councils, including Larkana, by defeating the people's party, my father told him that it was a total farce because he would not be able to win even mirpur khas and Badin if elections were free and fair. He challenged, but later on, it proved right.

Yes, when Zardari was released from prison, they came to umrah and held a meeting with Nawaz Sharif. My father was requested by a friend from a people's party to take care of them. My father told him that it would be done but invisibly because of intelligence against us. When she met Jiyalas at the Marhaba hotel, it became mini jalsa; jalsa was prohibited in Saudi. When she left, people attending were taken into custody. We then jumped in and rescued them

it was friendly, but he was also weaker in listening and believing propaganda. There was an accountant at a Pakistan school; she used to be chummy with his wife and then called him Arbab bhai. My father told him that she was an opportunist, but he didn't believe me. She later on ditched him and went to the people's party and got a senatorship. Arbab was advised by my father on education. He appreciated my ideas and asked my father to join him in the Sindh government. My father was requisitioned, and my father got my posting cut short by four months and came back to Pakistan in March 2007.

I have never met him but had contact with his son-in-law and colleagues like Ahsan Iqbal and ishaq dar. One day my father saw ISHAQ Dar among the applicants. My father inquired from the staff why he was standing there. They told my father that he wanted his documents to be attested, but there was a ban on them, so he was not allowed to enter my office. My father asked my PA to call him. He was given a chair and offered tea. In the meantime, my father received a call from an officer; he told my father that there was a

ban on them. My father asked who had imposed it. He told my father that barra sahib means Parvez Musharaf. My father told him that Pakistan was not the jagir of Parvez Musharaf; anyone having citizenship would be entertained for his rightful work. When dar listened to it; he stood up and told Sirohey," don't risk your job for me" my father replied now done was done; so keep calm, take tea, and get your documents attested. During his stay with me, we discussed a lot of things, including relief to people and merit-based posting and promotions. He accepted mistakes during their tenure and assured them that if Allah gave them a chance, those would not be repeated.

Next, Ashen Iqbal and Captain Safdar were obliged at the cost of hostility with the inner circle. When Hussain Nawaz was ill in London, Nawaz Sharif applied for a passport to visit him. My father got their passports done, although my father was OSd at that time. But PARVEZ Musharaf refused to approve their passports, so the Ambassador told CG to stop issuance. My father leaked their numbers and given to his Secretary, Qari Shakeel (late). It was given to TV channels. The ministry took notice, and CG immediately blamed my father for the breach. However, my father explained my position that there was no written order to refuse him passports that's why passports were made. Later on, the passports were released under the pressure of media coverage.

In March 2006, my father was relieved of the post of Head of the chancery. During my three and half months as HOC, my father did overhaul the whole consulate general. People remarked that it was after

decades. In August 2006, the consul OIC arrived, and my father was relieved of my duties as Pakistan representative at the OIC forum. However, the benchmark left was not achieved after the lapse of many years, i.e., participation of the OIC secretary general in the Kashmir day solidarity function and full cabinet attending dinners, etc. My father was again given charge of the passport office in February 2006 because my colleague library Hussain was transferred prematurely on account of the complaint of the consul general on his work in Bosnia. My father was also given charge of NADRA. In August 2006, NADRA DG Brigadier (Retired) Bag came to visit Jeddah. My father was told to brief him about the situation there. My father briefed him about the current status and future plans to improve the working of NADRA. He appreciated the plan and asked my father to wait for his return back to headquarters for approval of the expenditure. While the brigadier was traveling from Riyadh to Dhahran, he called my father on mobile and asked if my father could manage development work on one month's credit. My father gave an affirmative reply, and he approved the project on the phone. My father got the contractor to establish NADRA in separate villas with automatic token systems, a cafeteria, a sitting place, water coolers, air-conditioning, etc. it was done within one week, and we announced to applicants that all applicants within the premises of the NADRA building would be served without time limit. Initially, we had problems handling rush, but after a few days, it went down. NADRA was having a lot of problems before my taking over. However, with the

dedication and cooperation of the technical team of NADRA, like Shoaib, we overcame it.

One day my father was sitting at the window and deciding the cases of applicants; a candidate approached by breaking the line and asked my father to do his work urgently. My father advised him to follow the line. Did he inquire from my father that my father did not know him? my father replied no, and he said that he was the nephew of ch. Shujaat Hussain. My father asked him; what was Ch. Shujaat selling in Jeddah? He was astonished and asked if my father was ignorant of Ch. Shujaat, the prime minister of Pakistan. My father said if he was actually the nephew of the prime minister, then he must follow the rule because the prime minister was elected by the people, so people first. He left by threatening that he would set my father right. My father didn't bother and continued my work. My father received a call from the consul passports that my father had annoyed the relative of the prime minister, so my father must do his work. My father refused and suggested that he must come after lunch break at the office because that was a time for ordinary people. He tried to threaten me, but my father didn't budge and persisted. He sent him to the Consul general. The consul General quarreled with me, but my father refused to oblige before finishing the line of people. He also tried to terrify me. However, the person went without getting service, and people around my father were afraid of the consequences. However, nothing happened. Another incident occurred when such a person came to my father by violating the line. My father refused to him the

service. He told my father that he was secretary of the then federal minister ch. Shahbaz Hussain. My father told him to follow the line or come after the zuhr prayer. He went back in a fury. Again pressures from the Consul and Consul general were withstood. However, after some weeks, the federal minister arranged dinner at his restaurant and, in his speech, criticized corrupt practices in the consulate general. My father challenged him and told him that he was probably referring to past times, not present ones. He said that it was the current status. My father told him that check with the community sitting at the dinner table. He cross-checked with them. Almost all unanimously supported my position and appreciated the services. He was informed that a previously ordinary passport was given in two months now in a week and same urgent day. Moreover, he was informed that fast track passport window was opened for emergency cases. The passport was given in two hours by the vice-consul. The extension to early-issued passports was given in five minutes. He was amazed and apologized for his misinformation. He offered full support for our work in the consulate. He kept supporting our events, including dinners to the OIC cabinet on subsidized rates to the consulate general.

There was another person, a successful businessman, in Jeddah. His mother died, and we went for condolences. While we were sitting there, he quipped that he never saw me. My father told him that he had never visited for one year to the consulate. He replied that he called the consulate people to serve him. My father told him that now the consulate would not be

coming to specific persons. He challenged my father and told my father that when the time came, it would be proven. One evening my father received a phone call about his passport renewal. My father informed him that the consulate was already closed at 4 pm, and it was about 5 pm. He instructed my father to open it and make his passport. My father informed him that he would be served tomorrow once he personally submitted his passport. He called the consul general, and the consul general directed my father to accept his passport and issue it immediately. My father told him that he was claiming that all officers, including the consul general, were in his pocket. He was furious and told my father to deal according to the rules. My father replied to the businessmen to submit in the morning at the express counter; we shall be issuing in two hours. Finally, he visited the consulate and got his passport renewed.

There were tensions, and people were not on talking terms. However, my father tried to be calm and quiet, completely relying on Almighty Allah. My father used to visit haram often. One such evening my father found my rival Consul consular also there. My father asked him; you are also here; he asked the counter-question; my father replied to him that my father was always coming there. However, keeping in view your actions, it was least expected. He said that in trouble, everyone refers to the Creator. When inquiries and audits were over, and my father was given a chance, then my father went to everyone, and reconciliation was achieved. My father got them on one table. We

found out that the former HOC was behind all wrangling and disputes among the officers.

The community as a whole was not happy with my transfer. They even came to my father and offered to write to the foreign minister. However, my father informed them that my father was going by choice to the Sindh government for the improvement of education. They arranged scores of farewell parties. It is recorded to date that the community arranged 72 farewell parties for me, and a few dozen were turned down with thanks. The local press published the story of farewell parties with a number of parties. It may be noted here that in the last three months of my tenure, my father have hardly eaten at my house. Even breakfasts were booked. In the last two weeks, there were parties in the morning, brunch time, lunch, Hi tea, and dinner. The consul general called many leading community leaders and requested them not to invite my father to the farewell party. But the community refused to listen to him.

The consul general wrote to the ministry that my father must not be allowed to leave because there was a shortage of officers at Jeddah, and an experienced going without a replacement would jeopardize the work. However, the ministry turned down his request. But before it, my father visited Karachi to meet the Chief Minister and finalize the program of reforms in Sindh education in December 2006. When my father returned, my father was told that the consul general had removed my father from the post of vice-consul passport. My father didn't react and went to CG and presented gifts that my father had brought for him. He

probed my father and checked my reaction. My father told him that it was his prerogative to post any officer within the mission. He told my father that my father had abused him in his absence. My father told him that my father always dared to tell him hard truths to face; why would my father be abusing you in absentia when my father could have done it in front of you? Who informed you? my father checked with him. He tried to evade but finally disclosed that Zaighamuddin, the HOC informed him. In the meantime, Hoc entered his office. My father asked Cg to inquire from him where my father abused you. He couldn't reply / my father was vice consul NADRA only, so my father went to a separate villa and worked hard to make it people-friendly. The newspaper printed articles and news in appreciation of NADRA's work. He directed Hoc to issue my father an explanation on the news. My father didn't reply to the explanation. They both visited my father and asked why my father was not replying to the explanation letter. My father told them that my father was reluctant to mention them as illiterates. They asked how? my father told them that according to Esta Code, only press conferences, statements, and interviews without permission were not allowed. The news was given by reporters, not by the officer, so it cannot be questioned. They requested to return the explanation letter. They would withdraw it. My father replied that despite the withdrawal, the letter would be kept as a record for my autobiography, along with dozens already in custody. In the end, Cg especially changed the tradition of a formal farewell party. Traditionally officers or officials transferred

were given joint parties, but in my case, only the officer's party in the dining room was arranged to avoid criticism of CG and Hoc working. When my father called on Cg for departure, he certainly gave advice. One of the worst pieces of advice was asking my father to flirt and have sexual relations with only married women. He told my father that my father was going to deal with scores of lady teachers, so it would be easier to serve them and be served in return. My father told him that there was Farman of Ali (R-A), that fornicator is shameless. But he has certain good traits. Whenever my father was sick, he would have been the first person to come. He came with his family to the airport and said farewell. Whenever he went on vacation, he brought gifts for all officers. He supported poor workers in Pakistan houses at Madina.

There were few such people in our jurisdiction, but my father avoided Company with them. However, one of them, Sufi Nazeer, was Murshid of my Cg. He kept requesting him to direct my father to have dinner or tea with him. The CG insisted on my father many times. One time we were on a consular visit to Madina; the consul general advised us to have tea with his Sufi Murshid. We went to him and wanted to learn about his spiritual journey. He was beating about the bush. It proved that he was not only illiterate in worldly knowledge but religious one also. My father told him how Sufi you got prominence among Pakistani followers. He said that people like Nawaz Sharif and Zardari were his disciples and offered thousands of dollars to him. My father asked him that has he ever asked them where they got those dollars.

He said that it was not the duty of spiritual people. He informed that Zafarullah Jamali was given the good news of Prime Minister Ship by him. My father asked him why he was so powerful and then why he didn't get power himself and just looked for few thousand dollars from them. He said that you know he was a follower of Shaikh Abdul Qadir, who got capsized boat back. My father replied that it was Shaikh's god. Life can be given back only by Allah. The Sufi went furious and told my father that if my father doubted his Pir's power, then he would show his own power to me. My father challenged him to do whatever he wanted. He chanted some mantras and kept reading Quls, and he shivered and seemed helpless to damage me. We left him when he was using filthy language, so we exposed Sufi in one hour.

We registered a social organization in 2005. The mandate was education and health projects. My father requested the then Consul general to help in raising funds. Because we were trying to establish quality education for the underprivileged, he refused on the pretext that any institute in Sindh would not be digested by powerful circles, so he showed his helplessness. He used to arrange fundraising dinners for many organizations, mainly from Lahore and Islamabad, and millions of riyals were collected. However, he never assisted any NGO from Sindh. We tried to meet local sheiks and even the imam of Kaaba. The imam listened to my plan and appreciated it. However, he asked my father to wait till the situation for donors settles down. He informed that due to pressure from Americans, the Saudi Government had tightened the

noose against donors. My father will ask donors to build a school, equip it, and hand you over one year of expenses. However, after CM sindh called my father to work in the education department, my father felt after improvement in public education, there was less need for private/ welfare projects.

It is not an entirely correct assertion, but the majority of people belong to Punjab, and few are from other provinces. The national language in Pakistan missions which my father served was Punjabi, not Urdu. But others were not appreciated speaking their own language. May it be Pushto and Sindhi or Balochi?

Q: 70- Did you experience any such resistance to the appointment of local employees from other provinces?

Answer- Yes- when my father was HOC, we advertised a few posts in MRP.NADRA and administration sections, luckily, four candidates were selected by the committee, and three were Sindhi and one Balochi. When we issued orders, the Intel officer there came to my father and reminded my father that my father was doing nationalism. My father asked him, how? He replied that you appointed all Sindhi; you didn't find anyone from Punjab? my father told him that the committee consisted of three officers each from KP, Punjab, and Sindh, so it was not my decision alone. The decision was approved by the Consul general. Moreover, my father asked him if there were 60 staff members, and out of them, only four were from sindh, five were from KP, and one was from Balochistan; if we go by the quota of provinces, it would have been just 33, not 48 seats. Moreover, my father

reminded him that Pakistan was a federation of four provinces that were shareholders in all jobs and resources. My father asked him if he considered Punjab as Pakistan, then it deviated concept, which caused the separation of Bangladesh. He hurled threats and promised to fix my father at the right time. He pressurized the consul general, and all of them were removed within three months, and new faces from the favored community were inducted. A protocol officer resigned from Sindh and was replaced by an elder brother. My father pointed out to the Consul general that biased approach; he plainly replied that he was under pressure from powerful people. He advised my father to stay away from the parochial approach; otherwise, there would be problems in my career progress.

He was Pashtun. He told one Pashtun officer that his father told him that if you have the closest friend from another nationality and a Pashtun dog, you have to prefer the dog over the closest friend. But in administration, he was not biased on linguistic lines. However, the officers from the largest province were mainly parochial in approach, whether it was appointment or posting.

The consulate general established emergency residences beside the consulate general, and they were looked after by us. It is important to note that people were dealt with on parochial lines, not on merit. My father would give you an example of the 2005 Ramadan; we had almost a hundred persons who lost passports and money, and luggage. They were hosted by us. Most of the people were from Sindh, Balochistan,

KP, and Seriaki belt. The hajj directorate, headed by a laborite and community welfare consuls, evaded to help them. We appealed to the community and got them food, clothes, and even tickets. It is pertinent to note that we have had 3 million Riyals in our community welfare fund.

I didn't say that they were manhandled, but the service was not fair. When my father opened my doors to the public and people came to know that my father was from sindh, they approached my father and shared their grievances. They said that they were not even allowed to meet officers for the solution to their problems. They blamed they were asked to pay bribes against rightful services. They produced some examples, like a Sindhi from Larkana who was declared Burmese and issued a one-year special Burmese passport because he refused to pay a bribe to the official. However, during my tenure, they were given access to all services evenhandedly. But they were seldom supported by community welfare funds. During my tenure, my father got relief to hardly four or five persons from Sindh or Balochistan, i.e., tickets; the rest were from Punjab and a few from KPK.

No, in Pakistani bureaucracy, my experience is different; merit is nowhere. They blame us for nationalism but practically apply ethnic parameters for posting and promotions. My father performed my duties as consul passport and in many other posts, including OIC and protocol. But despite all assignments found time to assist the consul commercial in promoting Pakistani trade and services. In 2005 he wanted to arrange a catalog show. We worked hard and invited

scores of Saudi businessmen. Moreover, we invited Pakistani businessmen to address the session. The consul general ordered my father not to help him. However, my father was OSd and told him that after office time, my father would be helping him in a private capacity. It was a successful event appreciated by all and sundry. The next Consul of commercials, the Hijab Gul, arranged an investment conference and assisted my father from the plan, preparation to execution. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz was the keynote speaker. It was attended by more than 70 leading business groups of Saudi Arabia, including the Dallah group, Bin Laden group, and prince Talal's group. It was a milestone in the Saudi Pakistan trade relations because many of the participants wanted to invest in Pakistan; however, after the conference, when the prime minister was taken for lunch, the Consul was walking with him. He looked down upon him because of his shalwar kameez and waste coat attire. He directed him to wear smart suits. The Consul replied humbly that he was wearing national dress. The prime minister became enraged and instructed his principal secretary that he should be called back immediately, and he would be issuing the first order for his recall after returning to Pakistan. This was a prize for the main performing person in Pakistan; what to talk of supporters. My father was also made to explain my illegal support to the commercial Consul despite orders of the consul general. In February 2006, my father worked with the commercial Consul and successfully convinced leading businessmen to attend Expo Pakistan; interestingly, a large number of women en-

trepreneurs. However, again the Consul general didn't allow my father to accompany the delegation officially despite approval from the trade development authority. But my father went with him as a private person on leave and conducted the delegation. They praised the Expo, range of products, cost, and quality. The interesting episode was the presence of Dr. Hilal H. Al-Tuwairqi, Chairman of Al Tuwairqi Holding, during Expo Pakistan. He invited us to dinner at Sheraton. During the discussion, the Consul inquired about the steel mills' bid. The Saudi steel tycoon informed him that it would be given to him because the boss had assured him. Is it a gift for you or merit? He indirectly indicated that in the world, nothing was free. He invited us to his Steel mills' groundbreaking ceremony on the first of March 2006. In the morning, we saw on TV that roads were being blocked because the president, prime minister, speaker, senate chairman, governors, chief ministers, and armed forces chiefs were attending the inauguration. It has made it a special event and at par with or beyond the Head of state protocol. They claimed that it would be Pakistan's first private-sector integrated environment-friendly steel manufacturing project of Al Tuwairqi Holding, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. TSML complex spreads over an area of 220 acres at Bin Qasim, Karachi, and employs the world's most advanced DRI (Direct Reduction of Iron) technology based on the MIDREX process, owned by Kobe Steel of Japan. The plant, with the capacity to produce 1.28 million tons of high-quality DRI, is now on the verge of completion. We couldn't dare to attend and face road-

blocks and jams. My father have been at the forefront of finding opportunity and referring it to the consul commercial. My father also facilitated the commercial section in the consular section. The consul general created a lot of obstacles for him and my father in the promotion of trade and services in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia. But we were self-motivated and wanted to justify our expenses. Later it was completed in 2012, and Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf inaugurated Tuwairqi Steel Mills Limited (TSML). TSML, the largest private sector steel manufacturing unit in Pakistan, has been completed with a huge investment of some 342 million dollars.

You can judge by yourself how things were manipulated during dictatorial times. None of us was appreciated. However, the Consul, in his own capacity, issued a letter of thanks and appreciation for my assistance.

I don't know much about the internal corruption or misappropriation in the country, but my father know a few of the incidents which my father am sharing here. The chairman of Ordnance factories of Pakistan (OFP) visited Saudi Arabia and requested the consul commercial to get any partner company for his organization. The Consul founded and convinced Amiantit Company of Saudi Arabia to undertake a joint venture to manufacture fiber pipes in Pakistan. They agreed and signed the agreement. The then-chairman OFP requested the Consul not to disclose it because Shaukat Aziz would be asking for his share. Moreover, there was a famous KESC sell case. Saudi

prince Abdul Aziz bin Mita'b's company bought the major shares. The then chief minister sindh Arbab Ghulam Rahim came for Umrah in Ramdhan in 2005. The prince invited him and us to Iftaar. During the discussion, he informed my father that he would be bringing the latest technology and investment to make KESC at par with the New York electric supplies corporation. But he made clear that he could be investing millions of dollars but would not pay a single penny as a bribe. Later on, he was reluctant to pay the full amount of the bid. We approached him, and he made it clear that Shaukat Aziz was asking for his share. He was not ready to pay anything to him. We suggested he approach the president. The prince withdrew from the bid and surrendered the initial deposit, and communicated that it was because of persistent bribe demands. He then fired all Pakistani management on the pretext that they were all cheaters.

There was Jeddah economic forum which was attended by prime minister Shaukat Aziz.

Yes, he visited many times. On one such visit, his military secretary asked the consul general that we consul commercial and my father may be advised to stay away from the presidential lineup because he didn't like bearded people. But Allah showed that respect and disrespect are in the hands of Allah alone. In the lost visit, which my father handled when Parvez Musharaf went for the Middle East peace initiative, the Saudi King cold-shouldered him. He was received by the deputy Municipal commissioner of Jeddah. When he was going to Madina, all officers boarded the plane, and when the president was board-

ing, there was only one person on the red carpet, the Saudi officer. When the president shook hands with him, he asked about the embassy people. He informed him that two officers were sitting in the royal lounge. He asked him to call them. He sent his officers to call us. When we came to the tarmac, he inquired why we were sitting there. My father told him that because your military secretary directed on your behalf that you didn't like bearded people. He was furious and clarified that he was not against bearded persons; next time, you must be in the line. He shook hands and then left to board the plane.

There was a blushes community in Saudi Arabia who were given special cards. However, they reported that some Pakistan origin people were not blushing, so the government asked them to produce a passport or face deportation. They desperately approached the consulate, but there was none to resolve the issue. The person approached me; my father looked into the passport manual and found an article that empowered the passport officer to issue a passport to any Pakistani without documents on the witness of three Pakistani notables. It was only for the Middle East. My father took the decision and allowed them to have passports. My father was so satisfied that it gave my father contentment. There was another case of an old woman having an issue with her son's passport. She was a poor woman who was widowed, probably, so she didn't get a passport in time. But due to pressure from authorities, she came to us. It was also not a solvable case. However, my father resolved on a similar formula. My father went to a consular visit and, in the

evening, received a call. The caller was the boy; he informed my father that he and his mother were sitting in haram al-Sharif and praying for me. My father have given passports to scores of poor people without any recommendation, and they prayed for me. It was the case that when we went to Taif for a visit, the Pakistani whom we served informed their Kafeel princes Muhammad bin Faisal. He wanted them to bring my father to meet with him. On a consular visit, his MD arranged dinner for us at la meridian Taif. To our surprise complete restaurant where we were dining was booked for us. We were just ten people, including my family. One day my father went to meet former Cm Sindh Arbab Ghulam Rahim at Hilton Makkah. A poor person was there to seek the help of CM for his passport. He requested my father if it was as per rule, then help him. My father told the CM that if he fulfilled the requirements, then he needed no recommendation. However, my father told him that his case would be resolved, and my father resolved it.

I don't think everyone was corrupt in the mission. There were many officers who served people with dedication. However, there was one corrupt practice that was accepted by everyone without question. When my father was posted there, my father started searching for a house, and the consul general tried to give my father a tough time. The Head of the Chancery used to visit all houses selected by my father and rejected on one or another pretext. However, during the search, my father found that apartments hired by other officers were actually on much less rent, as claimed by the concerned officers. The ceiling was

63000 Riyals, but the rent was just 22000, and they were protected by the consul general and HOC. Finally, my father found a house, and HOC visited and talked to the owner. The owner demanded 70,000 Riyals, and Hoç left it to my father to handle. According to the terms of the contract, the government has to provide a free furnished house, but here Hoc left without getting it on the actual rent ceiling. My father went to the owner and told him in plain words that my ceiling was 63000; if he could rent on the above rent, it would be appreciated. He agreed and rented us. It was considered the best house among all officers, even seniors having a rent ceiling of 90,000 Riyals. The consul general praised the selection and shamed other officers for rent eating.

Moreover, the entertainment allowance was considered to be part of the salary, and the majority of officers seldom hosted any dinner or lunch for local persons. The consul general tried to shame the officers at the time of approving their refund notes. Despite differences and even enmity, the consul general always appreciated my father for the best parties, which resulted in making friends. My father hosted the CM sindh, senior officers from Pakistan, Saudi businessmen, officers, and influential Shaikhs, who supported us in our activities, including trade promotion. This was another wrong practice accepted in the system.

Let my father share with you an event at the beginning of my tenure. My father was staying at a furnished apartment and was having no convenience. Some colleagues arranged a welcome party for my father at a restaurant. My father went with my two

kids by taxi. When dinner finished, my father came out on the road and tried to hire a taxi. My father stopped by a taxi and inquired about the fare. He informed my father that he would be charging 20 Riyals. My father told him that it was very near. He refused to accept ten riyals. However, after walking a few meters, my father again stopped taxi, and incidentally, it was the same. He said that you chose my father again. My father told him that it was not deliberate. He was told to accept ten riyals. He bemoaned but accepted. When we sat in the car, he asked where my father was working; my father informed him that in the consulate. He exclaimed that the Consulate people were corrupt and they didn't need to negotiate for a few Riyals. My father replied to him that for corrupt people like him, there would be corrupt officials in the offices. However, after some months, the same guy came for service, got it, and returned back; they asked my father about recognizing him. My father denied. He told my father that he was sorry for his comments about corruption in the consulate. It was a fact in the past, but he was pleased to appreciate that things have drastically improved.

Once, we were going to Al-Baha for consular service; we hired a Saudi taxi driver. While traveling to the town, which was almost fifty km away from the airport, he said that why there were Pakistanis under each stone; there was no bread in Pakistan. It hurt me, and my father responded to him that if he remembered that before the advent of oil, people from Pakistan used to send money and food to Saudi Arabia. Arabs used to visit Pakistan for support. Moreover,

before the independence of Pakistan, the Muslim states of Khairpur, Bahawalpur, Bhopal, and Hyderabad established houses and provided financial and material support to the people and government of Saudi Arabia. Moreover, my father told him that Pakistanis built roads, telephone lines, railway lines, power pylons, and infrastructure in this country. They didn't get free money from Saudi Arabia. He was also told that there were more Indians than Pakistanis than non-Muslims. He has a problem with Muslim Pakistanis, not with Hindus who killed Muslims in India. He was ashamed and apologized for his attitude. There were many other incidents of Pakistanis and Saudis having negative views about the consulate and community, respectively. However, when we served, then the community appreciated us. But Saudi views at the government and private level hardened with each passing day. The governments in Pakistan played an important role in it. Because our president and prime minister received the crown prince and attended Saudi national days. In Saudi, even director-level officers didn't attend Pakistan national day. Pakistani Ambassador retired admiral Shahid Karim Ullah regretted that he was not given time by the foreign minister, even the director general dealing with South Asia. On the contrary, the Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan was like a viceroy; he could have met anyone with a choice. It has considerably weakened the diplomatic missions in Saudi Arabia.

There were a few influential Pakistani persons like the personal physician of king Abdullah and managers of princes, but the embassy or consulate General

was not supported by them. There could be two reasons why diplomats and others were not communicating with them, or they were not ready to support missions in their endeavors. The consul general house was owned by the personal physician of the then-king. Our property for the new consulate General was also registered in his name because Saudi didn't allow the Pakistan mission to buy it. Later on, when the Saudi government amended the laws, the land was transferred in the name of the Pakistan mission.

Pakistan origin people hold very important positions within the Saudi cabinet. Shaikh Salih, the owner of Albarkah bank and Dallah group, hailed from sindh. He was very influential in the cabinet of Shah Fahad and Abdullah. Moreover, he was one of the richest people in Saudi Arabia. However, he was not cultivated or benefitted from the mission. It may be because of his origin. There were a few old businessmen originally from Pakistani cities. But the majority of them were either from sindh or Seriaki belts and not tapped. There were many businessmen living in Kingdom across the country. There was also an association of Pakistani investors who were about 300 in number. The trade and service promotion in the Kingdom from Pakistan was not proactive; it was lukewarm. The exports to Saudi Arabia were less than $500 million, whereas total Saudi imports were more than $ 129 billion. The result was not encouraging because we haven't applied the economic diplomacy model.

# Chapter 2: Attitude of Saudi officials and public with diplomats of Pakistan and public

Some individuals of Pakistani origin have achieved laurels in the service of Saudi Arabia and have risen to prominence socially, economically, and politically; the majority of Pakistani migrants are in the blue-collar category, employed in "3-D jobs—dirty, dangerous, and degrading. The presence of more than 2.7 million Pakistanis in Saudi Arabia is a reflection of the strong bonds between the two nations. These expatriates have contributed to Saudi Arabia's development, growth, and prosperity.

The invaluable work done by Pakistani engineers, doctors, financial experts, architects, educationists, and ordinary laborers is not only acknowledged but has also helped further cement the subterranean bonds of love and affinity between our two countries.

According to the available data, some 2 million Pakistani workers came to Saudi Arabia between 1971 and 2005. With the arrival of the Pakistanis, the huge task of the development of the Kingdom began. Roads and motorways, bridges, the two Holy Mosques, the holy precincts, deluxe hotels, immaculate highways, winding flyovers and underpasses, multi-storied residential complexes, the landmark Kingdom/Al-Faisaliah tower, royal guest houses, and communications networks took shape out of brick and

mortar. Pakistanis were engaged from designing to execution everywhere.

In 1978, Pakistani engineers and technicians working with Bell Canada, Ericsson, and Phillips were involved with the installation, operation, and maintenance of switching, transmission, and communication networks.

In addition, the present structure of the Saudi Electric Company is the brainchild of a handful of Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA)-trained Pakistani engineers who completed the tasks of planning, designing, installing, operating, and maintenance of the company.

Our specialists and consultants also helped to shape the banking and finance sectors of the Kingdom.

The National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) was one of the few international banks which, in 1949, received a license to operate in Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) was established in 1952, and in 1964 King Faisal appointed a dynamic Pakistani economist, Dr. Anwar Ali, as the first governor of SAMA (1964-74). He formulated the agency's banking control laws in 1966, introducing an annual report system and establishing an investment department to divert dollars — pouring in due to the oil price boom in 1973 — toward the infrastructure development of the country. These initiatives still work as the bible of the monetary policy of the country.

SAMA advisers Saeed Hamid, Hassan Mustafa, Misbah Uddin Farooqi, and Pervaiz Hassan toiled from

the early 60s till the early 90s to develop banking systems and procedures. Dr. Mohammed Umar Chabra (1966-1998) was another economist and researcher from Pakistan who propounded his theory on Islamic banking and won the prestigious King Faisal Award. He pioneered the establishment of the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah.

Tariq Jawaid, another well-known economist and Pakistani finance wizard, started his services at SAMA in the early 80s and continues to do so.

He brought in more skilled bankers of Pakistani origin, such as Jamil Ahmed, Rana Shahid Habib, Qaisar Noor, Mehdi Hassan, and Abbas Hassan, who rendered their services for more than two decades. They made up the second generation of Pakistanis, supplementing the commendable work done by their predecessors.

In the late 80s, almost 75 percent of CFOs were of Pakistani origin, and NBP held 40 percent of the shares in Bank Al-Jazeera. World-renowned Pakistani monetary expert Shaukat Aziz worked as a bank CEO from 1986 to 1988 and made a great contribution to the development of the banking sector in the Kingdom. The legacy continues with bankers such as Ghayas Beg. Shujaat Nadeem, and Sajjad Rizvi.

Health care is yet another sector where Pakistani medical professionals have earned great prestige for their country. In 1970, Dr. Naeem Ghani, a UK-trained general surgeon, joined the Military Hospital in Riyadh and established its surgical department, and his commendable work led to him being appointed as

personal physician to the current King Salman. The late Princess Sultana Foundation was also established in Rawalpindi at his behest. Dr. Shahid Nawaz helped to establish the Department of Cardiology in Buraida and became a renowned cardiologist in the Kingdom. In the early 70s, Dr. Ashraf Ali and Dr. Halim Khan helped to set up the histopathology department in Riyadh. Dr. Fazal-ur-Rehman, another prominent Pakistani cardiologist, headed the late King Khalid's medical team, and for his services in the health sector, he was given a ministerial position.

Over 40 years ago, Dr. Ameer Bux Channa established the department of anesthesiology at the King Khalid University Hospital of King Saud University. His training programs are still followed at the university.

The second generation of health professionals came in the early 80s. Prof. Riaz Qureshi initiated the first Saudi Board Family Medicine Program. Senior Consultant Endocrinologist Dr. Sohail Inaam has been at the Prince Sultan Military Medical City for several decades. His contributions to research in diabetes are well recognized. In the Eastern Province, the inaugural Eye Hospital was staffed by Pakistani consultant ophthalmologists such as Dr. Wajahat Ali Pirzada, who has been in the post for more than a quarter of a century. Dr. M F Siddiqui is a renowned author. The Saudi Ministry of Health has been hiring thousands of physicians, medical specialists, and consultants from Pakistan to run its national health program.

In addition, Pakistanis have left deep imprints in the educational sector of Saudi Arabia. At the College of Medicine of King Saud University, Prof. Dr. Sultan Ayoub Meo, an internationally renowned Pakistani scholar, has made an important contribution toward research in diabetes in the Kingdom, for which he has been awarded the King Abdul Aziz medal of excellence.

Another notable Pakistani, Prof. Dr. Mohammed Khurram Khan, has played a pivotal role at the College of Computer and Information Sciences of the university and set up the Center of Excellence for research in cyber security. His endeavors have also earned him the King Abdul Aziz medal of excellence.

There are also dozens of Pakistanis who have worked tirelessly for the university and earned great respect. Dr. Mujahid Kamran was a professor in the physics department before he joined Punjab University as its vice-chancellor.

In the development of mass communication and media, Pakistanis did not lag behind. Professor Javed Iqbal, from the College of Languages and Translation at King Saud University, made the first announcement from Saudi English Channel 2 in June 1981. He remained the only Asian program presenter who interviewed dozens of Pakistani dignitaries during their visits to Riyadh and produced programs on Pakistani culture.

In the Urdu service sector of Saudi Radio, he has presented his weekly programs for the past 37 years. For his contribution, he has been awarded King Fahd

Shield. The hundreds of thousands of Pakistanis who helped to build Saudi infrastructure consider this country their second homeland.

Every inch of Saudi Arabia today bears the aroma of Pakistani sweat, and our Saudi brothers gratefully acknowledge it.

Despite all the above services recognized time and again by the public and private quarters in the Kingdom, the behavior of expatriate workers was inhuman and below dignity. Pakistani detainees, former detainees, and their family members described widespread due process violations by the Saudi criminal justice system and Saudi courts, including long periods of detention without charge or trial, no legal assistance, pressure to sign confessions and accept predetermined prison sentences to avoid prolonged arbitrary detention and ineffective or pernicious translation services for defendants. The consulate tried to provide assistance to detainees, but Saudi officials sided with Saudi employers. Whenever employers were asked to fulfill their contractual obligations or pay salaries held by them, Saudi employers normally reported that an employee ran away and managed to get him arrested by police. In the deportation center, we visited for consular assistance and tried to argue with officials that they were legal workers but deprived of their salaries and benefits. However, they never budged and deported many legal workers.

What to talk of ordinary workers; the treatment of diplomats was not fair. When we arrived at the airport and lined up at the diplomatic counter, the official

would take our passports and disappear and return when almost all normal passport-holder passengers would clear. He would not explain but just stamp after causing the pain of waiting with family and children. Whenever we tried to argue with them, they replied that there was some problem with visas, whereas we were holding diplomatic residence passes. It happened almost every time. The behavior of police and immigration was not dignified. Pakistani diplomats lived in constant fear of any mishap at the hands of Saudi officials, Whereas Saudi diplomats lived like princes in Pakistan. They have access to the prime minister and Ministers; it was not reciprocated to us.

We received several cases of physical and psychological abuse by employers and, in some cases, by agents. Examples of abuse included beatings, deliberate burnings with hot irons, threats, insults, and forms of humiliation, such as shaving a domestic worker's head. Food deprivation was a common abuse. There were reports of rape, attempted rape, and sexual harassment, typically by male employers or their sons, and in some instances, by other foreign workers whom they had approached for assistance, but there were few women workers from Pakistan, so it was last reported. However, the confiscation of properties and businesses by kafeel remained the norm. Many Pakistanis were made paupers overnight by Kafeel, and legally they would not claim it. The kafeel system was a political bribe where a Saudi was given power over a foreign worker and business person.

The investor would invest in the name of kafeel and run it as his manager; the kafeel would receive monthly payments on account of his license. It would continue till kafeel remained happy and didn't know the quantum of business. Whenever Saudi was briefed about a huge turnover, he would dismiss the manager (actual owner) and cease the business. But in 2004, the Saudi government opened a business for foreign investors, and they got licenses. , But the majority of Pakistanis were working under the kafeel system. The quota was given to those Saudis who didn't have any company or work, so they imported workers and left them in the country on monthly payments. These issues were coming up, but government officials almost always supported Saudis. Many Embassies reported that few women approach Saudi authorities with these complaints due to the risk of being prosecuted themselves for adultery, fornication, or other moral "misconduct." However, they haven't taken any steps to address the blatant violation of Islamic laws. If a foreign worker was raped by a Saudi employer, he would not get flagged or stoned to death as per sharia law. But if any foreigner raped or accused of raping a Saudi woman, he would definitely get severe punishment.

There were many, but my father quote two- three important incidents. Mian Aslam Iqbal came to him; he lost his passport. My father issued him a passport and offered help if a ticket was required, but he refused with thanks. The same minister asked my father to offer the opportunity to serve any time in Lahore.

Once, my maternal uncle was going to admit his son to a government College University; he asked my father to request someone to facilitate. My father asked Mian sahib; he not only received him but kept him at his house and got his son admitted.

Another was the minister of minerals in Punjab; his brother lost his passport and luggage. His brother brought him to the consulate. My father made his passport, but the brother, who was the leading advocate of the high court, was so desperate that he literally shed tears. My father consoled him and offered him a telephone to talk to his family. He was worried about how he would travel once his brother left. My father assured him that nothing would happen and that he would be sent safely. Later on, he was sent home by us.

One day my father received a call from chief minister sindh recommending Bachal shah, who lost his passport. My father told him to send him. Shah came with his disciples, all of them living in Makkah. My father inquired from Shah, who sponsored his Umrah. He informed that his disciples sponsored all expenses. My father told him that it was not right for him to exploit poor people. He said that he was Oxford returned and not well versed in Islamic teachings. He blamed his Mureeds for ignorance and hiding the truth; because they knew Islamic teaching and the Arabic language. My father reprimanded his Mureeds for being straightforward and never supporting parasites.

It was a menace that recurred every year. The beggar syndicates sued to send men and women, even children, to Saudi Arabia during Ramdhan and hajj days. They were properly monitored and placed at various nodes in the haram and mina. They were also saved from a police crackdown. However, interestingly they were caught and released by the authorities, even deposited, but the next year again same people reappeared. It was well connected and used bribes at Saudi consulates/ embassy and local authorities besides Pakistani FIA and immigration. Because they used to make new passports from various cities with different names and traveled to Saudi Arabia; however, this was reduced once MRP was introduced. But beggars were still seen during Hajj and Ramdhan. One Pakistani, Syed Abdullah shah, told my father a story that he was called from Pakistan that a lady was coming to Makkah. He was requested to look after her. When he took her from haram, she put many bags and other items in his boot. When they reached the house, she offered some purses to him/ his family. He was alarmed because those purses were stolen. He asked her why she brought purses home. She plainly replied to keep them in safety. He asked about theft. She said that it was not theft, but she found and collected. He then forced her to tell the truth. She confessed that they were brought by some people for theft. There were not only beggary syndicates but theft syndicates.

## Chapter 3: Revelations by ISI Officer

Colonel Shaukat Kayani was posted there to look after the interests of Pakistan. However, he was busy keeping an eye on diplomatic officers. He very successfully divided and created fissures among the officers. None of the civilian officers was on talking terms during the tenure of Hassan Raza, the then head of Chancery. But tables were turned in the temporary tenure of my father as head of Chancery (Hoc). He initiated collective lunch, and officers were provided a platform to vent their grievances against anyone face to face. It denied the chance of mischief mongers to manipulate the situation. One day, Colonel Sahib was in a good mood, so he started spilling beans. He wanted to impress the audience with the power of his institution. He told us that the architects of the Hyderabad massacre, Janu again and Dr. Qadir manga, were their boys. They were given shelter after the action. They were assets and secret weapons of our institution. It was appalling, so everyone asked him a question, why were killers sponsored? He was very prompt in replying as if he was expecting the question; he replied in the national interest. My father asked him how he was killing his own citizens in the national interest. He replied at that time, MQM and heavy sindh joined hands for the rights of sindh, which was against the interests of the country, so the operation was aimed at creating a split between two

evil forces. The next question was about relations with MQM; he replied then MQM behaved and came back under the national agenda umbrella. It was disgusting that an agency that was supposed to protect eh citizens arranged the killing of citizens. He was asked about the 1st October retaliation by Mohajirs in Karachi that killed scores of Sindhi men, women, and old and young children. He replied that it was handled by the Karachi team. He was posted in Hyderabad so he could be sure of his own boys.

At another lunch break, he shared the story of Qadu Chachar of ghotki. He narrated that he was posted at Sukkur when Qadu contacted him. He was desperate and needed urgent help against SSP ghotki dr. Wali Ullah dal. He was assured by my father that SSP would be directed to spare him. He contacted SSP and explained in plain words that he was our man, so he must not be bothered. However, the SSP was stubborn to nab the notorious dacoit of the area, so he politely refused to oblige. He told him the consequences of refusal would be swift. The SSP. replied that he was not afraid of any consequence. Qadu dacoit was escorted to Sukkur and kept away from the evil eye of SSp. and SSp. was getting transferred. It was again a confession of abetting and supporting crime. It gave currency to the accusation of Sindhi nationalists that the dacoit problem was sown by the Zia regime to discredit the democratic credentials of Sindhis. It is pertinent to note that Qadu Chachar was the most wanted criminal in district ghotki. According to the

colonel himself, he was required by police in 70 cases of loot, robbery, murder, and kidnapping. Moreover, the Sind government has fixed head money on the arrest of Qadu Chachar, but he was enjoying safety at a safe house in Sukkur, and the honest police officer who was trying to uproot the menace of kidnapping for ransom was transferred.

He shared a story of the Soomras of Jacobabad and Shikarpur. He was asked by headquarters to contact Soomro so that the chief sahib would meet him. He contacted Illahi Bakhsh Soomro. Soomro told him that he was in Islamabad. The colonel asks him to board a night coach and reach Karachi as the chief sahib wants to meet him. The elder Soomro obeyed the order and reached Karachi and informed of his arrival at Karachi. My father communicated to the headquarter about his presence in Karachi; they told my father that it was Muhammad Mian Soomro, not Illahi Bakhsh, who was required for conversion to Quaid league. Illahi Bakhsh Soomro was in the Muslim League Nawaz group. He then informed the elder Soomro of the cancelation of the meeting. He said that it was no problem.

In 2002, he narrated that he was posted at Bahawalpur; the referendum for president Musharaf was held. They were given a target to get above 90% results in favor. He was informed by mid-day that voters were not coming to the polling station. He asked the then Nazim Chaudhry Tariq Bashir Cheema to muster support and get positive votes. By 4 pm, he

was informed that voting was above 100% in favor of the general sahib. He again asked Nazim to slow down the speed so that the percentage should be within the 100% limit. The result from Bahawalpur was 99% on the final tally. It was managed through poling officers and presiding officers. We also opened polling booths at railway stations and bus stands, so double triple voting was the norm still fell short of the majority switched to a proven track of managing it.

In November 2006, officers were discussing the passage of the women's protection bill from the national assembly and the threat of MMA to resign from assemblies. Colonel Kayani very calmly commented that MMA, except Molana Fazal ur Rehman, would resign from the assemblies. Molana was an intelligent and practical person. He would not be carried away by emotions. The officers from Pashtun ethnic group and even my father contested his claim. He offered any prize bet on that issue. The betting was rejected by all the officers disputing his claim, but they were not receptive to the claim. On 15th November 2006, the national assembly passed the women's protection bill. The MMA parties resigned from the seats, but Molana clung to the KPK government on the pretext that it was not an appropriate time to leave incomplete tasks in the province. In December 2006, my father was assigned duties of Hajj in charge of officers of the consulate General and diplomatic guests coming from abroad. He was at Mina just a day be-

fore the beginning of Hajj to arrange tents for the guests. He got late because it was 2 am in the morning when workers set all tents and necessary things there. The contractors offered him to rest till morning and then drive to Jeddah because he was driving himself and it was dangerous to drive under the influence of sleep. He accepted the offer. They took him to Azizia and offered to rest at a luxury apartment that was fully loaded for the guests. He inquired whose apartment was; they replied that it was an embassy apartment. He was puzzled to know that reply. He pushed for a clear answer and was told that colonel Kayani had booked it for Molana Fazal Rehman and his associates. It has unmasked the alliance between Molana and the agency. The good colonel was absolutely right in his claims neither Molana nor his provincial government resigned.

## Chapter 4: Project by some prince

Answer- As my father explained earlier that even the imam of Kaaba committed to helping. The project was given, and my father asked my friend Ghulam Mustafa Panhwer to get feasibility prepared, including getting land rates. The project was in the range of 400 million rupees. The friend tried his best but couldn't complete the task in time, so that project which was from primary to university level. The Saudi philanthropist would have built and handed it over to us. Traditional laziness cost us the project. However, we have received donations from well-wishers of the community and bought land or a university on the highway near Gambat town in the Khairpur district. But we were not successful in building any of the projects. The friend was given money to register the trust; he registered but included members who were neither interested in doing anything nor contributing to welfare projects. They got it and held it. It is pertinent to note that the organization was registered with my money, but the certificate was kept by secretary Abdul Jabbar Mari. When we wanted to register welfare schools, he refused to give us possession. He said that we could allow using it but not ownership. You have to allow inspection by them. We refused it, and the certificate was held by him and never used for any good thing.

Yes- my father received a call from the then-chief secretary sindh requesting to help a friend. He said

that his friend would be accompanied by his officer. My father told him that it was no problem if the case was genuine. He sent his grade 20 officer, who was on an umrah visit, with a passport. My father saw the passport and told the officer that it was Burmese, so nothing could be done. He insisted on obliging; my father told him that there was one passport and two persons, so one had to surrender to be issued to the other one. He called the chief secretary, and he again insisted, but my father refused him point blank.

There was another incident when a Shaikh sahib came with Burmese and requested to issue a normal Pakistani passport. My father told him to surrender his own to be issued to a Burmese man. Before these incidents, my father had already told the consul general that whenever any foreigner was issued a Pakistani passport, my body burned in anger.

## Chapter 5: Umrah and Hajj

I don't know the number of Umrah performed during my stay at Jeddah because we used to go to haram often. Moreover, we did Hajj three times in three years.

But interestingly, the first Hajj was a very difficult one. We didn't have enough money to be part of the officer's group, so my father went with staff, and they arranged residence at Azizia, and there was no tent hired in Mina. We used to sit on the roadside and sleep there with small children and mother. It was very difficult to carry children and then luggage every day from a distance of a few kilometers. Moreover, when we went to Arafat and then Muzdalifah, the night it was very cold, and the children were shivering. We gave warm clothes to them, and we were shivering. The final ordeal came when we went for Twaf e Wida. My father told his wife to take two children with her and two my father got with me. My father asked them to do Twaf on the first floor because it was jam-packed. My father left my mother with children and completed the Twaf with two children. They were informed where to sit after completion. When my father reached, they were not there; my father waited but couldn't them; then started the puzzling time of the search. My father kept searching for them for almost the whole day from dawn to dusk, and buses were to leave for Jeddah in the evening. My father took many rounds of Pakistan house but no

report. Finally, Allah listened to our prayers, and they appeared in Pakistan's house in the evening. It was heavily raining, and Makkah was flooded; roads were blocked, so reaching Azizia was an uphill task. My father tried to stop taxis, but none was ready to go there. Finally, a Bengali taxi driver agreed to take us there. He took many roads all were blocked; finally, he said that he was taking the last road. If it were blocked, then no chance; we prayed to Allah, and he succeeded in dropping us off at Azizia bridge, from where we went in foot in flooded streets to catch departing buses. The driver was an honest man. He didn't ask for more money due to the difficult route, but my father paid him a tip.

In the second year of Hajj, he was made Hajj in charge by CG, so he arranged for all officers and coming guests. Among them were Admiral Muhammad zakaullah and Akram Zhaikh's advocate. However, my father got for my father and my family separate tent. It was not fully paid for but complimentary by a person who knew me. However, the tents for others were far away due to the delay in the decision to assign my father the duties. It was an eleventh-hour arrangement, and many people may have faced problems. The third Hajj was well planned, and my father arranged for everyone, including my family, in one place. The tents, food, and transportation were very good, and almost everyone went satisfied. During the last Hajj, there was also heavy rain, and people mixed up, and a stampede occurred at Jamrat. However, our group remained safe. My father received a call from a

friend from Islamabad requesting my father to help the family of Malik Riaz. THEY Were on Hajj but unable to get out of the mess in Mina. My father tried to help them but couldn't succeed due to the same problem as us. My father kept in touch with the niece of Malik Riaz, Zara Malik. She was satisfied at least someone was there to ask about their well-being. When we returned back from Saudi Arabia, Malik Riaz invited the Commercial Consul, Hijab Gul, and my father to visit his Bahria town. He sent his car also, which remained with the commercial Consul for a few days. We visited the town and admired the architecture and town planning. He wanted us to choose any house, but we replied that houses were unaffordable for us. He offered reasonable installments, whichever we decided. But we politely refused to accept the offer.

In March 2007, we left Jeddah and arrived in Karachi. The protocol officer from CM house received us at the airport and took us to Balochistan house at Clifton Karachi. We were lodged there for a few days till we got an appropriate house after my father joined at Sindh government. The next day, my father went to the department of education and met the additional secretary who was being replaced by my father. The additional secretary painted a very pathetic picture of corruption by the minister of education, Ms khuhro, who was considered to be a nationalist. The nationalists served a death blow to education whenever given a chance, was proven by Ms. Khuhro. However, my father was not convinced, so he tried to interview a

few other individuals. All of them confirmed the flagrant violation of the law. He approached the Cm for written powers as agreed in Jeddah about hiring and firing. Moreover, he asked him to authorize the package for hard-working and brilliant teachers so that a punishment and reward system could be introduced in the province. He also demanded issuing a decree that all employees, from secretary to peon of the education department, would be sending their children to public schools. The idea of corridors across the country was on the basis of modern shared facility basis. The idea is explained here briefly, which was not responded to by any of the provinces or federal government.

# Chapter 6: Back to Pakistan 2

## 1.1. Stay at the Foreign Office from March 2007—May 2009

My father came back from Saudi Arabia in March and landed in Karachi. He was requisitioned by the Chief Minister to work in the Sindh education department for the improvement of education. However, after coming to the department, it was revealed that CM was helpless under the pressure of his corrupt allies. It is pertinent t to note that he was one of the cleanest chief ministers of Sindh in history who seriously wanted to do something for the province. But he was not allowed to do anything. My father advised him to announce Rani Kot International and Umar kot international universities. Moreover, get a due share of federal funding for the establishment of universities at various places in the province, including half a dozen more universities in Karachi. He discussed this with his senior minister Sardar Ahmed; he opposed the move to announce universities at Rani Kot and Umar Kot. They neither pushed Pervez Musharaf for universities in Sindh nor sought funds to expand the reach of Karachi University across the city. They kept talking about the declining quality of education but never worked to improve it. When my father contacted the chief minister to issue directives noting the points agreed upon, the CM asked my father to join and reform without hiring, firing, rewarding and punishment portions initially. My father understood that his stay in Karachi would be futile and detrimental to

his reputation. He left Sindh and joined the Ministry of foreign affairs on 26th march 2007. However, on the same night, he had pain in the chest. We were all sleeping; he took my younger brother Abdul Ahad and went to the Hospital. They did ECG and cleared him. But it became a regular feature that he has had pain and suffocation every day after 4 pm. He regularly visited the Hospital. The doctors prescribed him medicines for hypertension, but things didn't improve. He worked in the ministry and never took off but got checked almost every day. He was so apprehensive of his health and survival that he wrote his will and kept telling my mother to look after the children after his departure. He prayed to Allah for his health. He was so darkness-phobic that the moment he slept, it became a nightmare for him. He got all tests from the liver, kidneys, and brain heart, but no traces of his illness were found. He had been suffering. He lost weight. His color was darkened from white to blackish. He never shared his pain with his seniors or relatives. My uncle always called him for money and never asked for his health.

He was assigned as deputy director of OIC. He worked very hard at the desk and prepared all the required documents during the Foreign minister's conference, but credit was given to others. Although he was also issued an appreciation certificate by the secretary, no recognition for his tireless work was given. In 2008, the Directorate was given the task of preparing for the next summit, which was slated to be held in Dakar, Senegal. His Dg, Ms. Kausar Ahsan, went to New York in September during UN sessions and

stayed for treatment. My father was alone in the division and worked day and night to prepare for the summit. However, there were also likes and dislikes because the head of the division was the additional secretary UN. He always considered UN returned officers superior to others. However, there was one sane voice of then DG, pizza Chaudhry; he always appreciated the work of my father and his dedication to work. During summit preparations, he seldom came before we went to bed, so normally, we met my father on weekends. His DG was so disgruntled that she always criticized the system of postings and transfers in the ministry. She was worried about her last posting as an ambassador. She was even unable to get work from her PA. My father said that she offered lunch to her PA from attending the office. The PA always came late, and she was helpless. When she went on leave, my father asked him to work in the section; he refused on the pretext of being the staff of DG. He was then got transferred within the division from in charge DG. He worked very efficiently after initial tries to make mistakes. When he was asked by my father to type and told that my father would check mistakes later on, he understood and started performing. Because sued to give him dictation from the stories of newspapers or magazines for hours. He was not used to working so easily tired. Later he requested that he be given proper work. Shakeel then worked very well, but DG couldn't make him work.

The ministry has clear discrimination between them and us. The officers from Punjab were given leverage, and even psychologically unstable persons were

allowed to work for years and even given postings. There was one, Goraya, who was completely out of his senses and behaved like a schizophrenia case, but the ministry kept him on parole for a long time. Another case was Ms. Sabrina; she was also having clear signs of unusual behavior, but she was allowed to continue. Kazmi was another case that acted as abnormal but was given postings abroad. On the contrary, people from Sindh, if showed small little unusual activity they, were barred from postings. A Sindhi officer, along with a few Punjabi officers, behaved strangely at the presidency after drinking enough spirit. The Punjabi officers were punished with postings to western countries, and he was sent to Niger for seven years.

During his work in the OIC division, one father took a draft to AS(UN) Khalid Aziz Babar; he used derogatory language about his beard. My father reacted sharply and warned him not to repeat it again. My father told him to judge anyone on his professional expertise and performance, not religious affiliation or practices. The additional secretary threatened him that he would report to the foreign secretary. My father challenged him to go to the foreign secretary. However, he didn't report it to the foreign secretary and later apologized to my father. My father created a new brief type, the smart brief of a few pages, the medium brief with some detailed explanations, and the brief with complete and comprehensive details of the matter. The Additional Secretary, who was already biased, rejected all his briefs and reprimanded him for deviating from the set standards of working in the

ministry. He was annoyed at his experiments. He assigned the work to the director of HR and directed my father to provide all material to him. The deputed officer tried his best but failed to prepare the appropriate document. But AS(UN) appreciated his work and approved it for use at the summit. When the Pakistan delegation, including the then interim foreign minister Inamul Haq, reached Dakar, they asked for a brief. They were given the approved brief. However, my father kept his own documents also with him. The FM and FS, Riaz Muhammad khan asked if there was any other brief; my father replied in affirmation. He forwarded his smart brief. They both liked it and asked for some detailed work. He gave them a medium brief; they appreciated it. They said that who prepared the first brief, the AS (UN), informed them that the officer of the UN division. They asked who made these documents; they were informed about my father. They said that these were better documents and must be used here and regretted the approved brief. It made AS against my father.

Before the conclusion of the summit, the then Ambassador of Pakistan in Senegal, Abdul Malik, arranged lunch at a seaside ship restaurant. The Foreign Minister, InamUl haq, opened a debate on Kashmir solutions floated by the Pervez Musharaf regime. He was of the opinion that it was the ultimate solution and sought our comments. Almost all officers supported his views, but my father differed with him. He asked what my arguments against that solution were. My father told him that one-way concessions would be interpreted by the Indian side as our weakness. More-

over, they would not respond to it but wait for more concessions till we would surrender completely. The Musharaf regime's proposals were not responded to by Indians and proved to be a futile attempt by the dictator. My father told the minister that his Chenab line formula, or four points formula, was not appreciated by India. The countries always work out peace agreements based on facts and possible compromise by the other party, not unilaterally. If peace is offered without considering the options of another side, it will create the impression of weakness, and the opponent will exploit it. The FS supported my viewpoint with some additional and fresh ideas on it. He said that suggestions were not bad but extended in haste and without a corresponding response from the other side. We came back from Senegal after the summit. The summit itself was the height of hypocrisy. On the one hand, a boycott of Israel was discussed, and other hand host country had an Israeli embassy. Moreover, 22 out of 57 countries of OIC had diplomatic and trade relations with Jewish entities, including Arab Neighbors like Jordan and Egypt. The Kashmir resolution, which was ritually passed and dismissed by Indians as inconsequential, was passed after efforts to get Egypt, Iran, and Gulf countries on board. My father was transferred to the Afghanistan directorate as director. The Dg wanted to keep him there because he was running her division. She tried, but the administration directed him to join the new Directorate. It is pertinent to note that my father wrote the book on OIC during his one year at the Directorate with the title OIC- A sleeping giant. But the DG rated him

good. It is important to note that DG got an excellent report on the work performed by my father. The officers who didn't work or evaded duties got outstanding reports on their domicile and connections.
He worked at the afghan Directorate, where his Dg was Rafi Siddiqui and AS Khalid Khattak. He worked hard to study the problem and reported each incident or important thing to his seniors in time. The Directorate has two assistant directors and a few staff members, but one Ad seat was vacant, and the same for staff. He tried to work with available resources and give his best. The AS appreciated his work and promptness. But DG was dodgy; he appreciated the face and resented the smartness on his back. IN JULY, he was sent as head of the delegation to a border management conference attended by the USA, Canada, UK, UNODC, and Afghanistan. He was given the mandate to talk on certain issues within the given guidelines. He was accompanied by the members of the army, rangers, customs, anti-narcotics force, interior ministry, and cabinet division officers. During the conference, the Americans attacked Pakistan ruthlessly. They even blamed Pakistan for supporting the growth of poppies in bordering provinces. They accused Pakistan of abetting terrorists from its soil. The delegates from Pakistan didn't raise any objections, including armed forces officers. However, when the turn was given to my father, he briefed the audience about the history of heroin. The infamous opium wars were imposed on china by the UK in China. He also told them that before the American jihad in 1979, Pakistani and Afghani people were not

aware of heroin. Moreover, he told the audience that in 2001 UNODC declared Pakistan and Afghanistan drug-free. But after an occupation by American forces, Afghanistan became the opium capital of the world, with 8800 tonnes of production in 2008. The Afghans and Americans objected to the statement of my father. They tried to buy him breaks and even in the nighttime. When he failed, they approached his members, and they readily supported their benefactors. The next day his delegates, including the senior-most custom officer, Shahid SHAIKH, said in plain words to my father that they would support Americans and oppose his assertions. My father told them that in an individual capacity, their voice would be null and void because the country's position could be accepted on the basis of the head of the delegation's 'statement. The session remained inconclusive, and the next meeting was fixed in Dubai. That meeting was held in pearl continental hotel Bhurban. Before returning to Islamabad, he sent a brief to his additional secretary through email. On return, he briefed him on the incidents and revolt of his members. The additional secretary assured him of all support. In a few days' time, a letter was received by the foreign secretary Salman Bashir from Shahid Shaikh. The secretary wrote in it; please inquire," and sent it to As –Afghanistan Khalid Khttak. He called my father and asked about the antecedents of the letter. He inquired from my father whether he termed American presence as an occupation; did he blame Americans for the proliferation of opium and used the phrase that neighbors cannot be changed? My father replied in

affirmation. He showed him the letter and stood up, asked him to hug him, appreciated him, and handed over the original letter to him. The original letter is still in the file of my father as proof of unpatriotic and saleable people at the highest echelons of the state. In July 2008, AS was transferred, and a new person, Haroon Shaukat, took over. He was apparently very hard-working and remained in the office till late in the evening. Office routine changed; my father always comes late in the evening. In October, Mini Jirga between Pakistan and Afghanistan was scheduled to be held. My father worked tirelessly in its preparations. There were consolations with tribal elders and other stakeholders. All coordination was done by him. The papers, talking points, and reports were generated by my father. However, Dg very cleverly amended it with a few words here and there and submitted it with an Additional secretary as his own creation. My father thought DG was his boss, so there was no need to protest that action because, at the end of the year, he had to rate his work. The DG, Rafi Siddiqui, was a sweeter person in normal dealings and always visited my father in his office and offered his help. However, he has his personal career at his chest. In early October, pre Jirga meeting was held in the foreign office. All the representatives of various institutions were present. The tribal elders were very critical of the role of organizations in ruining the peace and tranquility of tribal areas. They warned that the vacuum created by devastating the institute of Malik would be detrimental in the long run. They wanted the army to support the traditional system and

stop supporting the extremist forces. They were convinced by the members of the forces that their concerns would be addressed appropriately.

On 27th October, Jirga was held at Serena hotel. Before the actual program, my father remained at the office till midnight. He arranged reception, lodging boarding, meetings, briefs, talking points, gifts, banners, and printouts for delegates. The committees were established under various officers. But on the day of the arrival of the guests, people who were assigned just went home in the night, and he had to take on their responsibilities as director of the desk. It was interesting to note that even the backdrop banner was not printed by the officer whose assignment was given by the additional secretary. A day before means, on the weekend, my father was tasked to arrange; he requested Zahid Hashmat open his shop on Sunday and got it printed, of course, without credit to my father. The rooms' allocation was the responsibility of some other officers; they left without waiting till all guests were given rooms and briefed on their entitlement. My father has to handle it; again, credit was given to the nonperforming officer due to domicile. The transport officer didn't arrange enough cars to take a delegation to the presidency, so at the time, it was a fiasco; again, DG and AS looked to my father. He arranged it in time. The most striking thing was invitation cards for delegates were not complete, and on the day of the presidential banquet, it was found that certain members didn't get cards. The officer responsible was not located, and again, As tasked my father to do something. He used his contacts at the

presidency and got cards for all remaining members. The additional secretary and Dg were both very appreciative of my father during Jirga. However, post Jirga meeting was held in the office of Haroon Shaukat; he appreciated everyone for his/ her contribution to the success of the event. He said that it was teamwork, and all of them worked very hard to make the event seamless and hitch-free. He wondered that when the team worked hand in hand, then things went so smoothly that none noticed any obstacle during the sessions. All the officers praised the sagacity of his leadership and acumen to handle the international conference. They said that it was his leadership qualities which made the event successful because he guided everyone on time. The missing man was my father; he was amazed at the self-appreciation of all, including DG, AS, and officers who evaded their duties during the event. The additional secretary feet and asked him to say something; my father told him that he would talk to him after the meeting. When the meeting was over, my father kept sitting and then informed the Additional secretary that he was pained to know that his services were not recognized. The AS told him that he thanked each one and appreciated it. My father insisted that appreciation might have been selective and performance-based, not generalized. It was time to realize that nonperformers were watched, and rewards went to performers only. He tried to calm him down by saying that in the next meeting, he would differentiate, but this was just encouragement to all. My father told him that he was not satisfied with his working style, where no importance was

given to persons who went the extra mile to make the event successful; rather, others were appreciated in front of the foreign secretary to elevate them on the basis of connection and domicile. My father told him that he was not ready to work with him anymore; he might ask the administration to change, giving any reasons. He didn't want to depreciate his seniors. Haroon Shaukat wanted him to stay put, and in the future, things would be improved. He told him that it was always manipulated and credit given to unconcerned persons, but he remained patient and steadfast, but now it was too much to digest. He left the office as an additional secretary. The AS sent Dg to appease my father, but he didn't accept him, please due to previous injustices. It was observed during his tenure with Haroon Shaukat that credit was always given to some other officer before Minister or Foreign secretary. He (AS) wrote to the administration to transfer the officer from the Afghan Directorate, but then AS (A) refused to accept his request. MS Shireen Moiz told him that she herself witnessed that it was Sirohey who worked relentlessly for the success of Jirga, and now he was being replaced without appropriate recognition of his work. However, Haroon went to the foreign secretary, Salman Bashir, and complained about my father. He ordered my father to transfer him and make him OSD. It was the height of injustice because my father didn't expect that much from the administration. However, he accepted the orders without saying a word and left the Directorate. Raffi and Haroon neither arranged a farewell nor called him for words of appreciation, as was the tradition. He also

went without meeting Haroon but met Rafi Siddiqui. It is pertinent to note that my father wrote two books related to Afghanistan during his stay as director there. One was the death of the American empire, and the other was one CIA's Afghan opium wars. He submitted books for vetting, but no action was taken by the ministry because scholarship and research were not encouraged in the Pakistani system. Moreover, any work from a Sindhi officer was despised. He had earlier submitted a book on Palestine in 2002, but it was not approved till now. He handed over those books to the publisher and got them printed in the name of A A Sirohey.

The book "death of the American empire" was a poorly edited book. However, the American CIA was the first to buy it from Books Islamabad. The book couldn't pass the strict test of editing, scholarly references, and footnotes, but Americans took it seriously. They started searching for the writer. The booksellers were not aware of the original writer, so they gave an empty look to CIA operators. However, they approached my father and invited him for dinner with the Ambassador. He asked them to invite him through Ministry. They replied; it was private, so they extended directly. He effused to accept any invitation because, being a civil servant, it was mandatory to get approval from the ministry. However, they followed and pursued him. Finally, they met him and offered incentives if work with them to improve the bilateral rotations of the two countries. He told them that it was not his book. But they insisted that it was his book. Moreover, they said that they didn't have a

problem with his writing. They have a problem that he was on the wrong side of the fence. They wanted him to avail of scholarships and conduct research at any prestigious institute in the USA. It would enhance his stature, and millions of people would listen and read him. My father informed them, firstly book was not written by him, and secondly, accepting their offer was beyond his approach. They said that he only has to agree to the proposal; the rest of the issues, including leave from the ministry or approval from the establishment division, would be obtained by them. My father flatly refused. They didn't give up. It is pertinent to note that they were working in the guise of diplomats and were reported to the concerned agencies; that started following them.

The next book, "CIA 's Afghan opium war," was an indictment of the CIA. It revolved around the theme that the CIA plotted war on Afghanistan to reap the benefit of opium production. It gave recent growth in opium production and its refinement in various areas of Afghanistan. Contrary to the propaganda of American and British forces, the writer proved that major crop was grown in occupied areas, not liberated areas. He also pointed out that the Taliban destroyed opium and decreed it illegal in Islam. The UNODC certified Afghanistan as a drug-free country in 2001. But after occupation, it flourished and reached an all-time high of 8000 tonnes in 2008. It was converted into 800-tonne crystal white heroine, and billions of dollars were earned by transporting it to western and eastern countries. The increase in global opium production has been attributed to the rising contraband trade of

heroin, a derivative of the opium poppy. An expanding route along the southern corridor in Afghanistan has facilitated the transport of Afghan heroin to Southeast Asia and Oceania, regions traditionally supplied by Southeast Asia's opium cultivation. The routes were expanded from all corners. He also pointed out that the CIA was propagating against Pakistan and ISI because of its strict action against drug trafficking through Pakistan. The UNODC declared Pakistan drug-free in 2001, and it was jealously guarding its borders to foil attempts of drug smuggling. It has annoyed the CIA and its allies. The book was once again bought by the CIA local office in Islamabad, and they started pursuing my father to talk to them. He flatly refused to accept any offer. However, this time they issued a veiled threat to him that if he continued with anti-American writings, he might lose his job. My father brushed it side and stayed away. He discussed this with his friends in the ministry, and most of them advised him to accept their offer. It was a lifetime opportunity, and it would boost your standing, and your job would become irrelevant once a single book sold in the market. They thought accepting scholarships and residency offered family, and he himself would be part of the elite class. They told him that even the secretary of foreign affairs and ambassadors at Washington and main capitals were recommended by Americans. But there were few nationalists who advised against it and asked him to resist at all costs. He was posted in May 2009 and thought that the CIA would let him go so easily. But they followed him, and even the officer

who was contacting him in Islamabad was transferred to Sana'a. It seemed a coincidence, but it was probably deliberate.

It was also important to note that during that time, he supported people in locating CIA agents in the guise of diplomats. He showed the CIA book to the beat in charge of ISI, who requested him to provide a dummy copy for the perusal of the high-ups. He was given a copy. He submitted it and got it checked. He returned the copy with a request that nobody should be informed about its perusal by ISI. He was told that at least one book might be circulated. My father neither asked for sponsorship nor money to publish it. But ISI leadership was so afraid of Americans that they didn't want to be associated with the book. Interestingly the first book was bought from The book was by the CIA Islamabad chief. When Death of the American Empire was published, my father was approached by the Americans. They offered him dinner with the Ambassador. When he asked them to route through the Foreign Office, they plainly told him they wanted a private meeting. He refused it. They chased him and offered him many incentives to work with them. But he turned down all offers. Then the threats of ruining his career were conveyed. He informed my father that he was least pushed for it. He also submitted a report and created a map of the terrorist network supported by the CIA and RAW agents in the tribal belt to ISI. They called him to headquarters and interviewed him on the sources of his information. He informed my father that tribal elders and friends from tribal areas were the sources. He informed them that

America was creating a Pakistani version of the Taliban to counter the so-called Pakistani policy of duality in dealing. Moreover, Americans wanted to inflict pain on Pakistani agencies that supposedly supported the Taliban in training and providing arms. He illustrated the network operated from bordering regions of Afghanistan. The agencies appreciated his support and thanked him for his research and report. He also submitted a report on the eleven point's unlimited access of Pervez Musharaf to Americana agents in Pakistan. He termed it a total surrender and recommended the reversal of the facility to safeguard the sovereignty of the country. One day the beat officer requested my father to help him to meet Noor Al Haq Qadri, who was angry with them at that time. My father invited Qadri to a hotel in the Blue area for lunch and told the IS. officer to come in the meantime. He was spotted there and offered to join my father at lunch. My father introduced Qadri to the colonel, but Qadri was visibly upset with them. He was very sarcastic and ironic in his comments about the role of agency in nurturing extremist elements in the tribal region.

Colonel Abbasi told my father that he was posted at Balakot when the earthquake jolted the region. He reached the peak in the next 36 hours, but there he found Americans even before him. He inquired them how they reached there. They replied that they came to support relief work. They were warned to go away because the unauthorized stay was illegal. But after one day, he went to the other corner and again found them there. He took them in custody and called a heli-

copter, and sent them to GHQ; while going into Heli, they warned him of dire consequences. In less than 12 hours, he was relieved of his command and permanently posted in GHQ on side posts. Pervez Musharaf punished him for his insolent behavior against his benefactors.

After Mini Jirga, a Jirga secretariat was established, and Rustam Shah Mehmand was made its head. He was very appreciative of the efforts of my father. It was felt that Afghans were very comfortable talking with a Sindhi officer instead of Punjabi or Pashtun officers. They consider Pashtun as traitors of the nation and Punjabi as stooges of America and enemies of the Afghan nation. But during my father's stay at the Afghan Directorate, there were open and candid discussions with afghan diplomats and delegates.

When Afghan Foreign Minister Rangeen Dafdar visited Pakistan, our Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told him that he was particularly against extremist ideology. In this connection, his fore my fathers worked centuries ago, and the first university was established under the name of Bahauddin Zakaria, his great-grandpa. THE visiting minister was visibly stunned by his claim. However, he asked Salman Bashir to explain bilateral cooperation, relations, and projects. Bashir mumbled certain words which were not relevant. Then again, the foreign Minister himself continued the talks.

In 2009 when my father was OSD, he was looking for a challenging and rewarding job. In April 2009, he was offered a job for PKR 100,000 in Company that maintained a car and housing facility. It also catered

to the health and education of children. The Saudi-registered company also offered a 1% commission on the deals. It was an Automation Company offering solutions to large industries. However, in April, he was posted to Yemen, and the attraction was being head of mission for many months. He preferred posting over a private job.

He stayed at a foreign office hostel. He was already facing tremendous pressure due to his illness, and that new psychological jolt had shaken him. He was visibly upset with the system and Punjabi chauvinism. He used to sleep, read and write and chat with his friends. He also had a detailed discussion with my mother about the future of the children and the possible supervision of the newly established school. They were of the view that families of bother parents proved to be selfish and greedy, so children must be saved from vultures. They were of the view and concluded that the uncles of children would try to grab everything my father would leave behind in case of his death. During those trying times, a friend of my father, Barkat la sharia, used to regularly come to him and give him company. He would pick him up and take him for a change of mood and situation so that he would settle down. Barkat's uncle was a very jolly fellow; who believed in Allah and kept reminding my father that trust Allah and forget all things. He reassured him that Allah would get him compensated. My father remained very much satisfied with uncle Barkat. He also got moral support from uncle Zahid Hashmat, who had been a friend of my father since his arrival in Islamabad. In the initial days, my father

used to teach at ICS school CSS coaching classes in the evening. He earned more than his salary to complement his meager salary. Since then, my father has kept relations with uncle Zahid. He was very supportive of my father. There was another friend of my father who was seen with him; he was a batch mate of CTP28, Muhammad Saleem from Lahore. The batch mates from his own ministry were not very close to him. There was only one friend, Shoaib Sarwar; occasionally, he came to my father and invited him to dinner or lunch.

My father has a background in journalism. He obtained a degree in journalism and then practiced it by reporting too few newspapers. He also published a weekly English newspaper, "The crusader," before attempting for CSS and, after qualifying, shut it down. He wrote features and columns, but his strength was investigative journalism. Now when he was freed by the Ministry after the outstanding performance, he again started finding his old friends in the media. He found new friends like Nasir Jamal and Farukh, besides Baqar of dawn. He was also having the company of Mazhar birlas and faraz Chaudhry. He used to visit the press club in Islamabad in the evening and sometimes went for long walks from F-5 to G8 on foot. His activities were in and around Margalla hills and during the daytime at the hostel. However, after a few days of his OSD posting, he started writing and reading in full swing. He prayed in Masjid and remembered Allah regularly. During that time, he was asked to go o some religious healer or Pir; he

had the magical power to heal. My father replied; he only sought help from Allah; even if he was given assurance of remedy with Pir and death in case of waiting for Allah, he would prefer death over life. He used to work on his books like "tracing the footsteps of the murderers of Benazir, "the enemies of Pakistan, and OIC—57 zeros multiplied.

In 2008, before being made OSD, my father volunteered to post to Ethiopia. However, the director general personnel manipulated it and got his relative posted there, who was on deputation in the Ministry of foreign affairs. It is pertinent to note that as per rules, priority was to be given to career officers because here, big brother prevailed. There was another joke always circulated for the consumption of people of principle like my father. The officers were reminded of the consequences of political pressure for posting. However, in his entire service, only during the time of Inam ul Haq and Riaz Muhammad khan, some sort of merit prevailed; otherwise, at all times, connections prevailed. People from central Punjab happened to be very connected with Army generals, senior bureaucrats, and politicians, even within ministry groupings; they played on the right side of the power corridors.

In 2008, my father went to Karachi as his maternal uncle Ali dino was having mental and cardiac problems. He was called from ministry and asked to return back as he was being posted to Chile. He sold his car in anticipation of departure within two months. He returned and Undertook cipher training. But after completion of training, the administration canceled

his posting without assigning any reason. He went to the then DG for the reasons, but he refused to explain. During those days, a friend came to my father and sought his consent on his posting as director of Hajj at Jeddah. He agreed to the proposal because he was a religious person and wanted to serve the guests of Allah. The emissary of the religious minister discussed the terms and conditions for posting. He told the friend that there were two conditions firstly, he would not be budging the expenses meant no over-invoicing in building hiring, and secondly, no intervention would be accepted. However, he assured him that if allowed a free hand, he could arrange economic buildings and services which would be better than the current ones. He could get cheaper tickets for hujjaj. The person who was an informal representative of both minister's religious affairs and the son of the then prime minister sought time from my father and went home. He kept waiting for the responses reform the requisitioning authorities. However, it was not coming. He contacted the emissary for the final reply. The friend came to his office and replied in detail. He informed him that an honest and strict person wouldn't suit the high-ups. He explained that both political figures couldn't afford uncompromising people; they were politicians and had to adjust their people. The idea died down without any solution.

In 2008, probably in March, he wrote a paper proposing economic measures to ignite accelerated economic growth in the country. The document was sent to the members of parliament and the concerned ministry through the proper channel. It visualized a deep

sea port at Keti Bandar bypassing Karachi. It argued that Keti Bandar would diminish the blackmailing power of MQM, resultantly continuous economic activity in the country. The idea of offering barren desert land to barons and tycoons to build desert palaces is worth trying. It may offer the facility to rear camels, horses, deer, etc. It may prove a magnet to attract Arab Princes, Billionaires worldwide to relax in shining palaces with both Cosmopolitan and rural touches. It may be converted on the subject of "100 nights", Alfa Leila stories where magnificent palaces shining in the light of the full moon are depicted with great skill. This combination would provide a competitive edge to the tourism of the country. The tiny city-state of Singapore and the autonomous region of Hong Kong receive 28 to 30 million tourists per annum, while Pakistan 800 000 square kilometers and is the host of the largest peaks in the world, Lush green valleys, rivers, sea shores, deserts, historical places, and rich culture is visited by merely 400,000 people per year.

If the Government of Pakistan decides to convert 30 into 50 kilometers area as supper business, technological, transshipment, and industrial corridor, it could attract millions of tourists just bask in the sand and trade their commodities. It would cost none to the country but contribute billions of dollars to the economy of the country. The under-utilized coal would be sold to the power producers by earning billions for the national exchequer and employing thousands of people on the mining site. This activity would create a chain reaction by the production of energy from do-

mestic resources, thus, offering a promising future for foreign investors and lessening the oil importing bill of the country. The excess power could be exported to neighboring India, which would be energy deficient in the near future because of faster growth in the economy. Moreover, chronic load-shedding would be finished within five years, and dependency on foreign energy sources would be considerably reduced.

The energy can be produced from the Arabian Sea with the utilization of tidal waves by adjusting and installing power-generating turbines at an appropriate place to convert the force of waves into electricity. This will be the cheapest energy source available for the consumption of the industrialists, which could be provided with a non-stop electricity supply at competitively lower rates.

The huge sand dews of Thar Desert offer another golden opportunity to produce solar energy from the golden particles of sand. Technology in this field has witnessed considerable development and sophistication. The sand of Thar can save foreign exchange for the country and enrich the people of the area, and in return federation of Pakistan would be strengthened.

Moreover, tourism initiatives to attract tourists from around the world, especially East Asia, South East Asia, and Eastern Europe, were submitted. He also proposed that health and education tourism might be promoted. He argued that health was very costly in western countries.

He suggested export zones at Wagah, khokhrapar, sust, chaman, Taftan, and chamkini borders, where raw or semi-finished products from neighboring

countries are. He requested the members of parliament and senators to impress upon the new rulers to work on indigenous resources to push economic growth and avoid begging and compromising sovereignty.

One of the senators, Javed, replied in the email, "Can you please remove my name from this list? PLEASE. PLEASE. Are you crazy? Do you think any senator will listen to you? They will put the ISI on your trail for suggesting anything sensible. My father am not a coward, but please do not be foolhardy."

It is important to note that my father has earlier suggested educational reforms and health tourism to the sindh and Punjab governments. He was especially attached to the former sindh chief minister and kept advising, but nothing concrete happened. Now the change of government at the center and sindh had taken place, so he prepared a proper document and sent it to them. He wrote an email to dr. Nafeesa Shah, a PPP MNA," Respected Madam,

As discussed on the telephone concerning the economic vision for a prosperous Pakistan/Sindh. Moreover, as you advised, contact our MPA from Gambat. Let my father remind Madam; my father was the youngest person who courted arrest in 1983 MRD, my village Amir Bux Sirohey and Ali Bakhsh Sirohey remained regular voters of PPP. We have lost something in previous governments and got nothing. Our commission was canceled, and sons of influential people were appointed as SDMs. However, due to old affiliation, our people voted for PPP IN 1997, 2002, and now 2008.

You can verify from your sister Ms. Naheed Shah, MPAs, Murad Ali Shah, Ayaz Soomro, Pir Mazhar sb, Ms.Mehreen Bhutto, Javed Ali Shah, and Nisar Khuhro how my father helped them in getting visas from the consulates of UAE, UK, etc. despite the fact we were officially directed to create problems for PP and N league during my posting at MOFA Camp office Karachi, my father not only facilitated their visas but entertained them in my office at the risk of my job. My services to PPP workers during my posting at Consulate general Jeddah can be ascertained and verified by the leaders.

Respected Madam,

I got the job after competing in CSS and never used sources for posting, neither my father expect any favor in this connection. My father understood from the message to contact my MPA means people of the constituency should meet him. My father commit not to bother you on this account during your government.

I am sending this paper in the hope that at least a patient reading may kindly be given to this in the interest of people." But there was no concrete effort from the party members. However, some members privately advised him to be prudent and stop risking his life by advancing such crazy ideas.

In august 2008, a report reached my father that Ali dino, his maternal uncle, was committing suicide in front of the press club in protest against the taluka Nazim Gambat. My father rushed to Gambat and took hold of him. Put him in his car to Karachi and got him investigated there. He was cleared of cardiac prob-

lems, but he was having hypertension and stress problems. He was given treatment and brought back to Khairpur. Indeed, he was disappointed by his friend Naeem kharal, who always used them as a pawn and, when won, relegated them to their original place. The MPA was minting money through his cronies but not offering any relief to Ali, so he was frustrated.

In December 2008, negative press coverage against the ministry of foreign affairs and its Secretary, Salman Bashir, appeared in newspapers. He was puzzled to see repeated news items. He tried his best and used a spokesperson to find the persons providing news to the papers. However, he couldn't find the clue. Someone informed the foreign secretary that it was either Dr. Irfan Shami or Ahmed Ali Sirohey. He called dr. Shami, who worked with him. Dr. Shami was pinpointed because one of the news items claimed that the foreign secretary was Ahmedi. It was only known to a few people in the ministry, so he suspected Dr. Shami of the leak. Moreover, my father was suspected because of his past afflation with the media and his grievances with the foreign secretary. The foreign secretary directed the director of SSA to bring my father's dossier and find some fault to screw him. However, after scrutinizing it three times, he could find anything worth using against him. He called my father and interviewed him about his views. My father was starlight forward and replied plainly. The secretary asked point blank about his administration. My father replied that there were complaints about maladministration and nepotism. He was angry at his reply and told my father to leave. The news items

against the weak and nepotistic administration of Salman Bashir continued. It is important to note here that in his first inaugural speech, Salman Bashir informed the officers that he was least pushed for their posting and promotions, but he wanted performance from each one. Many of the officers resented his assertions, and none of the officers asked any questions during the Q&A. During that period of strained relations with the foreign secretary, his wife had tea with the wives of Foreign Service officers; she asked my mother to advise her husband to cooperate with Salman; he was irritant and publishing news against him. She requested my mother to ask her husband to be helpful, not a troublemaker. If there was any problem, she could get it solved.

In February 2009, my father received a report that the foreign secretary had decided to dismiss his services on the charges of misconduct. He was charge-sheeted on 3rd February 2009. My father was alarmed at that news and tried to contact his friends. He decided to challenge it head-on. He called the media persons and requested them to arrange electronic and print media persons ready on 3rd February as he was to address a press conference at the gate of the foreign office. On the other hand, the foreign secretary was advised and informed of the new development. He was advised by some wise person to accommodate my father because fighting with an acting director was a total disaster for the secretary. The director could get the same position again, but the foreign secretary, once lost, would never come again. He argued that if Sirohey was behind new stories, then by patching up, it would die

down; if he was not behind it, then at last, his grievances would be addressed, and he could be helpful. In case he was punished without any crime, then he might react, which could be detrimental to the foreign secretary. He asked the special secretary to call Sirohey and tender an apology on his behalf. He was directed to post him wherever he wanted in the ministry, and after some time, sends him to a foreign posting. The next day my father received a call from the then-director personnel Amir Khan who was my father's batch mate; he asked him to come over as the special secretary administration wanted to meet him. He told him that it was already late and he was at the hostel, and all cars had gone to the ministry. He didn't have a car, so he could come tomorrow; if he wanted immediately, then a car would be sent. He told him that car was being sent. He was picked from the hostel and brought to the ministry. The s[special secretary, Khalid Aziz Babar, after pleasantries, informed my father that the foreign secretary regretted his hardships without reason. He apologized for the mental torture and stress because of no assignment. My father said that it was okay. The special secretary inquired him about the choice of the directorate for posting. He told him that anywhere, he didn't have any choice. He was assigned the directorate of mission services. He joined the next day. He asked his friends in the media to scale down the negative reporting as the secretary was rectifying problems. The foreign secretary immediately directed to prepare a posting plan and assign desks to the unassigned officers at the headquarters. The news coverage of his

mismanagement went down and vanished in the next month. He was informed, and he firmly believed that it was my father who ran the campaign against the secretary.

While he was serving under Khalid Aziz Babar, he initiated the paper-free project and traced the fresh reports (FRs). However, many within the ministry resented his automation and strictness on attendance. He also arranged daily classes in the morning where officers were asked to talk about their desks and job description. He also organized computer literacy for both officers and officials of the ministry. My father made him very unpopular because he would welcome officers at the gate at 8.00 am. My father floated an idea to the special secretary about a mini hospital and foreign office school. He explained to SS that the school could be established from borrowed funds from Pakistan embassy schools and returned within three years. It would provide standardized education to the children of foreign office officers and officials at subsidized rates. It can earn from the rest of the applicants by offering dependable world-class schooling at an affordable rate. Moreover, a mini hospital would not only serve the ministry but other institutions; it can be managed through a one-time grant and run on a nonprofit basis. The SS liked the idea and discussed it with the foreign secretary. But the foreign secretary rejected it on the pretext that nobody could manage it except the one who proposed it. The SS told him that the FS was not accepted on the basis of a manage-

ment problem. He inquired about the core problem; when informed in plain words, he volunteered for the purpose. The SS was very happy and returned back to FS; he again returned him with the directions to send him on posting at the earliest. The special secretary told him that get a posting and go abroad because why he alone volunteers, while others enjoy posting dividends. My father insisted, but SS convinced him, citing the unwillingness of the foreign secretary to execute the proposal.

In April 2009, he was posted to Iran after an interview with the committee established for the posting plan. However, in a few days, his posting was changed from Iran to Yemen without any explanation. He agitated the SS but was informed that he was sent to Yemen because there was no ambassador going in the near future. He was given a challenging assignment to work as an independent head of mission to prove his mettle. He agreed, considering that it would be an excellent chance to prove his talent and prowess.

In May 2009, my father left for Khairpur with us all. He opened new campuses of academic excellence in Pirgoth, Gambat, ripe, and a senior campus in Khairpur. The campuses were established on the idea of welfare, and a 30% quota for poor but talented students was added. The campus in Gambat was established in collaboration with Iqbal khokhar, and a fund for education was created by my father, who kept the

money as trust. The school was opened with a large number of poor students on the free ship.

The Pirgoth campus was opened keeping in mind the below-average open-mindedness and especially Islamic learning. He invited the son of Pir Sadar Uddin shah to attend the inauguration. He was very open and replied to my father neither our fore my fathers did these works nor participated, so how could he accept him to attend and break the tradition? However, he directed his people in Pirgoth to attend the function. The riper campus was established with the clear objective of providing quality education to his villagers/neighbors almost free of cost. He kept the fees ranging from 200-300, and still, 30% were given free shipping. All the schools were opened in rented buildings.

He appointed a manager and additional manager, Wahid Bux and Bakhtiar Metlo, respectively. He also gave the honorary assignment to his friend Rafiq Shaikh as honorary director of the schools. He was given the mandate to look after all schools and recommend anything for the approval of the chairman. When we left for Yemen, my father kept saving money and sending them to schools to sustain their operations. We even couldn't buy our own car in Yemen. The idea behind that operation was to provide service to society and also earn some rightful income to strengthen him. But back home, the friend started spending without care by saying that the UN was giving money, so they also shared to enjoy. He

gave increments to teachers twice in the year without performance. He allowed lavish lunch at school expenses. It was reported to my father by his brother-in-law, Siraj, who was working there. The schools in Gambat and Pirgoth were also not showing progress. The additional manager was sent to Gambat to work relentlessly to make that's school successful because it was purely welfare-based. However, he failed to attract enough students despite the fact that free scholarships and low tuition rates were offered to students. The reason was given that the location was considered a hub of prostitution in the town. The opening ceremony there was attended by SSP Khairpur, Pir Ali shah, in May 2009, and his staff in Gambat cleared the area of any criminal elements, but competition propagated against the school. The school was opened on the recommendation of Ali dino, the maternal uncle of my father. But ironically, after opening, he didn't admit his own children into the school. He neither supported by creating an example after the admission of his children nor influenced his friends. His brother Ghulam Asghar admitted his son to the school. Interestingly, Ali dino got his cousins employed in the school without supporting it; one at Gambat, Ghulam Ali, and the other at Khairpur, Ghulam Abbas. The school continued its operations for three years and lost 1.8 million, and finally closed in 2012.

My father also sacked Rafiq Shaikh. It is pertinent to inform here that my father has created two virtual

partners, Chaudhry and Ms. Augustine, to keep Shaikh and others under administrative control and stop them from spending without considering their income. However, Shaikh, being an experienced person at a Government University where extravagance at the cost of the treasury was normal, didn't stop. He used the Akram Chaudhry account and respectfully removed uncle Shaikh from the post. Later on, he sacked Bakhtiar to make school management effective. Wahid Bux was an inexperienced person, so he found it difficult to handle matters. We have appointed Muhammad Ali as principal at the senior campus. He was not performing and creating administrative problems for the manager. The chairman, on the recommendation of the manager, dismissed him. He created a hue and cry and tried to blackmail the administration. However, he was tackled.

# Part VI: Yemen

# Chapter 1: Yemen

In Yemen, my father took over from Kayani. He briefed him that school was ruined by the retired brigadier for the last eight years. My father asked him why he was not sacked. The outgoing officer told him that he was very powerful, so none could remove him. He challenges my father that if he could remove him, then he would salute him. On the first day of the assumption of office, my father went to school at 755am, assembly time; the principal and his coterie of teachers were not present. However, they were alerted by staff, and they ran to school. The principal took my father to visit after assembly. They went to first class; it was class seven or six; its floor was littered. The chairman inquired whether cleaning was regular. The principal replied that cleaning was done, but students were disobedient and loafers; they littered the class. My father was not convinced because they went immediately after assembly. He asked the principal to get it cleaned from students. The principal said that the students were very criminal-minded and would fight if asked to clean. The chairman told him if he got it done, then what? He replied that it was not possible. My father asked the class in Arabic; who among you was Muslim? All students raised their hands; he told them the Hadees of the Prophet that cleanliness was half of the religion. The students agreed. He asked, then let's clean and picked up one piece of paper; in the next two minutes, the class was

clean. They visited the whole school and found it dirty. The library was devoid of good books. The laboratories were in containers but devoid of chemicals and equipment for experiments. The school building, furniture, and fixture were in pathetic condition. The walls of the building and classrooms were discolored. He asked the principal to prepare a plan to revive the school. The repair and maintenance might take place immediately. Moreover, he directed the principal to replace antique computers with the latest computers in the computer laboratory.

He directed the principal to prepare a presentation on the school, its current status, and its projected future. The principal agreed to do all the tasks as directed. The chairman then started giving him time-bound tasks because open-ended targets were just put under the carpet, and action was slower. The principal was not even able to submit a correct list of students in the school because certain students left but kept on the register of the school to impress the chairman. In the presentation, it was informed that Pakistan international school happened to be the leading school in Yemen. It has admitted students from elite families in Yemen. Moreover, it was the effort of the then ambassador Zafar Halali who involved the community and established the school. But since few years the enrolment in the school has drastically dropped. He questioned the performance of the current administration and faculty. They replied that it was due to the interference of the embassy that they couldn't perform as per market demand. He disagreed with their

reply but allowed them the benefit of the doubt. He also showed dismay at the old, outdated syllabus. He directed the principal to start working on reviewing the syllabus within fifteen days. The computer labs., sciences labs, and libraries might be replenished within three weeks. He also asked him to get all furniture repaired within ten days. The building was to be repaired and painted within two weeks. The principal came to the chairman and showed his helplessness to achieve the targets so quickly. The chairman asked him; if he would like to be terminated or resign voluntarily. The principal agreed to resign. The chairman accepted his resignation with immediate effect and directed him to report to the embassy every day. The chairman kept the principal and even took him to parties. At the end of one month's notice, he was given a very good farewell party and sent home. The next day his recommendation call came from the ministry. The chairman informed them that the principal had already resigned and reached Pakistan safely.

My father announced the post of principal and received a lot of applications from Pakistan. He appointed the most qualified person as principal. Dr. Ghulam Mustafa masher was Ph.D. in English linguistics, and the teacher for computer, math, and physics was also inducted. On the other hand, the inefficient teachers were nabbed and shown the door. The syllabus was revised and new adopted within one month. The library was given a thousand more books. The laboratories were equipped. The furniture and fixture were repaired and bought. The computer labo-

ratory was equipped with brand-new computers. He asked the acting principal to get quotations. THEY BROUGHT the quotation, which was considered higher by the chairman, so he went himself with his driver in the market and checked the rates. He negotiated and brought arts down. He asked the administration to buy the computers and install them the same day by the end of the day. They wanted t delay; he allowed them to install till 1159 pm. They came with the excuse that the electricity outage was accusing problem; he approved the generator for the school and asked them to stick to the deadline. He came at 1155, and the computer lab was operational. The students who were bringing pistols and daggers to the school were disciplined. The teachers understood the interest of the chairman, so they started teaching properly. The new team brought a good name to the school.

On 19th June, the Acting ambassador met the education minister Abdul Salam Jufi, at his office. The minister initiated a discussion with his comments on the situation of the Pakistan school. He apologized for his harsh words. He said that he used to recommend Pakistan schools to his friends, family, and elites of the city but now stopping them from sending them to Pakistan schools. The acting ambassador inquired about the reasons. He replied that the area was crumbling, and the discolored building belonged to a Pakistan school; it had an outdated syllabus, a poorly maintained library, laboratories, and an antique computer laboratory. The furniture and fixture were bro-

ken. The teaching quality was the poorest. Moreover, the administration was not capable. The acting ambassador asked the minister; was that all? The minister replied in affirmation. My father told him if all those complaints were removed or rectified, he would be recommending Pakistan schools to parents; he replied yes. The acting ambassador informed him that a new Ph.D. principal had been appointed. The new faculty for science subjects was appointed. The computer, science labs, and library were refurbished. The syllabus was changed, and the furniture fixture was in excellent condition. The minister didn't believe the assertions and counter questioned; when did you join? He asked; the acting ambassador replied that he joined on 2oth May. The minister exclaimed 20th may mean just one month. It was magical and not humanely possible to make the worst school up. When my father reassured my father, he said then it was incumbent upon him to visit the school. My father replied that he was there to invite him to the annual program on 29th June. The minister said that he would chair the function subject to visiting and verifying all things. It was agreed, and on the appointed date, the minister came before the function and inspected the laboratories, library, and building. Moreover, h met the principal and saw the new syllabus. He was visibly impressed and appreciated the acting ambassador n his sagacity and promptness in treating the disease by proper diagnosis.

In June 2009, Ministry instructed the mission to collect donations for the settlement of the IDPs of swat

valley. The embassy arranged a fun and wins fair with the sponsorship of local businessmen and collected $ 17000; it was the highest donation collected by a small mission with a small community. There were a lot of prizes for participants, so each one appreciated the event. On 29th June annual function of the school was arranged where for the first time, two ministers of the Yemeni government, i.e., the minister of education as a guest of honor and the minister of health as an honorary guest, along with the Somali minister of education, participated. It has elevated the status of the school and revived its glory in the eyes of the local elite and expatriates who were worried about the education of their children.

He established the Yemeni graduates association and enlisted 120 persons who were serving in ministerial positions, from the principal officer to the prime minister. There were vice-chancellors, bureaucrats, professors, engineers, and doctors who graduated from Pakistan. They were brought on one platform. They were very happy to see that the Pakistan embassy called them for programs and sought their input for the improvement of bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries. They were very helpful in getting better enrolment for Pakistan schools, getting visas processed on the fast track, and improving trade relations. The influential members assisted Pakistani Pharma companies in the registration process. They helped us to gain access to the Yemeni market and grab a share.

The press in Yemen was hostile to Pakistan. The negative coverage for Pakistan was the norm of the day. My father took the challenge and called the leading English daily, sought appointments, and visited them. He discussed with the lady editor who studied at Pune India and was visibly pro-India. When they finished the meeting, the lady was his sister and agreed to interview him soon. He was interviewed in July, and it was published on 14th august, whereas the Indian ambassadors' interview was published on 17th August because my father's interview was published in detail, which means two portions, one on 14th august and the other one on 15th August.

During his Acting charge time, he managed to meet the prime minister twice and the president also. Moreover, he held meetings with ministers. He arranged a delegation from Yemen to Pakistan and vice versa. A delegation of rice exporters and auto parts makers also visited Yemen on his encouragement. He also got pharmaceutical manufacturers. The exports jumped and recorded a 100 percent increase in ten months. He took the Pharma importers delegation to Pakistan. In February 2010, he was awarded an outstanding performance award for his service to increase exports. He was on umrah, and the delegation was sent on its own. But the TDAP called him in a hurry for the award. The then minister of finance, Shaukat Tareen, awarded him the trophy.

While he was acting ambassador, he reported on the plight of Pakistani prisoners in Yemeni jails. He visited them and listened to their grievances. He pursued

their cases with vigor and got 36 out of 64 released. Moreover, he got money approved for pleaders. He visited Algaida, a remote province n the south, and Almahra, Eden, and Taiz and met governors and also prisoners. He took the initiative and got an appointment from the chief judge of Yemen. He gave him the appointment. He informed the chief judge that Pakistani were innocent and incarcerated at the prodding of Americans or in exchange for real drug peddlers. He was patient listening and agreed to the points raised by my father. The cases of the majority who were in appeal decided in their favor. The prisoners were not being provided food and medicines in the jails. He provided them with food and money and bought them medicines.

Interestingly, my father was sent with the assurance that there would be no ambassador in the foreseeable future; he assumed the charge on 20th May, and on 21st May, the nomination for Dr. Alqama Khwaja was received. He processed his request for an Agreement,' and it was issued by the host government in august 2009. The new ambassador, who was a professor of political science at Multan University, joined on 11th September. He was a class fellow of the then-prime Minister, Yousef Raza Gilani. He brought his family. The ambassador belonged to the family of Bengali Nawabs, AND his father was a former governor of East Pakistan. The family was ultra-modern, whereas Yemen was a conservative society. It was rare to find any woman face in the market. But the ambassador's family was wearing skirts. The ambas-

sador asked my father to take them to market; he tried to dissuade him from visiting with his wife and daughter, but he insisted. They went into the market, and it attracted a lot of adverse looks and comments from the populace. When he started working, the first causality was Pakistan international school. He took over all powers and even sidelined my father, who was vice chairman, by virtue of his post. He started meddling in the affairs of the school and using funds for personal luxury. He bought curtains, carpets, and even family tickets from the school budget. My father advised him that it was illegal, but he continued with his actions. He forced the most qualified principal to resign and brought his friend. The new principal was a bookshop owner and had no experience teaching or running any institute. He brought in the flatterer teachers closer and sidelined the hardworking teachers. The school reform which was achieved in the last five months was reversed one by one. He once again brought the school to stand still. The admissions enhanced in 2009 and decreased in 2010 after his actions. The students started fighting and bringing pistols once again. One day the ambassador told my father that the Yemeni driver was blackmailing him every day and asking for money. He advised him to issue a memo; he replied that he had threatened to kidnap him, as he was chief o the tribe. My father asked him to allow him to tackle the matter. He allowed; my father to call the driver and issue an explanation. The driver said that he was serving the ambassador and his family at odd hours, so he must be paid

overtime or food money; if not paid, then he would extract with force. On listening to his negative comments, he was issued one month's notice. He threatened my father with consequences. He was told to do whatever he liked. He couldn't do anything and finally came and apologized to the ambassador and my father. He was a very good river but addicted to the local drug Qaat.

The embassy bought a new car in June 2009 that was delivered after the completion of accessories in July 2009. My father tried to buy e300 Mercedes with the same ceiling, but the then-special secretary was a person with a stubborn attitude. He thought that model 2008, although brand new, would not be bought despite the fact that the new Mercedes was c200smaller. My father wrote many letters to get approval but finally ordered C200 Mercedes. He used a new car for two months and ran just 4000 Km when the new ambassador arrived. The old car was not disposed of. The advertisement was given in the newspaper, and people submitted bids; the highest bid was of A Yemeni doctor, who gave 11000$, but the ambassador changed the bids and showed 6000 as the highest bid and recommended selling to him. The letter was earlier sent by my father with actual bid amounts, but ambassadors resent another letter to the ministry with the same number and date. The ministry didn't see the earlier letter and approved the lowest bid without question. The bidder was a Pakistani businessman who invited an ambassador for dinner. The bidder just paid $2000 and was not returning to claim the car af-

ter paying the full amount. He tried his best to convince the bidder but failed. Finally, he came and took hold of the old E300 car. It was not starting because of the battery issue. It remained on wheels for many weeks because of the bidder's delay. He started creating a scene and went to the ambassador and giving him peace of mind. The ambassador of Pakistan was insulted by an ordinary person whom he favored in buying a car cheaply. The ambassador called his deputy and sought his help to resolve the issue. He immediately directed the receptionist to bring Pakistani to his office. He also asked the army guard to be present when he came into his office. When he entered the office, my father gave him peace of mind and asked him to tender an unconditional apology or face jail. He was cowed down, and he agreed to do it. He went to the ambassador and apologized.

In December 2009, the ambassador, on the prodding of flattering teachers, decided to sack all Sindhi employees. The employees approached my father because he appointed him. It is pertinent to note that Punjab's dominant foreign office never appointed Sindh local staff or in the schools. My father went to the ambassador and inquired about the issue. He informed that he was compelled by the ministry to appoint efficient Punjabi teachers and officials and expel Sindhi officials. My father told him in plain words that if he terminated them without reason, then the issue would be taken to Supreme Court. He stopped from immediate action but secretly kept doing the same.

He was briefed about Pakistani prisoners in Yemeni jails who were arraigned on the charges of drug peddling. Drug trafficking has the death sentence in Yemen. The charges were flimsy without proof, but the ambassador plainly termed them criminals. He said that he was not concerned for the life of criminals; let them be hanged. He was not ready to extend legal assistance to them. My father has earlier got approval from the ministry for $15000 to appoint an effective pleader. He refused to engage anyone afresh. My father, on his own, visited prisoners who were mainly from Balochistan, sindh, and KPK. He offered them medicine and weekly food o his own. The incarcerated persons asked for their release. He told them that ambassador was in their favor, so they must ask their families to go to the court. They told him that they were poor and couldn't afford the fees of a lawyer. He gave them the address of advocate Nisar Mujahid who was ready to plead their case free. The families approached and protested in front of the press club. The court instructed the ministry to direct the ambassador to get prisoners released. The ministry urgently asked him to move and work for their release. He immediately asked my father if e wanted to meet prisoners and take Biryani. He agreed, and they met the prisoners and engaged the pleader. They got 11 persons released with effective diplomacy and lobbying with the government. It is important to note that earlier, my father got 36 people released. He went o meet the chief for them and succeeded.

He was sent to Djibouti to help a Pakistani who was rescued by the French navy from pirates. The Pakistani was injured in the rescue operation, and the French provided treatment at their hospital. They contacted the embassy to visit him and bring traveling documents to send him to Pakistan. The embassy wrote to the Ministry for approval, but the ambassador directed my father to visit because of two other reasons. The naval ships were visiting Djibouti, and the foreign secretary asked him to send his officer to facilitate them. The brother of the foreign secretary was the chief of the navy. Moreover, he sent my father to prepare his credentials and get the invitation. My father visited it via Ethiopia. On his way, he stayed one night at Addis A BABA. It was a pleasant surprise for him that it was a very green and cool city. He visited the main markets and bought a few items for us. He found that Addis a baba was commercially dominated by Muslims. But the Christians dominated the government and did not even allow Muslims to build Masjids in the capital, so there were few Masjids in Addis. The second thing was the failure of Pakistani diplomacy in the capital of the African Union. The officers sent to Ethiopia were unwilling and disgruntled. Ministry has not considered its important mission.

He arrived at Djibouti airport and was received by a French navy officer. They took him directly to the French military hospital. My father met a Pakistani citizen, consoled him, and handed over a single-leaf passport and pocket money. It is pertinent to note that

the ticket was also arranged by the French navy. He sent him to Pakistan. He visited the foreign ministry through a shipping agent and convinced them to expedite approval for the ambassador to present credentials. They agreed, and the foreign secretary very kindly issued approval the next day. It was handed over to my father by him. He called on the naval chief of Djibouti and apprised him about the visit of two Pakistani ships. He was also asked to issue permits that were not issued. He showed his ignorance about the request. He was shown a copy of the request. He blamed the embassy in Sana and his foreign office for inordinate delays in the dispatch o important letters. He got permission and conveyed it to naval ships. The next was the arrangement of reception on board and call f commanders n the local army, navy, and air force. It was also arranged with the help of the dean of the diplomatic core, the Palestinian ambassador H.E Gazzaz. He was very active and connected to the higher officials in the tiny horn of Africa country. The Djibouti airport was like a bus stand, and people disembarked and went o exit without any discipline because it was around the corner. My father stayed in the hotel booked through a naval ship servicing agent. He hired a taxi to connect, visit and arrange programs. He stayed there for a week and returned home again via Djibouti. On the last day, they kept waiting at the airport, and the flight was canceled, and the air conditioners at the lounge failed. It was a taste of real Africa. He was paid 2400 USD in allowances and $400 for taxi charges. But ministry baboons (who

were jealous of a Sindhi receiving an outstanding performance award from TDAP and getting popular at insignificant stations) was time to settle the score; they rejected the permission to visit the country. The audit subsequently directed my father to refund the money he used for the trip. The official trip was for three purposes, issuing travel documents to Pakistani, ships reception, and credentials of the ambassador were considered a private trip, and my father was compelled to pay for it. He wrote dozens of letters from desk officers to foreign secretaries, but all of them were bent on rewarding him for his performance. Finally, he paid the amount he spent on official work.

In April, again, the ships were coming to Djibouti, and the foreign secretary directed the ambassador to send his officer. Bu my father was not willing to undertake another trip at his expense, so he demanded prior approval. The administration n pressure from the foreign secretary, sent the approval. He visited Djibouti and organized their trip. The reception was held with a huge attendance of local, diplomatic, and Pakistani community presence onboard. The vice admiral, who was the commander of the three visiting ships, applauded the first secretary. He remarked that it was the best arrangement at any station they visited during their tour of duty at the task force. He appreciated him and conveyed the same to the ministry upon his return. But the ministry didn't consider it while punishing him. During his stay at Djibouti, he was

informed that the gendarmerie (FIA) had arrested one Pakistan businessman, Rizwan. Rizwan was working for his company there. He hailed from Lahore. The president Lahore chamber in 2009, Mian Muzaffar Ali, also called my father for the release of the businessman. It was Friday, and offices would have shut for two days and his sure incarceration. He rushed to the gendarmerie police station and asked frot eh officer; they informed him that the officer had already gone home. He told them to call him. They called him, but he replied that he could be released after a court order on Monday. The first secretary asked them to release him by Monday. They refused. He decisively informed them that if he was not released, then he would sit in the police station. They immediately conveyed it to another officer, and he t his chief. It went to the minister, and he ordered to release him. The person was arrested on a civil case of nonpayment of a disputed amount. Later on, it was adjudicated by the Pakistani diplomat Dubai ports and the local adjudicator. The tiny community in the tiny state was very happy and rejoiced at the strength of Pakistani diplomacy. My father discussed with the Palestinian ambassador about the possibility of education and health plus an industrial corridor n the cast of Djibouti. He asked for details. He was properly briefed. He asked to write it up, and it was emailed to him. He discussed this with the president of the republic. The president showed keen interest n the proposal and asked the ambassador to call my father. He sent an email, but my father told him to send an offi-

cial letter to the ambassador asking him to send his first secretary. It was done, and the ambassador approved his leave but as a private trip. The ambassador was informed, and he accordingly arranged official protocol for my father. He has earlier arranged a meeting with the Somalian minister of defense and naval chief. They required huge arms supplies from Pakistan. The same was conveyed to eh ministry. They required a waiver from America. They obtained a waiver and guarantee from the USA to pay for their supplies. However, another nasty demand came from Islamabad that it should be attested by the president of Somalia. It was also done, but Pakistan didn't dare to supply. Pakistan missed a lifetime opportunity of supplying all ranges of arms worth $220 million.

Next, the high commissioner visited the country and presented his credentials. He was informed about his my father's activities and successes. The ambassador, on return, showered appreciation on my father.

My father visited Djibouti in May and held meetings with officials. He presented the PowerPoint presentation of the Djibouti education corridor and the participation of Pakistani universities. The idea was liked by the president, but my father was not allowed later on to continually deal with Djibouti and finally transferred to Nigeria. It is orpiment to note that he held meetings with the officials of Rwanda and Burundi at the hotel and their interest in enhancing trade relations with Pakistan. It was also reported to the minis-

try that sought his explanation for his intrusion into the jurisdiction of other embassies'. In the egoistic wrangling, opportunities were lost.

In January 2010, a complaint was received from Pakistani doctors and staff working in Saudi owned hospital. They were denied salary for the last six months and confiscated their passports. The ambassador was on leave, so my father, as an acting head of mission, called the owner; sent his MD, a Pakistani doctor named Abdul Samad. They negotiated and settled that they would be paid and their passports released.

In another case from the same hospital reported in March, a Pakistani youngster who was married in Lahore was denied salary and passport. He suffered a heart attack. My father was just returning from Djibouti. He got him treated in a science and technology hospital. Moreover, pressured the administration to settle his dues and allow him to fly. They allowed.

Again another issue propped up in April with the Saudi owner; he threatened police action. The ambassador showed no concern, and my father gave them refuge at his house. Their case was pleaded and saved from police action. They were adjusted at other hospitals. The ambassador tried to be friendly with Saudi and visited him many times there. The Saudis took him for granted. He was not obliged. My father supported, and the ambassador opposed the Pakistani officials. The ambassador wrote to the ministry that his deputy was creating problems for him and Saudi investors. He also complained about his writing of a book, "death of the American empire." He told the

Ministry in his letter that the book would jeopardize the relations between two friendly countries, so he may be taken to task. The ministry appointed an inquiry officer and sent him in June 2009. Asif Khan traveled to Yemen and inquired about the charges. He called all Pakistani victims and took their statements. He also asked the ambassador about my father and his performance. The ambassador said that he was an excellent officer. He was asked about the proof of the book being written by my father. He said that the Saudi hospital owner told him and gave him the book. He informed my father that he submitted the book with the title "falling empires" to the ministry for vetting. The ministry has not replied because they never encourage scholarship and research. The book was later published by A A Sirohey, and fortunately, his brother Ali Ahmed Sirohey (A A Sirohey) was present in Sana, who owned the book and gave the undertaking. The inquiry officer asked the ambassador in front of the accused about his work and behavior; he replied that he was a fine and civilized officer and that they had an excellent relationship. He asked him then why he had written the letter. The ambassador told him that he had received a complaint from the Saudi owner of the hospital and his Pakistani doctors. The inquiry office probed him about his nomination of the officer for the pride of performance. The ambassador defended his nomination on the basis of the super performance of the officer in trade promotion. He was further questioned to explain the reasons behind his move to discredit such an outstanding offi-

cer. He revealed that senior officers from the ministry also encouraged him to write against him so that he would be persecuted because he had projected himself in Yemen. The officers in the ministry were envious, and some school teachers also exaggerated his activities and popularity in Yemen; which prompted him to write an express letter; the ambassador Alqama replied. He confessed that he took drastic action on the prodding of senior foreign office officers, who were jealous of Sirohey, the teachers who were pressed to work, and the Saudi owner of the hospital who was compelled by him to pay the dues of Pakistani staff.

The story of the CIA following my father to Yemen is featured here. The professor of Multan University, after joining him, told him about his books. My father told him that he was not given approval, so he left it to others to publish. He kept telling him about the goodness of Americans helping Pakistan. He informed my father that the officer working in the embassy was complaining about his noncooperative attitude. My father was surprised to know that the professor was so connected. He didn't suspect that he could be their friend. The book that he submitted was probably given by an American officer in Yemen. The officer even mentioned my father's troubles and offered help. He thanked his offer and was amazed at how he came to know. It revealed how entrenched the Americans were that even small dissent was not digested. They knew that my father was not writing

about American actions and policies. They started relaxing, and after inquiry, jolt never bothered again.

The inquiry officer submitted his report invalidating the accusations of the ambassador against my father, including his assertion of nationalistic behavior to save Sindhi staff. It was proved that my father took a stand for Pakistani staff that were all from Punjab; none of them belonged to sindh or was known to him before the Yemen posting. The accounts officer was from Lahore, another store in charge was from pindi, the chief nurse was from Gujjar Khan, and a few doctors were from Sargodha and Sialkot; it meant that he was just accused on flimsy grounds. The inquiry found my father innocent and exonerated of all charges. The ambassador took a vacation son after the inquiry and met the foreign secretary, foreign minister, and finally, Prime Minister Yousef Raza Gilani. Reportedly he requested the foreign secretary to recall the officer because h would be hostile to him after that ugly episode. The foreign secretary refused to accept, keeping in view his failed attempt to suppress the officer while he was at headquarters. He went to the prime minister, who was his class fellow and friend. He beseeched him to direct the foreign office to take action against the officer. The Prime minister issued verbal orders to the foreign secretary to take appropriate action and remove the irritant office reform Yemen. The ambassador came back, and the transfer of the order for my father followed after a few weeks. My father agitated with the ministry on

that injustice. The Ministry didn't budge on its first decision and asked him to prepare to leave and join at Pakistan High Commission Abuja. He lodged a petition in the high court of sindh to stay the arbitrary orders. The court issued a summons to the ministry, and senior officers in the ministry were disturbed. The court heard the arguments and reprimanded the officer of the foreign ministry. My father went with my father to Pakistan for admission to cadet college Larkana. We were in Pakistan when he received a message from the ministry that he must end his holidays and return back to Yemen, as his replacement was arriving in Yemen in the first week of October. He informed them that he was in Pakistan for important work and would be reaching Yemen in the second week of October 2010. The then director of personnel Faisal Tirmizi conveyed the message to the Additional secretary administration that if he did not relinquish the charge, he would be recalled to the headquarters; my father told him to do it. It is pertinent to note that in September, my mother was operated on for disc replacement; it was major surgery, and doctors advised her complete rest for three months and no long-haul travel. My father wrote to the ministry about that, our education and lack of funds, but the ministry was compelled by the prime minister's secretariat to remove him at the earliest because the ambassador was not feeling comfortable.

We went to Larkana cadet college, and my father attempted their test, which my father qualified followed

by an interview. However, during my visit to the campus, my father saw teachers severely beating students and speaking in Sindhi. My father told my father that Cadet College was not suitable for my studies. He called the ambassador and asked him to get him some connections at Bahawalpur to get admission to Sadiq public school. He gave some references, and that person took us to Sadiq public school. My father was given an entry test that my father attempted, and the school was ready to accept me. But there again, my father observed teachers speaking in Punjabi or Seraiki. My father refused to study there. My father didn't force my father and took my father back. We returned to Yemen, and on the 13th or 14th of October, Diyar khan arrived; he was the successor of my father. My father lodged him at a local hotel. When six days of preparation time expired, he asked my father to give him the charge; my father refused to hand it over till a decision by the court. Moreover, the high commissioner in Abuja wrote on his orders that there were no posts of first secretary and budget for accommodation. My father wrote to the ministry to create the post and transfer the budget for renting the house. The ambassador also asked him if there was no money to purchase his tickets and pay TA/DA. My father informed the ministry to release funds for the tickets and TA/DA payments. However, the AS (A) again hurled threats of calling him back; otherwise, he should arrange himself; the tickets would be reimbursed at Abuja, and TA/DA could be charged from there. My father refused to move from Yemen. The

officer who earlier suffered recall twice in his career and faced hardships at headquarters requested my father to reconsider because of him. On the other hand, Tirmizi informed him that when ASA told the foreign secretary that Sirohey was to be recalled, the foreign secretary shouted at him and asked him to accept all his demands immediately and send him to Nigeria. The foreign secretary asked him why he was bringing trouble to Islamabad. He explained to him how he got rid of that man, and now, once again, he wanted him back to spoil our days. He then approved remittance for the Sana'a embassy, transferred the post of first secretary, and directed the high commissioner to arrange accommodation for the officer. The remittance didn't reach Yemen, so the ambassador was directed to purchase tickets and pay TA/DA and delay the payment of salaries. He did it, and my father got tickets with the amount due to him. We planned to travel on 26 October 2010 and two days transit at Cairo for a Nigerian visa. We reached there via Egypt air; a friend of my father got our tickets upgraded, and we traveled in first class. We arrived in Cairo in the wee hours and stayed there for a few hours to rebook the luggage to Abuja. It was a very painful experience because people were smoking in and around the airport area and in the cafeteria; it was a very filthy atmosphere, and we started nauseating. My mother actually vomited. The travel took its toll on her health. We moved to a furnished apartment booked by the embassy. In the evening, Abdul Jabbar, the HoC, invited us for dinner. His apartment was in the city cen-

ter in a high-rise building. We witnessed the river NILE from his apartment. But the worst thing about Cairo was its garbage heaps on each nook and corner of the city. The next day my father went to the embassy for our visa and remained there for a few hours; in the afternoon, we went to visit Ihrams and city areas with the tour operator. He was arranged by the embassy. He took us to visit old Masjids, the market, the Pyramids, and Sphinx. The interesting thing was his taking us for lunch at a restaurant that was built on the bank of the sewerage canal. It was stinky; my father questioned the tour operator; he said that it was on their panel; if he wanted to eat somewhere, it would be at his own expense. They were compelled to eat there. The inside restaurant was good, and the food was fine, but the site was ugly. The Nigerian embassy issued a visa and the same day, and the next was free as our flight was on 28th October. We requested the embassy of Pakistan to arrange a day tour to Alexandria. Although my mother was not feeling well but taking our interest into consideration, she agreed to the proposal. The next day we traveled by road to Alexandria. We reached there after three hours of travel and visited the town, its bazaars, its library, and its old Masjid. Alexandria is a Mediterranean port city in Egypt. During the Hellenistic period, it was home to a lighthouse ranking among the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World as well as a storied library. Today the library is reincarnated in the disc-shaped, ultramodern Bibliotheca Alexandrina. The city also has Greco-Roman landmarks, old-world ca-

fes, and sandy beaches. Its 15th-century seafront Qaitbay Citadel museum was also a place of attraction. We visited the library, and it was an excellent place to visit. We also visited Montana gardens and Pompey's pillar, besides taking a stroll on the cornice. It was a bustling city in Egypt, having all ingredients of a prosperous city. It is the second largest city. The striking difference was the clean streets of Alexandria as compared to Cairo's filthy streets. We returned back to Cairo in the evening. While traveling by road, we observed the agricultural farms of Egypt; the rest of Egypt was desert; it was only a strip on both banks of the river Nile.

We also visited One of Alexandria's major landmarks, the Abu Abbas al-Mursi Mosque was built in 1796 over the tomb of the 13th-century Sufi holy man Abu Abbas al-Mursi. Originally from Murcia (in Spain's Andalusia region), Abu Abbas became a highly esteemed religious leader in Alexandria, and his teachings are still revered in Egypt. The mammoth cream-colored mosque that holds his name is a major pilgrimage site. For non-religious visitors, the mosque's exquisite facade of swirling Islamic calligraphy designs and motifs is the major draw-card. Those that want to enter to see the beautiful and intricate mosaic halls should dress modestly and leave their shoes at the main entrance.

We spent a few hours in the old market. Alexandria's main souq (market) stretches through the backstreets

heading west from Midan Tahrir in the central city. There were from fresh produce to silver trinkets poking about in this district. The entire souq area was a wavy line of lanes that flowed off from each other, with each alley specializing in different products. We couldn't dig deeper into Alexandria's soul.

In 2010 a Chinese company that was manufacturing refineries and fertilizer companies and their parts offered my father a job. He was then screwed by the ministry. The officers in the ministry were jealous of his work and popularity at the posting place. An ambassador, Waheed, wrote to the foreign secretary that Sirohey was using the title Excellency whereas he was only charge de affaires'. The spokesperson Abdul Basit called my father and inquired about it. He told him that in Yemen, each head of mission was titled Excellency, so he had no control over the press. He advised posting news after correcting it because some people were observing it rather than working to create space for the country.

# Part VII: Nigeria

## Chapter 1: Hard times in Abuja

On 28th October, we flew to Abuja from Cairo international airport. We reached there in the wee hours of 29th October and were received by the high commission staff. They took us and lodged us at the hotel where we lived for almost three months because the ministry delayed approval of remittance. My father joined the same day at 10 am. The high commissioner, retired major general Asif Duraiz Akhtar, welcomed him and asked him to take a rest for a day. He replied that work was his priority. The high commissioner told him that his primary headache was the timely payment of salaries. He directed him to ensure it happened in time. My father assured him that from next month salaries would be paid on time. My father had held meetings with TDAP officers before coming to Nigeria while he was on vacation. He studied the Nigerian market, its dynamics, and opportunities for Pakistani exporters. He also briefed the high commissioner about his plans to enhance trade and services to Nigeria. The head of mission appreciated his intentions and assured his full support in that regard. The next day it dawned upon him that the chancery building was ready, but ambassadors earlier were reluctant to shift, fearing inquiries because f corruption charges on the builder of the building. The high commissioner who gave the contract to the chancery was charged with corruption in it. However, my father advised the High commissioner that the chancery must be shifted;

he agreed and tasked him to start shifting. The first thing he did was one month's notice to the landlord of the rented chancery building and renovation of the new chancery on a war footing. He went in the morning and came late in the evening almost every day. He even couldn't get us admitted to the school on time. He succeeded in shifting the office and renovating the chancery in a reasonable fashion. Although all the purchases were made by the general retired himself, internal work was supervised by my father. My father told him that direct purchase and internal decoration worth $ 75,000 was against the rules. He was advised to issue a tender, but the General went ahead.

The High Commissioner gave the staff car to my father for a few days and, after a few days, asked him to find the car. The mission was supposed to find a house for its officer, but the High commissioner withdrew the car after two weeks, and even on Eid car was not given for praying. My father started finding a house and car on his own. He requested his staff to ferry him to inspect houses or hired taxis. We were also not admitted to the school because of the unavailability of transport. However, my father continues his work as an experienced hand at the mission. None would have judged that he was their newly arrived person. He took over the work as if he had been there for many years.

The high commissioner allocated rooms to officers. He gave bigger and better room to the army colonel, who was the defense adviser, and a smaller room on the ground floor to the head of the chancery. But my

father didn't object to allocation. He kept one big room for the library and meeting purposes. The visitors to the High Commission at that time were few in number.

The high commissioner took five weeks of vacation immediately after shifting to new chancery in November 2010. The moment he assumed the charge of acting high Commissioner, he started working on economic diplomacy. He promptly contacted and got an appointment from four major chambers of commerce in the country. He visited Kano, the second largest city in Nigeria and the most important trade and business center in northern Nigeria. He addressed the chamber and invited traders to visit Pakistan. The traders showed pleasant surprise at the visit of the Pakistani diplomat because, according to them, it was the first of any diplomat from Pakistan. However, they positively responded and assured their support to strengthen commercial relations between the two friendly countries.
He was briefed by the importers about their destinations. They were mostly imported from India, China, and European destinations. The first attendees were all new to Pakistani products. They learned about the quality products and friendly atmosphere in Pakistan. It created a binding bond between Pakistan high commission and Kano Chamber.

The second visit was to the largest city in Nigeria, Lagos; it was at the invitation of the Lagos chamber of

commerce and trade. He traveled to Lagos and addressed the chamber gathering. It was the largest gathering because of the presence of heavy-weight businessmen in it. He spoke to the gathering and highlighted the exportable Pakistani products. He informed them that Pakistan produced surgical instruments, sports goods, auto parts, motorbikes, tricycles, light machinery, home appliances, tractors, textiles, leather garments, children's wear, ladies' wear, fruits, dry fruits, processed food, rice, wheat, sugar, cement, building material, tiles, bathroom fittings, gems, jewelry, readymade garments, and many more products. The importers took a keen interest in the products and services from Pakistan. They were also informed about the pharmaceutical industry and tire manufacturing industry for motorbikes and shoes of quality. They instantly started asking questions about their products of interest. During working lunchtime, he replied to queries and referred them to the trade development authority and, in some cases, direct company addresses. The tycoons were amazed at the variety of products being produced in Pakistan. They were surprised to know that Pakistan was self-sufficient in arms manufacturing and exporting to many countries tanks to jets. Moreover, they looked with interest at the development in the IT sector. The software companies and hard production were also the centers of focus. They probed about the pharmaceutical industry, surgical instruments, and light machinery. They also were interested in tractor imports and motorbikes/tricycles, including tires. They re-

sponded in a calm and confident manner. They were reassured of the full support of the high commission.
The third visit was made to katsina state and its chamber. It was almost 511 km from Abuja. My father traveled by car to Katsina and held meeting with the commissioner of commerce, deputy governor, and business leaders. The chamber hall was jam-packed, and almost sectors were represented. He briefed the importers about the potential sectors of cooperation. He briefed them that Pakistan being an agricultural country, was better placed to assist Nigeria. He informed them that Pakistan manufactures tractors, implements, agro-based industrial units, agro products, Halal food, fresh fruits, dry fruits, readymade garments, and home appliances. He also briefed them about the availability of fans, desert coolers, and textile, cement, furniture, and auto parts. They showed keen interest in the products by Pakistan. They were of the view that Pakistan High Commission never approached them for imports. They were only aware of nuclear power but now enlightened about the manufactured products. They also showed interest in health and education tourism. They inquired about the treatment of surgeries in Pakistan and education rates in universities. They were informed that it was a Muslim country and very friendly for Nigerian students to pursue their higher education at public and private universities. Moreover, the government was briefed about the security equipment for law enforcement agencies.

He made his fourth visit to the Kaduna state. He held meeting with the chamber of commerce and briefed them bout Pakistani products and services. Kaduna was the textile hub of Nigeria, but the industry went down gradually. Northern Nigeria produced the highest ground nut and cotton, but it dwindled when the agriculture sector was neglected. He advised them to explore the Pakistani market for textiles and the revival of textile industries. He proposed they visit Pakistan and explore its wide variety of products, from agricultural products, children's wear, fashion wear, surgical products, agricultural implements, tractors, textiles, leather garments, cement, tiles, marble, textiles, clothing, leather goods, veterinary surgical supplies, sports goods(renowned for footballs/soccer balls), cutlery, surgical instruments, electrical appliances, software, carpets, rugs, small machinery, tricycles, and processed food. They were amazed at the variety of products in Pakistan. They again reminded him of the lack of communication from the Pakistan high commission.

The chamber then invited the acting high Commissioner to their annual dinner; he accepted it. He attended the dinner and met with central bank governor Sansui. He had an informal discussion with eh Pakistani envoy and appreciated the Pakistani central bank and its policies. Moreover, he probed about Islamic banking in Pakistan and the procedures, and the role of the central bank. He sought detailed information n Islamic banking in Pakistan that the acting high commissioner agreed to provide him.

In the first week of January 2011, General turned diplomat High commissioner Asif Duraiz Akhtar returned back from an American visit. He was received by the deputy high commissioner at the airport and briefed about the activities during his absence. The high commissioner appreciated his proactive approach and outreach within one month of his assumption of charge at the Abuja mission. He was pleased and patted his back to continue similar activities.

In the first week of January, my father wrote a letter to the foreign secretary and secretary of Commerce as head of mission proposing to allocate a budget for trade promotion. He suggested allocating a budget equal to Jeddah commercial office and getting trade jacked to $500 million from just 23 million in January 2011. He cited that in Saudi Arabia, there were three commercial and trade officers, but exports were just less than 400 million. The commerce secretary wrote to the ministry of foreign affairs to take action against the irritant officer who awoke the ministry of commerce from slumber. The foreign secretary directed the DG Africa to seek an explanation from the officer as to why he wrote to the secretaries, including him, directly. My father plied and reminded them that the head of mission was mandated to write to the secretaries, including the foreign secretary.

In the evening, defense adviser colonel Bhatti visited the high commissioner at Pakistan's house. HE briefed him about my father's activities and their impact on the visibility of the high commissioner. He was incited to take action against my father on the

charges of using the head of the mission's car without permission. The high commissioner was pumped and negatively charged against my father. On the next day, the High commissioner called my father and started criticizing and slamming his activities in his absence. He inquired about the use of the high commissioner's car and addressing chambers without previous permission from the High Commissioner. My father replied that he availed the power entrusted to him as acting high commissioner for the trade promotion. He also asked him about the use of the car, with whose permission my father used it. It was mandatory to seek the permission of the High commissioner. My father replied that the high commissioner approved his activities. He retorted that he never approved. My father told him that he was the acting high commissioner, so he approved the activities. There was no need to seek approval from anyone else while officiating as the head of mission. The retired general was furious and hurled threats at him. He said to him that he was already asked by the ministry senior officials to screw him, but he was evading requests. He told my father he would be fixed as general Kayani and general pasha, and the ISI head was his friend. He said that you had packed a fight with the wrong person. You would pay a heavy price for it. My father replied to him that he did whatever was correct and in the interest of the country. Moreover, he was not afraid of any Kayani r pasha. He challenged him to use all his powers to inflict pain or injury on him. The General told him that he would not use the accusation

of the RAW agent, as it was the last resort to fix Sindhis. My father asked him to use it; he must have all power at his disposal. The general, who was all praise for my father, turned against him one night. It was the power of ISI. It is pertinent to note that at all stations, most army officers prepare reports against diplomats and blackmail them. Moreover, they dinted work according to their mandate and kept dividing and creating misunderstandings between officers. The cordial relations of a few weeks turned into hostility. For the next six weeks, they didn't speak to each other. One day general called my father; he refused to go to him. He told him to send the file; the work would be done as per the rules. The General approached the ministry of foreign affairs and GHQ to pressure the ministry to remove the irritant officer. However, secretary Salman Bashir reportedly briefed him about the issues related to the transfer of the recalcitrant officer. He told him that the officer had already lodged a petition in the court, and earlier, he ran a campaign against him, so it was out of the question to bring him back. He has advised my father to adjust with prudence. In February's first week, the High commissioner called my father and asked if elders make a mistake; the younger's cannot excuse them. My father replied that f elders seek, then junior would do it. He invited him to a cup of coffee. He went into his office, and the HIGH Commissioner apologized for his attitude. He informed my father that he was misled by someone, but he has done well for the country. He assured full support to my father

in economic diplomacy. He continued his work with the support of the high commissioner afterward.

On the other hand, the ministry kept its tradition and withheld approval of the rent ceiling and remittance. My father located a house, but the Nigerian wanted upfront money to hand over the house. The ministry delayed it, and we lived at a hotel. The letters to get approval for an extended stay at the hotel were sent, but it was also not allowed. My father bought Toyota Siena in December, and we became mobile to search for houses and get admission. Finally, we found an apartment in February 2011, the ministry was requested to send a remittance for the payment of rent, but it was not sent for the next month. My father requested the MD of the estate company to consider deferred payment and hand over the flat. The MD agreed, and we shifted into the house before the remittance arrived. We were also admitted to the school, but the fees were not paid upon acceptance, and the school kept reminding my father. My father sent SOS a call to the ministry to send the money for payment, as it was embarrassing for the mission. The Ministry finally released money, and fees were paid to the school. The rent was also paid to the landlord. But the inventory for the house of the head of the chancery was distributed by the high commissioner among staff members, so we were restrained from using old worn, out furniture. He tried to buy some items, but the high commissioner was not ready to sanction money for them. We managed for the time being and gradually bought the necessary items.

In February 2011, the high Commissioner asked my father to prepare for the reception on 23rd March, the national day. The rates from Sheraton were taken, and preparations were completed. The ministry was requested to approve $8000 for the reception, which was held after decades. However, the ministry approved just a paltry sum of $2500. The general was disappointed and sought vacation from mid march to early April. He directed my father to arrange any program on 23rd March. My father arranged the 23rd of March very cautiously, keeping in mind the temperament of the high commissioner. He invited hundred plus guests to the chancery, and the first time Pakistan day was celebrated beyond flag hoisting. It was appreciated by the community across the board.

The high commissioner always emphasized that the community in Abuja was not trustworthy, so stay away from them. He cited the example of former high commissioner Khalid Durrani who was very close to the community, and the community propagated against him. He used to visit community members and eat dinners with them. They publicized that he had never eaten at his house. He arranged one reception with a collection of community, and the community wrote to the ministry that he pocketed the funds collected from them and spent only what the ministry sent. However, it was proven later on that ministry hadn't sanctioned enough amounts. But the propaganda was in circulation in the city. My father also took the advice seriously and avoided accepting invitations from the community. He only accepted when

it was a collective program. However, he kept inviting community elders to his house. We served the community members at our house along with diplomats. The High commissioner blacklisted a few Pakistani on the charges of slander.

In May 2011, my father wrote to the TDAP for sponsorship of a pharmaceutical delegation to Pakistan. The TDAP, in principle, agreed to the proposal but later on backed out. My father has convinced the importers to visit Pakistan and explore opportunities. They were invited by the Indian High Commission to Pune international Pharma fair, but they decided to go to Pakistan. It was a very difficult situation for my father. He decided to host the delegation and provide transport and lodging boarding on his own. He requested his friend Asif Gulto arrange the lodging and boarding for the delegation and coordinate the meetings with pharmaceutical companies. They did it on their own and spent money on the residence and transport. He was given hope to mediate between the parties and earn service charges. The delegates went to Pakistan and met two dozen companies. The interesting thing about the visit was the unprofessional attitude of Pakistani companies. They were pulling their legs off each other rather than supporting each other. The visitors were perturbed because they were given contrary reports by the competitors. But my father managed and got a few agreements signed between 17 visiting companies and Pakistani companies in Karachi, Lahore, and Rawalpindi. It created a very good impression among the visitors. But the greedy

Seths were not ready to share the expenses of lodging boarding with Asif gul. There were few companies having professional external export managers. They even requested the head of the delegation to be the translator. They were not ready to spend money on the employment of professional managers. They also showed caprice in the marketing expenses as offered by the Indian companies to the importers. Few companies agreed on the deals and got very good business from Nigeria.

In October 2011, my father worked hard to take the first large delegation to Expo Pakistan Karachi. He took more than 50 businessmen, including senior officials of states who were mandated to purchase goods for the concerned states. When the delegation arrived in Karachi, it was not welcomed by the TDAP officials because of its color. They were very welcoming to white people but very discriminatory to black people. The delegation was not even invited to the opening dinner at the Governor's House. My father fought for accommodation at Sheraton and other hotels. The agreed hospitality was not offered, and it put my father in a very embarrassing situation. However, he used his connections and got them adjusted at various hotels. The next irritant was the police. They approached my father and asked him if all Nigerians were supposed to register at the police station. He informed the police officer that they were given a waiver from police registration by the visa-issuing authority. The special branch police officer was adamant about getting them registered. The policeman

asked who was issuing authority; my father told him that he was the authority. The SSP challenged his authority and insisted that they must register, or he would be responsible for any eventuality. My father agreed to accept the responsibility, and that situation was also averted. The delegation has one leading journalist from the daily trust Nigeria. She reported very positively about the Expo, and it gave a lot of boost to exports. The TDAP chief executive declared my father the best-performing trade officer who was not from the commerce ministry. He appreciated my father for his proactive trade promotion, which enhanced trade by 100% in one year, and his relations with the business community. He was declared as the outstanding performing officer who brought the largest-ever delegation from Nigeria. It was the largest delegation from any country during the Expo 2011. He was appreciated by all the ministry officials and TDAP. They committed to supporting his efforts and felt sorry for their failure to host the Pharma delegation in May 2011. It was a breakthrough in the trade relations between Nigeria and Pakistan. While my father was in Pakistan, he had private personal chores done.

## Chapter 2: Second Marriage

My father, time and again, kept telling our mother that he would marry another girl. My mother always said that he was allowed to do it. But it was considered a joke, not serious consideration by my mother. However, my father kept searching for a suitable girl who could adjust to the extended family. He was of the view that a widow and divorcee girl with sound education could support him in preaching Islam in the rural areas of Sindh, especially his own village. Moreover, the woman would be supported, and he would earn a reward from Allah. In 2010, when we went for admission, he tried to meet certain families in that regard. Moreover, he also interviewed certain girls in February 2010. He was offered a match in 2006 by his staff in Jeddah, but it couldn't materialize. In October 2010, his maternal uncle, Ali dino, asked him why he was looking for a bride in Karachi or other places; why not a Sindhi girl? My father told him that he would not consider any Sirohey girl. He said t. at there was a very good girl. She is an orphan and a very cultured and obedient girl. He inquired about her. He informed them that she was the stepdaughter of Ghulam Asghar, his brother. He asked him that has he checked with her parents. He replied that yes, he consulted her mother. Interestingly my father was with them at Gambat station, where they were saying goodbye to him. He was going to Karachi to interview or meet a woman. He went to Kara-

chi and met a woman who was a virgin but senior in age. They agreed on a marriage proposal, but at the altar, the maternal uncles of the girl created hurdles. They asked my father to allow them to visit Khairpur and inspect the schools. He told them that it was she who should be seen, not his property because it was registered in the name of his first wife, so futile to visit it. However, they insisted, and the proposal failed to materialize. We went back to Yemen and then shifted to Nigeria. During that period, their uncle kept calling him, but he evaded. In October 2011, he went to wriggle out from that proposal. He made up his mind to allow the girl by asking difficult and plain questions to refuse. He went to their house and asked them to bring a girl for a direct meeting. They allowed. My father told her that he was very senior to her. His beard was white. He has no wealth in the bank or even in his pocket. He was married with four children. He has very good relations with his wife and children. If you marry him, he will not expel his first wife. If the Government asked him to keep one wife, it would be his first wife. The diplomatic passport would be with the first wife. The second wife would live with extended family and never create a problem. He also told her that he would not be able to provide gold or property in her name. She replied that it would be her pleasure and honor to marry persons like him, and she declared that she was not interested in any wealth or property. He also agreed after the forceful reply from the girl who agreed to live as a junior wife in the same house. He officially wed

locked, and Nikah was registered on 9th November 2011. On the other hand, my mother was informed that my father had gotten married. She inquired, and my father evaded a direct reply. He returned back after Nikah, and our stepmother stayed back at the house of her stepfather.

In return, he bought TAB for my father and gifts for each one of my siblings according to their choice. We were happy to have gifts and not bothered by the new phenomenon. My mother said that my father had betrayed her by doing it behind her back. Things calmed down in a couple of days. At the end of the month, retired General Asif Duraiz Akhtar handed over the charge to my father. It is pertinent to note that he kept waiting for an extension order till the evening of 30th November and relinquished when he received written fax from the Ministry of Foreign affairs. Before 30th November, he went to Lagos and took his luggage to Lagos. He took both cars to carry his material to Lagos. On return, the BMW broke down, and the mission paid thousands of dollars in repairs. He charged visit TA/DA and claimed a bill of cargo from Lagos to Islamabad, whereas he already availed of government transport. He also got tickets from Lagos and got reimbursement from the mission. Due to his expectations from GHQ for an extension, he hasn't written for calls on the president and important ministers. However, after his final relinquishment, we arranged his calls, but an important part of it was his going alone. He neither took the acting high commissioner to the presidential palace nor to foreign affairs for a

proper introduction. At the time of departure, he was asked to leave behind the visiting cards of dignitaries and references of persons whom he met during his tenure. But he evaded and took away all his cards and dairies. The retired General was allowed by my father to stay at the Pakistani house and use the office/ car as if he was head of mission. He was given an impressive farewell at a local restaurant. The community was also invited by the acting high commissioner. In his speech, the outgoing envoy confessed that he didn't recognize Sirohey and that his potential was not appropriately used. Moreover, he apologized for his shortcomings and noncooperation with my father. My father; in his speech, said that a person's character was an asset. He was doing according to his belief, and others did what they thought was right. He wished the former high commissioner well in his future endeavors. He was facilitated and provided all the logistical support while he was in Abuja for 12 days after relinquishment. He asked my father about the performance evaluation report. My father submitted it and asked him to rate him as he found him. The general wrote the report and used very superlative language for my father and even sent a letter before leaving for the Ministry. The letter was sent to the Additional secretary of administration recommending my father to be made in charge of the economic diplomacy directorate in the ministry. He enumerated the achievements of my father during one year. The letter was made part of the dossier but never considered. The administration resented the appreciation on

the pretext that he was from an inferior ethnic background and that a retired general wrote so much praise about him.

When my father took over, he started work on my father's track, and every other day some event was taking place, so he almost forgot everyone, including his new bride waiting at Gambat. However, in May end he took one week's leave and went t Pakistan. He married her formally and brought them to Abuja. On their arrival, mother welcomed them with a cold shoulder. She was lodged in a side room at the apartment. However, my father tried to calm down my mother, who started being agitative after her arrival.The newlywed wife of my father couldn't adjust to us. She started finding excuses to get a separate house. She compelled my father to keep her in Pakistan. My father contacted the person who arranged the marriage about the problem she had created. However, after feeling the cold shoulder from my father, she returned back to the house but remained strained. She competed with my mother on the issue of equal time for my father. My father tried to balance, but she was demanding more time. My father brushed aside her demand and asked her to remain within her means or return back to her parents. She tried to carry on within a joint family but bemoaned the new atmosphere. Although she got better facilities here, her dream of a house was not fulfilled. In February 2013, my mother and stepmother both left for Pakistan. Stepmother remained there till the birth of our youngest brother Muhammad.

# Chapter 3: Acting High Commissioner to Abuja

On 30th November 2011, my father assumed charge of the Acting High Commissioner. He chalked out a plan for the next year. It was called 365 days activity plan. It literally meant activity every day. It may be smaller or bigger, but the presence of the Pakistan high commission must be felt in one or another corner of Nigeria. He prepared state-wise plans and studied all states, their economy, education, agriculture, health, employment, and problems and suggested practical solutions in his presentations. He approached the state governments for meetings with respective governors and presentations. It was an instant success because the majority of governors invited him. He met 13 governors in 13 months of his tenure. His first meeting was with governor kashim shittim of Borno. He invited diplomats to show solidarity with Borno. Borno state was facing Boko haram terrorism. None except my father visited, and the governor offered him the warmest welcome in the state capital Maiduguri. The governor called all his cabinet members and majority state legislative assembly members into the auditorium, where my father presented them with the issues and their possible solutions. The governors were amazed at their knowledge of my father about his state. When my father informed the participants that there were 40,000 extended families in the state, and they could be cob-

bled together from the farming community for the sake of state assistance. The forty families or twenty families could be provided with one tractor. The responsibility for the tractor and implements may be given to a committee for maintenance and equitable use by the participant families. He suggested that by providing 2000 tractors to 40 thousand families,' the state would initiate a green revolution and effectively hunger and poverty in the state would be defeated within five to six years of implementation. The governor liked the idea and asked him to suggest companies import tractors from Pakistan. HE PROVIDED him addresses and contacts. He also advised him to create an education corridor to equip youth with market-oriented courses. The universities can be attracted from friendly countries with little effort. The governor took a huge official delegation and visited Expo Pakistan in October 2012. He was not treated well by the Tdap officials because, this time, my father couldn't go there due to an official engagement in Abuja. But still. the governor signed a few agreements with Pakistani companies for the provision of medicines, tricycles, and tractors to the state. Moreover, my father suggested importing agriculture and science teachers at a secondary and higher level from Pakistan. The Governor readily accepted the proposal. However. the response from the Pakistan side was delayed till a new general took over, and all work halted. Governor Borno offered my father the post of adviser if he wished to work with full freedom and help his state. My father politely refused and told him

that he would be available for advice whenever required.

The press was hostile to Pakistan due to Indian impact and influence. The journalists were trained in Indian universities, so they were inclined to India. However, my father took them head-on and made friends with them. A sample of the coverage is given below; an interview with a leading newspaper be;

### 3.1.News Coverage in Nigeria

Charge d' Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Nigeria, Ahmed Ali Sirohey, in this interview with our correspondent Innocent Odoh, said that Nigeria's agricultural potentials are enough to engage people in productive ventures and deny terror merchants easy recruits. Excerpts:

What is the current level of bilateral relations between Nigeria and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan?

We have excellent relations with Nigeria. When Nigeria gained independence in 1960, we were among the first countries to recognize Nigeria. We opened a diplomatic mission in Nigeria, and since then, we have been associated with so many projects in Nigeria. Pakistani teachers, doctors, and engineers have served in Nigeria. The military cooperation between Pakistan and Nigeria is very is excellent because many of the senior officers in the Nigerian Army, Nigeria Air Force, and Navy attend Pakistan's premier military institutions.

Similarly, in education, many Nigerian students are studying in Pakistani universities. We are also cooperating in the area of agriculture and improvement in trade. Last year, it showed 100 percent growth, and we are hopeful that it will continue to improve.

How can both countries improve trade relations?

In fact, we have requested the Nigerian Government to give its consent to open a trade office in Lagos because it's the commercial capital of Nigeria, and most of the imports and exports come through Lagos. The Nigerian Government has given a positive response to that, and we are hoping that this year, we may open this station. We have a trade and investment production treaty that is in the process; hopefully, it will be signed.

Under the umbrella of D8 countries, we are going to sign the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), and that will also help both countries to import and export goods that are produced in both countries. So, these are things in the offing, and we are hoping that in the near future, we will achieve all these.

Pakistan is a regional power in the East and Central Asian region, which has attracted military training from Nigerians. Yet, despite its military powers, it is still battling the problem of terrorism. Why is Pakistan still facing this challenge?

This problem started in 1979 when the former Soviet Union occupied Afghanistan. And all western countries supported Afghanistan Mujahedeen. Of course, there was an influx of between four and five million refugees from Afghanistan into Pakistan, and then in

1988, all the western countries just left Afghanistan unattended, leaving the field to Pakistan. So, Pakistan was there to support and help those refugees, but that issue couldn't be solved at that time. Again, in 2001, violence started. So, because Pakistan is next-door, we felt the heat of our neighbor, Afghanistan.

Despite the violence and terrorism on the borderlines of Pakistan, it has effectively contained the insurgency. Pakistan has about 800,000 square kilometers, and the problem is only 27,000 kilometers. Everything is normal, and this shows in the economic growth of Pakistan. Pakistan was declared by the World Bank as one of the emerging economies in the world, including Nigeria. And Pakistan has resoundingly shown GDP growth in all these turbulent years. So, Pakistani security forces have effectively contained terror along the Swath Valley and other pockets of hideouts for insurgents. They have been eradicated completely, and those places are now safe and sound.

There was a recent allegation from Western countries, particularly the United States, that Pakistan is having some talks of a possible alliance with the Taliban to take power when the NATO forces depart Afghanistan. What is your reaction to this?

It is not Pakistan talking to the Taliban; it is the U.S. and their allies that are talking to the Taliban through the Qatari Government, not Pakistan. We only supported the American effort to resolve the matter. It's just an accusation; it has no ground at all. If that is the case, why America and its allies are talking to the

Taliban? They have even allowed them to open an office in Qatar and Istanbul to negotiate, and whatever negotiated settlement, they come to and agree by all parties, Pakistan has no problem with that. Pakistan wants to end the conflict; we want peace with our neighbors, and it would be in the best interest of Pakistan that Afghanistan is stabilized, free of conflict, and free of violence.

With Pakistan's long history of fighting terrorism, how can it assist Nigeria in curbing this growing menace of the Boko Haram sect?

Our country is in constant contact with the Nigerian authorities. Pakistan has fully supported Nigerian efforts to contain the menace of terrorism. Pakistan offers all it can do to give expertise, so we have, at the highest level, extended our hand to support and train the appropriate counter-insurgency forces in Nigeria.

Recently, there was this face-off between the West and Pakistan when NATO forces killed 24 Pakistani soldiers in a drone attack. Pakistan threatened to withdraw support from NATO. How has the Pakistani Government been relating with the West since that tragic incident?

Pakistani Government insists that NATO, and especially the United States, should extend an unconditional apology to the Pakistani people. Until that is done, we have stopped their goods from passing through Pakistani territory. But there is cooperation against terrorism; it is only the supply that stops. The U.S., Pakistani and Afghan authorities have been

talking, and hopefully, the issue will be resolved to the benefit of all three countries.

When the late al-Qaèda leader Osama bin Laden was killed in Pakistan, there was this widespread speculation that Pakistan may have, in the first place, supported terrorism, and that was why they hid bin Laden in their territory. Since then, there has been this impression in the West that Pakistan shielded some of the terrorists and hid information from the West. How do you react to this?

In 2005, U.S. State Department issued a statement that Pakistan did not know about the presence of bin Laden in its territory. Despite the U.S.'s high technology, he was not located anywhere inside Pakistan for many years. But when he was located, the information was not passed to the Pakistani authorities. Otherwise, our security forces would have taken appropriate action. The U.S. took unilateral action, clearly indicating that it was not in the knowledge of Pakistani authorities. Pakistan is a big country of 180 million people, so cases of people living undetected can happen. If somebody goes into hiding and remains inactive, it might happen that he or she lives undetected.

But it is certified by the U.S. authorities that our support for the war on terror was crucial, and that is why the number of al-Qaeda operatives caught by Pakistan is much higher than the number caught in Afghanistan by the allied forces combined. So, our operations against al-Qaeda have remained very successful.

The NATO forces have stepped up drone attacks in Pakistan, and they have killed scores, including innocent people. Why would the Pakistani authorities allow such attacks to go on when civilians are becoming more of the casualties?

Pakistan has technically informed the US-led forces that drone attacks are not acceptable. And we are asking them to share the information so that ground forces can take appropriate action without collateral damage. That is being worked out, and both countries are talking.

If Pakistan were to collaborate with Nigeria to fight terror, how far do you think it could go to contain terrorism in Nigeria?

Yes, because we have a long experience in fighting faceless terrorism, and we have adopted a three-prong strategy specifically in Swath Valley. The first one was that we talked to the local people. Secondly, we offered them development packages and addressed their grievances, and thirdly, we used appropriate power against the miscreants, and it worked very well.

How do you see Nigeria and Nigerians?

I am very optimistic about Nigeria; my father was writing a book about Nigeria entitled "Nigeria Economic Superpower in 2013." my father see Nigeria as a unified nation, one people in their diversities. My father am hopeful that the Nigerian people will strengthen their democracy, benefit from it and contribute to the development of their country. Nigeria has a lot of potentials. Nigeria has very fertile land,

and its water resources can produce food that can be sufficient for the whole of Africa.

If Nigeria focuses on agriculture and agro-based industries to substitute the importation of food, which is costing the nation several billions of dollars yearly, it will no doubt create jobs for its teeming youths through agriculture and, therefore, deny these terrorists sponsors of idle hands, which they use to wreak havoc on the nation all these years. This is the prime time for the Nigerian Government to diversify the country's economy, which President Jonathan is trying to do at the moment.

The second was governor Kano, the second largest economy in the country. Governor Engineer Rabi'u Musa, popularly known as Rabiu Kwankwaso, was very keen to meet a Pakistani envoy. He received him at Governor House, where he was given a presentation on the potential of Kano state and ways to exploit them with the help of Pakistan. He was told that Kano was blessed with enough water to cultivate the whole barren land and be the bread basket of Nigeria. Kano has 14 dams, and none of them was used for agriculture except one. He suggested Kano Pakistan friendship industrial state where Pakistani investors may be provided free of cost land. Moreover, the creation of the Kano Pakistan education bond and inviting Pakistani education providers to establish their campuses in Kano, the state would provide free land. The first one invited was the Bahria foundation which got 20 acres of prime land in Kano city. But they never returned after getting a commitment from the governor

and giving the commitment to establish a school in the government-provided building. The agro-industrial units, especially ground nuts processing and HALAL processing units were also discussed, and the governor approved them.

The acting high Commissioner also discussed the possibility of health services cooperation and joining of universities and provision of professors from Pakistan. The Governor appreciated the proposal and agreed to it. He also sent his officers to explore possibilities of direct purchases from Pakistan. The delegation visited Karachi, Lahore, and Rawalpindi. The issue of implantation and actualizing the commitments remained delayed because of lethargy from both sides. The Kano governor team wanted some grease to the wheels, which my father denied being part of it. He indirectly informed the governor, but he couldn't understand r evaded it.

The Governor of Gombe state was approached for a meeting and presentation. In the meantime, a Pakistani company, MS Shaukat and Raza, owned by Imran Shaikh, approached my father for his help in recovering money from Gombe state. The envoy immediately sought time from the Governor for a presentation and bilateral talks. The Governor invites him to the state. They went there he presented the proposals for his state, including agro-based industrial units in the state, especially tomato plants. The construction of an irrigation network and provision of tractors, tricycles, and motorbikes was agreed upon in bilateral talks. The state signed an agreement with M.S. Mur-

shid agricultural equipment of Lahore for the provision of 35000 motorbikes. However, the company didn't fulfill its obligations after the first consignment. Moreover, the companies providing tractors were not traveling to Nigeria. But my father pressed the state and got some of the equipment sold to them. The recovery procedure for old arrears towards the state for dam building was initiated. The governor promised to pay the debt in installments. However, after the arrival of the general turned diplomat, my father was stopped from working, s the payment segment remained incomplete.

The Governor got an appointment from the emir of Gombe for the acting high commissioner. Shehu Usman Abu-Bakr was the traditional Nigerian leader who served as the 10th Emir of Gombe from January 1984 and was also head of the association of traditional rulers. He received the Acting High Commissioner with a traditional guard of honor by his arrow and lance-bearing courtiers. The emir offered a seat to the envoy beside his thrown. However, the minister of commerce and trade, Gombe state, found his seat on the floor. The people of all levels touched his legs and sat on the floor. It was interesting that the Muslim emir was accepting the bowing of people, and people were doing it voluntarily. It is pertinent to note that Emir was also a graduate of a western university.

In March, many activities were going on side by side. There were so many events and activities that counting was not possible. However, we see my father in newspapers and on television almost regularly. It was

felt that there was only one embassy working in the country. On 23rd March, the high commission arranged an exhibition of fashion/ladies' apparel and reception side by side. The minister of Foreign affairs, ii madam Viola Onwuliri was the guest of honor. She was considered to be pro-INDIA and initially used a few sentences in her speech to criticize Pakistan for its failure to rein in terrorists. But her attitude entirely changed when my father pursued her with determination. It is pertinent to note that the foreign ministry released just $500 for the reception. The reception was attended by approximately 400 guests, which was a record. Pakistan high Commission arranged a reception after decades in Abuja, that too at a grand scale. Almost all ambassadors, higher officials, and dignitaries were present at the occasion. It was given wider coverage by the local press. The program was sponsored by local and Pakistani companies and was facilitated by my father. In June 2012, he husband died in a plane accident. My father was one of the few ambassadors who traveled to her hometown for condolences. It converted her to a pro-Pakistan lobby; afterward, she forcefully advocated rations' with Pakistan.

In June, textile, readymade garments, furniture, and home appliances exhibitions were held. It was for the first time that such an effort was made by the Pakistan high commission in Abuja. The next was a charity bazaar for orphans and underprivileged children. It was an instant success and sold goods worth 1.7 million nairas. The donations to centers and institutions

endeared Pakistan's high commission in the eyes of the Nigerian Government.

In August 2012, my father decided to hold grand reception on the occasion of Independence Day. It was one of the impossible tasks as the Government didn't release funds for Independence Day. The guest list for the function was now 1000 as compared to 500 on March 23rd national day. The gifts for each guest were prepared, and a live BBQ station was established. The function was arranged at the chancery. A huge tent was erected at the site, and decorations with Pakistani flag buntings gave a beautiful look to the High Commission. Eid was around the corner, so people advised my father to delay or cancel the program because most people leave for home towns in the holidays. However, he persisted and arranged a reception in the last days of Ramdhan, which was attended by approximately 600 guests. The minister of information, Labaran Maku, was the guest of honor. Moreover, the foreign secretary, ambassador martin Uhomoibhi was a special guest. It was against the protocol that two Nigerian high officials attended the same function. But here, unseal things happened the Nigerian high commissioner to Pakistan, the governor Niger, member s of parliament. Senators and high officials, businessmen, and the diplomatic community in large numbers attended the program. It was considered a historical first in the city by any embassy at that grand level. The press again gave positive coverage to the event. The minister, in his speech, told the audience that he was proud of Pakistan, the only

Muslim nuclear power. The foreign secretary, in his speech, told the gathering that he was especially attending the occasion because of a dear friend, the Pakistani acting high commissioner. It is pertinent to note that he was supposed to travel on 14th august to VIENA for the meeting. But he sent his deputy and attended the function and the next day traveled to Vienna. The entire function was sponsored, including my father's own contribution in it. The companies gave a congratulatory message in the newspapers. The coverage was all over in all languages, but English papers which were 50 in Nigeria, covered it in detail.

When these activities were going a person was closely monitoring them and writing reports. He was colonel Asif Khan, the defense adviser at the mission. He was the person who was fully supported by my father at all levels. He was introduced to the minister of defense, secretary of defense, and defense contractors for the supplies of arms to Nigerian armed forces. He also facilitated to have a meeting with presidential palace officers to influence the approval of proposals to import from Pakistan. He was accompanied by his father to all defense-related programs as and when required. He delivered a lecture in the defense college in Abuja to boost the standing of the defense adviser. But the army officer, as usual, was busy finding faults in his activities. He was properly guided by his father on the marketing of Pakistan defense products and fully obliged. At times his bills were not fulfilling requirements; he was advised to submit the correct re-

ceipts. An example is regarding repair at the house; the bill contained broom and toilet paper; my father advised him to submit the receipt as he has plenty of available in his drawer. He charged an education subsidy of his son $20,000, whereas, in the same school, our fees for the senior class were just $14000. But the colonel still persisted that he was earning pure Halal. The visa official reported to my father that the colonel had got money from some candidate, and the candidate gave it in writing. The colonel approached my father, and he spared him. The repair bill for his official car was more than the market price of the car. My father kept reminding him about the responsibility of an officer in a poor country. However, the officer continued with repairs and maintenance. In October 2012, Retired general Ashraf Saleem was nominated for the post of High commissioner. The good colonel started reporting to him about our activities and almost always in negative terms. He even told him that Sirohey was using his house. The house before his joining became the general house. He went on vacation in December 2012 and met the designated high commissioner and briefed him about the activities of acting high commissioner. He gave him the impression that my father was creating his personal clout, so he must seek his recall after arriving at Abuja. The general started disliking my father before meeting him.

In late august 2012, the foreign secretary invited diplomats to his turban ceremony at the Kebbi state. My father immediately accepted the invitation. On the

day of the ceremony, they traveled by specially chartered plane to Sokoto, where a meeting with the sultan of Sokoto was arranged. All the heads of a mission called on the Sultan in his Darbar. When formal Darbar and the call ended, the sultan directed the staff officer to stop the Pakistani high commissioner. He wanted to meet him as he was delighted with his activities. It is pertinent to note that the Sultan didn't meet the previous General high commissioner, despite the fact that he was a former army officer himself. The former high commissioner attempted several times to call on them, but no response was received. The sultan appreciated him and prayed that the Pakistan government might continue him to serve as the high commissioner; it would be beneficial for the people of Nigeria and Pakistan.

Hassan Raza visited as head of the delegation to attend D8 senior officials meeting in Abuja. He was received by the high commission protocol team, but he was annoyed by the absence of my father. He desired that the acting high commissioner should have received him. He was hosted by us at dinner, and my father accompanied him during meetings because he was one man delegation from Pakistan. H was provided minister-level protocol and suit at the Hilton Abuja. When he was returning, my father went to the airport. He asked about a tip to the protocol officer. My father advised him to give him at least $50, but he only found 20; he gave it to the officer who was a director at the ministry of foreign affairs means, as senior as Hassan Raza himself. H took it but complained

that he was senior and just 20 dollars tip was not good. Hassan was annoyed at him and wanted to take back even 20 dollars; however, on the insistence of my father added some more bucks. Upon his return from Nigeria, he wrote a letter to the administration division and recommended my father's recall because he was not fit to serve in the country. He wrote many negative points which were not observed by Hassan.

In December 2012, Pakistan hosted D8 Summit in Islamabad. The then Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar visited all capitals of member countries and invited heads of Government except Nigeria. Nigerians being very proud nationalists resented it. They canceled the participation of their president and downgraded the delegation to the minister of state level. My father was activated and tried his best to get it reversed with the help of the foreign secretary and the principal secretary of t president. It was finally done with relentless efforts by all quarters. The president left with the largest delegation of senior officials and businessmen. However, the ministry didn't invite my father to come to Islamabad; rather, they invited Ashraf Saleem to be with the delegation. The visit was one of the most successful visits. But during the summit, the coverage in local Pakistani media was very limited. On the contrary, coverage in Abuja was wider. It was felt that summit was not in Islamabad but in Abuja. The acting high commissioner pointed out it and sent the cuttings to the ministry. It is pertinent to note that M R. Hassan Raza was the chief architect of the summit. He has created his image of the

performing officer, whereas he was the most inefficient officer of the ministry. My father worked with him in Jeddah, and he never went on time to the office and delayed small works like the installation of a security gate for two years; on his departure, it was installed in two days. Interestingly he retired in grade 22 because of his Lahore connection and Punjabi roots. The president returned from Pakistan happy and was in full mood to foster trade relations with Pakistan at a faster speed.

My father arranged catalog shows in various chambers of commerce across Nigeria. It started paying dividends. The demand for Pakistani products increased, and people thronged to seek Pakistani visas. According to one high Commission official Abdul Sattar" we used to sit idle in the mission, and seldom any visa seeker ventured in the Mission. However, after arrival and assumption of charge as acting high commissioner by Sirohey, the number of applicants increased manifold." The number of businessmen sent to Pakistan during the 13 months of his tenure was 1100, and the number of delegations to Pakistan was 12; the number of Pakistani delegations visiting Nigeria was 7 in one year. It has created momentum, and many unknown companies and entities started inquiring about Pakistani products and services.

The acting high Commissioner encouraged Alhaji Kunmi to engage NADRA for the national identity card and smart election card of Nigeria. He was sent to Islamabad, and the NADRA delegation visited Abuja. The deal was signed, and NADRA success-

fully completed the project of smart election cards. However, the identity card issue went into the doldrums as the general joined and stopped my father from working to promote the goods and services of Pakistan.

The contract to provide mashaq and, subsequently, JF17 was initially discussed through one defense contractor, and then the defense adviser was introduced to the person. He took him to the decision-making body. It was also done during the tenure of my father. He was instrumental in the finalization of the contract. Obviously, the defense adviser worked hard to pursue it and conclude. The final delivery and agreement for JF17 have been signed for departure to Islamabad.

Pakistan day at Lagos international trade Fair was held. My father lobbied and succeeded in getting the space from the organizers to present made-in-Pakistan goods and services to potential buyers. Although TDAP failed to send any delegation, my father mustered support from private exporters and brought a few manufacturers to the fair. He presented to the buyers a wide range of products and displayed catalogs, posters, and brochures on the spot for the perusal f traders. It was lauded by the business community and hailed as the first of its kind in the city.

Pakistan day at Kano international fair was even bigger than the Lagos fair. It boosted the standing of Pakistani goods and services visa Vis regional countries. Pakistan day was converted into Pakistan week,

and audio-visual presentations along with hard copies were distributed and displayed at the central location. A large number of people showed interest and inquired from the officials and met my father for further information. The delegations and individual buyers keenly visited Pakistan and explored the opportunities. The Kano chamber was one of the major supporters of Nigeria Pakistan enhanced trade cooperation and fully endorsed Kano Pakistan industrial estate at Kano city. The education corridor in kano was mainly based on the projections of Pakistani university campuses like Hamdard, Bahria, Agha khan, NUST, FAST, COMSAT, LUMS, QUAID E AZAM, KARACHI, SINDH, MUET, PESAHWAR, PUNJAB, AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, and Sir Syed university. The Governor agreed to provide free land to all the intending universities. The letters were sent by the high commission to seek their consent for the project. A number of universities showed interest in opening campuses if the land was given free of cost. The project was visualized in November 2012, and the letters were issued in December after approval from the governor on the terms of reference. However, in early February, the general joined as high Commissioner and stopped my father from pursuing the project as he felt it would be beneficial for him personally.

The Portharcourt trade fair was another place where for the first time, any Pakistani stall or conference/ workshop by the high commission was established. The local host arranged meetings with the business

community, and a large number of them desired to visit Pakistan. They were sent to the EXPO Pakistan 2012, and they bought a variety of products. A new buying market was explored, however, due to continuity problems and visa restrictions after the General discouraged the buyers from visiting. The Nigerian buyer believed in one caption," seeing is the believing,"; so they wanted to visit factories and order on the spot. This option was denied to them by the general, who was suspicious of Nigerians. But Indians were not suspicious and brought them into their fold.

The interesting phenomenon was the crying of the Indian High Commissioner Mahesh Sachdev. He asked my father to slow his speed because he was asked by his headquarters to match or surpass the activities of the Pakistan mission, and he, the old man, was unable to chase him. He said that he worked so hard and speedy that we didn't have time to react to the first action, and another one was on the horizon. The acting high Commissioner of Pakistan replied your Excellency, each diplomat was supposed to work for his country, and so was he doing, and he was also free to do to promote his goods and services. He suggested that at least we can have a working relationship to know each others' programs; it will help both to plan in advance. The Pakistani envoy replied that marketing strategies were not shared by the competitors. The Indian envoy resented my father's fast-track economic diplomacy. Upon the arrival of the new general turned diplomat, he immediately created a repo on the basis of their same ethnicity, i.e., Pun-

jabi, and he requested to rein in his deputy high commissioner. The great general obliged and ordered my father to stop bothering the Indian high commissioner, who was a gentle fellow. He slowed down the activities and finally put a full stop. The Indian high commissioner was very happy with our General high commissioner.

The Indian High Commission celebrated Independence Day on 15th august 2013, and the general high commissioner and deputy high commissioner of Pakistan were invited to attend. During the function, the Indian high commissioner introduced one Nigerian Christian businessman as Indian; he retorted and said that he was not Indian but Pakistani. He cut a sorry figure in front of the guests. He qualified that he was doing business with Pakistan and being given respect by the Acting high commissioner, so he was obliged to show solidarity with Pakistan.

The acting high Commissioner visited Onitsha and Awka at the invitation of the governor and the chamber of commerce. The acting high commissioner was received by the governor at the Governor's House and held a bilateral meeting to promote trade relations. It is pertinent to note that Awka is considered the hub of auto parts, and Onitsha is the largest wholesale market in Africa for readymade garments.

The Pakistani envoy introduced him to Shaukat and Nazir CEO, who was there to offer solutions to the state on electricity. It is important that Anambra state has natural gas and also the Niger River running through it. The Pakistani company offered options of

a joint venture and BOT basis. The governor was informed that the company could arrange to finance if the sovereign guarantee was offered by the Government. The governor showed interest n the proposal and promised to work on it.

The Acting High Commissioner also informed the governor about collaboration in the manufacturing o auto parts and light machinery at Awka and home appliances/ readymade at Onitsha. The governor keenly listened to the proposal and ordered his team to undertake a visit in order to discuss the modalities of cooperation. He also committed to supporting Onitsha businessmen in getting Pakistani partners. The acting high commissioner proposed that imports of semi-finished goods may be imported from Pakistan and finished at Awka and Onitsha for re-export to regional markets. Moreover, the goods could be sold in the domestic market. It would boost the economy of the state and generate jobs. The governor agreed to the proposal and patted private traders to liaise with the high commission and start work on it.

The next stop was Onitsha, where the chamber leaders received the acting high Commissioner with warmth. He addressed the big gathering of importers and also visited the Onitsha market. It was a Christian -majority state where only Muslim beggars and butchers lived. The Muslims were from the north. The acting High commissioner, who sported a running beard, was supposed to be inviting hostile comments. But on the contrary, people came to kiss his hands and warmly welcomed him. It was indeed a

strange scene when a practicing Muslim envoy was being warmly taken to the Municipal hall, and a crowd of traders listened to him patiently. The Onitsha market responded positively and promptly formed a delegation to attend the expo Pakistani 2012. They enhanced the imports from Pakistani and also showed power from the river Niger in collaboration with Shaukat and Nazir. They just wanted fast track the visa process for eh importers. The envoy assured them that they would be facilitated.

The visit to Benin City was another breakthrough in the exploration of an untraditional market. The Benin ado state welcomed the Pakistani envoy with open arms. The potential stakeholders showed interest in trading with Pakistan. They informed the acting high commissioner that it was for the first time any diplomat from Pakistan had visited Benin. They also shared their joy and surprise at the discovery that Pakistan was manufacturing a huge range of products, from agricultural implements, home appliances, surgical instruments, sports goods, textiles, ready garments, leather garments, auto parts, light machinery, heavy machinery, APC and all types of arms. The entrepreneurs were pleased to find an alternative to India with better quality and price. Moreover, the Government of ADO state showed interest in getting investors in the Agricultural and education sectors. My father was invited to hand over degrees to the graduating students at a Christian university. It was for the first time that any Muslim ambassador presented degrees at a Christian university. He also visited com-

posite I.O. Farms. These farms were hosting cattle, dairy processing, poultry farm, fruit farm, and fish farm, including in-house scientifically approved hatcheries. It was surprising to see that in Nigeria, where agriculture was mainly done with primitive tools, a scientifically developed farm worked. He was briefed that all sectors help each other; the refuse of chicken was used in agriculture farms, the fish excretion was also used as organic fertilizer, and the cattle were grazing the gross, which was surplus in the orchid. In this way, the water used in fish farming and getting dirt was sent to agric farms. It was a composite farm and an economical solution for the best production method.

He was also invited to attend the King of Benin's birthday. It was a lifetime opportunity. The function was attended by his chiefs wearing iron-clad costumes in red colors. But it was very suffocating at the palace because of no air conditioners. In the evening, a concert was arranged where the chief, along with his wives, danced and sang songs. He announced the presence of my father at the function, and people clapped frantically because he was the only ambassador who attended the king's birthday.

The foreign secretary, during his turban ceremony, announced the formation of the social development organization. The ambassadors present announced the donations; the acting High commissioner Pakistan announced the highest donation of 0.5 million nairas. The permanent secretary announced that organization on the advice of the acting High commissioner of

Pakistan. At the announcement speech, he offered governor Kebbi that if he announced funds from his pocket, it would be matched by him. It was a very risky affair, but the governor didn't dare to announce from his own pocket more than 200,000. The Secretary was advised by my father to initiate welfare projects for the officers and officials of the ministry of foreign affairs. He agreed but wanted a concrete proposal t float in the meeting with the president and seek approval. My father gave him a complete proposal about the establishment of a foreign affairs school and mini hospital and the mode of payment and running it. He provided complete pre-feasibility of the projects. The secretary appointed a committee headed by the Director General to consult with the acting high commissioner of Pakistan and formulate a completely workable plan. The officers visited Pakistan high commission and consulted my father on the proposed projects. It was for the first time that foreign affairs officers came to any mission. My father was an informal adviser to the permanent secretary.

The presidential adviser on poverty alleviation, Malam Mukhtar Tafawa Balewa, is the National Coordinator National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) and Senior Special Assistant to the president. Good luck JONATHAN approached my father and sought his advice on the issues pertaining to poverty alleviation. My father got him the complete solution paper for the Benazir income support program and the Baitul Maal system. However, he wanted to find local solutions and asked my father to assist in

tailoring the customized solutions. My father studied the Nigerian problems and offered micro-level solutions for youth and women to earn respect. He informed him that they might be given popcorn maker machines, sugarcane juice makers, and tricycles to carry passengers and load, train them for off-season vegetables, fish farming, and handicrafts. The adviser was very appreciative and again sought his help to get him reliable companies from Pakistan to supply those machines. My father connected him with the companies. The adviser visited the Pakistan High commission several times in that regard.

The presidential adviser on agricultural reforms was directed by the presidency to consult Pakistan's high commissioner in order to get better programs for farming in the country. He, along with his team, visited twice or thrice eh high commission and got a briefing from my father n the potential of Nigeria and the way to exploit it. My father has earlier given a statement that Nigeria could be the food basket of Africa if the agriculture sector developed on scientific lines. He was also writing a book on Nigerian economic development, "Nigeria economic superpower 2030."

The interview was liked by scores of Nigerians across the country, and they contacted him for guidance. The presidency also sent an adviser for the consultation. He gave a detailed briefing to eh adviser on the available resources in Nigeria. He told them that Nigeria had 600,000 sq km of arable land and 262 million cubic foot renewable water resources, which

were enough to cultivate the land. He also informed them that the dams could be made useful by creating irrigation canals and land irrigated. However, he suggested that Government must offer land titles to farmers, direct banks to provide agric loans, and offer incentives to farming for local and foreign farming companies. The proposal was approved by the high-level committee and adopted by the Government.

The momentum created by my father has brought a few Pakistani companies to take part in the farming sector, which was opened by the Nigerian Government for foreign investors. The former governor of Sokoto state Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko approached my father for bringing any company to cultivate his 100,000-hectare land in Kaduna state. The company from Faisalabad showed interest, and he took them to the site. They surveyed the land and promised to submit feasibility and terms for an agreement. The former governor, in the meeting, offered to share the cost of equipment and lad leveling with the partner and share profits at an equal percentage. It meant that he was offering 75% and getting 50%, whereas the Pakistan partner was investing 25% and getting a 50% share. The Faisalabadi opportunist met my father n the office the next morning and wanted his connivance to cheat the Nigerian partner. He proposed that he would prepare a plan by jacking up prices of equipment, machines, and labor charges; the same would be used in the cultivation, irrigation channel digging, pumping, drip irrigation, buying tractors and labor, and the share of 50% would be

claimed without investing a penny. He offered a 25% share to my father in that fraudulent deal. My father not only refused to be part of it but asked him to leave the country and stop pursuing the project, as the landlord would be informed of his designs. The first attempt failed. The next was the involvement of MS Shaukat and Raza; it offered detailed plans to the landlord on the basis of making it cultivable at his expense. They would make irrigation channels, drip irrigation, sprinkler system, and land leveling for him. They also offered to train their local farmers to till the land on scientific lines. The plan was appreciated by the landlord, and he committed to considering it. However, after the arrival of the general high commissioner, it was also not pursued.

The next proposal was for the revival of Sambo farms. These were farms of the family of the former president of Nigeria, Yaradua. The farm has a dedicated dam, channel system, hatchery, poultry farm, orchid, and workshop, besides living quarters for the farmers. It was developed by the Americans in the 80s, but Nigerian farmers couldn't adopt the latest technology. They turned to Pakistan for help. My father invited many prospective farming companies, including TAREEN Farms. However, not many showed interest, and only one or two unknown companies were contacted. The farms were surveyed, and the plan of action was submitted to eh owner. The owner was keen to undertake the revival at the earliest. The Pakistani side delayed the implantation due to financial problems. Because cultivating 12000 hec-

tares need millions to invest. But the Yaradua family gave him time to come up after a few months. The party approached them after some months, but at that time, they were busy with electioneering, and the project remained uncompleted. The Pakistani company didn't pursue it after the departure of my father from Nigeria, allegedly because of a lukewarm response from the high commission.

In December 2013, Zaheer Parvez khan, a director general in the ministry of foreign affairs, requested him to support his pharmaceutical company in Nigeria. He told him to send him the details of the company in its medicines so he would discuss it with local partners. He sent the list of medicines along with the price and again pressed for market access to his company on priority. He committed. However, the details and information were given well after the arrival of the general high commissioner, who stopped him from trade promotion. But still, he approached a few Pharma companies, including MS Cheddi Pharma and Pharma plus, for collaboration with Zaheer Khan's company. In the meantime, things turned bumpy for my father. He was recalled in May 2014, and ironically Zaheer Khan was made inquiry officer to investigate the business interests of my father in Nigeria. THE proverb in Sindhi," the black buffalo say to cow; stay away you black-tailed." my father promoted trade and services of Pakistani and Zaheer parvez Khan on his own, but he was not asked by anyone to reply. However, a patriotic Pakistani off course, a lesser soul because of his domicile, was

charged with the crime of doing business in Nigeria. Zaheer showed complete solidarity with his army connection general high commissioner and also gave due weightage to the lineage of the general from the superior race of Pakistan. Zaheer has been involved in ferrying dutiable items from Hong Kong and Germany. His passports would be witness to his repeated tours from his posting to Pakistan. Moreover, he used to bring unpaid custom cars from Balochistan to Punjab and got money for the services. The officer earned money with his sheer hard work but at the cost of the country's name. The businessmen in hung Kong, Raghbi, and L.D. marri reported about his business overtures. Moreover, his fast friend Shafqat Cheema reported about his ferrying from Germany and car carrying from the Balochistan border to Sialkot and Lahore. He was also involved in a fatal accident where he killed a person in pindi, but his seniors supported and saved him; Cheema once told my father.

MoU with Alhaji Aminu baba Kusa for the establishment of Pakistan Business Centre (PBC) the MoU was on the following lines;
The acting high commissioner wrote to Alhaji Aminu Baba Kusa, "It will be arranged by Onyx global/
-No financial obligation will be on Pakistan Sponsorship will be the sole responsibility of Onyx International, headed by Aminu baba Kusa.
High commission responsibility
-23 national day of Pakistan will be held on the same day/same venue

-Global Onyx will arrange all things, including entertainment for guests.
-Tours to Pakistan to muster the support will be arranged by Onyx, the
The high commission will support it without financial obligation.-
-The sponsorship obtained by organizers in the name of the fair will be
their own credit/profit; the PHC will not seek any share in it.
-PHC will write letters to local, regional, and Pakistani authorities to
participate and patronize if some money comes out of it; it will be
the organizers' property/asset, and PHC will not claim.
-Government functionaries and business people in and out of Nigeria
will be invited through the High commission to make the event successful.
The PBC offices will be established in major cities of Nigeria and Pakistan at Karachi by Onyx international. The display of Pakistani goods and services will be arranged by Onyx international. The PBC would engage in bilateral understanding with individual Pakistani companies for their marketing and display in Nigeria.
Pakistan high commission would only provide legal and moral support; no financial burden on PHC or obligation in case of any losses to the Pakistan high commission.

The company agreed to establish the Pakistan business Centre an Idea floated by my father for the trade promotion of Pakistani goods and services. On that platform, single-country exhibitions were to be held, and permanent displays of products and services at central locations of major cities would be arranged. The understanding was signed by the Pakistan high commission and Onyx international CEO Alhaji Aminu baba Kusa in December 2012. The first single -country exhibition was announced in Abuja in February 2013, and the second at kano in April 2013. However, after the arrival of the general Commissioner, the fairs went into the wind. Baba KUSA visited the high commission several times. The retired general encouraged him to lodge a complaint against Sirohey that he cheated him. Aminu baba Kusa told him that he neither duped them nor cheated; it was the deal after thorough study by our side. However, the General kept his efforts and continued to get some sort of written complaint on account of the non implementation of Mou. But Baba Kusa resisted and never gave in writing. He kept informing my father about the general's ill advice. He pursued the project of the single country exhibition in Abuja and Kano, but non-cooperation from the general high commissioner torpedoed the good work. It is pertinent to note that the MoU was sent to the ministry by my father in time, but no response negative or positive was given by the ministry. My father tried to support baba Kusa privately and wished to hold an exhibition at least in Kano, where the state government has offered lodg-

ing, boarding, and transport for the participant companies. But all efforts failed when the general commissioner directed my father to stay away from the exhibition or face action. This is how Pakistani exports fail to get due market share.

The disappointed tycoon went to the Indian high commission and showed them the idea of a business center; the High Commissioner got three days and, after three days, approved the idea with a 50% financial burden borne by the Indian high commission. He came again to my father and showed his frustration and disgust at the ineptness of the retired general. He was of the view that being a practicing Muslim, he was compelled to work for a Muslim country. He got the opportunity but abandoned it on the basis of his affiliation with the dawah center.

The fan manufacturers were invited to visit Nigeria. A delegation headed by Azhar Aslam of Gujranwala visited Nigeria in March 2012. They were received and facilitated to meet the importers at Abuja, Kano, Kaduna, and Lagos, the largest city and commercial capital of Nigeria. They felt it was a successful and fruitful exploratory visit to the largest African country and market.

In March April 2012, a delegation of NDU visited Nigeria. Their meetings were fixed with almost all important ministries and their secretaries. They were invited by the acting high Commissioner to dinner at Pakistan house. He also invited Nigerian dignitaries, among them adviser to the Nigerian president Malam Mukhtar Tafawa Balewa, and alhaji Kunmi, Nasir

Abdullah, the CEO of premium times Nigeria were present. The group of officers was so impressed with the relationship between the high commission and ingress within Nigerian ministries that they couldn't control their surprise and commented. It is pertinent to note that the defense adviser wriggled out of any entertainment to the NDU delegation which was entrusted to him. But the acting high commissioner used it as an opportunity and got a meeting from the ministries as if official senior officers were there on a formal visit. It created a lot of goodwill and further cemented bilateral ties.

ON 19-20 July 2012, SMEDAN Nigeria arranged a conference of stakeholders at Lagos. The acting High commissioner was invited as the keynote speaker. He was the only foreign diplomat invited to the stakeholders' conference. It was a great leap forward towards better relations. The Minister of Industries and SMEDAN CHIEF lauded the efforts of the Acting High Commissioner and his valuable input in the promotion of micro and small industries in Nigeria. The Acting High Commissioner advised the participants to use innovative and creative methods for the promotion of local, traditional items. Moreover, technology must be adopted to produce more with less effort and money. He also suggested that entrepreneurs may be provided training, soft loan, and pre-feasibility to start their businesses. Moreover, SMEDAN may create a business center where their products could be sold without overhead expenses on them.

The acting HIGH commissioner visited Bauchi state at the invitation of the Governor. Malam Isa Yuguda wanted to seek support from Pakistan in order to develop the agriculture sector in his state. He hosted him at the yankari Game reserve rest house. It was a great experience on forest safari. We witnessed a lot of animals in the thick forest in the Jeep arranged by the Governor. The governor was later briefed at the governor's house camp office in Abuja about the potential of the state in both tourism and agriculture. The envoy offered him a solution to build dams and irrigation networks with the help of Pakistani companies. Moreover, cattle fattening and cottage industry may be encouraged in the state. He also advised about the market-oriented courses at higher secondary and university levels to train manpower for the agricultural industry. He asked the governor to create a supply chain and halt the wastage of perishable crops. The governor nominated a delegation to visit and explores the market for buying agricultural instruments.
The acting high commissioner always remained at the toe of opportunities to cash on. He visited Kano University and held a meeting with the vice-chancellor. He discussed collaboration in the field of agriculture and biodiversity. The vice chancellor informed him about the deficiency of the concerned faculty. The envoy offered him faculty and technical assistance from Pakistani universities. The V.C. appreciated the gesture and wanted him to pursue it. My father wrote to Faisal Abad Agriculture University and Sindh Agriculture University Jamshoro. The University of

Sindh replied and wanted to sign an agreement on the provision of technical assistance, including professors on deputation. They were connected, and talks continued.

He contacted the vice chancellor of Sokoto state university after reading about its requirement for faculty. He called him and hosted talks at the high commission. He convinced him to recruit faculty from Pakistan. The V.C. agreed to the proposal, and the requirement was sent to the hg commission, which in return asked the overseas ministry to advertise. It finally materialized in 2013. The VC Sokoto university professor Nuhu Yaqubu led his team and interviewed lecturers in Islamabad.

The University of Abuja was also touched for both collaborations in academics, exchange of scholars and students, and recruitment of teachers. The university appreciated the assistance from the Pakistan High Commission.

Inclusion of Messy tractor manufactured in Pakistan among the possible machine bought by the Federal Government. It is pertinent to note that the Jewish agent of messy Ferguson was so powerful that he never allowed any other competitor to venture into the market. He wrote an article criticizing the quality and adaptability of made-in-Pakistan tractors. Nigerian experts denounced and challenged his assertions instead of the high commission. The Federal Government not only accepted it, but specifications of Pakistani tractors were included. It provided a boost to tractor exports to Nigeria.

The national speaker assembly of Nigeria, Malam Tambuwal, invited the acting high commissioner after intensive diplomatic efforts by my father. He called his heads of various committees, and my father gave them a presentation on the potential of Nigerian agriculture. He informed them that northern Nigeria was 67% of the total area of the country, and water resources were available in abundance. However, the water and land resources were not exploited. The land titles were not given to people, so there was no stake created for the public. Moreover, the irrigation system was nonexistent. It could be built with the tacit support of the president, who was from southern Nigeria. The speaker was taken aback to know the details of Nigeria from cattle heads, land availability, irrigation, dams, rivers, cultivated land, poultry sector, meat processing market, food production and food deficiency, perishable goods, wastage of crops, unemployed youth, uneducated youth, arable land and opportunities to revive agriculture. He wanted another exclusive meeting with him to know the quantum of investment to push agricultural growth for food self-sufficiency and, consequently, economic growth in northern Nigeria.

The speaker fixed a date to visit Pakistan's house and get a briefing on the northern dilemma and its solution. Mukhtar Tafawa Balewa came before his arrival at the Pakistani house. There were a number of leading northern personalities who wanted to get the indulgence of the Government to push agricultural

growth in northern Nigeria. He briefed on the following lines about the dilemma in the north.

The Northern Nigerian politician, businessman, and bureaucrat is the worst character for his fellow Northern. Those who benefited from a limited number of scholarships don't practice it but rather become more interested in other things, politics in particular, to the detriment of their studies. In business, the vast majority regarded the opportunities given them as something to be exploited for the quickest return and personal gains but not collective benefit. They learn nothing about business and become even less capable of doing business and earning an income from their activities. They become mere sleeping partners and, at times, not even that. Having sold, they no longer have anything to do with the business. They would go to the Government for more licenses, permits, and shares and become frontmen of corrupt politicians. He confided to the dignitaries.

To succeed, the Northerners must change their culture. They must look towards work as a reward in itself. They must regard what they achieve through work as the true reward. There should be some financial reward, but this must not outweigh the satisfaction obtained from the result of their work. But who would provide them with this chance? Its founders did not offer regional autonomy when the army was weakened in the 1990s, and its last president from Katsina got a lifetime opportunity to get unanimously approve the resolution for autonomy after the army's image dwindled, but his kitchen cabinet preferred

statuesque. It is for the first time that all Nigerians are asking for regional autonomy, but surely they would lose it. The current incumbent president would never support North's genuine case for more financial return after contributing 55% of the total GDP. Now, the question is, who would come to the rescue of North when they are denied admission in HEIs and others are allowed? Is nationalist leadership capable of steering them to the much-needed correct path and strategy? The answer is a flat no. Because nationalists are busy with petty disputes and land grabbing, car lifting, and other profitable business concerns, including smuggling. Moreover, the majority of them are friendly with Nigeria's premier agency. They have to create social awareness and political force to fight for their rights, but while doing this, they have to be careful some opportunist feudal may highjack it. The riskiest and most compromising institute is the traditional rulers' class, who want some sort of legitimacy and economic benefits at the cost of Northerners. They must be shown the door to normal life. To develop, Northerners have to decide to get rid of the rusted institution of slavery. He further explained.

Changing culture is far more difficult than changing the policies of the Government. It is easy enough to propose affirmative action, but it is not easy to implement it. The recipients must have the right attitude if the results are going to be obtained. Unfortunately, their view is that their crutches are symbols of their superior status in the country. The sad thing is that they are not even using the crutches properly. As a

result, they gain nothing or very little from the availability of these aids. The programs initiated for the literacy and economic well-being of the poor in the North are always hijacked by traditionalists, and money is safely deposited in offshore accounts. It is the duty of middle-class and learned teachers of Universities to take the lead and initiate a movement for the awareness of ordinary people. People must be informed that emirs are not folks sent by Allah but people like them. even in some cases worst.

So what is the dilemma? Their old dilemma was whether they should distort the picture a little in order to help themselves. The new dilemma is whether they should or should not do away with the crutches that they have got used to, which in fact, they have become proud of. There is a minority of Northerners who are confident enough to think of doing away with the crutches, albeit gradually. But they are a very small minority. Their numbers are not going to increase any time soon. They are generally regarded as traitors to the Northern Nigerian race.

There will be a host of protests over this generalization about Northern Nigerian attitudes. We read almost every day about blind Northern Nigerian people and other handicapped Northern graduating with university degrees or driving cars or doing all kinds of work. This does not prove that the generalization that my father make is wrong. These are exceptions. They only prove that if the right attitude or culture is adopted, even the handicapped can succeed. He illustrated his theme of the revival of the north as a whole.

The Northern Nigerian is still a potent force in the trade and industry of Nigeria and abroad. But it would require a holistic approach that would separate them from the present dispensation dominated by their enemies in the guise of leaders. If they continued to follow their political lords and traditional rulers, history would forget them as a nation. They must awaken from a long slumber that had deprived them of land, business, cities, institutions, and opportunities. In the blind following of the old order, their disaster is hidden but faster. They have to reclaim ownership of cities, dry ports, mines, minerals, gas, oil fields, deserts, fertile land, and educational institutions. They need to fight legal and political fights afresh to regain lost glory. North is earning around naira. 2500 billion/annum, and if properly managed, it needs no support from the outside world. The per capita income of the residents of North, including the new Northern, would rise manifold. They need to come out of the clutches of slavery.

The New Economic Policy is a repeat of old policies which will favor non-Northern. It is a sensitive political and economic issue in the region's multiethnic society. It should have been instituted after the race riots in Kaduna-Kano in 67. But the then military Government withdrew the local bill and declared English as the official Nigerian language in the country. Moreover, the nationalization was done primarily to favor the army, which subsequently killed leaders. It neither favors ethnic Northern collectively nor provides any share in its spoils. The government record

shows that at the time of nationalization, national wealth was unevenly distributed, where IBOs had 67% of the total wealth of Nigeria. The nationalization favored some elites, and they acquired a major chunk of the economy and subsequently awarded death sentences to their benefactors. Privatization once again benefitted the elite class and deprived the masses. The Northern, however, was once again lured to get some quota in jobs and be complacent. The present economic estimates show Ibu other southerners having 60%, Northern 18%, others 12%, and Lebanese, Indians, Jews, westerners 10%. But they have continued the policy of allotting land to settlers in Northern cities, not Northern. It has severely damaged the social fabric of Northern Nigerian society. It has deprived Northern of confidence and due economic share. It is ironic that everybody can be MNA, Senator, or MLA from the North, but no Northern Nigerian could be elected from Southern states. It has given control of the North's capital to non-Northern who hate Northern people not because of their faith but illiteracy. The northerner in the south is considered a beggar because almost all beggars on the streets of the south were from the north.

The North experienced a great decline in economic growth during the last 2 decades, which brought prosperity and higher standards of living to the majority of the people in the South. One of the most important achievements in Nigeria has been the elimination of extreme poverty and hunger from one part of the country and its shift to another part of the country,

i.e., the North-.North collectively contributes 86% of food and grains in the economy but receives only 25% of total benefits in grants for agric development and research. Moreover, the establishment of higher education institutions and their grants is an eye opener; on the one hand, a university in the South gets 5-8 billion, and another hand, a Northern university of the same size gets one-third of it.

The leaders agreed to the diagnosis of the acting high commissioner. He told them that it was a golden time to get support from the southern president and build infrastructure for irrigation and a value chain/ supply chain to save the wastage of post-harvest crops. The barrages on the Benue River and Niger Rivers, besides Kebbi and Gombe areas and the Sokoto irrigation network, would revolutionize agriculture. Government intervention to support the dairy sector, cattle fattening, and Halal industry was required. Moreover, the introduction of juicy and sweeter mango instead of wild mango was to be introduced. They sought assistance from Pakistan in the invigoration of agriculture, dairy, halal food, micro, cottage, and small industries. Moreover, the agricultural universities and biodiversity centers would require manpower to train the northern youth. He assured them of full support in all sectors. The companies and institutions from Pakistan would be ready to extend full assistance as and when required. The poverty alleviation chief Malam Mukhtar Balewa assured the acting high Commissioner that he would get cooperation from almost all governors and senior office holders of the

governments in the north. The projects and accessories would be sourced from Pakistan.

My father went to meet Emir in the nearby town. It was interesting to note that the emir Dr. Sa'ad Usman was a western educated person but adopted a traditional seat. Jere, in Kagarko Local Government, is strategically located between Kaduna and Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory. The federal government recently opened up the area with the construction of a rail track that would connect Abuja, reducing commuters' journey between Kaduna and Abuja by about 20 minutes. The emir received my father at his palace and offered a seat on his own. However, all the locals were sitting on the floor, including elected representatives and officers. When the acting high commissioner probed about the tradition where everyone bowed his/ he head and touched the knees of the emir, the emir informed that he himself was not in favor of the tradition of bowing being Muslim, but people kept doing. The elite class, i.e., emirs, kings, and sultans in Nigerian society, are untouchables. However, in 2014 Emir of Jere was not only touched by the youth but thrashed when he intervened in a land dispute. The emir of Jere was a very soft-spoken and learned person. He was worried about the welfare of his subjects. He wanted to promote education and support agriculture in his area. However, the practical work has not been seen on the ground. It is important to note that his wife, Nandi Hassan was a senator in the senate of Nigeria.

In 2012, the foreign secretary was changed by the PPP government, and the new foreign secretary, ambassador jalil abbas jeelani was reputed to be a man of action. The acting high Commissioner once again wrote a letter proposing to support his activities to get market share in the largest African market. The import bill for Nigeria in 2012 was officially $72 billion, and the Pakistani share was less than 100 million. The acting high Commissioner proposed to the foreign secretary and Commerce secretary to allocate a budget equivalent to the commercial office f Jeddah and get more exports than Saudi Arabia within three years from Nigeria. He elaborated that trade development officers in Lagos, Kano, and Onitsha/ Portharcourt and budget allocation for activities may be approved. He also suggested announcing some incentives such as pay for performance allowance so that people work and get the benefit. He also suggested that a medal of performance may also be announced for the outstanding officers on concrete results. The foreign secretary was very prompt in response and sought his explanation for writing a direct letter to His Highness the Syed of Multan. Their reply to my father was once again a reference from the Esta Code ad of the mission they could write to the secretary.

He pursued TDAP for funds and the creation of the post of Trade development officer at Abuja. They agreed, and a post was created. It gave him much-needed respite and flexibility to reach out to many cities for activities. He also submitted a separate proposal to the TDAP for allocation of $30,000 in the

year to organize catalog shows, seminars, workshops, Pakistan days at exhibitions, conferences on trade, and small sector-wise shows in various cities. They approved the amount and released $10,000 in the last quarter of 2012. However, the rest of the amount was not released due to problems at TDAP headquarters and the arrival of the general commissioner in Abuja, who was the least pushed for trade and commerce.

The trade development officer Ms. Lizzi or was a very hard-working woman who was willing to work and get respect. She traveled to Lagos, Kaduna, Onitsha, PORT HARCOURT, and Kano for trade promotion. She was from a business-oriented tribe, so she was naturally poised to push the market share of exports. She took a large delegation of Nigerian importers to the expo in 2012 when the acting high commissioner, due to his position, was not able to travel. She also looked after governor Borno and his entourage at the expo and got them adjusted. She was very active during the expo and arranged B2B meetings with exporters. The then CE TDAP appreciated the acting high commissioner for his relentless work and offered full support in that cause.

The inspection team headed by Abdul Hameed Chaudhry visited to find the corruption of the former ambassador in the chancery building. The delegation was lodged at a Pakistani house. The delegation included Ms. Rabia and Saqlain Syeda. They combed the whole record but avoided framing General, who took 75k from the contractor. It is important to mention that money was received from the contractor

without any approval and spent on landscaping again without any record. If it had been done by any civilian officer, he would have been framed by audit.

Proposal of building houses in rent on BOT bases and hand over in 10 years. Pay in installments. My father discussed with Imran Shaikh of Shaukat and Raza ltd about the apartments for officers and staff on the chancery land. He agreed and submitted a plan that included construction and maintenance by their company for ten years. The payment schedule was based on the monthly rent of officers and officials for ten years and handover after it to the High Commission. The Ministry kept delaying the proposal and waited till the general assumed the charge. He was pushed by my father, and he also agreed to pursue it, but the ministry failed to get it approved. Later it was conveyed by the director concerned that the Ministry was suspected of personal interest in pushing the project. It was the most absurd belief of the century because building apartments within approved rent, looking after them for ten years, and handing them over to the Mission after ten years were the most economical plans.

### 3.2.Release of Pakistani from Benin Jail and official Apology from Benin

At the time when Pakistan was seeking an apology from Americans for their blatant violation of the international border and the killing of 24 Pakistani soldiers. However, the Americans were not willing to tender an apology. On the other hand, the Pakistani

envoy was approached by the jailed Pakistani and informed him about his problem. At the same time, the jailed person, ALI, contacted his political mentors in Pakistan.

The minister of foreign affairs, MS Hina Rabbani Khar, directed the officials to get the Pakistani back at the earliest. The DG Africa sent a directive to the acting high commissioner in that regard. He contacted Benin Embassy for meetings with the minister of law, foreign affairs, and prisons and facilitated the visa. The ambassador tried his best to get the time at the earliest, and he succeeded in it. My father traveled to Cotonu and landed at the airport. The airport authorities kept him for a few minutes and got his passport checked. He protested about it, and finally, they let him go. The next day he held a meeting with the minister of law and presented the case of Pakistani. The minister promised to resolve it at the earliest, and hopefully, he would take him to Abuja. He also met the foreign minister Nasir and informed him how a Pakistani was illegally arrested by Benin police and judiciary and sentenced on flimsy grounds. He sought immediate release and an official apology from the government for that injustice to the citizen of Pakistan. He committed to look into the matter and discuss it with the law and justice minister in that regard. He also held meeting with the national speaker assembly, who also showed a willingness to cooperate and use his influence. He also held a meeting with the adviser of the president at lunch and discussed bilateral relations, especially trade, and commerce. On 3rd

day Benin released Ali Hussain, and the acting high commissioner took him to Abuja. The Benin republic sent its ambassador to Abuja to Pakistan High Commission and tendered an unconditional apology on behalf of Benin. It was a great success when the entire foreign office and military brass were unable to get an apology from Americans; diplomats without any power got it through diplomacy on the illegal incarceration of a citizen. It was communicated to the ministry, but no appreciation was expected; because good work could only be done by Punjabi bureaucrats.

The Nigerian high commissioner designate visited the high commission and sought help to understand Pakistan. He was given a comprehensive briefing on the potential of Pakistan-Nigeria trade and commerce relations. He wanted the PowerPoint presentations prepared by the acting high commissioner on the subjects. My father gave him all the necessary presentations and verbal briefings to understand the relationship. He was facilitated and started working in close collaboration with my father. His credentials were presented before the visit of his presidency. He was enjoying his stay in Pakistan. He started following my father by visiting chambers of commerce from Islamabad, Lahore, to Karachi. He was fully supported by his Pakistani counterpart, and he got popular in Pakistan. He started forming delegations to visit Nigeria and told my father to coordinate. It was interesting to note that he always asked my father to request the Nigerian government and governors to facilitate.

At the successful visit of President Jonathan, the foreign secretary of Nigeria and the High commissioner of Nigeria thanked my father for his assistance and efforts. However, no appreciation from Pakistan foreign office was received.

He devised a plan to attract medical, education, and adventure tourism besides historical and sightseeing tours. He contacted the tour operators and briefed them about Pakistan. In this regard, an understanding was reached between iGATE Global and the High Commission, the global trip advisers, and Smart travelers to send tourist groups to Pakistan. Moreover, the colleges and universities were intimated to send their graduates for further studies to Pakistan. A number of students went to Pakistan; despite the difficult procedure of visas for students. The Nigerians were kept in the b category, so affixing visas to them was problematic.

The patients were sent to Pakistan for critical surgeries and returned back satisfied. They publicized the best treatment at an affordable rate, but visa restrictions marred the flow of patients. A company headed by Asif Gulwas connected with the Borno government to establish a specialist hospital in Maiduguri. The trading square delegation visited Nigeria in July 2012 and discussed the modalities. The government of Borno state offered building and infrastructure free, whereas the investor was supposed to bring professionals and equipment from Pakistan to run the hospital.

Pakistan high commission participated in the first Ramdhan bazaar in Kano. The state government and chamber invited Pakistan's high commission. The traders from Pakistan couldn't arrive, so the acting high commissioner, who purchased many items for such activities, sent his team to participate in the fair. It was successful and pleased the government and chamber in Kano.

The Acting High Commissioner attended the marriage ceremony of the son of the vice president Architect Sambo in Kaduna and handed over a token gift. It was lauded by the vice president and officials because other ambassadors went without anything. According to Nigerian tradition, the host would have given something, but as the foreign embassy, people expected some token souvenir.

I departed to England for foundation and further studies. My father got admission to York College, and my father arranged visas and expenses. My father traveled to England before the arrival of the general retired Ashraf Saleem in September 2012. My father went alone; it was for the first time my father traveled alone. My father was received by the high commission staff in London and then went to York with the son of my father. My father was lodged at a house as paying guest. They were fantastic people. The lady took care of them as a guest and always looked after my food and health. The teachers were so concerned that they allocated time in the evening for catch-up classes. They appreciated my work when done professionally or meticulously without discrimination.

My father felt that Brits were more evenhanded than our Muslim compatriots because my father saw my father working day and night for his country but always getting reprimands. He was never appreciated by his Punjabi bosses. Rather, conspiracies were hatched to discredit him. During his tenure as acting High Commissioner, he never slept, even on weekends. He was a sin whirlwind coming from Kaduna and going to plateau state. Attending agricultural exhibition in Kwara and traveling to Nasarwa state. But his bosses thought otherwise about his work. They felt jealous and always bothered him. Despite all odds, he kept working as a self-motivated person.

### 3.3.Arrival of General Commissioner

Retired lieutenants general Ashraf Saleem arrived in Abuja on 11th February 2013. He was received by the acting high commissioner at the airport. He was taken to a Pakistani house which was cleaned and prepared, including groceries. In the evening, the deputy high commissioner hosted him at his house. He was a soft-spoken and jolly fellow at first sight. In the very first week, he was taken to the foreign secretary. It was customary in Nigeria that newly appointed envoys presented copies of credentials to the Chief of the protocol. However, my father asked them on mobile to tell the secretary that they were coming to foreign affairs t such and such time to visit the Chief of the protocol. He called the Chief of protocol and asked him to bring the acting high commissioner of Pakistan to his office. H introduced the new high commis-

sioner to the permanent secretary Dr. Martin who was lauding my father in the best possible words. He told the general that he was lucky to have such an accomplished and innovative diplomat as his deputy. The General was next taken to many embassies and secretaries before the presentation of credentials which was not possible. In the case of the previous general, the credentials were presented in 7 months. But my father got his credentials presented in 4 weeks' time. The Chief of staff to the president, the foreign minister, the state minister of foreign affairs, and the president himself appreciated the work of my father. It was making my father uneasy because he understood the vengeance of generals for such elements.

The staff car had an accident during my father's visit to Kano to meet Governor and catalog show there. It was in the workshop, so our car was being used for official purposes. It was driven by a government driver ruthlessly and damaged in three months. The car needed repairs for one week. My father asked the High Commissioner if the staff car may be allowed to pick up and drop off children. He graciously allowed and, after three days, stopped the driver not to pick up the children. We were later on picked on a taxi by my father. It was the level of a person who served in a senior position in the army, and army camaraderie was famous, but we witnessed the contrary.

The next move of the general commissioner was seeking an explanation from my father on his self-projection during his tenure as acting high commis-

sioner. He showed my father the letter written by Tariq Zameer, mentioning a few news items where my father was praised by the report, and his pictures waving hands to crows gathered at the time of the turbans of the foreign secretary of Nigeria at Debbi. My father replied that he was head of mission at that time, so another head of mission was not authorized to seek an explanation when he was not here. The Ministry can seek an explanation directly. Moreover, the news was given by the reporters and not by my father, so the reporter may be asked to explain. But the general commissioner requested my father to respond in mild words to the ministry so that things must not flare up. He wrote a reply giving details of the events.

General Commissioner was a very principled person, so after asking the driver not to pick us up. He denied any order when confronted by my father. My father scalded driver Israr shah who in reply once again informed my father about General. My father shamed the General that his car was used for three months, and he stopped the official car in three days. He was unmoved and repeated the same statement.

He was introduced to ministers and high officials by my father in the very first month of his arrival. His credentials were presented in four weeks. The president and his officers told him about my father. They said that he was lucky to have such an outstanding deputy. My father became apprehensive because the General didn't show pleasure in appreciation. Moreover, he was already briefed by senior foreign office officers that my father was working beyond his man-

date. He was also asked to take him to task for his insolent behavior.

He was bent upon his resolve to correct him. He directed my father to stop contacting and meeting senior officials after he was introduced. He also stopped him from pursuing trade promotion. He started creating obstacles for visa seekers.

In the first quarter of his arrival, he applied for an American visa. His sons were living in America. Both his sons were American citizens. He was called thrice for an interview, fingerprints, and a final interview and given a visa in three months. It was humiliating, but General Commissioner happily obeyed their instructions. He got it and traveled to America. His married son didn't keep them in their house, but his unmarried son offered them refuge. However, due to food and care, they shifted to a hotel.

While he was on vacation, which was illegally done because a contract envoy was entitled to 30 days after one year, my father arranged a charity show and asked him to allow the use of the Pakistan house. He refused and asked my father to reschedule it somewhere. He shifted it to National Masjid Abuja. On his return, he not only opposed the show but asked diplomats not to attend. Still, the show went successful because high-level Nigerian people attended. It pained the General that despite his ulterior motives and actions, the show succeeded. The proceeds were donated for the education of orphans and poor children in the Pakistan high commission, not from my father. Although the money on buying items was his own.

But still, he kept the name of the country above his own name.

An American diplomat applied for a visa. My father gave him after six weeks. However, he came again and applied for an assignment visa. As per the rule, it was to be processed by the foreign office in 12 weeks. He keeps visiting to know about his visa. One such day colonel Asif met him at the gate; on his inquiry, he informed about visa. The good colonel told him to go with him to the high commissioner, and he would affix a visa immediately. The American was brought into the office of General Commissioner without an appointment. It is pertinent to note that on his three forced visits to the American embassy, he was not allowed to meet the American ambassador. He warmly welcomed him and directed my father to issue a visa. My father told him about the rule. The General Commissioner insisted on issuing. But my father replied that he would mention the rule and put up the note for his approval. If he overrules the recommendation, then a visa will be issued. The General Commissioner backed down and directed to pursue with foreign office. They always broke the rules of the land and pleased their masters. The General Commissioner was so impressed with the British and American people that he kept friends with their staff and honored them at dinners. It is pertinent to note that for the Pakistani community, without an appointment, no meeting was possible, but for white men, it was exempted.

In March 2013, my father had already planned the Pakistan day reception. The General Commissioner was briefed, and he agreed to go ahead with the proposal as long as sponsorships were arranged. My father assured him that enough sponsorship would be available. It was held at Sheraton, and the former president of Nigeria, Ibrahim Babangida, was the guest of honor. The speech for the chief guest was written by my father. It was one of the most successful events in the city because a large number of federal secretaries and parliamentarians, besides the diplomatic community, attended it.

The issue of the repair of staff car which was accident took an interesting turn. It was claimed from insurance, and my father negotiated with them to pay full price. It was done, but the General was advised by the defense adviser to get it repaired from a private workshop and save money. My father insisted that it should be from an authorized company workshop, but he decided otherwise. It was repaired for 0.8 million nairas, and 1.6 million was kept for other expenses. One-third was used in reception, and the rest was not traced. It might have been utilized for security reasons and in the broader national interest. It is pertinent to note that the insurance company censed some fraudulent charges against the claim, so they decided to reopen the file. The money was successfully used by the General Commissioner. It was allegedly used for his American trip. However, the problem was to satisfy the insurance company. The wise counsel colonel and all-knowing General Fell back on my fa-

ther and sought his help to get away from the company. My father agreed to talk to a company, and he succeeded in settling the issue. They demanded an old, damaged engine, which was bought in consultation with company officials. It is important to note that my father informed them of the truth and sought help which was extended. It is pertinent to note that all repair work and fake bills were prepared by the able defense adviser who has experience with his official car that was repaired for more than its market value.

In March Bahria foundation team visited Abuja. The General Commissioner kept it secret and didn't share with my father the purpose of their visit. He was unaware that homework for the joint venture or opening of Bahria School was done by my father. However, when they reached and demanded a meeting with the Kano governor, the General Commissioner went clueless. He requested my father to do something. My father contacted the governor and sought an immediate meeting. Before it was granted, they left for Kano the next morning in our personal car, the official delegation but a private car. While on the road, my father called the principal secretary to the governor and informed him that they had left for Kano. The meeting may be mixed in the evening. He reverted back after some time and confirmed the meeting in the evening. They reached there at 4pm and rested for hours, and went to the governor's house at 7pm. The governor received them with brotherly warmth. He listened to the briefing Bahria and asked my father to propose

the facilities. My father suggested the foundation may be given free land for the long-term construction of the school and, ultimately university. Moreover, temporarily any vacant government building may be allocated. He called his minister of education and secretary for the update. They informed him about a few locations, but he approved the best one in the city center. He asked his team to get it repaired and equipped so that Bahria might open the school next session. The agreement, in principle, was reached, and the team returned very happily. They praised to General Commissioner about the ingress of my father. They recommend that he may be positively utilized for trade promotion. The General Commissioner agreed but never practiced. The Bahria team returned and never came back because the new naval Chief removed retired vice admiral Mahmood Ahmed khan from the chairmanship of the foundation. My father kept reminding the commodore but in vain. They lost a golden opportunity.

In April 2013, my father, on the approval and prodding of the general commissioner, took a delegation from Nigeria to Pakistan. He made visits to Karachi, pindi, Gujranwala, Gujarat, and Islamabad. The delegation was joined by the high commissioner of Nigeria at Islamabad and pindi. Moreover, he also accompanied the delegation to Gujranwala and Gujarat. It was a very productive visit, and many companies from Pakistan were interested in working with their Nigerian counterparts. He was there from the last week of April to the first week of May. My step-

mother gave birth to a baby boy. My father named him Muhammad on 27th April 2013. The boy was born after a caesarian section at a local hospital. The boy was healthy and considered up to the mark. However, my father had to leave on the first of May and left them behind at his parents' house.

In May, there were general elections in Pakistan. General Commissioner called my father and the defense adviser and discussed the guesses both about the possible outcome of the elections. My father estimated 150 seats for PML-N and 90 seats for PPP, and the rest with others. He brushed aside the estimates and told them that PML-N was getting 190 seats, PPP 39, and PTI 34 seats. Interestingly his guess was accurate. But that romance remained for a few months. He started abusing Nawaz Sharif once he started talking bout peace with India. He once remarked that Raheel Sharif should become the Sissi of Pakistan. He also told us that Nawaz Sharif would become Bhutto not in popularity but in punishment. He would ebb hanged on the charges of treason and corruption. It was much before the Panama leaks. He always discussed martial law to save Pakistan, and the colonel readily supported his idea. However, my father, without fail, opposed his idea and even had a heated conversation. One day general announced with certainty that Nawaz Sharif was to be removed in 2014. My father told him that he would resign and fight for democracy. He inquired whether it would ebb the Pakistan army; he replied yes, with peaceful army struggle and even need be any type of moment. He told him

that they were not ready to accept Bonaparte anymore. It was time to say no to any adventurism.

In June 2013, the NMC delegation visited Nigeria. The arrangement and fixing of their meetings were made by the general himself, as my father was out of the country on an official visit to Pakistan. On return, my father was told that all things were tied up, and he was only required to receive them and arrange their private dinners as and when needed. It was accordingly done. My father went further and contacted the head of a delegation and asked about the requirements. She told my father about the meager allowance and assistance to arrange a twin-sharing bed but a single receipt in the name of the officer to claim an allowance. She was assured that it would be done. He discussed with a hotel owner and apprised him of the situation, and sought his cooperation. He agreed to cooperate. The delegation arrived and was received by my father. However, he found that there was no official dinner by the general for the delegation, only tea at the office. My father hurriedly asked two Nigerian companies working with Pakistani companies to host dinners, and another was arranged by himself at a local international club. The delegation was taken by the general himself to the foreign office to meet the foreign minister, but they kept waiting at the gate and were asked to return as the minister was not free. The general Commissioner immediately sent SOS signals to my father to salvage the situation. He jumped in and called the higher officials in the ministry, including the foreign secretary. The delegation

was brought to the high commission and treated refreshments, and the next programs were coordinated by my father himself. The fiasco by the general commissioner disappointed the head of the delegation and delegates. However, all the later programs and call on the minister of foreign affairs at a later stage went very well. The delegation was invited for tea and dinner by my father at the house several times. They went home happily.

In June 2013, my father pondered over pre-mature transfer apprehending the general's nefarious designs. He discussed with his wives and conveyed to the general commissioner about his intention to leave early. The General Commissioner tried to convince him that his presence was needed in the interest of the country. He must reconsider and should stay and work hand in hand. He tried to impress upon the general that he had already introduced all senior officials to him and he was in full command, so he might not need his support. But the general gave him the impression that he was required for the country. He gave up his idea. He made one mistake in that he didn't write to the ministry his apprehensions about the general. If he had conveyed it to the Ministry, the general would have found it difficult to accuse him later in the year.

In July General Commissioner went to the USA and returned in late July. He insisted that the BMW car must not be used during his absence. It is interesting that the General Commissioners considered official cars their own and showed displeasure if someone used them. My father officiating as high commis-

sioner, was entitled to use it. While he was out of the country, my father visited the Daily Trust newspaper and replied panel of journalists on the spot, which they requested during the visit. He readily agreed, taking it as an opportunity to project Pakistan. The interview was published on full pages for two days consecutively. It was on Pakistan's agriculture and the possibility of collaboration. The same was played by the colonel after his return. He incited him to use of car and misuse of position. My father also attended meetings in his absence. The General resented activities but said nothing to my father. He was very insidious and kept doing secretly. He didn't discuss anything with my father regarding activities.

In July 2013, my father discussed with the general his idea to resign from his job and start a business in Nigeria. The general empathized and gave advice that he must not do it. He should do it in the name of his relative or spouse. He pursued him to do it because he has the talent to market and sells products. It is better to market Pakistani products, and it would benefit you and the country. He even guided him in the light of his teaching business administration to register a company. He advised that if he registered in the name of his second wife, who was not holding a diplomatic passport. He was so friendly and helpful that all doubts about his intentions were erased.

In July, my father allowed Ibrahim bin Masood to register the company where my stepmother held a 50% share, and the rest was with other partners. The company was registered with PECO. The objective

was again the promotion of Pakistani goods and services. They engaged with onyx international for a permanent display of products in Nigeria. The PECO was supposed to source companies for the export of products ranging from agriculture to home appliances, light machinery, and surgical instruments. They were to arrange exhibitions and shows regularly to promote Pakistani goods. The office in Pakistan would have been arranged by PECO and at Abuja, Lagos, and Kano by ONYX. The company was registered in august 2013, and the office in Karachi was established with money by my father. The man behind the company working was Ibrahim Bin Masood, who was literally bankrupt. My father wanted to support him to stand on his feet. His story was very painful. He was working with a Pakistani company as a country manager and kept supporting the High Commission in the arrangements of community gatherings at Lagos. He was accused by the owner in 2011 and got arrested for the pilferage of millions of Naira. The high commission, after listening to both parties and interviewing the community elders in Lagos, helped him. He was released from the lock-up but after giving his property in writing to eh company. But later on, the then-high commissioner refused to attest to that agreement on the pretext that it was taken at gunpoint. However, Ibrahim remained in Karachi penniless. My father was very sympathetic to him. He visualized a company that will be working for export promotion hand in hand with TDAP, the companies concerned, and the high commission. He got each penny

from my father, and he got it registered. My father was nominated for a mid-career management Course (MCMC). The High commissioner approved his participation and even arranged residence at malir cantonment through GOC aviation General Saleem Ashraf probably. My father left on 15th august and joined a course on 17th august at the National Institute of Management Karachi. The general Commissioner kept getting his advice by phone and mail about issues at the mission. A delegation from Nigeria headed by the drug regulatory authority NAFDAC visited Pakistan in September, and my father was requested to receive and arrange their security and protocol in Karachi. My father arranged all the requirements, and the delegation went home very happy with excellent memories.

My father kept September with him at Karachi military rest house. She gave birth to a son who was having a Trilogy of Fallot, a heart defect, so the little brother needed medical attention. He was undergoing training and looking after the child at the same time. The training institute was not allowing him to keep his family with him as per policy. He fought his case with the administration, and finally, they allowed after about three or four weeks. For three weeks family stayed at malir garrison rest house as paying guests on the recommendation of the general commissioner. On departure, my father was asked to be free from the worries of the family; he would take care of the family. But our brother Abdul Qadir was expelled from regent secondary school, n the issue of non-payment

of fees and general didn't help. He said that it was a private affair of the family. His case was being negotiated with the school by my father because three of us were studying, and he requested them to provide a 33% discount for the third child, which they promised to consider. However, they rejected it, and only 3% was offered. It created problems because my father couldn't afford it, and my brother was n the midst of a session. He was then kept at his house, and a certificate was arranged from Pakistan to get him admission to a cheaper school.

In later September, a delegation of leading Pakistani businessmen was taken to Nigeria by the Nigerian high commissioner, his Excellency dauda danladi. He asked my father to help him arrange their B2B meeting there and also facilitate from governors. My father communicated from Karachi to respective governments and chambers and tied up their whole programs. At the end of the tour, the high commissioner sent a letter of thanks to my father.

In the NIM, Karachi's situation was very pathetic. The Chief Instructor, Asif, kept abusing the participants and calling them a corrupt lot. My father digested it for a few days, but after a week, he exploded when the Chief instructor insulted a fellow lady officer during an oratory test. The Director General, Tauqeer Ahmed, was introverted, but the Chief instructor was outspoken and derogatory with participants. My father stood up and started talking on the point of objection. The CI stopped him and said he was not permitted to speak. My father told him that he didn't ask

for permission; it was his turn, so he must listen. He said that you have been humiliating and discouraging eh trainees. You gave the feeling that each one of them was corrupt and he was the only clean soul. He further told him that it was an unbearable attitude on the part of the trainer. It would have a very negative impact. People would keep in mind and qualify training with silence, but then the public would suffer on their hands. His message was to crush anyone coming under you, my father said. He warned him to mend his ways and perform duties as a model officer to be followed. The Chief instructor went hysterical and asked the participants about his attitude. None of them replied yes or no. My father once again asked him that none dared to speak; only one dared who spoke. It was the end of his dictatorial style, but the faculty noted my father for marking, and end of the course, he was awarded fourth place. He kept fighting at all fronts during training. The directing staff was threatening and noncooperative with participants. Moreover, their assessment was arbitrary. Despite the problems handled, my father helped his fellow officers in their course preparations. He was declared outstanding at presenting and handling questions. Moreover, he was considered the best leader by the then-director, DG. But he informed my father that one of the Additional directing staff Col. Retired Aijaz was not in his favor, so he painted a negative picture. But it was proved in 2018 during SMC that it was not Co. retired Aijaz but Ahmed iqbal shah who

supported some people over my father; because he repeated the action in SMC.

In November 2013, my father completed his MCMC training and returned back to Abuja. My stepmother and youngest brother Muhammad also accompanied my father. On his arrival, the general informed that in his absence joint economic commission and the visit of the president of Pakistan were pursued by the High Commission. It was slated to be held in December, and the presidential visit in January 2014. He was given the task of preparing briefs and talking points for the meetings. Moreover, the coordination with the local ministry of the foreign ministry and the ministry of trade was also the responsibility of my father. He started working on the tasks and prepared all the required documents. In December local ministry suggested pushing the Joint Ministerial commission in April. The presidential visit was pushed to May 2014. The work was going on as usual. My father got approval from the general commissioner to change house. He allowed it in February, and we shifted to a new apartment near said stores. We have been living at WUSEII since February 2011, and the owner wanted to demolish it and build a new building.

The classical thing happened in March 2014. In March, a letter from the ministry was received. It stated that DG (China) was visiting Abuja in the third week of March; his lodging boarding and protocol were given to my father. My father was wondering about his visit to Abuja. He checked with the general commissioner why Dg was coming to Abuja. He pre-

tended ignorance. However, later on, Dg called my father and checked with him about the purpose of the visit. My father told him that he didn't know. Salik Khan told him that he was coming to meet him. My father went again to the general commissioner and asked about the purpose of the visit. He again denied any knowledge. On 21st March 2014, DG arrived in Abuja, and the next day, on 22nd march, he gave a questionnaire to my father. He was briefed that the general Commissioner had written a detailed letter to the ministry accusing him of many wrongdoings, so the ministry sent him to inquire about him. The questions and replies by my father are given below to understand the quantum of jealousy and conspiracy against my father. It is explained for the information of the reader that my father started regular congregational l prayers in the high commission before the arrival of General commissioner Ashraf Saleem. He always joined and prayed in the leadership of my father. Moreover, he always requested special lessons on certain Islamic subjects, and my father prepared and delivered them. The defense adviser, col. Asif khan used to record it. It is interesting to note that he gave topics like friends of Allah and their place in Islam, the status of tombs, grave veneration, and intercession by them on behalf of the petitioner. He also wanted to know Quranic and Prophetic decisions on special days and greetings, including prayer, etc. My father, in good faith, always prepared in the light of the Quran and Hadith and delivered them to the audience. However, they used it after proper editing to

indict my father of extremism and bigotry, which he always opposed. In Jeddah, my father informed colonel Kayani that he was Salafi. He wrote a letter to his organization and communicated that he found out that Sirohey was Salafi. One day he was boosting it; my father called his bluff by reminding him that it was he who told him. Moreover, a peaceful law abiding Salafi was considered a threat to Pakistan or so painted by the General retired, whereas Lashkars headed by hafiz saeed were considered assets. It showed if you were Sindhi and liberal, you would be termed an unbeliever; hence against the ideology of Pakistan; if you are Barelvi, then you are a grave worshipper; if you are Deobandi, then you are a friend of the Taliban and if you Salafi then hardliner. If you are Punjabi, you are liberal means an enlightened person and, in all other groups, acceptable.

Question No. 1: Are you doing business in Nigeria with Ibrahim Maqsood, a Pakistani Pharmacist?

(The allegation is that during your tenure as Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan, Abuja, Ibrahim used to frequently visit and stay at the residence of the High Commissioner. Reportedly, Ibrahim does not enjoy a good reputation, and he was arrested by the Nigerian police in Lagos for fraud about a year ago).

- Denied

Question No. 2: Did you arrange a Reception on 14 August 2012 to which important Nigerian businessmen were invited. Did you introduce Ibrahim Maqsood to them as a Representative of the Pakistan High Commission?

n my father arranged and never introduced Ibrahim as an officer of the High Commission

Question No. 3: Is it in your knowledge that Ibrahim Maqsood used to represent himself as an officer of the Pakistan High Commission Abuja?

----Denied

Question No. 4: Is it in your knowledge that Ibrahim used to introduce himself as an ex-Public Relation Officer of the High Commission for Pakistan, Abuja while meeting with the Nigerians?

----- denied.

Question No. 5: Is it in your knowledge that Ibrahim Maqsood uses the letterhead of the High Commission for Pakistan in Nigeria?

------ denied

Question No. 6: Is it true that you have traveled with Ibrahim Maqsood in the official vehicle carrying the diplomatic number plate of the High Commission for Pakistan, Nigeria, to various parts/cities/states in Nigeria?

---- Yes- he traveled with my father for a kano trade fair, where we had Pakistan day/catalog show.

Question No. 7: Is it true that you have used government transport (Hundai) to sell clothes in other states of Nigeria?

Denied

Question No. 8: Is it true that Abdul Sattar, an official of the High Commission for Pakistan, Nigeria was your representative for selling clothes in Nigeria?

Denied

Question No. 9: Is it true that you have indulged yourself in the projection of Salafi Islam/ideas and term other Pakistan nationals as "Kafirs" and "Mushrik"?

-------- Denied

Question No. 10: Is it true that you are known for projecting Salafism in the Pakistani community, and generally, the Pakistani community avoids meeting you?

------ **Denied**- rather, my father never mixed up with the community outside of this Mission.

Question No. 11: Is it true that you openly criticize the Government of Pakistan, particularly all former Presidents/Prime Ministers, and abuse them publicly?

------- Denied

Question No. 12: Is it true that you do not spare any ruler of Pakistan since independence and openly criticized them?

---Denied

Question No. 13: Is it true that you openly claim that Pakistan is not an Islamic State as Shias and Qadianis had been heads of state and government, and some are still running affairs even now?

------ Denied

Question No. 14: Is it a fact that even Indian Muslims in Nigeria raise their finger against you?

--Denied

Question No. 15: Is it true that you criticize Pakistan Army, especially its generals, and allege that generals are dictators and work in their own personal interests?

----- denied

Question No. 16: Is it correct that you call former President General Zia-ul Haq and General Pervez Musharraf "Kuttay" (Dogs)?

------ Denied

Question No. 17: Is it true that you consider the armed forces and leaders of Pakistan the real source of the problem in Pakistan?

---Denied

Question No. 18: Is it true that you are doing business in the name of your second wife, Laila, in partnership with Dr. Azmat Shah in Khairpur, Pakistan, and Ibrahim Maqsood?

----- Denied.

Question No. 19: Is it true that you or your wife have formed a company under the title of PECO Company, the details of which are available on the websites?

----- She resigned on 24th August after the High commissioner advised my father before leaving for the course on 16th August, when she was in Pakistan, just after 11 days of registration. Since her arrival with my father on 27th November, she has had no links with it.

Question No. 20: Is it true that you, in collaboration with your wife, is running the affairs of PECO company behind the scene?

Denied

Question No. 21: Is it true that some Indian businessmen in Kano are also doing business with you?

Denied

Question No. 22: Is it true that as Acting High Commissioner for Pakistan, you signed an MoU between

the High Commission of Pakistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan Export Company (PECO) on November 1, 2012, a copy of which is enclosed? The said MoU contains stamps of the High Commission and your signatures.
--- yes, It was signed for the promotion of Pakistan exports, not knowing the limitations, which should have been known to the undersigned.
Question No. 23: Did you sign the MoU mentioned in Question No. 22 with the prior approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad?
--No
Question No. 24: Did you sign the above-mentioned MoU in your personal capacity as Acting High Commissioner for which you did not have any authorization?
---yes,
Question No. 25: Are you involved in doing business importing "Irri Rice" from Pakistan with EMI, Global Solution Limited Nigeria?
--denied
Question No. 26: Is it true that your business is thriving in Nigeria, and you would like to quit Foreign Service to do business in Nigeria?
----I discussed this with the High commissioner prior to my departure for MCMC, and he advised my father not to quit because it is always risky. He advised my father not to involve my wife in any company, and it was done accordingly.
Question No. 27: Is Mrs. Laila Ahmad, Chairperson, Board of Directors, PECO, your legal wife?
--- She is my second wife

Question No. 28: Do you know Abdul Aziz Danladi, Director (Administration) and Member, Board of Directors of PECO? What relationship do you have with him?

---yes--He is the brother of the Nigerian high commissioner in Pakistan

Question No. 29: Do you know Rashid Kiani, Director (Finance), PECO? Is he your friend or relative?

-----yes- He is a Pakistani

Question No. 30: Do you know Mustafa Lingo, Director (Business Development), PECO? Is he related to you?

---yes -through the Nigerian high commissioner in Pakistan.

Question No. 31: Do you know Mrs. Rabi, Director (Personal Relations)? Is she related to you?

---Yes-through the Nigerian High commissioner in Pakistan.

Question No. 32: Do you know / Moeen Asif, Director of Residential Lagos, PECO? Is he your friend?

--No- he was added after my wife resigned from Board.

Question No. 33: Do you know Ade Sayana Oluwasyu, Director Pharmacist, PECO?

No--- Added after my wife resigned from the Board of Directors.

Question No. 34: Do you know Mrs. Huma Ibrahim, Resident Director Pakistan, PECO? Is she related to you?

--Yes—She is the wife of Ibrahim---- Not related to me.

Question No. 33: Have you read Government Servants (Conduct) Rules, 1964, and understood its spirit and purpose that clearly mention that speculations and investments are forbidden and that no Government servant shall make or permit any member of his family to make any investment likely to embarrass or influence him in the discharge of his official duties.
Yes- thoroughly read again during MCMC.
Question No. 34: Enclosed are copies of the following:-
i. An unsigned certificate No. Nil, dated 7 January 2013, certifying that Pakistan High Commission has no objection to the use of the word 'Pakistan' in the name of the following companies if they are registered by the Corporate Affairs Commission of Abuja; (i) Pakistan Export Company Limited and (ii) Pakistan Export Promotion Company Limited.
------Denied.
Question No. 35: You are advised to verify whether such a letter was issued under your signature to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, Abuja.
-Denied
ii. An authority letter duly signed by you as Acting High Commissioner for Pakistan, Nigeria, on 26.3.2011 certifying that Ibrahim Maqsood S/o Maqsood Hussain bearing international passport No. AC 0318932 cerpac No. A617741 to carry the first box for the High Commission for Pakistan, Abuja, Nigeria, from Lagos. The box contains medicines and bandages for use in the High Commission.

--Yes-It was issued during the former high commissioner's time, who assigned my father the duty to keep one, so he was asked to carry the first aid box, which we bought from Lagos for the Mission. It is available at the Mission.

36. You are advised to verify that the above-mentioned authority letter was signed by you.

iii. Copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between the High Commission of Pakistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan Export Company (PECO) signed on November 1, 2012.

37. You are advised to convey whether the above MoU was signed by you.

Yes-

It was discovered after some time that Nasir Mahmood, the personal assistant of the general commissioner and col. Asif khan, the DA in the MISSION, was the person behind that letter. Nasir, in May 2011, was prosecuted by the then-high commissioner on the incitement of Asif khan. He was accused of losing a USB containing government correspondence. He was broke and called my father, who was in Pakistan. My father assured him that nothing would be done. He intervened and asked the high commissioner to give up because it was his private laptop. He lost in theft, and there was nothing in it. He accepted and left him to escort free. The same person did it because, in his view, my father gave charge of cdA when he went to Pakistan in the last week of May 2012 for one week. He wanted to avenge it, so when my father was out of the country for training, they worked on the acceler-

ated level to involve my father. They joined hands to make my father an example.

The inquiry officer quietly observed all activities and interviewed all staff members, and met community members. He was standing at one corner during the 23rd march Pakistan day. He observed that Nigerians and Pakistani were first going to my father, and then he was pointing to the general commissioner. He might have deduced that my father has enjoyed excellent relations with both locals and community members. He was given a written response by his father on 25th March, and then he quizzed him on the basis of his replies. He also grilled the general. He called my father in front of the general and asked him about the officer and his relations with him. The general commissioner replied that he was an outstanding officer, and they enjoyed excellent personal relations. He was puzzled by the reply and counter-questioned the reason for writing the letter. The General Commissioner replied that it was done at the written and verbal request of community members and other concerned people.

However, he was not able to prove any accusation in front of the inquiry officer. The report submitted by him exonerated my father of any wrongdoing. Moreover, it recommended my father, who had never been posted on any big mission, to learn. He has always been posted to those missions where noncareer people were ambassadors. He recommended that the officer might be given the opportunity to serve at bigger missions and better missions to learn and hone his quali-

ties. It also appreciates the officer for his efforts to self-learn and train his bosses. The result of the inquiry report was disappointing for the general commissioner. However, he withheld the pursuance of another reaction till the joint ministerial commission and the presidential visit was successfully completed.
In April 2013, the JMC meeting was scheduled to be held from 8-11 April. Pakistan team was led by the minister of petroleum, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi. When he arrived, he was hosted at Hilton Abuja by the Nigerian side. He asked the general about meetings because he had brought eight carpets on his recommendation. The general told him that one meeting was confirmed and seven were pending. But he has given the task to Sirohey. It is pertinent to note that he handed over responsibility to my father on Friday, and the next two days were a holiday. Abbasi quipped that he hoped carpets would not be distributed among the high commission team members. My father assured him that he would meet eight ministers and present carpets to them. He grinned on that confidence and quipped again that if the high commissioner couldn't get an appointment in two months, then how would the deputy high commissioner get it in one day. My father replied it would be done in Sha Allah. The next day, my father was part of JMc because the General didn't know anything about the issues. He was also to accompany the minister on visits. The visits were arranged by using his connections, and even his personal car went from ministry to ministry, and Ibrahim, who was accused in the above inquiry re-

port, ran pillar to post because the mission was short of staff. The meetings were arranged, but again embarrassment was waiting for the general. Wherever he took the minister for the meeting, the host ministers didn't recognize him. The classical thing happened at the aviation ministry, where the minister introduced the high commissioner. The minister of aviation told him that for him, Sirohey was the high commissioner because he had never seen the other one anywhere. The same was repeated at the health ministry, oil and gas, agriculture, trade and commerce, ministry of defense, and investment promotion agency. The minister of petroleum was seen off by my father at Lagos. He showed his complete surprise at why generals were sent when they were proving to be inept and goofs. He was told that it was the decision of the government; he should take up the issue with the prime minister. He was also asked point-blank questions about his clash of interests when air blue was owned by him. He replied that he had resigned from the Board and divested his shares from air blue once he joined the ministry, so there was no issue of the conflict of interest. He went back and forgot about Abuja. He also informed my father that he had recommendation t abolish the ministry f commerce and handing it over to the ministry of foreign affairs. But he forgot his own recommendation when assumed as prime minister. The delegation of the Economic Affairs division was headed by joint secretary Dr. Asmat nawaz. He was helped by my father during the negotiations and drafting process. The committee of offi-

cers drafting the joint statement was headed by a fatter. Dr. Asmat appreciated the all-out cooperation and efforts by my father to make the JMC successful.

The presidential visit was canceled just a week before the scheduled arrival. The foreign policy reported as under;

Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain was scheduled to arrive in the Nigerian capital of Abuja on April 21 with a group of around 70 officials and business leaders for a three-day visit aimed at boosting bilateral trade.

Days before Hussain's arrival, a Pakistani Embassy official in Abuja told reporters the presidential agenda would include discussions on how Pakistan could help Nigeria address its energy and domestic gas challenges. Pakistan is providing energy expertise — fancy that! This is from a country where power cuts grind factories to a halt, bodies decompose in morgues, and the rich are forced to fan themselves in the peak of the summer heat when their backup generators blow up from overuse. The heart of the problem is corruption, of course, which everyone knows but no one seems capable of handling.

The scoop reported as under;

by Paul Osas

The Pakistani President, Mamnoon Hussain, has postponed a planned visit to Nigeria following pressing concerns in the nation, the Deputy High commissioner, Ahmed Sirohey, has said.

Pres. Hussain was billed to begin a three-day working visit to Abuja on Monday.

Sirohey confirming the postponement, said, "due to pressing concerns in Pakistan, the visit of the president to Nigeria has been postponed; we shall use our diplomatic channel to agree on a new date."

Also, Nigeria's High Commissioner to Pakistan, Dauda Danladi, said the government has been briefed by the Pakistani authorities.

The trip would have seen Pres. Hussain arrives in Nigeria with 70 government officials and textile tycoons at the invitation of President Goodluck Jonathan. Sirohey said the trip – the first in 32 years – would have enabled both countries to explore cooperation in petroleum resources, energy, and domestic gas.

"We have huge pipe-to-gas across the country, and there are about eight million customers served by our Natural Gas Company, and they are provided gas in their houses," he had told journalists ahead of the planned Monday visit. "Bills are sent to customers at the end of the month, and the bill for a house of six people is not more than N300 per month. If it is a big house like you have in Maitama district in Abuja, it is not more than N1500," he noted.

Meanwhile, Premium Times is reporting that senior officials of the Pakistani embassy in Nigeria said the decision was taken in direct response to Nigeria's increasing security troubles that have seen more than 100 people killed since Monday and 129 school girls abducted by suspected Boko Haram militants.

Almost 17 leading newspapers were called to dispel the negative impression about the cancellation of the visit.

Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain has called off a planned visit to Nigeria after a deadly bomb killed at least 75 people in the Nigerian capital Abuja this week.

Hussain was scheduled to begin a three-day visit to Abuja on Monday, but the trip was canceled amid security concerns.

The Pakistan Deputy High Commissioner to Nigeria, Ahmed Sirohey, confirmed the trip has been suspended but denied the decision was connected to security fears in Nigeria.

Sirohey said the visit was canceled to allow President Hussain to address "pressing domestic commitments." He did not provide details of those commitments or when the Pakistani government realized their urgency to suspend a long-planned trip.

"Due to pressing concerns in Pakistan, the visit of the president to Nigeria has been postponed; we shall use our diplomatic channel to agree on a new date,'' Sirohey said.

Dauda Danladi, Nigeria's High Commissioner to Pakistan, who also confirmed the postponement, according to the News Agency of Nigeria, said the Nigerian government has already been briefed by the Pakistani authorities.

But senior officials of the Pakistani embassy in Nigeria told a source the decision was taken in direct response to Nigeria's increasing security troubles that have seen more than 100 people killed since Monday

and 129 school girls abducted by suspected Boko Haram militants.

More than a dozen people were killed in separate clashes in Taraba State in addition to the 75 killed in Monday's deadly car bomb attack at a bus station in Nyanya, a few kilometers from the Abuja city center.

The cancellation of the Pakistani president's trip is another blow to Nigeria's struggling image abroad, further badly dented this week by the government's handling of the abduction of schoolgirls in the north-eastern state of Borno.

The military Thursday retracted the earlier claim that all but eight of the missing girls had been freed.

Pakistan itself faces some of the world's most horrific terrorist insurgencies with a decade-old struggle against the Taliban.

Hussain was initially billed to arrive in Nigeria with 70 government officials and textile tycoons at the invitation of President Goodluck Jonathan.

It was a godsend opportunity for the General who was waiting to manage the visit and finally get rid of the deputy high commissioner. He wrote another letter to the ministry using the final trump card of treason. He accused my father of sharing secret official records with Nigerian authorities. He also wrote that if he were in Nigeria, then it would be difficult. The general used to talk loosely. He was advised by his father to be cautious while speaking against local leaders. He used to tell Muslim officers that President Jonathan was hatching a conspiracy against Muslims.

The advance party of the presidential visit was already in Abuja. The mobile phones, stationery, and other material were purchased for the visit. The cars were hired, and the hotel was booked. However, the officers did not know that the visit was postponed to 17th April, just four days before arrival on 21st April. They stayed for a few days. In the meantime, my father contacted the presidency about the actual reason for the postponement. It transpired that the president didn't get a special plane, and the accompanying delegation of tycoons didn't agree to share the cost of a chartered plane. The real reason was the unavailability of planes and the delegate's refusal to travel by passenger plane at their own cost. Mekan, director IB Kazmi and others stayed for some time and returned back to Islamabad. They were treated very well; the high commissioner hosted them at dinner, and my father also invited them for dinner at the house. They were also hosted by local Nigerian companies at the prodding of my father. The High commissioner was so appreciative of my father that it was not possible to know that the man had conspired against him. Dr. Manzoor Chaudhry also came from Niger to help the high commission in the conduct of the presidential visits.

The Ministry of foreign affairs came to know through their additional secretaries that the Pakistani general asserted these words. He got an appointment from the Ghanaian president for presidential credentials. He was about to leave when the foreign secretary called him to the ministry. In his absence, the acting high Commissioner was called to the ministry of foreign

affairs. The secretary conveyed a strong message of displeasure about the activities of the Pakistani high commissioner. He informed that the Pakistani high commissioner kept talking about the rifts and divides within Nigerian society, and top of all, his pointing the finger at the president was unacceptable. He stated that the president was working to unite the nation, and High Commissioner was giving the impression that Boko haram terrorists were supported by the presidency. It was baseless and beyond the mandate of a diplomat. He indicated to declare him persona non grata (PNG). However, the Acting high commissioner persuaded him not to resort to that level because it would create serious problems between the two brotherly countries. The details of the meeting were conveyed to the Ministry in a letter; the salient of the meeting is given here for the perusal of readers.

"The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs called the undersigned in his office on the evening of 23rd April. He conveyed displeasure with his government on the undiplomatic activities of the High Commissioner of Pakistan, retired General Ashraf Saleem. He said that he was working to undermine time tested friendship of two brotherly countries. He also showed his disgust at the misreporting of the High Commissioner on the security situation in Nigeria. He further said that diplomats bridge the gap between two countries, not widen it. The High Commissioner has been working against the wishes of his own government and used undiplomatic language against his democratic government. He advocated

dictator Musharaf and criticized the democratically elected government before officers of the Foreign Office while coordinating the visit of the Pakistani President, he maintained. The Secretary further informed that our high commissioner used words like useless and worthless for his own President Mamnoon Husain in a meeting with undersecretary regions and termed his visit to Nigeria futile and a wastage of money.

2. The secretary informed that his government considers relations with Pakistan the most important and deepest, so he would not designate High Commissioner as PNG but would leave it to sending government to take appropriate action. The turned envoy remained very critical of the Nawaz government in the handling of the Musharaf treason case, and he didn't hide his anger. He discussed this with Foreign Affairs officers, and they informed him that Pakistan High Commissioner blamed President Jonathan for inciting communal violence between Muslims and Christians. He was also furious about the supposedly misreporting of the ambassador on the issue of corruption by the Jonathan government. He termed it serially lying against the host government on charges of hatred, supporting insurgents, and subsequently carrying forward the plan of the breakup of the Federation. He qualified that the envoy was observed passing comments on the plot to rig forthcoming elections by dividing Muslims. He said that instead of being objective in reporting, he uttered the language of opposition parties.

3. The secretary asked to convey just a simple message to the high commissioner to appear before him on Thursday or latest, by Friday. It is important here that the Nigerian government considers postponement of the visit of our president as the work of the Pak high commissioner on the pretext of security."

The ministry didn't pay heed to the communication, and additional secretary Ms. Naila Chauhan sided with her ethnically connected general. The director general Dr. Tariq FATA was not on Board with the additional secretary. But he was considered to be irrelevant. Moreover, the director of Africa at that time was a mentally unstable lady.

The high commissioner, upon his return, was called by the permanent secretary of foreign affairs. He was called in the afternoon and kept waiting till evening about three hours. He called my father at about 5 pm and requested to intervene and get his ordeal ended. The general commissioner was visibly afraid of the serious consequences of his loose talk. My father called several senior officers in the ministry, including the Chief of protocol and additional secretary Asia, and requested help in having a meeting between the secretary and the high Commissioner expedited. They replied plainly that it was beyond their power; he must call the secretary himself. My father sent a message on the mobile of the Permanent Secretary and requested to call the high commissioner. The permanent secretary responded positively, and he was

called within a few minutes. The high commissioner was informed of his efforts. Inside he was given peace of mind. He went home from a foreign office, and according to the driver, he felt that he had had a heart attack. He asked the high commissioner about his health and also called my father to check his well-being because he was ash faced and shivering/ sweetening in the car. My father called him and asked about his health and the inside story of the meeting between him and the secretary. He told him that he was treated very rudely and blamed for spreading baseless stories about the president of Nigeria. He told him that a detailed story would be shared the next day. The next day he called my father and briefed him about the meeting. He said that the secretary was very well informed of his views and comments about the president related to Boko Haram. He said that he only privately discussed and gave his views off the record, but perhaps those Muslim officers of foreign affairs and defense might have shared with their respective secretaries. My father told him that he was cautioned on the loose talk because Nigerians were proud nationalists. They may talk against their government but unite when someone foreigner points the finger at the president. He agreed that it was right. But he was apprehensive of action like expelling him. My father told him that it would not be done because it would worsen the relationship. The high commissioner for Nigeria consulted my father to work for firefighting and defuse the tension accruing from the postponement of the visit and calling of the Pakistani high commissioner. He suggested that we

should arrange a call from the Nigerian president to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. It was also agreed by the general commissioner. The efforts were made, and the Nigerian president agreed. The date was fixed, and talking points were prepared. The general commissioner informed the additional secretary Ms. Naila Chauhan that the president would raise the issue of the transfer of my father. They prepared the talking points, and DG Dr. Tariq (who is considered mediocre) put them up before the additional secretary ( considered to be the superior brain due to her Punjabi origin) approved it, the foreign secretary approved it, and the then adviser allowed it to be sent to the prime Minister office, the additional secretary foreign affairs and finally principal secretary okayed it. It was the height of foolishness and slavish attitude. It was informed by my father's batch mate Shoaib Sarwar (who was posted at PM Office). How and why should any foreign head of state raise the issue of a Pakistani diplomat's transfer? When the actual call took place, there was no mention of my father. But none was asked on misjudgment and false alarms. It is pertinent to note that the general commissioner played the Shia card with Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Fatmi, additional secretary Syed Ibne Abbas, and even director Asad Gilani. He conveyed to them that my father considered Shia an unbeliever. Moreover, he conveyed to Ms. Chauhan and others that my father believed that the Barelvi sect deviated and were grave worshippers. He concocted all types of stories and rumors to get my father ousted from his posting before tenure. He succeeded because my fa-

ther neither used his sources for continuity of posting nor used counter-propaganda. Fatmi used his influence and got my father transferred with immediate effect.

However, General Commissioner, in consultation with the defense adviser, wrote a letter to the ministry of foreign affairs; it was addressed to the foreign secretary. He accused my father of sharing secret reports with the host foreign secretary. He accused the Nigerian foreign secretary, and high Commissioner were his partners in business. He (my father) betrayed the country and conveyed reports on Boko haram to the foreign secretary. It is pertinent to note that in Pakistan high commission Nigeria, there was no cipher system because Nigeria was considered to be the best friend, so no need for secret correspondence was felt. My father said that he never saw any letter classified as confidential in his entire tenure. Moreover, if there was any confidential report sent to the ministry, it was done directly by the High commissioner through his secretary. The ministry sent an express letter to my father, transferring him to Islamabad with immediate effect. He replied to the ministry and requested to allow him to continue till July as his children were to appear in the A and O level examinations. The ministry, as usual, sided with the Punjabi retired General and refused to extend his stay and ordered him to wind up within a few days. My father was compelled to lodge a petition in the Islamabad high court against arbitrary order. He cited his achievements and security of tenure. Moreover, the future of children who were appearing at crucial examinations was given as

the reason. The advocate, Shoaib Shaheen, was hired to represent my father. He was provided with all documents, but he couldn't plead his case professionally and lost on the simple question which was emphasized by my father. The lawyer was dumbfounded when justice asked him that applicant must exhaust all avenues available. He couldn't remember that it was done, and the foreign secretary refused to accede to the request for three months' time.

It was a huge relief for the ministry and general commissioner. They acted swiftly and directed my father to leave within one week. It was a very difficult time for the family to wind up in one week. My father distributed his household items among staff and neighbors. Nothing was disposed of except a few things at throw-away prices. He left his car, and it was sold by one Pakistani who kept money with himself. My father was given a farewell by Nigerian businessmen and officers. He didn't accept any farewell from the Pakistani community, but they reached out to him and presented shields at the house. The general commissioner and defense adviser also invited him just customarily, but my father turned him down. However, he accepted the invitation of staff at the high commission and attended a formal send-off there. It is pertinent to note that almost the entire staff sided with my father during the inquiry and refused the general commissioner to be a witness against him. My second brother Abdul Ahad was left behind for his O-level examinations at APS house because General Commissioner didn't allow him to live during the

notice period in the house. The house was vacated by the high commission, and the owner demanded charges on account of renovation from my father. However, my father handled it effectively. We were psychologically not grasping the situation and mental torture of my father. We failed to understand that a man who served his country with dedication and devoted all his talent to it was targeted just because he was not from the majority nation governing Pakistan. None was ready to serve in Nigeria from Punjabi officers, and he was sent there; he started working the very next day of arrival and never looked back. His crime was making Pakistan visible in Nigeria, where everyone first site asked us," are we Indian." He turned it into " are you Pakistani" in just one year of his tenure as acting high commissioner. He got scores of deals for Pakistan. He managed the visit of the Nigerian president after 30 years and was the only second president in the entire diplomatic history of the two countries. He got Governors, ministers, and businessmen to Pakistan. The exports increased from a meager $ 23 million to above 100 million. We were shattered and lost faith in the justice system of Pakistan. We finally understood that after even 67 years of independence, the establishment and Punjabi elite have not learned a lesson. They consider Sindhi as conquered and ruled by them, so anyone from an inferior race performing would not be accepted. It was not only that a Sindhi would not be made foreign secretary and posted to major stations, but if posted to smaller or unimportant stations and performed, he would be made an example. My younger siblings' es-

pecially younger brother Abdul Ahad suffered heavily. He was sensitive and took that humiliation of his father at heart. He was a brilliant student and topper in his class but did badly in his examinations and never recovered from the trauma. My father always preached about serving his country and not seeking the nationality of any other country; we started discussing with him to reconsider because justice in Pakistan was not possible. But he persisted and reasoned that if we left, then who else would expose these types of injustices. We have heard almost all Sindhi officers lamenting injustice and nepotism on the part of the Punjabi-dominant ministry, but none of them ever spoke their hearts openly. It was always my father who raised his voice and got relief from any Sindhi officers. People from Balochistan also cried, but none listened to them. We seriously pondered seeking citizenship somewhere else, but my father still believed that our country needed us. He said that we have to stay for the rights of Sindhis and fight against exploiting class.

The family departed on 20th May from Abuja and reached on 21st May to Karachi. They stayed in Karachi overnight, and the next day family departed for Khairpur, and my father went to Islamabad.

# Chapter 4: Back to Pakistan 3

## 4.1.Unassigned at Ministry of Foreign Affairs Islamabad

my father reached out on 23rd May 2014 and reported to the director personnel. My father had known Asad Gilani since 2001 when he was attached to 200FF at Multan. They informed my father that he was from the same unit, so it was an introduction in absentia. However, his romance with the unit and attachment through it went into the wind when Asad behaved in a very weird style. He told my father in an ironic and degrading/threatening manner that it was he who troubled the high commissioner. We have heard a lot of stories about you, he stated. My father digested for a few minutes but then stopped him from further taking the liberty to insult him. He told Gilani that he was probably not aware of him. He never fought with smaller people; his level was above DG level, so desist from provoking him; otherwise, he would face the music. Gilani immediately changed his tone and tried to please him by offering him a cup of tea. He also called director GS to allocate a room for my father at the hostel and a car to take him to the hostel. However, the poison in his heart on account of sectarian hatred pushed him to deny a fair hearing to my father. My father was kept waiting without an assignment for many weeks. He stayed in his room and studied books.

One day Hijab gul, a former commercial consular at Jeddah, contacted my father and told him that they were coming to him. They came to the hostel. He was accompanied by the leaders of the Muslim League Jeddah chapter. They had lunch together and discussed all issues. The former consular informed them about the trauma of my father. They told him that they were going to meet Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. They would tell him about his problem. The next day they held a meeting with the prime minister and referred his trial by the foreign office during his tenure. It is pertinent to note that my father extended help to the PM and his family in exile. He immediately called his principal secretary Fawad Hassan Fawad and directed him to convey a message to the foreign secretary that Sirohey's problem must be resolved and reported to the PM office. They returned back from a meeting in the evening and invited my father for dinner at Shinwari restaurant. They informed him about his issue and PM's reaction. The next day my father received a call from the director's foreign secretary, who told him that the foreign secretary wanted to meet him. He inquired about the agenda; the director informed him that he just wanted to meet him tomorrow. In the morning, again, he was reminded of a meeting, and in the forenoon, he was again contacted for the reminder. He went to the foreign secretary, and the FS warmly welcomed my father. He asked him why he didn't meet him earlier; my father replied that he was the boss, so as per protocol, he was not supposed to approach him. But FS

asked him if he had worked with him for some days so he could have called on him. Anyway, it was a very warm meeting, and the foreign secretary welcomed him onboard and told him to let him know where he wanted to work. My father told him that he could visit any directorate. The foreign secretary informed him that he wanted to digitalize the archives and that he needed someone dedicated to completing them. My father agreed to the proposal, and he was posted to Archives. He joined and reported to Amjad Majeed Abbasi, the director general. He was a gentleman officer who suffered under the core Punjabi elites in the ministry. He showed sympathy for my father and assured his full support during his tenure under his leadership. He fully supported and provided all required assistance. My father started work and reviewed the situation in the directorate. He found out that the directorate has only three staff members and outdated machines to microfilm the record. He prepared the requirements and proposal for the foreign secretary. He contacted IT companies and NADRA to submit a practicable proposal for the digitalization of records. The proposal was submitted to the foreign secretary. However, in the meantime, he wrote a resignation letter and handed it over to the deputy director establishment. My father was completely disappointed with the system and wanted to indulge in politics to fight for the rights of Sindh. It is pertinent to note that he was offered by the Muslim League delegation to meet with Pm in the next meeting and get posting wherever he needed. He refused to use

any source for his posting or transfer. But Ministry officers didn't learn from the past and kept victimizing. They farmed another inquiry on the fabricated story of the general commissioner. The work was initiated in the archives section. He picked the thread from where the previous officer, Imran Siddiqui, had left. However, the administration was noncooperative because it was not a priority for them. But my father kept reminding divisions to send the record to the directorate. They woke up, and records poured into archives, but unfortunately, they sent every file to archives without considering its importance. The ordinary files which must have been destroyed were also sent to archives. The work increased, and my father worked with his small team to sort out the proper files. He sought a quotation for the repair of the microfilming machine and pursued approval for computerization. The digitalization was not approved till my father was transferred from the post. He was posted as director of South East Asia Pacific. He reported to the DG of East Asia Pacific. The DG was the same person who refused to accept my father in 2002 as section officer CARs. He expected the same treatment. She did the same and got back my father's batch mate. He was again made director without assignment within one week. It took them one month to resin him at the directorate of research. He joined the directorate; the DG was the same as Amjad Majeed Abbasi. He once again welcomed my father and extended full support in the discharge of his duties. Moreover, he allowed him to take any initiatives to

revive the directorate, which was considered the dead directorate. The mandate was never fulfilled in the previous four years, and annual books were pending. My father immediately circulated to submit reports for the annual book 2012- 2013 and 2014, respectively. Initially, the sections didn't take it seriously. However, after repeated reminders and reports to the foreign secretary, they started responding. He was pursuant to them for the material. He contacted the printer and coordinated timely printing after editing. He received material from sections and missions and compiled it in real-time. He was so busy that my father failed to reach him in time. He compiled his first book by December 2014 and submitted tot eh director general. But he was retiring, and the new Dg was to take charge sooner. She joined in early 2015 and was briefed about the current status of the yearbook, communiqué series, and treaty series books. She highly appreciated my father on dedicated work to get all records preserved. She directed him to continue the good work and pursue all directorates with full vigor; if anyone is not responding, let him know to report to the foreign secretary. The research division that was considered a dead directorate became so live that everyone was asking for it.

In July 2014, the second inquiry was under the leadership of Zaheer Parvez Khan . he was given the mandate to inquire about the news items and secrete documents shared with the Nigerian authorities, but he included the business and other issues arbitrarily. It is pertinent to note that he was from Army and Sialkot

background. The general commissioner called him to make Sirohey an example because he abused the army at all levels. He also asked him to screw my father and get rid of him at any cost. He reportedly assured him of a positive result.

The questionnaire and replies by my father are shared for the perusal of readers.

Inquiry order

1-how long did you serve in the high commission of Pakistan, Abuja?

Answer- three and half years from 29-10-2010---- 14-5-2014

2-what were your principal accomplishments during your tenure in Abuja?

Answer- my father joined on 29th October 2010 and started work the same day. My father addressed the second-largest Chamber Kano, in the country on 22nd November 2010, while my family was living in a hotel and the children were not enrolled in school due to remittances'. My father addressed the largest Chamber Lagos, on 25th November 2010, the third-largest Chamber on 10th December 2010, and fourth largest Chamber on 16th December to promote Pakistani exports. In May 2011, my father took 17 members Pharma delegation from Nigeria to Pakistan. In October 2011, my father led another delegation of leading 53 businessmen for Expo Pakistan, ever highest in our relations. The High commissioner commended my father on these activities' and supported High Commissioner in portraying the soft image of the

country through the press. My father have arranged a meeting with governors and ministers and pursued bilateral relations with vigor. The commendation letter written to AS(A) by the then High Commissioner is enclosed. Pakistani trade/exports increased from 27 million dollars to $57 million.

The undersigned remained Cd'A throughout the year. Performed duties as HOM, HOC, Commercial /Trade officer, Press officer, and consular officer. The activities regarding Pakistan's potential in various fields were initiated from January to December 2014. A delegation of 13 Pharmaceutical companies was sent in January 2014, which signed contracts with 17 companies in Pakistan. It visited Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad. A delegation of fan and home alliance manufacturers from Pakistan visited from 22nd February 2013 to 29th, and after B2B meetings, signed contracts with several companies.

A delegation of surgical and sports manufacturers visited in March 2013 visited Abuja, Kaduna, Kano, and Onitsha. They have appointed 11 sole agents in the country.

The first-ever reception since the mission shifted to Abuja was held on 23rd March 2103 with huge success. A mini-exhibition was also held on the sidelines, which generated a lot of interest among the importers. The Minister of Foreign affairs, Nigeria, was the chief guest on occasion.

In April 2013, A catalog show was arranged with the help of the Kano Chamber of Commerce. It has cre-

ated a lot of awareness and eagerness among local buyers.

A delegation of the Chamber related to Textiles visited Pakistan from 17th April 2013-25th April 2013. they have signed contracts with Gul Ahmed, Sitara, and Rani Textiles, among many garment manufacturers.

We invited a delegation of Agric equipment and building material exporters in May 2013. It was an instant success and got orders of 33S3 tractors and millions of dollars worth of tiles.

In June, the Mission arranged the first-ever Pakistan fashion week in Abuja. It was attended and inaugurated by the chairman senate committee on Commerce/Trade, senator Ninadi HASSAN. It was attended by more than one thousand ladies from 11-18th June 2013. This month the Minister of Trade and industries invited Acting High Commissioner to co-chair the SMEs conference in Lagos. It has created a lot of goodwill among importers.

In July, a delegation of garment and rice importers from southern Nigeria led by the brother of Senator Anthony was sent to Pakistan and visited Karachi and Lahore. They signed contracts worth 20 million dollars.

In August, the Mission arranged an Independence reception, again the first ever, and a mini exhibition supported by Pakistani exporters from Karachi, Lahore, and Sialkot chambers. It was attended by 650 dignitaries. The function was attended by the Federal minister of information, Federal foreign secretary,

Governor Niger State, and many parliamentarians. It has created a lot of goodwill for Pakistan.

In September, we had Pakistan day at the Port Harcourt trade fair, where catalogs were displayed.

In October, we sent 66 members of the ever-highest delegation of leading importers to the expo of Pakistan. The delegates signed contracts worth $ 23 million.

In November, we held the Pakistan day catalog show at the Lagos fair, the largest in West Africa.

November was the most important month in the history of this mission because we convinced the president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to attend D-8 Summit. It is pertinent to note that all other heads of state were personally invited by the Foreign Minister except Nigeria. The undersigned sued all its diplomatic skills and convinced both the Foreign Minister and Chief of Staff, the President, of the importance of the Summit. The President visited with the largest delegation of Ministers and businessmen. It was appreciated by the Nigerian Government. (Letter enclosed)

In December, the Mission sent a delegation of importers, including governor Borno. They signed contracts for the supply of 1000 tractors with OMNI Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.

The exports increased by 101% during the period from $57million 115million from Pakistan. Press has given huge but positive coverage to Pakistan. The mission attended almost all events. (some select news coverage is enclosed for information).

Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) awarded an outstanding performance award in 2011-2012 for best trade promotion. The appreciation from chambers and trade associations also praised efforts. Attended ECOWAS sessions and promoted Pakistan. Attended four conferences of D-8.Represented Pakistan in commodities organization conferences and successfully presented Pakistan's case. My father have visited all regions of Nigeria and called on 13 Governors in 13 months. They have presented opportunities in Pakistan, which paid dividends, and many delegations went to Pakistan. My father have given my days and nights for the service of the country and have not availed leave for a whole year during charge. A pharmaceutical delegation visited in April 2013 with my efforts and signed deals worth $10 million dollars.

In 2013 we received the Bahria Foundation delegation. My father took them to governor Kano on the instructions of the High commissioner, and they were given free land for school/college in Kano; a personal car was used for the official visit. Arrangement of the national day on 23rd March 2013 with a personal contribution of Naira 500,000. The personal car of the undersigned remained in service for three and half months because of the breaking down of the staff car. The successful visit of the SMC delegation from NMC Lahore.DG-NAFDAC was taken to Pakistan in 2013 and received/arranged meetings during my MCMC.

Inspector General Nigerian Police Force was invited and sent to Pakistan in February 2014 while HC was on vacation and coordinated his visit to Pakistan. Co-ordinated and brought former President of Nigeria, Shehu Shagari, to the 23rd March national day function.

The task given by the HC during JMC from 7-8 April to arrange his calls on seven Ministers with 24 hours' notice was done successfully. The JMC coordinated and assisted the Pakistan delegation in negotiations and drafting of Communiqué'.

3-when was the visit of the president of Pakistan to Nigeria Planned? How actively were you engaged with the visit?

Answer- It was planned from 21st April 2014. My father coordinated accommodation, transportation, press coverage, and business forum. My father have received a confirmed call on the president from Governor Bylesa, Borno, Kano, Kebbi, Benuve, Sokoto, Nasrwa, and Anambra. Moreover, call on by the Federal minister of trade and investment, Petroleum, education, and Defense. The Sultan of Sokoto was also among the dignitaries confirmed to call on the President.

4- What prompted the postponement of the visit?

Answer- as informed by the MOFA," Pressing domestic commitments." It was explained to local media, and some news stories are enclosed for ready reference. It was undersigned who faced the press and converted negative press into positive by dispelling

the impression of cancellation on account of a terror threat.

5- Who at our Mission was privy to the internal discussion that led to the decision?

Answer- no discussion was held on postponement at Mission. It was communicated to the mission by The ministry at the eleventh hour.

6- Did you agree with the decision? If not, did you voice your disagreements?

Answer- there was no discussion on the subject. It was directed to convey to the host foreign affairs that the visit was postponed, so there was no question of disagreements.

7- How, in your view, did the information on the contents of the internal discussion reach the Nigerian side?

Answer- there was no discussion on the subject. It is misleading to repeat that postponement was discussed at the mission. It was the decision of the presidency and conveyed through the foreign office, so it's not a correct assertion that discussions were held at mission.

8-what did you know about the meeting between our High commissioner and the Nigerian foreign secretary on 2 May 2014?

Answer- Nothing more than shared by the high commissioner himself that he was reprimanded by the Secretary for his undiplomatic comments about the involvement of the president of Nigeria in Boko haram terrorism to scandalize Muslims. The high commissioner informed my father after the meeting

the next day that he was given incidences where he accused the Nigerian president of hatching conspiracy against Muslims. He blamed the secretary that the Pakistani high commissioner allegedly blamed president Good luck Jonathan for supporting Boko haram to bleed north and even attacking churches to incite hatred and consequently interfaith violence; it would support the southern dream of secession of the south. It was he who shared this with two officers and probably with other persons after the meeting.

9-How, in your view, did the information appears on an obscure Pakistani news website the next day?

Answer- not known to me- the reported is a Nigerian and could be approached to disclose the source of information. Moreover, the journalist might be closer to the Nigerian side, so they may be asked to clarify. The permanent secretary might have shared the ingredients of the meeting with his High commissioner in Pakistan.

10- Are you aware that the website appears to have taken a particularly keen interest in Nigeria and has also carried a story against another officer of the Mission?

Answer- The news story about any mission or country is the choice of the reporter and his organization.

11-How is it that the news items, while denigrating the High commissioner, eulogize your contributions by even making references to specific instances that could not be known to all?

Answer- my father am not aware of how that story was built. But the ingredients are easily searchable

online. If they find some comparable facts, they can point them out. It's not because of any prodding or connection. The facts enumerated in the story are already published and available online.

12-why do you think have been blamed as the source for the leaks and the subsequent news items?

Answer- my father am not aware, but obviously, after failure to prove earlier 35 fabricated accusations before the inquiry committee, the high commissioner is desperate to harm my father at any cost.

13-Any additional comment that you may so wish to make?

Answer- my father wonder if the original accusation by the high commissioner and proposed forensic audit by the committee never appeared in the investigations. Moreover, the team was not mandated to question the business concerns of the undersigned in Nigeria, but it was vigorously pursued by the committee. The committee comprised two persons, and one was junior to me; as per the rule, it is unethical. The officers having an institutional connection with the retired General and their own concerns were deliberately selected to question the undersigned. My father have not objected to the committee because my hands are clean. However, an impartial and just report is not expected.

14- Are you ready to vouch on oath for the veracity of the above-stated information?

Answer- yes

The threat used by Zaheer was a forensic test of news stories. My father challenged him to do it so that truth

must come out. But, he didn't recommend a forensic test but rather requested the foreign secretary to issue a warning to the officer on circumstantial evidence. The word used by the Indian supreme court for the hanging of Kashmiri leader Afzal Guru. The words of warning were almost equal to the conclusion that all accusations were proven. It is given below for the reading of readers. The letter was issued by the additional secretary of administration.

"The ministry received a number of complaints against you. Allegations pertaining to misuse of official position in the mission for your business interests, sharing classified information with Nigerian officials and circulating it through print media/ social media, and retaliatory social behavior have been reported. It is unbecoming of a diplomat representing the country abroad. Government officials are expected to uphold the highest standards of good behavior, discipline, and uprightness, at all times and under all circumstances. Your recent conduct regrettably falls short of these expectations. This remains a matter of deep concern. However, it has been decided to afford you a chance to rectify your mistakes. You are hereby cautioned, henceforth, to strictly abide by all civil service rules and regulations and refrain from activities that can prove detrimental to the organizational discipline and to your career advancement. A copy of this warning is being placed in your dossier".

My father wrote representation against the warning and asked for a personal hearing of FS. The draft con-

tents of the representation are given below for the interest of readers;

"Dear Sir.

I have the honor to file representation against the issuance of warning vide SSA LETTER NO.ssa/3/4/2014 DATED 17TH November 2014, RECEIVED ON 18 November 2014 through Director SSA. The undersigned submits;

1. That the appellant was recruited through a competitive examination of FPSC as a section officer and joined on 1-1-2001.The appellant has completed almost 14 years of service and was appreciated for his work several times. It was merely on account of exemplary efficiency, good conduct, and unimpeachable integrity that the Ambassador to Saudi Arabia issued an appreciation letter; the commercial consular appreciated the efforts to complement his trade promotion, and the Consul general applauded the relief work on the occasion of the earthquake. The ambassador in Yemen recommended for the pride of performance, and TDAP awarded the outstanding performance award

The undersigned has no business interest and neither supported nor encouraged any family members. While my father was CdA, no such activity was initiated or promoted. But national trade promotional activities took place. Moreover, it is blamed in the warning letter that mission resources were used for personal business ctivities. It is pertinent to note that the undersigned has volunteered his own car for three

months for official use till 8th March 2013. The staff car was never allowed to the undersigned during the tenure of the general. My father used a personal car for official guests up to Kano, e.g., Bahria delegation and NMC delegates, in June 2013. The name of my second wife was used in company registration through the wife of one Pakistani when she was in Pakistan. When my father came to know, my father pursued her to resign. She resigned on 24 August. The company registered on the 13th, and the document was communicated to her only on the 22nd in Pakistan. The issue of sharing classified information is another fabricated story. The undersigned supported HOM after an inquiry on 24th March in JMC. The head of the delegation's letter depicted everything. Pakistan Day was successfully held with my efforts while the inquiry officer was in Abuja. The whole program for the presidential visit was made, and coordination was done. The postponement stirred anger among Nigerians but was managed. Not only they accepted our explanations but pursued their president to call our prime minister. The accusation of threatening behavior is self-contradictory when HOM arranged farewell and continued contact even after my departure. The undersigned was requested to assist by the secretary to the president with a successful presidential visit after my transfer; it speaks about my work. The meetings or presidential delegation and call on were arranged and coordinated by the undersigned while sitting at headquarters. The Nigerian high commissioner and secretary to the president

have, appreciated his services. While the visit was postponed but dinner in honor of the advance party was held by the Nigerian CP. Hence all accusations are baseless and may kindly be withdrawn."

The FS called him and listened patiently and assured him that it was nothing but a whitewash and would be automatically removed once he started working smoothly. He also got a briefing from my father on the actual issues with the general commissioner. My father informed him that each general comes with the expectation to get easy bucks. The high commissioner wanted to get the newly built house renovated for 5 million. However, my father wrote on file that the house was recently built and heavy repairs were not required. The High commissioner had security apparatus installed a third time; it was also pointed out to my father. The previous general got barricade blocks from a Chinese company but was charged it by the Government. But the current General Commissioner also wanted to have new furniture, fixture, and carpets to the crockery, which was opposed by my father on the basis of facts. He was also informed that the general commissioner was jealous of my. father's popularity in Nigeria. Moreover, the foreign ministry recommended him for the highest civil award for my father; it was not digested by General Commissioner. My father was satisfied with his reply. It is pertinent to note that earlier foreign secretary informed him that he was under tremendous pressure from GHQ to take severe action against the recalcitrant officer.

However, he was not in favor of losing a fine officer, so he transferred him to keep him away from harm.

My father continued working under Ms. Riffat Masood. It is pertinent to note that a few officers warned my father of biased reporting by a madam who was Shiite by faith and hated practicing Sunnis. One of the seniors of my father's, Sajjad Haider, advised him to get himself transferred because she could destroy his career. My father replied that he was hard working and dedicated person, so she would not victimize him on the basis of sectarian differences; she would assess professional competence and work quality, and output. He was not satisfied and kept suggesting a senior colleague. Another officer who was damaged by the Madam, Faisal Kakar, also told him that she was staunch Shiite and considered Sunnis as renegades and would definitely taint his report. He also suggested getting himself removed from her shackles. The third officer was one who worked with her at the mission and reported her biased and greedy attitude. He cautioned my father of dire consequences if he would not cooperate with her in over-invoicing on printing. Moreover, he said that she hated people with a beard. However, my father disregarded all suggestions and considered her a professional lady. The initial days were very cordial, and she always appreciated the speed and my father's commitment to work. She encouraged and appreciated him for his extra work because, as per mandate, the research directorate was supposed to publish one year book in a year and work over the years to com-

pile communiqué series and treaty series publications. However, my father completed three years of books, a communiqué series, and treaty series, which were last published in 2008.

In January 2015, a colleague, Shafqat Cheema, introduced one person Azfar Bukhari who introduced himself as the Project Manager of EU Scholarships. They were having lunch at the office of Shafqat Cheema when a few letters were placed before my father to sign. He inquired about the reason; he was informed that Bukhari and his organization were working for the benefit of Pakistani students. He requires just moral support to wake up the concerned institutions. My father questioned the motive and benefited the organization. The answer was not satisfactory. My father politely evaded and asked him to send it to his office. He insisted that it was not a very serious thing. My father suggested he sign himself. He replied that he was the political and territorial director, whereas the research division was directly related to education. The arguments further entrenched my father in his suspicion. He told them to bring it to the office. He went to his office for a brief time and left for another colleague's office. He evaded signing the letter recommending them to HEC and the press information department for necessary support and circulation. They never returned back after a few attempts the same day. However, my father received a call from dawn reporting Kashif abbasi on 4th February 2015 seeking verification of his letters to HEC and the press information department. My father was puzzled

and sought time to check the veracity of the letters. He contacted Cheema and told him about the issue of letters. He told my father that Bukhari might have forged signatures and submitted letters after unsuccessful attempts to get signatures from you. The reporter called again, and my father denied signing and sending any letter regarding EU scholarships. The reporter reported it in the 5th February edition, "'EU scholarships' raise hopes and confusion.

"We had intimated the Foreign Office about our worthy activities. In response to our letter, they endorsed our viewpoints and directed PID (the Press Information Department) and the HEC (Higher Education Commission) to facilitate us by spreading information," said Bukhari.

A PID official, Muhammad Saleh, confirmed this. "The PID is following the guidelines of the Foreign Office's letter, signed by Director Research and Policy Wing Ahmed Ali Sirohey. They said that EUEF has brought a good and productive program for Pakistani students."

HEC spokeswoman Ayesha Ikram was not available for comments. However, her deputy promised to respond on Thursday "after checking the official record."

Another letter purportedly issued by Sirohey on January 26, 2015, bearing reference number U.O.No.F.Misc 1(5) 2015, endorsed the EUEF activities and termed them credible.

However, Sirohey expressed ignorance about writing any such letters. "I think my father never signed the letters you are talking about," he said."

The yearbook 2012-13 was completed and submitted to the director General in March 2015. She recommended it to the special secretary Amjad sial and finally approved it by the foreign secretary, Aizaz Chaudhry. It was sent to the printer for publication immediately, and the first copy was submitted to the Ministry in the first week of April. Finally, it was delivered to eh Ministry in May and dispatched to missions.

The second yearbook, 2013-2014, was compiled, edited, and prepared by my father and submitted to the Director General for first reading. She read the yearbook and appreciated my father for his promptness and professionalism. She also praised the editorial note and message for the foreign secretary, and she has not even changed a single sentence from the draft. She has suggested a few changes in the placement of photographs of missions and divisions; it was rectified, and the final draft was submitted to her in July 2015. It was approved by the foreign secretary and sent for publication. It was later published with little delay by the publisher. The publisher claimed undue pressure from madam. The third-year book was submitted to the madam on September 8, 2015. It was sent to my father by her for a few adjustments. It was done the same day, and on 10th September 2015 final draft was submitted, which was sent to the foreign secretary for approval. But interestingly, the book

was not published till 2019 and was dispatched to missions in May 2019. The officers involved in the preparations of the book might have been awarded outstanding reports because nothing was actually done in three years. The editorial note and the foreign secretary's message were almost similar. Just the sentences were rearranged. But all officers were from Punjab, so they were entitled to get the best reports. But a Sindhi officer who gave 300% output got an average report from his reporting officer. People talk about the oppression of Shiites in Pakistan but never consider the highest positions held by them and the punishments meted out to the Sunni officers under them. The case in question is a startling example of bigotry on the part of a Shiite lady officer who hated practicing Sunni Muslim sporting beards following a tradition of his Prophet. My father completed the Communiqué series book by June and, after approval, sent it for publication to the press. It was published during his tenure at the research directorate. The treaty series book containing all MoUs, agreements, and treaties with various countries was collected from different sections of the ministry and missions abroad, compiled, vetted, and compiled in book form. It is pertinent to note that treaties were in written form; no soft copies were available. It was retyped with a lot of difficulties and edited; mistakes were found and rectified, and the edited book was placed before the director general in September 2015. She went through it; sent it back to my father for re-editing and final submission by the end of September.

It was meticulously done with the help of his assistant director Farooq who joined the directorate in July 20015. My father suggested engaging a professional editor to edit the treaty series, a very sensitive document, but the lady officer didn't agree to it. My father worked day and night to complete the book in time and submitted tot eh madam in time. She was already posted to Norway and prepared herself to depart, so she kept it pending, and the next officer handed over the copy. In the meantime, due to her pressure on the publisher for personal favors, he left the job. The work was delayed because of her obstinate attitude with staff and even the contractor. They were seeking the protection of Allah from her evil talk. She showed her favoritism to lady officers in the division and even rendered their PERs despite not directly supervising them. She has sought help from my father in the arrangements of other programs, and he readily helped. He even got samples of ALM BIL QALAM wooden shields from his own pocket. But the costly ones were chosen over the economical option offered by my father. There was a difference of 150% in the price. The personal cards, printing material, and items were accepted and expected from the contractors by the madam. However, after an initial encounter with such issues with my father, she understood that he would not be helpful, so she evaded him. My father issued several hundred letters, including reminders to the ministry sections and mission abroad, to get the required material for yearbooks. It was very difficult to convince people at various stations to submit mate-

rial on time. He even sought help from the special secretary and even the foreign secretary to warn them about noncooperation. The directorate, which was considered nonexistent and irrelevant, was made the most active and relevant directorate of the ministry. The officers in the ministry and mission come to know my father as the director of research. Interestingly the draft books of officers on various subjects were also referred for vetting. He read the drafts and completed the vetting in time. It is pertinent to point out that my father submitted his book on Palestine in April 2002, but it is still not vetted and approved by the ministry. The research matters and publication of the quarterly journal were also proposed by my father, and its blueprint was submitted by March 2015. The madam didn't forward it for approval to the foreign secretary. In September, my father was also posted to Pakistan High Commission Brunei as a counselor. He started his preparations and winding up of the household; security clearance and issuance of passports were going on at the sidelines. But my father never missed any deadline to submit the copies of books as assigned by his boss. My father's colleagues Naeem saber and Imran Siddiqui, also appreciated the work of my father. They said that he was so fast and accurate that work was not piling up in his directorate. It is pertinent to note that the research directorate has only one PA, Assistant, and peon. He started writing to the administration for staff and officers for the directorate. The personnel division posted one assistant, peon, and assistant director after seven

months. It means he worked with just three persons in the directorate, and the output was three hundred percent more than the required target. The work without sanctioned staff and officers was seen as an uphill task, and my father was praised by his seniors, including DG, who encouraged him to continue with steadfastness. His dedication and sincerity with the work were in no question by any quarter. It is also worthy of being mentioned here that madam neither showed displeasure nor issued any memo to my father at any point during his entire tenure with her. She was given a farewell by officers and coordinated by my father, and she appreciated each officer by name for their work to complete the tasks during the tenure. She was pleased that the foreign secretary appreciated her and her team for the quality and quantity of work. She was given an outstanding performance evaluation report by Amjad's sial and endorsed by the foreign secretary, Aizaz Chaudhry. She claimed all work in the division herself and termed the whole team incompetent and inefficient. She evaluated my father as average and, in her own thinking, destroyed her future career advancement of my father. She vents her venom of sectarian hatred in the evaluation report. She was so particular about ensuring that it was not upgraded by the countersigning officer; she took it by hand and got it signed or endorsed by Amjad Sial. Sial remained a very controversial personality because of his alleged victimhood and claim of a Punjabi settler in sindh. He endorsed either in a hurry or deliberately. He might have thought that opposing a lady who was

very near to a foreign secretary might jeopardize his own prospects of getting a lucrative position after retirement. Moreover, my father was freshly injured by the general commissioner, so they thought none would challenge their report. Here it is very important to note that the general Commissioner who concocted and hatched a very serious conspiracy has evaluated my father as "good," but the lady from Foreign Service found it expedient to damage a junior colleague who always respected and supported her.

It was revealed when my father was considered for SMc in 2016. He was earlier informed by her successor Dr. Qazi. He advised him to talk to Amjad sail. My father requested Amjad sail to consider his PER when submitted. He assured my father that it would be carefully checked. But he endorsed it and never considered the respect and service my father rendered to him personally whenever needed. My father called Sial in Nepal and informed him about his endorsement of the average report. He showed surprise and asked him to resubmit it for upgradation. He was just playing because it was impossible. We left Pakistan for Brunei on 6th November and reached Brunei on 7th November 2015.

# Part VIII: Brunei

## Chapter 1: Posting at Brunei

The Family reached Brunei via Bangkok from Karachi. It was a very difficult journey because the agent had not booked luggage connectively to Brunei. However, a friend of my father helped at Karachi airport, which was connected to Brunei. He was received by Zahid Hussain and his team. Interestingly uncle Zahid Hussain was the officer whom my father replaced in Jeddah. They were lodged at traders Inn hotel, which was a clean two-star hotel. The dinner was sent by the High Commissioner, Brigadier retired Zareef Malik. The next day my father visited the Mission. It was hosted at a small house on Berakas road. The high Commissioner warmly welcomed my father. The counselor, Zahid Hussain, started briefing about the issues and matters in progress and pending. After six days, my father joined the Mission. Zahid Hussain neither hosted dinner for my father nor got in reciprocity. The community has arranged a farewell for long-serving professor Fakcer and also invited Zahid Hussain and my father on the insistence of the High comr. issioner. In the speech, they quipped that they did not know about Zahid Hussain. He remained in his hermitage. He remained unreachable to the community. They welcomed my father in Brunei and offered full support. On 20th November 2015, Zahid Hussain left for Pakistan, and my father saw him off.
Initially, it was difficult to manage the whole family at a hotel in three rooms. The high commission was requested by my father to find a suitable house. But

they haven't done anything. He started searching for a house and kept working on his mission. My mothers requested the madam for utensils till our container reached Brunei. Instead of lending a few necessary utensils, she advised that they could buy from such and such shop. My father requested the High Commissioner to allow him to use an official car till he buys it. The mission was responsible for providing free and furnished houses, so it was the duty of the mission to find and hire. But the high commissioner didn't accept his request and asked him to find his car at the earliest; otherwise, he hired a taxi. It was first pressure at Mission in Brunei. The high commissioner used both then cars, whereas he was entitled to use only one flag car. The admission of my siblings was another issue. Admissions at international schools were closed in August, and local schools began in December/ January. It is pertinent to note that Zahid Hussain requested my father to delay his arrival for a few months. My father has inquired about admissions. He informed my father that there would be no problem. But there was a real problem for my brothers and sister. The international l schools refused to admit them, and local schools asked them to wait. It created confusion among my siblings, and my father was facing the uphill task of getting them admitted. In December, they were finally admitted after waiting for six months at home. My father found the house after one month and shifted from the hotel. He asked the high commissioner to buy him a fan, a sofa set, and a bed. The high commissioner refused to allow the buying of fixed assets. It is pertinent to note

that there was no inventory for the counselor, and the house was semi-furnished. He again requested to allow him to take one sofa set from the high commission because three sets were lying unused. The high Commissioner didn't allow taking the sofa set from the mission. It transpired later on that he inspected the sofas and selected the most worn-out set, approved it to be taken to our house. He went in the evening with an accountant and bought one carpet and sofa set for the waiting room. It is important that there was very good carpet in the visitors' room. However, he found it fit to consume funds so that none could ask for anything. It must be noted here that general normally keep buying for them and never allow necessary items to their juniors. He bought a car in December 2015 for BND 8500. It put a lot of pressure on account of family matters. But he dedicated his office time to work.

The initial days at Mission were very cool, and few letters responded. It was almost freedom from work. My father received one to two letters daily. It was a dull moment for him. He started thinking about creating work so that public diplomacy and economic diplomacy could be applied. He submitted a roadmap for future activities to the high commissioner. It included meetings with various secretaries, and heads of departments, arranging exhibitions, catalog shows, and seminars. The high commissioner was pleasantly surprised to see galore of actions suggested activating diplomatic outreach to the local community and Government. He wanted details and financial impact. My father briefed him that there would be an almost neg-

ligent financial impact but a positive projection of Pakistan. He allowed my father to plan and execute events one by one so that impact is assessed. It was agreed upon, and my father initiated a meeting with higher officials. The meeting was carried out in the national newspapers. The issues discussed with officials were coming to the fore, and awareness about cooperation was coming to the public. The high Commissioner enjoyed the positive publicity of Pakistan high commission and Pakistan. People started knowing about the potential of Pakistan. In February, they arranged Kashmir solidarity day. It was the first function at Pakistan Mission after many years. The community appreciated the opening of the mission for the public.

In December 2015, the community complained to my father about the consular assistant, who was accused of compelling people to pay a bribe or offer gifts for services. My father discussed this with the high commissioner; he also informed my father that he knew it. But there was no alternate. My father suggested assigning work to the accountant. He agreed, and the decision was implemented. People got free and hitch-free services to people. Moreover, my father opened his office to the community and encouraged a direct approach to their work. The public was very happy with the opening of the mission. The high Commissioner commented that had he been with him since the start, there would have been a lot of work. The mission planned and arranged befitting reception on the eve of 23rd March. The message and speech of the high commissioner were appreciated. The selec-

tion of video clips at the reception was lauded by the participants. The high commissioner announced his departure after the completion of his tenure in May 2016. He was going back with the hope that his mission to strengthen relations between two brotherly countries would continue.

My father took measures to facilitate community. He immediately activated the machine-readable passport center. He axed submission of documents and attestation the next day. He ordered you to attest documents the same day. He also accorded the same-day visa to Pakistan-origin Malaysians. It offered a lot of relief to the Pakistanis in Brunei. He took immediate action whenever there was any highhandedness with any Pakistani worker. He took up the issue of visas for Pakistanis. It is pertinent to note that Brunei issued a visa to Pakistanis in three months, whereas they issued a visa in three days to Indians. He took up this issue with the Ministry of home affairs and foreign affairs. Pakistan offered visas to same-day Bruneians.

The peculiarity of the High commissioner and his family was enlightened modernity. They arranged many functions at home and invited all types of people, including Hindus. They decorated their house with statues of Hindu gods and goddesses. My father was shocked to see idols at the Pakistani house. It has shattered the idea of two nation theory and separate nations based on religion. He arranged musical, henna, and dance parties where ladies performed Indian songs. They were very open and liberal. High Commissioner used to hug ladies and madam to male friends. Brunei is a conservative Islamic society, and

they consider the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as the fort of Islam. However, they resented the actions of our top diplomat in Brunei at private parties. But my father couldn't change their way of life. The madam kept advising my father to trim his beard and be a smart person. She was so persistent in her preaching that one day my father was compelled to tell her why she was preaching the message of Satan. She still didn't learn the lesson and shifted to my mother and stepmother, asking them to influence my father. Moreover, asked them to shun the scarf and cut their hair. They informed my father about that. They promoted a culture of the West and India rather than Pakistan.

In May 2016, the first art and culture exhibition was held in collaboration with Mrs. Aftab Rana. She was helped by the community ladies and my mother. The Minister of Culture was the guest of honor. He toured the exhibition and appreciated the artwork besides cultural artifacts. In preparation for the exhibition, the artists were told that they would be fully assisted in their work. The high commissioner called Brunei Pakistan friendship secretary professor Yousef Sani and sought sponsorship for the exhibition. He assured full support and committed to reverting back to him. However, till the opening of the exhibition, no response was received. One day before the inauguration, the high commissioner called a meeting at the waterfront gallery. He inquired from Brunei Pakistan friendship association office bearers Abdul Qayyum Nagyal and professor Yousef sani about the status of sponsorship. They informed him that the association

had not approved it because of the fear of an audit. It was not an activity that was approved by the authorities in advance It is interesting to note that my father has earlier told the high commissioner not to expect anything from them "In Tiloon mi teel nahi." But the high commissioner was hopeful on the ground of his excellent relations. He reprimanded them and showed his annoyance at the meeting. The high commissioner earlier ordered a banner where Brunei Pakistan friendship was mentioned sponsor. When they refused to sponsor, he was furious. But my father calmed him down and handled the situation. There were two other Pakistani businessmen, Feroz khan and Shaukat Bukhari, who promised sponsorship. However, Bukhari backed down from his commitment, but Feroz khan cooperated. The program was hailed as an ice-breaking event.

On 16th May 2016, the high Commissioner relinquished the charge. My father assumed charge of the acting high commissioner. The High commissioner left after a few days. He neither introduced my father to his contacts nor shared the details of influential persons with whom he dealt during his tenure. He was given a befitting farewell by the community at Rizqun international hotel. My father also hosted a farewell for the outgoing high commissioner. He was seen off by a dozen ambassadors, their families, and leading Pakistani community members.

## Chapter 2: Acting High Commissioner in Brunei

My father started working as head of Mission and planned to fast-track many proposals with the host government. He called on ministers of health, education, home affairs, foreign affairs, culture, defense, primary resources, development, and religious affairs. He also met with permanent secretaries and discussed close cooperation between Pakistan and Brunei. He asked the minister of health to recruit doctors and paramedics from Pakistan. He Offered minister education professors and teachers. Moreover, offered training at Pakistani institutions. He offered cooperation to minister primary resources cooperation in the establishment of the agriculture research center. He gave him three options, firstly, appoint a Pakistani professional to set up the center; secondly, seek professionals on deputation and thirdly, send your scholars to get training from the Pakistan agriculture research center.

He approached the minister of home Affairs and proposed to ease the visa regime so that increased people -to-people and business-to-business relations could be promoted. The Minister responded positively and committed to looking into it favorably. He also approached the ministry of foreign affairs and strongly took up the case of delayed issuance of visas to Pakistanis. It assured full support and consideration at the earliest.

He drafted a proposal to arrange the first single-country exhibition and investment conference in Brunei. The meetings with BEDB and subsequently with Prime Minister's Office finalized the dates for the show in October 2016. He sent letters to the leading exporters and investors for the said program and got confirmation from 27 companies. The Bruneian side was accordingly informed and asked to process the visa and other arrangements at the earliest. However, the Bruneian side remained slow in response and finally conveyed that the visa might be processed by the high commission. Moreover, they declined to offer local hospitality to eh investors. They just offered venue and transport; the rest of the items were left to Pakistan's high commission. My father pursued them that it was their show and investors were invited by them. Pakistan high commission just supported them, so local hospitality must be offered by them. However, they remained indecisive till the time the new High Commissioner asked my father to hold it. He expected to hold a bigger show where the minister of commerce in Pakistan would also join. The single-country exhibition scheduled to be held in October was postponed indefinitely.

In June 20016, Pakistan high Commission arranged 11 Iftaar parties for orphans, workers, and locals in three districts. When all the embassies were sleeping, only Pakistan high commission was working on public diplomacy. It has created a lot of goodwill for Pakistani and Pakistanis. The last party was arranged

at dewan mohibah, and the education minister was the guest of honor.

In July blood donation campaign was done by the Acting high commissioner. He led by example, and others followed him. The locals' appreciated the move. In July Sultan of Brunei celebrated his birthday. The diplomatic core hosted him at a party and presented a collective gift. He visited the stalls of each country. At the Pakistan stall, the acting High commissioner greeted him and briefed him about bilateral relations, and conveyed the message of the prime Minister on the pending visit to Pakistan. He assured my father to consider visiting Pakistan soon.

In August, the Independence Day of Pakistan was celebrated with much fanfare and national zeal. It was for the first time in the history of the Pakistan high commission that Independence Day was celebrated. It was celebrated at a grand level. The morning started with flag hoisting at the chancery. It was followed by a medal and shield distribution ceremony at the international convention center. The medals of the friend of Pakistan were bestowed upon the Bruneians who supported the Pakistan mission, imported, hired Pakistani workers, and extended any assistance in the cementing of bilateral ties. Pakistani professionals, businessmen, and professors; who worked hard and made their name in the host country were rewarded. They were also given Life Time achievement award by the acting high commissioner. These persons who came from humble backgrounds worked hard and achieved distinction in their respective fields were

recognized by the Acting High Commissioner. It galvanized the whole community.

In the afternoon, there was a variety show at the same place where children performed and displayed their talent. The debate contest, quiz competition, and skits were arranged by the Mission in collaboration with the community. A large number of those Pakistanis who had never met diplomats were given the opportunity to participate. Children also performed national songs. They were given awards and certificates by the Acting High Commissioner. My brother and sister also participated in the debating. Brother Abdul Ahad won first prize in English debating, and Sister Aisha also got third position in a speech contest. My father did serve as master of ceremony. The food was sponsored by a Pakistani businessman Saeed Khan Mehmand. But some untoward incidents also took place on occasion; one miscreant of Pakistani origin started abusing Saeed as an Indian agent. He objected to the provision of food from the Bombay palace hotel. It was jointly owned by Saeed and an Indian. It was averted with the prudent intervention of some Pakistanis and restraint by saeed Khan.

In the evening, a grand reception was held. The minister's communication was guest of honor. The entire diplomatic core, senior Brunei officers, chiefs of armed forces, dignitaries, members of the legislative council, businessmen, and the Pakistani community were invited. It was a jam-packed hall with 300 guests. The Acting high commissioner made the shortest speech of three minutes and let the audience

see the documentary on Pakistan. It was a very informative and persuasive movie. People appreciated the information and content of the documentaries shown at the event. It has introduced Pakistan in its original and rightful manner. People were amazed to watch the beauty of the Pakistani landscape and bustling cities. They commented that it was the first time they knew Pakistan, a progressive semi-industrialized country with dynamic youth. They praised the way Pakistan progressed in the midst of crises from its inception and achieved milestones. The reception conveyed the message of a developing, stable, peaceful, and shining Pakistan to eh audience.

On 6th September, High Commissions arranged the first-ever defense day at The Empire Hotel in Brunei. The Pakistani community was encouraged to join as self-paying guests, and foreigners would be sponsored by the Hig commission at the event. They responded positively, and 170 guests were invited. The guest of honor was Commander land Forces PG. Dato Aminan. The Acting High Commissioner briefed the audience about the bravery and steadfastness of the armed forces and people of Pakistan. He informed them that Indian aggression in 1948 to control Kashmir and 1962 in Rann of Kutch was stopped by the valiant sons of Pakistan. They defeated India in the Rann of Kutch battle and defended their homeland. In 1965 on the 6th of September, India again launched an out attack on Pakistan. The enemy dreamed of having breakfast at Lahore Gymkhana. But it was taught a lesson by the sons of Pakistan. The largest

tank battle after the world war was fought at chewing Sialkot, and the enemy was pushed back. It was the war effectively won by Pakistan. But the moot point was the unity of people on the back of armed forces. It was applauded by all and sundry, from DG ISPR to local people who were happy to see Pakistan as a powerful Islamic country.

In late September high Commission arranged a culture, cuisine, and art festival for one week. The minister of tourism was the guest of honor at the inauguration of the event. It continued for one week, and a large number of people attended the function. At the end of the event, the acting high Commissioner rewarded ladies for their relentless effort to make the program a success. He also distributed certificates among the participants. It was primarily a community -based function.

Pakistan High Commission sponsored an oratory contest at the university of Islam Sultan Sharif Ali. The event saw dozens of students from various institutions debating n the attitude of youth. They gave their views, and the judges decided on the winners. The Acting High Commissioner, in his speech, advised the youth to concentrate on their studies but learn the behavior of model Muslims. He distributed the prizes among the winners.

The Acting High Commissioner visited all four universities and discussed close cooperation between Pakistani and Bruneian universities. He proposed Mous and agreements between universities in various fields. The universities showed keen interest and held

many meetings at the High commission. He sent the proposals to the higher education Commission Pakistani and respective universities. The universities from Pakistan responded, and he forwarded the replies to local universities.

He established the Pakistan book corner at UNISSA. THE donated books contained the history of Pakistan, art and craft, economy, Islamic society, agriculture, industry, art, and mountains of Pakistan. The books were written by Pakistani writers, including a few by my father. The university lauded the move and committed to using them for the benefit of bringing the two countries closer. The activities during the five months were at their peak. In 21 weeks, 27 activities or events were held. It was considered to be the record. People felt the impact of activities as the behavior of locals changed for Pakistanis. THE visa that was delayed was eased, and police, labor, and immigration started treating Pakistanis as good people who cared about others. The activities brought Brunei on the radar of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

My father requested Ministry to grant him three days' leave to visit Indonesia. He was verbally informed by the DG personnel it would be done. He left for Indonesia on 1st October and visited the Indonesian capital Jakarta, bundung, and beyond to the Indian Ocean. He returned on 4th October and found that his application was rejected.

## Chapter 3: Arrival of Retired General as High Commissioner

Since the opening of the mission in 1985, non-career high commissioners, mainly retired Generals, have been sent to Brunei. The Indian High Commission opened in 1971, and Bangladesh reopened in 1998, but there are 16000 Indians and 25000 Bangladeshis. Their envoys worked hard to export skilled and unskilled workers to Brunei. However, the retired army officers kept aloof from any such petty works, and only 400-500 Pakistanis found their way to Brunei on their own. The high commission for Pakistan has neither got any considerable investment nor exports. Moreover, the Bruneian Government put Pakistanis on TWL (terror watch list), and when applying for a visa are screened for TWL. The visa for Pakistani is issued after three months process, but an Indian gets it in three days. It speaks volumes about the utility of retired generals as diplomats in Brunei. The existence of a mission in a country where you are suspected, you have no investment, you have very few visitors, and it keeps you on the terror watch list is questionable. The Pakistani Government must ponder over the futility of the Mission in Brunei. If they want to keep it as a vacation house for retired generals on their bravery, then it would be different logic altogether. The new High Commissioner, Retired general Tariq Rasheed, arrived on 6th October 2016. He was received by my father and my mother, and the staff of the mission. It was startling for all the people receiving him and his family

that he was fully suited but family wearing western clothing. The outgoing high commissioner and family were liberal but wore traditional clothing. The family not only used traditional dresses but displayed them. However, the new person seemed to be more advanced.

On the first day, he was hosted at our house. He enjoyed the food, but his spouse and daughter seemed snobbish. They were not feeling comfortable with our family. On the first day of the new general commissioner, my father offered him a briefing. The retired general told him that he knew everything and needed no briefing. However, my father kept the hard copy with him. He informed him that DG personnel Khayyam Akbar observed his activities and told him that my father was working beyond the mandate. He was briefed that my father was playing smart to impress the ministry. However, he said that all the activities they showed were better for bilateral relations; why were they against you? He inquired. He assured my father that he would be very considerate and cooperative if assisted in the discharge of his duties properly. At the time of Zuhr, he was invited by my father, and he readily accepted the instruction to call him every day. However, it was the first and the last prayer he joined at the office.

His credentials were presented within one month. The protocol team took us from the high commission to the palace. The child in his person came out with full force. He was filming the motorcade and the pilot bikers and even asked my father to film him going for the presentation of credentials to the palace of the Sultan

of Brunei. My father told him to lower the enthusiasm because the Bruneian staff was watching. Moreover, in the palace, he continued filming and photographing. He was given talking points by my father, and he asked him to remember because paper reading would not be acceptable. He went from corner to corner for filming and photographing. The palace officials were watching the ambassador of nuclear power keenly. In return, he shared photos with his friends on Facebook and social media.

He was warmly welcomed by the community. My father coordinated his welcome party at the Radisson hotel. It was attended by almost all leading community persons with families. He spoke to the gathering and told them that he was there to work. He narrated that he would be open for all; consider High Commission your home and feel free to contact him. People were very happy and positive about the new general. The team of the rival group approached him for another welcome party. He immediately accepted, contrary to the advice of my father, who advised him that unity could be achieved if parties attended by the High commissioner were collected. He attended the party, and the community was divided. It has romanticized people as a public servant who was very open and accessible. But the romance ended when they started coming to meet him. He looked down upon them and asked my father to handle them. He remarked that those goofs/ illiterates didn't know the status of the high commissioner and just walked in for a meeting. One day he required someone going to Pakistan to carry his luggage. My father called professor Yousef sani and

informed the general commissioner. General told him to keep him waiting; he said that he was there just to collect luggage. He replied to let him wait; he is an ordinary teacher and must feel the status of a high commissioner. The teacher overheard and was furious at it. However, my father calmed him down, and he carried material just because of my father. It is pertinent to note that he was among the organizers of the first welcome party.

He became snobbish and reclusive. He was very selective in meeting people, specially Pakistani. Moreover, he directed my father not to contact or meet any senior official. Initially, he took my father along while meeting ministers, but after learning the tips of diplomatic dealing, he went all alone, even not accompanied by his APS. In his third month, he asked my father to prepare a letter asking the minister of health for the job of his friend and son in the hospital. My father advised against it because it would give a very bad impression. He didn't accept it and sent it. However, till the end of his tenure, neither his son nor his friends were considered. But many doctors get a job on merit through online applications. He got hold of both cars, and one was sued by him and the other by his spouse. My father informed him about his entitlement, but he used his dictatorial power. In January 2017, he went on vacation. In his appointment letter, he was entitled to 30 days' leave after a year. But he availed after three months. He was counseled by DG personnel Khayyam Akbar to take a leave of fewer than 28 days to save his allowance. He said that he required 33 days leave; he advised that he write for 28 days and avail as much as

he likes and never mention it. He was taught it to the disadvantage of his own colleague. He availed of 33 days leave but neither relinquished nor assumed the charge and saved the allowance, and my father was denied charge allowance. The general, after assuming, canceled the single-country exhibition at a limited level. He asked my father to draft a letter comprehensive letter to the ministry of foreign affairs. The letter proposed an exhibition, fashion show, musical show, art and culture show, and variety show. He was advised to prepare separate proposals for each ministry because a composite proposal would not be considered by any ministry. However, he persisted with the proposal, and it never saw the light of approval. It was thrown in the dustbin after a waste of many months. He tried to contact the minister of commerce, Khurram Dastgir but to no avail.

In February 2017, a reception on the eve of 23rd March was planned. It was prepared meticulously with a background presentation for the audience. The video documentary was also shown on the eve of Pakistan day. But the disgusting thing was his rehearsals. My father used to speak extempore but generally got it in written form, and that too with dozens of rehearsals. He continued till the last day and bored everyone at the mission. The staff remembered his speech, but the General couldn't remember. The event was applauded by everyone.

The General started asserting himself by using all resources at his command for his personal comfort. He started buying items necessary and unnecessary through his credit card and got a refund. He was violat-

ing the rules. My father advised him that it was not as per the rules. He continued with his actions. He used all his entertainment budget for the mission, and even lunch was made at government expenses.

He got his daughter admitted to a tuition center. My father advised against it because, as per the rules, only school fees could be charged. However, he did it with impunity and total disregard for rules.

He called his son to Brunei and requested the Government to provide horses for his polo practices. The mission worked all around to get it approved. It was approved after hard pursuance.

It is also important to note that he used abusive language, so his driver, who was Pakistani with an army background, resigned. He appointed a Bruneian driver because he disliked Pakistani drivers. H resigned in a couple of weeks because of his oppressive attitude. He appointed another Bruneian, but he resigned in less than a month. He appointed the fourth Bruneian, who left within one week. My father recommended a Pakistani driver, but he rejected it because the driver was Sindhi. The driver qualified for all three tests and interviews, but on the ground of his domicile, he was rejected. He called the fifth interview and selected the least qualified person, who worked but gave a headache to everyone.

His attitude compelled the receptionist/ secretary to resign. He advertised for a secretary many girls applied. My father recommended an Indonesian, followed by a Filipino girl, but he selected a Bruneian girl. She worked for a few weeks and resigned. He selected another girl, and she stayed for a month. Finally,

the third secretary was elected, and she stayed because she was westernized and matched the family of the ambassador. of the Islamic republic. The Pakistan-based staff was also crying because of his attitude. My father started praying in salat, seeking the protection of Allah from his evil designs and talks. The staff always came to my father, seeking his help. But keeping in view previous experiences, he evaded. It is pertinent to note that in Abuja, the point-blank told the high commissioner to respect his team. He was also abusive to the staff.

The High commissioner continued with his activities without considering local sensitivities and protocol. Sultan used to cycle on Sundays, and the diplomatic community followed him. Our General Commissioner always tried to overtake the royal family and cycle with the Sultan. Diplomats and protocol people resented his overtures. They asked my father to coach him. He tried to counsel him, but he rejected it on the pretext that the sultan was accessible. In another event sultan had boating, diplomats were standing in line, sultan passed by saluting all; the high commissioner pushed his daughter to shake hands with the Sultan. It confused all, including security and protocol. Sultan was compelled to shake hands with a young girl and the high commissioner taking pictures. On return sultan again saluted all diplomats and didn't shake hands; our hero got out of line suddenly and offered a hand to the sultan; the sultan shook the hand. It forced him to come back and shake hands with everyone. He was shaking hands, and his daughter was taking pictures.

In July, the general tried after ten months of pursuance to the ministry of commerce for his grand exhibition in Brunei. It is pertinent to note that his estimates were exaggerated. My father advised him to allow him to get funds for an art and culture show on the eve of Independence Day. He allowed arranging funds and artists/persons to exhibit. He approached his colleagues at the ministry and got $8000 approved for the Independence Day celebration. He approached and convinced lady artist Ms. Shahla Rehman. Moreover, he asked my mother to work with other ladies to take care of the cultural side. My father got printed photographic history of the Pakistan movement at his own expense. General got hold of money once it reached and even didn't pay for rightful expenses on cultural preparations, lodging, and boarding of the artist. She was lodged at our house. General got four or five paintings at a very low price from the artist. She has already gifted one to him and another to the minister who was inaugurated. It was very disappointing to note that despite $8000 from the ministry, he consumed money from a community welfare fund. The funds were not appropriately used. He even didn't recognize the role of my mother in the cultural part of the exhibit but was applauded by people. He left immediately after the event for Pakistan. The next day's morning newspaper, it was reported that the acting high commissioner would be distributing certificates among the staff of the gallery and participants. HE read at the airport and called my father with a warning that if that event took place, he would complain to the foreign secretary. My

father distributed the certificates but did not report them in the press.

In 2016, in November, my father took off and went on Singapore and Malaysian tour with his family. It was ten days trip, and everyone enjoyed it after a long time. He came back and took my stepmother for umrah, and also for the surgery of my brother Muhammad. They went to Pakistan and got a consultation at Agha KHAN Hospital. They gave 26th December for surgery. They went to Saudi Arabia and came back to Pakistan along with their in-laws to Karachi. My father took his mother-in-law and my father-in-law to Makkah with him for Umrah. They returned back and started showing uneasiness about staying till the surgery of my brother Muhammad. They asked my father if they wanted to go for a few days and then come back. He informed them that surgery was on 26th December and it was just three days away. They went home and couldn't return on the day of surgery. My father requested his friends for assistance in finding blood etc. Zulfiqar sarohi, dil Jan chandio, Ibrahim maqsood, Saif malik,aijaz sarohi, and uncle Zameer went on the day. He was also looked after by his friends Imtiaz Shaikh and Abu bakr Madni. The surgery was successful. My father was reexamined with their brother at the hospital for four days and then shifted to the National institute of management Karachi hostel. He paid all the dues from pocket on the assurance of the ministry that it would be refunded. It is pertinent that JPMC Brunei gave estimates of BND 100,000 for surgery, which my father didn't want to spend. In Pakistan total cost was PKR800,000. How-

ever, it was never reimbursed. The ministry kept delaying and dodging the refund.

My father returned from Karachi in January, and general left for Pakistan again. He returned in late February 2017.

The august event was the last event of 2017. Pakistan high commission remained in hibernation. The High commissioner called on some ministers.

In 2018, my father again suggested that the ministry of foreign affairs be requested to approve a grant for an art and calligraphy exhibition on the eve of Pakistan day. My father once again approached his ministry and sought funds. He got an additional $4000 for the exhibition, besides $4000 for the national day reception. But again, the high commissioner showed reluctance to pay the artist his dues on account of the transportation of paintings. But the function was praised by the public. The event was well organized, and the presentations were better than the previous year.

On 26th march 2018, the chief of army staff visited Brunei and called on the Sultan. He met the community members at lunch. He was very open in discussions. He was asked questions about the next elections. He informed that Imran khan was a clean, dedicated, and loyal leader; nawaz Sharif's proof of corruption would surely land him in jail. He confirmed seeing the proof himself. He was asked about Zardari. He informed my father that Zardari was given a clean chit by NAB and was cooperative. My father asked, point blank, that a person who was synonymous with corruption was given a free hand. He replied that it was the decision of the people. My father deciphered it;

Imran khan would get center and Punjab, nawaz Sharif in jail, and Zardari would get sindh. My father inquired why Zardari and likes were imposed on sindh. The COAS replied that he was the chief of the popular party.

In July 2018, the Pakistan army polo team visited Brunei and played the first high commissioner of the Pakistan polo cup with the royal Brunei team. The Royal Brunei team won it. The Polo team also played on the birthday of the Sultan cup and lost all matches. However, they were appreciated. The high commissioner got the opportunity to talk with the Sultan for two hours, but no concrete proposal or even visa restriction removal was informed to him. He talked about his achievements and sundry things, not issues between Brunei and Pakistan.

In August 2018, my father was allowed to join a senior management course after a delay of three years. He joined Karachi NIM on the 27th of august. He worked hard to qualify for his course. The general, on the other hand, spent his last two months trying to get the extension. He failed to get an extension, then he stuck to the post and didn't relinquish the charge on 6th October. He used the budget for personal use after tenure and even got his visiting cards printed with the retired high commissioner. Moreover, he bought his gifts and other items and adjusted in September or before October.

## Chapter 4: Father at National Institute of Management Karachi

He joined NIM for SMC with the determination to give his best. He was dedicated to getting the best results. It was pointed out after closer observation at the start of the course that faculty members, especially the Chief instructor Samina Intezar, were biased. She was so obviously tilted towards certain individuals that participants, including my father, were apprehensive of impartial assessment. Moreover, the Director General was also obsessed with economics, and few of his friends attended the course. He lectured on economics and always acknowledged the presence of his friends, Mr. Fawad Sher and Mr. Habib Ahmed. Ms. Samina was biased on the basis of language. One morning she tried to stop my father while he was speaking in the classroom and told him to shorten his question; he replied that he was adding on the request of the speaker in his answer. She still protested and stopped because his answer was a few minutes long. On the contrary, she never stopped Mr. Fawad sher and Afaq during their questions; they asked questions after proper foreword, which lasted for many minutes. Mr. Ahmed shah, on the other hand, was considered to be the impartial faculty adviser. But he also showed his likes in the beginning. He informed the participants that the senior most in the service group would be presenting on the respective ministry. However, in the case of the ministry of foreign affairs, on

the instructions of the madam chief instructor, he allocated a group presentation to the father. Neither the senior colleague Mr. Fawad sher nor Mr. Ahmed iqbal shah informed the father of the change. It was the first manipulation that gave a broader hint about the results and assessments. The next was the Presentation itself; all the participants termed it the best. However, Mr. Iqbal Shah remarked that it was a" reasonably good attempt," but the same so-called honest additional directing staff termed another participant's Presentation very good, whereas the participants considered it a reasonable attempt. Madam and Mr. Shah, in the first term, tried to suppress and undermine father. However, he remained dominant in all lectures, activities, and research work. The important to mention about madam and Mr. Iqbal shah was their lack of information and competence to comment on the subjects. In most cases, their commentary was unmatched by the speakers' Content. They kept spreading the impression about the failure and strict/ serious assessment on the basis of the attitude of participants. Moreover, they were always doomsayers; they ruled by suppression, not by encouragement.

In October, madam was replaced by Mr. Akram Khowaja. It was relaxing for my father and other such participants.

During case studies and simulation exercises, madam never visited in the evening. The blue-eyed boys in the course left the premises without permission, and others kept working. The simulation exercises were actually holidays for some people and punishments

for others. The case studies were one of hurried exercise and ritual.

He sent letters to the Director General and the secretary establishment about his observations and loopholes in the training and assessment procedures.

## The letter to the establishment secretary

The letter to the establishment secretary was on the following lines;

While undergoing SMC training/course at NIM Karachi following was observed;

The faculty is incomplete, insufficient, and without required competence. The NIM career directing staff has little or no exposure to the service structure of the country. They guess or perceive according to their limited exposure. Moreover, they are easily influenced by participants due to their better language and knowledge of the subjects. The nepotism and favoritism on the basis of parochial consideration were evident.

Establishment division may like to place cadre service officers in the faculty positions at NIMs to provide a better learning atmosphere to the participants. Moreover, a balanced Presentation of all provinces would make it impartial and evenhanded

Appointment of a career officer as Chief Instructor at NIM Karachi has brought some qualitative change in the working and planning of lectures. The participants were kept psychologically in fear of failure by the

non-cadre directing staff to cover their shortcomings. They repeatedly reminded participants about the actions taken and the average awarded in previous tenures.

The e-library is in name only. The previous CI has not planned appropriately, and some monologues were invited, whereas good lecturers were taxed by giving full days. The free thoughts and quality questions were visibly discouraged. Madam always suppressed the healthy discussion.

The good practices and local examples are not shared. The theories and practical applications within Pakistan are nowhere featured. The impression is given to the participants that nothing is good in Pakistan and everything is good in the West. Moreover, speakers, including DG-NIM, are fond of citing foreign examples, whereas local best practices are present.

The faculty and speakers refer all best practices to the West and all ills to Pakistan. This gives participants every reason to believe that Pakistan is ungovernable because of below-average manpower and lack of will.

The issue of objective and fair assessment is always there. The assessment methods need to be made more stringent and transparent by making it an everyday progressive assessment so none can manipulate it at the end of the course. The weightage to leadership, decision-making, communication, relationship, cooperation, planning, and analysis may be manifest as participants who were apparently hesitant, indecisive,

and poor in communication and leadership may not be rewarded. It was observed that participants who remained low profile parachuted to the first positions.

Public sector training institutes play a very vital role in coaching and instilling good qualities among the bureaucrats. The faculty and leadership may lead by example and resist external influences and evaluate participants on pure merit. The objective of training can be better achieved if certain in-house changes and adjustments are made. A few suggestions are submitted for your kind consideration.

## Suggestions for SMC Training

Introduction

The participants at this level are well aware of many routine things. They require skill/ capacity building in new technologies and techniques. Most of them are unaware of digitalization. The administration may dedicate the first two weeks to teaching them computer and related digitalization skills. The group may be divided according to level into three subgroups. The fitness of officers, both mentally and physically, is the most important factor which may be focused on. The class break may be for two hours, from 1pm to 3pm, and participants may be asked to have a compulsory nap to be fresh for the evening session. Local visits to best-practicing and worst-practicing institutions may be arranged and briefed on why and how they are so. To inculcate honesty among the officers.

free food and gifts from government officials during visits may be banned. Officers may be exposed to the life of an ordinary citizen of Pakistan. It is proposed that each batch may adopt an institute educational or health and continue to support it. The environmental committee is formed at the beginning of the whole session, which may look after the green park belts, improve the plantation in the institution, get the outside of NIM cleaned, and have trees looked after.

Changing Mindset of Participants:

Presently the bureaucrats in Pakistan think of themselves as government and beyond the general public in all aspects like vision, prudence, and power. They don't act as public servants but rulers in most cases. The desire to "save the people" is perhaps the most definitive characteristic of being a bureaucrat. This common sentiment is traceable in the talks or writing of officers, either retired or serving. This attitude needs to be changed through motivation, encouragement, and teaching rules. The tutelary relationship between the people who are cast as the embodiments of the state and the ordinary citizens has been a legacy of colonial governance in the sub-continent and Pakistan since independence.

Along with targeting the hierarchical relationship between the governing and the governed, human rights training programs may also be taught to challenge the traditional role of government officials as superior and educators of the people by portraying the mass subjects who are themselves in need of education and

reform. Human rights experts and trainers may be qualified to educate the unqualified governmental actors. The bureaucratic actors may be compelled to recalibrate their proximity to people and base their claim to authority on being of the people rather than standing above them or superior to them. Primary obligations of the administrative machinery of Pakistan were meant to be citizen-centric, rule-based, and apolitical in spirit, wherein decentralization was necessitated to be the hallmark to cater to the needs of the common man at the gross root level.

Quaid-e-Azam foretold the bureaucrats on different occasions in candid words. In an address to a gathering of civil officers of Baluchistan on 14th February 1948, he advised, "We have met here today without any distinction of being big or small, as servants of the state in order to think out ways and means of advancing the interests of the people and our country. From the highest to the lowest, we all are the servants of the state" Again, addressing the Gazetted Officers at Chittagong on 25th March 1948, he cautioned:- "You do not belong to the ruling class; you belong to the servants. Make the people feel that you are their servants and friends, maintain the highest standard of honor, integrity, justice, and fair play" During another informal talk to Civil Officers at Government House Peshawar in 14thApril 1948, he alerted, "Do your duty as servants to the people and the state, fearlessly and honestly. Service is the backbone of the state. Governments are formed, Governments are defeated, Prime Ministers come and go, and Ministers come

and go, but you stay on, and, therefore, there is a very great responsibility placed on your shoulders. You should have no hand in supporting this political party or that political party; this political leader or that political leader-this is not your business" If this spirit is inculcated among the officers, it would be a great service for the country.

## Humble Suggestions for training modules:

The participants may learn about a wide range of subjects, including an introduction to government and public administration, administrative reform, enhancing public trust and governance through innovative administration, the future of South Asia and roles of government, Pakistan's electoral system and party politics, politics: current State and challenge, local government and decentralization in, economy and economic and fiscal policies, urban transport policy, science and technology policy, and impact, birth rate and demographic dividend, and social security policies, public expenditure management, national and provincial public service system, and personnel management, ideal for leaders, and characteristics of public administration and qualities needed by senior civil servants.

Leadership workshop sessions by young executives from the public and private sectors together with NIM faculty for an exchange of ideas and network building

may be conducted. The success stories of the participants with examples may be presented by them.

Participants may complete the training program by writing and presenting concept papers on various topics, including leadership, decentralization, ideal bureaucrat, ideal leadership, and realistic and pragmatic options for Pakistan to grow.
Public, private partnership and their impact on the economy
Simulation Exercises purposes are defined to the participants as follows;

Purpose of the Simulation Exercise
The Simulation Exercise for senior officers may be based on real-life problems, departments, institutions, or companies. The group may be assigned a department to stay with the entire period of simulation, gather information, participate in day-to-day affairs and decisions, and propose a roadmap for improvement, which should be measurable, attainable, and timely. They must be exposed to difficult and challenging situations. The departments like public education, health, water supplies, sanitation, and industrial development to tourism can be assigned.

Key leadership competencies
The Simulation Exercise may be developed to assess the five key leadership competencies: Create Vision and Strategy, Mobilize People, Uphold Integrity and

Respect, Collaborate with Partners and Stakeholders, and Achieve Results.

Create a Vision and Strategy

Leaders define the future and chart a path forward.

Mobilize People

Leaders inspire and motivate the people they lead. They manage performance and provide constructive and respectful feedback to encourage and enable performance excellence. They lead by example, setting goals for themselves that are more demanding than those that they set for others.

Upholding Integrity and Respect

Leaders may be given such tasks that they exemplify ethical practices, professionalism, and personal integrity. They create respectful and trusting work environments where sound advice is valued. They encourage the expression of diverse opinions and perspectives while nurturing collegiality. Leaders are self-aware and seek out opportunities for personal growth but not at the cost of their teammates. At the end of the exercise, each leader may be asked to submit his report on the teammates enumerating their work ethics, cooperation, strength, weakness, aptitude, contribution to the group, and tendencies to shine at the cost of others, etc.

Team up with Stakeholders

Leaders must be deliberate and resourceful about seeking the widest possible spectrum of perspectives. They demonstrate openness and flexibility to forge

consensus and improve outcomes. They bring a whole-of-government perspective to their interactions. In negotiating solutions, they are open to alternatives and skillful at managing expectations. Leaders share recognition with their teams and partners.

Achieving Results

Leaders mobilize and manage resources to deliver on the priorities of the task given to them, improve outcomes and add value. They consider context, risks, and business intelligence to support high-quality and timely decisions. They anticipate, plan, monitor progress, and adjust as needed. Leaders take personal responsibility for their actions and the outcomes of their decisions. Their working conditions, time, and resources may be considered while assessing their results.

Assessment of Exercises

Multiple assessment techniques may be used to assess candidates on the skills and behaviors underlying their capabilities. These exercises include a written summary, a presentation, and a question period.

Written summary and Presentation

In this exercise, the candidates may be given the opportunity to deal with a number of issues and problems presented in the form of emails, letters, and reports. However, individuals while working alone, the participant has to prepare and submit a written summary of the actions and the rationale for his portion.

They may be judged if they collect as a group on how they intend to take on the issues and problems presented. Subsequently, the group and participant make an oral presentation to an assessment panel based on this material. The leader may be assessed on his ability to get work done in a heterogeneous group with varying levels of competencies, and the participant on the basis of his core capability and efforts to find solutions in his own part of the assignment.

Question period

After the Presentation, the assessors may ask the candidate to answer a series of questions on his part and leader for collective group efforts. These questions may be based on the Presentation and written material pertaining to it. The purpose of this question-answer session may be to clarify and/or challenge the courses of action chosen by the candidate.

Features of the Simulation Exercise

A written Assessment Report may be produced shortly after participation in the Simulation Exercise. The report may give a description of the competencies assessed, the candidate's ratings on each of the competencies, and a summary of the candidate's performance. Moreover, the leader and his group rating also are rated.

## CASE STUDY

The case study method enables a researcher to closely examine the data within a specific context. In most cases, a case study method selects a small geographical area or a very limited number of individuals as the subjects of study. Case studies, in their true essence, explore and case study as a research method 2, investigate contemporary real-life phenomena through detailed contextual analysis of a limited number of events or conditions and their relationships. Yin (1984:23) defines the case study research method "as an empirical inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context; when the boundaries between phenomenon and context are not clearly evident; and in which multiple sources of evidence are used."

There are several categories of the case study. Yin (1984) notes three categories, namely exploratory, descriptive, and explanatory case studies. However, in SMC training, this is the least priority item, so just formality is completed. It may be given due weightage in the learning modules, and participants may be given tasks with a due time limit to produce specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and timely recommendations at the end of their research. The issues like water conservation, bio saline agriculture, agro-based industry, hi-tech industrialization, startups, microfinancing and its impact on unemployment, education and its link with economic growth and women's literacy, etc.

Current issue presentation

The participant may be allowed to select one for him/her and then prepare it within the stipulated time. He may be judged on the following points,

- Content and way to tell the story
- Checking that he/she doesn't have too much information
- Content supports his/her points
- He/she may use slides as discussion points, not a teleprompter means reading
- Slides are used for clarification or amplifying the message
- PowerPoint may not be made like a permanent document but just a reference for the speaker
- Loaded slides and their copies for distribution may not be the desirable outcome; one slide, one idea
- How for speaker engages the audience
- Proper tone and pitch while expressing different issues
- Presentation may be visible from all corners
- The font, colors, graphics, clip art, and other areas may be examined

Conclusion:

The participants of the senior management course, in the majority, complain that whatever they studied in these courses has little relevance to what was expected of them in their jobs. Instead of cookie-cutter modules, there may be specially tailored courses. Some valued it on the basis of the opportunity to network with colleagues.

The impact assessment may be carried out for training delivered. Benchmarking with other countries may be done by NSPP. Moreover, there may be publicly available data about the quality of civil service after all-encompassing training.

Basic computer literacy, Microsoft office management, and online services may be further strengthened. Countries like Singapore are teaching their civil servants how to use data to improve service delivery, data visualization, big data analytics, and managing freedom of information. The Malaysian NPC is also training its public servants with a focus on modern technology and accessibility through e-governance. But NIM Karachi cannot change the courses on its own; it can only submit proposals. However, it may readjust the time schedule, re-arrange simulation methods, case studies can be result-oriented, and local and inland visits can be arranged on purpose to expose participants to the realities of the countryside/ ordinary people. Health and freshness may be taken into account while couching. The free time can be utilized to complete the modules. The last week may not be loaded. The participants from other provinces and abroad may be allowed to visit Karachi and shop for their families in the last week.

Father submitted detailed suggestions before the final results were announced or leaked. He pointed out all those loopholes and manipulations in black and white.

While he was there, he pointed out certain things which were contrary to the statements. The faculty

always cursed corruption and the patwari system. The faculty was fond of blaming everyone and considering itself the perfect one. Once they took participants to Jahangir Welfare Trust. The trust arranged a briefing and visited a sumptuous lunch. Moreover, they presented gifts by name to the participants. Father raised objections about why a welfare organization was spending on well-off people. They tried to explain that it was from the pocket of board members, not from donations. However, a few participants were not satisfied. Father paid the amount estimated on lunch and gifts in the fund. On return, the faculty was grilled.

When they went for a country study tour, all the arrangements were made by the concerned deputy commissioners. The field staff suffered the brunt of delegations. It was ultimately Patwari who arranged all lunches and dinners for us. The most glaring extravagance was three faculty members with three hired cars. They lectured participants on austerity but used government funds for personal luxury. They could have used one car. Moreover, they hired two coasters for 21 participants. They might have boarded with officers or used one coaster. But they considered themselves superior and beyond the implementation of austerity. In Islamkot deputy commissioner arranged our stay and food from breakfast to dinner. On one fine evening, my father asked Mr. Ahmed shah whether the food was being arranged by NIM or the local administration. He replied that it was being arranged by NIM. Father was reluctant to attend dinner

that night, but on the assurance of Mr. Shah, he went there. The assistant commissioner was asked by my father and categorically informed my father that it was by the district administration. On return to the rest house, father commented on the lack of practice. He told him that you have been criticizing the Patwari system and corrupt practices but benefitting from the same system. He was asked to explain why it happened when participants paid for their food. He tried to justify on the ground that they forced him. But the Assistant commissioner denied any pressure. They took officers to umarkot, mithi, Thatta, and Badin. The Dcs arranged lunches and presented gifts to all officers. He just interjected at Thatta when DC gifted Ajrak, asking whether those were given by Patwari.

Mr. Ahmed Iqbal shah was visibly perturbed and annoyed with my father on his assertions. On return, my father was kept away from presenting the lessons learned from the study tour. He must have past experience in mind; during MCMC father drubbed NIM on many points. In the final assessment, three persons were given top positions, namely Mr. Saeed Agha, Mr. Habib Ahmed, and Mr. Fawad sher. Father asked the chief instructor Mr. Akram Khowaja about the sudden change. Because it was popularly believed that father would be number one and Mr. Habib Ahmed number two. But suddenly, two persons were not considered to be the contenders for the top three positions. He informed my father that madam Samina influenced the director general, citing and quoting my father's statement. She quoted that when she stopped

my father from a long question, he said," Should my father cut my tongue and throw it out" so such a radical person might not be considered for the top position. It was a lie she fabricated to damage his chances of clinching the position. The second person who tried to bring negative things was Mr. Ahmed Iqbal shah. He cited incidents of the country study tour and fabricated negative statements. He also recommended to the DG that he must not be considered. The good shah told him that on the study tour, he would not give full marks. The Director General, who, in a personal interview with my father, praised his performance, was also moved by negative members and didn't give weightage to the current chief instructor. The DG was friendly to Mr. Fawad sher and Mr. Habib Ahmed, and the results proved the apprehensions of the participants correct.

The participants from FBR were invited and served participants at nice restaurants. They also remained very connected with faculty members. It was felt that Mr. Wajid Shaikh remained very active in manipulating. It was observed that MCQs were leaked before time, and otherwise, average participants attempted with ease. They even were given topics of analysis paper well in time, so they prepared and got it checked by appropriate persons. It was alleged that course assessment was biased, manipulated, and positively twisted in favor of blue-eyed boys.

Father arranged a dinner at Khairpur town. It is a co-operative society run by members; we have two plots there. The organizer Mr. Amir Abidi very actively and warmly hosted the participants. Father invited all coursemates. However, a few of the 46 persons refused on one or other pretext. The chief instructor Mr. Akram Khowaja accompanied the participants. Khairpur town is approximately 30 km from NIM. However, in the evening time, some participants found it difficult to locate. They were asked to follow the main group but went on their own. The main group went to Bahria town and took a tour of the town for a few minutes. They were bogged down in a forested area. One of them, Mr.Afaq of Nab, was furious and called my father names. Father showed restraint and didn't reply to him. He was pursued by the chief instructor and other fellows, but he remained outside and didn't eat dinner. He immediately complained to eh director general about the incident. The DG asked Wajid Shaikh to investigate. It was perceived by the majority of coursemates that Mr. Habib of the customs service used him to malign my father and clinched the first position. It is pertinent to note that MR. Afaq was also a contender for the top position. Neither faculty nor coursemates considered him the contender. The DG also asked the Chief instructor to furnish the report. He was briefed, but no action was taken against the recalcitrant officer who blamed my father for supporting the land-grabbing mafia. He threatened action against the land grabber and my father. However, he failed to do anything and went es-

cort free. He supported madam stamina and DG, both hailing from Karachi. The event considerably damaged the standing of my father, and biased faculty members exploited it.

The NIM was reflective of the national bickering in Pakistan. The petty interests and maneuvering were obvious. The friends who were eating and drinking together worked against each other for personal gain. Father went with the clear mind that he would neither demand any distinction nor strive to get favors. He served his friends on a daily basis for the sake of Allah. His old friends or commoner batch mates initially promoted him, especially Mr. Hamal Baloch. But later on, he changed his campaign and supported other friends on a reciprocal basis. He might have thought that father was mute, neither wishing to continue lobbying nor appreciating it. He, Mr. Saeed Agha, and Mr. Jameel Balochi, along with a few other friends, including Balochistan provincial services, were taken on board. Father helped almost all coursemates who requested help. But in the peer rating, the lobbying worked wonders, and Ms. Samina used it. But interestingly, my father fared well on that point. But Mr. Jameel Baloch himself complained after the results of discrimination between my father and him. However, my father convinced him to be thankful to Allah.

Father was offered to join NIM. He considered it an honor and an offer based on his excellent performance. He was verified by the chief instructor, and he was certified. The director general also indicated bout

it. Moreover, the DG inquired from the chief instructor why my father was joining NIM when he was having excellent results and the best posting abroad. The chief instructor explained to him the interest of my father in improving knowledge and skills and sharing with young officers. He agreed to require his services. However, after the results, my father messaged the chief instructor, "Aslamalikum, sir. The positions and percentages circulated by the group have proven to be correct. The majority of participants wondered about the upward movement of a few individuals without visible performance. Anyway, now it is reality. My father always believed that the best of all should serve as faculty. As my father failed to achieve distinction, so couldn't be eligible t serve as faculty. The three toppers owe NIM a lot, so they must pay back by serving there. Thanks for supporting." The CI tried to convince him that his numbers were almost equal to theirs; it was just because of technicalities and weightage to other faculty members. It was indeed a microcosm of Pakistani society where ethnic, sectarian, linguistic, service group, and city proximity all worked and merit lost.

The time at NIM was very productive; otherwise, participants were encouraged to donate to the cause. Initially, the prayer caller of the Masjid approached the father for assistance in the dowry of his niece. He got contributions from his coursemates. Later on, four more persons were requested, and he arranged for all of them. Moreover, he got donations for his project Masjid in the village. The persons who donated and

encouraged others were Mr. Agha saeed and Hamal Baloch. The coursemates generously donated to the Masjid and other welfare initiatives. At the end of the course, my father collected funds from participants and distributed them among the staff members in appreciation of their service. There was a cultural committee each term, and they also collected 5000 from each participant. They spent on improving the facilities at NIM. Father got IT facilities improved from the funds. It is important to mention that his coursemates trusted him. He always shared the details of expenditures, but they never demanded.

On 17th December 2018, my father returned to Brunei and assumed the charge of acting high commissioner. He started planning activities at the faster track. In the first week, the first-ever screening of Pakistani movies was done at the Mahakarya institute of film production. It was attended by the Minister's primary resources and tourism. The movies "actor in Law" and " namaloom Afraad2" were watched and appreciated by the organizers. The next was the arrangement of the first-ever Jinnah day on 25th December 2018. He informed the audience about the role of the founder in the Pakistani movement. People were not aware of the stature of Quaid e azam because they were never informed about him. People in Brunei knew Gandhi and Nehru but not Jinnah.

In January, a tour operators' conference was arranged. They were briefed about the potential of Pakistan in all sectors of tourism, i.e., adventure having the highest mountain peaks, heritage having an an-

cient heritage of Hindu, Buddha, Sikh, and Muslim faiths, even jain temples, archeological having Mohan jo daro, Harappa, Makli, the largest fort of world Rani kot and Mughals monuments, shopping with huge malls at Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad, sightseeing at sea, Lahore the city of gardens, Northern Pakistan and Peshawar .they were impressed with the variety of tourism sectors and beauty of Pakistan. They promised to promote the packages for Pakistan. They demanded certified tour operators from various cities. The mission wrote to all provinces, but their response was less than expected.

He arranged Biryani Night, and the guest of honor was the minister of Tourism. He informed the attendees that Pakistan has a wide variety of cuisine. It is more than 300 dishes all over the country. There are dozens of rice, chicken, mutton, vegetable, and mixed dishes. He also encouraged them to undertake a visit to Pakistan and enjoy genuine Pakistani food according to the area and season on the spot. He tried to impress upon them the relevance of food with sceneries and weather from Karachi to Quetta, Peshawar to Muzafarabad. It was again applauded by the participants and considered to be the first such conference to promote tourism through gastronomy.

The Kashmir solidarity day was celebrated with a large number of Pakistani and Kashmiri attendees. The speeches on occasion underscored the need to resolve it for the stability and security of South Asia. The root causes and origin of the problem, UN resolutions, and the Shimla agreement were also dis-

cussed. Audiences were educated on the issue of Kashmir.

Pakistan book corner was established by the acting high commissioner in 2016, and again it was strengthened with a fresh donation of 5 dozen books. It was established at the University of Islam by sultan Sharif Ali with the objective that students and scholars might have options at hand to know about Pakistan and its struggle.

In March, missions across the world celebrate Pakistan day on 23rd March. But after Imran Khan Government, the budget for reception n Pakistan day was not released. The atmosphere was charged due to an air raid by India and the subsequent retaliation of Pakistan. Father intended to arrange it at any cost. He mustered funds for foreign guests and invited the Pakistani community to join by paying for their food. They readily agreed, and the function was arranged at a grand level. People were briefed about the strength and resilience of Pakistani people. People were also briefed about the potential of trade and tourism besides investment in Pakistan. The theme of the Reception was exploring Pakistan.

The art and culture exhibition was another function attended as the guest of honor by the minister of culture. The leading lady artist, Shchla Rehman, traveled from Karachi to display her work. It was lauded by visitors, and Pakistan got positive publicity in the local press.

In April, my father established a book corner at Seri Begawan Teachers College University. He also ad-

dressed the faculty on occasion. He emphasized the promotion of knowledge-based societies. He pointed out that when Muslims were leaders in research and scholarship, they led the world. But since the decline in learning and research, they are followers of others in all fields.

The next event was the distribution of the medals among Bruneian and Pakistani community leaders. The friend of Pakistan was bestowed on those Bruneians who supported trade promotion or employed Pakistani workers. Pakistanis were rewarded for their service to the community and remittance sent home, besides hiring Pakistani workers or getting a job for them.

The catalog show was arranged at the Chinese chamber of commerce. They remarked that it was for the first time that Pakistan Mission approached them for imports. It is pertinent to note that the Chinese are the dominant business community in Brunei.

He was invited by the university Islam Sultan Sharif Ali to deliver a lecture on the potential of OIC. He addressed the students and professors of the university and informed them about the sleeping giant. He informed that the OIC population was 1.8 billion and GDP on PPP based more than the USA. It has 67% oil,64% gas,40% rare earth elements,33% arable land, and 60% youth population. The OIC has the advantage of geography, including sea lanes and geographical choke points. But the leaders in the Islamic coun tries did not realize the dream of a unified OIC to tackle the problems of economy, security, education,

health, and unemployment. The professors and vice chancellor appreciated the discourse and points raised by the father in his lecture.

In May, Ramdhan started, and the mission planned eleven Iftaar parties at various districts for orphans, especially abled persons and expatriate workers. The seven parties were arranged by the mission at its win, and two parties were done in collaboration with the community. The two parties were arranged by the community at the prodding of the acting high commissioner. The four events were ministerial-level events, and ministers were invited as guests of honor. The minister of defense was invited on the first Ramdhan, the minister of religious Affairs on the 5th Ramdhan, the minister of education on the 25th Ramdhan, and the minister of health on the 27th Ramdhan. Throughout the month, Pakistan's mission dominated the activities in the country. The locals and expatriates, including Pakistani, approached it. The impact on the host government was tremendous. Besides doing all these activities, he remained involved in discussions with the host government for an air service agreement and the operation of Royal Brunei airlines. He also pursued the holding of joint economic commission meetings, FTA working group meetings, and First ever bilateral consultation forum meeting at the secretary of foreign affairs level.

In six months, 33 activities were planned and executed; it has boosted the image of Pakistan in Brunei. People started taking Pakistan seriously, and normal empty looks about Pakistan disappeared. The immi-

gration, labor, customs, and foreign affairs officials started treating the Pakistani community favorably.

The new High commissioner, retired major general abdul aziz Tariq, joined the high commission in September 2019. He was guided and trained by my father. His credentials were presented in just three weeks. His meetings with ministers and high dignitaries were arranged within one month. The servants were kept at our house and treated like family members. All his issues were settled by the father personally. However, the gentleman started questioning the honesty of my father. He asked about the sumptuary allowance; when informed about the activities. He inquired the father," anyone put the pistol on your temple to do these activities." Father replied no. he said that was why he used allowances which were his property. Father told him that before joining the mission, he was not supposed to claim any allowance. Moreover, sumptuary was supposed to be utilized for the cultivation of local dignitaries, not claimed as one's own money. The general was informed by everyone, including the crown prince, minister of foreign affairs, defense, education, health, and Generals, that my father was a well-known figure in the country. General started feeling jealous. He asked the accountant to bring all files of his tenures starting from 2015 to investigate whether he committed any corruption. He invited the community to get any complaints so that my father may be maligned. The community unanimously replied that there had been no com-

plaints during the last four years. Moreover, they went further in praising the high commission for its proactive actions that have enhanced the respect of the country. He then called businessmen and inquired about my father's business activities or any partnerships. When he failed to get any positive response to executing his conspiracy. He started irritating and provoking my father. Father told him that he was in no mood to pick up a fight. If he has any doubts n accounts, activities, and dealings, he must write to the ministry for a proper inquiry. It is pertinent to note that during the period in question, 48 activities were done, and 25 million PKR was saved on account of rent and salary of the retired general. When he came, he started planning to discredit my father and did nothing. He then asked my father if he wanted a special audit of accounts. Father agreed to the proposal and wrote a letter to the ministry with his own signatures.

In the meantime, MOFA appointed my father as Head of Mission to the Niger republic. This news was kept by the father secret till all arrangements were made. General started telling the father that it was due to his recommendation that he was appointed as Head of the mission. Because the intelligence report in the file said that he may not be given an independent charge. He didn't know that my father was offered the same in 2018, and he declined. However, he didn't tell the general and kept reminding my father of his favors. When it was too much, then father informed that it was his favor to ministry no other way around be-

cause none was going to Niger; so, no question of any recommendation for Niger. Moreover, showed him the 2018 order that was turned down by the father. General was not tamed. He still tried to show that it was he who managed the posting. He made up WhatsApp messages and sent him, not knowing that messages by others were always identifiable. Now the question was of relieving. He was not ready to relieve the father. He asked the ministry to keep him till February 6, 2019, due to the visit to the naval Chief. In the meantime community, diplomats, and Brunieans started hosting farewell parties. It has never happened in the history of the Pakistan high commission that locals hosted parties for even high commissioners. At least 36 parties were hosted, including the Chief of the armed forces, ministers and defense academy, and universities. General started feeling the heat of it and tried to sabotage the alst grand party. He called the organizers to cancel it because a lot of parties were already done. However, only one, Mr. Saeed khan, was influenced; the rest, like dr Aftab, azam, and the locals, were not impressed with his arguments. This party was attended by ministers, diplomats, senior officers, local dignitaries, and the Pakistan community. The shields were presented by the minister of culture and tourism on behalf of Bruneians, Mr. Saeed/ Dr. Aftab, on behalf of the Pakistan community, and the dean diplomatic corps HE Mr. Ahmed Maskori of Oman, on behalf of the diplomatic corps (it was also first of its kind that a deputy ambassador was honored by heads of missions). The general was burning in-

side, and he started showing his baseness in the last days. He gave some work to my father and, after completion, termed it substandard; he just too psychologically tortured him. However, he was not taking it seriously. On 2nd February chief of naval staff arrived. The retired general prepared a program of the level of the Head of state for the naval Chief. The intention was clear to humiliate my father if lapses occurred. But man proposes, and God disposes of it. He planned, and the naval Chief rejected 80% of his programs. He didn't go there without asking the general to change. General retired initially found a chance to shout at my father, but my father called his bluff by telling him to check with CNS. When he called him to confirm, the CNS simply told him that it was unnecessary, so he didn't go there. The last humiliation was still waiting for the retired cop. On the fifth of February, he invited CNS for dinner at his house. The CNS at 730 pm informed that he was flying the same night instead of the sixth. He was asked to honor the dinner at least. He replied in negative. Although it was at 8pm and the flight at 1155 pm. The General was completely devastated but still ran to the airport to say goodbye to the CNS. My father told the staff officer of CNS that if he had been the high commissioner, not only my father but none of the staff of the high Commission would have come to the airport. When we sat at the airport in the VIP lounge, the General said that dinner would have been finished by now. The CNS told him that he had made a quiet dinner at the hotel and felt no need to bother him. The

general said that he might have faced some problems because of the mismanagement of his deputy MR. Sirohey. The CNS replied no, not at all. He has been very professional and efficient in the conduct of the visit. He further added that he conducted their visits in Yemen and Djibouti single-handedly. But he said that he didn't like overstuffing that was done here. On 6th February, the retired cop relieved my father after a simple tea party. It's pertinent to note that my father arranged an excellent dinner and lunch welcome for him and lent money during five months tenure. But General always remained unthankful. Father took a sigh of relief when he boarded the flight. My mother and sister remained in Brunei because of exams. We have already de-hired the house and rented an apartment from a Pakistani. The general called the owner and asked him to give a statement that the apartment was taken in less rent. But he refused. It was the last attack on the reputation of my father. He himself rented a 6000 Brunei dollars house in 9000 and later got enhancement of 2000.

# Part IX: Niger

# Chapter 1: Niamey, Niger Republic Days

In February 2020, we arrived in Niamey after touring Oman and Istanbul, Turkey, on the way. Father was appointed Head of mission with the promise to upgrade the Mission and declare him the first ambassador after sixteen years. However, after their arrival, he was not treated as an ambassador but normal officer. He was denied his joining time daily allowance and forced to halt allowance due to flight unavailability. The colors of step-motherly treatment were obvious. But he was determined to work hard and practice economic diplomacy at this hardest station. He was informed that Niger is a brotherly and friendly country. On arrival and after interaction with local authorities, it was revealed that India has overthrown Pakistan in all fields, including its support on the Kashmir issue. The largest rice supplier has become either India or Thailand. For the last five years, no Nigerien minister attended the OIC contact group in Jammu and Kashmir meetings. They have neither quit nor supported Pakistan in reverence to their newly found Indian friends. Niger has opened an embassy in India, not Pakistan. It's in contradiction to our statements of friendship, i.e., Pakistan opened its embassy in Niamey in 1977, but India in 2011. Niger positively responded to India but not to Pakistan. The worst thing for Pakistan was the Nigerien embassy in Delhi.

In the initial months, Pakistan HOM was not given access to the president or prime minister. The minister's interior has not approved the courtesy call. The minister of foreign affairs met him after three months of pursuance. It's interesting to note that Indians committed to building a convention Centre in Niamey in 2018, and Pakistan promised 18000 tons of food assistance. They handed over in January 2021, and Pakistan failed to deliver even 1800 tons. India has given $150 million in grants, including assistance for holding the African Union summit in 2020. The credit line to buy Indian products and services was also offered. It has created a niche for Indian products. The embassy of Pakistan was not supported by the government, and the previous head of mission tried on his own to turn the tide but failed. My father devised a strategy to contain the onslaught of Indian juggernauts. All of a sudden ministry woke up because Niger was hosting the OIC foreign ministers' conference in March. The ministry directed to get support from the Niger government. The then minister Mr. Kalla Ankaraou was evasive. He was not even willing to talk with his Pakistani counterpart on the telephone. But luckily conference was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. My father started interacting with Nigerian ministers, parliamentarians, academia, and the public in all corners. He hosted scores of iftar parties during Ramzan and sacrifices during Eid al Azha. The first big reception was held on Inde-

pendence Day without funds from headquarters. He was using all his resources, including his salary, to create some impact. In August, Niger faced flooding. The embassy of Pakistan was the first embassy to respond to it, and the Ambassador toured villages affected by the flood and gave food packets. In August, six months after the arrival of my father in Niger finally, the government of Pakistan declared him the Ambassador. He assumed charge on 20th august and presented credentials to the president of the Niger republic on 27 September 2020. His audience with the president has cleared many things. The president appreciated his proactive work for the benefit of the Nigerian public. Moreover, he liked his ideas about agriculture, irrigation, health, education, infrastructure, and industry. This message has created a positive opening for him in all departments. In all these months, he befriended many ministers and hosted them at a Pakistani house. He organized defense day, Iqbal day, Quaid day, and many other events without getting any monetary support from Pakistan. Kashmir was at his heart in all receptions. The 27 October black day and 5th august siege day were organized and attended by hundreds of people. In November, OIC CFM was held on 27-28 November. The Foreign Minister, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, arrived along with the foreign secretary and President Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Father couldn't receive them at the airport upon arrival because the

pilot had not given the correct time of arrival. However, he arrived within ten minutes and received the foreign minister. They took him to the Radisson Blue hotel, and the very first-day dinner was hosted by the Ambassador at the same hotel. He has invited local dignitaries, including five ministers and the secretary of foreign affairs. The FM Pakistan was surprised to see the outreach and connection of the Ambassador within a few months. It's important to note that the majority of ministers traveled to Diffa to attend the funeral of former president Mr. Tanja and Niger announced two days of national mourning. But still, five ministers, including interior, water, investment, education, and special projects, attended the dinner. The minister's water and sanitation also presented a traditional gift to the foreign minister. It was also a special thing that was noted by the Pakistani FM. However, he was worried about the outcome of CFM. It's pertinent to note that India tried its best to be invited to the CFM session like UAE CFM in 2019. They have asked the FM to invite their external Affairs Minister, remove Kashmir from the agenda, and don't mention Kashmir in Niamey declaration. It was almost agreed between them. However, the news was leaked to the Ambassador, and he took appropriate measures to foil their attempt. The FM Pakistan was apprehensive on 25th November that Indian EAM may come to Niamey despite assurances by my father. But on 26 November, he did-

n't appear, and FM was relaxed. Now the issue of Agenda and Niamey declaration was pinching. Father assured the FM that it would be done. The FM was not sure till it was practically done. On the 27th, there was a gala dinner by FM Niger. Father told the FM Pakistan to wait at the Pakistan office after dinner, and he would bring the Nigerien FM. Father literally took FM Niger to the Pakistan office, and afte. discussion, he agreed to put a para on Kashmir as suggested by the Pakistan side. On the following morning at breakfast, the FM Pakistan told the Ambassador that when he arrived and saw him, he thought the Ambassador was Moulvi. He would be praying and counting the days of posting. He might not have worked to get any results. His face value disappointed him, and he felt we were doomed. However, after two days in Niamey, his opinion about him changed to 380 degrees. He said that he would ask the foreign secretary to bring him such ambassadors who were effective and connected with the hosted authorities and public. On departure, he thanked the Ambassador for his outstanding and exceptional performance during the CFM. The FM especially praised the Ambassador on his connection with the government because he arranged his call on the prime minister on Saturday, which was a holiday. When the foreign secretary returned to Islamabad, he conveyed these words "excellent work done; please convey my appreciation to all members of the team led

ably by you." He was very appreciative of the work of my father. My father took them to the embassy. THE FM was disappointed to see the condition of the embassy. He ordered the FS to enhance the rental ceiling of the embassy and residence and provide a second car and additional staff car. However, after the lapse of one year, nothing happened in this regard. In December 2020 Government of Pakistan, after the lapse of four months to the commitment to flood relief, sent two C130 planes carrying 320 tents to Agadez and Niamey. The operation to deliver the goods to the Nigerian government was a very difficult task. The concerned ministry has not assisted the embassy in the smooth delivery of goods at Niamey. However, at Agadez, the local authorities have arranged everything from reception, delivery, lodging boarding, and even gifts for the officers. In Niamey, it was the worst experience. The airport authorities were not directed to exempt parking and servicing duties from the relief plane. The goods were not allowed before customs exemption, and even the foreign affairs and humanitarian ministry at one time advised the Ambassador to pay the duties to release the goods. However, Ambassador on his own got the goods released without paying the duties. The issue of lodging boarding was left to the Ambassador. The local authorities even didn't offer a cup of tea to the guest officers of the Pakistan air

force. The Ambassador arranged lodging, food, and gifts for the crew members.

The Ambassador was also allowed by the ministry to disburse 200 tons of rice to flood-affected people of Niger. He went from village to village and distributed the goods in collaboration with certain NGOs. The equipment for the Maternity home was worth one million USD, food packets to martyrs of armed forces and civilian victims worth $500 thousand, and many other relief activities were done during the year. The worth of total activities was almost $2.5 million. In the month of February, much awaited naval ship carrying one thousand tons of rice arrived at Cotonu port. The Ambassador earlier requested the government of Pakistan to approve local procurement and disbursement; it would have been cheaper than the naval ship. However, the government persisted in sending the ship. Again same lethargic attitude of Nigerien foreign affairs. The Ambassador of Niger in Benin told the Ambassador of Pakistan that she didn't have relations with local authorities to get rice released. She was very ineffective and inefficient. The team sent by the ministry of humanitarian action received the rice in a ceremony and flew back to Niamey. They left behind the agent to clear the rice, but he was unable to get it done. Finally, the Ambassador of Pakistan himself visited the local officials and got the rice cleared, but the transition charges were to be paid by the Nigerian authorities. They have not given to the

agent, and he was reluctant to pay. The Ambassador of Niger refused to assist in that regard. The Ambassador of Pakistan offered the money to the agent, and the rice was cleared after one week. During the whole operation, the minister of foreign affairs and its officers were not helpful. However, the prime minister and minister of humanitarian action were attending the phone and offering consolation to the Ambassador. When my father came back to Niamey, PM Niger, honorable Birgi Rafini, called him at his office and apologized for all troubles he suffered due to the non-cooperation of his bureaucracy. He also promised to reimburse his money spent during both operations. The money for the ship was reimbursed, but money spent during C130 was never recovered.

In February 2021, FM Pakistan had an envoys conference on zoom. He discussed various ideas for future action plans. He emphasized economic diplomacy and asked each Ambassador to provide a road map for the year within five minutes. It seemed impractical, but my father offered him three things, give a one percent target of imports, tourists, education, and health tourists of the host country from Pakistan. He also offered to achieve $20 million in exports, sending 100 importers to Pakistan and getting 100 exporters from Pakistan during the year. The FM told him that he would achieve the target; his name would be written in golden words. However, once achieved, nothing happened like before when he praised him on the

successful CFM conference. The FM never sent a two-liner appreciation to him. The Foreign Secretary also followed in his footsteps, but at least he appreciated him by sending WhatsApp messages.

In September 2021 Ambassador of Pakistan, in collaboration with the ministry of commerce and industries Niger, organized the first-ever Niger Pakistan trade and investment forum. He requested the ministry of commerce and TDAP to sanction $40,000 for the mega event, but not a single cent was approved. However, he managed to organize and offer exporters free lodging boarding, meals, transport, and gifts at the departure time. The Additional Secretary, Mr. Ali Javed, at MOFA Pakistan, was so jealous of his father's success that he didn't help him to get an official delegation to attend the conference. He tried his best to sabotage the event. However, my father requested a friend Syed lakhte Hasnain to help in this regard. He requested the minister of religious affairs, sahibzada Noor Ul haq Qadiri, to attend. He was declared the head of the delegation. Approximately 87 companies and entities attended the forum and signed 57 MoUs, including one for the establishment of the Niger-Pakistan economic zone. It was headed by Mr. Tauseef Ahmed, a Pakistani businessman.

In preparation for the business forum, Ambassador brought the minister of industries, commerce, and youth entrepreneurship along with the minister of Investment Niger on a Pakistan visit in June

2021. But the response of Additional secretary, Africa Mr. Ali Javed was lukewarm. Later on, father arranged all their travels at his own expense because the Ministry of foreign affairs and commerce refused to accord them the status of state guests. During their visit to foreign affairs, the secretary of foreign affairs, Mr. Sohail Mehmood, told the visiting ministers that he had sent the best Ambassador to Niger, whose activities are more than the entire Pakistan Missions abroad. The head of the Nigerien delegation, Mr. Gado Sabu Moctar, minister of commerce and industries, said," he attests it; he is the best Ambassador among all ambassadors in Niamey." These assertions made Mr. Ali Javed (AS-Africa) even more jealous of him. It made him against his father. He tried to sabotage all proposals sent to him, including the first Niger Pakistan business forum and the visit of ministers from Niger.

The Niger-Pakistan forum was one of the most successful events in the history of both countries. It was opened by the prime minister with 2500 dignitaries, businessmen, and diplomats in the audience. It was covered by the entire print and electronic media of the country. The forum was closed by the president of the republic, His Excellency Bazoum Muhammad, and the entire cabinet attended it. He used a superlative degree in praise of the Ambassador of Pakistan. President Bazoum expressed complete satisfaction with the successful organization of the Niger-Pakistan Business

Forum and underscored it as a symbol of close brotherly relations between the two countries, marked by a common faith and convergence of views and shared perspectives. He also praised the Ambassador of Pakistan's extraordinary efforts and shared some exciting comments:

"When my father met Ambassador, my father said that he was an unusual person. He proved it right. He is an extraordinary person and a reliable friend and brother. Today my father can say that Mr. Ahmed Ali Sirohey is our true brother; he is not only the Ambassador of Pakistan to Niger but also the Ambassador of Niger in Pakistan".

## REMARKS BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF NIGER:

"I thanked the government of Pakistan and appreciated the personal efforts of the Ambassador of Pakistan who worked day and night and made it happen. He is an outstanding and excellent ambassador. My father am grateful to the brotherly business community of Pakistan for choosing Niger for Pakistani investment. My father believe Niger Pakistan Business Forum 2021 was a success story with 87 Pakistani businessmen participating and great interest from investors and a broader vision for trade relations."

Remarks of federal minister religious affairs Sahibzada Noor Ul Haq Qadri after attending a business forum at Niamey," my father has never seen an ambassador in his entire political career who was appreciated and raised by the foreign president, prime minister and entire cabinet and striking words. The president termed him an extraordinary person and paid homage in the presence of the entire cabinet. My father consider it an excellent achievement that is the rarest in the history of diplomacy."

## LETTER TO FOREIGN SECRETARY REGARDING IMPACT OF AFRICAN UNION FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA)

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a free trade zone created in 2018. It is the world's largest organization, with the most participating countries since the formation of the World Trade Organization. AfCFTA was created by the African Continental Free Trade Agreement among 54 of the 55 African Union (AU) nations. Accra, Ghana, served as Secretariat of AfCFTA and was commissioned and handed over to the AU by the President of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo, on August 17, 2020, in Accra.

It took a long time for the African leaders to reach the conclusion that the African continent's free trade area was the ultimate choice to accelerate development and integration at the continental level. The president of Niger convinced his counterparts, especially

heavyweight Nigeria, to sign the document. Mr. Mahamadou Buhari of Nigeria finally signed it on July 7 at Niamey. The other members also followed suit, and the agreement was approved by all but one. The Eritrean government has decided to stay away from the pact for the time being.

Finally, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) framework agreement came into force on January 1, 2021, following the delay caused by many factors, including the coronavirus pandemic. All African countries have signed the AfCFTA framework agreement except Eritrea. Twenty countries have already ratified the framework agreement, and 34 are supposed to ratify it in the coming months.

The AfCFTA agreement will create the largest free trade area in the world in terms of the number of participating countries. It will bring under a single market 55 countries with a total population of 1.3 billion people and a combined GDP of $3.4 trillion.

The world bank studies project that it will bring 30 million people out of abject and absolute poverty and 68 million from poverty. However, it has cautioned on the limitation of the resources and infrastructure to materialize such a gigantic organization and makes it an effective tool for the progress and prosperity of the continent.

The AfCFTA framework agreement is good news for African countries. The agreement will enable trade by lowering tariffs up to 90 percent, and the costs of do-

ing business will be dropped enormously. This will make African businesses and companies competitive throughout the African continent vis-à-vis their counterparts from outside the African continent, seeking a pie into the African market. It is aimed at denying dumping grounds to other countries and protecting African businesses. The FDI will be rerouted to Africa, especially foreign companies that are supplying manufactured goods in the African continent; they will be attracted to relocate their production units, to benefit from lower tariffs.

The possible relocation of businesses from advanced economies into the AfCFTA will boost the African manufacturing sectors and agribusinesses. This will allow the AfCFTA to replace China and India in the long run as the workshop of the world, manufacturing goods at very competitive prices to be shipped across the globe. Hence, this will increase the share of Africa in global trade from the current 2 percent. But both countries are quicker to gain a foothold and protect their share in the African continent. The Indian government has accelerated its investment in Africa and officially initiated a drive to incentivize investors in Africa. THE INDIAN s are creating hubs in west, east, Central, South, and North Africa. The Chinese are offering joint ventures to junior partners from Africa and cementing their stronger share in the African economies. However, smaller players have to decide wisely.

The African Continental Free Trade Area aims in:

Creating a single market, deepening the economic integration of the continent,

Establishing a liberalized market through multiple rounds of negotiations,

Helping the movement of capital and people, facilitating investment,

Moving toward the establishment of a future continental customs union,

Achieving sustainable and inclusive socioeconomic development, gender equality, and structural transformations within member states,

Enhancing the competitiveness of member states within Africa and in the global market,

Encouraging industrial development through diversification and regional value chain development, agricultural development, and food security,

Resolving challenges of multiple and overlapping memberships.

The opportunities for Pakistan are enormous at this stage. If new missions are opened in the larger economies and old missions are strengthened and fortified, the share in the trade and investment could be a game changer for Pak-Africa relations. The TDAP may be made proactive to create hubs in all the regions of the African continent, and resources should be provided to the mission for marketing and cultivating the business community. The outreaches of the missions need to be enhanced from high-ups to all levels. The projects, joint ventures, assembling plants, and semi-finished product value-addition centers are to be visualized. The need to negotiate with the AfCFTA secretariat the trade agreement will be a milestone in Pak-

Africa trade and investment relations. The private sector may be encouraged to explore Africa at a faster pace. The Government of Pakistan may synchronize the agencies to gain a larger share in the new scenario. The following agencies are to be revitalized.

The Trade and Development Authority of Pakistan: It can arrange visits from potential exporting countries to trade fairs in Karachi and Lahore to facilitate small and medium producers. It is a reverse trade mission diplomatic effort. Moreover, it can establish warehouses and engage survey/ research agencies for market research. It may encourage producers to export semi-finished products and add value within Africa to benefit from the tariff relief. People in Africa are very positive about Pakistan.

The Overseas Employment Agency: It needs to be revamped and realigned according to the market demand of foreign clients for skilled workers. It has to synchronize its activities with the ministry of foreign affairs and get specific requests to train the workers. The focus can be on Africa but through our own investors.

Tourism promotion- The world is getting a lot of foreign exchange by attracting tourists worldwide. Pakistan must develop infrastructure and promote tourism with the help of provinces in Africa. Mountain tourism is just one sector of tourism, i.e., adventure tourism. Other sectors like cultural tourism, heritage tourism, religious tourism, sightseeing cum shopping, agro-tourism (eco-tourism), sports, or special occa-

sion tourism are the most revenue-generating sectors. Pakistani tourism promotion agencies may provide and cooperate with Missions to attract tourists. The agencies must prepare tour packages to different areas, even desert safari and hunting tourism by promoting commercial forestry and livestock will help. Why not allow private operators to have hunting grounds where they grow houbara bustard and other species Arab princes want to hunt. These initiatives can earn billions of dollars in foreign exchange. But it requires hard work and proper coordination with Missions. In Niger alone, 100,000 people go on tourism annually, excluding Haj and Umra.

Health and Education Sector tourism- the quality of health is very costly in developed countries and absent in many African countries. If properly channeled, this can earn billions and attract foreign direct investment and local investment in the sector. The education sector in Pakistan is growing rapidly, especially higher education. The government may provide incentives to the operators to attract African students to their campuses.

## LETTER TO FOREIGN SECRETARY OFFERING SERVICES TO ACHIEVE TASKS UNDER ENGAGE AFRICA POLICY

African Union has approved Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Accra has been made the headquarters of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). AfCFTA Secretariat was commissioned in Accra in January 2021 and has elevated the economic importance of Ghana. Ghana is the second largest and most developed country in West Africa.

Against the backdrop of the above facts, the proposed Pakistan's Ambassador to Accra may be a proactive, self-motivated, competent, and Africa-knowing person. If someone is selected, it will benefit Pakistan by opening new vistas of bilateral trade cooperation with Africa and further strengthening the bonds of friendship through trade and commerce. It will also be beneficial to negotiate and sign a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with African Union.

Consistent with the vision of the leadership, the undersigned offers his services for same to achieve the tasks under Engage Africa Policy and get FTA signed with African Union. The undersigned has also served as Deputy Head of Mission in Abuja, Nigeria, and brought the two countries closer. The visit of the Nigerian President was one of the most important events. In this regard, the influence and personal connections of Nigerian leadership could be utilized. If it is deemed appropriate, then an opportunity may be given to achieve this task.

# LETTER TO SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**(complaining against the biased supervising officer)**

At the onset, let me accept that your support, encouragement, and appreciation have been constant and instant throughout my tenure at Niamey, Republic of Niger. However, the attitude of the Additional Secretary (Africa) has been not so cordial and encouraging. Many times it was felt that he didn't want so many Mission activities. It has strengthened our assumptions about the system.

Dear Sir, let me share with you that when I entered the Foreign Service Pakistan, I wanted to become the Foreign Secretary. However, very soon, that wild dream was shattered. The real-world power politics taught me that no Sindhi can be the Foreign Secretary. I started dreaming of getting postings on the most important missions to serve my country. However, one day I awakened to the reality that top missions are not for competent people. It left open only middle and lower-level missions. I decided to give my best wherever I got the opportunity. However, that was also not acceptable. Jeddah performed the best and collected the highest number of goods and amount for earthquake relief, but recognition goes to those who are near Islamabad.

Yemen got an outstanding performance award from the Ministry of Commerce and TDAP on trade promotion. Ambassador recommended for the pride of performance award. The same person was coerced by the

MOFA to screw him. He wrote a letter and subsequent inquiry, proven nothing but transferred on the pretext of a dispute with home.

In Nigeria, Ex-General informed me that MOFA is asking to screw you; what was the problem? I performed duties as Acting High Commissioner for (13) thirteen months and sent 1100 businessmen to Pakistan, 12 Ministers, Three Governors, and scores of delegations. The then President Jonathan led 85 person delegation to attend D-8 Summit in December 2012 (credit given to the incoming High Commissioner, who joined in February 2013). As ex-General joined, MOFA directed me to seek an explanation for why he got publicity in Nigerian Media (newspapers were pro-India before me and after my work became positive and published our news)

Resultantly inquiries against me with dozens of accusations, including the establishment of a business in Nigeria. Interestingly inquiry head was Mr. Zaheer Parvez, who was running his pharmaceutical company and requested me to support him in Nigeria. Nothing was found, but my work and performance were well punished.

At headquarters, I worked day & night to get published annual books, treaty series, and communique series with minimum staff and succeeded in publishing four books and communique series. The treaty series was left in the press in October 2015 while going on the posting to Brunei. However, to date, it's not published. I'm sure officers would have received outstanding PERS. I was given an average by Ms. Riffat Masood, who got herself outstanding.

Now at Niamey, Niger, the atmosphere was completely against Pakistan. India has almost taken over it. But by the grace of Allah, I worked hard and brought it back. It was rightly and timely appreciated by the then Foreign Minister and yourself. Since then, I haven't seen back, always improving upon previous records. Mr. Ali Javed has taken at heart your remarks in the presence of visiting Nigerien Ministers "we have sent you the best and most active ambassador to Niger. His activities are more than all ambassadors of Pakistan; the ministers said," and we confirm it that he is the best ambassador in Niger among all ambassadors."

He started criticizing and finding faults. He even contacted business people and inquired about their support, business deals, and funding for activities. But I never reported it to your attention, considering it normal. However, since he held my two years PERs, it alarmed me.

Dear Sir, I have already lost faith in merit and equal opportunities for all, but erasing the performance and rigging the results would not be allowed. This may be an epoch-making case in history that the entire story of injustice and culling of merit would be told to the country. An ambassador working in the worst conditions with the best results is being suppressed.

It is requested your honor to direct Mr. Ali Javed, Additional Secretary (Africa), to render my PERS for 2020 and 2021 before 31st August 2022. If he tries to punish my performance, I reserve the right to sue him in a court of law.

## LETTER TO FOREIGN SECRETARY TO AVAIL OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICA

The changing global economic architecture is expected to create new external economic opportunities for both Pakistan and Africa. Though the pandemic has disrupted Africa's growth, there is an expectation of accelerated economic growth in the region once the health crisis is brought under control through mass vaccination programs.
Pakistan may see an enduring partnering role in Africa's economic transformation, given that it has demonstrated a deep stakeholder interest in Africa's economic transformation. The current crisis presents many opportunities for the countries to strengthen their existing bilateral ties and carve out new avenues for joint initiatives, especially in areas largely underexplored in Africa, such as the services sector.

Pakistan's economic relations with Africa can be truly multi-faceted if Pakistan Government extends timely grant-in aid to African countries, concessional lines of credit (LOCs), capacity building and technical assistance, supporting major projects in Africa, and establishment of industrial units, among others. Africa can be one of the largest beneficiaries of the Government of Pakistan's LOCs and, resultantly, a lucrative market for our product.

The Pakistan-Africa bilateral trade has been growing steadily, year-on-year, with the trade volume increasing rapidly. The greater goals are to take bilateral

trade beyond the level of US$ 4 billion, as well as accelerate investments in Africa to US$ 10 billion in the next few years (mainly private).

The potential areas for collaboration are as under:
- One key area where the Pakistan industry could play a catalytic role is the strengthening of the region's manufacturing abilities, as currently, only 2% of global trade in intermediate manufactured goods comes from Africa. It would be strategic for African countries to maximize their trade-related economic growth by tapping into Pakistan's growing markets and investing in trade-related infrastructure and trade facilitation.
- The establishment of the Pakistan-Africa Trade Council and opening of offices in Pakistan, working directly with African embassies in Islamabad, will open up huge trade and investment opportunities for Pakistani businesses in Africa.
- Pakistan can introduce Duty-Free Tariff Preference Scheme for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) that can benefit 38 African countries and contribute to the expansion of Pakistan-Africa bilateral trade, yet, there is significant scope for more geographical diversification of Pakistan-Africa trade flows.
- In pursuance of trilateral cooperation with Africa, Pakistan can collaborate with some donors to build hospitals in Niger, and a specialist from Pakistan may serve there.
- These principles are multidimensional and favor working multilaterally with individual African countries. They can be grouped into categories of trade, investment, climate change, security/terrorism, digi-

talization, agriculture, irrigation, cottage/ Small/ medium industries, infrastructure, education, health, mineral development, and arid zone development. Moreover, we can focus on health, education, and adventure tourism in Africa. The Ambassadors must be given targets to achieve, based on the SMART strategy, one percent of Total imports, tourists, and health/ education tourists must come to/from Pakistan. The Africa continental free Trade zone may be taken seriously, and FTA with AFCTA be obtained as the priority. In this regard, the undersigned offers his services. AfCTA is effective from 1st January 2021, and the EU, USA, China and India, Turkey, Canada, Australia, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, and Brazil opened talks with it in 2021. Pakistan may initiate work lest it misses the track.

- The Pakistan-specific economic zones may be established to create hubs of value addition. Moreover, African nations may be offered credit lines to buy small and large machinery from Pakistan. Agriculture is the backbone of almost all African countries, so it may be focused on supplying agriculture equipment and support. If we achieve just five percent of imports from Africa, it will add billions of dollars to our exports. Moreover, our service sector in IT and health can earn better in Africa.

- The Government of Pakistan identified African countries, including Ivory Coast, Uganda, Djibouti, Ghana, and Rwanda, among others, where new missions are being opened. The initiatives would be based on a model of cooperation that is responsive to the needs of African countries. Pakistan needs to open

embassies in all coastal countries and convince companies to establish branches according to the size of the country. If we send one thousand companies of various sectors in 55 countries and have a diplomatic presence in 30 countries, we can achieve economic and diplomatic targets. Our diaspora would be influential in those countries.

## Focus on Economic Diplomacy, not Brotherhood Diplomacy.

Mission believes that Pakistan's paradigm shifts in foreign policy to focus more on geo-economics necessitates that Pakistan looks for opportunities within and outside the region to fully exploit its geographic and economic potential. This new policy shift makes the African region a key area of significance for Pakistan, owing to the huge trade and market potential of the region overall. The adoption of the 'Look Africa Policy' by Pakistan is a key step in that direction.

In line with the Government of Pakistan's "Look Africa" Policy, Mission is aggressively exploring the options and opportunities for Pakistan in the African region, especially in Niger. Niger is a landlocked country of 23 million people. It is producing almost nothing locally. All the items from ballpoint, needles, and bicycles to food items are being imported from all over the world. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1977 between Pakistan and Niger, both countries have enjoyed friendly relations, which are further strengthened by the commonality of faith and unanimity of views on regional and international

issues. For the last many decades, Niger has been an active member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir. Niger is extending her full support to Pakistan's position on Kashmir. Pakistan, on its part, has provided significant support, especially food assistance, to Niger from time to time; in February 2021, the last such assistance consisted of a donation of 42,000 Bag of Pakistani rice, the arrival of Two C-130s carrying relief goods, i.e.,, tent, medicines, etc. and a cash donation of USD-100,000/- for flood affected population in Niger. Also, 100 Scholarships pledged in Niamey stand executed in December 2021. Pakistan has also been providing training facilities to Nigerien diplomats and armed forces officers.

He proposed the closure of the Embassy in Niger on the following grounds;

i. Niger is a least developed landlocked country. UNDP Human Development Report for 2021, Niger was ranked 188th out of 189 countries. 63% of the population lives below the poverty line. Real GDP growth over the years has been slow as compared to the population growth rate, thereby causing a continuous decline in the standard of living of the people.
ii. The geographic distance and poor road infrastructure between Port to Niger is a key hurdle for the business community.
iii. Niger being a French colony, is still under the influence of France, and its policies and strategies are being controlled and influenced by France and its allies. Any policy against the French business commu-

nity is totally unacceptable. Therefore, the existence of business competitors against the French in the Niger market is impossible as French business is already made deep inroads.

iv. The Republic of Niger is one of the hottest countries in the world. It is often named the "Frying Pan of the World." The average temperature of the country is 45 ©, and in the summer season, sometimes it crosses 50©. Because of the lack of facilities, the Business community doesn't prefer to work in Niger.

v. Niger being part of a Lake Chad Basin country, is facing serious terrorist threats in the Lake Chad area. Boko Haram, Al-Qaeda in Maghrib (AQIM), and other terrorist organizations frequently attack this area. As a result of these terrorist attacks, thousands of innocent civilians have been displaced. In recent years, Niger has been facing a sudden boom in terrorism insurgencies on its borders with Mali, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria. During the year 2021, more than 600 people were killed in insurgent violence in the country's southwest. It has created a serious issue of security for the business community. Resultantly, the government has imposed strict restrictions on the movement of foreigners, including the business community within the country. As a result, the business community shifted from Niger to neighboring port countries.

Assessments

The upgradation of the Mission from the Cd'A level to the Ambassadorial level in 2020 provided an extremely useful opportunity to interact with the political leadership of Niger. The high-level interaction

also generated a lot of goodwill among the Nigerian political leadership, and we were able to conduct a high-level visit between the two countries after decades. After a gap of more than two decades, high-level visits between the two countries have resumed, including the visit of the Foreign Minister of Niger to Pakistan in March 2022. Also, a visit to Pakistan by two Nigerien Cabinet Ministers from 17-23 June 2021, and for the first time in the history of our diplomatic relation, a Nigerien parliamentary delegation headed by the Speaker National Assembly of Niger visited Pakistan from 5-12 August 2021.

On economic relations, Mission, in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce & Industry Niger, organized Niger-Pakistan Business Forum-2021 from. 16-18 September 2021. Niger-Pakistan Business Forum 2021 is a milestone in the history of the diplomatic and economic relations of two brotherly countries. For the first time in the history of Niger, Pakistan Businesspersons of almost all potential business sectors participated forum. On the sidelines of the Niger-Pakistan Business Forum, Mission signed a total of 57 MoUs and arranged more than 200 B2B and 36 B2G meetings between Pakistan and Niger. A total of 87 representatives of Pakistani companies and 500 Nigerien companies participated in the forum. After hectic efforts being made by Mission, they managed to sign an MoU to establish Niger-Pakistan Special Economic Zone Sadore in Niger, by Pakistani company signed. The execution of MoUs and Protocol are being executed by French companies (that seems to be impossible). It appears that the French interest in

Niger may go beyond its economic and trade interests. They seem to be mindful of Niger's trade relations with Muslim countries and may be conniving to neutralize Pakistan's activities/role in Niger if they may not reverse the tide.

Recommendations; Keeping in view the financial conditions of Pakistan and giving a new direction and momentum to our diplomacy, the brotherhood diplomacy of keeping Mission in Muslim countries may be replaced with Economic diplomacy. The Mission in coastal and higher economies will open new vistas for Pakistani exports. It is strongly recommended that Niger Mission may be closed/shifted to Benin/ Cameron. Niger has also done the same on the basis of its economic interests. They opened Embassy in India, not in Pakistan. If it is not feasible to do, then EmbassyEmbassy may be downgraded to the bare minimum level.

## LETTER TO BILAWAL BHUTTO ZARDARI, FOREIGN MINISTER OF PAKISTAN, REGARDING VARIOUS ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES IN FOREIGN SERVICES OF PAKISTAN.

Ministry is facing serious and chronic administrative incompetency coupled with a lack of will to implement decisions. The issue of biased and jaundiced views about officers of Sindh and Baluchistan and the politicization of posting has taken root in the ministry.

Bi-annual Posting Plan. Unfortunately, it is marred by nepotism and favoritism based on political & administrative connections and, to some extent, provincialism in utter disregard for merit.

Despite a clear-cut policy recently adopted by the ministry regarding Postings abroad, it is observed that many officers somehow manage to always serve in "A" category missions, while others are destined to be usually posted to "C" & "D" category missions.

As regards provincialism, many of even the best officers from Sindh and Baluchistan are generally 'labeled' as incompetent and inferiors and posted to smaller and hard stations. There are exceptions, but they are ignorable. Conversely, several officers from specific areas go for prized postings despite rendering less meritorious services. One wonders how can 'marginalized' officers prove their mettle if they are not given a single opportunity to serve in key missions.

The biggest irony is that those who bravely and brilliantly serve at some of the hardest stations are not even appreciated. For example, an Ambassador who failed to foil an Indian attempt to be invited to OIC CFM in UAE was rewarded by posting him to London; whereas an Ambassador serving at Niger foiled an Indian attempt was not even appreciated by the then FM in writing.

I believe that we as an institution can never achieve desired targets if core issues such as postings abroad are dealt with on an unprofessional and non-

meritorious basis. More importantly, this would demotivate and demoralize the best brains that our ministry is bestowed with and further fan provincial polarization.

He submitted suggestions to ensure meritocracy in postings abroad:

i. Ensure full implementation of policy
ii. Incentivize postings at hard stations like better Foreign allowance, education subsidy for three children, yearly home leave passage, and hardship allowance as per the condition
iii. Censure unprofessionalism...
iv. Best officers may be posted to less important divisions at HQs, such as PP, Archives, Special projects, etc., to improve those divisions. The research division may be made functional with the new role.
v. A new economic diplomacy division may be created, or Economic cooperation division may be converted into economic diplomacy with better manpower and resources
vi. Officers who have served at A stations may be sent to C and hard stations at least once in a lifetime

## Activities In Niger

Since my father's joining as Ambassador of Pakistan, Mission has engaged in a range of activities to give impetus to the longstanding bilateral relations between Pakistan and Niger. Resultantly, the diplomatic and political interaction between Pakistan and Niger has risen in the last couple of months. In 3 years, Mission engaged in more than 400 activities and was declared the most active Mission in Niger. Some Major achievements are under:

- For the First time in the history of bilateral relations, the Foreign Minister of Pakistan visited Niger in September 2020
- Niger extended steadfast support for Kashmir at 47th CFM Niamey
- Signed MoU on BPC between Pakistan and Niger
- 100 Domestic Scholarships of FCFA 30 million (PKR- 9 Million) pledged in Niamey stand executed.
- Mission efficiently distributed Pakistan's support for drought and flood-affected populations consisting of 1000 MT Rice and two C130s Flood Reliefs in 2020-21. GHQ also gifted $100,000 cash for flood relief.
- As a result of hectic efforts, Niger's Foreign Minister participated in the 48th Session of OIC CFM in Islamabad.

- Deputy Foreign Minister of Niger participated in OIC-CFM over Afghanistan.
- Niger's steadfast support for Kashmir at 48th CFM Islamabad
- Opening Pakistan Book Corner at 4 Government Universities in Niger
- For the first time in the history of Niger-Pakistan bilateral relations, Mission, in collaboration with the host government, organized Niger-Pakistan Business Forum 2021 in September 2021 at Niamey.
- Signed an MoU to establish Niger-Pakistan Special Economic Zone Sadore in Niger by a Pakistani company signed during Niger-Pak Business Forum 2021, Niamey.
- On the sidelines of the Niger-Pakistan Business Forum, Mission signed a total of 57 MoUs and arranged more than 200 B2B and 36 B2G meetings between Pakistan and Niger.
- A total of 87 representatives of Pakistani companies and 500 Nigerien companies participated in the forum, where more than 80 Pakistani companies participated.
- For the First time in the history of bilateral relations, the President of the National Assembly of Niger, along with a 10-member parliamentary delegation, visited Pakistan.
- Mission utilized personal resources and established Pakistan's School for Street Children at Niamey.

- For the First time in the history of bilateral relations, the Nigerien Federal Minister of Commerce and Federal Minister of Investment, along with their delegation, visited Pakistan
- Signed MoU on Military Cooperation between Pakistan and Niger
- Established Pakistan Street Children school for orphans and beggars in Niger
- Ramadan Food Program
- Ramadan Iftar Program
- Qurbani Program in collaboration with Muslim Hands Niger

Flat Problem in Pakistan

My father brought to notice the rampant corruption in SNOBER TWINS TOWER Karachi. The undersigned booked an apartment in the Sanober Twin Towers Karachi in September 2016. It was agreed between Al-asr builders and the undersigned that the installments would be straight and no interest-based loan would be accepted. The total price of the flat of four rooms was fixed at 6 million. The handing over was agreed upon for 2019. We abided by the commitment and paid PKR 55 95,000/, which is approx. 93% of the total amount, i.e., 06 million. However, the apartment is yet to be handed over to us. According to eyewitnesses and my relative who is handling the issue, the finishing of the apartment is almost completed. It will take another six to eight weeks

to complete. It means almost 4 years late handing over.

The undersigned has been surprised by their letter to pay challan fees for the meters of water, electricity, and gas connections PKR 1.2 million. We checked with the utility agencies; they provided us the rates, which were 10% of the demanded amount. When we confronted the builder, he informed us that they were supposed to pay a bribe to the utility providers. He insisted that without paying the amount, he would not hand over the flat. He threatened to cancel the flat and asked to approach anyone. He (builder) said, "All departments and agencies are our supporters. We please them, and they protect us". I tried to prove them wrong, but unfortunately, all departments approached me, including the Chief Secretary of Sindh, Governor of Sindh, CM of Sindh, IG of Sindh, DG of Sindh Rangers, Sindh Building Control Authority, Anti-corruption establishment of Sindh, ISI, Inland revenue on personal levels and finally Foreign Minister Mr. Bilawal Zardari who is the chairman of the party ruling Sindh. But the builder was proven right, and they did nothing.

## Concluding Chapter:

Father was born in 1971 in the month when the then dictator Yahya Khan started a crackdown against Bengalis. His family was well off in the area and initially he was taken care of in a befitting manner. In 1975 super flood hit Sindh coupled with torrential rains. It caused destruction everywhere and our ancestral home was raised to the ground. His uncles migrated to KotDiji taluka taking away all property and belongings. They left grandpapa in the lurch. This was the beginning of grinding poverty that lasted for 17 years. In these years the closest relatives, friends, acquaintances all left grandpa on his own. Father was outcast among his age mates because their parents hated papa. He was subjected to physical beatings by relatives if he entered their orchards. He was not allowed to play with the children of his neighbors due to poverty. Grandpa started as labour and at times went to mountains, worked as seasonal worker at guava orchards in Larkana. Back home grandma cared for her children. Father started going to school in 1975 and he was shown the door by teacher Mr Muhammad hassan soomro on the day of exam. He ran to his father and he took him to nearby primary school where teacher Mr. Qutubuddin admitted him. His condition in the school was pitiable, no books, no uniform and no shoes but still top student in the class. He borrowed books from his classmates and memorized them. Uncles never looked after them, they even

didn't like to be in touch with them. Ancestral land was also under their control.

In high school he struggled and remained top student, participating in debates, scouting and extracurricular activities. He remained scout instructor of the school in class seven. In class nine, the headmaster, on the complaint of his class fellow, beat him blue without listening to him. The headmaster was addicted so he was tired of beating him, and asked him to weep to be released. He said that they didn't weep before enemies. Headmaster said that he was his teacher. He replied that the teacher always listened to both parties. He took transfer and got admission in faiz high school kotdiji; here also he was politically very active in Sindh peoples students federation and participated in the Movement for the restoration of democracy (MRD).

He went to superior science college khairpur but couldn't survive living there. He resisted malpractices of SPSF goons being the organizer of the federation in the college. He left college and got admission in Gambat Science College. He kept his struggle for better education continue and was duly punished. He, being the top student, got average marks in practicals due to his struggle. He went to shah latif university and continued his education. His father couldn't even afford his admission fees so he got money on interest from Mr Jamal Sarohi. He tries to survive but has to leave for Karachi in search of a job. He got a teaching job;, where he taught three weeks and one week he

returned to university and got good results. He was infected by tuberculosis in Karachi and it sent him to bed in 1990. He was treated for nine months but went to appear in the exam even in that condition. He used to say that the poor have only one outlet to progress, that's better education. He rejoined university in 1991 with full vigour but in May 1992, he felt hunger in his family. He was having one meal during his education. He studied six semesters but couldn't appear in the exam due to destitution, so he prayed to Allah for a job. He got a job in Upjohn and continued till 1995.He married in 1992 after job and had his first son in 1995 at Larkana. In 1996 December he took the second job and in 1997 got another son. But in one month his father died. In 19997, he shifted to Khairpur, got admission in the English department for masters,opened a language and literature centre and started CSS preparation. He appeared in css 1998 batch and passed it. People made fun of him; calling him an insult to css. The leader of that group was Mr. Sanaullah Mangi, who never qualified.

His chairman in the English department became his enemy and the situation worsened to that level ; he recommended rustication of father three times but father defended himself and survived. Father was punished in grades; he was awarded C grade; whereas he was the only first class student. He has the honor to teach his classmates. He pleaded to authorities but to no avail then he challenged the chairman for competition; it's a record till dated. He qualified CSS for the second time and got foreign service.thus his success

was defeat of grinding poverty that made them outcast among the relatives and fellows. Upon joining; the very first day, he asked a very troubling question from the DG, " What will be impact on trainees if trainers would be corrupt people". It caused hostility for him but he faced and survived. In Foreign service academy; his bold style caught the eye of DG Ambassador Mansoor Khan and he rewarded him. He got him two rooms in the hostel when probationers were sharing one room. On the very first day in the Ministry he asked a very tough question from Additional foreign secretary that made him furious and he ordered strict action against him. He struggled against the biases against the officers of Sindh and Baluchistan and at lesser level KPK. He stood against the grouping, nepotism, favoritism and parochial consideration. He was duly punished but he never gave up. He fought with foreign secretary Salman Bashir. He went to first posting to Jeddah and fought with Counsel General and ISI colonel on the selling of passport to Burmese. He win it. In Yemen he fought with political crony of Yusuf Gilani professor turned ambassador Alqama. He was transferred to Nigeria, he fought another General there and got him on his side. He became acting high commissioner and made history in economic diplomacy like in Yemen; where he was awarded outstanding performance award by TDAP. In Nigeria two times outstanding performance award was given to him by TDAP. However, the Punjabi lobby in the ministry was jealous of his performance; so they instructed the new General High Commissioner to screw him. He wrote a letter of accusa-

tion and an inquiry was ordered; father defended and won it. However, he was sent home prematurely.

He faced Punjabi fiat for one year in the ministry with steadfastness. He was sent to Brunei; where he worked very hard during his tenure as acting high Commissioner; however when generals came; embassy remained practically closed for work. He was promoted to the ambassador level in 2020 and posted to Niger. He was promised to be given a better posting after two years. But even after three years; he was denied it on the pretext that he completed two tenures. The person who told him i.e. Foreign Secretary Asad Majeed; who himself enjoyed three A postings from japan, USA and Belgium. He wrote hard hitting letters and even to FM Bilawal Zardari Bhutto but no response. The postings remained completely on the single merit of Punjab domicile. He wrote a book on economic diplomacy. It was launched in the Shah Abdul latif University khairpur with personal interest of Dr. Khalil ibupoto the vice Chancellor. Another launch was done in Islamabad at Comstech under the supervision of Dr. Iqbal Chaudhry the coordinator general. The ministry has never even appreciated father on anything. He achieved a lot of laurels in Niger including tasks given by the ministry. He was awarded the best ambassador in Niger but MOFA remained silent.

# The End

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Digitized by M. H. Panhwar Institute of Sindh Studies, Jamshoro.

The book "And Poverty Defeated" is in your hand. Within the very pages of this book, you will embark on a remarkable journey through the life of a person who refused to be detailed by his circumstances. The biography unveils the profound struggles, triumphs, heart-wrenching and transformative moments that shaped the remarkable entity. In this biography we find an intimate narrative with exposure of vulnerabilities defying all odds.

Unscrupulously 'And Poverty Defeated'- a life history of an illuminated person invites you to witness the personal growth, self-discovery and unwavering determination to forge his own path.

Throughout the journey, the book offers solace, inspiration and a new sense of journey. The biographer's art of writing is rather the amalgamation of subjectivity and objectivity and this fusion takes trance. It is because he is the biographer of his own loving father who authored: A Hand Book on Economic Diplomacy-a book worth reading. This biography is an inspirational work and good contribution to the realm of Biographical literature.

**Dr. Waheed Jatoi**