

THE HABIBIAN

ONWARD & UPWARDS!

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF THE HABIB PUBLIC SCHOOL

September, 2023



HABIB PUBLIC SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

www.habibianalumni.org.pk

info@habibianalumni.org.pk



HABIBIAN PLEDGE

I As A Habibian Hereby Pledge

To Serve God And Man

According To The Tenets Of Islam

The True Religion

To Do My Best And To Sacrifice My All For Pakistan

To Do Clean Thinking And Practice Honest Dealings

To Be Courageous And To Know No Fear When Truth And Right
Are In Peril

To Shrink From Jealousy And To Guard Against Flippancy And
Irreverence



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear School Friends,

Just penning this message to you brings back endless priceless memories of when we were young and carefree in the vibrant and pulsating environment of our alma mater that groomed us into the people we are.

I am happy to report that our alma mater is still vibrant and pulsating, and thank Allah for that. We, too, are vibrant and pulsating, with our spirits high as we man the action stations of civil society at a time of considerable chaos and uncertainty.

This is the time when a closing of ranks becomes mandatory, and here we are with our newsletter connecting our fraternity with a resolve to disperse the fog that clouds our vision.

Wishing us all the choicest of health, wealth and happiness,

Saeed Allawala



EDITORIAL

Never has the hurly-burly stirred the cauldron the way it does now, with the zest and zeal of a fighter pilot pulling extreme Gs in his Fighting Falcon.

The paltry penny for our thoughts concerning the masses in distress galvanized the Habibians last month, on the 5th of August, 2023 to be precise, to engage in the Habibian Dialogue to learn, through sharing, the art of surviving, sustaining and succeeding.

Three stalwarts from the worlds of trade, commerce and industry gathered with 130 distinguished C-Suite guests at the Karachi Marriott Hotel to discuss the opportunities and challenges in the changing geopolitical and economic landscapes.

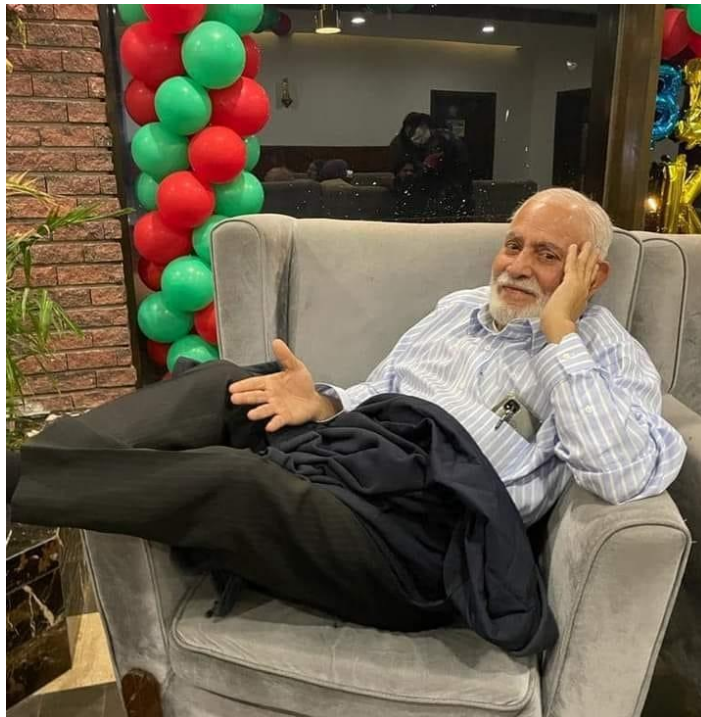
The proceedings of the Habibian Dialogue constitute the centerpiece of this edition and chronicle the bare-knuckled brutal truths espoused on the occasion. To steady the rocking boat, civil society forges ahead with its daily routine, with the Habib Public School right there on the frontlines in ensuring normalcy, and we carry a report on our young adults being prepared for leadership roles in the not too distant future.

We wrap up with brief reports and messages from our Chapters across the seven seas, and send up an earnest prayer for our salvation. May Allah Almighty bless us all with health, wealth and happiness, and rid us of all our troubles, ameen.

MESSAGE FROM OUR MENTOR

Mr. Syed Mohammad Anas

It is good news that the Old Habibians have decided to restart their Newsletter, and I am happy to share a few thoughts on the occasion. We live in some extraordinarily challenging times, and the HPS alumni, given their privileged education and positions in society, must rise to the challenge and provide leadership in these most testing times. My top three concerns center on the protection of our natural environment which is under severe threat; the education of our disadvantage rural youth; and the training of teachers to ever higher levels of accomplishment. I hope the HPS alumni will keep these in mind as they plan and execute for the future. I wish them well and look forward to regular updates on their activities.





FOUNDER MEMBERS

	Batch year
Mr. Nazim F. Haji	1963
Mr. Saeed Allawala	1970
Mr. Mohammad Abdullah Feroz	1970
Mr. Ahsan Saleem	1968
Mr. Javed Asghar Zaidi	1971
Mr. Nusrat Iqbal Jamshed	1971
Mr. Mohammad Zafar Kaleem	1970
Mr. Aamer Zahoor	1975
Mr. Aftab Tapal	1971
Mr. Mohammad Fazil Bharucha	1979
Mr. Altaf Nazim	1975
Mr. Humayun Qureshi	1973
Dr. Sulaiman Bashir Hasan	1971



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Name	Designation	Batch year
Mr. Saeed Allawala	President	1970
Mr. Mohammad Abdullah Feroz	Vice President	1970
Mr. Mohammad Fazil Bharucha	Vice President	1979
Mr. Mohammad Sohail Qureshi	Secretary General	1979
Mr. Javed Asghar Zaidi	Treasurer	1971
Mr. Mohammad Haroon Qassim	Member	1984
Mr. Taufiq Ahmed	Member	1988
Mr. Mohammad Zeeshan Merchant	Member	1992
Mr. Kamran Bilgrami	Member	1997

BRINGING TOGETHER THE HABIBIAN DIASPORA

The HPSAA takes great pleasure in acknowledging its alumni overseas who have taken upon themselves the task of setting up HPSAA Chapters in their respective regions.



Ahmed Ali, (Batch 1964)
President US West Coast
Ahmedali01@aol.com



Dr. Sohail Ansari, (Batch 1971)
President UK
sansari099@gmail.com



Syed Hamid Hussain, (Batch 1976)
President Canada
husainfive@gmail.com



Dr. Syed Wajih Hasan Rizvi, (Batch 1975)
President US East Coast
swhrizvi@att.net

We thank you, friends, for the time and energy you are investing in bringing old schoolmates together.

Zafar Kaleem
Honorary Executive Secretary, HPSAA.
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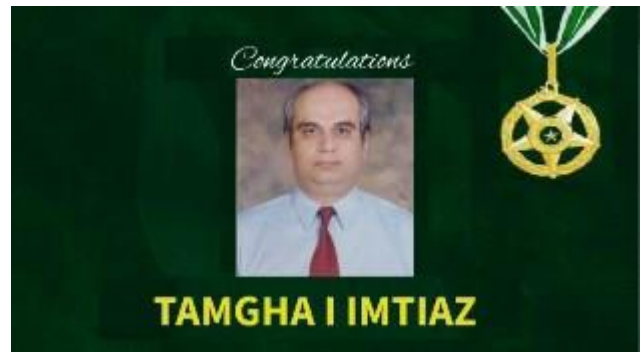
MEGA NEWS IN BRIEF

OLD BOYS WIN MEDALS AND BIG TIME APPLAUSE!

Two Habibian were named to be conferred awards by the Government of Pakistan:

President HPSAA Mr. Saeed Allawala (Batch 1970) is named to receive Sitara-i-Imtiaz.

Mr. Ziaullah Khan (Batch 1977) is named to receive Tamgha-i-Imtiaz.



OLD BOYS IN NEW HATS EARN CONGRATULATIONS!

Three Habibians were named to be in the Cabinet of the Sindh Caretaker government:

1. Dr. Saad Khalid Niaz (Batch 1976) - Minister for Health
2. Mr. Younus Dagha (Batch 1977) - Minister for Finance
3. Mr. Arshad Wali Mohammad (Batch 1986) - Minister for Tourism.

‘Opportunities and Challenges in Changing Geopolitical and Economical Landscape’ -

HABIBIAN DIALOGUE

Report filed by Adil Ahmad, Correspondent

Habib Public School Alumni Association step up to be counted

Age of the hybrid model of government; political stability imperative for economic growth; proactive role for Establishment; need for serious and sincere leadership; nation needs extricating from recurring financial and economic crises; foreign exchange inflow to mining, agriculture, information technology (IT) and construction can be a game changer for the economy; high tax rates, rising utility prices and steep cost of funds undermine competitive advantage – Arif Habib (Founder, Arif Habib Group)

Pakistan’s current economic crisis is not as dire as portrayed on social media – Muhammad Sohail (CEO, Top Line Securities)

Significant reserves of copper, gold, and coal in Reko Diq and Thar could potentially earn the nation \$10-12 billion annually over the next four decades – Zeeshan Merchant (Tax Consultant).

The more things change, the more they remain the same. If proof was needed of the foregoing statement, then all we have to do is look to the editorial of our Newsletter of some four years ago, titled Playing Life on the Front Foot. “We come to you at a time of considerable turbulence and turmoil in the macro operating environment, making it more necessary to stay connected with our happy places, and when were we happier than when we were in school?” Surely that applies as much today, and the HABIBIAN Dialogue brought together old school friends and classmates to reminisce about the good old days and the urgent need to make our future days just as good, if not better.

Three stalwarts from the worlds of trade, commerce and industry gathered with 130 distinguished C-Suite guests at the Karachi Marriott Hotel to discuss threadbare the opportunities and challenges in the changing geopolitical and economic landscapes.

The HABIBIAN DIALOGUE was most certainly more than just a paltry penny for our thoughts concerning the masses, the 99% tottering on the brink of the poverty line, if not already beneath it, and looking to the decision making fortunate 1% to pull them out of their misery and misfortune.

Attitude of gratitude

Speaking on the occasion, Topline Securities CEO Mohammed Sohail blamed social media for portraying a bad economic situation in an even worse light.

He said the economy was in poorer shape back in 1999 when dollar accounts were frozen and Pakistan faced a default-like situation.

The HABIBIAN Dialogue Moderator Zeeshan Merchant, who is a Tax Consultant and a former president of the Karachi Tax Bar, chipped in with the silver lining, saying that there were significant reserves of copper, gold, and coal in Reko Diq and Thar that could potentially earn the nation \$10-12 billion annually over the next four decades. Marvelous!

No holds barred, devastating broadsides!

As reported in The Express Tribune of August 06, 2023 and The DAWN of the same date, it appears that Arif Habib, chairman of one of the largest Pakistani conglomerates with substantial stakes in over a dozen sectors of the economy, was in the mood to call a spade a spade, and launch a frontal assault on the status quo.

He said the military establishment shouldn't stay neutral when it comes to economic matters. He welcomed the formation of the military-backed Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), a body set up to attract investment from Gulf nations, and said the foreign exchange inflow to mining, agriculture, information technology (IT) and construction can be a game changer for the economy..

Hybrid model

Pakistan has lost its competitive advantage against regional players because of high tax rates, rising utility prices and a steep cost of funds. “The hybrid model is practical. Heads of friendly states meet the army chief [instead of elected leaders]. This model may not be desirable, but it works,” he said while highlighting many instances from the recent past when direct intervention from the military chief helped the country secure bailouts and economic concessions from global institutions and friendly nations.”

Search for surplus amidst fiscal excesses

Arif Habib advocated a negative interest rate with the benchmark interest rate being lower than the rate of inflation in order to save up to Rs2.5 trillion a year in terms of debt servicing, with the excess cash being used for targeted subsidies. He lamented that the transition from one government to another always entailed fiscal excesses by the outgoing regime to garner electoral support.

The National Finance Commission (NFC) award, a formula last notified in 2010 for distributing national funds between Islamabad and the provinces as well as among the provinces, increased the share of the provinces in the divisible pool to 57.5pc from 47.5pc while reducing the share of the federal government by 10 percentage points to 42.5pc — an arrangement that provides the provinces with “free money,” he said.

Taking TERF to task

He also criticized the Temporary Economic Refinance Facility (TERF), a Covid-19–era scheme for subsidized loans of \$3 billion meant mainly for machinery imports.

Cement players borrowed subsidized funds for expanding production even though one-fourth of the installed capacity in the cement industry remained idle, something that’s reflective of the poor execution of TERF, he said.

Analyzing the disconnect

Between Arif Habib, Muhammad Sohail and Zeeshan Merchant, the HABIBIAN Dialogue generated enormous food for thought and action. The best laid plans come to naught if the intention of the executing team is faulty, even rogue. The hybrid model of governance has been a reality right since inception, and it is infatuation with the Westminster model that has turned this ground reality into a hippopotamus in the room. If the moral compass of the leadership has a true North, then any mediocre leadership can deliver spectacular results given the superabundance of resources that this mighty fine Land of the Indus and Karakorum is blessed with.

*Evidence-based psychology suggests that your value system, or true north, are statements and qualities about you which help steer you in the right direction when you are in a state of uncertainty





HPSAA EVENT SPONSORS

