107th Midshipmen and
16th Short Service Commission
Course Commissioning Parade
Ex-PN Ship MADADGAR (A-42)
(FIRST SUPPORT SHIP OF SUBMARINE SQUADRON)

Ex-PN Ship MADADGAR (CHEROKEE class) was built by Commercial Item Works Portland, OREGON, USA. She was first commissioned as USS YUMA ATF-94 and subsequently commissioned as PNS MADADGAR in Pakistan Navy on 25 March 1959 and finally was decommissioned in 1993.

In the absence of Pakistan Navy Submarine Tender Ship initially, PNS MADADGAR performed the task, and thereafter, PN Ships GWADAR, KALMAT and Small Tanker-cum Utility Ships PNS RASADGAR and MADADGAR are fulfilling this task.

In 1961, Ex-PN Ship MADADGAR towed ARD-6 (floating dock) from Mayport USA to Karachi which was an epic voyage of approximately 13,000 nautical miles. Ex PNS MADADGAR escorted the first three Daphnes Submarines from France in two voyages round the Cape of Good Hope in 1970 and 1971, respectively. She also escorted PNS/M GHAZI, the last of Daphne class Submarines, through the Suez Canal in 1977. The Ship assisted the Submarine Squadron in performance of various tasks at sea such as trials after long refits, exercise torpedo recoveries, acting as target ship during firing exercises and also provided logistic support whenever needed.

Ex PNS MADADGAR rendered invaluable long and yeoman service to the Pakistan Navy in general and Submarine Squadron in particular.
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107th Midshipmen and 16th Short Service Commission Course Commissioning Parade

graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Upon his arrival, the Chief Guest was received by Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Zakaullah.

Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, while addressing the Commissioning Parade said that Pakistan seeks harmonious and peaceful co-existence with all countries, especially our neighbours. However, Pakistan's quest for peace and stability has to be in consonance with our national interest, sovereign rights and national pride. We desire to work with our allies, friends and partners
to bring peace, security, stability and prosperity to the region and beyond, he added.

The chief guest further said that Pakistan is fully aware of threats from hostile intelligence agencies which are operating from Afghanistan and other locations to create unrest in Pakistan in general and in Balochistan in particular and their designs to sabotage China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are also well known. To deal with these challenges, we are committed to undertake synergetic efforts at the national level and Armed Forces have a pivotal role to play in this regard.

General Zubair said that rapid development of CPEC, Gwadar as its pivot, maritime security all along the coast has assumed added significance. The General highlighted that it is satisfying to note that Pakistan Navy has raised Task Force-88 for maritime security of CPEC and Gwadar port to address conventional as well as sub conventional threats. He further added that in the current scenario a potent and modern Navy is indispensable to address the challenges in the maritime domain. While congratulating and extending felicitations on achieving this milestone, the chief guest urged the graduating officers to hold fast to the qualities of honour, integrity and selfless devotion. He encouraged them to develop trust and confidence in their team and instill in them a true spirit of unity of purpose. He expressed his satisfaction to note that Pakistan Navy is extending support in training future officers of friendly nations. He hoped that they would prove worthy of their mettle in their respective Navies.

In his welcome address, Commandant Pakistan Naval Academy Cdre Adnan Ahmed highlighted the salient features of the officers training. He apprised the audience that the commissioning term comprised 80 Midshipmen including 52 from Pakistan and 28 from allied countries. He added that 20 Cadets from Short Service Commission Officers batch are also being passed out. The Commandant highlighted that cadets from Bahrain, Jordan, Maldives, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and Turkmenistan are also undergoing training at Pakistan Naval Academy.

Later, the Chief Guest gave away prizes to the winners. Midshipman Ahmed Faraz was awarded the coveted Sword of Honour for his overall best performance. Whereas, Midshipman Sarmad Arif won the Academy’s Dirk, Cadet Muhammad Fazal Kabeer clinched the Commandant Gold Medal and Cadet Syed Irtaza Haider Naqvi was given Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Gold Medal. Cadet Akmadov Mamet from Turkmenistan was awarded Chief of the Naval Staff Gold Medal.

The ceremony was attended by a large number of senior military officers, Ambassadors, Defence Attaches of various countries, civil dignitaries and parents of passing out midshipmen and cadets. ☹️ ☕️
Commissioning and Induction Ceremony of Fast Attack Craft (Missile) PNS HIMMAT built at Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works Limited (KS&EW) for Pakistan Navy, was held at Pakistan Navy Dockyard Karachi. Admiral Muhammad Zakaullah, Chief of the Naval Staff, graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

PNS HIMMAT is a 63 meter long Fast Attack Craft fitted with state of the art Weapons and Sensor. One of the important achievements in this project is installation of indigenously built Missiles System. Craft is also fitted with various other weapons and sensors for manifestation of speed and lethality at par with any modern navy’s arsenal.

While speaking at the ceremony,
Chief of the Naval Staff mentioned that it is a landmark occasion when 2nd indigenously constructed Fast Attack Craft (Missile) is being inducted in Pakistan Navy Fleet. He said that successful construction of PNS HIMMAT at Karachi Shipyard is a proud moment for Pakistan Navy, KS&EW and China State Shipbuilding and Offshore Company. He categorically mentioned that the trust and confidence posed by Pakistan Navy on indigenously built platforms will also provide impetus to Pakistan defence exports.

The Admiral highlighted that to capitalize on the maritime opportunities and address the related challenges an efficient, strong and self-reliant Navy is need of the hour. Therefore, acquisition of high speed Missile Craft with enhanced endurance and fire power is high on our agenda for attaining the capability to deliver rapid response at sea.

While emphasizing the need of secure maritime environment in context of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Naval Chief accentuated that CPEC holds great promise for the progress of the country but at the same time it has added new dimension to the overall threat spectrum and to make CPEC a success we have to be mindful of such threats. He said that Pakistan’s defence policy is based on peaceful coexistence but given the prevailing geo-strategic environment we cannot afford to lower our guard.

MD KS&EW Rear Admiral Syed Hasan Nasir Shah, in his welcome address said that this state of the art ship is another landmark in the history of Pak-China cooperation in the field of defence production, as it has been built in collaboration with our Chinese friends M/s China Shipbuilding & Offshore Company (CSOC) and Xingang Shipyard.

While presenting brief overview of construction projects, MD KS&EW said that during the recent past, KS&EW has successfully completed various projects for Pakistan Navy. As a result, KS&EW has been awarded a number of other projects including 17,000 Tons Fleet Tanker, Maritime Patrol Vessels (MPVs), Indigenously Designed Fast Attack Craft (Missile), 32 Tons Bollard Pull Tugs and a Multi Purpose Barge which are at various stages of construction. He also informed that contracts of three new projects have also been signed prior closing of last financial year which include 3,000 Tons Survey Ship, 1,900 Tons OPVs for Pakistan Navy and two FRP Boats for Pakistan Customs.

The ceremony was attended by high ranking officials from Government, Chinese Embassy, Pakistan Navy, China Shipbuilding & Offshore Company (CSOC) and distinguished guests from various walks of life. ☰️ 🎊
Commodores promoted to Rear Admirals

**Rear Admiral Imran Ahmad**

was commissioned in Marines Engineering Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1985. He is a graduate of National Defence University, Islamabad. His distinguished appointments include Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Maintenance) Naval Headquarters and Managing Director Pakistan Navy Dockyard. Presently, he is serving as Commandant PNS JAUHAR (Pakistan Navy Engineering College, NUST, Karachi). The officer has also led Acquisition Mission of Oliver Hazard Perry (OHP) class ship at USA. In recognition of his meritorious services, he was awarded Sitara-e-Imtiaz (Military).

**Rear Admiral Muhammad Shuaib**

was commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1988. He is a graduate of National Defence University Islamabad and Naval War College USA. He has commanded Combined Task Force 151, 9th Auxiliary & Mine Warfare Squadron, 10th Patrol Craft Squadron and Pakistan Navy Ship NASR. His other distinguished appointments include; Directing Staff Armed Forces War College, National Defence University, Islamabad, Director Naval Training at Naval Headquarters and Commanding Officer PNS AKRAM. He is presently performing the duties of Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff (Special Operations Forces & Marines) at NHQ. In recognition of his meritorious services, he was awarded Sitara-e-Imtiaz (Military).

**Rear Admiral Zaka Ur Rehman**

was commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1988. He is a graduate of National Defence University Islamabad and has done Arms of Submarine Course (ASM) from France. He has commanded 25th Destroyer Squadron, Pakistan Navy Ship BADR and Pakistan Navy Ship QUWWAT, a missile boat. His other distinguished appointments include Director Naval Intelligence (Ops), Director Electronic Warfare and Assistant Naval Secretary (Ops) at Naval Headquarters. The officer has also served as Naval Attache of Pakistan at Ankara, Turkey. In recognition of his meritorious services, he was awarded Sitara-e-Imtiaz (Military).
The ground breaking ceremony of 21st Air Defence Battalion unit was held at Ormara. The ground breaking ceremony marked the commencement of construction work for permanent and dedicated infrastructure of the unit. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Zakaullah was Chief Guest of the occasion.

21st Air Defence Battalion was raised in 2005 to provide Ground Based Air Defence to all PN and designated national infrastructure. In order to undertake the assigned task, the battalion is equipped with state of the art air defence guns, surface to air missiles and air defence radars.

In his address on the occasion, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Zakaullah lauded the efforts of all those who were involved in this project of critical significance. The Naval Chief said that within the overall developmental plans of PN, Air Defence stands out to be a clear priority of Naval Headquarters and all endeavours are being made to modernize this important segment of Coastal Command to contribute significantly towards the defence of the country. He extended his felicitations to the officers and men of 21st Air Battalion on commencement of construction work of their unit and called for careful implementation and monitoring of the project.

Earlier in his welcome address, Commander Coast, Rear Admiral Abdul Aleem highlighted salient features of this mega project. He said that development of dedicated infrastructure of 21st Air Defence Battalion would lead to further efficiency and effectiveness to counter any challenge to our motherland from any potential aerial threat. The ceremony was attended by a large number of senior naval officers and CPOs/sailors and civil dignitaries.
Pakistan Navy conducted Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Working Group Meeting on Information Sharing & Interoperability at Islamabad. Chaired by Pakistan Navy, the working group consists of 10 member nations including Australia, Bangladesh, France, India, Iran, Oman, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand, and UAE. This is the second time Pakistan has hosted IONS activities in Pakistan. In 2015, Pakistan Navy hosted IONS Working Group on Info Sharing and Interoperability along with IONS Preparatory Workshop at Karachi. The theme of Working Group remained “Information Sharing and Interoperability”.

During the 2-day event, the Working Group discussed modalities of sharing information and improving interoperability amongst IONS nations towards the overall objective of increasing
maritime cooperation in Indian Ocean Region. The Working Group also deliberated on different options to promote information exchange and support regional maritime security.

The event commenced with opening session, under the auspices of Pakistan Navy. Speaking at the Inaugural Session, Rear Admiral Muhammad Fayyaz Gilani, Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (Operations), highlighted the importance of Indian Ocean Region for global maritime community. Rear Admiral Gilani highlighted that being energy rich, the region faces host of security, human and environmental challenges. While underscoring the maritime threats, he said that threats to maritime security in the region emanate primarily from contemporary challenges like maritime terrorism, piracy, narco-arms and human smuggling. He further highlighted that Collaborative Maritime Security has become the scarlet thread to ensure peace and stability in the region. Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (Operations) further added that Pakistan Navy is fully cognizant of challenges being faced in maritime domain and is a firm believer in the concept of Collaborative Maritime Security. Pakistan Navy has been actively participating in Maritime Security and Counter-Piracy Operations in the region along with other partner nations. Pakistan Navy’s participation in Combined Task Forces 150 and 151 has contributed significantly towards peace and security in the Arabian Sea.

Rear Admiral Gilani also mentioned that PN always looks forward to participate in IONS related activities as the forum has tremendous potential to contribute towards peace and stability in the IOR. In today’s era of globalization, importance of information sharing needs no emphasis. Therefore, Info Sharing and Interoperability Working Group has a vital role in connecting all members and observers and to enhance cooperation in common areas of interest.

In the key note address, Rear Admiral (R) Pervaiz Asghar underlined the importance of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in improving regional connectivity and its likely impact on increasing maritime trade in the region. He also highlighted the importance of collaborative and cooperative approach to security for mutual benefit.

Pakistan has always been an ardent supporter of regional peace and collaborative security. As a torch bearer of this unflinching resolve, Pakistan believes that coming together of navies helps improve overall interstate relations. In the same spirit of constructive engagement, Pakistan Navy proactively participates in IONS. This forum provides a platform to the participating nations to work together for the good of global common. Participation of 13 delegates from 9 countries in the working group meeting reflects Pakistan’s commitment for regional peace and is recognition of PN contribution towards this end.
The steady transformation in the global politics has been causing new strategic alliances or partnerships formation. The materialization of new partnerships is advantageous for many regional actors and alarming for the smaller states, particularly in Asia. Hence, the United States and its likeminded states’ perceptions about India—a natural partner—are not ignorable in the prevalent regional and global politics. United States and Japan constituted strategic partnership with India. Indeed, this strategic partnership is to check China’s increasing clout in the global affairs, particularly in Asia-Pacific. China’s assertiveness in South China Sea is a nuisance for United States and its South East Asian allies. Moreover, China’s increasing naval presence throughout the Indian Ocean irritates India that regards Indian Ocean as part of its immediate sphere of influence.

Washington and Tokyo encourage New Delhi’s Indo-Pacific strategy. They are confident about India’s potential to balance or check China. India is equally determined to materialize Indo-US strategic partnership for the pursuit of its regional and global agenda. This facilitates India in purchasing modern military equipment and transfer of technology from United States. Moreover, Washington supports New Delhi at the international forums. The complexity in the Indian Ocean strategic environment has gradually been multiplying since the announcement of New Delhi’s Indo-Pacific strategy. The United States affirmed India’s attempt to build blue water Navy and broaden its maritime sphere. The increasing Indian Naval capability is attractive for the Americans, Japanese, Singaporeans, Australians, etc. They are determined to facilitate India’s endeavor to emerge as Great Power to balance China’s increasing strategic significance in Asia.

Recently, United States and Japan reiterated India as a natural partner. On July 10, 2017, the United States, Japan, and India lunched a tri-nation Malabar exercise in the Bay of Bengal. In the Exercise, the US Navy’s largest nuclear-powered aircraft carrier—USS Nimitz, the Indian Navy’s solitary aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya and Japan Izumo-class helicopter carrier participated. They deployed front-line warships, submarines and aircraft as part of the maritime exercise. The US Navy spokesperson stated: “As members of Indo-Asia-Pacific nations, our maritime forces are natural partners, and we look forward to continuing to strengthen our bonds and personal relationships.” Certainly, United States, Japan and India maritime forces cooperation is advantageous for their national interests, but disturbing for the other Indo-Pacific littoral states.

Malabar naval exercise was conceived in 1992 and formally started as a bilateral exercise between India and United States in 1994. Japan joined it as a permanent partner in 2015. Australia and Singapore had also
taken part in previous editions of the exercise. The continuity and broadening of horizon of Malabar naval exercise reassures India about the US and its likeminded states commitment in working with it to reshape the Asian security environment in general and contain China in particular.

Malabara 2017 is aimed at achieving deeper military ties between the three nations. Noteworthy feature of the exercise is the inclusion (first time) of aircraft carriers from all three navies. The Exercise was conducted ashore and at-sea. The ashore aspect included “exchanges on carrier strike group operations, maritime patrol and reconnaissance operations, surface and anti-submarine warfare, explosive ordnance disposal and visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) operations. And at-sea portions covered “professional exchanges and embarks, submarine familiarization, air defence exercises, surface warfare drills, anti-submarine warfare, gunnery exercises and VBSS operations.” It was reported (CNN, July 11, 2017) that the current Malabar exercise is ‘the largest naval exercise in Indian ocean region’. It involves 16 ships, two submarines and more than 95 aircraft.

India has embarked on its mission to contain China to demonstrate that it is a natural partner of the United States. The former rejected latter’s One Belt, One Road initiative. New Delhi invited Dalai Lama to disputed Arunachal Pradesh/south Tibet. It also blocked Chinese road construction on Chinese territory along the Bhutan-China border. India had attempted to intimidate Pakistan, especially after failing to tame the current uprising in Kashmir. It has also been struggling to obstruct China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project.

India’s natural partners seem over confident with India’s Indo-Pacific maritime strategy and its impression to check China. Ironically, they fail to comprehend New Delhi’s actual capability. In fact India has failed to disrupt the smooth build-up up of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Its’ neighbouring states, including Bangladesh has been enhancing their economic engagement with China. India’s internal situation is also frightening. Today, India is fighting more than 17 ‘active’ insurgencies in 119 districts. Moreover, Premier Modi’s Hindu extremist policies have alienated millions of Muslims and ‘lower’ caste Hindus in the entire India. Concurrently, it alarms China and encourages India to interfere in its neighbours’ internal affairs. India’s bullish attitude, certainly, is extremely detrimental to Asia-Pacific strategic stability.
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A person can shape his future through devising a plan to attain desirable ends with available means. In one word, this can be termed as Strategy. Important words here are plan (ways), means and ends. In a minimalistic view it is a relationship between ends and means interlocked by another variable – plan. This is more of picking up one of the P of Henry Mintzberg’s 5Ps. The other four being; Ploy, Pattern, Position and Perspective. ‘Plan’ because it is consciously intended course of action to deal with a situation. ‘Ploy’ because it may be a specific manoeuvre to outwit an opponent or competitor. ‘Pattern’ in terms of stream of actions (something bigger than the plan) or ‘position’ as it provides a particular place (niche) in the given environment. And lastly ‘perspective’ since it is an ingrained way of perceiving the world. But do these explanations solve the puzzle?

Digging from the past the word strategy has its origins in the Greek word strategos, which means general or someone who has an army (stratos) to lead. It was first used in Athens (508 BC) to describe the art of leadership used by the ten generals on the war council. They developed principles of effective leadership and achieving objectives. This included approaches to war and motivating soldiers. Similar concepts about strategy emerged in Asia, most famously in Sun Tzu’s Art of War. In his book, Sun Tzu lists different principles that military leaders may follow to win and achieve their goals.

Like its complementing concept of security, corporate strategy started getting a lot of attention from the 1950s. It was only after the Second World War that strategy books appeared for business leaders. Alfred Chandler was a historian who in the 1960s, examined the relationship between strategy and organizational structure and concluded that the strategy chosen by the company
will lead to changes in the structure of the company. His work also shows that strategy was not a new concept in business since it was based on what companies were already doing.

Lately in 1979, Michael Howard theorized about the four forgotten dimensions of strategy namely; operational, logistical, social and technological. While linking this subject to war and giving empiricism as to how they were being fought in 20th century, he emphasized that war was conducted by combination of these four dimensions. His explanations also provide an interesting model of understanding the context of strategy through conduct of war in those times.

In military theory, strategy is “the utilization during both peace and war, of all of the nation’s forces, through large scale, long-range planning and development, to ensure security and victory”. The father of Western modern strategic study, Carl von Clausewitz says “tactics is the art of using troops in battle; strategy is the art of using battles to win the war” and on another occasion he said “war is the continuation of politics by other means.” B. H. Liddell Hart’s the advocate of indirect warfare defines strategy as “the art of distributing and applying military means to fulfill the ends of policy”. Both of these military theorists prefer pre-eminence to political aims over military goals. Andrew Wilson defined strategy as the “process by which political purpose is translated into military action, (something other way round)”. In military way of thinking these explanations provide as to how altering paradigms of world affairs have lead to transformation of military objectives to sheer political ends. The same is linked by many to nuclear strategy with some difference of opinion on use of tactical nuclear weapons.

Advancing further with apocalyptic nuclear developments through Manhattan Project, the phenomenal technology was linked to the term Strategy in shape of nuclear strategy – a re-assertion of Michael Howard’s Technological Dimension. The term was first coined by Bernard Broodie in late 50s. Nuclear strategy involves “the development of doctrines for the production and use of nuclear weapons”. As a sub-branch of military strategy, nuclear strategy attempts to match nuclear weapons as means to political ends. In addition to the actual use of nuclear weapons whether in the battlefield or strategically, a large part of nuclear strategy involves their use as a bargaining tool. It is beyond any doubt that nuclear weapons are one component of an integrated defence strategy that includes diplomacy and conventional forces. The principal role of nuclear weapons was and continues to be that of deterring any potential adversaries from an attack on a nation’s vital interests. This role is expected to continue for as long as nuclear weapons hold the appellation of supreme instruments of military force. Cold War era can be said to be maiden era of nuclear strategy. Accordingly, US and Russia devised their strategies while keeping each other’s capabilities in view.

In second Nuclear Age i.e post Cold War when bi-polarity / uni-polarity has diffused to multi-polarity with multiple power centres emerging, the context of nuclear strategy has changed. In this new age, nuclear powers are redefining the conflict scenario. Some of these states have small nuclear arsenals in comparison but are intertwined in more complex security structure (in Neil Joeck’s words) in terms of nature of conflicts, the geographical contiguity, internal dynamics of their own and a new environment of security related issues. The security dilemma of past has transformed into complex interplay of actors in various triangular relationships of security tri-lemma.

There is a lot addition to the available lexicon e.g from balance of power to balance of terror, deterrence stability, nuclear nationalism, nuclear brinkmanship, nuclear blackmail, nuclear signalling, nuclear posturing and so forth. And of course there are doctrines of nuclear states – some of them having opacity or ambiguity at best to suite their intended type of messaging to well declared doctrines of others.

Each theorist defined strategy in a particular way which can be related to prevailing environment of those times. In so they endeavoured to explain military events happening around them. The corporate world has a unique context of its own of course. But the emerging security environment along with variety of actors and complex security structures have challenged the way we may theorize this important subject in current times. Altering and adjusting behaviour of states and their particular postures (in Vipin Narang’s words) will afford further modelling and theorising of this very subject. ☠️
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Close your eyes. What do you see? Do you see images of a distant past? Or do you imagine a wishful future? In the darkness, I imagine my present. I imagine the world around me, the sounds, the colours and sights others take for granted, I imagine all of them with my eyes closed.

Let me introduce myself, my name is Shawaz Hussain Baluch. I have sailed ships in the open seas and narrow waters and I have piloted planes and helicopters. I’m an avid sports enthusiast, an electronics engineer and an internationally certified Project Management Professional. Yet, despite all these achievements, people brand me with a single word… blind!

or as my mother would say that I was a troublemaker since my childhood. It was natural for me to join the Pakistan Navy in search of adventure. Life on the high seas was challenging and dangerous. But I needed a bigger thrill; in search of that big adrenaline rush I joined the Naval Air Arm. I had found my life’s calling; I had found adventure and peace in the air. But fate had a bigger adventure waiting for me.

I lost my eyesight, in the prime of my life at the age of 28. I still remember waking up from the surgery. I was lying on the bed, alone in the hospital room. Without being told, I had realized that the darkness that now engulfed me would alter my life beyond measure. In those few minutes, emotions swept over me one after the other. First was disbelief, I could not accept the possibility that the unthinkable had happened to me. I felt utterly helpless, when I realized that I would never see again. Lying there I pitied my situation. That is when I realized that my parents were sitting in the waiting room hoping for the best. At that instance I decided that I would treat my blindness as nothing more than a nuisance and not a life shattering event.

I had the option of letting my blindness become a handicap, I could have let the blindness dictate what I could or could not do with my life. This was in complete contrast to my spirit. I would live
I had achieved everything that I had set my mind to. Yet, I felt that I was incomplete. It was when I met a young 18-year-old who had been diagnosed with thalassemia, in meeting him I realized what my next calling was. This young man had barely a few months of life remaining, and yet he seemed as if there was nothing wrong. The words from this young man’s mouth completely altered my perception of life. He simply said ‘Everyone dies, but not everyone lives.’ It was that day I realized that I needed to tell my story.

The meaning and power of motivation dawned on me during that meeting. I realized that the difficult circumstance that I was going through had a reason, which was to be a symbol of perseverance. I could be the catalyst that would encourage others to find their hidden strengths and change our world. I began speaking to anyone who would listen. My story reached Motivation Academy - a self-improvement workshop based at Lahore, and I gave my first talk in-front of an audience. My story brought tears to some, but more importantly it motivated them to find their inner strengths.

In my perception, it’s not what happens to us, but our response to what happen to us is more important. Of course, things can hurt us physically, but our will power and character do not have to be hurt, our most difficult experiences develop the internal powers and freedom to inspire others to do so.
Pakistan Navy Submarine Ghazi in late sixties and early seventies was the symbol of an irretrievable depth of fear for the Indian Navy. The submarine remained a nightmare for the Indian fleet for years. In the early phase of 1971 war, Indian aircraft carrier Vikrant was forced to find shelter nearly 1000 miles away from its home port Vishakhapatnam. Indian Navy was well aware of the prowess of Ghazi that had earlier wrecked their operational plans in 1965 War. Vice Admiral Krishnan, the Commander of Indian Eastern Naval Command, was in no position to afford keeping his center of gravity open to Ghazi’s attack, so he moved it deep down south east. It was a terrible misfortune for the submarine that Vikrant wasn’t in the area! Politico-military situation in East Pakistan compelled Pakistani military commanders to recalibrate their options. Internal strife, coupled with India’s active support to Bengali separatists, required necessary measures by both political and military leaders in Pakistan. Moreover, as part of ‘defence of the east lies in the west’ strategy, the military leadership must have argued for ‘releasing pressure’ on the East by doing something in the West or at sea. According to Pakistani military calculus, it was no wonder that after decapitating our Air Force in the East, India would blockade East Pakistan, primarily through INS Vikrant, for a decisive blow. Indians must have estimated that with absolutely no road link, and the sea routes cut, Pakistan would be in no position to continue the hostilities and would bow down to the Indian demands. The only naval vessel that could keep India’s major operational strategy of bringing INS Vikrant into the theatre, at bay, was PNS/M Ghazi. If Ghazi could bottle up the Indian fleet in Vishakhapatnam port and strike INS Vikrant, the outcome of war would enormously tilt towards Pakistan – this could have been thought by the Pakistani military leadership during those days of November 1971.

PNS Ghazi was a Tench Class ex US Navy submarine with the
name USS Diablo. The submarine was commissioned in the US Navy on 31 March 1945, and served mainly on the US side of the Atlantic and Caribbean. USS Diablo was decommissioned and commissioned as PNS/M GHAZI on 1 Jun 1964 in Pakistan Navy. Ghazi’s induction made Pakistan Navy the only navy in the region to operate submarines. This prowler of the deep made Indian Navy grope in the dark during 1965 war for possible solutions of dealing with her and the Indians found none! After having won laurels in 1965, Ghazi the dauntless spreader of fear in the Indian hearts, was called for another daring act in 1971. On 14 November 1971, Ghazi was assigned a Top Secret mission and the Commanding Officer of the boat, Commander Zafar Mohammad Khan, was instructed to open the mission package midway between Karachi and Vishakhapatnam. Ghazi sailed with mines loaded in some of its torpedo tubes. The sailors might have known what they would be doing but where and when; it rested only with the commander of GHAZI. This, operationally, was a very challenging mission – i.e, sailing of a subsurface vessel in those days of 1970s nearly 2000 miles away from home port with such daring task. But, as the valiant sons of this great nation, the submariners took the challenge unhesitatingly, unconditionally and indubitably!

Ghazi sailed from Karachi towards Vishakhapatnam with a strong report that INS Vikrant would be in the port or around. PNS/M Ghazi arrived in the assigned area, the Victor Zone on 2-3 December 1971. Ghazi searched for the elusive enemy – INS Vikrant – in deeper waters, but remained unsuccessful, because the carrier was actually far away near the Andaman Islands at that time. It returned back to the area close to the port. On the night of 3/4 December, while laying mines off Vishakhapatnam harbour, Ghazi probably misjudged her position and doubled back into her own mine field, thus setting off a mine that she laid for the enemy. Mine blew and cracked
open her forward torpedo room. The destruction was so sudden and massive that it must have overwhelmed the damage control efforts, thereby bringing an end to a great submarine. The submarine sank with all crew onboard just after half past midnight at distance of about 1.5 nautical miles from Vishakhapatnam breakwater.

According to Indian claims, it was INS Rajput, under command of Lt Cdr Inder Singh, who was tasked to find the submarine Ghazi and destroy it. Indians falsely maintain that it was Rajput, which fired depth charges and destroyed Ghazi. On a contradictory account, Indians also claim that the fishermen in the area reported a large oil slick and debris, which was confirmed by INS Akshay, under command of Lt Sridhar More, sailed from Vishakhapatnam on 5 December. Had Singh destroyed the submarine on 4 December then why would Indian Navy send another vessel a day later to confirm what was happening, that’s a simple question, which puts much of the Indian story to sword. Indian Navy, actually was in no position to confirm the presence of Ghazi, else there would have been considerable anti-submarine warfare efforts, which no record of Indian Navy suggests were really undertaken. Before taking credit for sinking our submarine Ghazi, Indians should have rationally and wisely thought of the ground realities.

In the words of their own senior officers – like Admiral Nanda (Indian Naval Chief during 71 War), Lt Gen JFR Jacob, Vice Admiral Hiranandani and Admiral Arun Prakash – the Indian Navy had nothing to do with the sinking of Ghazi. They even suggest that the Indian Navy had no clue of presence of PNS Ghazi let alone detecting it near Vishakhapatnam. Admiral S M Nanda in his book “The Man who Bombed Karachi” published in 2004 writes on page 246, that “unusual and suspicious sound of a blast, near the entrance to the Vizag harbour on 3-4 December night that led to the detection and sinking of the Ghazi, was reported by fisherman to the war-watching organization.” Who was the fisherman? S N V Sudhir writes in his article Vishakhapatnam: Sunk Pakistani Submarine Ghazi is an Enigma, in Deccan Chronicle on 24 November 2015, about the fisherman Mr. Nannapaneni Venkateswarulu.

Venkateswarlu was the captain of fishing vessel MT Suneeta Rani, operating off Vizag coast at that time, who said, “I heard a deafening sound but I was not sure what exactly happened. I am certain that there were no Indian Navy vessels around.” Lt Gen JFR Jacob, Chief of Staff of Indian Army Eastern Command during 1971 war, writes in his article “The Truth behind the Navy’s Sinking of Ghazi”, published in Sify News on 26 May 2010, that “PNS Ghazi blew up due to an internal explosion while laying mines off the port of Vishakhapatnam, probably at the end of November or the beginning of December 1971”. He goes on to suggest that Indian Eastern Naval Commander V/Admiral Krishanan only knew of the incident of Ghazi through fisherman and he had no knowledge of its presence or destruction. Indian Navy officially announced sinking of Ghazi on 9 December 1971, which is way too inexplicable! Jacob also wrote a detailed account unmasking Indian Navy’s unsubstantiated claims about Ghazi in his book Surrender at Dacca: Birth of a Nation, published in 1997. Jacob discloses that the Indian Navy intentionally destroyed all the record pertaining to Ghazi, so that the truth might never surface, which could question the Indian Navy’s untrue grandiosity. Admiral Arun Prakash, while speaking to ‘News X’, in September 2011, had said that PNS Ghazi sank under mysterious circumstances and INS Rajput had nothing to do with its sinking. Vice Admiral Hiranandani, in his book Transition to Triumph: Indian Navy, 1965-1975, published in 2000, posts that the truth about Ghazi is unknown to many, suggesting that Indian Navy’s claims of ‘sinking’ Ghazi are nowhere close to being true or consistent.

PNS Ghazi embraced Shahadat off the Indian coast with all its crew onboard. The valiant warriors went onboard the submarine never to return home ever again! What truly happened to Ghazi – the reasons, the conditions and the circumstances are not yet fully known, thanks largely to Indian stubbornness for not letting the US and the Russian researchers to conduct the site survey and explore the real causes of Ghazi’s sinking. Lt Cdr Inder Singh was awarded Vir Chakar for his ‘valiant efforts’, and this makes things worse for India to let the neutral analysts search for facts, which would be very different than claimed by the Indian Navy. A dilemma of choosing the tough task over a reasoned course of action.

The names of these brave sons who chose the path of ultimate glory by embracing shahadat onboard GHAZI would never fade away from memory – as they keep radiating the message, the message of hope, courage and immutable dedication to cause. May the souls of these martyrs rest in peace. ☯️ ☯️
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