**Can Nadir Shah fix Lahore?**

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Nadir Shah, the Emperor of Iran, invaded India five times. In March 1739, he conquered Delhi after which he plundered the city taking the Peacock Throne and the Koh-i-Noor diamond with him. He became a leader of a gang of bandits and prepared them for war and conquest; statesmanship or administration was not his forte. He had a killer instinct and ruled through extortion, terror and torture. Finally, when his inhuman acts became unbearable; he was killed by his own troops, thus ending an era of unending blood shed and loot. Unfortunately, as the city of Lahore was on his route, it suffered at his hands. Fearing his unstoppable onslaughts, the people of Lahore lived in continuous fear which affected their thinking and way of life. Cover-ups, lying and deceit became the norms. Interesting terms were coined during that period; “Khaya Pia Ly Da Baki Nadir Shahi Da” (Only what you have consumed is yours, rest Nadir Shah will take). The sufferings of the people of Lahore have continued with several ‘Nadir Shah’s’ in disguise in the garb of ‘Lord Mayors’.

[Real Madrid’s Dani Carvajal tests positive for COVID-19](https://nation.com.pk/15-Jan-2022/real-madrid-s-dani-carvajal-tests-positive-for-covid-19)

In the year 2022, the city will directly elect a new Mayor. The big question is will he be a Nadir or a Qadir? With 7500,000 registered voters, it is poised to be an epic contest that requires massive resources (Around 50 Crores). Will the people of the city surrender again to the financial armoury of Nadir Shah or stand up and fight for their future? While Nadir means unique and precious, in our history it signifies plunder. Qadir stands for a competent and honest individual. In other words, the contest is between plunder and competence. So far, the plunderers have won, leaving the competent behind to rot. In the last forty years, the decline of the city has not been reversed, only its assets have been robbed. This daylight robbery must be stopped by replacing Nadir Shahs with Qadir Shahs. Honest and able individuals who come with an ideology to serve, not to steal, have to take charge.

In the 18th century, the people of Lahore were defenceless against the armour of Nadir Shah and his gang of bandits who could plunder at will and then carry the loot home. Unfortunately, in the 21 century, the people find themself helpless against the financial onslaught of the Nadir Shahs of our times who manage to take control through buying votes and manipulating the electoral process. Only a Nadir Shah can gamble so much cash (Rs 50 crores) without the guarantee of making a kill afterwards. It is this killer instinct that has ruined the city and its system which was once functional. There is enough historical evidence to show that Nadir Shah had no interest in administration or statesmanship, his only focus was loot which he then shared with his gang of bandits. Lahore has been an unfortunate place, it has failed to handle the Nadir Shahs which keep coming and taking over.

[Stolen assets of developing countries must be returned, says FM Qureshi](https://nation.com.pk/15-Jan-2022/stolen-assets-of-developing-countries-must-be-returned-says-fm-qureshi)

My friend Dr Majid Sheikh, who writes extensively about Lahore, blames the location. Invaders who entered India through the North on their way to Delhi, had to pass through the city as it was on a major trade route. With the waning influence of Delhi, Lahore was rendered defenceless. It was during the Sikh rule that a nationalist state emerged that stood up to the invaders. In the 21st century, another invasion has taken place which needs to be resisted to secure the future. The next mayor should come with a plan to rebuild the city to make it more liveable, kind, gentle and caring—where no one sleeps hungry or dies without care nor languishes in the darkness of illiteracy. Riasat-e-Madina, the first welfare state of the world, was much smaller than Lahore. A model of a modern Islamic welfare state can be experimented right here under the leadership of a major coming from the Qadir Shah group this time by rejecting the thugs and the bandits who have turned the seat into a very lucrative opportunity with the highest return on investment. Nations must learn from history, the Nadir Shahs cannot fix Lahore. The sufferings will continue until the 7500,000 voters stand up to be counted, not trampled. History may be in the making in this epic contest between good and the evil, those who desire to serve and the ones who desire to exploit.