



HORIZON

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Editorial Board:

Rana Mashhood, Attaullah Tarar, Saira Bano, Ahmad Iqbal, Badar Shahbaz.

PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE (N) PUNJAB

FOREIGN POLICY PERSPECTIVE



Mohammad Zubair

SPOKESMAN OF PML-N AND
FORMER GOVERNOR OF SINDH.

Is Pakistan globally more isolated today than it was in 2018? Are our relations with countries like Saudi Arabia, UAE, Malaysia, Turkey, Iran, Qatar, Bahrain and others better off today than they were in 2018? Is the international community more sympathetic towards our Kashmir cause than it was in 2018? Do we have more friends in OIC today than we had in 2018? The answer to all the above questions is a big NO. Our foreign policy failures are quite evident. Look at any issue — Kashmir, relations with our best friends, OIC, United Nations, relations with our neighbours — all have deteriorated since mid-2018.

Kashmir is a classic example. For decades since 1947, India accepted Kashmir as a disputed territory. In spite of several wars and dismemberment of Pakistan, India could not change the status of Kashmir. How then could India take the unilateral step of changing the status by making Indian held Kashmir part of Indian Union? The Indian decision took Pakistan foreign office and others in the government by complete surprise.

India was building up its case to annex Kashmir and make it part of Indian Union long before the general elections in May 2019. This was part of the PM Modi's campaign. And as promised, in early August 2019, the Indian parliament passed the amendment to repeal article 370 and 35-A. Under Imran Khan's watch, India did what it never dared to do since 1947. Pakistan's response — a few speeches here and there and that is it.

Among the few countries which supported Pakistan's case were Malaysia, Turkey and Iran. Instead of appreciating their support, PM Imran Khan did the exact opposite. At the very last minute, Imran Khan decided not to attend the Malaysian summit which was co-sponsored by Malaysia, Turkey and Iran. Pakistan had officially supported and agreed to attend the summit. Imran Khan personally committed to attending the summit.

By supporting the Malaysian and Turkish initiative without taking Saudi Arabia into confidence, Pakistan was already on the wrong side of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states. Now by withdrawing from the summit at the last minute, Pakistan lost more friends. Meanwhile, India rather than being on the defensive after its annexation of Indian Held Kashmir took full advantage of our poor foreign policy decision making. This was evident when India was invited for the OIC foreign ministers conference as a regular member of the Islamic community. Pakistan's PM, Foreign Minister and all those associated in shaping our foreign policy were left in total disbelief at this embarrassing situation.

The CPEC has been the largest ever economic investment initiative in Pakistan. This was a true reflection of our foreign policy success under PM Nawaz Sharif. Pakistan gained immensely as a result — helping improve its infrastructure and power sectors. Billions of dollars were pumped in during the period 2015-2018.

Yet this foreign policy success was made controversial after the present government came in power. Ministers coming with embarrassing statements without having a clear idea of the entire project was a disservice to Pakistan. Efforts were later made to remove the Chinese concerns but did little to restore their confidence.

Our foreign policy has no direction and no clearly defined objectives. That is precisely the reason that we are losing support from the global community in spite of our many advantages including geographical importance. Pakistan has played a key role in international peace over the last several decades. It is another matter that we played our cards poorly resulting in causing damage internally while helping the rest of the world in achieving peace.

FOREIGN POLICY PERSPECTIVE

Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in 1979 and 9/11 happenings in 2001 are classic examples. On both occasions, we became front line states helping the world in achieving its objectives. In the first instance, the Soviet Union was not only defeated and had to retreat but more importantly, it resulted in the breakup of the Soviet Union and fall of communism.

Pakistan surely was the main contributor to this but it did enough damage to our internal peace and stability. For the first time since 1947, Pakistan was caught in extremism, sectarianism leading to religious fanaticism. From a liberal tolerant society as envisaged by Quaid-e-Azam, it became an intolerant society resulting in the creation of several jihadi groups working outside the mandate of the state — at least in most cases.

If anything was left, it was completed by the post 9/11 events. Pakistani society became more radical than it ever was. Pakistan witnessed the kind of terror that saw more than 70,000 people dead including thousands of our security forces which fought pitched battles inside Pakistan.

In both cases, Pakistan was ruled by military generals who took decisions without any debate which is essential to understand the possible fallout of major decisions. Joining and supporting world peace is one thing but causing irreparable damage to its own internal peace is another matter. General Zia in 1979 and General Musharraf in 2001 were struggling to justify their illegal rule. The events of 1979 and 2001 provided the two

dictators great opportunity to extend their illegal rules. Pakistan's constitutional process and democracy suffered as a result. It is, therefore, a paradox; what would have Pakistan been like if the two major events in 1979 and 2001 had not taken place?

How would Pakistan have been today — both in terms of the society at large and the state of democracy?

Foreign policy is a means of economic development. Poor decisions can contribute towards economic derailment— exactly what has happened to Pakistan in the last 30 years. Compare that with countries such as Bangladesh which remained peaceful throughout this period. On the contrary, we have been struggling to keep our house in order. As recent as last year, FATF related conditions were imposed on Pakistan to ban jihadi organisations. We should have done it on our own but we ignored the negative implications of such organisations which not only played havoc internally but also resulted in isolating us from our friends in the international community.

Not understanding how our friends in the international community perceived us has been our biggest foreign policy disaster.

Have we learned any lessons? No, it seems. The successes of the period 2013-2018 have all been lost and there is little hope that our foreign policy will get back on track — at least not while this government remains in power.



KASHMIR AN " INTEGRAL " PART OF PAKISTAN



Zarmeena Nayyar.

NAYYAR WORKS FOR PUNJAB BOARD
OF INVESTMENT AND TRADE

For more than 7 decades, the majestic valley of Kashmir lies shrouded in bloodshed, massacres, grave human rights abuses, uncertainty and atrocities; the partition came at a heavy price levied in blood and loss and the people of the valley are still paying it. For the valiant and resilient people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the dawn of independence is still an unrealized dream, a revered aspiration for which generation after generation of Kashmiri men, women and youth have been laying down their lives. It is said about the valley that, "Kashmir is a beautiful poetry of God which he wrote while experiencing together the highest form of happiness and deepest sorrow." And as year after year the valley continues to fall victim to Indian oppression and antagonism, a desolate chapter of state terrorism and barbarism is being written in Kashmir's history.

The infrastructural war against the people of the ruthlessly held valley has restricted the political, social and economic freedom of its people, the revocation of Special Autonomous Status of India Administered Jammu and Kashmir under Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution of India, placed the valley under a political and economic paralysis, the people of Kashmir continuing to suffer inhumane treatment by the Indian Security forces, gagging of dissent and abjuration of civil liberties, as the manoeuvres derived out of a Nazi-inspired playbook are fast transforming the demographics of the area from a Muslim majority to a minority, all the while corroding the ethnic, religious and historical identity of the region.

The onslaught of COVID-19 has further aggravated the nightmare for the people of Indian Occupied Kashmir, due to inadequate healthcare infrastructure, absence of social safety nets and fragile economic conditions. The communications blackout imposed as a result of the barbaric curfew following the revocation of Article 370 and 35-A under muscular Hindutva inspired overtures to illegally absorb the valley, limited the access of people of IOK to any online

medical support against the pandemic, worsening the distress and anguish of the people of IOK.

Since 5 August 2019, the valley is under a draconian lockdown; its people deprived of livelihood, isolated from the rest of the world in an attempt to extinguish the Kashmiri flame of freedom. When torture cells, imprisonments, and massacres failed to deflate the Kashmiri spirits for independence from India, the polity led by saffron brigade commanders, turned towards psychological, network and law warfare measures to subdue the people of IOK.

Lately, the Genocide Watch has issued a Genocide Alert for India Occupied Kashmir highlighting that the early warnings of an impending Muslims genocide include continued armed conflict in the region, constant impunity for genocidal killings, the exclusionary ideology of "Hindutva" with India as wholly and solely a Hindu nation, authoritarian military rule that operates without any legal restraints or accountability, forced communications breakdown, and widespread unchecked violations of basic human rights (torture, rape, detentions without charge, arbitrary arrests, imprisonments and deportations of Muslim political and human rights leaders in the valley). Calling upon the United Nations and its members to warn India, Genocide Watch observed that the ten identified stages leading up to genocide are all far advanced in India with rampant state-led discrimination under BJP reasserting Hinduness and Hindu might and dehumanization of the Muslims of the valley by naming them as "terrorists, separatists, criminals, and insurgents". The dispute which began as a result of an ill-enforced partition plan that gave the rulers of the princely states the discretion to join either of the states, Pakistan and India, contingent upon geographical proximity, people's aspirations and ethnoreligious composition of the state, after 7 decades has transformed into a crisis marked by the genocide of generations of Kashmiri

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Muslims. In 1947, Indian colonial designs overlooked the guiding principles of geographic proximity and aspiration of the people, using the instrument of accession to force their way into Kashmir. In 2019-2020, the same legalistic approach was adopted to once again take over the valley, which refuses to concede and bow to their illegal occupation.

Since 1947, subjugation and denial of civil rights have become the fate of Kashmiris as India persists to deny the inalienable right of self-determination of the people of Kashmir under a UN-supervised plebiscite, in accordance with the resolutions of 13th August 1948 and 5th January 1949. Introduction of the "Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules (2020)", is the latest onslaught against the people of the valley which allows residency and property rights for various categories of non-residents: non-Kashmiris, aggravating the economic alienation of Kashmiris in the Hindutva driven state. Direct attacks on the indigenous identity of the valley via tools aimed at altering the demographics of Indian Occupied Kashmir, not only cement Indian illegal occupation in the valley but also, once and for all, diminish any chance of Kashmir's freedom through a plebiscite following the UNSC resolutions.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the border, Pakistan opened its door as a symbol of unity, religious harmony and respect for minority Sikh religion to the Sikhs and other devotees of the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak upon his 550th birth anniversary in 2019. Kartarpur to Kashmir illustrates the tale of the treatment of the two states towards the minorities and diverse ethnic groups in the region.

BJP's rise in India has been characterized by broadcasting hatred, classification of Hindu vs. Muslims, racial intolerance, tyranny and the rule of polarizing leaders that preach alienating ideologies. The oppression of the people of Kashmir under raging fires of Hindutva has given a fresh impetus to the freedom movement, where Kashmiris of all ages, from all walks of life are joining the struggle against Indian persecution. The fight is no longer against the belligerent forces in IOK, neither does it remain a question of disputed territory between two states, for Kashmiris the renewed militancy for freedom is now about ensuring their own future and the future of their children in the land of their ancestors.

Today, under BJP's Hindu-first, Hindu nation-state narrative, the valley's indigenous, demographic, and religious contours are being reshaped by force. The resolve of the people of Indian occupied Kashmir remains unwavering in face of Indian barbarism as they continue to oppose their occupation, with a hope that their sacrifices in blood shall pave the path to liberation. Their fight is for the protection of their homes, for their livelihood, for lives of their loved ones, for their right of expression and most importantly for their right against discrimination on the basis of race and religion.



WHEN THE LION ROARS



In conversation with Mr. Ahsan Iqbal: “There is only one leader in PML-N Nawaz Sharif”
Team Horizon had the honor of interviewing General Secretary of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Mr. Ahsan Iqbal in the party secretariat.

Horizon: Sir, first of all we would like to thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule for this interview. We are honored to have you as our guest.?

AI: I was keen to meet the dynamic team Horizon which is putting in a lot of effort and that too voluntarily for the party and its leadership. I have read the previous publications and I must commend the quality of the work your team has done.

Horizon: How was your childhood and what is your educational background?

AI: I have fond memories of my childhood. As you all know, my mother was a religious scholar so my upbringing was also done in the same manner. Due to frequent transfers and postings of my father, who was an engineer working for a multinational oil company, my student life is spread across Pakistan; from Convent of Jesus & Mary and Aisha Bawany School in Karachi, to St. Anthony High School Lahore, back to Karachi in Cantt Public School and then PAF College Sargodha. I attended Government College Lahore for my intermediate studies, after which I joined the prestigious University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore. My session was 1976 mechanical engineering. I was elected President of Student Union UET, Lahore for the 1980-81 session. After engineering, I went to the USA for higher studies and did my MBA from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

Horizon: If you could do it again, in which institute would you like to take admission again?

AI: Certainly the Wharton School. It doesn't mean that I rate UET any less, but the learning environment I experienced and the academic resources provided in Wharton were truly exceptional. The US is a world power not due to its military, but it is the universities there that provide it the backbone of global leadership through superior research and innovation.

Horizon: You were in a Right-Wing Student Organization during student life and now you are General Secretary of a progressive party, how will you explain this change?

AI: During my studies, I was inclined towards right-wing politics therefore I joined that student organization which I still think was a better option at that time when compared with the alternatives available during that era. However, I continued to learn and evolve and today here I am in front of you. I must say that learning must continue, there must be no stop to ideological evolution, only then can societies progress. Quaid e Azam started his political journey from Congress but eventually became leader of AIML.

Horizon: How do you see the future of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)?

AI: The PDM is an alliance of different political parties united for the cause of democracy. This is not an electoral alliance. We all might be competing against each other in general elections based on our manifestos, yet we are on one platform to defend the constitution. At the moment, all the parties are focused on restoring democracy in its true essence and free from interference by the establishment. Our call is, “Respect our Constitution, Respect our Vote and Respect our Rights”. Pakistan is a federation, who's survival and future depend on constitutionalism and federal parliamentary democracy. Pakistan has all the ingredients to become the new Asian Tiger, but due to political instability, it has been going in circles for the last seven decades. It is about time that we reset our course, otherwise history will not forgive us. All stakeholders must show responsibility. After the by-election results, this government has lost its moral ground and it must resign so that general elections can be held to elect a new government, one which will be a true representative of the people and which will continue working for them. This is the only solution that can get Pakistan out of this present mess.

Horizon: You contested your first election as an independent candidate, is that true?

AI: Yes, and it is actually a very interesting story. I came back from the US in 1986 and I joined PML-N in 1988. I applied for the PML-N ticket during the 1988 elections, the ticket was awarded but later withdrawn on the pressure of local politicians with the promise of a ticket for the next elections. I again applied for a ticket in 1990, but the same lobby once more forced the party to withdraw my ticket, despite Mian Sb's commitment. Mian Sb (Mian Nawaz Sharif) again asked me to wait till the next elections for a ticket, but I requested permission to contest independently on the condition that if PML-N was in danger of losing, I would withdraw. I had been campaigning in the constituency for the second time and if I had withdrawn again, supporters in the constituency would have never taken me seriously after. Mian Sb, being ever gracious, permitted me. I remained a part of Mian Sb's team and actively campaigned with him against President Ghulam Ishaq's dismissal of his government. Finally, I was awarded a party ticket in the 1993 elections for National Assembly from Narowal, which I won. I won again but in 1997, but in 2002 my election was rigged under instructions of General Musharaf. Yet since 2008, my constituency has Alhamdulillah honoured me with victory in every election with quite handsome margins.

Horizon: You were the victim of a life-threatening firing attempt prior to the 2018 elections? How do you recall this incident and what effects did it have on you?

AI: Well, when I was shot, I had just received a call from a local spiritual leader; the posture of my elbow while receiving the call acted as a shield. The bullet hit my

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elbow and slipped in my belly and was still inside. If it were not that call and my arm covering my chest, the bullet would have hit any vital organ. Allah Almighty has his own ways of saving life. When I was being taken to hospital, it was a handshake with death not knowing whether I would make it or not. It is very difficult to explain the feelings of that time, but Alhamdulillah I remained calm and was giving directions to the staff for the rescue effort. When I was recovering, I realized that we have become a society where hatred is used as a political tool. Innocent people are fed hateful messages that trigger violent extremism; a very dangerous sign for any society. After I recovered, I thought I should pay back for my second chance. After consulting friends, I decided to establish an “International Islamic Institute for Peace”. This institute will InshaAllah become a centre of excellence for promoting peace and countering violent extremism; and has become my life goal. We were about to launch a funding campaign and donors were also on board but then COVID-19 happened and it had to be put on hold for the time being. This institution will also work for interfaith harmony, cooperation among civilisations and engage scholars from all over the world.

Horizon: What are your views about the media in Pakistan?

AI: Media is the fourth pillar of democracy and it has to play its role for strengthening democracy and with the advent of digital “New Media” it is no longer possible to black out certain ideologies, unlike traditional media, and hide the facts from the larger public. In this age of “New Media”, anyone with a smart phone & access to internet is a reporter with global reach. This has not only made information flow easier but is also being used to spread fake information simultaneously. We all need to stay vigilant so that we do not become a victim of fake information.

Horizon: There are rumors in the media about two factions in PMLN, as General Secretary of PMLN what do you have to say about it?

AI: Absolutely wrong. PMLN has only one leader and that is none other than Nawaz Sharif. In democratic parties people do have different opinions and this difference in opinions is a catalyst for growth, progress and development of the party. In the end, after mutual consultations, whatever is finalized by the leader is followed by the party. Without a doubt, the entire party stands firmly with the leadership and vision of Mian Nawaz Sharif.

Horizon: We also heard about your midnight snacks?

AI: Yes, Chocolates and nuts are my midnight snacks and I absolutely love them.

Horizon: Mian Sb tasked you with the reorganisation of the Party. What is progress in this regard?

AI: We have completed our organisational tiers: national, provisional, divisional and district. Now, we are moving towards the organizational set up at union council level. This is the biggest restructuring of the party since its foundation, so it is taking some time, as we are strengthening the party by achieving the consensus of all the stake holders at all levels. PML-N has also evolved and this is very heartwarming. Our upcoming young leadership is highly educated and filled with true democrats. I can proudly say that PML-N is better than ever and is always improving. Our vision and criteria have always been merit, performance and public service.

Horizon: You were a central figure in implementation of CPEC projects, how do you foresee the future of CPEC?

AI: CPEC is no doubt a game changer for our region. CPEC is a part of One Belt, One Road initiative of China, which will link the whole region economically & it will have a progressive impact on population & regional states; when the focus will be on economy & not offense against other nations. This will uplift the lives of hundreds of millions of people, decrease poverty & enhance provisions of facilities to the public. I, to the best of my abilities, did everything for the implementation of CPEC projects & this has been recognized by our Chinese Brothers as well. We realised an investment of \$29 billion in three years, which is unprecedented in the history of Pakistan. I hope that the incumbent selected regime, despite all their incapability & incompetence, will follow our footsteps and complete the CPEC projects for betterment of the people of Pakistan.

Horizon: On a lighter note, we heard that you are a big fan of the movie “Gladiator” and have watched it seven times, is that true?

AI: Yes, I like the movie, it has some good lessons for statecraft. I plan to watch it again soon.

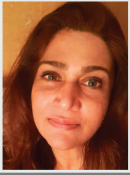
Horizon: Sir, thank you so very much for your time, any message/advice for our readers, especially the youth?

AI: Work hard, believe in yourself, be a team person, remain true to the cause and stay on the right path. Success will come your way.

Horizon: Sir, Thank you very much for your precious time. It was a pleasure.

AI: It was absolutely wonderful to have your team. I am pleased to have such energetic volunteers working for the party. Thank You.

RESEARCH WING UPDATES



Saira Iftikhar,

EX MPA AND UN GLOBAL NUTRITION CHAMPION.

The renewal of the political and democratic process has to include both the evolution of the existing political structure and finding innovative new ways in which to enhance political communication, mobilization, development of new leadership, and data sharing. Pakistan Muslim League has always believed in the politics of public service through performance. Gone are the days of personality driven cults determining the destiny of the public at large. In the cutthroat competition of today, delivery matters and PMLN has numbers to flaunt. Globalization and technological renaissance have connected fragmented segments of society, and now required information on any subject is merely a click away. This leaves no room for government spokespersons to quote fake data to the masses. Developing and capacity building of the future leadership, collection of authentic data, and carrying out both qualitative and quantitative research was the philosophy that drove the inception of the Research Wing. Last month, different working groups of the wing met and took some major issues into consideration which the current government had either misled its citizens about or swept under the rug altogether.

Education Reforms Committee: The committee deliberated on Single National Curriculum (SNC), cross examining it from all aspects. The vision statement, as displayed on the website for federal ministry of education and professional training: “One system of Education for all, in terms of curriculum, medium of instruction and a common platform of assessment so that all children have a fair and equal opportunity to receive high quality education.” While it certainly appears to be an impressive goal, the endeavour has discrepancies, gaps and lot of facts have been overlooked. As such, speculation and debate has been generated at multiple levels. With the prescription of SNC, the federal government is violating 18th amendment of the constitution, encroaching upon the rights of provinces. The current government at the start of its tenure announced four priority areas for education reform: 1. Putting all the out of school children in schools; 2. Eliminating apartheid in education by introducing a uniform curriculum; 3. Enhancing the quality of education; and 4. Promoting technical and vocational education. Unfortunately no improvement has been shown in any of the areas except the imposition of SNC and that too without taking provincial governments into confidence. The

matter has never been discussed in any provincial assembly. In an increasingly integrated global landscape when education without boundaries and learning without borders is the call of the day, we would be restricting our children to a dictated version of the Single National Curriculum which would never be broad enough to embed global ideas and thoughts. How would SNC address non-Muslims, minorities, and even different sects within Islam, when elevated to the level of college or university? Would the study of Islamiyat not touch upon sensitive issues and potentially lead to sectarian tension in campuses? The committee unanimously concluded that SNC needs to be seriously deliberated, and strongly recommended to take up the matter with all relevant forums including provincial legislative assemblies, academia, key opinion leaders and media.

Commodities & Financial Indicators Committee:

The committee examined the nose diving economy of the country and the manner in which PTI has been using COVID-19 to hide its two and a half years of incompetence. Since the Imran Khan government came into being via a rigged election and a stolen mandate, Pakistan has been facing the worst era of governance in its history, marked by disastrous mismanagement of economic policy and condemnable degradation of human development and constitutional rights of Pakistani citizens. Despite the unrealistic proclamations of PTI, Pakistani economy is trembling in each and every sector.

Starting at an economic growth of 5.8% achieved back in 2018, PMLN added \$84 Billion in its 5 year tenure whereas PTI dragged down the whole economy to \$264 Billion with negative growth of -0.4% in FY-20. As per forecast of IMF, current year’s GDP growth will not be more than 1.5%, the lowest in this region.

The most important indicator of the impact of inflation on the poor and disenfranchised is Sensitive Price Index (SPI). The SPI records bulk of food items and essential household items and states that, within the last 30 months, inflation increased by 31%.

Likewise energy, healthcare, education reforms, agriculture, external debts, foreign investment, foreign trade, and other important segments were examined in detail. The Committee has published a midterm Performance Audit Report of PTI encapsulating and analyzing its 2.5 years of flawed governance. The report is based on data from highly credible sources like SBP, IMF and economic survey of Pakistan.

RESEARCH WING UPDATES

Social Protection & Poverty Alleviation Committee: Like in all other fields, PTI has successfully maintained its record of poor performance, and is unprecedented in failing to address issues of vulnerable workers, minorities (forced conversion), marginalized communities, minimum wages, social protection & poverty alleviation.

The committee has taken up two important agendas; the first of which is health and life insurance, and regularization of jobs of sanitary workers. The second topic area is provincial legislation for rights for the transgender community. While PMLN passed Transgender Protection Act in 2018, PTI has not initiated legislation or granted the vulnerable community protection at provincial level during last 2.5 years. The committee aims to take these matters into apex court.

Health Care Committee: This committee met under the leadership of Khawaja Salman Rafiq and Khawaja Imran Nazir. The year 2020 brought a test case for the IK regime in shape of the coronavirus and badly exposed the fake claims of rendering best healthcare services to the public.

PTI government has decreased annual health budget by 28% in current fiscal year as compared to the budget allocation of the last year of PMLN government. In Punjab, despite unprecedented effects of global pandemic, the provincial government slashed the health budget by 26.12%. PMLN allocated PKR 42 billion in 2017-18 while actual expenditure was PKR 45 billion. PTI has allocated PKR 33.612 for health sector in 2020-21. Not a single new hospital has been added to the system in the last 2.5 years and there is hardly any substantial expansion or upgradation in existing hospitals, according to Pakistan Bureau of statistics.

The committee aims to expose the performance of PTI healthcare performance at pertinent forums.

(We are thankful to the worthy members of The Research Wing for providing valuable information & data)



POSTMORTEM



Khawaja Salman Rafique,
Member Punjab Assembly/ Ex Minister
(Provincial) Specialized Healthcare.

An estimated 40% of all the diseases reported in Pakistan are linked to kidney, bladder and urinary tract, and liver malfunction. Before the inception of the Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI) and Research Center, affluent patients used to travel to India and China for liver and kidney transplant while the poor had no option but to succumb to the pain and agony.

PKLI gave hope to the rich and poor patients alike, treating them free of cost, but the prestigious institute has now become dysfunctional due to its politicization by the incumbent regime.

The state-of-the-art institution, established in Lahore Defence Housing Authority (DHA), was conceived by Prof Dr Saeed Akhtar, a world renowned urologist. He envisioned it as a facility where treatment for liver and kidney patients could take place under one roof. To make this venture successful, Prof. Akhtar convinced over 100 Pakistani doctors and specialists in various disciplines of medicine, who were practicing abroad and earning millions of dollars a year, to come to Pakistan and join the PKLI on meagre salaries.

Prof. Akhtar approached former Chief Minister of Punjab Mian Shehbaz Sharif for a piece of land for this project in 2014. Mr. Shehbaz Sharif not only provided 60 acres of land in Lahore but also promised financial assistance for three years so that liver and kidney transplant facilities could be made available in Pakistan at the earliest. The institute was expected to generate about 75 per cent of its own funding to cover all operational costs through donations like zakat after the end of the government's funding.

The institute was established under the Kidney and Liver Institute and Research Center Act 2014 as a non-profit institute and Prof. Saeed was appointed as its president and the chief executive officer (CEO). PKLI was not intended only for the residents of Punjab but for every citizen of Pakistan, which is in line with Mian Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif's vision to provide quality and modern healthcare to all citizens of the country.

Soon after its inception, PKLI was ranked among the top medical institutions providing free treatment of liver and kidney diseases or disorders. From fire alarm systems, medical equipment, beds for patients, nurse alarms, to the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system, one could be forgiven to think that they were in a hospital in any developed country. The management structure was made transparent and despite the government initially setting up the institute, it would have been run by an independent Board of Governors who would take decisions without political interference.

The PKLI became hope for millions of kidney and liver patients but unfortunately the political victimization of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) has brought this state-of-the-art institution on the brink of collapse. Since March 2019 to Sept 2020, only seven liver transplants

could take place at the PKLI while the institute performed only 87 kidney transplants in the last two years. The project is facing aggravated decrease in funding since incumbent regime came into power. A revolutionary project has been reduced to just another government hospital. From the day, this project was initiated by the PML-N government, powerful lobbies carried out a smear attack against the government, the hospital, and even the doctors who had come from overseas to provide relief to the masses.

People like Prof. Akhtar, who left a lucrative career in the US, and Dr. Amer Yar Khan, who also worked in the US for 18 years before returning to Pakistan, were vilified in public and accused of corruption, along with the management of the PKLI and others associated with this project. Even an ex-CJP consistently grilled Prof Akhtar without any reason. The PKLI board was charged with malafide intentions and Prof Akhtar was removed as the head of the PKLI in Sept 2018. An ad hoc committee was formed to run the affairs of the institute, compelling Prof Akhtar to leave the country in November 2018.

According to the original scheme, the PKLI was to be established on 60 acres of land in the Lahore Knowledge Park with a capacity of 800 beds (extendable to 1,500 beds), a 100-bed emergency center, 100-bed ICU, 100-bed outpatient dialysis facility, 500-bed in-patient facility and 20 operating rooms.

From the outset, all legal formalities were completed and all construction contracts were done strictly in accordance with the law. In fact, the construction bid process was done thrice in order to get the most competitive cost, i.e. 10.6 billion rupees, even though this resulted in a delay of one year.

The Punjab government under Mian Shehbaz Sharif made every effort to reduce the cost of this mega project and eventually succeeded. No other project comes anywhere close to the cost effective pricing done for PKLI. Later, a three-member bench of the Supreme Court overturned the verdict of its former chief justice, vindicating Shehbaz Sharif's stance that there was no corruption in the PKLI project.

Instead of showing maturity by owning the PML-N project and carrying it forward, the PTI government did everything conceivable to ensure that the institute did not work so that no credit could be given to Shehbaz Sharif. Once the SC three-member bench set aside the previous order, the PTI government decided to bring changes in the PKLI Act to ensure that professional doctors like Dr. Amer Yar Khan were pushed out. Inevitably, Dr. Khan resigned and left the country.

The current PTI government, in its quest to victimize the PML-N, has systematically gutted the institute established for the welfare of Pakistanis. However, the PKLI still stands tall amongst Shehbaz Sharif's achievements and his love for the citizens of Pakistan & Punjab in particular. The PTI government cannot boast of a single achievement like the PKLI. The institute awaits the return of Shehbaz Sharif to the helm of affairs so that he can take it to the heights it truly deserves. Until then, hundreds of thousands of patients will suffer due to the negative politics of the incumbent fascist regime.

SOCIAL MEDIA MOSAIC

Team Research Wing

Social media is a powerful tool we can harness to make a real difference. It has changed the way people live their life today and has made communication much easier. As technology evolves, media has evolved simultaneously. Unfortunately we are facing the worst kind of ban on electronic and print media during the current regime of civil dictatorship. In such a suffocated environment social media provides the liberty to express and interact. It build an ideal environment for interaction where people can meet and share their ideas across the globe.



Dr. Danish (official)
@DrDanish5

آج بھی سینٹ کے قانونی و آئینی چیئرمین یوسف رضا کیلانی ہیں
صادق سبجرائی الیکشن بارکے ہیں 7 ووٹ قانونی طور پر یوسف رضا کیلانی کے تعداد کا حصہ ہیں
پریزائیڈنگ آفیسر کی رولنگ مکمل طور پر غیر قانونی اور غیر آئینی ہے

Translate Tweet

2:27 PM · 16/03/2021 · Twitter for iPhone

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9 Retweets 30 Likes



Hamid Mir
@HamidMirPAK

انٹرویو پر انٹرویو دینے والے براڈ شیٹ کیس والے موسوی صاحب خود عدالتوں سے سزا یافتہ ہیں اور اپنے متعلق بہت سے حقائق چھپائے ہوئے ہیں، محسن بیگ کے انکشافات

Translate Tweet



Syed Kousar Kazmi
@SyedKousarKazmi

امریکی ریاستوں کے حافظ صحافی اور اخلاقی جرات والے غیر تحقیقاتی صحافی پر نظر رکھیں
انکا متوقع بیان ممکن ہے کچھ اسطرح سے ہو
دارالحکومت اسلام آباد میں انسداد کورونا چھڑکاؤ جاری تھا کہ سرکاری ملازمین غلطی سے بیچ میں آ گئے
چھڑکاؤ کو انسٹی گیس قرار دینے والے ملک دشمن غدار ہیں



Zeshan Malik @ZeshanMalick · Feb 9

جن بجاہوں کو گھر میں ضروری بات کرنے سے پہلے کمرے سے نکال دیتے ہیں وہ بھی مریم نواز شریف کو چیلنج کر رہے۔



Geo News Urdu @geonews_urdu · Feb 9

مریم صفر سے سوال پوچھنا ہو، آپ کو چیلنج کیا تھا میں نے؟، فرخ حبیب

29

268

891



Attaullah Tatar
@TatarAttaullah

Special thanks to @KairaQamar for announcing support for PMLN candidate in PP 51 Wazirabad .behalf of his Party

پی ٹی ایم بطور اتحاد یہ ضمنی انتخاب لڑے گی۔ مسلم لیگ کے ایم پی اے فوت ہوئے تھے،

شکریہ @MediaCellPPP کہ آپ نے اس بات کا پاس رکھا
pic.twitter.com/RyXeinDQIT



20:03 · 08 Feb 21 · Twitter for iPhone



Mushahid Ullah Khan
@Mushahid_Ullahh

دیکھیں ایسا بلکل نہیں ہے کہ خان پر کام میں ناکام ہوا ہو، پنجاب پولس کے مطابق اسکے بہنوئی کو پلاٹ کا قبضہ دلا دیا گیا... مولا خوش رکھے

Translate Tweet

16:58 · 09 Feb 21 · Twitter for Android



Engr Qamar ul Islam Raja
@qamarulislam_

جب شیخ رشید کہتا ہے، " آصف زرداری سپانا نکلا، اپنی ضمانت کنفرم کروا لی " تو کیا یہ مقتدرہ اور عدلیہ کے خلاف انگلی نہیں ہے؟؟ اسی کردار کی نشاندہی نواز شریف کرے تو غدار قرار دیا جاتا ہے۔

Translate Tweet

Rizwan Razi
@realrazidada

صدر آئی آر ڈی انس کے ذریعے ووٹ کی خرید و فروخت پر ایک دفعہ (یعنی اس دفعہ) کے لئے پابندی کیوں؟ اوپن بیلت مستقل کیوں نہیں؟ اس سے پی ٹی آئی کے مالکان کی بد نیتی کا اظہار ہوتا ہے۔
ڈیٹی ماہر قانون

Translate Tweet

16:49 · 09 Feb 21 · Twitter Web App



Syed Talat Hussain
@TalatHussain12

Pakistan's foreign office rushes to limit the damage of Prime Minister Imran's statement promising Kashmiris the option of Independence. What a spectacle we have become. Sigh!

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(Spokesperson's Office)

No. 52/2021

Press Release

Responding to media query the Spokesperson stated that there is no change in Pakistan's principled position on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute that remains anchored in the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. In his address on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day at Kotli, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Imran Khan reiterated Pakistan's long-held position and support for the Kashmiris' right to self-determination. The Prime Minister repeatedly spoke about the UNSC resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir and underscored the need for implementation of those resolutions. Pakistan remains firmly committed to the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute through free and impartial plebiscite under the UN auspices as enshrined in the relevant UNSC resolutions.



Najam Sethi
@najamsethi

If Suprme Court wants to play a truly historic role in nation building democracy, it should strike down arbitrary and reckless use of Ordinances to bypass parliament!

21:07 · 07 Feb 21 · Twitter for iPhone



Syeda Shehla Raza
@SyedaShehlaRaza

اسد عمر نے کہا "شکایت ملی سندھ میں ویکسین بھجان کے لوگوں کو لگائے جا رہی ہے" گل خوشامد میں آگے بڑھے کہ سیاسی خاندانوں کو ویکسین لگائی جا رہی ہے گل صاحب پندرہ دن سے اسلام آباد سے نہیں نکلے اتنے وثوق سے الزام کیسے لگا سکتے ہیں KPK سے شکایت کا نہ ملنا اور سندھ کے بارے میں پروپگینڈہ خوف کے علاوہ کیا

Translate Tweet

22:31 · 07 Feb 21 · Twitter for iPhone



Khawaja Imran Nazir
@Kh_IrmanNazir

یوم کشمیر کے سلسلہ میں آج کی پروقار تقریب کی کامیابی پر مسلم لیگ ن کے تمام عہدیداران و کارکنان کا تہ دل سے شکریہ ادا کرتے ہیں۔
pic.twitter.com/OZU1BbZCIA

Translate Tweet



11:11 · 07 Feb 21 · Twitter for Android



Murtaza Solangi
@murtazasolangi

تین خان، تین کہانیاں ...

1. عامر خان ... تارے زمین پر
2. غلام سرور خان ... طیارے زمین پر
3. عمران خان ... سارے زمین پر



Saleem Safi
@SaleemKhanSafi

انارکی اور کس چیز کا نام ہے؟۔ اللہ ہی اس ملک کا حافظ ہو ورنہ تو اس کو شہرناپرساں بنانے میں ہم نے کوئی کسر نہیں چھوڑی۔

Translate Tweet

Panorama

“ROAD TO THE RESTORATION OF TRUE DEMOCRACY”

