



HORIZON

VOL:06. JUNE 2021

Editorial Board:

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

PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE (N) PUNJAB

TALE OF MISERY ON LIVES & LIVELIHOODS LOST



Shanzay Mustafa
Public Policy Analyst

The contemporary order of world politics does not allow for a simpler path towards the emancipation of the Palestinian people nor towards an end to their decades' long struggle for freedom. The recent bombings by the Israeli government for 11 days are a testament to the same.

From the Balfour Declaration of 1917, to the present diplomatic and military support enjoyed by the Zionist apartheid state of Israel from the U.S., it is evident that especially since 1948 foreign powers have aided and influenced the systematically engineered illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian land. Violent measures, instilling anti-Palestinian sentiment, far-right nationalism and the ensuing bloodshed have been key tools used by Israel for the realisation of its criminal designs.

But these nefarious designs are not limited to the Palestine conflict. The Abraham Records of 2020, or the so-called normalisation deal brokered by the U.S., helped the parties concerned to not only put the Palestinian cause on the back burner, but also to isolate Iran - because of its alleged military and financial aid to Hamas and Hezbollah fighters in Palestine. This move further strengthened the anti-Iran sentiments in Arab states - one of the greatest threats being Iran's nuclear capability. Therefore, not much may be left at the discretion of the Arab League or the GCC. It is pertinent here to say that the states that could have played a crucial role during the 11 day bombings; including Iraq, Syria, Libya, and Yemen, can be seen already stuck in dealing with their post Arab Spring fate and a series of proxy wars in the Middle East.

After a long time, however, the United States of America was forced to call for a ceasefire amid mounting pressure from the American opposition, the international community, and the foreign governments. The temporary shift in the Biden administration's policy stance vis-a-vis Palestine depicts that the people's collective will must be held above anyone leading the masses. It must be noted that earlier, the U.S. blocked two UN resolutions against Israel. However, this will not pave the way for a long-lasting peaceful solution.

A peaceful solution may stem from reigniting the unity of the Muslim Ummah. The Turkish government's proposal to formulate a coalition f

orce of the willing OIC member states is a welcome step to defend Muslim brethren in need. Moreover, the post Soviet Union disintegration states of Central Asia - such as Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan - must be aligned along with other Muslim majority states, such as Azerbaijan for cooperation on the regional, as well as international fronts. President PMLN Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif proposed a similar policy measure. He said, **“Given the increasing bloodshed, food shortages, and crumbling health infrastructure in Palestine, the OIC and the Arab League must devise a concrete plan of action to intervene effectively.”**

From a historical standpoint, the Oslo Accords of 1993 and the UNSC resolution of 2003 also endorsed a two-state solution. However, Israel continued to wreak havoc on the lives of innocent

Palestinians. Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has also highlighted PMLN's stance on the matter in the following words: **“Israel has thrown the UN resolutions that run into dozens and the Oslo Accords into the dustbin without bothering a bit about the consequences, what is worse is that it has gotten away with it.”**

Pakistan Muslim League (N) stands by what was stressed upon by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He said,

“We are all passing through perilous times. The drama of power politics that is being staged in Palestine and Kashmir, should serve as an eye-opener to us. It is only by putting up a united front that we can make our voice felt in the counsels of the world.”

The recent Israeli bombings of Palestinian territory have left people homeless, children traumatised, and hearts shattered. However, the Palestinian hope for emancipation still blossoms ever so brighter amidst the remains of the shattered homes of the people. Indeed, “from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!”

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF PTI'S 3 YEARS

Team Finance, Research Wing

2.5 years ago, the Imran Khan led government was imposed on 210 million Pakistanis through a rigged election and a stolen mandate. Since then, Pakistan has faced the worst era of governance in its history, marked by disastrous mismanagement of economic policy and condemnable degradation of human development and the constitutional rights of Pakistani citizens. Despite the unrealistic proclamation of PTI, Pakistan's economy is trembling in every sector since the current government came into power. The segment-wise performance audit of 2.5 years of the PTI government is given below:

Performance Audit of 2.5 Years of PTI Government					
<i>Amounts in Billion</i>					
	Currency	FY-2018	FY-2019	FY-2020	Jul-Dec-20
GDP Size	USD	315	284	264	-
GDP Growth		5.5%	1.9%	-0.4%	1.5%
Per Capita Income	USD	1,652	1,455	1,388	-
Central Govt. Debt	PKR	24,212	31,787	35,106	36,262
Total Debt & Liabilities	PKR	29,879	40,223	44,556	44,979
External Debt & Liabilities	USD	95.23	106.34	112.79	115.75
FDI	USD	2.780	1.362	2.561	0.953
FI	USD	4.990	-0.055	2.038	0.515
Debt Servicing	PKR	1,500	2,091	2,620	1475
FBR Tax Collection	PKR	3,842	3,829	3,998*	2,204
FBR Tax to GDP Ratio**		11.2%	9.9%	9.6%	9.2%
Circular Debt	PKR	1,127	1,618	2,150	2,350
Remittances	USD	19.9	21.7	23.1	14.2
LSM Growth		5.3%	-2.3%	-10.2%	8.16%
Inflation	CPI	4.7%	6.8%	10.7%	8.3%
	SPI	3.8%	7.8%	14.4%	8%
Unemployment		5.8%	6.0%	8.5%	10.0%
Budget Deficit		6.6%	8.9%	8.1%	7.4%
Rupee Depreciation ***	PKR	122	162	168	160
Exports	USD	24,768	24,257	22,507	11,803
FX Reserves	USD	16.4	14.5	18.9	20.1

*Rs. 100 Billion of supplementary grants to pay refunds was added to inflate tax collection. This doesn't include IMF loans and external liabilities towards friendly countries.

**Tax to GDP Ratio for FY-21 is forecasted at current tax collection performance of 5% growth

***PMLN left USD rate at Rs. 112/USD, in May-2018 caretaker Govt depreciated rupee at Rs. 122/USD

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF PTI'S 3 YEARS

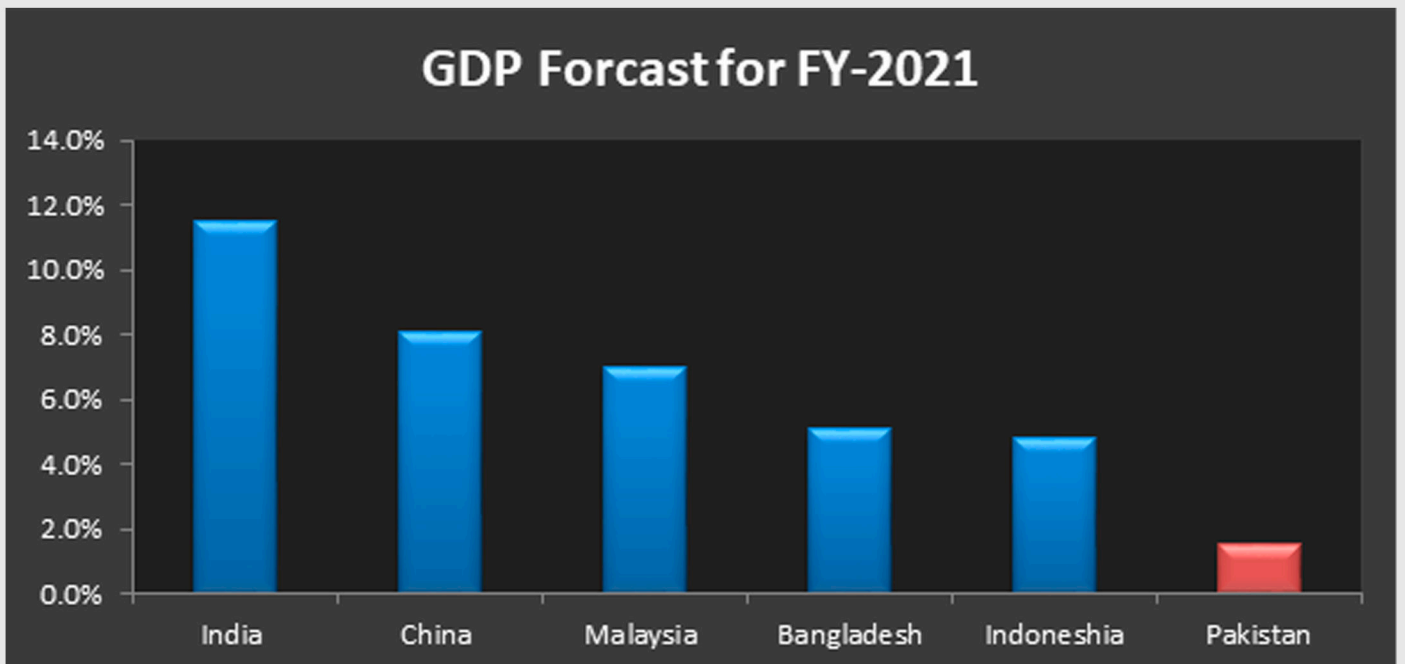
GDP:

Starting from economic growth of 5.5%, achieved back in 2018, PML-N added \$84 billion in its 5 years; whereas, the PTI government dragged the whole economy down to \$264 billion with negative growth of -0.4% in FY-20, and as per forecast of IMF, the current year's GDP will not be more than 1.5%.



PTI was also celebrating the fact that Pakistan's economy was not as affected as our regional players were by COVID-19. However, they forgot to mention that despite being significantly affected by the Coronavirus, the GDP forecast remains unmatched.

Regional comparison of GDP by IMF:



ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF PTI'S 3 YEARS

Large Scale Manufacturing::

PTI criticised the previous government by claiming the GDP growth was consumption led growth and was financed through debts only. This is not the truth. Large scale manufacturing grew 25% on a cumulative basis in 5 years. On the other hand, LSM contracted by 2.28% in 2019 and further by 10.2% in 2020, under the PTI government. In the current year Jul-Nov-20, the PTI government showed LSM growth of 7.4% with average QIM of 143.3 points. However, even this QMI is 2.5% less than the average QMI of FY-2018 i.e. 146.92.

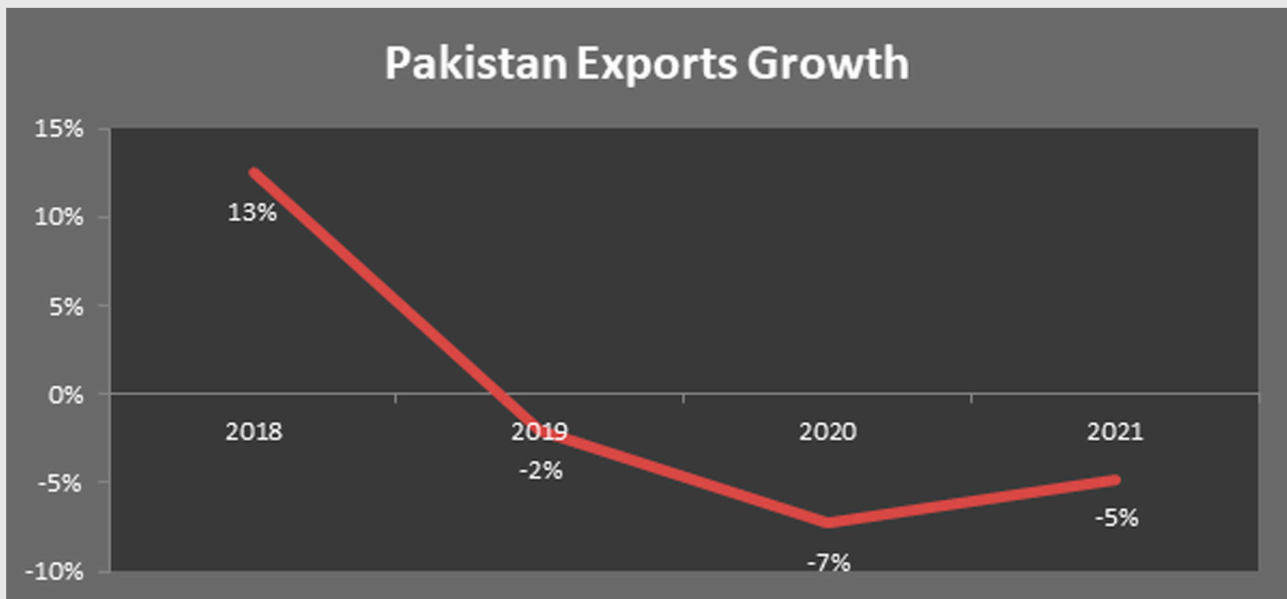
Year	Average QIM	LSM Growth
2013	117.3	4.35%
2014	123.68	5.44%
2015	127.89	3.40%
2016	131.9	3.14%
2017	139.55	5.80%
2018	146.92	5.38%
2019	143.52	-2.28%
2020	128.93	-10.17%
Current	143.3	



Foreign Trade (Import & Exports):

Exports grew at 13% in FY-2018; especially textile exports which grew by 7.4% in FY-2018 and are the backbone of our economy. However, during the PTI government, exports contracted during the first two years by 9%. Moreover in the current year (Jul-Dec-2020) exports are also down by 4.5% as compared to the same period in 2019. Even textile exports decreased by 3% during Jul-Dec-20.

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF PTI'S 3 YEARS

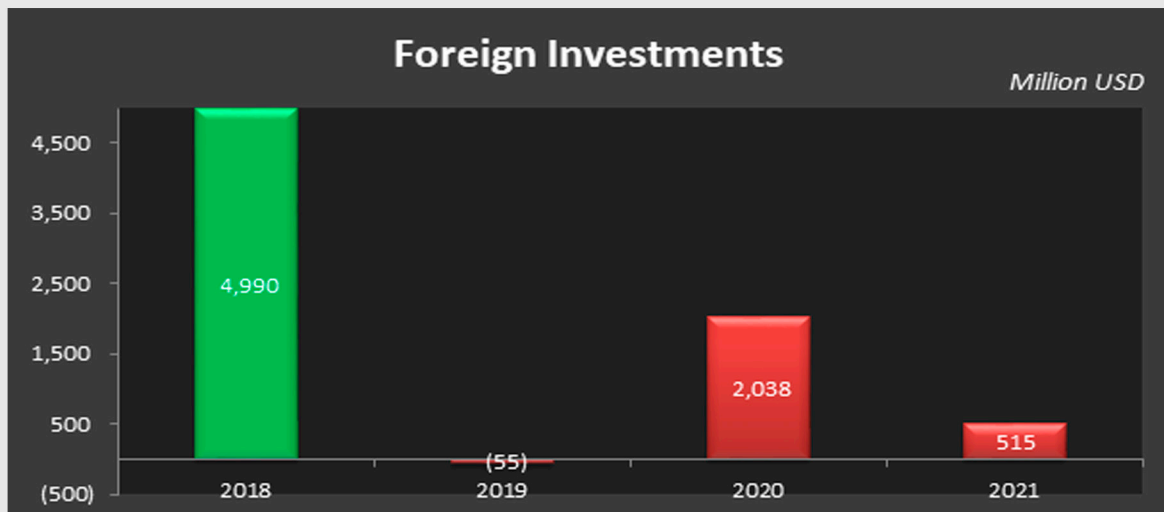


As far as imports as imports are concerned, PTI's economic hit man told the nation back in 2018 that Pakistan's economy cannot survive with a \$5 billion import bill. But they never told the reason for the high import bill, that GDP was growing at 5.8% because the industry was growing. LSM growth of 2018 was at 5.3% and power projects were being developed; when an industry grows the import bill rises, yet they kept criticising like rain. But in Dec-2020 the import bill crossed \$5 billion despite the fact that the economy growth forecast by the World Bank is 0.5%, with no major power plant or CPEC related import underway, the overall industry is performing at a low scale as compared to FY-2018.

Foreign Investments:

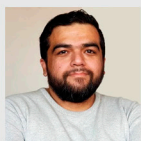
Since PTI came into power, foreign investment is shrinking because of their backbiting on CPEC and treacherous campaign of money laundering against Pakistan at several forums of the world.

In the last year of the PML-N government, foreign investments were at \$4990 million but the PTI government dragged it down to negative -\$55 million in FY-2019. In FY-2020, foreign investments remained just \$2038 million. Even in the current year, net foreign investments were only \$515 million, which decreased by 72% as compared to the previous period.



Foreign Direct Investments also decreased by 30% from Jul-Dec-2020 and stood at \$953 million. **(To be continued)**

IN MEMORY OF I.A REHMAN



Hassan Naqvi.

THE WRITER IS WEB EDITOR,
DAILY TIMES

I.A. Rehman Sahib was a loveable elder, awe-inspiring, considerate, and accommodating; always willing to teach and advise young and upcoming journalists like us how to face the vicissitudes of life and challenges that confront us daily. He was a multifaceted colossus with an existence larger than life. It's why we saw him as an ongoing phenomenon, never expecting him to go. He had a plethora of qualities that made him so; a treasure trove of wisdom and knowledge flowing out of him all the time for the benefit of the needy.

He was one of humankind who possessed all the good qualities of God's sublime creations. He was a man of conviction, considerate and a genuine soul who had the vision to see far beyond and a nerve to empathise and hurt for others. He was without a practising Marxist, one of those who had become one of the greatest human beings of all time.

According to his friends who had the honour of seeing him in close quarters, Maulana Hasrat Mohani seems to have been a very saintly figure to him, travelling with a carry home bed and baggage - that was Maulana's permanent asset - hung from his shoulder in his life.

Like Hasrat Mohani, I.A. Rehman too was a journalist. So was he, an adorable human being. Indeed like those not born in every century. Rehman Sahib, the humble and unassuming soul that he was, had a great heart of gold with space and concern for all those who needed alleviation from their suffering and afflictions. He was the kind to go half way across the globe to provide solace, words of kindness and all the help he could afford to give for those in need. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had once assigned a challenging task to Rehman Sahib as Chief Editor of Pakistan Times, alongside Wajid Shamsul Hasan Sahib as

Chairman National Press Trust (NPT), to restore real freedom of press to the government owned NPT papers and also to free NPT from the stranglehold of the government; as per the PPP's long standing commitment in its electoral manifesto to do away with NPT and let newspapers run independently.

It was no doubt a hydra-headed challenge - to run NPT papers with huge financial losses, over employment, so much so that ten or more people were working on a job which only required four. They had a whole army of messengers, few virtually on duty with the rest largely running their own businesses/shops/vendors. Only I.A. Rehman with his cool nerves could handle the strong headed trade union leaders, who crossed all boundaries of decency whilst negotiating with thim and PFUJ leader Minhaj Barna.

They also had to deal with a highly incompetent minister of information, some Awan chap whose qualification for his post was his skin that was inflicted lashes on under the orders of General Zia ul Haq, that had rendered him impotent. Only a man of I.A. Rehman Sahib's calm temperament and understanding could handle such an unpleasant job. He alongside Wajid Sahib managed to carry more than half the gigantic responsibility for successfully liquidating the National Press Trust.

Known as Progressive Papers Limited, the Pakistan Times group established itself as an oasis of free thinking, and provided a platform in a country that had come to have the draconian law of safety act and even had anti-communists arrested as commies.

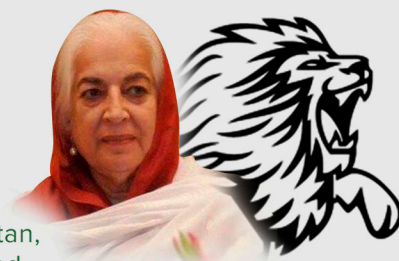
IN MEMORY OF I.A REHMAN

The most outstanding characteristic of I.A. Rehman was his comprehensive knowledge of nearly all the subjects a journalist is supposed to know of. While he had a reasonable gift of the gab, his command over both English and Urdu had no parallel. Whenever I had an opportunity to exchange views on the socio-economic ills of society with him, I.A. Rehman would come up with astounding solutions. He never complicated his expression with complicated Marxist jargon, something usually employed by Marxists to carry home their arguments.

According to media stalwarts, there are believed to be two giants in the profession who could bypass censorship; one of course was Jang's Mir Khalil-ur-Rehman Sahib, and the other being I.A. Rehman who would always be remembered as one of the masters of the art of saying things between the lines, within the grasp of ordinary readers. Alas, he is no more but he shall have a permanent niche in the hall of great intellectuals of all times. May God bless his soul.



WHEN THE LION ROARS



Team Horizon had the honor to interview one of the most senior legislators of Pakistan, Madam Zakia Shahnawaz at her residence. She cordially welcomed the team and had arranged a delicious Aftaar for team Horizon.

Horizon:Asalam o Alaikum! It is an honor to be your guests and to interview a legislator of your stature.

ZS: Wa Alaikum Salam! It is a pleasure to host Team Horizon; I have gone through previous editions of the newsletter and I must say the team is doing a great job. I would like to congratulate you all, as Horizon has been declared the official publication of PMLN by the Election Commission of Pakistan.

Horizon: Thank you for your kind words. Let's start the conversation by telling our readers a bit about your early life. Please shed some light on it.

ZS: I was born in 1946 in Esa-Khel village of Mianwali, Punjab. Our family was one of the influential families of the area, and I am one of the seven children of my parents. Life in Esa-Khel was quite difficult in those times, not that it has progressed much in comparison to other areas of Pakistan. People, especially women, used to bring drinking water from the nearby river in pitchers, and drink the same slushy water as no other water resource was available. Otherwise, the women were usually confined to their houses and had nothing much to do. Men oversaw outside affairs.

Horizon: We have learnt that your education is from Convent School. Given the backward nature of your area, how did you get there?

ZS: I was always quite ambitious. I remember that as a child I would ask my grandmother what our purpose in this world was: we didn't do anything significant at home, as we had domestic assistants for all the household chores. My grandmother used to say that this is how our life is supposed to be. We are born, we grow up, get married, give birth, and die at our homes. Somehow, this did not sit right with me.

When my mother got married, she felt that the home environment is very restricted. As such, she imposed a condition on my father: if she had a daughter, he had to educate her. He was hesitant to let a girl get properly educated or step out of the house, this felt impossible to him. But my mother was stubborn and persistent in her demand.

Then, my mother decided to send me to the village school so that I could become accustomed to school norms before being sent to boarding school. However, the school's condition was worth seeing. The physical infrastructure was lacking, there was no boundary wall, and toilets and basic human facilities were not available there, neither for health nor hygiene.

When I went there, I came back crying. I told my mother that if that was called a school, I did not want to go anymore. Of course, a school should have a proper environment and health and hygiene facilities.

Then my mother sent me to boarding school, where there were restrictions like I had been familiar with at home. But there were facilities like education, music, playgrounds, and other activities from which we learned much. We were ultimately raised as more aware and educated individuals.

I would only complete my matriculation before I got married at the age of sixteen.

Horizon: Why didn't you pursue higher education?

ZS: I tried, but circumstances did not allow me. As I previously mentioned, I got married after my matriculation. Though I got an admission for higher education in Switzerland, I became pregnant in the same period, and could not attend college. After the birth of my two daughters, life changed altogether, and while I myself couldn't complete my education I made sure that both my daughters became highly educated. One of them works for the United Nations and the other, after completing her education, has decided not to pursue a professional career.

Horizon: You started your career in 1977, how did that happen?

ZS: After the 1977 General Elections, I was offered a reserved seat for women in the Punjab Assembly. I accepted the offer and became a parliamentarian for the first time. But unfortunately, martial law was imposed and the nation had to go through the same old cycle again.

Horizon: Before going forward, you have witnessed the fall of Dhaka. Would you please describe public reaction to the event?

ZS: I can remember each and every detail, it still haunts me. When the announcement was made that East Pakistan was no longer a part of Pakistan and had instead become Bangladesh, there was mourning in every household. People used to avoid each other so as to not discuss the event. Everyone felt as if they had lost a part of their body, their own siblings, and their own family. The thoughts and scenes from that time period still scare me and I pray to Allah Almighty that nobody ever has to go through the same feelings our generation went through.

Horizon: Coming back to your political career, how did it restart after martial law?

ZS: After non-party elections were announced, I was contacted once more to be a legislator on a reserved seat. After consultation and deliberation with my family, friends, and intellectuals, I accepted the offer and became part of the system. My intention was to strive for true democracy from within the system, rather than through rebellion. I am

WHEN THE LION ROARS

a firm believer in the evolution of political acumen and am optimistic that despite all hurdles, we will achieve our dream of true democracy in Pakistan. I might not see it, but our children will witness it.

Horizon: How did you join PMLN?

ZS: I met Mian Nawaz Sharif during my second term as legislator. I can still remember my first meeting with him, he stood out amongst all colleagues with his bright face and his habit to speak less but to employ calculated words. His approach towards public issues and concern for their resolution convinced me to have faith in this man, and when PMLN was formed under the leadership of Mian Sb, I joined immediately. I think it was one of the best decisions of my life.

Horizon: How has your journey been with PMLN?

ZS: I consider myself blessed to be a part of the best and most progressive political party of Pakistan. The party and its leadership have honored me and I am thankful to them for that. I was offered membership to the National Assembly, but I refused citing my age and health. I am a cancer survivor. I thought I could work better in a limited domain, and I believe I was right about that. The party gave me ministries. I have remained education minister too, though for a brief period until the actual finalised minister could take oath.

I have remained minister of population welfare and been advisor to Chief Minister Punjab. I was honored by my party when I was selected to address the United Nations debate of the 47th Session of Commission on Population and Development in New York in April 2014. This was the peak of my political career. After all, who would have thought that a girl from a backwards village in Punjab would one day address the United Nations? I am thankful to Allah and my party leadership for this.

Horizon: Do you compare the PMLN government to the current regime?

ZS: A very little known fact about me is that both mine and my husband's families are political. I have remained MPA alongside my father-in-law and my brother. Even now, my brother is an MPA from the current government. In the simplest of words, there is no comparison between PMLN and the current administration. Mian Shehbaz Sharif was an untiring CM with all his focus on public welfare, the betterment of Punjab, infrastructure development, educational improvements, scholarships, etc. Name any sector and you would see how significantly Punjab improved under the leadership of Shehbaz Sharif, so much that it was praised by other countries as well. The current government has only focused on self-projection. It seems they have no intention to work for people, and they have assumed their positions only to enjoy them. All I can say is that we, the people of Punjab, deserve better.

Horizon: How do you see the future of PMLN?

ZS: Mark my words, PMLN has the brightest future of all political parties in Pakistan. With its track record of development, a progressive approach, and focus on legislation in accordance with timely needs, PMLN is the only party that can take Pakistan forward. PMLN also has an amazing blend of young and experienced leaders, and when I see my young female colleagues in the party, I feel relieved that the party has a secured future in able hands.

Horizon: Coming to the non-political side, how do you pass your time?

ZS: I often visit my relatives who live nearby. In free time, I listen to music, mostly from the 70s, and sometimes watch old movies again. I also watch videos on YouTube.

Horizon: Are you a foodie?

ZS: Who isn't in Pakistan? I love home cooked desi meals and take pride in cooking at our place.

Horizon: Thank you very much for your time. What message would you give to our readers?

ZS: My message to the readers is to please educate your children. If I was born again, I would complete my education first and then engage in other affairs of life. I wish to be a doctor, engineer, or professor. Please invest in educating the youth, as there is no substitute to education. It is for the future of our children, our state, and our people.

I thank you all for coming and honoring me. It is almost Iftaar time, let us say our prayers.

SOCIAL MEDIA MOSAIC

Umair Chadhar
M.B.B.S Student at AIMC, Lahore

“Innovating Social Media”

Socialising with people through different mediums constitutes “social media”. Different applications have been designed for this purpose, which have been designated as social media. Today’s rampant world demands improvisation in order to keep up with the robustness. Social media provides us with a chance to excel in every forte. Its role in galvanising the public has stamped its effectiveness in a sundered political arena. Its multidimensional ambit provides us with various political tools to frame a public opinion. Thus, its hefty importance in the power corridors of politics cannot be denied. Effective use of social media can explore new horizons when gripped with the latest and stratified information.

Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) has been represented on social media platforms for quite some time now. People have worked individually as well as collaboratively to shed light on the narrative of PML-N. With the advancements in the field of social media, there was a dire need of working on new footsteps rather than the veteran ones. Thus, a paradigm shift was taken to work on news lines to expose the incumbents, present at the helm of affairs, on all fronts. For this purpose, several specialities; including agriculture, economy, education, healthcare, etc. were brought to light on social media platforms. Every speciality focuses on providing authentic information to the education regarding its respective field.

This paradigm shift has revolutionised the use of social media in educating the masses. The authenticity of facts and figures shared by the aforementioned accounts is prioritised. A detailed insightful view of all government policies regarding specific disciplines is provided with concrete figures rather than marshmallow rhetoric. It helps the public to frame an opinion on the basis of verified figures given in great detail. The hoodwinking machinations of the government, which have pummelled and halted our progress, are unearthed in a professional way. The professionals of the aforesaid disciplines are consulted scrupulously to settle the statistical quagmires. Raw information is refined and processed before its release to the public.

You need to innovate at every step if you are to keep up with the pace of a dynamic world. The perspicacious use of social media is the main ingredient of this innovation. Proffering this ingredient to the public in a professional way should be the ultimate hallmark. Working every day with new zeal and zest, ensuing inventive ideas instead of wonky political ideas will lead to that hallmark. No qualms should be left in this regard to ensure that the modern lines of social media use are opted for.

PMLN Agriculture @PMLNAgricu... 3d ...

کسان کی خوشحالی کا صرف نمبر بلند کرنے والے عمران خان کی نالی اور کم ملی کا اندازہ کیجئے کہ انہی کی نم نے شوگر فیکٹریز (کنٹرول) (زیسم) ایکٹ توڑنے سے متعلق قائد گمشدگی کے پاس بھیج دیا جو سرست سے موجود ہی نہیں! وزیر راجہ بشارت نے اعتراف بھی کیا۔



dawn.com
Punjab PA now refers sugar factories law to non-existent committee

PMLN Economy @PMLNEconomy

GDP 🇵🇰

- PMLN: 5.8% GDP growth in PMLN's last year (2018), the highest in 16 years
- PMLN: GDP growth 📈 above 4% in each of PMLN's 5 years
- PTI: 2.1% growth in 2019 and -0.5% GDP growth in 2020, the lowest since 1952. Claiming 3.9% growth now but even then:

PMLN Health Care @PMLNHealthCare

Obesity has been a silent killer in Pakistan claiming many lives as it gives rise to various health problems.



Obesity, silent killer as deadly as Covid-19
Medical experts say it is sweeping the world at an equally alarming rate
tribune.com.pk

Panorama

“ROAD TO THE RESTORATION OF TRUE DEMOCRACY”

