

HORIZON

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HAPPY
INDEPENDENCE
DAY

RESEARCH AND POLICY PLANNING UNIT
PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE - NAWAZ

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Readers,

As we commemorate the month of Pakistan's hard-fought independence, it is disheartening to confront the grim reality of recent events that have cast a shadow over the principles upon which this nation was built. On August 16, 2023, news emerged of a distressing incident in Jaranwala, Punjab, where a mob of individuals, driven by anger and misguided beliefs, targeted churches and homes belonging to the Christian community. This act of violence was ostensibly triggered by allegations of desecration against the Quran, Islam's sacred scripture.

The very fabric of our nation, woven with ideals of tolerance, inclusivity, and respect for diverse religious beliefs, is fraying at its edges. This painful incident stands as a stark departure from the vision set forth by our founding father, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, whose words reverberate with timeless wisdom. In his historic address to the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan on August 11, 1947, Jinnah emphasised that every citizen, regardless of religion, caste, or creed, is entitled to practice their faith freely and without fear. "You are free," he proclaimed, "to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or to any other place of worship in this State of Pakistan."

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) unequivocally condemns the deeply distressing events that transpired in Jaranwala. Mian Shehbaz Sharif, a stalwart leader of the PML-N and former Prime Minister, has taken to social media to express his heartfelt concern. He rightly states that violence has no place within any religion and that all religious symbols, texts, and figures are deserving of utmost reverence and respect. In these trying times, it is heartening to witness the unity among our Muslim brethren who are extending a hand of solidarity to our Christian compatriots, reaffirming that such acts of hatred and hostility are antithetical to the values we hold dear.

The caretaker government has swiftly vowed to hold those responsible accountable for their actions and has pledged to support the reconstruction of the damaged churches and the rehabilitation of the affected families. Amid the darkness, a glimmer of hope shines through as individuals from all walks of life are mobilising to assist those in need, underscoring the collective commitment to healing wounds and rebuilding trust.

As we stand at a crossroads, we must renew our resolve to uphold the ideals of our nation's inception. The PML-N, in harmony with civil society, will steadfastly raise its voice for the victims of Jaranwala and all minority communities across Pakistan. We resolutely denounce all forms of violence and terrorism against minorities, and we stand as a bastion of support for those who have been unjustly targeted.

With the conclusion of the government's tenure and the emergence of a caretaker administration, we anticipate a seamless transition that upholds the principles of democracy and ensures free and fair elections. As Pakistan navigates these crucial moments, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to the values of tolerance, diversity, and unity that have defined our nation's journey thus far.

Best regards,

Saira Bano
Editor-in-Chief

EDITORIAL BOARD

Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, Saira Bano, Attaullah Tarar, Badar Shahbaz



CPEC: A DECADE OF PROGRESS

SAIRA BANO

Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng visited Pakistan from July 30 to August 1 to mark the 10th anniversary of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He met with President Arif Alvi, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and other senior officials to discuss the progress of CPEC and the future of China-Pakistan relations.

He Lifeng is a close aide to Chinese President Xi Jinping and is one of the most powerful figures in the Chinese government. In the past, he has served as minister in charge of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), which is China's top economic planning agency. His visit to Pakistan is a sign of the importance that China attaches to CPEC and Pakistan as a strategic partner.

CPEC is a \$62 billion infrastructure project that aims to connect China's Xinjiang province with the Arabian Sea through Pakistan. It is one of the flagship projects of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Throughout his tenure as the chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission, He Lifeng played a pivotal role in the planning and execution of multiple CPEC projects, elevating the initiative to new heights. Under his leadership, China invested nearly \$30 billion over the past decade, primarily focused on energy and infrastructure projects. This substantial investment has not only facilitated the growth of Pakistan's economy but has also forged stronger ties between the two nations.



Then Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif presenting a memento of Rs. 100 coin to Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng at a ceremony to commemorate the 10th anniversary of CPEC in Islamabad. 31 July 2023



Then Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng in a group photo with Pakistani cultural performers and artists at a ceremony to commemorate the 10th anniversary of CPEC in Islamabad. 31 July 2023

CPEC, as a pioneering project of the BRI, has achieved remarkable milestones in its ten-year journey. It has successfully established power plants, transformed Gwadar into a strategically significant port, and developed crucial transport infrastructure. These achievements have contributed to Pakistan's economic growth, providing employment opportunities, enhancing energy capacity, and improving connectivity.

In a statement on Twitter, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said, "For us, CPEC is not merely a collection of different projects but a symbol of prosperity and shared development. It is a reflection of our relentless fight against poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment."

This project was the result of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) visionary leadership. PML-N's unwavering commitment to the project, its foresight in recognizing the potential of CPEC, and its tireless efforts in ensuring its success have been instrumental in turning

“ THE PML-N'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE STRENGTHENING OF CPEC IS A TESTAMENT TO ITS COMMITMENT TO THE NATION'S PROSPERITY AND PROGRESS. ”

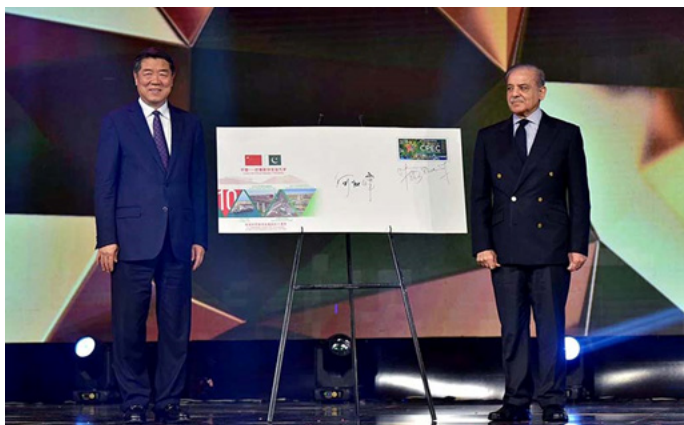
this vision into reality. "I would like to pay rich tributes to President Xi Jinping, and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for their pioneering role in conceiving and implementing CPEC as a flagship project of the Belt & Road Initiative," said PM Shehbaz Sharif.

After the groundwork for the project was laid from 2013-2015 during the third tenure of Mian Nawaz Sharif as prime minister, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan in 2015 and formalised the CPEC agreement by signing several MOUs with the government of Pakistan.

Under the leadership of PML-N, Pakistan embraced CPEC as a game-changing opportunity to uplift its economy, create jobs, and enhance connectivity. The PML-N government's determination to overcome challenges and propel CPEC forward has set a precedent for effective governance and strategic decision-making.

PML-N, both at the federal and provincial levels, tirelessly worked to create a conducive environment for CPEC's successful implementation. Their proactive engagement with Chinese officials and their dedication to addressing concerns and bottlenecks played a crucial role in advancing the project.

Unfortunately, CPEC came to a near standstill after Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) assumed power in 2018. Work stopped on numerous projects under this initiative and their timelines were badly affected. PTI government's inefficiency and incompetence led to bottlenecks in implementing the multimillion-dollar projects, at a time when Chinese investors were becoming increasingly disinterested in politically correct but otherwise unprofitable projects. Only when the PDM government assumed charge after removing Imran Khan through a vote of no confidence in 2022 that CPEC has seen life returning to it.



Then Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng signing the First Day Cover of a commemorative postal stamp at a ceremony to celebrate the 10th anniversary of CPEC in Islamabad. 31 July 2023



Then Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing the signing ceremony of agreements/MoUs signed between China and Pakistan during the visit of Vice Premier of China. Islamabad. 31 July 2023

During his visit, He Lifeng and the Pakistani leadership discussed the next phase of CPEC. They agreed to focus on the development of special economic zones, industrial parks, and other projects that will create jobs and boost economic growth.

In a statement on Twitter, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said, “While the first phase of CPEC was about fixing the ‘hardware’ side of development, the upcoming second phase will upgrade the ‘software’ of development by focusing on agriculture, science and technology, skill development, innovation, industrialization, economic growth, health and education.”

One of the notable aspects of this visit is the potential for President Xi Jinping’s upcoming visit to Pakistan. This anticipated visit reflects the enduring nature of our relationship and heralds a new era of prosperity and development for both countries. Moreover, it emphasizes Pakistan’s dedication to fostering a cooperative relationship with powerful nations while avoiding the pitfalls of bloc politics.

Pakistan held several ceremonies in honour of the visiting dignitary. President Dr Arif Alvi conferred the Hilal-i-Pakistan Award on He Lifeng, at a special investiture ceremony, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad.

At a ceremony in Islamabad, the two countries signed six agreements and MOUs in the presence of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Vice Premier of the State Council of China He Lifeng. The government



Then Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Vice-Premier of State Council of China, He Lifeng in delegation level talks at Prime Minister's Office. ISLAMABAD 31 July 2023

also hosted a cultural event to commemorate the 10th anniversary of CPEC.

The two countries have been allies for over 70 years, and their relationship is based on shared interests and mutual trust. China is Pakistan’s largest trading partner and source of foreign investment. China has also provided Pakistan with significant military assistance. Pakistan, on the other hand, has been a staunch supporter of China on the international stage, particularly on issues related to Taiwan and Tibet. The relationship is likely to continue to grow in importance in the years to come, as China and Pakistan become increasingly intertwined economically and strategically.

As we celebrate this momentous occasion and mark a decade of fruitful collaboration, we renew our resolve to maintain our steadfast partnership with China. The PML-N’s contribution to the strengthening of CPEC is a testament to its commitment to the nation’s prosperity and progress. Despite external pressures, we remain committed to our long-term strategic alliance, which has proven to be a cornerstone of stability and progress in the region ■



IMRAN MEETS HIS POLITICAL DOOM

ATTAULLAH TARAR

Former Prime Minister Imran Khan was convicted by an Islamabad trial court on August 5, 2023, of “corrupt practices” under Section 174 of the Election Act and sentenced to three years in prison along with a fine of Rs100,000.

Imran Khan was arrested from his residence in Lahore and incarcerated in Attock Jail after the court found him guilty of concealing information about gifts he received from foreign dignitaries and selling them for profit.

The case was filed against Khan in August 2022 by

members of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) for his failure to report the details of Toshakhana gifts in declarations of annual assets submitted to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Toshakhana is a government treasury where gifts received by government officials from foreign dignitaries are kept. Khan is accused of keeping three expensive watches gifted to him by foreign leaders and then selling them for hefty profits without declaring the proceeds in his assets and liabilities statement to the ECP.

“ IT HAS BEEN PROVEN BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT THAT IMRAN KHAN HAS ENGAGED IN CORRUPT PRACTICES. ”

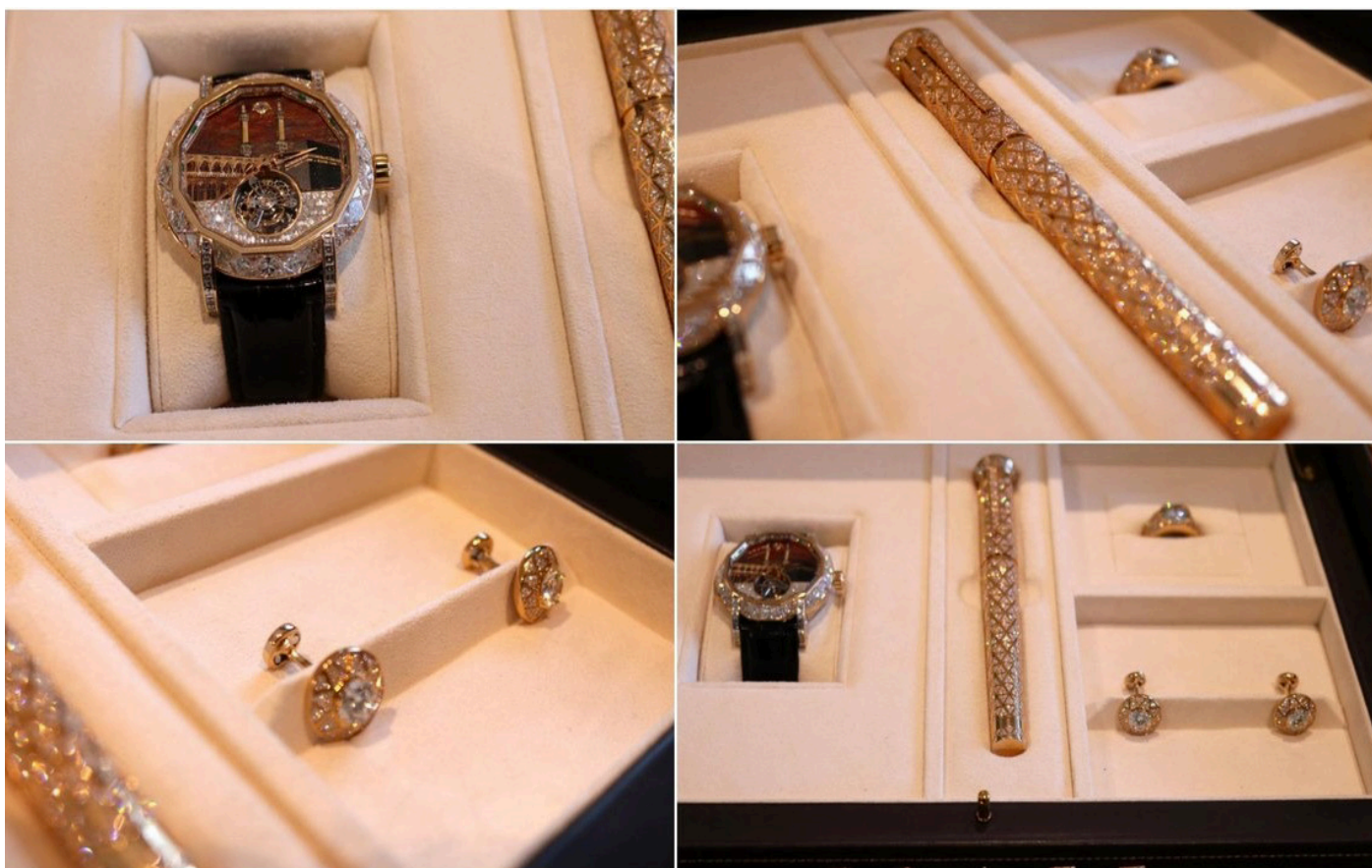
The ECP launched an inquiry into the allegations against Khan, and in October 2022, it found him guilty of violating the Election Act by making false statements about his assets. The ECP disqualified Khan from holding public office for five years.

The ECP also ordered the reference to be sent to a trial court for the commencement of criminal proceedings against the PTI chairman. In December 2022, the trial court deemed the ECP's request as maintainable and summoned Khan to appear before the court in January 2023.

Imran Khan challenged the ECP decision in the Islamabad High Court (IHC), arguing that he did not break the law by obtaining and selling Toshakhana gifts and that past leaders had also obtained such gifts by paying a small percentage of their assessed value. However, the trial court continued its proceedings.

Meanwhile, as public interest grew in the history of Toshakhana, the government declassified details of Toshakhana gifts received by public office holders from foreign governments and dignitaries since 2002. It also changed rules regarding reporting and retention of gifts by recipients. According to the new rules, only gifts up to \$300 could be retained after due payments as per their assessed market value, while the rest will be displayed at government buildings, donated to charities or auctioned according to the nature of the gift.

Imran Khan's legal team made every effort to get the case dismissed. It first challenged the admissibility of the case in the trial court, but Additional District and Sessions Judge Humayun Dilawar dismissed the petition and indicted Imran Khan on 10 May 2023. Imran Khan's lawyers then challenged the maintainability of the case in IHC. The IHC halted criminal proceedings against Imran Khan and remanded the case back to the trial court on 9 July to re-examine the matter in seven days in the light of eight legal questions to decide the maintainability of the case. On 8 July, the trial court decided that the ECP's petition was maintainable and restarted the criminal proceedings.





Meanwhile, Imran Khan's lawyers approached the Supreme Court on 7 July seeking a stay on the ongoing trial court's proceedings against him in the Toshakhana reference. However, on 3 August the Supreme Court rejected the plea and asked the petitioner to wait for the high court's order, which was deliberating on jurisdiction of the case on Imran Khan's petitions. Also, Supreme Court declined to interfere in the trial court's proceedings.

On August 5, the district and sessions court announced its verdict on the case and ordered Khan's arrest. "He has been found guilty of corrupt practices by hiding the benefits he accrued from national exchequer wilfully and intentionally. He cheated while providing information about gifts he obtained from Toshakhana which later proved to be false and inaccurate. His dishonesty has been established beyond doubt," the court order said.

The court added that it "finds it more than convincing that the complainant [the ECP] has produced confidence inspiring, well knitted and corroborated evidence, and so the charge against the accused [Imran Khan] has successfully been proven that accused has committed offence of corrupt practices by making and

publishing false statements/ declaration in respect of assets acquired by way of gifts from Toshakhana and disposed of during the years 2018-2019, 2019-2020 and making and publishing a false statement and submitting false and incorrect declaration in material particular relating to Form-8 for the year 2020-2021."

It has been proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that Imran Khan has engaged in corrupt practices. The arrest of Khan is a major blow to his political career. He built a following by churning a false narrative of corruption against his opponents while indulging in practices he accused others of. However, his popularity has declined in recent months, and the Toshakhana case has further damaged his reputation.

He could appeal the court's decision, but he is unlikely to succeed. The Toshakhana case is a reminder that even the most powerful politicians are not above the law ■

The writer is the deputy secretary general PML-N, former SAPM on interior and former home minister Punjab.



ELECTIONS IN SIGHT

HAMMAD RAZA

As the general elections are approaching, major political parties are strategising for a win. Aspiring candidates from various political parties have geared up their election campaigns in their respective constituencies and are connecting with the masses. PML-N, being one of the most popular political parties, is also ready to partake in elections based on vision and acumen. Unlike other political parties, the PML-N has always focused on tangible and measurable objectives as its election slogans. These objectives, encompassing vital sectors such as healthcare, energy, infrastructure, education, and the empowerment of youth through digitalisation, are readily quantifiable by the people of Pakistan.

Before the 2013 elections, the PML-N promised to overcome load-shedding and the menace of terrorism. After coming into power, the party's government doubled the installed capacity for power generation in Pakistan in a short span of five years. It not only overcame load-shedding but also produced a surplus which the next government was unable to maintain. During PML-N's last tenure, the average inflation rate remained below five per cent. Industrial zones

were established and the local production of industrial goods took off. Besides, the menace of terrorism was uprooted as a result of concerted anti-terrorism operations. The law and order situation improved in major urban centres like Karachi, Lahore and Faisalabad, and there was a significant reduction in street crimes.

During its last tenure, PML-N commenced mega-development projects like CPEC which could have made Pakistan a regional corridor for transit trade. Unfortunately, progress on CPEC was stalled by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government.

Now the question is: will the PML-N again be able to achieve what it achieved in the past as new political

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actors have emerged and the political landscape has changed? The age of social media has brought perceptual distortions amongst the youth about traditional political parties and politics has become an all-out battle of emotions rather than rational political actions based on pragmatism.

Since the PDM assumed power after the vote of no confidence in April 2022, it had to face a multitude of challenges, unprecedented in the history of Pakistan. The outgoing PTI deliberately sabotaged the IMF programme to create difficulties for the incoming government, which ultimately impacted the people of Pakistan. Last year's floods incurred a loss of around \$30 billion and unleashed a plethora of problems for the government. The circular debt in the gas sector soared to around Rs1400 billion.

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The challenges before the PML-N-led government were immense and seemingly unsurmountable. It was difficult to streamline governance in the face of immense political agitation. Despite all these impediments, the PML-N successfully reached an agreement with the IMF and brought a semblance of stability in economic affairs. The Chinese deputy prime minister visited Pakistan to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC); this is the restoration of the trust in old friends in Pakistan and the PML-N. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif initiated various projects, including a laptop scheme for the youth to incubate a digital revolution. In the longer run, it would contribute to a fourth wave of the industrial revolution based on knowledge economy and technological expertise.

The unspoken election manifesto of PML-N is the economic betterment of Pakistan through engagement with the youth, initiation of development projects, and the establishment of friendly relations with other countries to make Pakistan an economic hub and a respectable state in the comity of nations.

The PML-N gained political capital by saving Pakistan from an imminent default. A majority of Pakistanis, who had lost hope in a stable Pakistan, now realise that the PML-N carries a vision and the potential to transform Pakistan, given the rightful mandate and good working relationship with other stakeholders



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of the state. It successfully capitalised on its foreign policy initiatives by reaching agreements on Russian oil and expanded energy portfolio. People believe it can also make Pakistan a prosperous state in the coming times.

On the political front, the PML-N believes in peaceful coexistence rather than politics of hate and steep polarisation which has become the hallmark of some political parties. Instead of a blame game, it believes in the rules of the game which implies parliamentary supremacy and constitutionalism. Rule of law and pro-people policies are the cornerstones of PML-N's election campaign through which economic betterment can be achieved. It envisages engaging foreign partners and businesses through Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) for sustainable and indigenous growth. Hence, elections will provide a litmus test for PML-N and its post-election success will determine the significance of its vision for the future of Pakistan.

The PML-N has the capacity and workable strategy to industrialise Pakistan through development and economic performance instead of trolling political opponents on social media platforms and agitating on the streets. It connects with people through its performance and good governance. History bears witness to the fact that whenever Pakistan teetered on the edge of an economic crisis, it was always the

PML-N that steered the path towards its recovery and revival.

Once in power, the PML-N will again come up to the expectations of the general masses in a short period. It always relies on realistic optimism, avoiding empty rhetoric and implausible slogans that merely serve as superficial offerings of populist politics ■





LEADING THE WAY

A CONVERSATION WITH SABA SADIQ

RESEARCH AND POLICY PLANNING UNIT

In this exclusive interview with Horizon magazine, we sit down with Saba Sadiq, a distinguished senior leader of PML-N and a former member of the Punjab Assembly. Saba Sadiq shares her remarkable journey from a dedicated student leader to a seasoned politician, shedding light on her accomplishments, insights, and aspirations for the party and Pakistan's future.

Horizon: We're delighted to have you for this interview, despite your busy schedule.

Saba Sadiq: The pleasure is mine. As an avid

reader of Horizon, I truly appreciate the dedication of the magazine's team in effectively conveying the party's message to the masses. Rana Mashhood's leadership at the Research and Policy Planning Unit has been instrumental in this effort.

Horizon: Could you provide our readers with an introduction to Saba Sadiq? How would you define yourself?

Saba Sadiq: (With a smile) Saba Sadiq is a proud Pakistani citizen – a law-abiding woman, mother,

wife, and a dedicated social worker. I've had the honour of serving Punjab as a legislator, appointed by the PML-N leadership across four terms.

Horizon: Where were you born? Could you share a bit about your education and family background?

Saba Sadiq: I was born in Lahore in 1966, where I received my primary education. I pursued my LLB and earned a master's in political science from Punjab University. My career in law was complemented by active participation in the Lahore High Court Bar Association. My focus was primarily on family issues and constitutional petitions.

Horizon: Your journey into politics is intriguing. How did you enter the realm of politics?

Saba Sadiq: My entry into politics was inspired by my father's interaction with Mian Nawaz Sharif, both being from the business community. Guided by my father, I became involved with the Muslim Student Federation during college, where leaders like Khawaja Saad Rafique and Mian Shehbaz Sharif mentored me. From the outset, I understood that politics is a means to serve the people.

I fondly recall the era when our political mentor and Chief Minister of Punjab, Ghulam Haider Wyne, would rest on a traditional "baan charpai" at the Muslim League House while actively organising the party. He maintained an open-door policy for all workers, making himself accessible to every single one. I have personally experienced his candid guidance, and despite moments of admonishment, he remained an exceptional mentor, always within the reach of the party members. This period marked a golden era for our party, witnessing a substantial surge in membership. The strength of our primary units at the union council level was remarkable, leading to a time when bureaucrats treated our members with respect and earnestly addressed their concerns. It was during this phase that I assumed the role of a councillor in the Metropolitan Corporation, Lahore (MCL), shortly after graduating from law school. Within this capacity, I served on the education committee, proudly contributing to reform initiatives



within MCL schools.

Horizon: Reflecting on your political career, you've been a prominent figure in the Punjab Assembly. Could you share your experiences?

Saba Sadiq: My journey as a PML-N representative in the Punjab Assembly commenced in 2002 and continued through subsequent assemblies in 2008, 2013, and 2018. Under the guidance of our party leadership, I've played a role in significant initiatives, especially those focused on women legislators. The inception of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus stands out, with the first meeting hosted at my residence.

INTERVIEW

Horizon: Women's representation has been a key aspect. How has the environment for women in the assembly evolved?

Saba Sadiq: In 2002, women's perspectives faced limited acceptance, but over time, women began asserting their views based on their competence. While societal tolerance for outspoken women remains low, the appointment of Maryam Nawaz as senior vice president and chief organiser has positively influenced the PML-N's internal environment. Women's engagement at all levels has improved under her leadership. She is also actively promoting the youth.

Horizon: Transitioning to your role as an MPA, could you elaborate on your contributions?

Saba Sadiq: I played a pivotal role in establishing a women's caucus within the Punjab Assembly, a forum that advocated for women's issues and engaged in parliamentary debates. Notable achievements of PML-N during the 2013-2018 tenure include introducing comprehensive gender reforms and passing a landmark anti-violence bill. Additionally, I served on the Public Accounts Committee and advised the chief minister on social welfare matters. My tenure as the chairperson of Punjab's Child Protection and Welfare Bureau marked a deeply rewarding period of my life.

Horizon: Your tenure at the Child Protection Bureau has been lauded. Could you share your experiences?

Saba Sadiq: My role as chairperson was transformative. Despite initial reservations, I found the work immensely noble. Recently Rizwana's case



has been highlighted, but there are hundreds of such cases all around us, cases of domestic abuse, child labour, and sex trafficking. I led efforts to combat these heinous crimes. Equipping officers with modern tools, collaborating with the Police and Pakistan Railways, and fostering cross-province and cross-border collaborations were some notable achievements. We succeeded in rescuing several victims of domestic abuse, child labour and sex trafficking, and traced families of runaway children. The welfare of children remains an area of immense pride for me.

Horizon: Shifting to the current political landscape, what's your analysis?

Saba Sadiq: The current challenges trace back to the unjust disqualification of Mian Nawaz Sharif. PML-N leadership was unfairly targeted to obstruct Pakistan's progress. They were implicated on false charges but Alhamdulillah, not a single penny's corruption could be proved in courts, reinforcing our leadership's integrity.

Unfortunately, after PTI assumed charge, Pakistan's economy started declining and the country was brought to the brink of default. It was PML-N that rescued Pakistan by getting IMF to agree to a stand-by arrangement. PTI's extreme position and holier-than-





Searching for their parents. January 2015

thou attitude resulted in the unfortunate incidents of 9 May. These incidents must have pleased Pakistan's enemies because, until now, no patriotic Pakistani could even think of attacking the Pakistan Army.

Horizon: What's your vision for PML-N and its emerging leadership? Where should the party focus?

Saba Sadiq: With the emergence of dynamic leaders like Maryam Nawaz and Hamza Shahbaz, PML-N's future looks promising. Both are dedicated and humble party workers, who reached this position through hard work. People's trust in our leadership stems from a demonstrated commitment to serving the nation. An area of focus could be enhanced engagement with overseas Pakistanis to elucidate the party's position.

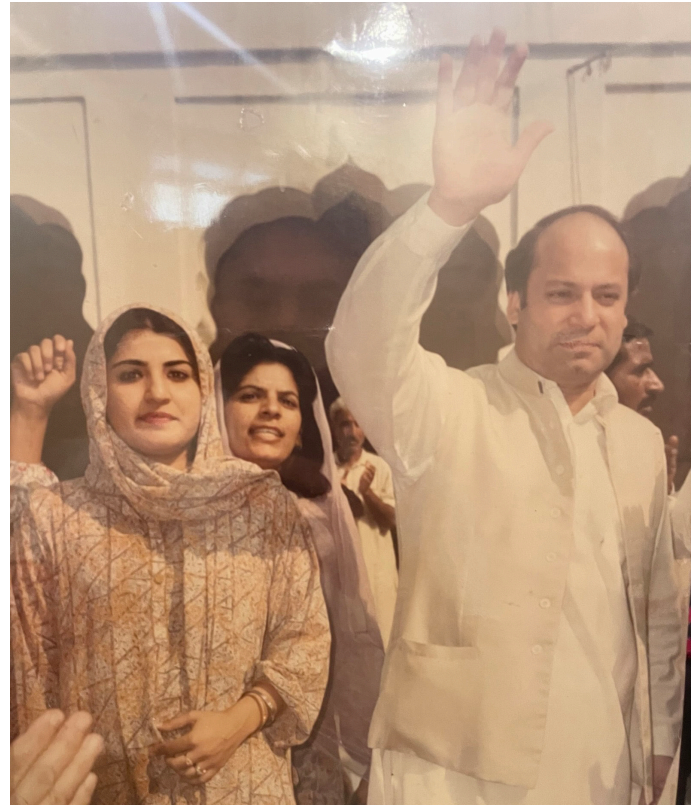
Horizon: Balancing work and personal life can be challenging. How do you manage?

Saba Sadiq: I believe working women excel at managing households. Despite my demanding schedule, I ensure my home runs smoothly. My husband is flexible and supports me a lot.

Horizon: We've heard about your welfare activities. Please tell us something about them.

Saba Sadiq: I financed the construction of a state-of-the-art ICU at Jinnah Hospital in Lahore in 2013 in memory of my late father. I have constructed dispensaries and vocational institutes for women in remote areas.

Horizon: Could you share about your family?



With Mian Nawaz Sharif in mid-1980s.



Inaugurating the ICU at Jinnah Hospital Lahore. 2013

Saba Sadiq: My daughter is an interior designer based in London, actively engaged with PML-N. My husband, Saqib Usman Khan, a chartered accountant, is a staunch PML-N supporter, who stood by me during Begum Kulsoom Nawaz's campaign.

Horizon: Personal preferences – what's your favourite cuisine and music?

Saba Sadiq: I cherish home-cooked meals and prioritize dinner at home. I'm fond of Sufi Kalam and romantic music.

Horizon: Thank you once again for your insight.

Saba Sadiq: It's been a pleasure. Thank you for the opportunity ■



PML-N'S GLOBAL OUTREACH: STRENGTHENING BONDS AND ADVOCATING FOR PAKISTAN'S INTERESTS

DR RANA KHALID MAHMOOD

In recent times, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has been making significant strides in extending its reach beyond the borders of Pakistan, demonstrating its commitment to fostering unity, addressing key issues, and advancing the interests of the Pakistani community around the world. From Japan to Bahrain, Saudi Arabia to France, PML-N's activities abroad have been gaining momentum, creating a platform for engagement, solidarity, and advocacy.

JAPAN CHAPTER: SOLIDARITY AND CELEBRATION



The PML-N Japan chapter has been a dynamic force in uniting overseas Pakistanis residing in Japan. On 24 July 2023, the chapter organised a remarkable ceremony in the city of Oyama to express solidarity with the Pakistan Army. Over 500 participants, including representatives from other prominent



parties such as the Pakistan People's Party and Awami National Party, joined in to celebrate the pride of the Pakistani nation - the Pakistan Army. PML-N Japan President Malik Noor Awan, Chairman Malik Younis, Patron-in-Chief Rana Abrar, and host Hafiz Shahid delivered inspiring addresses, emphasising the unwavering commitment of overseas Pakistanis to their homeland's defence. This event showcased the unity and dedication of the Pakistani community in Japan towards Pakistan's national interests.

PML-N Japan continued its engagement by celebrating Pakistan's Independence Day on 14 August. The event, organised by the Patron-in-Chief PML-N Japan Rana Abrar Hussain and Coordinator PML-N Japan Hafiz Maher Shams, brought together PML-N officials and a multitude of Pakistani personalities in Japan. Notably, a former member of the Punjab Assembly, Muhammad Tafeeq Butt, praised the services of PML-N Japan's leadership,

highlighting the significance of their contributions. The celebration underlined the strong connection of overseas Pakistanis with their homeland, fostering a sense of belonging and unity among the community in Japan.

BAHRAIN CHAPTER: ADVOCATING FOR EDUCATION



In Bahrain, the PML-N chapter has been fervently addressing the challenges faced by Pakistani expatriates. General Secretary Nadeem Hafeez and President Shahzad Chaudhary met with Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman and former Punjab Education Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan on 14 July to discuss issues concerning Pakistani children's education. The scarcity of Pakistani schools and higher education institutions in Bahrain has posed difficulties for Pakistani families, with students often waiting for extended periods to access education. The chapter's plea for the establishment of a Pakistani university in Bahrain seeks to empower Pakistani youth with quality education, enabling them to contribute to Pakistan's growth and prosperity.

SAUDI ARABIA CHAPTER: ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT



The PML-N Saudi Arabia chapter, led by President Sheikh Saeed Ahmed, showcased its commitment to pressing issues through a meeting with PML-N leader Mian Nawaz Sharif in Jeddah on 20 July. This meeting, attended by regional presidents, media heads, youth wing representatives, and more, highlighted the

dedication of PML-N workers in Saudi Arabia.

On 5 August, PML-N President Sheikh Saeed Ahmed and his delegation participated in an event at the Pakistani Embassy in Riyadh in connection with Youm-e-Istehsal, reaffirming Pakistan's unwavering commitment to highlighting the Kashmir issue on the global platform.

FRANCE CHAPTER: STRENGTHENING ORGANISATION

To strengthen PML-N's presence in Europe, PML-N France organised an important event on 31 July, with Chief Coordinator Barrister Amjad Malik as the chief guest. The meeting delved into the organisational structure and performance of the party overseas, fostering a sense of cohesion and collaboration among party members. This event underscored PML-N's determination to enhance its impact on a global scale.

PML-N INTERNATIONAL: UNITING FOR INDEPENDENCE

PML-N International Affairs orchestrated a virtual celebration on August 14, Pakistan's Independence Day, bringing together PML-N representatives from various countries, including South Africa, the Netherlands, the USA, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Germany, France, Belgium, Bahrain, Ireland, Portugal, Turkey, South Korea, Spain, Norway, Hong Kong, Sweden, Malaysia, and UAE. The event aimed to reiterate the value of Pakistan's independence and inspire unity among overseas Pakistanis. Barrister Amjad Malik's call to uphold principles and contribute to Pakistan's progress resonated with participants, emphasising the importance of collective effort and engagement.

In conclusion, PML-N's activities abroad underscore its commitment to strengthening ties among overseas Pakistanis, advocating for critical issues, and promoting Pakistan's interests on the global stage. These efforts reflect a united and passionate diaspora, determined to contribute to their homeland's growth, development, and prosperity. As PML-N continues to expand its global footprint, its impact on both the Pakistani community and the international arena is bound to grow stronger ■

PICTURE GALLERY



THEN PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF, TÜRKIYE'S VICE PRESIDENT CEVDET YILMAZ CUTTING A ROPE TO LAUNCH PAKISTAN'S 4TH MILGEM CLASS CORVETTE "PNS TARIQ" INTO SEA AT KARACHI SHIPYARD & ENGINEERING WORKS. 02 AUGUST 2023



THEN PRIME MINISTER SHEHBAZ SHARIF ALONG WITH COAS GENERAL SYED ASIM MUNIR AND FOREIGN DIGNITARIES ATTEND PAKISTAN MINERAL SUMMIT IN ISLAMABAD. 1 AUGUST 2023



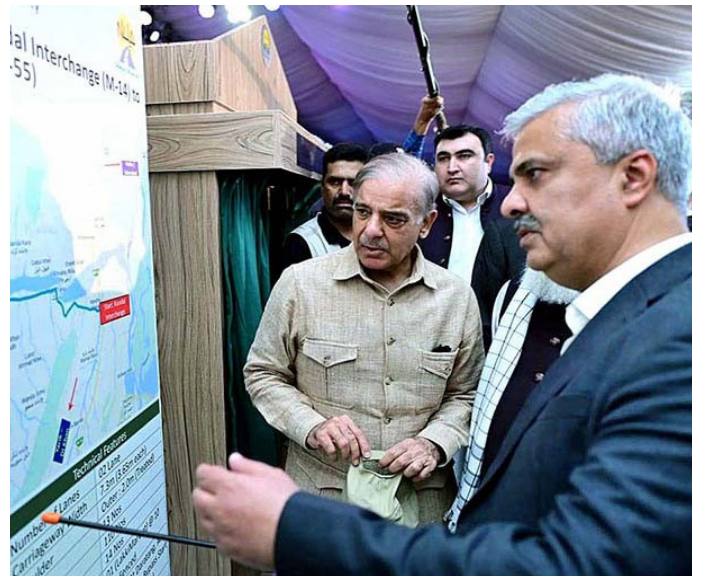
THEN PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF OFFERING CONDOLENCES TO PRESIDENT JUI-F FOR THE PARTY WORKERS WHO WERE MARTYRED IN A SUICIDE ATTACK ON JUI WORKERS CONVENTION IN KHAR, BAJAUR. ISLAMABAD. 31 JULY 2023



THEN PRIME MINISTER SHAHBAZ SHARIF OFFERING DUA AFTER LAUNCHING THE NATIONAL HEALTH SUPPORT PROGRAMME IN LAHORE. 30 JULY 2023



THEN PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF DISTRIBUTING KEYS OF NEWLY CONSTRUCTED HOUSES DONATED BY HBL AMONG THE FLOOD AFFECTEES OF SINDH. KARACHI. 26 JULY 2023



THEN PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF RECEIVES BRIEFING ABOUT VARIOUS INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS BEING LAUNCHED IN DERA ISMAIL KHAN. 25 JULY 2023



MD PAKISTAN LNG LTD MASOOD NABI AND CEO SOCAR MARIAM ALMAZADE SIGNING AN AGREEMENT FOR LNG CARGO ON BEHALF OF PAKISTAN AND AZERBAIJAN RESPECTIVELY IN THE PRESENCE OF THEN PRIME MINISTER SHEHBAZ SHARIF AND OTHER DIGNITARIES IN LAHORE. 24 JULY 2023



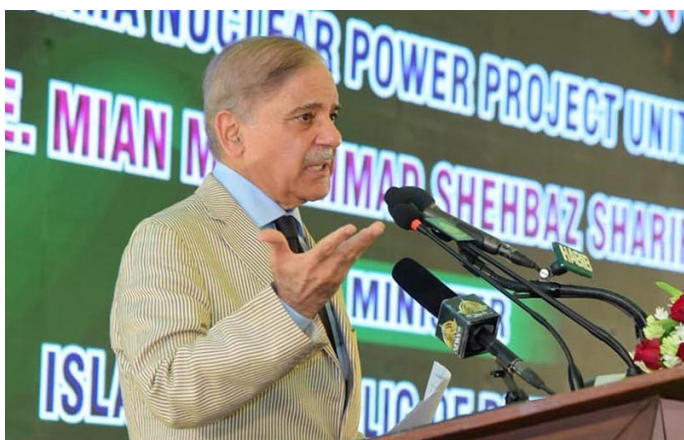
THEN PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF TALKING TO MEDIA AFTER UNVEILING A PLAQUE TO MARK THE GROUNDBREAKING OF ISLAMABAD MODEL SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN ISLAMABAD. 18 JULY 2023



THEN PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF ALONG WITH VETERAN SPORTSPERSONS PERFORMING THE SOFT LAUNCH OF PAKISTAN'S FIRST SPORTS UNIVERSITY. ISLAMABAD. 18 JULY 2023



THEN PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF IN A GROUP PHOTO WITH HIGH ACHIEVING STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED LAPTOPS UNDER THE PM'S YOUTH SCHEME. SIALKOT. 16 JULY 2023



THEN PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF ADDRESSES THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY OF THE 5TH UNIT OF CHASHMA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT (C-5) IN CHASHMA. MIANWALI 14 JULY 2023



THEN PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF UNVEILING A PLAQUE TO MARK THE GROUND BREAKING OF THE MAIN CAMPUS OF NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (NUTECH) IN ISLAMABAD. 14 JULY 2023



THEN PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF VISITS THE UNDER-CONSTRUCTION NISTAR II HOSPITAL IN MULTAN. 13 JULY 2023





THEN PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF ADDRESSES THE 6TH PHARMA EXPORT SUMMIT AND AWARDS CEREMONY. ISLAMABAD 12 JULY 2023





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Research and Policy Planning Unit
Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz

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